

Once again, an issue with no masthead, for reasons which are rather personal but, as far as I'm concerned, good and sufficient. At least the games are getting done. Be thankful... I had an hour's sleep last night....

Game 1977A1d, Fall 1906: WHAT CHANCE OF A DRAW AFTER THIS SEASON'S MOVES?
(4-player Madmah Variant)

France (Hugh Polley): (Retreated f lyo-pie); f bre-eng; a vor-edi;
a bel-hol; a bur-bel; f pie-tus; f mid-gas.

Germany (Robert Fisher): f kie s f den; f den s f kie; f nth-edi;
a ruh-hol.

Italy (Dave Pengelly): (Retreated f mid-por); f space-mid, s by f por & f wes;
f lyo s a mar; a mar eat, drink and be merry; f tyr-ion; f ion-gre;
a ber-mun, s by a tyr; a gal-rum.

Russia (Doug Hayward): f bar-nrg; f bal-den, s by f swe; a fin h; a nwy h;
a lva-war, s by a pru; a mun-kie; a sil s Ita a tyo-mun (nso);
f can-bla; f aeg h.

Retreats: German f den to hel, ska or disband; Russian a mun to boh or dis.

Centres: France: bre, par, ~~ppx~~, bel, lon, lpl, edi (6) No change.

Germany: kie, ~~ppx~~, hol, ~~ppx~~ (2) Remove 1, or 2 if f den retreats.

Italy: home, tun, ser, tri, bud, vie, gre, smy, mar, spa, nor,
ber, mun, rum (16) Build 3, 3 short.

Russia: home, swe, den, nwy, ~~ppx~~, con, ank, bul, ~~ppx~~ (10) Remove 1,
or if a mun disbands, No change.

An Italian/Russian draw is proposed; please vote with Winter, due Tuesday, May 22 (and what a crammed day that'll be....)

THERESTOFTHESTORYISONPAGETWOBECAUSEITYPEDITFIRSTSOILLCONTINUEITHEREEDTOTHEHOSPITAL

Game 1977AN Error: A thorny problem, folks. The sequence of events is as follows:

-In Spring 1906 (#241, p. 2) Italy ordered "f lyo-tus". I mistyped it as "f lyo-wes" but retained the original on my master sheet and mini-board.

-No one noticed the error. In Fall 1906, Italy ordered "f wes-tyr". However, going by the position on my mini-board, f wes was non-existent and f tus was unordered.

-Checking out on this, Paul noticed the error, which nobody had brought to my attention earlier. Paul now wishes a replay of Fall 1906.

After setting up the Fall position and giving it a bit of thought, I've decided to let Paul reorder f tus, f tyr and f ion; Turkey may reorder all units touching spaces commanded by those units, i.e. f rom, f alb, a gre, f aeg and f eas.

I'll redo the season as soon as orders are received from Paul and Bob, or Mon., May 28, whichever comes first. Hope that's suitably Solomonic....

LPERFORMEDTHEINTRICATEANDSUCCESSFULOPERATIONANDBECAMEKNOWNASTHEDOCTORWHOPUTTHE

Letter from Francois Cuerrier: In answer to Mark Berch's letter, you say you've been resisting requests to create new game openings - does that mean that I won't be able to play in RUNESTONE reasonably soon? I'd like to know.

((You'll note that there are now, for the first time in a long time, no game openings in RUNESTONE, although there are some in BATOCHE. I'm also still GMing 23 (make that 24, with 78J) games in those two publications. I will not open new games before that figure is drastically reduced. (over)

Game 1977AP, Spring 1908: INACTIVITY COSTS FRENCH BELGIUM! NOTHING ELSE MUCH!

Austria (Harry Drews): a mos-stp, s by a lva; a ukr-mos; a sev h; a tri h; a ber h, s by a pru; f alb h; a bul h; a gre h.
 England (Dave Ditter): f eng-bel, s by f nth; f iri-eng; f nat-mid; f den h; a stp h, s by a nwy.
 France (Heiki Walk): N&R! a bel dislodged; f pic, f bre, a par & a bur h un.
 Italy (Ken Wilkie): f tun-naf; f ank-con; a mun h; a kie-den; f mid-bre; a hol s Fre f pic-bel (nso); f naf-mid, s by f spasc & f wes; f lyo h; a ven h.

Retreat: French a bel to ruh or disband.

Fall orders are due Mon., May 28. French standbys are requested from Margaret Gemignani; other addresses in #231.

STHEFAIRWAYTOTELLHIMTHEREJASANURGENTCALLDRCOOLEYINFORMEDTHATAHEARTDONORHADJUST

Game 1977AR, Winter 1907/Spring 1908: AUSTRIA BLOCKS ARMISTICE! RUSSIA AIDS AUSTRIA! ITALIAN GENERAL MUMBLES!

Austria (Blair Cusack): (Built a vie, a bud); f sny-eas; f bla s Rus a sev; a vie-boh, s by a tyr; a tri s a tyr; a gal-ukr, s by a rum; a ser-gre; a bud-gal.
 England (Dan McLellan): f nat h; f lpl-iri; f nth h; f bot-bal; f bal-den; a stp-mos; a mos-ukr; a ukr-gal, s by a war, (a ukr ann); a kie h.
 France (Dave Head): (Built a nar, a par); f tun-ion; f nap-apu, s by a rom; f lyo-tyr; a mar-pie; a pie-tyr, s by a mun & a boh; a pru h; a sil s Rus a ukr-gal (impossible, also no such Rus unit); f bel h; a par-bur.
 Italy (Eric Roberge): "disband, all units hold" (unintelligible order); Gm removed f ion, f adr, f eas; a ven h.
 Russia (Bob Normand): a sev s Aus a gal-ukr.
 Turkey (John Lipscomb): f aeg s Aus f emy.

The draw vote results: 1 No, 4 Yes, 1 no vote, fails.

Fall orders are due Tuesday, May 22.

Vienna: No draw until Roberge is eliminated, my Western "friends"....

BEEN FOUND FOR HIS WAITING TRANSPLANT PATIENT NOW NEAR DEATH NEVER RETURNED TO THAT GALE HERA!

Cuerrier letter, continued:

((I am not about to translate "drastically reduced" into any figure; it will depend on how busy I am and how quickly the current games end. However, I'm certain there will be no game openings in the near future, at least.
 ((As far as my time commitments outside the hobby are concerned, while the end of the folk club season this week should slow things down somewhat, ~~but~~ the recent appearance of a new lady in my life should counteract that trend. So, no predictions.... Also, it'll soon be backpacking season, and last summer's experience have me really keen to get going again.
 ((Anyway, I'll let the number of games wind down slowly, and start up more when I feel I'm capable of giving them proper attention, and not before.))