

All mail should now be sent directly to: John Leeder, 121 19th Ave. NE, Calgary, Alta., Canada T2E 1N9, as use of the old address will cost you a few days' time in forwarding and may NMR you. This applies to all players except those who play only in 1977AD, whose deadline was set before the move. And that may seem an abrupt way to start an issue, but I'm anxious to get to the....

Results of the Third Annual North American Zine Poll:

The following zines received 5 or more mentions. Key: placing-average-NAME OF ZINE-number of votes-placing last year. * indicates unlisted last year.

- 1- 8.40-GRAUSTARK-5-23
- 2- 8.34-THE DRAGON & THE LAMB-19-30
- 3- 8.14-WHY ME?-14-*
- 4- 8.09-CLAW & FANG-32-6
- 5- 8.08-DIPLOMACY DIGEST-26-3
- 5- 8.02-DIPLOMACY WORLD-28-10
- 7- 7.78-RUNESTONE-20-5
- 8- 7.63-ARRAKIS-16-27
- 9- 7.62-LIES, DECEIT & NEFARIOUS SCHELES-25-2
- 10-7.39-ST. GEORGE & THE DRAGON-19-25
- 11-7.37-POL SI FIE-27-4
- 12-7.26-EGGNOG-27-*
- 13-7.24-BRUTUS BULLETIN-25-1
- 14-7.17-LIBERTERRMAN-12-14
- 15-7.15-TER-RAN-13-12
- 16-6.57-BROUHAHA-15-18
- 17-6.53-PASSCHENDAELE-15-*
- 18-6.35-RURITANIA-13-19
- 19-6.31-NINTH CIRCLE-13-11
- 20-6.27-COLLMAND-11-22
- 21-6.06-TORONTO TELEGRAM-8-*
- 22-6.00-CHEESECAKE-5-*
- 22-6.00-URF DURFAL-11-26
- 22-6.00-MURDERIN' MINISTERS-12-*
- 25-5.67-SWLABR-6-*
- 26-5.40-LILAF-5-15
- 27-5.13-BREW & REEFER-8-34
- 28-4.83-ZEPPELIN-6-36
- 29-4.50-AGAINST THE ODDS-14-24
- 30-4.13-PODUNK NEWS-8-33
- 31-3.38-BEHOLDER-8-*
- 32-3.10-WARLONGER-10-29
- 33-2.50-FRONT DE LIBERATION DU DIPLOMACY-6-*

The following zines received fewer than 5 votes: 10.00: TOUCHE; 9.00: BULL (non-N.A.); 8.00: SLOBINPOLIT ZHURNAL, PIASCO, V'LA LE BON VENT, THE CEPHEIDS; 7.25: BUSHWACKER; 7.00: ELPIRE, HAVOC; 6.33: EPGIART, OW/1D; 6.00: ITALIANO PROBE, WEST-ERN STAR, DIPLOMACY, YGDRASIL; 5.50: MIXUMAXU GAZETTE, BATOCHÉ, LA CITADELLE, HOME OFFICE; 5.33: REBUS SIC STANTIBUS; 5.25: BOAST, ALAG; 5.00: DIPLOMAT, STABSANZEIGER (non-N.A.), FAGIN, CAMELEON A BINOCULAIRE, SHATTO'S POLLY, WHITESTONIA; 4.75: DIPPY, EVERYTHING; 4.00: KAISSA, R'LYEN, BLADE; 3.67: DILAN; 3.50: FLYING ORPHAN; 3.00: ELECTRA GLIDE BLUE, PINK DRAGON, SWAMP; 2.50: RETARIUS; 2.00: FLYING BUFFALO'S FAVORITE MAGAZINE, SYA-DASTI..., BUZZARD'S BREATH; 1.75: NON SEQUITUR; 1.50: CENTURION; 1.00: BLACK EMERALD, BLACK HOLE, TETRACUSPID, LORD OF HOSTS, DECEIT; 0.50: DIPLOMACY REVIEW; 0.00: STOREBRINGER, BIG BROTHER, FALLOVIA, LOWER, SHANT, SUICIDE, (NO TITLE), VANGUARD, STAB.

Oops, left one out: 6.00: REVENGE

Commentary: 72 ballots were tabulated (of which 71 cast votes for zines), as opposed to 56 last year. I say "tabulated" as a number of ballots were spoiled in one way or another. It constantly amazes me how people can be unable to read

simple instructions. However, I didn't attempt to puzzle out any of these; if they weren't right, I didn't count them. As a matter of fact, one publisher misprinted the instructions in a significant fashion (telling voters to give 1 the highest rating and 10 the lowest!) and it is impossible to tell whether this affected the voting in any important way. However, the issue arrived fairly well on in the timespan, so it may not have had an unfortunate effect. Let's hope. In spite of there being more votes than last year, there is a large decrease in the number of zines receiving 5 or more votes: 33 as opposed to

45. Does this indicate a trend away from large-circulation zines? Also, 70 N.A. zines received mentions last year, 93 this year.

Last year the top three places were taken by new zines; this year only one is in the top ten (but in the #3 spot, still a worthy accomplishment for Lee Kendter, Sr.)

Many will view GRAUSTARK's first-place finish as a fluke, but I'd like to point out that it finished fourth in 1977. (I haven't seen it in several years, but at one time it was a great favourite of mine. In case some rank newcomers are reading this: GRAUSTARK was the first dipzine ever and is still going strong.)

I'm rather amazed at RUNESTONE's placing; I think it's inferior at present to many of the zines ranked below it.

Don Horton deserves singling out for being in the top ten for three years in a row. Not only good, but steady.

It's nice to see ARRAKIS right up there. (Again, a word to the uninitiated: I started ARRAKIS in 1972 and relinquished it in 1974.)

Enough of this: on to the....

Results of the Second Annual North American Gamesmasters Poll:

Any GM receiving 2 or more mentions is listed. The key is the same as that for the zine poll.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1- 9.18-John Michalski-3-3 | {33-6.50-Gene Bogess-2-* |
| 2- 9.00-Karl Schuetz-2-* | {33-6.50-Tom Gould-2-* |
| 3- 8.89-Lee Kendter, Sr.-9-17 | 35-6.14-Francois Guerrier-7-* |
| 4- 8.88-Jim Bumpas-8-24 | 36-6.00-Bob Hartwig-2-28 |
| 5- 8.70-John Leeder-15-6 | 37-5.75-Greg Costikyan-4-* |
| {6- 8.67-Eric Verheiden-3-* | {38-5.50-Richard Iounis-2-* |
| {6- 8.67-John Boardman-3-* | {38-5.50-Helena Rubenstein-2-* |
| 8- 8.58-Robert Sergeant-12-5 | 40-5.44-Tony Watson-9-* |
| {9- 8.50-Fred Davis-2-2 | 41-5.40-Ron Brown-5-* |
| {9- 8.50-Fred Hyatt-2-* | 42-5.17-Craig Reges-6-23 |
| 10-8.45-Steve Heinowski-10-3 | {43-5.00-Hal Naus-3-15 |
| 11-8.42-Don Horton-12-4 | {43-5.00-Herb Barents-2-9 |
| 12-8.33-Doug Beyerlein-3-* | {43-5.00-Elmer Hinton-2-* |
| {13-8.00-Doug Hayward-10-26 | {46-4.67-John Weswig-3-* |
| {13-8.00-David Bunke-5-14 | {46-4.67-Laurence Gillespie-3-* |
| {13-8.00-Mike McMillie-4-* | 48-4.33-David Grabar-3-* |
| 16-7.82-Bob Beardsley-11-24 | 49-4.00-Roy Smith-4-45 |
| 17-7.80-Randolph Smyth-15-19 | 50-3.50-Cal White-2-17 |
| 18-7.75-Andy Lischett-4-* | 51-2.50-Richard Jarvinen-2-* |
| 19-7.64-Konrad Baumeister-14-21 | 52-2.00-David Palter-2-* |
| 20-7.38-Bill Lafosse-4-* | 53-1.75-Alan Rowland-2-22 |
| 21-7.37-Jerry Jones-15-7 | 54-1.67-Bernie Oaklyn-6-* |
| 22-7.17-Steve McLendon-6-1 | 55-1.00-Richard Kovalcik-2-46 |
| 23-7.13-Dennis Agosta-8-11 | |
| {24-7.00-David Head-4-* | |
| {24-7.00-Drew McGee-3-16 | |
| {24-7.00-Lee Kendter, Jr.-2-* | |
| {24-7.00-Galen Workman-2-* | |
| {24-7.00-Paul Funkenbusch-2-* | |
| {29-6.67-Dave White-3-* | |
| {29-6.67-Jim Benes-3-* | |
| {29-6.67-Blair Cusack-3-* | |
| {29-6.67-Robert Lipton-3-10 | |

Singles: (one mention apiece) 10: Mike Boggs, Ramon Lazaro, Ron Kelly, Bob Fabry, Julian Presber; 9: Bill Stapel, Joshua Gollisman, John McCallum (long defunct), Greg Brown, Mark Berch; 8: Rich Molton, Paul Noble, Conrad von Metzke; 7: Eugene Paulson, Scott Rosenberg, Andy Phillips, Pat Jones, Hartmut Halfmeier (non-N.A.); 6: Gary Staud, (continued on page 4).

Game 1977AO, Winter 1907: Austria NBR, plays 2 short. England NRR, GM removed
 f naf. Germany (John Morgan) retreated a kie-den. Russia built a war, a nos,
 declined third build, plays 1 short.

Standbys: for Austria, Robert Acheson; for England, Peggy Gemignani. All
 addresses in #252; centre chart and position in #253.

Spring orders are due Monday, August 6.

Game 1978The, Winter 1653/Spring 1654: ENGLISH REGULARS PENETRATE ADIRON-
(Flintlock) DACKS IN ONLY MAJOR TERRITORIAL GAIN!

Note that Steve Cartier is now playing the Ohio Tribes, and that his address
 is now Box 7793, Riverside, CA 92613, USA.

Also, to answer a query: DAs may be built only in initial centres.

Algonkians (Steve Morris): (Built in Sagy, Outa, Pott, Algo); RiveNord-Golfe;
 Saguenay-StLaurent; Algonquin-Quebec; Quebec-Gaspesie; Muskoka s Frontenac;
 TroisRivieres, Outouais & Frontenac s Montreal; Montreal h;
 Mississauga-GeorgianBay; Pottawatomie-LakeHuron; Detroit h, s by
 Michigan; Nippissing un.

English (Robert Fisher): (Built DA NYrk, DA Bost); F Louisbourg h, b.f. (but
 the space already has a fort!); A Chaudiere h, s by DA Champlain;
A Maine-Acadie; A Pennsylvania-Cayuga, s by A Oneida;
DA Mohawk-Adirondack; DA NewYork-Philadelphia;
 DA Boston-NewEngland; A Philadelphis-Catskill.

Iroquois (Vic Melucci): Gaspesie-Acadie; Adirondack-Oneida, s by Cayuga.

Ohio Tribes (Steve Cartier): (Built in Alle, Virg); Onondaga-Niagara;
 Seneca-LakeErie, s by Erie & Miami; Mingo-Seneca; Ohio-Mingo;
 Shawnee-Ohio; FortPitt-Pennsylvania; Kaintuck s Delaware;
Chesapeake-Philadelphia, s by Delaware; Virginia-Chesapeake,
 s by Allegheny.

Wendat (Doug Hayward): NAR! Huron, Petun, Neutrals & Niagara all hold unord.

Standby for the Wendat: Robert Cheek. All addresses in #252. Fall orders
 are due Monday, August 6. Retreat: Iroquois Adir to Ont or disband.

Game 1978AShe, Fall 235 B.C.: BATTLES EBB AND FLOW; ROMANS AND SYRIANS
(Diadochi V) DARRY ON WITH STEADY GAINS!

See above for Steve Cartier's COA. Also, the Macedonian unit in Epirus is
 an army, not a fleet. It was miswritten the last two seasons; doesn't seem
 to have mattered....

Carthage (Steve Payne): (Retreated F Lig-NCa); F Carthage s F IberianSea;
F NorthTyrrhenian-LigurianSea, s by F NovaCartago & F IberianSea;
 A Saguntum h, s by A Iberia; A Leptis-Hadrumentum.

Egypt (Robert Fisher): (Retreated A Philadelphia-Nabatea); A Nabatea
 & A Alexandria s A Jerusalem; A Jerusalem s A Alexandria;
F SyrtisGulf-Cyrene, s by F BarcaSea; F EgyptianSea s A Alx;
F IonianSea-Athens(wc); F PamphylianSea-Cyprus.

Macedonia (Steve Cartier): A Thrace-Nicomedia, s by A Paphlagonia &
 F EuxineSea; A Pella-Thrace; A Colchis-Armenia; A Larissa h;
 A Moesia-Scythia; F Korinth-AegeanSea; A Epirus-Illyria,

(continued on page 5)

(continued from p. 2)

Carl Groppe; 5: John Caruso, Rick Shatto, Alan Moon, Russell Gilpin, Bill Stapel; 4: Conrad Struckman, Rod Walker, Barlow, Russell Fox, Pat Carson, Ted McDonald; 3: ? Twiddle; 1: Ed Karlinski, Doug Reif, Dave Reynolds, Buddy Tretick (no comment...), Tony Snyder, Mike Hill, Ken St. Andre, Wayne Johnson; 0: Bob Franklin, Andy Cook, Charles Reinsel (again, no comment...).

Comments: Of course there are more Gms than zines (due to guest Gms and carbon-copy Gming) and many Gms who run only one or two games, so it's natural for some Gms to receive only one or two votes, and it's necessary to set a lower number of mentions for inclusion in the main list. 72 Gms were mentioned last year, 97 (N.A.) this year. Could this be a function of the somewhat larger number of votes cast this year, or of the possible trend to lower-circulation zines, thus more Gms running fewer games apiece, or what? I'd be interested in hearing speculations. (57 ballots were recorded for the GM poll; I have no figures from last year.)

One final word. It seems that the poll was not universal in the North American hobby. I didn't announce it (through oversight) in BATOCHE, my French-language subzine, and I'm not sure if Francois Guerrier and Pierre LaBrèche announced it in theirs; in any event, North America's French-language zines received only a few votes each, not enough to make the main list. So the title of the poll should really be: "The North American English-language Zine and GM Poll". Perhaps we'll hold a poll of our own and rectify the omission.

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Response to Fred Winter letter (continued from last issue): There has been a variant rating system, VARIODDMOD, which I designed and carried on before turning it over to James Hymas, who let it languish. If I ever get time again I might redo it. However, it's inaccurate to say that it's impossible to rate variants; it's been done.

The idea of assigning BNs after the game has finished negates one of the basic purposes of the BNs: having a quick and easy reference for the game. Also, cases in which a game starts out regular and finishes irregular are few, and are usually a result of some GM misbehavior. By far the majority of games start and finish regular. Why wait? Why exchange the advantage of having a handy appellation for the dubious benefit of not printing games which are not regular?

For that matter, why leave out non-regular games? Most of the non-regular games which get printed in EVERYTHING (I'm assuming that EVERYTHING is going to come out again, although it's been almost a year...) are local telephone games. I don't see any great harm in printing these; as long as they're indicated as irregular in some way (as they are now) ratingsmasters can simply ignore them in tabulations. The same goes for variants, if they were printed. Also, since statistics enthusiasts tend to be completists anyway, I expect most subscribers of EVERYTHING would prefer to have as much information as possible. It would give an even more complete picture of the hobby.

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You heard about the Irish Kama Sutra? There are two positions: (1) Man on back, eyes closed; (2) Man on back, eyes open.

Diadochi continued:

Rome (Pete Reese): F Massilia & F Rome unordered; A Belgica h; A Aquitania h, s by A Lugdunum; F LigurianSea-IberianSea; F AiolianSea-Carthage, s by F AfricanSea; A CisalpineGaul-Etruria; F SouthTyrrhenian-Sardinia; F SouthAdriatic-IonianSea, s by F MelitaSea; F Brundisium-SouthAdriatic; F Ravenna-Brundisium; A Venetia-CisalpineGaul; A Syracuse-Palermo; A WestCeltica.

Syria (Konrad Baumeister): F Cyrene-Alexandria (ann.); F IssusGulf-Cyprus; F LevantineSea-Jerusalem, s by A Philadelphia & A Tyre; A Antioch & A Pontus s A Armenia; A Armenia s A Pontus; A Cappadocia-Galatia, s by A Nicomedia; F Pergamum s A Nicomedia; A Phrygia-Ephesus; A Dura s A Philadelphia.

Retreats: Carthaginian F Car to Num or disband; Egyptian A Jer to Sin or disband; Roman F Lig to ITy or disband; Syrian A Nic to Phr or dis.

Centres: Car: ~~ax~~, had, lep, nea, gad, ibe, sag (6) If f car retreats, remove 1; otherwise no change.

*double centre
+triple centre
Egy: alx*, cyr, pto, cha, ~~ax~~, nab, ~~ax~~, cre, ~~ax~~, ath (9) If a jer retreats, build 1; otherwise, room only for one build, play 1 short.

Mac: kor, ~~ax~~, lar, pel, epi, ill, thr, nic, khe, scy (9) No change.

Rom: rom+, nea, bru, rav, van, cis, mas, ece, wce, bel, lug, aqu, pno, syr, sar, car (18) Build 1, or 2 if f Lig disbands.

Syr: ant*, arb, sel, arm, pon, gal, cap, phr, per, cyp, pny, sid, phi, jer (15) Room only for 2 builds; plays 1 or 2 short depending on retreat.

Winter/Spring orders are due Monday, August 6.

Carthage: Hanno and Drooble have been bouncing violently about the Ionian Sea, as if awkwardly suspended from a complex of unseen strings. Hanno has just danced up to - oops, Hanno and Drooble have both collapsed, as if the strings were jerked too hard and broke. I wonder what could have happened?

Message to Konrad Baumeister: I have most back issues from #133 on. How much do you want to spend? Do you want issues from #206 working backwards, or from #133 working forward?

General Chat: My trip to Winnipeg planned for next weekend is up in the air pending the outcome of a car deal; however, I may get brave and drive my old clunker anyway. If so, I won't arrive home until late Monday night and Tuesday's issue will be a warehouser. If not, I'll begin printing Fred Winter's massive variant, which I am currently typing.

I understand that the postal strike in Ireland is over, so Der Garvey will be back in communication and his variant projects will be able to carry on. We're all waiting with baited breath... Also, I gave Der's address to my girlfriend, who is currently in Ireland and may get to Cork. (A bad move? I don't know Der...) If the strike were still on, she was going to offer to bring stuff back for mailing in North America. Maybe she will anyway, as it'll probably take a while for the mails to get back to normal. Meanwhile, Marge tells me in a phone call that the English mails are experiencing a slowdown and people are being advised not to mail anything there. Where next?....

CHIMO!

