

The Prince

October 14, 1982

Game Openings: Yes

Number 2

"A man who wishes to make a profession of goodness in everything must necessarily come to grief among so many who are not good. Therefore it is necessary for a prince, who wishes to maintain himself, to learn how not to be good, and to use this knowledge and not use it, according to the necessity of the case."

Machiavelli

Not as witty as North Sealth West George nor as lively as Paranoiac's Monthly is the last of the Seattle Three, The Prince, brought to you by Jim Meinel, 628 Whitworth Lane S. Renton, WA 98055. Subs are cheap (25¢/issue, or any multiples thereof) and cheaper if you are on my standby list (free sub). Games are \$5.00 with no NMR deposit required, non-DIAS and prophetic retreats and adjustments. The Prince is published every three weeks and will be devoted mostly to the player.

I was pleased with the debut of The Prince. Out of 113 people who received issue number 1 fourteen of you signed up and about an equal number declined but had words of encouragement. The first gamestart went out within a couple of weeks of the mailing so I won't have the horrors of waiting for a gamestart to fill like some pubbers have experienced. I received a few favorable plugs around the hobby (which I appreciate greatly) so our ranks may grow a bit in the future. Consider ourselves an elite group.

I have people signed up for a second game right now but I can't guarantee an early start of that game. I'll do my best to try and get that filled so you won't have to wait too long. If any of you out there know of someone who might be interested in playing with the prophetic rules just tell them to send me a stamp and I'll send them a sample. (oh, I'm easy, I'll send one even if they don't send the stamp)

So what's new around here? Not too much, school has started again and the only thing to look forward to is that I graduate in June. I thought it would be real easy, you know, take a few classes, relax a bit and then around May start hunting for a job. Wrong. I'm interested in finding a job in public accounting and the recruiters were signing up people for interviews the first week of the quarter. The whole job hunting process now has really taken a big chunk of time out of a schedule that a month ago I would have said, "5-10 more hours a week of my time? Never!" Well, I found the time (I dropped a class and said goodbye to lunchtime) so I'm now immersed in the recruiting season. The whole thing would be kinda funny if it wasn't so serious. Went out and bought a new suit, go to all the dinners the accounting firms sponsor so I can get to know who the hell I'm talking to. First question they ask: when are you graduating? If you answer that one correctly (June or March) then they pop the second one: are you willing to move out of state? Get that one right (the answer is yes) and then they get interested. So I say 'June' and 'yes' and I'm in business. You chat with them and bullshit and they buy you beer and they say why it's great to work with Price Waterhouse or Arthur Young. And us accounting seniors go to all these functions so we won't be total strangers when we walk into the interview with these recruiters. At least that's the theory. My first interview was with the Director of Personnel of a firm who flew up from Los Angeles to do some interviewing.

So much for all my carefully laid groundwork and bullshitting. At least I got a dinner out of it.

So besides this little adventure life's been life. Or as a friend of mine says when I ask how life is, "Oh great, just a big kick in the butt".

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GREAT POWERS APPROACH THE NEGOTIATION TABLE - WILL IT BE PEACE OR WAR
FOR EUROPE?

Medici 1982XX

AUSTRIA	George Milewski	P.O.Box 256	Batavia, Ohio 45103
ENGLAND	Don Scheifler	23 Ponca	Kirkwood, Missouri 63122
FRANCE	Mike Whitty	2510 Leon	Austin, Texas 78705
GERMANY	John MacFarlane	630 Totavi	Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
ITALY	Kathy Byrne	160-02 43 Ave.	Second Floor Flushing, New York 11358
RUSSIA	Larry McCloud	520 Geary	San Francisco, California 94102
TURKEY	Kevin Tighe	1603 G Street	Arcata, California 95521

The deadline for Spring 1901 is Thursday November 4, 1982 9:00 P.M. P.S.T.
The players received preliminary gamestart announcements October 4 (well actually I mailed them then) so the game is off to an early start. Send in preliminary orders early because the game will be delayed and a new player called if there is a Spring 1901 NMR.

Last minute orders: God forbid it. But if you do have to get a hold of me on deadline day try my home phone after 6 P.M. and my work number noon and right at 4:30 PM. (all PST) I can't guarantee being home just before 9 PM deadline day so really, get those orders in!

Like I mentioned earlier I have people interested in a second game. I will send out announcements as soon as I receive seven entrants.

STANDBYS

I regard standbys as one of the most important people in the hobby. They are essentially doing the GM a big favor by joining a game in progress with what is usually a crappy position and investing time, money and effort into it. The Prince, in return for that big favor, is sent to those people on my standby list for free.

HOWEVER I am counting on standbys to keep their commitments and not 'forget' they are on my list just because they don't have to send a sub check every once in a while. I don't expect a large need for standbys in the future so your turn may not come up for awhile so it would be easy to forget. In the meanwhile you get the zine for free. Don't miss your call! Should a standby NMR on a standby request he will be dropped from the list (and hence the Prince) and it will cost \$\$\$ to resub. I appreciate the enthusiastic support you have all shown me by signing up to be standbys and I am looking forward to never having to use your services. Hope springs eternal and in the meanwhile you and I both get a good deal.

Gee, I've got a whole page I've got to fill up somehow. I thought a four pager would be a snap to whip out.

HOUSERULES

Don't go to sleep on me yet. A few of you have commented on my houserules, and I think that's great! Let's get your questions and comments out in the open now before the game calls into play one of those questions.

Houserule #6 seems to gag a few people. I know, what does "liberally construed" mean? I'll go pretty far in accepting orders; Nor is acceptable (though advised against) as long as there is only one Nor adjacent to the ordered ~~piece~~ piece. Two Nors and you're outta luck. Now that interpretation rests on the fact that I will ALWAYS be assuming that you are attempting a legal order. So A Cly-Liv is okay, since someone could argue that it might mean A Clyde-Livonia, if I wasn't assuming a legal order is being attempted. Personally in my games I try to always write out my provinces totally. I'd advise it to you too but I'm not making it a requirement.

I don't require the nationality of a foreign piece to be identified in a support or convoy order. The implied order of A Bel-Nwy in F Nth C A Bel-Nwy will be accepted, as will the order A Bul-Ser be assumed if you only order A Gre S A Bul-Ser. Please, please don't get that sloppy in writing your orders! But I'm here to run the games, not interfere with nitpicking, so I'm not requiring a bunch of perfect orders.

One situation that will not be accepted is misidentifying a unit with regards to it being a F or A. I've got to draw the line somewhere and if you can't even identify your units properly then tough. To sum up, I'll try very hard to allow unambiguous moves, but as soon as they become ambiguous or outright incorrect, you're in trouble.

As long as you have questions about my houserules or procedures in the Prince I'll be happy to discuss them.

PROPHETIC RETREATS & BUILDS

Not this week folks. Next issue will have a few pointers on how you can write those tricky little things and what formats I'll accept. Well, not what I'll accept or reject, just how I'll interpret what you send in. Don't try to understand me now, wait'll the book comes out.

How about a standby list? The following people have offered their services as standbys and thus earn themselves a free sub to The Prince: (in order they will be called) Tighe, MacFarlane, Conlon, Kurtz, McCloud, Gosselin. If you want on or off this list let me know. I realize some of you are getting a break by being in the first game and thus being ineligible to be called as a standby for the moment. That's okay, it's reassuring to me (and observers also) to have a large standby list.

Filler. I hate it. It's stupid. That's why I never use it. Count on it.

AROUND THE DIAL

('Around the Dial' will be a semi-regular feature about hobby happenings.)

Probably the big news coming up on the hobby scene is a big feud boiling between some folks back east. (no names please) It's unfortunate that the hobby gets racked by these events on a fairly regular basis but from my viewpoint it is bound to happen and it is best to try and live with it. I personally will not involve myself or The Prince in any feud or fight, but I would like to forward a few extenuating circumstances which tend to contribute to the conflicts in dipdom. These are not intended to cast or absolve any blame (if any); my only hope is it will help understand why feuds may come to happen and inject a little rational analysis into the picture.

1) Practically all of what we know in the hobby is at least second-hand knowledge. And probably third or fourth hand. Because of the expense and time of written communication through the mails we rely on information about the hobby through others; through publishers, through letters, through gossip. The multiple links in the communication network is bound to distort messages and turn honesty and even-handedness on it's head. Also, the truth may not be believed even if it does survive multiple tellings because we assume some distortion will take place. This makes 'getting the whole story' incredibly difficult for any conflict.

2) Players in this hobby, as I have said elsewhere, are a feisty lot. The fainthearted don't play dip, and if they tried they wouldn't last long. So all we have left are a core of people in the hobby who won't take a jibe or insult with ^{out} hitting b ck.

3) Written communication has one big disadvantage over oral communication: no ability to hear immediate feedback. If something looks like it's not getting through to your tableside listener, you can change tack or emphasis a vague point. Nothing is left to interpretation, or rather, misinterpretation. Not so with letters. Unless something is spelled out exactly and in a detailed manner, interpretations not intended by the writer will emerge, and the writer will not have the opportunity to clarify. (except weeks later when the tempers have been frazzled awhile).

For what it's worth. It's a tough situation. I hope it dies away before too many people get involved.

Jim Meinel
628 Whitworth Lane So.
Renton, Washington 98055



Handwritten notes:
Renton, WA
Dec 1973
Enclosed 1st class

your sub expires with # _____.
you are mentioned on page _____.
0.50.100.100.100.100

FIRST CLASS MAIL