

Time for another kick at the pussycat, having gotten things reasonably sorted out after my parents' visit (for example, getting the October subscribers' mailing out in mid-November...) Another brief shining season of Dippy...

Game 1977AChf, Fall 48 B.C.: CRASSUS DIES, TROOPS DESERT TO POMPEY! SENATE (Triumvirate) HOLDS KEY TO VICTORY!

- Caesar (Vic Melucci): A Belgica-Britannia; A WestCeltica-Belgica; A CisalpineGaul(T)-Raetia; A Aquitania-Saguntum; A Massilia-Aquitania; A Pannonia-Illyria, s by A Venetia.
- Crassus (Trevor Baillie): (Retreated F Jer-Lev); A Philadelphia-Nabatea; A Tyre-Philadelphia; A Sidon-Tyre; F LevantineSea-EgyptianSea, s by F Cyprus & F Crete; F IssusGulf-LevantineSea; A Pontus h; F PamphylianSea s F Crete; A Nicomedia-Pergamum, s by A Ephesus; A Pergamun(T)-Phrygia; A Phrygia-Nicomedia; A Armenia-Colchis; A Cappadocia-Armenia; A Cilicia-Cappadocia. T Per ann!
- Egypt (Steve Cartier): F SouthAdriatic s CAE A Ven-Rav (nso); A Iberia-Gades; F NovaCartago-IberianSea; A Mauretania-Nunidia; F MelitaSea-Palermo; A Libya-Apsis; A Cyrene-Libya; F Neapolis h; F IonianSea-Crete, s by F BarcaSea; A Jerusalem h, s by A Sinai; F Alexandria-LevantineSea.
- Pompey (Dave Pengelly): A Scythia h; F AegeanSea-Pergamum, s by F Euxine; F Pella-Thrace; A Larissa-Athens; A Moesia(T) s F Aegean-Pergamun; F Epirus h.
- Senate (Steve Payne): NMR! A Illyria dislodged; F LigurianSea, F NorthTyr, A Etruria, A Ravenna, F SouthTyr & F AfricanSea all hold unordered.

Retreat: Senatorial A Ill to Pel or disband.

As Crassus' Triumvir unit has been annihilated, all Crassus' units and centres devolve on Pompey. Let's see if this gives him a victory or not... (In case you're wondering, I overlooked the second support on Pompey's move to Pergamum until I reached his section of the typing. Hence the sudden realization.)

Centres: Caesar: bri, lug, bel, ece, wee, aqu, sag, mas, cis, ven, ill (11) Build 4 (room only for 2).

Crassus: Eliminated.

Egypt: alk\*, pto, cyr, jer, xxx, xxx, chx, lep, had, car, gad, ibe, nca, sag, pmo, syr, nea, bru (16) Build 3, room only for 2.

Pompey: kor, ath, lar, epi, pel?, thr, scy, khe, per, ant\*, sid, ply, arm, pon, cap, gal, phr, cyp, eph, nic, thr, cre, phi, nab (24 or 25, depending on Senate retreat) Build 2 or 3.

Senate: rom\*, rav, xxx, xxx, sar, xxx, pel? (4 or 5) Remove 2 in any event.

To make it painfully clear: If Dave fails to build, he will not win. If the Senate fails to retreat, and Dave builds, he will win. Top of the standby list is Robert Fisher; he is called on for Senatorial standby orders. Addresses are in #265. Winter orders are due Wed., Jan. 2. (An extra week is added due to Christmas.)

Standbys: Since there are now no N.A. regular games, there are no N.A. regular standbys. Remaining lists: Variants: Payne, Provost, Lowe, Cartier, Albrecht, LaFosse, Fisher. Worldwide: John, Winter, Albrecht, Oaklyn, Butcher. French-language (BATOCHÉ): Villeneuve, Gautron, Gravel. Anyone wishing to standby will now have to volunteer for those categories.

Game 1977/Alid, Fall 1908: DESPITE TURMOIL, FRANCE AND GERMANY REMAIN RELATIVELY SAFE! GREAT POWERS WELL MATCHED - PUPPETRY, ANYONE?

France (Hugh Colley): f gas-nid, s by f bre; a bel h.

Germany (Robert Fisher): a hol s f kie; f kie s a hol.

Italy (Dave Pengelly): (Retreated a run-ser); f nat-lpl; f nid-bre, s by a par; f wes-nid, s by f spasc; a ruh-mun, s by a bur; a ven-tyr; a tri-vie; a bud-run; f bulsc h, s by a ser; f aeg-eas; a nap-gre, c by f ion.

Russia (Bob Albrecht): a ukr s a rum; a war-gal, s by a rum; a gly-lpl; a sil s a mun; a mun s Fre a bel-ruh (nso); f edi-nrg; f bot-bal; f eng s Fre a bel; f bal-den; f con-aeg, s by f sny; f sev-bla.

Retreat: French f bre to pic or disband.

Centres: France: ~~bel~~, bel, lon, lpl (3) If f bre disbands, play 1 short; otherwise no change.

Germany: kie, hol (2) No change.

Italy: home, tun, tri, vie, bud, ser, gre, ~~bul~~, bul, ram, spa, por, par, bre, ~~run~~ (15) No change.

Russia: home, swe, den, nwy, edi, ber, mun, run, ~~con~~, con, ank, sny (14) Build 1.

Yes, the gameyear is 1908, not 1909. I mistyped last time.

Winter/Spring orders are due Weds., Dec. 27 (a week being added for the Christmas rush).

Moscow to Brest: Just covering all possibilities!

Moscow to the World: I propose a concession to me. Please vote...NOW!!

Moscow to Moose Factory: Pretty soon this will be a two-player Madman!

Moose Factory to Moscow (BP): Yeah, France and Germany.

The Real Loose Factory: Hey! Let me make up my own sarcastic remarks!

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Letters: From Doug Beverlein: I found the results of your third annual zine poll very interesting. I either subscribe to or used to receive most of the zines listed. I am surprised that only one new zine (WHY ME?) made it into the top ten. I would have thought that by now we would have seen a number of excellent new zines from the wave of AHers who entered the hobby a few years ago when AH bought the rights to Diplomacy from GRI. But apparently this wave never did occur, and the old standards produced by people like yourself, McLendon, Sergeant, Jones, Horton, and Boardman are still on top. I wonder how long you guys can keep up the good work.

((Thanks for the flattery. I hope the decrease in my workload will let RUNESTONE become a reader's zine, as opposed to (or perhaps I should say "in addition to") a player's zine.))

From John Michalski: What about next year's Leader Poll? Do you intend to continue it, or farm it out? We need SOLEone to do it! ((I have no plans to abandon the N.A. Zine Poll. (It's not really the "Leader Poll". How about calling it the "Walkerdine Poll"?) Actually, it's not a time-consuming job, and it's one which can be done at leisure, i.e. the votes can be counted whenever time is available (albeit as soon after the deadline as possible). As a once-a-year job, and one without the urgency of Gming, it's easy enough to retain it.))

CHIMO!