

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 6

JUNE 1979



REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

Published by the New England Society of Cynics, an unincorporated association. Inquire care of the publisher, 100 Belmont Place, Apartment 3-F, Staten Island, New York 10301. Telephone (212) 273-2365.

Publication is on a monthly basis. Game deadlines are three weeks after every publication date. Subscriptions are available at \$3.00 per year. Make all checks payable to the New England Society of Cynics.

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sion of the publisher. Diplomacy is a board game invented by Alan B. Calhammer, and is now manufactured by the Avalon-Hill Company of Baltimore, Maryland.

SHIH HUANG-TI

by D.M. Johnson and R.T. Turner

(continued from last month)

Some of Shih's fear of death undoubtedly stemmed from the fact that people were always trying to kill him. After the first attempt, a chronicler noted that Shih "was not at ease for a long time." Other tries were made, and Shih never quite adjusted. He took to sleeping in a different room or palace every night.

After discovering one serious attempt to depose and kill him, he had everyone even remotely connected with the plot (from the slaves on up) killed, exiled 4000 families just for the hell of it, and sent his mother away from the court. He set a great cauldron of boiling water in the throne room and tossed into it people he didn't like. And he took to sitting on the throne with a naked sword in his lap as a hint to loose-tongued petitioners and advisors.

It took some time for him to get across that he meant business. He executed twenty-seven of his advisors before the word got around that the Great Emperor meant what he said. One incident though, shows Shih in a different light. After advisor number twenty-seven had been boiled alive, an elderly minister asked permission to speak to Shih. "Sure," said the Emperor, "go ahead." The minister was a brave man. He said something like this: "Your Majesty has a violent disposition. You banished your mother, and you don't listen to anybody's advice. This kind of thing can't be covered up, word will spread all over the country, and nobody will have much respect for you. I'm worried about you and your dynasty."

He then bowed to Shih, took off his robe, and walked over to the boiling vat expectantly. Surprisingly, Shih pardoned the man's insolence and asked him to be an advisor.

Of all Shih's misdeeds, none has horrified Chinese intellectuals more than his burying of the scholars and the burning of the books. Fed up with Shih's cruelties, a number of intellectuals at his court said and wrote some subversive things about him and then took off for places unknown. Shih was fit to be tied. He set up a special court with himself as prosecutor and judge and summoned all the remaining literati. Everyone started blaming somebody else until Shih was completely confused. Faced with this Gordian knot, and showing a fine sense of justice, he declared all 460 guilty and had them buried alive. Shih has been a favorite whipping-boy of Chinese scholars ever since.

The background of the burning of the books is a little more complicated. On philosophical grounds, Shih hated the Confucians. Conversely they didn't like his authoritarian methods, they preferred the diversity of feudal rule, and they were always nagging Shih to do something he didn't want to do - like observe some obsolete rite. Tensions built up over a number of years until Li Ssu, Shih's chief advisor, suggested the burning of all Confucian writings. The Great Emperor thought this was a great idea. Besides, if all Chinese history were to begin with Shih, it is obvious that all writings should begin with Shih.

Printing had not yet been discovered, and the Chinese books of Shih's time were made on rolls of bamboo. They were large and

hard to hide. Under Shih's decree, one copy of each book was to be kept in China's State Library. Certain types of technical works were exempted, but almost everything else was fed into the flames. The special targets were histories other than of the Ch'in empire, poetry, and philosophical works. All over China, flames told the dismal story.

Actually, not all the books were burned. Many were hidden, although their owners (if caught) were hideously executed. Some Confucian scholars memorized the Master's teachings and saved them in that way. Unhappily, the single copies of each book saved in the state library were destroyed in the fighting that overthrew the Ch'in Dynasty. In any event, the scholarly for over twenty-two centuries has hated Shih.

Finally the time came for Shih Huang-Ti to die. He was only fifty years old. He had twenty sons from whom he might pick his successor. He caused his oldest and ablest son, Fu Su, to commit suicide and with uncharacteristic ineptitude picked his worst son to succeed him. Shih's dynasty, which he expected to last for 10,000 generations, lasted barely another ten years.

The above was taken from the authors' book, The Bedside Book of Bastards, published by McGraw Hill. The authors are members of the faculty at the University of Montana.



FIRST REGULAR GAME

1976 BE

Winter 1913

THE POPE IS GRACIOUS TO NMR PLAYERS

<u>France</u> B. Normand	Retreat: F Tun-Naf Build: none Has: F Lyo, F Wes, A Boh, F Pie, A War, A Mar
<u>Italy</u> J. Rogowski	Build: none Has: A Ven, F Tyr, F Tus, F Tun, F Rom
<u>England</u> R. Kelly	Build: A Lon Has: A Stp, A Mun, A Sil, A Mos, A Liv, A Pru, F Nwg, F Bal, F Bot, F Nth, A Ber
<u>Austria</u> D. Malmquist	Build: A Bud Has: A Vie, A Tyo, A Gal, A Ukr, A Sev, F Nap, F Gre

Note: The deadline for Spring 1914 is July 20, 1979

Special Note: Please be advised that I have not removed any member of the game. To do so now would be a violation of the houserules and of my responsibilities to the players.

The controlling rule is houserule 9, as published in the February 1976 issue, which provides as follows;

9. Player Dropout.

Except in Grand Tournament Diplomacy games, if a player fails to submit orders for two consecutive seasons such player will be removed from the game and will be replaced by a standby player. Except in exceptional circumstances, such a player will be removed from all other games published in the newsletter and will not be permitted in future games.

While two players did fail to send in moves last issue, those two players had sent in moves the issue immediately preceding. For this reason no removal could occur.

It should also be noted that the rule provides for replacement of any removed player by a standby. Until very recently, we had no eligible standbys for the game.

Now that we do, I'll be able to use the rule to make removals. There have been to many NMRs in this game. We're goin' to have "LAW AND ORDER" in the game, with a "CRACKDOWN" on NMR rule "VIOLATORS."

NOTE BENE

1. Deadline. The deadline for the game is August 15, 1979 at 9:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time.

5.

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