

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

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The Tsar and the Angel of Peace

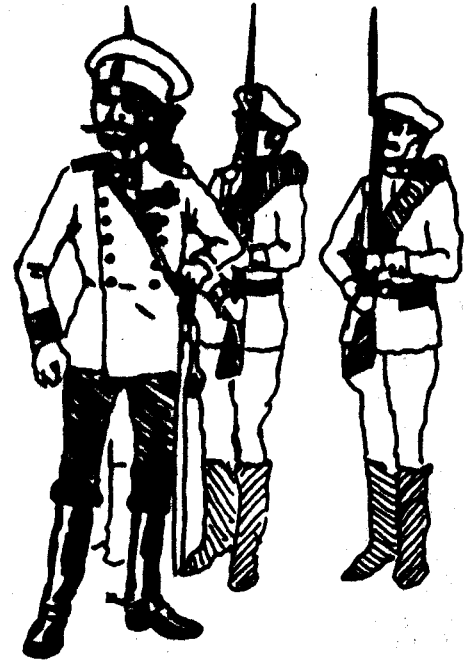
REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

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The cover this month is taken from an edition of Simplicissimus which appeared in 1913. The adjoining illustration was provided by Mr. Tsao.



General V.P. Tsao, Commander of the Warsaw Front

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THE MAN OF THE MONTH

Diplomacy, as you know, involves many important skills. Besides wit, the art involves a certain amount of flexibility in one's attitude in dealing with people. Claude, le Duc de Saint-Simon, wrote a marvelous memoir of his career as a courtisan in the Palace of Versailles in the reign of Louis XIV of France [Saint-Simon at Versailles, translated by Lucy Norton, Harper and Brothers, New York, 1958]. Saint-Simon provides us with many interesting tales. One of his accounts is of how one man brought one skill of diplomacy to a level unsurpassed since. That man, our man of the month, is only referred to as "the celebrated Alberoni."

Louis XIV was fond of war, but he never let it get out of hand. He usually had a little campaign going on in Italy, and in 1703 the Maréchal in charge of the campaign was son of the Bastard of Henri IV, le Duc de Vendôme.

Vendôme was a most remarkable figure. Saint-Simon despised him. He is probably one of the laziest military commanders in history. He usually slept until noon every day, and nearly always remained in his headquarters. He relied on his staff members entirely for his information. Perhaps thousands were lost because of his sloth, said Saint-Simon.

His personal habits were also remarkable. He slept with his dogs in his bed. Upon late rising, he would proceed to his "chaise percée" where he would remain for most of the day. He ate, drank and held staff conferences from the same position. Since he constantly ate, he evacuated copiously, and the pot was often carried away during such conferences.

It was in this manner that he met with visiting ambassadors. The Duke of Palma, an Italian ally of France, frequently had military matters of tactics to settle with Vendôme. Palma first sent the Bishop of Palma as his representative to a staff meeting. The Bishop was shocked to see the

French commander seated on his unusual throne. While the meeting was still in progress, Vendôme rose and turned to wipe himself. The shaken Bishop exited and refused to have any further meeting with the General.

Palma needed to have someone meet with Vendôme, so he sent the son of his gardner, Alberoni.

Alberoni was greeted by Vendôme in the same manner as he had the Bishop of Palma. This time when he stood to make his unusual performance, as Saint-Simon reports, "When Alberoni saw the exposed portions of the ducal posteroir, he exclaimed 'Oh! Culo de Angelo!' and rushed to embrace them."

After that Alberoni was always in Vendôme's good graces. So much so that he became more the French duke's servant than Palma's. He became the private secretary to Vendôme, his confidant and friend. It appears that Alberoni remained with Vendôme throughout his career.

Thus our present man of the month quite literally did the kind of thing that those in statecraft are often required to do figuratively. We have no reason to believe that Alberoni had any impact on history but perhaps he began the tradition that is now so often followed by ambitious young men on the way up.

Grand Tournament Diplomacy commanders, now receiving their marching orders from their kings, might consider at least the great flexibility of Alberoni in your relations with your leaders.

[Ed. note: We would like to hear from you about this feature. Surely you know of some worthy figures for our monthly salute. All we need is the name of the figure, a very brief idea of his accomplishments, and some idea of where we can get more information about your nominee. Your help will keep this feature going.]

FIRST DIPLOMACY GAME

REGULAR GAME #1

FALL 1901

Special Announcement

Chris McLenean has resigned as game-master for this game. Your new GM will be Drew McGee.

Boardman Number

A boardman number has been assigned to this game 1976. From now on the game will be referred to by its official number.

Austria
Dave Malmquist
A Bud-Rum
A Tri-Ser
F Alb-Gre

England
Don Rittel
A Yor-Hol
F Nrg-Nwy
F Nth (C) A Yor-Hol

France
Bob Normand
A Bur-Mun
A Mar-Spa
F Mid-Por

Turkey
Rick Nelson
A Bul-Gre
A Arm-Ank
F Ank-Con

Germany
Jim Diehl
F Den H
A Ruh-Bel
A Kie-Hol

Italy
Jerry Rogowski
A Tyr-Mun
A Ven-Pie
F Ion-Tun

Russia
Bod Sergeant
F Bot-Swe
A War-Gal
A Ukr-Sev
F Sev-Bla

[underlined moves fail]

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

England: Lon, Liv, Edi, Nwy (4-build 1)
Austria: Vie, Tri, Bud, Ser, Rum (5-build 2)

France: Par, Mar, Bre, Spa, Por (5-build 2)
Germany: Ber, Mun, Kie, Den, Bel (5-build 2)
Italy: Rom, Ven, Nap, Tun (4-build 1)
Russia: Mos, War, Stp, Sev, Swe (5-build 1)
Turkey: Con, Ank, Smy, Bul (4-build 1)

PRESS

(Paris to Rome) I must admit your strategy worked well. He should be easy pickings now. What do we do now?

(St. Petersburg Evening Gazette) It was announced yesterday that the Czar has successfully negotiated alliances with the governments of England, Germany, and Italy. Further it is widely believed that the Czar is also conducting treaty negotiations with the governments of Austria-Hungary and Turkey. If those negotiations are successful, it will leave the Czar free to fulfill his long time ambition of waging war on France. When asked how he would attack France, the Czar replied: "Vee can build it highway all way from Moscow to Paris by way of Berlin and Munich; our German allies assure us dis one plan is no problem!"

(Berlin to Rome and Moscow) It is good that you both displayed your forces as I requested in the opening phase. If you continue to follow instruction the path should be clear for our ultimate success.

(Vienna Flash) The Emperor Franz-Joseph was quoted this morning as saying: "A funny thing happened on the way to world conquest."

(London to Paris) I wonder what Gerry will do now? Pity!

(Livonian Underground Review in Depth LURID) The early going bodes ill for

Austria-Hungary. If this is true, then Italy will emerge as a superpower and the country to beat.

(Rogowski)

In enterprises of a martial kind,
when there way any fighting,
He led his regiment from behind-
He found it less exciting.
But when away his regiment ran,
His place was in the fore, O-

That celebrated,
Uncultivated,
Underrated nobleman
The Duke of Plaza-Toro!

(Piedmontese Marching Song?)

[Ed. note: Bravo!]

(Bad-Planning, Deutsches Reich)- Early this morning new government maneuverings and

Strategies came to light through French investigative reporter Jaques Anderson of the well known Paris daily, "The Brest Explorer".

Anderson alleges and says he can prove the existence of a secret deal between our aging, sporadically senile Kaiser and the ubiquitous eastern warlord, the Czar of Russia. The deal, he says, permanently cedes neutral Sweden to the "Eastern Imperialist" and poses "strategic problems" for other North Sea powers.

Exact terms of the deal were withheld by Anderson, but it is widely conjectured that other northern provinces were also part of the new agreement. Reliable, highly placed sources speculated privately that in return for expansion in the north, the Russian has asked for and will give armed support for German military adventures. Although sources would neither confirm nor deny exact military (continued on page 8)

GRAND TOURNAMENT DIPLOMACY

1976 Dhd Winter 1900 UNIT ASSIGNMENTS

England (King John Kador)

Don Rittel - Fleet Edinburgh
Gary Carson - Army Liverpool
John Kador - Fleet London

Germany (Kaiser Jim Diehl)

Lee Kendter - Army Berlin
Bill McDonough - Fleet Kiel
Jim Diehl - Army Munich

Russia (Czarina Nina Pawlak)

Vincent Tsao - Army Warsaw
Phil McGee - Fleet St. Petersburg
Nina Pawlak - Army Moscow
Ian Jeffrey - Fleet Sevastopol

France (Emperor Harley Jordan)

Dennis Klien - Fleet Brest
Bob Sergeant - Army Marsailles
Harley Jordan - Army Paris

Italy (King Robert Sacks)

Karl Schuetz - Army Venice
John Machir - Fleet Naples
Robert Sacks - Army Rome

Austria-Hungary (Kaiser Dennis Nagle)

Chuck Doehrer - Fleet Trieste
Bruce Martin - Army Budapest
Dennis Nagle - Army Vienna

Turkey (Sultan Will McCullam)

Bob Normand - Army Constantinople

Turkey (continued)

Rick Solomon - Army Smyrna
Will McCullam - Fleet Ankara

(George Lyon has resigned from the game. He has been replaced, as per order of his Sultan, with Rick Solomon.)

PRESS

(The Sultan's Commands)

As King I promulgate the following edicts:

- 1) The King to be called "Sultan"
- 2) Commanders to be called "Envirs"
- 3) Envir Normand to be elevated to the rank of Sofa of Bulgaria; the highest Ottoman title of honor in grateful anticipation of his liberation of that poor oppressed state.

Sincerely,
Will McCullam
Sultan Ibn Ba-l-D'snatch

(The file on General Tsao)

December 19, 1852: Born in Astrakahn, illegitimate son of General Pavlovsk and Uhleg, Shamanist Tartar Priestess.

August 30, 1864: Baptized by Imperial Army Chaplain.

August 31, 1864: Became drummer-boy in the 365th Rifle Battalion.

January 12, 1868: Enlisted in the 4th Kalmyk Cossack Regiment.

June 3, 1870: Wounded in action against Azerbaijan Turks.

September 2, 1870: Accepted at Rostov Cavalry School.

June 20, 1874: Commissioned Lieutenant in

6th Kalmyk Cossack Regiment

April 19, 1877: Promoted to Staff Captain, 18th Cavalry Brigade.

July 20-December 18, 1877: At siege of Plevna, twice decorated, once wounded. Promoted to Lt. Colonel of the 6th Kalmyk Cossack Regiment.

January 30, 1878: Wounded at the Battle of Shipka Pass, promoted to Brigadier General of the 16th Brigade.

March 2, 1878: Transferred to the General Staff (Stavka).

May 17, 1880: Arrested in Novgorad brothel out of uniform, sent to Azerbaijan in disgrace.

April 6-October 12, 1871: Put down Islamic rebellion, promoted to General, decorated by Crown Princess Nina with the Order of Sovorov.

September 16, 1896: Published book The Future of L'Arme Blanche in Modern War.

January 6, 1900: Promoted to Colonel General, placed in command of the Warsaw front.

(Port-of-Brest)

In a touching ceremony here (the Duc was doing most of the touching, pinching, etc.) Dennis, Duc du Bust welcomed his third son by his sixth mistress at the time of his fourth marriage (in order, his seventh child) Claude, and commissioned him as commander of the First French Fleet.

Claude had graduated from the Toulouse Naval Academy before continuing his studies in the New World at the Galesburg Naval College, where he commanded a fleet. Claude has recently rowed back to France to accept
(continued on page 8)

SECOND DIPLOMACY GAME

A second game of postal diplomacy will now begin. Since we have had such a difficult time filling this game, and since only one player has objected to a waiver of the geographic house rule, we have placed all those on any waiting lists in one game.

3. James Diehl
4. Jad Dittmar
5. Curtis Gibson [Deadlines on last page]
6. Charles Dupuis.
7. Bruce Martin.

Those in the second game will be:

1. James Harper
2. John Machir

By the next deadline, we'd appreciate it if you would send in a preference list for starting country positions. Even if you have sent in a list for another game.

LETTERS

Dear Drew:

I can't resist a reply to Jim LaWhon's letter.

Jim LaWhon (in RSS I.5) suggests the following:

1. The Russians are really stomping it up,
2. Angola was really a big deal for them,
3. We are placing too much emphasis on staying out of war (remember Munich and all that).

It seems to me that the time is too long past when paranoia about the "Red Menace" was sufficiently discredited in most political and intellectual circles save absolutely committed rednecks and others of Harold L. K. Smith's rather limited intellectual capacity. However, it is not enough to know that Soviet world conquest is little more than a "big bad" fable (you know, "big bad wolf", "big bad witch", etc.). It is essential to have a coherent view of what is going on these days.

The Russians are engaged in a titanic struggle, mostly beneath the surface, against

time and the Chinese. A Sino-Soviet War is becoming increasingly probable, and will almost certainly break out within the next decade. A frontal Chinese attack through Siberia and Turkestan will almost certainly succeed, and the USSR stands to lose everything east of the Urals. They also fear being taken in the rear and losing most of their European gains at the same time.

To counter this threat, the USSR is working to take the Chinese on the flank. This involves making Siberia the upper end of a vast pincer whose lower flange is a great naval arc through the Indian Ocean, anchored in Vietnam. The flurry of Soviet naval and diplomatic energy in the Indian Ocean must be seen in this light, as, equally, all her effort in the Middle East. (The contrary view, that this is somehow anti-American, is utterly paranoid. An anti-American campaign would be aimed at suborning Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco, the keys to Europe's back door.)

The Chinese can not be unaware of what is going on. Their activity in East Africa must

be viewed as an attempt to outflank the Russian flanking operation. The result is a Sino-Soviet scramble for Africa, of which the Angola affair is only an episode. It is going to continue into the 1980's. Our job, obviously is to keep tipping the balance this way and that so that no decisive balance is reached. If one needs to be reached, it must be in favor of the USSR, because the Indian Ocean flanking action is the one possibility I see of keeping China off-balance enough to prevent World War III.

I have two great fears. One is that war will break out. It probably will, however. It makes no difference who wins, of course; the winner keep all of his gains and the ultimate result is that a large number of square miles of largely sparsely settled territory will change hands and the winner will have a sort of ephemeral suzerainty over Asia for a brief space.

The other fear is that some dumbass President is going to get us involved. We

desperately need to stay neutral in that conflict. If we do not fight it, we will be the ultimate winner: the only great power undamaged by a war that will hopefully remain in the Eastern Hemisphere. We will be able to sell arms and supplies to both sides, thereby not only making a lot of money, but also increasing the damage each will do to each other.

Peace in our time? There is none; nor will there be any so long as one nation has the power and the will to inflict force upon another. But God also serves those who only stand and wait, and the reward of our growing neutrality may well be world Hegemony. You don't have fight, always, in order to win.

Rod Walker

[We're glad to hear a real Diplomacy player's view of world politics...The relatively little assistance that the leading Communist powers have given to the movements in Latin America may well support your theory. Interesting.]

EDITORIALS

The 13¢ Stamp

The United States marked its bicentennial year with one more Nixon rip-off, the 13¢ stamp.

To some extent, the increases in postal rates are the result of overall economic inflation and the relatively recent idea of paying postal workers a living wage. But the 13¢ stamp (sic) is the result primarily of the Nixon conceived, and Ford executed (like everything else), policy of the "self-sustaining" postal service. One more rich on welfare, poor pay more idea from Washington.

The old U.S. Post Office Department, as established by President Washington and

Doctor Franklin, was among the very first social service programs. Its purpose was to insure that there would be postal delivery to and between all areas of the country. In the days before the telephone it was a very vital service.

If the delivery of the mail had been left to private enterprise, some areas might not have had scheduled delivery, or it might have been prohibitively expensive in rural areas.

There was no reason to believe that mail delivery in and between large cities would not be available. Even now, if permitted to do so, private concerns are prepared to deliver first class mail in and

and between such cities at rates considerably cheaper than those of the USPS.

Clearly the single rate subsidized Postal Service is a form of "relief" for suburban and rural areas. Among the cheapest mail to collect, transport, distribute and deliver is mail from an office building in Manhattan to an apartment house in Chicago. It costs considerably more to handle mail from a sleazy "office complex" somewhere in sprawling northern New Jersey to a tacky-tacky box of a "single family home" in the northern Illinois 'burbs. It costs even more to deliver mail from a seed catalogue office in upstate New York to a farm in the Mid-West. If all are paying the same rate for first class mail, some are getting more than what they pay for.

Private industry wouldn't put up with this.

Until recently, the social service program of cheap mail delivery to unprofitable areas was recognized to be such and was paid for like one - out of general tax revenues.

Stamp costs were, until Nixon, established as minimal costs, to pay much of the expenses, but more to insure that the POD was not commercially exploited.

REGULAR GAME #1 PRESS CONTINUED

targets, it is widely held here that both England and Austria have put their forces on ready-standby status.

(Moscow-Rome)

Congratulations on your diplomatic coup; he should be all yours by Fall 1902.

GRAND TOURNAMENT DIPLOMACY PRESS CONTINUED

his commission.

While inspecting his flagship, the Bovary, Claude questioned his father about the num-

The Nixon/Ford self-sustaining program, itself a failure since it is not yet self-sustaining, is the worst combination of "business-like" budgeting and federal operation. The subsidies remain for the privileged suburbs and now it is the postal patrons, such as ourselves as Diplomacy players, who will pay the costs. This is a typical brilliant Nixon stroke, the policy of graduated taxation to pay for federal programs is thus avoided. The poor will pay more for the subsidies for the richer 'burbs.

The stupidity of the self-sustaining program is as bad as its wickedness. With costs up, business patrons are getting out of the USPS if they can. Since they are often bulk mailers they can use alternate methods of delivery, such as private contractors and electronic fund transfers. Thus the cheaper mail to handle will soon be lost to the USPS. With a large group of subsidizers lost, the price of the first class stamp will continue to skyrocket, perhaps to 15¢, even 25¢.

We think that this is an issue that all Diplomacy players can agree on. The health of our hobby depends on lower postal rates. The Nixon/Ford madness must be stopped. Write your Congressmen.

erous leaks in the hull. "Don't worry," his father said, "It's only water." The Duc picked up a stewardess before retiring to a nearby cabin. Or was it two... This problem will be referred to the French Bureau of Statistics, which handles this sort of thing. As a matter of fact, the Duc handles this sort of thing quite well himself.

Next: The Duke calls on the King of the French.

[Ed. note: We wonder if when the Duc does he will take a note from the "celebrated Alberoni".]

NOTA BENE

Deadlines: Be advised that the deadline for Winter 1901 in game 1976 BE, Spring 1901 in ~~Grand~~ Tournament Diplomacy, and country preference lists for the second regular Diplomacy game will be;

JUNE 10, 1976

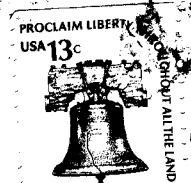
New Gamemaster: The gamemaster in all published games will be Drew McGee.

Player Directory: We are very disappointed to find that a persistent minority of our players are so ashamed of themselves, their diplomacy careers, and interests (presumably to juvenile to let other players know about) that they will not send in the short, paragraph long autobiographical sketches that have been requested. Most players seem to think that getting to know more about their fellow players is a good idea and have cooperated. This project will not be successful unless more players participate.

9.

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