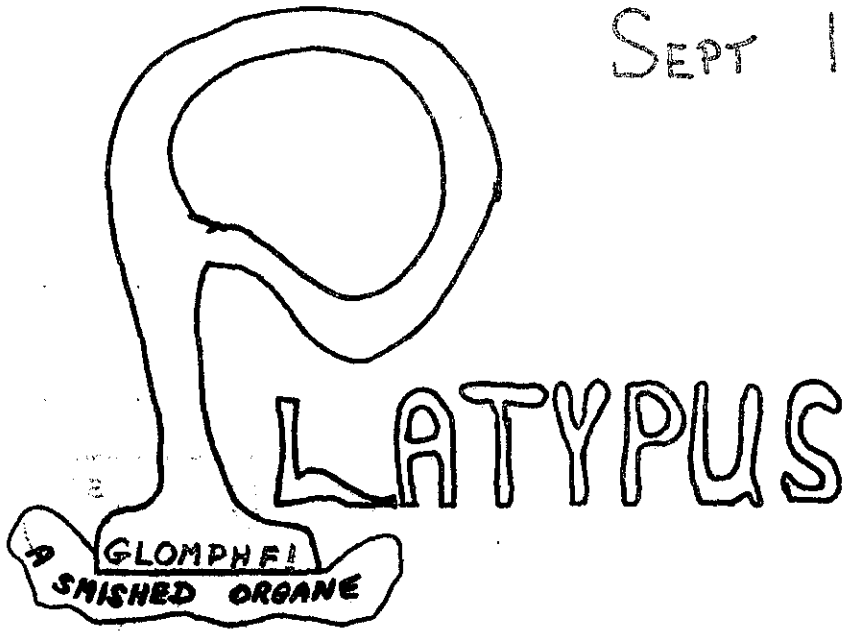


NOW--In this issue of PLATYPUS PIE--learn all there is to know about the Small Birds Act, R.S.O., 1960, c.724, s.2.

SEPT 18. 1972



OK, but it'll cost you six centers.

Mercy?



G. D.

Well? What ELSE could this be other than an enemy fleet? Why 'fleet' if it takes over four years to sail from London to Rome?

Not to mention your stash!

This is PLATYPUS PIE # 12, being the 12th error in judgment offered by Brenton Ver Ploeg, and chronicling the retrograde progress of Iowa, Ohio, Texas and California organes, together with the TRUTH about birds & ponies. ....Seems to me that there is some thing else?....Oh yes-- we also record the fitful movings of Postal Diplomacy games 1971EH (The Winner's Game), 1972AR (The Newcomer's Game), & 1972BT (The Open Game). As far as I know, I haven't muffed the printing of this issue, but covers are more fun that watching stoplights change, so here we go again.

Q U I Z :

Why is the item on the left so singularly unfunny?

This is PLATYPUS PIE #12, a Journal of Postal Diplomacy. It carries three postal games, and has no games open now or ever at a game fee of \$10. Diplomacy is a board game invented by Allan B. Calhauer, and published by Games Research, Inc., Boston, MASS.

THE GAMESMASTER: Brenton Ver Ploeg, 520 Parker Ave., # 202, San Francisco, CA 94118. Phone: (415) 668-9218. Deadlines are now 6 pm on Mondays, though the GM may hustle them sometimes by a few hours. Calling all day Monday is acceptable, and the GM will make it a point to not go to school on the deadline dates. Phone deadlines should be noon. If no moves are in, I will try to call you collect between 5 and 6 pm, days of the deadline. If you're not in, its NMR and we go to the...

REPLACEMENT ROSTER: 1971EH: (1) Doug Beyerlein, (2) Lenard Lakofka; 1972AR: (1) Paul Bond, (2) Jan Le Pire, (3) John Trtek, (4) Steven Soong[?]. Soong may be dropped if he is dropped from 1972BT. To wit, 1972BT: (1) Jim Hall, (2) John Hendry, (3) Arn Vagts.

THE ROSTER: Add: Bruce Chin, 628 Melrose Drive, Salinas, CA 93901 (S-24), and change Eric Verheiden to (S-29).

COSTS: Subscriptions are six for a dollar, 13 for \$2.00. If you have a current sub and do not let it expire, you keep the old rate.

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1971EH                      THERE'S SOME POSSIBLE ALLIANCE SHUFFLING                      SPRING 1904  
AS THE MAJOR POWERS SQUARE OFF FOR FALL!

AUSTRIA (Ward): A Gal-Ukr; A Ser-Rum; A Bul S A Ser-Rum; A Tri H; A Mun S A Ber-Kie; A Ber-Kie; A Boh-Sil; F Aeg H.  
ENGLAND (Buchanan): F StP(MC)-Bar; F Nwy-Swe; A Lon-Nwy; F Nth C A Lon-Nwy; A Bel-Bur; A Bre-Pax; F ~~Mid~~-Mid; F ~~S F~~ ~~Mid~~.  
FRANCE (Warden): A Par H.                      *Per*                      *Eng*                      *Per*  
GERMANY (Birsan): A Gas S ENG A Bel-Bur; A Ruh S A Kie; A Kie S RUS  
A Sil-Ber [Not so ordered]; F Bal S ENG F Nwy-Swe.  
ITALY (Vagts): F Ion-Gre; F Nap-Ion; F Spa(SC) S A Mar; A Mar S S Spa(SC); A Ven-Tyo; A Rom-Ven.  
RUSSIA (Bytwerk): A Sil-War; F Bot-Bal; A Liv-StP; A Smy-Arm; F Con H.  
TURKEY (Tretick): F Rum-Bul(EC) [dislodged; retreats to Sevastopol via prior orders]; A Ank-Con.

THE PLAYERS: Randy Bytwerk has returned to 1915 Maple, #107; Evanston, ILLINOIS 60201.

ITEMS: (1) I have received standing orders, as allowed by my house-rules, from one player stipulating that dislodged units of his should retreat if a retreat is available. Others may want to follow this procedure. (2) A couple players noted that my headline of last issue "Birsan's Removal Will Cause Wonder," was misleading. Well, it was just a matter of interpretation. I did not, heaven forbid, mean to imply that the move itself was questionable. Merely that it would cause attention because it placed his emphasis in a different area of the board than would have been the case had he acted otherwise. You should also realize that the only real god which I have in making up headlines is the length of the line remaining.

PRESS:

AUSTRIA: In one thing at least Austria and Italy are agreed-- Turkey must go! If Italy looks West then peace and prosperity can be on us both. If not, well who knows how the gods will smile?

AUSTRIA: The Austrian government is pleased to announce the probable elimination of the Turkish presence in Europe following the upcoming campaign. This worthy goal, delayed two years by poor Austria-Russian coordination, will eliminate one threat to peace. The upcoming elimination of France, while of little interest to the East, removes the mouth of a potentially hostile power. The Austrian government will do all that is necessary to insure its security.

Pardon me if I shorten the press a little bit--I'll get the other Italian press in next issue. The Turkish one doesn't apply any more.

REMEMBER THAT NEXT ISSUE WILL BE THE FALL 1905, er, 1904, DEAD-LINE, AND THAT WINTER WILL FOLLOW ONLY ONE WEEK AFTERWARD. THEREFORE, YOU MAY DESIRE TO SEND CONDITIONAL WINTER ORDERS, TO BE CHANGED BY LETTER OR PHONE IF SOMETHING COMES UP. ALSO PLEASE NOTE THAT MONDAY OCTOBER THE 9TH IS COLUMBUS DAY, AND THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERY ON THAT DAY.

-----  
1972AR            TURKS & AUSTRIANS COMBINE TO TAKE RUMANIA!            SPRING 1903  
                          GERMANS COOPERATE AGAINST ENGLAND & GET  
                          MUNICH CAPTURED FROM THE REAR BY ITALY!  
                          RUSSIA COMING UNDER HEAVY SIEGE!

AUSTRIA (O'Regan): F Alb-Gre; A Ser S TUR A Bul-Rum; A Tri H; A's Bud & A Vie S A Tri.  
 ENGLAND (Hendry): F Wal-Lon [F Wales eliminated]; F Yor S F Wal-Lon; A Edi-Liv.  
 FRANCE (Winter): A Lon-Wal; F Eng S A Lon-Wal; F Mid-Iri; F NAT-Liv; F Bre-Mid; A Gas H; A Bel H.  
 GERMANY (Hall): A Hol-Yor; F Nth C A Hol-Yor; F Den-Bal; A Sil-War; A Kie-Den.  
 ITALY (Parsons): A Tyo-Mun; A Ven-Tyo; F Ion-Aeg; F Adr-Ion.  
 RUSSIA (Rocomoro): [Sorry for the typo, Rocamora] A Stp-Nwy; F Swe S A Stp-Nwy; A Mos-War; A Ukr SXA Rum-Sev; A Rum-Sev [dislodged; A Rumania retreats to Galicia or OTB, moves to be conditional upon said retreat]; F Sev-Bla.  
 TURKEY (T.S. Williams): A Bul-Rum; A Con-Bul; A Arm-Sev; F Bla S A Arm-Sev.

**DEADLINE:** Monday, OCTOBER 9, 1972. Remember that there is no mail delivery on that day--Columbus Day. Noon deadline for phone calls. Remember to send conditional builds in.

**THE PLAYERS:** Mike Rocamora has returned to school, and his address is nw: 55 East 10th Street, Room 602; New York, NY 10003. Bro. Hugh is still at St Meinrad.

**PRESS:**

Melk, March 19: It was announced today that the emporor has declared war on the House of Romanov. When asked what happened to end their long friendship, Frans Joseph could only say: "It was his last press release! I never dreamt that he expected to win!" This last report came from General Mills, chief of the Austrian forces stationed in Serbia.

**Olympus:**

Afore his glint of thought was scare perceived,  
 His presence found most rational men bereaved,  
 For the limits of his thought were well defined  
 By the simple fact he lacked an ordered mind.

Avoiding snares his circular reasoning wrought  
 His life progressed while he suppressed all thought  
 Until the day this arbiter first claimed  
 A brace of wit housed in a living brain.

To make the most of what he thought his gift  
 To diplomatic rigors did he shift  
 And he quick aquired a most befitting name  
 One equal to his skills, at best most lame.  
 So, from the depths of politics blackest dirt,  
 I give you Tom Williams, a SUPERDIPLOJERK.

[Game 1972BT will be found on page number eleven].

**I T S A L E G A L L A N D M A R K :**

REGINA v. OJIBWAY  
 8 Criminal Law Quarterly 137  
 (Toronto, 1965)

This case is worth reading, I assure you. Those of you who have an interest in law, or those whose only desire is to cite something authoritative at a dope party (only Muskogee has cocktail parties anymore) to some comely young lass next to you, will most certainly be interested in this case. This case, courtesy of the Harvard Law School Bulletin, has no headnote. If it did, it would likely be:

**IS A PONY, FORTUITOUSLY SADDLED WITH A FEATHER PILLOW, A 'SMALL bird' WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ONTARIO SMALL BIRDS ACT?**

The opinion is here reproduced in full:

Blue, J.: This is an appeal by the Crown by way of a stated case from a decision of the magistrate acquitting the accused of a charge under the Small Birds Act, R.S.O., 1960, c.724, s.2. The facts are not in dispute. Fred Ojibway, an Indian, was riding his pony through Queen's Park on January 2, 1965. Being impoverished, and having been forced to pledge his saddle, he substituted a downy pillow in lieu of the said saddle. On this particular day the accused's misfortune was further heightened by the circumstance of his pony breaking its right foreleg. In accord with the current Indian custom, the accused then shot the pony to relieve it of its awkwardness.

The accused was then charged with having breached the Small Birds Act, s.2 of which states:

2. Anyone maiming, injuring or killing small birds is guilty of an offence and subject to a fine not in excess of two hundred dollars.

The learned magistrate acquitted the accused, holding, in fact, that he had killed his horse and not a small bird. With respect, I cannot agree.

In light of the definition my course is quite clear. Section 1 defines "bird" as "a two-legged animal covered with feathers." There can be no doubt that this case is covered by this section.

Counsel for the accused has made several ingenious arguments to which, in fairness, I must address myself. He submitted that the evidence of the expert clearly concluded that the animal in question was a pony and not a bird, but this is not the issue. We are not interested in whether the animal in question is a bird or not in fact, but whether it is one in law. Statutory interpretation has forced many a horse to eat birdseed the rest of its life.

Counsel also contended that the neighing noise emitted by the animal could not possibly have been produced by a bird. With respect, the sounds emitted by an animal are irrelevant to its nature, for a bird is no less a bird because it is silent.

Counsel for the accused also argued that since there was evidence to show accused had ridden the animal, this pointed to the fact that it could not be a bird but was actually a pony. Obviously, this avoids the issue. The issue is not whether the animal was ridden or not, but whether it was shot or not, for to ride a pony or a bird is no offence at all. I believe that counsel now sees his mistake.

Counsel contends that the iron shoes found on the animal decisively disqualify it from being a bird. I must inform counsel, however, that how an animal dresses is of no concern to this court.

Counsel relied on the decision in Re Chicadee, where he contends that in similar circumstances the accused was acquitted. However, this is a horse of a different color. A close reading of that case indicates that the animal in question there was not a small bird, but, in fact, a midget of a much larger species. Therefore, that case is inapplicable to our facts.

Counsel finally submits that the word "small" in the title Small Birds Act refers not to "Birds" but to "Act," making it the Small Act relating to Birds. With respect, counsel did not do his homework very well, for the Large Birds Act, R.S.O., 1960, c. 275, is just as small. If pressed, I need only refer to the Small Loans Act, R.S.O., 1960, c. 727, which is twice as large as the Large Birds Act.

It remains then to state my reason for judgment which, simply, is as follows: Different things may take on the same meaning for different purposes. For the purpose of the Small Birds Act, all two-legged, feather-covered animals are birds. This, of course, does not imply that only two-legged animals qualify, for the legislative intent is to make two legs merely the minimum requirement. The statute therefore contemplated multilegged animals with feathers as well. Counsel submits that having regard to the purpose of the statute only small animals "naturally covered" with feathers could have been contemplated. However, had this been the intention of the legislature, I am certain that the phrase "naturally covered" would have been expressly inserted just as "Long" was inserted in the Longshoreman's Act.

Therefore, a horse with feathers on its back must be deemed for the purposes of this Act to be a bird, and a fortiori, a pony with feathers on its back is a small bird.

Counsel posed the following rhetorical question: If the pillow had been removed prior to the shooting, would the animal still be a bird? To this let me answer rhetorically: Is a bird any less a bird without its feathers?

Appeal allowed.

---

As far as I know, there is no truth to the rumor that President Nixon is considering Justice Blue for Justice Douglas' position on the Supreme Court. His analysis is fine, but humor has no spot on the Nixon court.

---

MORE ON THE WINTER DEADLINES--ONE WEEK IS GO!

No objections have been received, and I accordingly announce that, effective with issue #14, I will allow only one week between the Fall deadlines and the Winter deadlines. Naturally, there is no requirement that builds be made blind--you will be able to see the Fall results BEFORE you MUST submit Winter Builds or adjustments of any other nature. Of course, I encourage you to use conditional builds/removals, to insure that you make the move and save the costs of a collect phone call.

Moreover, I remind you--in cases of a big retreat, I may call the player involved, and the retreat may be published as it happens. This allows no time for negotiations, but such is not required in the rules. These rules will probably help speed the games to a significant extent.

THE DEAR OLD RATINGS--I, II & III

Ages old now, but neglected in the pages of PP because it came third class, is the ARCHIVES PUBLISHERS POLL # 3, mentioned in Doug Beyerlein's article following. For those of you who have not previously seen it:

<u>TOP BOARD</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>SECOND BOARD</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>N</u>
1.	Edi Birsan (5)	170	10	8.	Andy Phillips	62	9
2.	John Smythe (2)	135	9	9.	Walt Buchanan	58	7
3.	Crazy Dutchman	86	8	10.	Randy Bytwerk	54	6
4.	Rod Walker (1)	75	8	11.	Hal Naus	41	6
5.	Doug Beyerlein	69	6	12.	Rick Brooks	34	6
6.	Tom Eller	66	7	13.	John Beshara	33	3
7.	Gene Prosnitz	64	6	14.	Lennie Lakofka	32	5

Phillips & Bytwerk, please note, have 1 first vote each.

THE O.D.D. RATING LIST (MCCALLUM)TOP BOARDOTHERS CURRENTLY OVER 1000

1324	Charles Turner	///	1188	Rod Walker
1278	Thomas Eller	///	1041	John Koning
1245	Crazy Dutchman	///	1037	Andy Phillips
1227	Doug Beyerlein	///	1035	John Smythe
1210	Peter Rosamalia	///	1034	Lewis Pulsipher
1205	John Beshara	///	1033	Lee Childs
1188	Edi Birsan	///	1031	Mehran Thomson
			1012	Richard Miller
			1011	Walt Buchanan
			1008	David Johnston

John's ODD system, updated here, has been voted the most popular rating list in the game, and is based more or less on one of the two or three ratings systems used in Chess. It is a "win-only" system--it does not count second place as any better than seventh. It is thus in line with Calhamer's view of the game, and I guess John's. It is not in line with mine, but John's work and imagination have doubtless created a gem.

THE BROBDINGRAG RATING LIST--POWER

This list was initially kept by McCallum in the days when BROB came from Ralston. Now, it appears in HOOSIER ARCHIVES, through the effort of Jeff Power. BROB places very little emphasis on a win vis-a-vis the other positions, and strongly awards a good placing.

TOP BOARDSECOND BOARD

93.3%	5	+26	Randy Bytwerk(3W)	81.2%	2	+10	Lee Childs (W)
89.1	4	+20	Crazy Dutchman(2W)	81.2	2	+10	Jeff Wolfe (W)
88.3	6	+28	Thomas Eller (5W)	80.2	17	+62	Rod Walker (2W)
85.2	4	+18	Lennie Lakofka (W)	78.0	28	+94	Hal Naus (3W)
82.7	14	+55	Andy Phillips (6W)	76.7	3	+11	Dick Miller (2W)
81.6	3	+13	Jeff Key (W)	76.0	6	+19	Ed Halle (W)
81.4	6	+23	Dan Barrows (W)	76.0	7	+22	Low Pulsipher(3W)

Now, the above two listings, (BROB & ODD) are relatively new, but they are predicated upon the results of some different games. Generally speaking, Jeff's BROB system works off results listed in Rod Walker's NUMENOR, and Rod has been held up for a while. Rod? Below, we have an interesting and in-depth opening for what I hope will be a widely-spaced series. That is, maybe Doug will write more comments on the correlations involved, as well as giving us a periodic update as new editions of the listing come out. The BROB update caught both of us by surprise, and will doubtless be included in the next article.

### RATING LISTS AND PLAYER POLLS: A CORRELATION?

By Douglas Beyerlein

With the establishment and growth of player polls an interesting question has been asked. Assuming that the player polls correctly reflect the Postal Diplomacy Community's assessment of its players and that polls are therefore more accurate than the lists devised by rating systems the question is: How do rating lists correlate to player polls? The analysis of that question is the subject of this article.

To begin, a definition of correlation is that there must be a degree of relative correspondence. This means that if two items have a high degree of correlation then they are very similar. If a rating list has a 100% or 1.000 correlation with the polls, then it is exactly the same. For this article the idea is to see how close the rating lists correlate to the player polls and how.

Four rating lists and two player polls were used in the analysis. The four rating lists used were the most current published listings of CPCL, ODD, Numenor-average, and Numenor-total. Neither the BROB nor Antares listings were used because they have not been updated within the past six months or so. APP #3 and BPP #4 were the two player polls used. I used the rank-difference coefficient of correlation (rho correlation) formula found in all standard psychology text books. The formula is a standard one for comparing rank listings and is fairly easy to compute. Just for everyone's curiosity, the formula goes:

$$\text{rho correlation} = 1 - \left[ \frac{6 \times \text{Sum}(D^2)}{(N)(N^2 - 1)} \right]$$

D: Difference between a player's rank in a rating list and a player poll

N: Size of data sample.

[editor's note: the lower half of the formula should read:  $N(N^2 - 1)$ ].

To start the analysis a total of 15 players listed on the top two boards of either APP #3 or BPP #4 plus three players listed in the top fourteen of at least two of the four rating lists were selected. These were (in order): Birsan, Smythe, Walker, Eller, Ver Ploeg, Beyerlein, Phillips, Bytwerk, Buchanan, Prosnitz, Naus, R. Brooks, Beshara, von Metzke, Lakofka, Goldstein, Rosamilia, and Pulsipher. These players' ranks were averaged between their APP and BPP rankings.

For each rating list five different rho correlations were made. As I worked through the analysis I tried to separate out various factors which were unduly influencing the correlations for the worse. This resulted in correlations made for the following five conditions for each rating list:

- (1) All 18 players
- (2) The top 7 players in the polls
- (3) 18 players minus those outside the top 14 in the particular list analyzed
- (4) Same as (3) plus removing Walker and Beshara as both are of a controversial nature, which may have influenced their poll rank
- (5) The top 7 players minus Walker

<u>Rating List</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>rho correlation</u>	<u>average</u>
CPCL	(1)	.920	
	(2)	.970	
	(3)	.964	
	(4)	.984	
	(5)	.989	.965
O.R.D.	(1)	.897	
	(2)	.974	
	(3)	.961	
	(4)	.972	
	(5)	.973	.955
NUMENOR- average	(1)	.815	
	(2)	.729	
	(3)	.966	
	(4)	.980	
	(5)	.716	.841
NUMENOR- total	(1)	.873	
	(2)	.857	
	(3)	.935	
	(4)	.930	
	(5)	.843	.888

Now I should point out that these numbers which I have labeled correlation coefficients are not true correlation coefficients in the strictest sense. The data which I used to feed into the formula was not as specific and problem-free as I would have liked. Numerous approximations and assumptions had to be made. However, I am fully satisfied that it is good enough for our purposes.

So what does it all mean? First, it appears that the correlation between rating lists and player polls is highest when considering only the top seven players and then possibly removing Walker from the results (conditions 2 & 5, respectively) for both CPCL and ODD. Also the correlation is pretty good when both Walker and Beshara are not considered (condition 4) for all the rating lists.

Also it appears that both NUMENOR listings analyzed (only NUMENOR Average is Walker's official rating system) are significantly less correlated to the player polls than are CPCL and ODD. This is understandable when noting that the NUMENOR-average is an averaging scheme



of NUMENOR-total. The problem with all averaging systems is that they are extremely favorable to the newer player who has done well in his first few games. This results in new names springing to the top of the list, only to slowly sink towards the lower reaches of the listing as they complete more and more games. Totalizing systems which adjudge every game as equal in the time value of scores assigned work in just the opposite sense. A good newcomer starts at the bottom end and then advances with the passing of time. This difference in rating systems results in oldtimers (people who have played in many games) like Birsan and Smythe leading one style of system (CPCL and particularly ODD) [bvp here--the word should read "partially," and NOT "particularly"] while not even in the top 14 in the NUMENOR-average.

NUMENOR-total shows a better correlation, but still suffers when compared with ODD and CPCL. Edi Birsan pointed out in the ARENA #12 an interesting feature of the NUMENOR system (both total and averaged): in its sensitivity to different finishes it is far more sensitive to the second place finish than to any other finish. As this is definitely not the case with CPCL and ODD this sensitivity to second place and the high value placed on it may be what is resulting in a lower correlation than the other two systems. No doubt there is room for more analysis of this interesting subject in the future.

Doug Beverlein

Many thanks, Doug, for such an interesting comparison of the various systems. I would like to extend the discussion with updates from you when the listings change, as well as comments from others. Perhaps Arn Vagts would send a comment along. It is, I think, interesting that this sort of correlation can be viewed from several points of view. To offer a possible counterweight, and open the floor for more discussion, I provide the following brief counterpoint:

Doug begins with an assumption that may be valid, but is at least open to varying degrees of interpretation. To wit--the player polls are an accurate indication of how the "playing public" feels about different players in the game. Because that is true, it would then make sense to compare the various listings to the BPP and the APP in order to determine their degree, shall we say, of "accuracy." But an alternative exists: the correlations which Doug gives may instead be telling us the basis on which these anonymous players vote for the most devious (read--best player) of their choice.

The reason this may be so is a function of the fact that most of us haven't been in that many games. This may be even more true of the BPP against the APP, but the difference may be negligible. Besides, Doug averaged the two in his article. Since nobody can possibly have played all the personnel for whom he might wish to vote, some other source of information is required. As I see it, the total information can come only from a few sources: (1) foremost, naturally, is personal contact, as mentioned above. But I, for one, have played only about half of the leaders on the top two boards of the polls, and while there are some who have played far more than my 12 or so games, many have played fewer. (2) Sometimes, a player who is playing in a magazine in which you also have a game will attract attention. In at least some degree, I usually know who is ahead in the other games in magazines in which I play. But this is peripheral at best, and hopeless at worst, because few of us play in very many magazines. Moreover, an impression gained through this method may be wildly inaccurate--the player winning game 69XX may be losing 15 others in an inglorious fashion. (3) There are the rating lists. If I have played Mr. or Ms. Y, and find them to be an excellent diplomat and skilled tactician, their relatively low position on some rating list may not

influence my vote to any degree whatsoever. Bob Ward is a good example of this sort of player, as is Edi Birsan. The simple fact is that many lists which include long-ago games do not give an indication of their present worth--something that the ODD listing and the player polls are designed to combat. But, failing personal contact, I often place reliance in the other factor that I can possibly judge--how the player in question has done overall, as measured against other players in a rating list. It is my suspicion that there are a LOT of people like me, and that in order to avoid simply assigning names to a ballot at random, looking to a respected rating list is a viable and sensible alternative.

So, suppose that's true for a moment, though it may not be. In other words, look at Doug's figures assuming arguendo that the polls are a function of the rating lists rather than the other way around. (Actually, Doug doesn't say that the lists are a function of the polls, but that the polls are the basis of accuracy by which we may measure the lists, and he may be right). Working from that assumption, the correlations are surprising.

Consider, for example, that the highest correlation is found in the CPCL, the Calhamer Point Count Listing, which is really not a rating list at all. The CPCL average is .965, and it also has the highest correlation anywhere, in category 5, which is an astonishing .989. Perhaps due to the inequities of rating new players which Doug alludes to, the NUMENOR total has a worse correlation than the average. Ooops. I mean to say BETTER correlation. When you consider that the total rankings are not even a rating list, the percentage becomes surprising.

Does this mean, then, that those who cast ballots do so without regard to much more than how many games X player has won? Does it mean that Walker's magazine is less read, or at least paid attention to, than the other listings? Circulation figures alone would tend to indicate that such is not the case. However, very few ballots are cast in each player poll, since only those warped enough to be interested in rating lists at all, like Doug and myself, would ever spend their time on the monsters. Amongst this rather limited sample, maybe McCallum has as much circulation as does Walker or Buchanan, where the CPCL listing appears. ODD, however, does have a high correlation compared to the others, and it is indeed a true rating list.

Doug's suggestion that NUMENOR may have a lower correlation because it offers more to second place than to, say, fifth, is interesting. We will be able to tell more when the BROB listing is tested for correlation, because it offers points in direct proportion top to bottom, first being only slightly better than second, and second being only an equal distance better than third, and so on down the line.

Also interesting from this alternate point of view will be the comparisons which we can later make between the systems which award points only to the win, and those which, like BROB and NUMENOR, make allowances for the fact that there are seven people in the game. In fact, it might be interesting if Doug would consider drawing a correlation for us between those different listings, exclusive of the polls, and then comparing them in turn with the NUMENOR total, ANTARES, and CPCL listings, which are more activity indexes than true attempts at rating systems. It is important, however, that the comparisons of this sort be made when the lists contain substantially the same games, which may have to wait until after Christmas.

Again, let me remind you: I am only offering a possible alternate view of the figures which Doug has given us. Comments from Doug and others are welcome as usual. In fact, they may even be printed next issue, provided I have room for the great Organe Debate, which will come first in the 13th issue.

1972BT

ANGLO-RUSSIANS CLOSE IN ON GERMANY!  
 BUT TURKEY CAPTURES RUMANIAN LANDS!  
 FRENCH FLEETS STEAM SOUTHEAST

SPRING 1902

AUSTRIA (McCallum): A Tri H; F Alb-Gre; A Ser S F Alb-Gre.  
 ENGLAND (Osmanon): F Nth-Hel; F Nwy-Ska; F Lon-Nth; A Yor H.  
 FRANCE (Rocamora): F Bre-Mid; A Par-Bur; A Bel H; F Mar-Pie;  
 F Spa(SC)-Wes; A Por-Spa.  
 GERMANY (Soong): A Hol H; A Ruh-Mun; F Den S F Ber-Bal; F Ber-Bal;  
 F Kie S F Den.  
 ITALY (Key): A Pie S A Ven; A Ven S A Pie; F Tun-Ion; F Nap S F  
 Tun-Ion.  
 RUSSIA (Lipson): A Swe-Den; F Bot-Bal; A War-Sil; A Rum S AUS  
A Ser-Bul [NSO][A Rum dislodged, retreats to Bud, Gal, Ukr,  
 or OTB]; F Arm-Bla; F Sev S F Arm-Bla.  
 TURKEY (Le Pire): F Bla-Rum; A Bul S F Bla-Rum; A Con S A Bul;  
 A Ank-Arm.

RETREATS: The Russian Army Rumania must retreat as noted above. This is the sort of retreat where I would ordinarily have called, but I do not have Lipson's phone number. Thus, I ask that Elliot send in the retreat by return mail, and I will then forward it to the concerned players, who should also make their retreat, er, move orders conditional upon the direction of retreat.

THE PLAYERS: Steven Soong lists as his return address simply Box 2219, Johns Hopkins U, Baltimore, MD 21218. I suggest the use of this shorter version.

PRESS:

BERLIN (April 6, 1902): The Kaiser has expressed his approval of the sudden emergence of Germany as a major sea power. In a recent speech he said, "I am extremely proud of our military strength and I am in open support of the Joint Chief of Staff."

LONDON: The English government has announced its strong feelings toward the German military buildup along the Kiel-Berlin area. "Militarization cannot be allowed to flourish. Peace-loving nations unite! Let us destroy the "Black Scum" from the face of Europe!"

ST. PETERSBURG (March 2, 1902): Recent surveys have been put out regarding the attitudes of the peasants toward a possible long-term war with Germany. The results are yet to be publicized. . . . [Maybe so, but the results of the war seem to be taking precedence].

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 The deadline for 1972BT's Fall 1902 moves is Monday, October 9th, 1972, at 6 pm, though waiting that long risks not getting your moves in, because I reserve the right to start printing the magazine up at any time after 12 noon. Remember that no mail is delivered on that day.  
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DEAD LINES

PLATYPUS PIE came pretty close to having a set or two of missed moves this issue. Soong's moves came in today, Monday, as did Williams'. I remind Steve that I do NOT have a number that I can call for his moves, so it is doubly dangerous for him to delay. Please recall that the US Post Office is a feeble organization at best, and a hopeless one at worst. I called Parsons collect for his moves, and it seems that he had already sent them in--he said on the 14th. That means that four days wasn't even enough. Well, if it's your only set of moves, and I am able to reach you by phone, you still come out alive, if barely. But if you have a move change that you want registered, I obviously have no reason to call because I already HAVE moves from you--either call it in, or make certain that you have plenty of time for the letter in question to arrive. Once the magazine is typed and run off, there is no way that I can alter the result.

This is the "address" page, but its Tuesday morning, very early, and I have a little to add--a short excerpt from the Orange series, which will be continued in greater depth next issue.

FROM STAB NUMBER 56

ROLAND TZUDIKER, Denver, Colorado: I prefer naval oranges for eating and Indian River (Florida) "for juice."

HAL NAUS, National City, California: I was always under the impression that Texas oranges were the biggest in the world, that is until you got through the cactus needles and the two-inch pulp; then you have the smallest, smaller than a radish.

JOHN BOARDMAN, Brooklyn, New York: Whats all the fuss about Oranges? A large number of my forebears were faithful followers of the House of Orange these past 400 years. [Mine too, mine too].

JOHN McCALLUM: Ralston, Alberta: Please tell Derek that Oranges are a nickname for his ancestors who fought in a famous battle 280 years ago.

[Thats all for now--another round of good ones is coming up].

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SHRIEK--I TOLD YOU SO

This is being typed just before I run off this page, and after the Tuesday morning mail has come in. I received Parson's moves (mailed the 16th, not the 14th), as well as some press from Winter, and an important change of moves from Hall--a crucial day late. Chris, the postmark was the 17th on both the card and the letter--how could you POSSIBLY have expected it to arrive by Monday? It is possible that some of you people did not note the new Monday deadlines, but that is certainly not from want of being told.

(C. I.)

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FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

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