

THE ONE AND ONLY

RAG-WEED

RAGWEED #18 SEPTEMBER 27, 1975 A NOVGOROD PRESS PUBLICATION

DRATS! RAGWEED is not a corporation; you need three buggers to form an inc. Guess we'll have to go back to our own symbol, the Phoenix. The Phoenix is a bird from Egyptian Mythology which is noted for rising out of its ashes every 500 years. By now you should get the connection. You may be asking, "Is that bird at the top a Phoenix?" I'm not sure, it never told us. The only Phoenix I know of for sure is in Arizona. RAGWEED is a Diplomacy* 'zine published by Al and Tom Burkacki (who are brothers), 13201 Dwyer, Detroit, Michigan 48212 phone (313) 366-0044. Games appearing in this issue are: 1972ER, 1974W, 1974AG, 1974HM, 1974Ldn(stress variant), 1974Rds(michigan variant), and the ever-persistent Strategy 1 (feudal rebellion scenario). Subscriptions to Ragweed are 10/\$2.00 or 20¢/issue. We have openings in a variant of ours called Biplomacy, are very complex game based on competing animal species. Game fee is \$1.00 plus the subscription fee quoted above. Biplomacy rules are for sale for 10¢ cash/stamp.

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DEADLINE FOR ALL GAMES: OCTOBER 31, 1975 - and that's the truth.

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Errata for The Reunification of India 1975+

1. Special Mention, credit Chartography... Deborah Van Horn.
2. China receives an additional supply center(home center):Szechwan.

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Local News of Interest.

- The date for Dungeons & Dragons regular meetings (Michaud, Scensny, Van De Graaf & Wood system) are now set at they first Sunday of every month (usually at John Van De Graaf's, 37343 Glenbrook, Mt. Clemens, MI 48080...
- Bill Somers (DU1-7152) represents the Midwest Hobbies of Herb Barents in the Detroit area.
- The great MGA/MDG DETROIT WINTERCON will be held here again at the University of Detroit Dec 6 & 7 (see back).

*Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game by Games Research Inc. and created by Allen B. Calhamer

1974 HM: Fall 1903

Autumn retreats:

Germany: A Mun retreats to Kie.
England: F Nwy retreats to Nth.

Strange...Strange tactics prevail!
Turkish Hordes in Prussia.
Austrians tear into Burgundy. Draw proposals all fail.

Austria(R. Beasecker): A Mun-Bur, A Tyo-Mun, A Tri-Tyo, A Bud-Tri, F Ion(s) Turkish F Apu-Nap.
England(J. Baker): F Nth-Ska, F Eng-Nth, F Bre-Eng, F Mid-Wes.

France(M. Diller): A Par-Bre, A Gas(s) A Par-Bre, A Pic(s) A Par-Bre, F Por(s) F Spa(sc)-Mid, F Spa(Sc)-Mid.

Germany(L. Kendter): F Swe-holds, A Bel-holds, A Ruh(s) A Bel, A Kie-Hol, A Ber-holds, F Hel-Den.

Italy(C. White): A Pie-Tyo, A Ven-Apu, A Naf-Tun, F Nap-Ion (D, R to Tyr, Rom, or OTS).

Russia(G. Behnen): A Nwy-Stp, F Bot-Stp(sc), A Sil(s) German A Ber.

Turkey(J. Diehl): F Apu-Nap, F Aeg-holds, A War-Pru, A Sev-Rum, F Bla-Con.

Winter 1903 Supply Chart:

Austria: Home, Gre, Ser, Mun... 6 Build 1.

England: Home, ~~Nwy~~... 3 Remove 1.

France: Home, Spa, Por... 5 Even.

Germany: Ber, Kie, ~~Nth~~, Bel, Swe, Den, Hol... 6 Even.

Italy: Rom, Tun, Ven, ~~Nap~~... 3 Remove 1 or 0 (depending on retreat).

Russia: Home, Nwy... 5 Build 2.

Turkey: Home, Bul, Rum, Nap... 6 Build 1.

SEE DEADLINE INFORMATION ON PAGE ONE. CAL WHITE HAS TAKEN OVER ITALY FROM ROBERT HAAS. THERE'S ANOTHER CALL FOR A TWO-WAY DRAW BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND TURKEY. IF YOU DON'T VOTE IT WILL BE CONSIDERED A YES VOTE. TRY TO GET SOME PRESS IN, OKAY? THEN WE WON'T HAVE TO KEEP REMINDING YOU. WINTER ADJUSTMENTS & SPRING MOVES ARE DUE. SEE PAGE ONE FOR THE DEADLINE. BYE!!!

1974 W: Fall 1906

Russian Elite massacre absent-minded Germans in Galacia.
Turkish invasion of Calabria is pulled off.

Austria(G. VanSteel): A Vie-hold.
France(A. Carlson): A Edi-Lpl, F Nat-Iri, F Bre-Mid, F Naf-Wes, F Tun(s) F Lyo-Tyr, F Lyo-Tyr, A Mar-holds, A Bur-Gas.

Germany(W. Wyman??, the standby is Rick Loomis, PO Box 1467, Scottsdale, Az. 85252.): Has A War, A Gal(D,A), F Stp(sc), F Nth, A Pru, A Sil, A Boh, A Mun, F Swe.

Italy(M. Schaut): A Tyo-Pie, A Ven(s) A Tyo-Pie, F Pie-Tus, F Rom-Nap.

Russia(G. Rogowski): A Mos-War, A Ukr(s) A Rum-Gal, A Rum-Gal.

Turkey(T. Kniaz): A Bud(s)

Russian A Rum-Gal, A Tri(s)

Austrian A Vie, A Alb(s) A Tri, F Ion-Tyr, F Gre(s) F Aeg-Ion, F Aeg-Ion, F Adr-Apu.

Winter 1906 Supply Chart:

Austria: Vie... 1 Even.

France: Home, Spa, Por, Edi, Lpl, Lon, Tun... 9 Build 1 due to an annihilation.

Germany: Home, Nwy, Swe, Stp, War, Bel, Hol, Den... 10 Build 2 due to annihilation.

Italy: Home, ~~Tyr~~... 3 Remove 1.

Russia: Mos, Sev, Rum... 3 Even.

Turkey: Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, Tri, Bud... 8 Build 1.

SEE PAGE ONE FOR DEADLINE INFORMATION. WINTER ADJUSTMENTS & SPRING 1907 MOVES ARE DUE. THEY MAY BE MADE CONDITIONAL ON THE BUILDS. AND TRY TO SEND IN SOME PRESS. IT REALLY HELPS GMS FILL SPACE. SEE YOU SOON!

About ten lines to waste on a plug for Midwest Hobby and Games. The guy who runs the show is Herb Barents, RR4, 1142 S. 96th Zeeland, MI 49464. Herb sells games from almost all the major game companies at cut-rate prices. Write him a letter and find out. In Detroit, contact Bill Somers.

1974AG Fall 1908 Does Germany have a chance to win?

ENGLAND(Bartnikowski): F Eng-Dre (D,R wales,irish,otb), F Lon-Eng.

FRANCE(Rogowski): F Adr-Alb, A Tri (s) GER A Bud, A Tyo (s) A Tri, A Ven-Apu, F Nap (s) A Ven-Apu, F Tyr (s) F Nap, A Tun-hold, A Bre-hold, F Mid-Eng.

GERMANY(Kniaz): F Cly-Lpl, A Edi-Yor, F Nwg-NAT, A Bel-Bur, A Mos (s) A Ukr-Sev, A Bud (s) A Gal-Rum, A Boh-Gal, F Nth (s) FRE F Mid-Eng, F Hol (s) F Nth, A Vie (s) A Bud, A Mun-Bur, A Ukr-Sev, A Gal-Rum, A War-holds.

TURKEY(Berendt): A Bul-holds, A Sev-holds(D,R to Arm or otb), A Rum-holds(D,R to Ukr or otb), A Ser-holds, F Apu-holds(D,A), F Gre-holds, F Ion-holds, F Aeg-holds.

Summer Retreats:

France: F Ion-Adr.

Turkey: F Tri-off the board.

Supply Chart for Winter 1908:

England: Lon, ~~Lpl~~...1 Remove 1.

France: Home, Spa, Por, Tun, Ven, Rom, Nap, Tri...10 Build 1.

Germany: Home, Den, Hol, Bel, War, Mos, Stp, Nwy, Swe, Vie, Bud, Edi, Lpl, Sev, Rum...17 Build 3 (But only room for 2).

Turkey: Home, Gre, Bul, Ser, ~~Tyr~~, ~~Kam~~, ~~Sev~~...6 Remove 1 (Due to Retreat otb & Annihilation).

Winter 1908 adjustments & Spring 1909 moves are due. See page 1 for Deadline information. Spring moves may be made conditional on Winter adjustments. Mail early!

1972 ER: Winter 1911 & Spring 1912 Spanish Monarch is finally killed in Exile. Portugal next???

England(J. McKeon):/A Lpl & F Edi were built./ F Mid-Spa(nc), F Gas (s) F Mid-Spa(nc), A Bur-Mar, A Ion-Pic, F Eng(c) A Lon-Pic, A Ipl-Yor, F Edi-Nth, F Hol-Bel, A Ser-Mun, A Kie-Ber, A Stp(s) Turkish A Mos.

France(T. Kniaz): F Por(s) Italian F Spa(sc). ((SEE NEXT COLUMN))

Germany(A. Carlson): /Retreats A Vie-Boh. Removes A Pie & A Lvn/ A Sil(s) A Boh-Mun, A Tyo(s) A Boh-Mun, A Boh-Mun, A War-Gal (D,R to Pru, Lvn, or otb).

Turkey(E. Birsan): A Ank-Sev, A CON-Bul, F Smy-Aeg, A Rum-Gal, A Mos(s) A Ukr-War, A Ukr-War, F Ion-Tun, A Vie(s) A Rum-Gal, A Bud(s) A Rum-Gal, A Rom(s) F Ven, F Ven-holds, A Tri(s) A Vie F Lyo(s) English A Bur-Mar, F Bla(c) A Ank-Sev, F Tus-Pie, F Wes(s) English F Mid-Spa(nc). Italy(M. Bartnikowski): F Spa(s) (s) French F Por(D, A).

Summer 1912 Retreats & Fall 1912 moves are due. See page 1 for deadline information. There's a call for a 2 way draw between England/Turkey. Please vote. No vote submitted will be considered a YES vote. Mail early!

1974 Rds: Winter 1904 & Spring 1905 Benzonia rows into the depths of Lake Michigan.

Autumn retreat: Benzonia F Lkm-Mus.

Benzonia(T. Kniaz):/Builds F Fra/ A Mac(s) A Alp-Gay, A Kal(s) A Alp-Gay, A Alp-Gay, A Pru(s) A Gra-Mio, A Gra-Mio, F Mus-Lkm, F Fra(s) F Mus-Lkm, F Stu(s) F Mus-Lkm.

Otsego(M. Magnotte): Remove A Bay F Che-holds, A Pos-holds.

Saginaw(T. Berendt): /plays 2 short/ NME! A Mid-holds, A Fli-holds, A Mtp-holds, F Taw-holds (D,R to Sag, Pnc, or otb).

Taguamenon(H. Barents): /Builds A Smm/ A Smm-Sti, F Kee-LKS, A Ish*Iron, A Esc-One, F Str-Upp, F Low(s) F Upp-Taw, F Upp-Taw, F Nau(s) F Lkm, F Lkm(C) A Esc-One(D, R to Lud, Mil, Gre, Man, or otb).

Wayne(R. Beasecker): F Por-Det.

Zeeland(M. Schaut): A New-Big, A Hol-New, A Bat-Kao, A Det-holds, A Mil-Jac. F Gre-Alg.

Summer 1905 retreats & Fall 1905 moves are due. See page one for deadline information. Please send some press next time.

1974 Ldn: Spring 1967 AS THE NEW
YEAR BEGINS WE FIND OUR HEROES
CONGREGATING AT THE GMS' HOME...

EAST(Somers):/buildHar/ StF-PaP,
Fer (s) StF-PaP, War (s) Fer,
Har-Sar, Dus (s) Ham, Ham (s) Hig,
Gra (s) Laf, Laf (s) Gra,
Hig (s) StF-PaP.

NORTHCENTRAL(Berendt): NMR!
PaP-hold, WoD-hold.

NORTHWEST(Bartnikowski):/retreat
Sou-otb, Mon-Ros, remove NLi/
Red (s) Ros, Ros (s) Red.

SOUTHWEST(Kniaz):/build Dow,Eco/
Rou-Liv, DBW-Rou, SLi (s) Mon-NLi,
Avi-Mon, Eco-Del, WSU (s) Tow,
Sou-Fer, Mon-NLi, Dex (s) Mon-NLi,
Dow-DBW, Nor-Hig, Tow (s) WSU.

No stand-by for Tom Berendt will
be needed, seeing as he probably
forgot about the deadline(also
this game will be over in a turn).

Death of a Kielbasa-cutter or the
Stress Press Section:

(West Seven Mile): Don Bartio was
forced to contemplate. Again the
tomato plants and cucumber vines
would have to go unattended on the
grounds of his palacial estate.

A number of the figures of
the city's "organization" had
asked the Patron to come out of
retirement and put an end to
hostilities. The Don remembered
only too well the rigors of
previous combats. Years before in,
(1973Jdn), negotiations with Don
Paulo Woodi and Don Alanzahmo,
the Patron was able to bring an
end to hostilities after bringing
home a lion's share of the bacon.
Now perhaps it was to happen again.

It was hard to imagine that the
peace-making Patron had been in
retirement just a short time. All
the organization had seen Don
Bartio parley a small bakery into
his massive Eastside Empire. You
had but to ask figures like Spagett
DeCesare how Bartio's word was as
good as his promise. The family of
the departed Capo Vito "Bad Bill"
Thomassi knew only too well the
grief of cement overshoes in the
waters off the MacArther Bridge

off Belle Isle. Yes, Bartio rem-
inisced, "to wield power, you
must have a bite."

But first things first. The
Don began formulating the outline
of a telephone conversation he
would soon have.

"Greetings Don Antonio and Don
Vito, my best wishes to your
families. To demonstrate my good
faith I will fully support the
Dwyer Street exercise. Let us be
done with this nastiness immedi-
ately. Remember fellow "business-
men" what need have we for free-
dom of the press."

Downriver Stuff; Don Antonio's
guarantee of Don Berendtio had
him worried. It would take great
finesse to prevent the takeover
by Don Vito of the U of D - Pal-
mer Park Corridor. Don Vito's
presence in the area was intoler-
able. If the area held this time,
he could be assured of the final
mastery of the Motor-City
rackets. With the successful tak-
ing of certain areas, he would
finalize this goal.

It was time to join Don Vito
in the Dwyer Street Hit. This
took precedence over all others
of his plans. This was one "prob-
lem" that had to be taken care of!

-The following is a joint press
release from Don Vito and Don
Antonio, a Description of the
Dwyer Street Hit.-

Cesare Salada was worried.
There were a lot of rumors float-
ing around about Don Berendtio
escaping the explosion in Palmer
Park and hiding out at U of D,
or even Las Vegas. And about Don
Marco's disappearance, and the
rumor that the Patron, Don Bartio
had come out of retirement. And
to top things off, someone had
placed a cheap "Mafia Staff Car"
bumper sticker on the back deck
of his E-Type Jag and he couldn't
figure how to get the damn thing
off.

Don Vito Somero was pleased,
((more on the next page))

he had just heard a good joke that he now proceeded to pass along to Salada. He lit up a Havana, and interrupted his Consigliere's train of thought. "Hey, did you hear about the Polish Mafia? They make you an offer you can't understand!"

"That's a good one boss," replied Salada. "What's the arrangement for tonight's hit gonna be?"

"OK, here's the setup. The location of the hit is right in our Industrial sector. Now I've checked with Don Antonio and he is sending a couple cars full of men to meet our guys there at 11 PM."

"So he agrees with the hit?"

"Yeah, he said he's tired of them guys bad mouthing us, printing unauthorized press releases, and inflammatory remarks; and its time that we taught those guys a little respect."

"Then we ain't gonna waste 'em, just rough 'em up a bit?"

"RIGHT!" ((WHEW!))

later that day:

10:30 pm; A car stops at the curb on Luce between Gable and Dwyer. Two men get out and take up positions in the alley.

10:35 pm; Another car parks near the intersection of Charles and St. Louis, the men inside wait.

10:40 pm; A Detroit Police Helicopter lands in the island on Mound Road, just south of McNichols, and waits.

10:45 pm; Two Lincolns park on Rupert Street, near the corner of Dwyer, and waits.

10:50 pm; Two Cadillacs park on Dwyer Street, near the corner of Rupert, and wait.

10:55 pm; A light blue GMC Suburban pulls up in front of 13201 Dwyer. A large man in a seedy Robert Hall suit gets out, carrying what appears to be a long instrument case.

"~~o%##%c~~, Its the Patron himself," said Rocco Roccoco, Don Vito's lead hit man.

Indeed it was the legendary Don Bartio himself. He beckoned

to the men in the Lincolns on Rupert. Whereupon Umberto, one of Don Antonio's men got out and crossed over to where Don Bartio was standing just barely avoiding the figure of Duell Gibbons who was changing from a tree branch where he was gnawing the bark, unable to find any wild hickory nuts. He immediately turned and clouted Gibbons on the head with a long wicked looking sap that turned out to be an Kowalski Kielbasa.

"Hey Patron, Comme Sta, you lookin good," said Rocco.

"Bene, bene," replied Don Bartio.

"Hey Patron, whats the story, you in on the Hit or what?"

"We gotta talk about that."

"Hey Patron, in the old days of the Purple Gang, back in Ecorse and Lincoln Park, they used to call you Boot leg Bartio didn't they?"

"Yea, those were the good days!"

"Hey Patron, I hear some of the Old Timers used to carry a grease gun around in a violin case, but what kind of heater have you got in that Trombone case there? a Bazooka?"

"No you dumb ~~%#@c~~, its a Trombone. Now listen and listen good; you guys are in real trouble if you try and break into this joint. These guys got burglar proof screens on all the windows, and Dick Tracy type inside/outside double locks on all the doors. You would really need a bazooka to even get in there; and For What? just to teach them a lesson you're gonna waste the whole neighborhood? No Paisan, you gotte use some smarts, some subterfuge. Now no one is gonna suspect me, so I'm going in there and when I give the signal and only when I give the signal, you move in. Now," continued Don Bartio, "get back in the cars and wait for the signal."

"OK, Patron, whatever you say." ((more on the next page))

"I just hope this trombone oil Don Vito gave me is good stuff." 10:59 pm; The Patron goes up to the front door at 13201 Dwyer and rings the bell.

Just at that moment, a light colored VW, with a "Go Bengals" decal in the window, stops on Mound Road and two men dressed in black get out and make their way over to the Police Chopper. They get in and the chopper takes off.

Don Bartio is admitted into the residence. All is quiet for several minutes till the chopper passes overhead and drops the two men off on the roof of the corner house. At the same time a loud withering blast is heard from the Patron's trombone! All the hitmen converge on the house, finding the doors already open for them. Don Bartio had done his work well.

Upon entering the living room the hitmen find the two brothers, both wearing extremely soiled Diplomacy T-shirts, being dunked in a large bowl of Czarnina, by Don Bartio. The Czarnina was to have been their midnight snack.

"OK, guys, go ahead and redecorate this place!"

And redecorate it they did! The two brothers were clouted with Umberto's sap and the bowl of Czarnina was spilled onto the carpet. The portrait of Robert E. Lee was ripped off the wall and tossed into a pile of other junk that included an empty cigar box with a webbed foot print on its lid. Several PBM games that were set up on their boards were turned over and stomped on. These included an enormous scenario of Milton Bradley's Planet of the Apes, and a Bioplomacy. Or perhaps they were parts of the same game, one could never be sure in such cases...

A typewriter was picked up and flung across the room to shatter a TV set. Or was it a tripewriter? Some little nicknacks of Leo the Lizard and ptaszek were crushed. Wiggy: Shut up Wiggy; and Wiggy was stepped on along with Ralf the serpent. A half-gallon of correc-

tion fluid was carefully poured over their freshly typed stencils, and a general mess was made of things until the boys' mother showed up, rolling pin in hand, to chase all the hitmen away. They left in a hurry, but were not loath to leave since most of their work was finished anyway. It would take them two or three weeks to straighten things out; and perhaps the denizens of 13201 Dwyer had realized the error of their ways.

The next evening.

"Oh, boss," Cesare Salada inquired, "do you really think that pulling off this hit will really make any difference? After all those guys are still the editors and they will always have the last word no matter what we may do!"

"Well maybe you got a point there, Cesare," answered Don Vito. "Say did you hear the one about the Old World Sausage maker who had a recipe for this kind of sausage that required a large amount of sea bird flesh?"

"No, what happened."

"Well, in order to get the exact same flavor that the original recipe had, he went down to the beach and took a Tern for the Wurst!"

Cesare Salada felt ill.

"How to mutilate your mailman, and send him Third Class "(ATBP):

11:08am: The last shovel of dirt was applied to the Burkacki plot in Mount Olivet Cemetery. Services were brief, the mourners appeared normal enough. Wait just a minute. One figure seems out of place (in a word-odd). It was clad in a black fur coat and had a nose that protruded at least two feet. In addition, he was carrying a record called, "Introduction to Magic" by Vincent Price. The three infamous Dons (Bartio, Antonio, and Somero) appeared nervous at the funeral. ((MORE OF THIS LUNACY ON THE NEXT PAGE.))

They had prior to that purchased a cut-rate casket from "Elmo Sly" for \$2.75. Little did they expect that they would sooner need the coffin, instead of the "Brothers of Terror."

12:49pm: The devilish Dons had all dissipated to the safety of their homes. Yet, still remaining is the creature clad in black fur. In returning, the figure in black has returned with a phonograph and promptly mounted the "Price" record upon it. A tag on the fur coat said "fuzzy creature." Also, "ICU-CRAP GAME STASH'S HOMEMADE PIEROGA AND USED POGA STICK SALES." Has this bizzare stooge arrived to resurrect the Burkackis from Czarnina drowning. Hold on, a mouse grey snake with a red ribbon around his neck appears (yes, I'm sure the snake's neck isn't an oak tree). The ribbon seemed tight about the snake, almost as if he had been hung and survived. Or possibly, one of Don Antonio's Weblos had practiced tying a square knot on Ralf the snake's neck.

1:21pm: Strange unholy blarings emanated from the phonograph. The serpent and fuzzy creature stood like statues as the sounds continued. Phrases blended in with sentences, sentences with words, and words blended in with the wastebasket. Vincent Price let out a wail just before the phonograph went dead. At that moment, the ground opened like the doors of a maximum-security cell. From the ground rose a figure. It was the Count-Tom Burkackula.

2:49: At first sight, the Count appeared haggard and worn. Rotted residue of Czarnina was still found in the Count's hair.

Ralf: OK, enough is enough. This has gone on for four pages already! But time out for inventory. Euell Gibbons is okay, he's got the skull of an oak. It was nice of Don Vito to leave Al & Tom with a figure each so they could type. Wiggy is trying to get the

fluid spots out of his coat. The typewriter doesn't look so hot, but they didn't bet on the OTHER typewriter (heh, heh); who needs television. Certainly not Don Vito: he's enough of a boob even without the tube. We've got plenty of stencil correction fluid, Don Antonio even felt sorry for us and gave us an extra bottle. So, we even have enough correction fluid to correct that error of errors- Don Somero. In a pinch, evaporized Czarnina makes a good substitute (anyway, we never make a mistake!). It took two whole bottles of 20 mule team borax to get the stains out of the rug, and the games that were ripped are irrecoverable (the swine!). But are we of the Ragweed Society worried. Nay, we say. Though we may be bullied into puppethood, we cannot be wasted. You need us! Without us, you cannot live (only die with a smile on your face). We made you what you are (one big mess). Heed our words! The press cannot be stopped!!! ((AS THE SCENE FADES OUT, RALF THE SNAKE IS SEEN PIECING TOGETHER THE PORTRAIT OF ROBERT E. LEE. FINIS)) Take care! *****

STRATEGY I: Guess what guys, the game is starting over again. A stand-by has been found for Player #4. He is Dennis Daughtetee, 24586 Lincoln Ct #169, Farmington, Michigan 48024. His intial set-up will appear next issue. If anybody wants to change their set up because of this, feel free to do so. Leonard Kowalski is back from the Air Force; he says they haven't been forwarding his Ragweeds since he joined. So, Leo is being given a second chance; his set-up should be in next issue also.

There's a change in the map change from last issue. The way to number the hex described in issue #17 would number the hexes from left to right (which wasn't the idea). The numbering should start from the corner with the ((see next to last page))

What I'd Like to See in a Diplomacy 'zine
House Rules and Publication Policy for the GM
an article by Alan Carlson

Having been in the hobby a while and having had the chance to read some dozen different 'zines, I have gathered together the best points of all of them and compiled them here, in the form of a policy. I shall first go over the house rules and then the Publication policy.

House Rules:

1. Press: Press releases allowed (and encouraged), editing only due to space limitations or if the press contains unsupported slander.
2. Deadlines: Three week deadlines.
3. Country Assignment: Assignment of countries shall be strictly random.
4. Standby Players: All subscribers, unless they specifically request not to be, are available as standbys. Standbys are permanently assigned at the beginning of the game. Players may choose their own standby, although they may NOT dismiss ones already assigned without the GM's permission.
5. Seasons: Normal, except for separation of Winter/Spring seasons: Separation of Winter/Spring seasons shall only be granted if two or more people request it. If you request separation of seasons, conditional orders must still be sent.
6. Game Fees: \$2.00 to enter, plus a \$2.00 deposit, refundable if you complete your position (whether eliminated in combat or victorious).
7. Proximity of Players: No two players shall be allowed in the same game if their zip code prefixes are the same, i.e., if Ralf's zip is 68100 and Joe's zip is 68999, both Ralf and Joe cannot be in the same game.
8. The GM's decision is final, unless a demonstrable error has occurred.

Publication Policy:

1. Delivery time: Publication and delivery shall be swift. The zine shall be in the hands of the Post Office within two days after the deadline, and in the hands of the players within six.
2. Feuds: Feuds shall neither be encouraged, condoned or allowed in the zine. If feuds or disagreements between players do arise, it shall be referred to a neutral party (NOT the GM) whose decision is final.
3. Articles: Articles are welcome. Any articles published by the editor shall be remunerated for at the rate of one issue per usable half page of article.
4. Mailing List: A mailing list, containing the names and addresses of the subers shall be published once a year, with additions and corrections published every issue.
5. Subscriptions: Subscriptions shall be 30¢ per issue, to allow a fair profit to the editor.
6. Amount of Games: No more than 5 games shall be personally GM'ed by the editor(s). If they wish to open more games, a guest GM must be secured. Bourses do NOT count against the limit.
7. Grammer: The grammer and spelling must be as correct as possible.
8. Legibility: Both the typing and reproduction must be as legible as possible. ((Continued on next page.))

Those of you who have been counting will notice I have 16 "Commandments", six more than Moses. If you want to complain, tough. This is my article. If you want to write an article with 10, go right ahead.

Reasons behind the "Commandments":

House Rules:

- 1: I find that press, if imaginatively and well done, to be amongst the most entertaining things I have ever read.
- 2: Shorter than three weeks, it is too hectic. More than three, too slow.
- 3: Games are more interesting when the strategy was not made 4 years before.
4. This eliminates NMR, that ogre always lurking among the Diplomacy shadows.
5. Again, this keeps the game moving. Many players request seperation because they are too lazy to write conditional orders. If two people request, there is obviously a Diplomacy crisis occuring.
6. I shall only comment on the deposit. The deposit helps cut back on people dropping out or resigning because they are bored or they feel the position hopeless. In the one zine I subscribe to that uses a deposit system (Speculum) I have only seen one NMR and one drop-out, with no resignations, for the last six issues. (Ragweeds record over the same time: four NMR, two drop-outs, two resignations.)
7. This is because players who live close together have an advantage over those living further apart, as the speed of communication is faster between close localities.
8. Cuts down on arguments.

Pulication Policy:

1. Cuts down on dead time in the games.
2. Feuds are a waste of the readers time.
3. Editors do not have to be as prolific writers.
4. Helps new subscribers.
5. Most editors when calculating the cost of publication, forget to include their time.
6. Helps speed delivery of zine, as amount of time Gming is cut down, allowing more time for editing.
7. There is hardly anything worse than reading bad grammer.
8. This is whats worse, not being able to read it at all!

The two zines that come the closest to this that I have seen are Robert Bryan Lipton's "The Mixumaxu Gazette", and Don Horton's "Claw and Fang". If you reading this know of any others, tell me. ((finis))

(STRATEGY I CONTINUED:)) corner high seas hex in the corner of map #1 with the terrain key. If you've already numbered your map the other way, then that way to number the map will stick. Some examples of the new hex grid: City E1 is 0906, city L2 is 3028, city X2 is 4260. Also to save time on your numbering, number only every fifth hex.

Okay guys, I know this game has been run very badly, but I'm trying the best that I can. It was probably a mistake to start it as soon as I did, but that's in the past. From now on, events should run smoothly.

From the Scrolls of the Chronicler Burkacus

Sitting slouched over a desk, a wizened dwarf with quill in hand scribbles on a piece of parchment. Near him stands the scop, Erin, who also moonlights as a crier. It was Erin's great ancestor, Erse, who composed the famous epic "Gragorn", but that is another story.

"Erin," said the dwarf, "if I am to keep my reputation as a chronicler intact, news of the events at the council meetings must be recorded and announced. What have you this week."

"Well Burk, the time has been set again for the great meeting... of nobles under the crest of Mga," reported Erin, "Date has been set for 6,7 December, Year of Our Lord 1975 in the ballroom of the University of Detroit, a place of higher learning. Various tournies have also been set for entertainment. They include En Garde, Panzer Leader, Diplomacy, Scrabble, Risk, Pit, Blue & Grey, Napoleon at Waterloo, Dungeon & Dragons, Miniature events, Win, Place, and Show, and a host of others. A mid-day auction is set each day. Prizes for the tournies have not yet been set, but I've heard major merchants (such as Spi of New York and Avalon Hill) will provide them. Food and drink will be in ready supply. A fair featuring reknown traders of wares is also planned. That is all I have heard from the council so far."

"Excellent," said the dwarf, "it will do for a start. Please keep me informed of further developments."

RAGWEED
c/o Al & Tom Burkacki
13201 Dwyer
Detroit, MI 48212

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You standby in _____

first class mail

Time Dated Material!

