

Another RUNESTONE issue, this one falling on a Tuesday (in spite of having set Monday deadlines for a couple of games) because of the holiday.

It seems that when the Post Office went metric a couple of months ago, with a minimum of publicity, they also changed the rates, also with a minimum of publicity. At the lower rates there seems to be little difference; it's the higher rates where the changes have occurred. I don't know as yet whether they're higher or lower (in these troubled times, of course, one would guess the former) but the people affected should be mostly non-playing subbers. If anyone gets charged for postage due, let me know and I'll credit you.

Game 1977AR, Winter 1909: Austria built a vie & a bud; England retreated a kie-den, a mos-stp; France removed a pru; Russia and Turkey stood pat.

This is the first RUNESTONE game to be transferred; your new GM will be: Hugh A. Polley, 8801 93rd St., Edmonton, Alta. T6C 3T2. Hugh expects to publish by computer printout, and perhaps to complete a GMing program as well. Hugh, addresses are in #265, Fall position and centre list in #263, p. 3. One COA: as of Nov. 1: Dan MacLellan, 56 Ogmoore Cr. SE, Calgary, Alta. (postal code as yet unknown). These orders will be due to Hugh on Monday, November 5.

To aid in record-keeping, here are the game stats so far:

GM: John Leeder (to W09), Hugh Polley. Zines: RUNESTONE (to W04), ?. Players: AUS: Blair Cusack. ENG: Dan MacLellan. FRA: David Head (dro F08), Mike Carroll. GER: Don Berry (dro W04), Robert Paquin. ITA: Mike Dominsky (res W03), Eric Roberge (dro F08), Doug Karnes (out W09). RUS: Robert Acheson (dro W02), Bob Normand. TUR: John Lipscomb. \*(out W05)

<u>Centres</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>09</u>	
Austria	5	7	9	6	7	7	9	9	11	An historic occasion: the first time a game begun by me has transferred to another GM. Enough sentiment. On to the finances....
England	5	6	8	7	8	10	10	10	10	
France	5	6	7*	8	10	11	12	12	11	The following sums are being transferred to Hugh: for Blair, .42; for Dan, .73; for Mike, 2.46; for Bob, 1.01; for John, .45. Total: \$5.07.
Germany	5	3	1	1	-					
Italy	4	4	4	6	5	4	1	1	-	
Russia	5	4*	3	4	3	1	1	1	1	
Turkey	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	

Hugh will let you know about his sub fees, any house rule changes, deadlines, etc.

May this game prosper in its new venue....

I'm going to print a couple of recently received letters, just to let the world see what kind of thing a GM has to put up with....

From Ron Kelly: Unless I hear from you before the next deadline, I will assume that the fact that you have given me repeated NMRs in spite of the fact that I know I've sent in orders, and the fact that you won't answer my cards and letters means that you've kicked me out of your zine (for some reason I can't imagine) and not bother to send in any more orders. If you have kicked me out, I hope you'll at least refund my sub balance.

((This from a person who obviously received #263 and would be expected to know my situation as far as answering letters is concerned; a person who's been a player in my games for years and might be expected to know that I don't rip off players by NMRing them when their orders are received; a person who might be expected to know that the post office these days does

not always deliver everything consigned to it; a person who unfortunately tends to react in a paranoid fashion when things go wrong. I've answered Ren privately; why I wasted a stamp I don't know.))

From Bernie Oaklyn: ((This is excerpted from letters to Blair Cusack, with copy to me, and to me accompanying the copy))

Dear Blair, Well, you have done it to me again! You have issued names of players without putting in their current addresses. Must we have to keep an extensive rolodex of all of the players in diplomacy in order not to be hurt when the GM does not put in those addresses when he assigns a position. Man, how am I going to conduct diplomacy with these guys....

John Leeder: Please pick up on this issue. I have had to ask Blair several times for addresses, which has greatly slowed down my diplomacy conducting time. Although Blair is the GM in this game, maybe it should be your ultimate responsibility to see that addresses are published with the game. The player should not be responsible to keep extensive files on all known players.

((The addresses of all RUNESTONE recipients <sup>are</sup> published periodically, most recently in #265, before that in #252. Any player standing by for 78L is on that list, as has been pointed out previously. In almost all cases, a standby for 78L is assigned by me, not Blair. Blair has no way of knowing in advance who is going to be a standby for any given season. If a player's address has changed since the last list was published, I either print the new address or draw your attention to where it can be found.

((I'd say a GM's responsibility is to print all address lists at the start of the game, and print address changes as they arise. If, given that information, a player cannot keep track of the addresses of other players in his game, he lacks the minimal organizational ability to play the game, and had better give it up.))

Attached is a copy of my orders for Spring 1905 in subject game. The purpose of me sending you this copy is that Blair might consider the press too lengthy to include on his stencil of the game. In such case, it is hoped that you will pick up the press elsewhere in the zine.

Sure, I could have said, "Watch out Russia, here I come", but then how could you be in a position to use literary works to sparkly ((sic)) up the hobby if I did that?

((My functions as far as 78L is concerned are as follows: to set the deadlines, to assign standbys if needed, and to publish the results as Blair has typed them up. (If Blair wishes to type more than one page, he's quite at liberty to do so, by the way.) Kindly cease requesting me to exceed these functions. The purpose of this setup is to allow Blair a publishing outlet for the game, without making more than small demands on my time. If the game were to make demands on my time, Blair would have to find a different publisher, or do without.

((I've mentioned this numerous times before. Future requests will go straight to the wastebasket without the courtesy of a reply.

((On a different topic, Bernie: if you want your articles published in RUNESTONE, don't send them anywhere else or print them in your zine. If, as you say, you want a wide circulation, send them to DIPLOMACY WORLD. I get aggravated at reading the same article in ten different zines (and spending subscription money on the same article ten times) and I'm sure plenty of other readers do as well.))

Game 1978Chb, Spring 872: PEACE NOT YET ACCOMPLISHED AS ONE NATION BOYCOTTS  
 (Gesta Danorum) WITENAGEMOT! WELSH LOSE TWO BATTLES BUT NO CENTRES!

Draw vote results: 3 Yes, 1 No Vote. The question is still open; would the missing player submit a vote for Fall; meanwhile, others may change their votes if they wish.

Amazing that Alan Laucke would drop, but them's the facts, folks....

East Angles (Trevor Baillie): A Lindsey-Holland, s by A NorthAngles;  
 A MidSaxons-Herstingas; A Suthrige-MidSaxons;  
 F NorthSaxonShore-LenesMouth.

Norse (Blair Cusack): F Dumnonia-SouthBritishShore; F Rheged-SolwayFirth,  
 s by F IsleOfMan; F Cantwara-EastSaxons; F Haestingas-SouthSaxSh;  
 A Scireburman-Cirenceaster, s by A Somersaetan; A SouthSaxons-  
 Suthrige, s by A Wintanceaster.

Picts (Ken Wilkie): F Deira-HumbreMouth, s by F NorthumbrianShore;  
 A Elmet-Lindsey, s by F Wash; A Steinmor-Elmet, s by A Mameceaster;  
 A Hexham-Deira; A Westmoringaland s A Mameceaster; F NorthBritSh h.

Welsh (Bill Lafosse): F MaerseLouth-IrishSea; F IrishSea-SouthBritishShore;  
 A Holland & A Pecssetan s EAN A Lindsey; A Cirenceaster h;  
 A MidAngles-Herstingas, s by A Cilternsaetan; A Northmercians-  
 Wreocensaetan.

Retreats: Welsh A Hol to SAN, MAN, Sar or disband; Welsh A Cir to Hwi,  
 UpT or disband; East Anglian A Sut to Can, Hae, Ham or disband.

COA: Bill Lafosse, 126 Bay St., #24, Trenton, Ont. K8V 1H8.

Fall orders are due Monday, November 5. Last-minute press on page 5.

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 Last-minute press for 77AR:

Vienna: The background noise hushed as Colonel von Geddon looked up from his War Table at A-H HQ; the sound of a motorcycle ceased outside the battle window, which was ajar to let in the cool spring air.

Outside, the lieutenant pursed his lips as he pulled his coat into line. The two sets of sealed orders were marked "UTMOST SECRET".

The colonel gave him a hard look as he snapped to attention, handing him the orders.

Using a knife to open the brown envelopes, von Geddon skimmed the two sheets and then looked up to the courier; then nodded.

After a smart salute, the lieutenant turned on his heel. But before he reached the door, the colonel's voice broke the room's stillness:

"Lieutenant..."

The courier's face went perfectly blank.

"A case of 'Ne Plus' for my friends here... you are now addressing a General."

The room broke into applause and cheers, and after a hesitation the courier smiled broadly. "Yes sir!" As he half-turned to go, von Geddon's hand came to rest on his shoulder.

"Two other things... Firstly, there's a Major John Leeder in Air Force headquarters who needs at least one bottle of 'Ne Plus' today; invite him. Secondly, you will be staying on awhile, won't you, for this celebration?"

The lieutenant opened his mouth as if to speak, but changed it to a smile.

(continued on page 5)



77AR Press continued: The general looked at his watch. "Twenty minutes, no more."

As the courier left and the congratulations came forth, the general raised his hand.

"Our new orders..." A deathly hush. "We are to -- 'DESTROY THE FRENCH EMPIRE AT ALL COSTS... BATTLEPLAN OMEGA'..."

There were satisfied smiles and nodding of heads. There would be much to celebrate in a half-hour.

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Last-minute press for Gesta Danorum:

Moose Factory to Dublin and Scone: My share of the product of the Pictish lands is reflected in your subscription balance....

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 Might as well complete this page with more letters.

From Robert Paquin: There's no excuse for what I've done, I know! But I guess you really deserve to know why. It's simple: I'm sick and tired of being stabbed by guys I considered friends. I'd never do it and I still don't understand why others are. Is it fair to act like this? As for me, I don't regret a thing. By boycotting my games, I've ruined them. I know I've punished the good guys with the bad, but it's too bad... Here's your money. There's a little more than what is owed, but you deserve it. Don't quit the hobby because of me!!!

((How sad to see someone who is unable to distinguish between games and real life, who equates a stabbing in a Diplomacy game with betrayal of a friendship. Too bad, Robert, but you're missing the whole point of the game. People play Diplomacy because it allows them to do things within the safe confines of a game which would be unacceptable in real life. (At least, that's one reason.) Surely you've been hugely oversensitive about the game. But I guess it's too late.

((After deducting your debt, excess funds will be applied to your remaining subscription. I want you to get this issue.))

From Tom Butcher:

Sorry to hear that you're winding down in earnest now. I suppose before long/RUNESTONE will be joining the long list of good zines that bit the dust because their editors found better things to do with their time. But I'm afraid it's always going to be that way with the game in the present state it's in. When all is a "labor of love" there are too many "summer romances" and here we are with autumn upon us.

Please don't think I'm criticizing you, however -- it's the amateurism that pervades the game (or "hobby", if you prefer that word). None of you have any real incentive to keep on grinding them out year after year. That's why I'll stick to my ideas of some time back, ((referring to an exchange of letters between Tom and I)) that the game needs dedicated professionals to really make progress, people who would make a living from it and therefore have a real stake in making it prosper. You didn't think much of that idea when you wrote me about it back then, but I wonder if you've changed your mind at all.

((Let me repeat that I am not quitting publishing, just reducing my gameload to a more manageable level. The rest of your letter deserves a considered response for which there's no space here. Next time...)) CHIMO!

