

Owing to a visit from my parents, I haven't opened a Diplomacy letter for two weeks; I've just finished going through all that mail and am slightly overdosed. This mail delay had a slightly unfortunate consequence in one game, 78I; but then's the breaks.

I thought I'd been very clever in arranging things so that no games fell due during my parents' visit; however, it turns out that I neglected to write 78Chb on my calendar, so that game suffers an involuntary one-week turnaround.

Although there's no mail delivery today (Monday), 78I isn't affected because....

Game 1978I: It seems that Fred Winter did not receive last season's results, and so informed me before the deadline. (Unfortunately, I didn't open my mail for two weeks - see above - and so didn't receive his notification until today.) Thus a new deadline must be set for Spring 1906 (and retreats): Mon., Dec. 17 (not as long as a usual season, but since Fred's back in the U.S.A. he should be able to swing it). I regret the delay, but these things happen....

Game 1978Chb, Fall 872: PEACE REJECTED! EAST ANGLES LOSE GROUND BUT STEAL (Gesta Danorum) A NORSE CENTRE! PICTS MAIN GAINERS, WELSH HOLD!

Draw vote results: 2 Yes, 1 No, 1 no vote; fails.

East Angles (Trevor Baillie): (Retreated A Sut-Ham); A Llantun-SouthSaxons; F TemesMouth-SouthAngles, s by A NorthAngles & A Holland; A MiddleSaxons-Wintanceaster.

Norse (Blair Cusack): NMR1 F SoF, F IOM, F Dum, A Cir, A Som, A Win, A Sut, F ESx & F SSS all hold unordered.

Picts (Ken Wilkie): F NorthBritishShore-IrishSea; F NorthumbrianShore-AnglianShore; A Elmet-Pecsaetan, s by A Mameceaster; A Westmoringaland-Steinmor; A Lindsey-Holland; A Deira-Lindsey; s by F Thewash & F Humbrelouth.

Welsh (Bill LaFosse): (Retreated A Hol-SAN, A Cir-Hwi); F MaerseMouth-IsleOfMan; F IrishSea-SouthBritishShore; A Pecsaetan-Lindsey; A Wreconsaetan-Westerne; A SouthAngles h; A Herstingas-MiddleAngles, s by A Cilternsaetan.

Retreats: Welsh A SAN-Her or disband; Welsh A Pec- Sar, NMe or disband.

Centres: EAN: SAN, NAN, ~~ESx~~, MSx, SSx, ~~Lin~~ (4) Remove 1.  
 Nse: IOM, Dum, Sci, Son, Dyf, ~~SSx~~, Win, Can, ESx, Rhe(9) No change.  
 Pic: NP1, SP1, For, Str, Wld, Lot, Ber, Dei, Eln, Lin (10) Build 1.  
 Wel: Pow, Gwy, Gwe, Wre, NMe, LAn, Cil, SMe, Hwi (9) Build 1, 2 or 3, depending on retreats.

I will ask for Winter only, and tentative Spring from Blair; if I don't get the latter I'll call for a standby. Winter deadline will be Mon., Dec. 17 (an extra week due to Christmas).

(continued from p. 5) ((By the way, RUNESTONE's house rules do not forbid playing under a pseudonym; in fact, earlier sets specifically allowed it. So even if it were proved conclusively that Oaklyn is Tretick, I would not not kick him out of RUNESTONE games for that reason.))

1978-J, Fall 1905: ENTENTE BETWEEN GERMANY AND RUSSIA? ENTENTE BETWEEN  
TURKEY AND RUSSIA? WHO KNOWS?

- Austria (Mike Carroll): f ven h, a pie - tyr, a boh - vie, a tri s a boh - vie.  
England (Bob Normand): f bar - stp(nc), f nswy a f bar - stp(nc), a pic - bre,  
f eng~~x~~ & f mid s a pic - bre, a spa - gas.  
France (Trevor Baillie): NMR! a bre and a par h.  
Germany (Blair Cusack): a liv - mos, f bal - swe, a mar - pie, a sil - boh,  
a mun s a sil - boh, a pru - war, a ber - sil, f bel h.  
Italy (John Lipscomb): f tun - ion, a apu - nap, a rom - nap.  
Russia~~x~~(Doug Karnes): ~~xxxx~~ ret a sil - gal, a gal - sil, w war - prus,  
a mos - liv, f stp - nwy(imp) (your flt is on ~~xx~~ ac)  
Turkey (Randolph Smyth): a smy - con, f eas - ion s by f aeg, f ion - tyr,  
a gre h, a rum h, a sev h.

Press:

TURKEY: The Italian can't luck out forever....

I'm not going to ask John to call a standby for France, as France has only two units. I'll ask Trevor to recontinue submitting orders ~~ix~~ for the position, however.

I'm not going to type up<sup>a</sup> Winter supply centre chart, as I'm not sure exactly who owns what. It's actually fairly clear except in the case of Austria. For this time, I'm going to ask John to do it, then I'll have a record, and be able to continue doing Winter charts myself for the coming Winters. I can't find the RUNESTONE issue which last had this game's supply centre chart.

Last but not least, I must apologize for the delay of several weeks in the adjudication of this game. Ever since I got back from Europe, my life has been one hectic mess, and if I don't end up on the funny farm because of that in the next two to three weeks, I'll be very surprised. By the time the next season's results are due in, however, my work load will have lightened considerably, and there will be no more delays of any kind, unless WW3 breaks out or something awful like that. This, by the way, is my last term at University, I'm in the Commerce programme. So starting the end of November, I won't have that much more work to do, and on December 13th, I'll be completely through. Believe it or not, I made it through the exam well enough <sup>FS</sup> to get invited for an interview with the Foreign Service of Canada. If I'm taken, I may be able to put all the cutthroat tactics I've learned from Dip to work for Canada....

78J Continued: An adjudication change: French a bre dislodged, retreat to gas or disband. Russian f stpsc retreat to fin, bot or disband.

- Centres: Austria: tri, bud, vie, ser, ven (5) Build 1.
- England: home, nwy, stp, spa, por, bre (8) Build 2.
- France: ~~X/A~~, par (1) No change, unless a bre retreats, in which case remove 1.
- Germany: home, hol, bel, nar, den, swe (8) No change.
- Italy: rom, nap, tun (3) No change.
- Russia: mos, war, ~~X/A~~, ~~X/A~~ (2) Remove 1, or 2 if f stpsc retreats.
- Turkey: home, sev, run, bul, gre (7) No change.

Julian obviously hasn't read the most recent season of 1978L (#270, pp. 2-3). I am assigning a French standby; it'll be Gord Bartman; all addresses in #265. Winter deadline: Mon., Dec. 3. Also, John Morgan resumes play of Italy\*.

A Statement: This is my formal resignation as CDO Ombudsman. I have been planning this move for some time but it has been delayed by my search for a successor. I plan to detail my reasons for my choice.

First of all, I had hoped that my successor would be a member of the Ombudsman's Advisory Committee, simply because these individuals were already familiar with Ombudsman procedure. The four original members of the OAC were Randolph Smyth, Ralph Morton, Trevor Baillie and Julian Fresber. (François Guerrier was added more recently but never actually participated in any OAC activities; none began after his appointment.)

My first choice, and I feel the obvious leading candidate, was Ralph Morton. Ralph, however, indicated that he wants to serve the Canadian hobby at some future time in some capacity or other but at present is unable to for personal reasons. I did not approach Randolph because of his already heavy involvement in CDO. I did not approach Trevor because at that time he indicated that he was overloaded. I did approach Julian; after a delay in correspondence occasioned by his stay in Germany he has just told me that he must decline.

I therefore turn to the candidate who has been "waiting in the wings" for some time, François Guerrier. As soon as François learned of my plans to resign (which he did through an action in which he was involved) he asked to be considered as a replacement if I had no one else in mind. Although I in fact did have others in mind (through the reasons outlined above) I have no hesitation in naming François as my successor. Although he did not have a chance to serve actively on the Ombudsman Advisory Committee, since no business arose after his appointment, he has the advantage of an active interest in the position and has at least had some contact with its processes through being involved in an action. (In any event, I feel that the CDO GM Code of Ethics is a pretty solid guide for anyone in the Ombudsman position.) In addition, he is thoroughly bilingual and can thus serve both the anglo-phone and francophone branches of the Canadian hobby. Lastly, my dealings with François have shown him to be a fair-minded and competent individual whom I recommend unhesitatingly to your confidence.

CDO has no formal election procedures (happily, I believe). In my own case, I was de facto Ombudsman at the organization's birth, and later on at a convenient time was confirmed by an electoral vote of confidence. I recommend that we continue the "throwing of the torch" system, and that when François has had a chance to settle into the job and demonstrate (continued over)

his abilities, at some convenient time his appointment should be confirmed by vote of the Canadian hobby.

François' current address is: 160 Chapel St., Apt. 2210, Ottawa, Ont. K1N 8P5. Any Canadian resident with a GM-player problem or any other question of hobby ethics should contact François for impartial mediation.

Best of luck and all my support, François. Meantime, I may just have a problem to dump in your lap...

Letter from Bob Albrecht: I realize that you are having problems with your time and commitments to the zine. However, as you know as GDO Ombudsman, there is no excuse for transferring a game without even asking the persons in that game.

I am referring to 79Khm. I signed up in this game because I wanted to play in RUNESTONE, not Robert Sacks' zine. I am not impugning Mr. Sacks' character; I do not know the man.

Moving the head of this game to New York would increase mail time to the point of practically eliminating negotiations.

In short, I ask you to refund my gamefee. I do not think this unreasonable, for the reasons outlined above. Please reply promptly, as this is reasonably serious.

I will notify Mr. Sacks in time to get a replacement.

I will also renew my subscription to R.; this doesn't affect any of my other games, as you've been a great GM. Until now.

((First of all, I don't feel you're right in saying "there is no excuse for transferring a game without even asking the persons in that game". The cases where the players have been consulted are distinctly in a minority. In most cases, of course, a GM simply drops out, and the Orphan Games Custodian or whoever finds a new GM. The players are happy to have a GM rather than an abandoned game. I feel that I am being more conscientious than most in taking the trouble to find new GMs rather than simply abandoning games. This is because I plan to remain in the hobby rather than dropping out entirely.

((I'm flattered that you like my GMing to the point of not wanting to play under a different GM. But the facts have to be faced. Some of my games have to be transferred. The choice of which games will be moved is governed by my thoughts as to which games will be least harmed by a transfer (eg. non-worldwide games) and by which games other GMs have asked for, and in a couple of cases (Gesta Danorum and Flintlock) by a sentimental desire to retain the games of my own design. I have not hesitated to transfer games which I have found intensely interesting to GM (eg. Jihad!).

((It would be nice if it were possible to consult the players as to whether or not they want their games transferred. In point of fact, it's not feasible. Some games have to be transferred. Your game is one of those which falls within the category of transferrable games. A competent GM has offered to take it. Declining to transfer it because of the wishes of one player is, regrettably, not possible.

((Anyway, I think you're being precipitate in deciding to resign. You should give Robert a chance. He's a veteran GM. I'm sure he'll set deadlines of adequate length to allow negotiating. (After all, if a New Yorker can play in an Alberta-GMed game, surely an Albertan can play in a New York-GMed game. Surely your reason for resigning is not balking at losing the advantage of living near the GM! An unworthy and unsparring motive, if such were the case...) Why not give Robert a chance before giving up?

((As to the gamefee question: If you do resign, I don't feel your reason for resigning is a valid one. It has been long established in practice that a player who resigns from a game cannot expect the return of his gamefee.

A player makes a commitment to play. Any player change harms the game in some degree. A player who voluntarily harms the game cannot expect a return of his financial investment. Only in cases where the player has been harmed by an unreasonable GM action would there be exceptions to this practice. I don't feel that my action in transferring 1979Khm is unreasonable; neither do I feel that you as a player have been harmed by the transfer.

((I'd be quite happy to discuss this further if you still disagree. I feel a public discussion is called for, since so many players are in the same boat as you.

((I'd also be quite happy to have the new CDO Ombudsman mediate the matter if you should wish to go to those lengths.))

More letters. Numerous people, including Mark Berch, Peggy Gemignani and John Michalski, have written me at length on the Oaklyn-Tretick affair. I maintain my stand of not devoting space to the controversy, which is so well covered elsewhere; but I thank them for their attempts to capsulize for me. I will devote space to the ethical issues involved in the "dump Oaklyn" campaign, so will excerpt some letters:

From Mark Berch: I entirely agree with your suggestion in #265 that Oaklyn should not be expelled from a game unless he has broken the GM's houserules, and have said so in BRUTUS BULLETIN and DW...

From John Michalski: Thanks for the Linsey letter and response from RUNESTONE #265. I think I should start by clarifying what Linsey was referring to. That was a response of mine he'd seen to Mark Berch's original expose of Tretick's fraud and theft from Ron Kelly, wherein I suggested that my response would be a call to chuck Oaklyn/Tretick out, all across the face of the hobby. Naturally, no one has taken that up as a policy literally, as expected; it is more an emotional response to "Bernie's" crimes than a blueprint for reprisals, just or not. But more on that later... ((Emotional responses are easily construed by the less nature among our readership; those of us who put our opinions before the hobby should be careful of the sensibilities of our more easily influenced brethern...))

Your last paragraph could be dangerous: John Boardman threw "Oaklyn"/Tretick out of GRAUSTARK after he became convinced Bernie-LA GUERRE-FRONT were all Tretick in a new costume. Boardman is open to much criticism, but none of it involves the way he publishes or GMs. In fact, the fact he threw Buddy-Bernie out of GRAUSTARK as being Tretick-in-disguise (under the virtually universal "deception-of-the-GM" houserule) is a second-hand proof in itself. "Oaklyn" used to guest-GM in CLAW & FANG until he tried to bring in his son "James Alan" (James Alan Tretick) and Don threw "Bernie" out for trying to louse up that C&F game. So we're not talking about what a bastard Tretick was back in '69, but rather that he's still at it now, lousing up games of his own and whatever others he can get at/into. I hope the enclosures et al. help bring you up to date. All we can do against someone so set on defrauding the hobby is to keep them exposed, and after your remarks in #265's letter, I'd hate to see Tretick have the reputation of RUNESTONE to even partially hide behind...

((If O./T. contravened GRAUSTARK's houserules, Boardman had justification for expelling him; if not, he didn't. Has Oaklyn gone to the IDA Ombudsman? If not, this might be a tacit acceptance of Boardman's action. However, the entire affair still hinges on: is Oaklyn Tretick? And the evidence, voluminous as it is, remains circumstantial. (continued on p. 1)

CHIMO!

