

Well, it seems that RUNESTONE is now, in effect, operating on a one-week turnaround. Which isn't a bad idea, perhaps, in view of the bad mail conditions in Calgary these days. The chief post office administrator in Ottawa made a public apology the other day for the poor state of the mails in Calgary. Which doesn't butter a lot of parsnips as far as getting your orders here faster. Be aware!

It now appears to be the regular standby list which is depleting, as the same people get called on time and again. How about some of the new subscribers getting on the standby list?

Gamesward ho!....

**PERSIANS LOSE CHANCE TO GRAB MECCA!**

**Game 1978Efk, Spring 639: GREEKS FIGHT ARABS AND HUNS! SAXONY, BAGHDAD, (Jihad!) JERUSALEM, ANTIOCH, WEST ARMENIA CHANGE HANDS!**

**Arabs (Dave Pengelly):** A 28-27; A 29-30; A 30-Euphrates; A Baghdad-Samarra; A Euphrates-Antioch, s by A Damascus & A Mosul & A Jerusalem;  
A Alexandria-19; A UpperEgypt-Alexandria, s by F SouthSinai;  
A Nejd-23; A Mecca un; "A 24-Mecca (nsu), s by A Yemen;  
A Axum s A Ethiopia; A Ethiopia s A Axum.

**Barbarians (Greg Brown):** (Built F BZI, F BZIII - latter impossible);  
A WestArmenia s A EastArmenia; A 8 & A EastArmenia s A WestArmenia;  
A 7 s A Scythia; A 4 & A Pannonia s A UpperMoesia;  
A 2 & A Saxony s A Bohemia; F Ska & F Den s F Nrg; F BZI-Baltic;  
"F BZIII-10" (nsu); A UpperMoesia, A Bohemia, A Scythia & F Nrg all unordered.

**Byzantines (Steve Norris):** A LowerMoesia-UpperMoesia, s by A Macedonia & A Epirus;  
A Constantinople-WestArmenia, c by F Euxine, s by A Pontus & A Awasin;  
A Paphlagonia-Optimania; A Antioch-Jerusalem, s by F LevantineSea;  
F PamphylianSea-Antioch; F Crete-Aegean; F EgyptianSea s OST A Marmarica-Alexandria; F Ion h;  
F Thrace(so)-Hellas (impossible).

**Franks (Jim Peters):** F Ireland-Oceanus; F Picts-Nrg; F Nth-Mercia;  
F Aix-Nth; A Alamania-Saxony, s by A Frisia & A Thuringia;  
A Noricum-Bohemia, s by A Rhaetia; A Venetia-Noricum;  
A Treveri-Alamania.

**Ostrogoths (Trevor Baillie):** A Marmarica-Alexandria; A Ravenna s A Etruria;  
A Etruria s A Ravenna; A Carthage h, s by A Leptis & F SyrtisGulf;  
F GulfLyons-PitusyanSea, s by F Sardinia & F AeolianSea; A Rome h.

**Persians (Hugh Polley):** A Samarkand h; A Samarra h (see below);  
A Gauda-Punjab; A Tahiriden-EastArmenia, c by F MareCaspicum;  
A Assyria & A Elburz s A Samarra; A ZagrusMts-Baghdad, s by A Basra;  
A Susa & F PersianGulf s A Basra; F Oman-Bahrain; F Hormuzd-GulfOman;  
F Patella-GulfCamoay; A Somalia un; "A Ethiopia-Nubia" (nsu), c by F Red & F GulfAden.

**Vizigoths (Steve Cartier):** A Cadiz-Mauretania; F NewCarthage-Gibraltar;  
A CisalpineGaul s FRA A Venetia; A Massilia s A CisalpineGaul;  
A Septimania s A Massilia; F Corsiva-NorthTyr; A Tingad-Carthage,  
s by A Hippo; F PitusyanSea-GulfLyon, s by F CapeNao;  
A Numidia s A Hippo.

**Retreats:** Arabian A Bag to 29 or disband; Arabian A Jer to NSI, 33, 32 or disband; Barbarian A WAR to Col, Tab, 9 or disband; Barbarian A Sax to 1 or disband; Vizigothic F Pit to nowhere (annihilated).

About those Persian orders: Hugh ordered "A Sam holds" and "A Sam supports A Zagrus Mts to Baghdad". Ambiguous orders, therefore both units hold. (continued on p. 4)

Game 1978Tid (5-Player Madman) Error: English orders should read: f lpl un;  
 "f edi-nrg" (nsu). (Your correction arrived 11 days late, Pete!) New dead-  
 line: Mon., Oct. 22.

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Time to count. I make it 114 addressees, of whom 102 get RUNESTONE (up 2 from #252 (May 14)). BATOCHÉ's circulation is 31, same as #252. Welcome to Barwick, Linsey, Lischett, Russon and Schilling; leaving us since last time are Vic Carpenter, John Johnston, John Piggott, Bryan Ronald and Mike Smolin. Regional breakdown includes 18 from overseas, 40 US addresses and the rest (56) Canadian. Hmmm... Fred Winter has a US address but resides overseas. Adjust your figures accordingly....

Game 1978AShe (Diadochi V), Winter 235: Carthage disbanded F Car; Egypt retreated A Jer-Sin, built A Pto; Macedonia built F Kor; Rome loans centre (Car) to Macedonia, built F Nea; Syria retreated F Cyr-Chx, A Nic-Phr; owns Chx; also owns Eph (not listed last time) for 17 centres; built A Arb, A Sel, F Sid. Macedonia plays with one extra unit due to loan; Rome plays one short for the same reason; Syria plays one short (Syrian builds were a combination of Uli's and Konrad's orders; Konrad is now home.)

Spring 234 orders are due Mon., Oct. 22.

Jihad! continued: Folks, this variant with its large numbers of units can be confusing. Help me avoid GM errors (and avoid errors yourself) by: (1) ordering all your units, even those which only hold; and (2) checking carefully the positions of your units. A small error could be disastrous! (For example, Persia could have grabbed Mecca this season....)

Fall orders are due Mon., Oct. 22.

Persia to Arabs: It is still not too late to hand over Baghdad and Mosul without a fight. I might then consider leaving Mecca in your hands. Of course, you will have to throw in those six Royal Belly Dancers as well!

Game 1979Jhg (Imperator), Winter 235: African builds received by illegible telegram, anonymous neutral built A Car, A Cyr, A Pto (see below); Danube built A Dac, A Moe, A Pan; Emperor built A Rav, A Rom, F Nea, F Bru; Rhine built F Bri, A LGe, A UGe; Syria built A Ant, A Cap, A Pmy.

COA: Raynald Provost, 40 St-Norbert, Apt. 42, Montreal, P.Q., Canada  
H2X 1G3.

Imperator continued: Spring orders (plus projected retreats) are due Monday, October 29.

Comments: From Steve Payne: Note that the anonymous neutral screwed up - there should be no fleets in the initial setup. ((Quite true. Too late to change (and anyway, I invoke Houserule 1), but I've made partial redress by allowing only army builds in the African orders this season.))

From Raynald Provost: I don't think that the Emperor has 13 centres already. He has his four home centres and four centres he conquered, and "the Emperor may add 4 centres to his Winter supply totals as long as he controls Rome". It says four units, not seven! ((I don't quite see your point. The Emperor's Winter supply total this time is 9 (Rome is a triple centre). Add 4 to that and you get 13.)) And there is something wrong about this game. Look under Rule 2 for the victory criterion: "...or, being the true EMPEROR and having a 5-unit advantage over the nearest competitor." Steve has it, he wins! After the first game-year! Couldn't you put that last rule effective 236 or after? ((No, it's a 5-unit advantage, not a 5-centre advantage. Steve has 8 units, the other players have 6. The victory criterion is not fulfilled. However, players should be aware of that rule, which caused such an abortive finish to the first game of Imperator.

((On to the press...))

Victorious to African AGC: Happy to see you are in control. Ignore my comments on swimming to Rome. We thought the Gods ordained you to not have fleets. We admire and are content with your success at shipbuilding, however....

Letter from Bruce Linsey: I like your zine but have one severe criticism. After all he has done to besmirch our hobby; all he has done to give postal Dippy a bad name, why don't you take a good hard stand and KICK BERNIE OAKLYN OUT OF ALL GAMES! Are you aware of the Oaklyn fraud? John Michalski is indeed right. For the good of everyone else, won't you please take this action?

((I will take a good hard stand. I will not kick Bernie Oaklyn out of a game unless he commits an indiscretion within that game. Any gamesmaster who does so is performing an unethical action and is not worthy to GM.

((If it were true that Bernie Oaklyn and Buddy Tretick are the same person, I would advise people not to join Bernie's games in FRONT DE LIB. I would advise players in games already in progress under Bernie's GMing to seek a new GM.

((I am not convinced that Bernie and Buddy are the same person. I am convinced that there is some connection between them, but Eric Ozog's categorical statement that they are two different people, plus my own feel for their personal styles, leads me to come to a different conclusion from that advanced by the reams of circumstantial evidence we've been reading in other zines.

((I confess that I have not had time to read much of the material on this latest burning issue in the hobby. If others have done so, and have reached a conclusion other than mine, fine. Let them take the action I have outlined above.

((However, if a GM were to unilaterally remove Bernie Oaklyn from games simply because he felt Bernie was actually Buddy Tretick, I personally would lend whatever clout I possess in the hobby to have that GM sanctioned for unethical conduct.))

CHIMO!

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