

The Prince

November 25, 1982

Game Openings: Yes

Number 4

"It is an infallible rule that a prince who is not wise himself cannot be well advised..."

Machiavelli

This is The Prince, a Diplomacy gaming zine put out every three weeks by Jim Meinel, 628 Whitworth Lane So. Renton, Washington 98055. Cost for a sub is 25¢/issue, \$2.50 for ten issues, or any fraction thereof. People willing to standby for games will receive the sub for free. I have game openings, but right now I have no one on a waiting list so if you want to join tell me now but send no money - it could be a few weeks (or months) for another game to get going and I wouldn't want to hang onto your money that long. The games themselves are non-DIAS, non-black press with peophetic retreats and adjustments. \$5.00 to join, no preference lists (I know, stupid). But fourteen of you signed up so it can't be all bad.

Medici, The Prince's first game, is underway without a hitch, and our second game, Atreides, had it's gamestart sent out last Tuesday. In trying to keep The Prince I probably should close game openings because another game will put me at the six page size. But I wouldn't want to deprive the hobby of a place to play prophetic dip so I'll knuckle under to the screaming demand and keep 'em open.

Besides the games, we have another houserule clarification, a plug, and a few riddles to solve. The last item is a kind of salute to Jack Fleming, who will be closing down Paranoaic's Monthly this month. Jack has decided to take a little vacation south of the border and doesn't much care to be sending expanded versions of his Travelogue to us each month. He does plan on resuming PM when he returns and he's rehousing all his games right now. Best of luck to Jack while he's gone, and long live his motto; "Small is Big".

Hobby Plug: Larry Peery, (P.O.Box 8416 San Diego, CA 92101) an old timer in the hobby, has come up with an interesting hobby position: a Fotobank Custodian. This person would collect all the pictures and photographs (egad!) of the hobby members and hold them for reprinting for people and for posterity. He's looking for someone who is a camera bug to assume this position, or just people with ideas and comments about it. Larry also has some other interesting ideas on hobby projects, so drop him a line and find out how you can help out.

Home Front: Still no word on my jobhunting. If nothing else we have another wageearner in the family- my wife is student teaching next quarter and will get her degree next June also. She's really been good about all this dip stuff too - in fact, that's why I'm using an IBM selectric this week; no work today and I was left high and dry without a typewriter. So she's sitting here at her work (she's sales editor for her school paper) while I type this thing. My thanks to her.

Medici 1982IC
Fall 1901

DARING DEFENSE ON THE MARNE SAVES FRANCE

AUSTRIA (G.Milewski)	F Adr-ION, A Vie-TRI, A SER S ITALIAN F Ion-Gre
ENGLAND (D.Scheifler)	F Nth-NWY, A Wal-BEL, F ENG C A Wal-Bel
FRANCE (M.Whitty)	A GAS-Bur, A SPA-Mar, F Mid-POR
GERMANY (J.MacFarlane)	A BUR S ITALIAN A Pie-Mar, A Kie-DEN, F HOL S ENGLISH A Wal-Bel
ITALY (K.Byrne)	A PIE-Mar, A VEN H, F Ion-GRE
RUSSIA (L.McCloud)	F Bot-SWE, F RUM H, A War-GAL, A UKR S A War-Gal
TURKEY (K.Tighe)	A BUL-Gre, F CON-Bul(s.c.), A ANK-Con

Supply Center Ownership - Winter 1901

AUSTRIA	Tri, Vie, Bud, SER	4	build 1
ENGLAND	Lon, Liv, Edi, BEL, NWY	5	build 2
FRANCE	Par, Bre, Mar, SPA, POR	5	build 2
GERMANY	Ber, Kie, Mun, HOL, DEN	5	build 2
ITALY	Nap, Rom, Ven, GRE	4	build 1
RUSSIA	StP, Mos, War, Sev, RUM, SWE	6	build 2
TURKEY	Ank, Smy, Con, BUL	4	build 1

The deadline for Winter 1901 builds only is Thursday December 16, 1982 9:00 PM PST. PLEASE send in preliminary orders as early as possible, as some of these submissions are really cutting it close. You can always change your orders later. Hope you all had a good Thanksgiving (I did). And we also have some more press:

Mom-Sonny: If you screwed me not only will I have you arrested for corrupting my morals, but I assure you we are both dead!

Rome-Paris: I don't mind if you write in crayon, if you don't mind if I write in blood!

Rome-Munich: Just for you, only for you, and because of that dumb article I wrote in VOD - would I do anything as insane as this!

Rome-GM: Is it possible to get screwed by 2 allies in one season, has any Italian player done anything as dumb as this! Please tell me at least one of them came through with promised support!

GM-Rome: Take a look at the board.

Tighe-GM: I finally understand the main idea behind prophetic orders - pessimism. No wonder it started in Europe.

GM-Tighe: Right on Europe, wrong on prophetic.

Bul-Ank: What do you mean prepare for a retreat; we're attacking.

Ank-Bul: Relax. You can always retreat to Greece and pretend it's an attack.

Bul-Ank: Huh?

Tur-Italy: I just had a game with Woody. He seems nice enough.

Ankara-Paris: Nice try, but everyone knows I never accept a cut lower than 60-40.

Turk-Russia: You're off to an easy start.

Linus-Sir: "Woe to the traitors who betray to the traitors who treacherously betray!"

Bulgaria: Huh?

GM-Linus: Ditto for me.

Italy-Board & GM: Happy Thanksgiving!

AND YET ANOTHER MINDLESS BLOODBATH BEGINS...

Atreides 1982XX

AUSTRIA: Guy Hail 1103-b Lorrain St. Austin, Texas 78703
ENGLAND: Mike Paoletti 409 Stevenson So. Pullman, Washington 99163
FRANCE: Mark Luedi P.O.Box 986 Chesterton, Indiana 46304
GERMANY: John Shea Rm. 216 Bobb Hall 2305 Sheridan Rd. Evanston, IL 60201
ITALY: Bob Gosselin Box 342 La Luz, New Mexico 88337
RUSSIA: Nelson Heintzman #C-4 2255 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14216
TURKEY: Dan Palter Box 156 Cedarhurst, New York 11516

The deadline for Spring 1901 orders will be Thursday December 16, 1982, 9:00 PM PST. The players were sent gamestart announcements on Tuesday the 23rd. Send in preliminary orders early - you can always change them later and it's good insurance against an NMR. A Spring 1901 NMR will disqualify you from the game.

Last minute orders - let's hope not. But if you do need to get ahold of me on deadline day I should be home from 6-9:00 that night. Try my work phone during the day if those hours are too late for you guys back east.

My address: Jim Meinel 628 Whitworth Lane So. Renton, Washington 98055

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I've got a little extra space this week so here are a few riddles for you to try and solve, in case a few of you are going through withdrawl since you found out that Jack Fleming's PM was closing down. How about a free issue for the first correct answer to each of these mindbenders?

1. Howard Youse, an eccentric billionaire, offered a prize of half a million dollars to the racing car driver whose car came in last in a race. Ten drivers entered the contest, but were puzzled by Mr. Youse's conditions.

"How can we run the race?" one of them asked. "We'll all just go slower and slower, and the race will never finish."

Suddenly one of them said, "Aha! I know how we can manage it." What did he think of?

2. Two train tracks run parallel except for a spot where they go under a tunnel. The tunnel is not wide enough to accommodate both tracks, so they become a single track for the distance of the tunnel.

One afternoon a train entered the tunnel going one direction, and another train entered the same tunnel going the opposite direction. Both trains were going at top speed, yet there was no collision. Explain.

3. Why are 1977 dollar bills worth more than 1976 dollar bills?

HOUSERULES

Some players have asked about the following possibility: the GM lists the units which may need retreat orders but fails to list a unit. The affected player also fails to notice it and doesn't write a retreat order for it. As luck would have it the unit is subsequently dislodged and therefore disbanded. Who's fault?

One line of reasoning is that I, as the gamemaster, am only doing the players a favor by listing possible retreating units which in itself does not absolve the player from the responsibility of examining the board himself and writing complete orders. This position would state the list should only be viewed as a reminder that there are units that need to have conditional retreat orders written for them.

A second position would be to elevate the list to the status of adjudications and a unit missed would be classified as a GM error. That may make you feel better as a player but if you look again at the consequences you'll see the end result is the same. Scene: I forget to list German A Pru, nobody notices, it gets dislodged and disbanded, German player loudly protests. GM comes back and says, 'okay, GM error. Errors not noticed until past the deadline become final.' Case closed. Now, should someone notice I missed a unit and they notify me I will of course notify the players, but I would have done that in the first case where the list was merely advisory. Because of the timing nature of the problem either stand by the GM will result in the same solution. It's only too bad that the consequences of the error will always happen past the deadline.

That second train of thought sounds a little harsh and dictatorial so I'll avoid it (ha ha) by taking the first position; that I am just doing you all a favor and you shouldn't take the list as final. As always, though, I will try very hard to make it as accurate as the adjudications.

Damn, why do I always forget this? Here's the standby list, all these guys get The Prince for free. Thanks a bunch guys.

Tighe, MacFarlane, Conlon, Kurtz, McCloud, Gosselin, Palter, Heintzman, Shea.

Please let me know if you want on or off this list.

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sub expires with issue Trade

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FIRST CLASS MAIL