

Merry Christmas to all, even those who won't be getting this till after Dec. 25. The Christmas Rush is upon us, both in terms of postal service and in terms of personal life. Thus, last week's games suffered an involuntary one-week turnaround, and it looks like this week's are going to do the same. I do, though, have space for some non-game material, at which let's have....

Letter from Fred Davis: ((This is a follow-up to an exchange in RUNESTONE #269, which see.))

Of course, I would disqualify myself in any case in which Buddy Tretick/Bernie Oaklyn were to file a complaint because he had been kicked out of a game for any reason related to his identity. If he was expelled for a totally non-related issue, I feel that I could properly rule on the issue...

As a married man myself, I know how marriage requires one to cut back on Diplomacy or any other hobby which a guy may like. With few exceptions, most wives seem to barely tolerate the existence of the postal Diplomacy hobby, but I suspect this would be true of virtually any male-oriented hobby which takes hubby away from cutting the grass and other required chores.

((Actually, my cutback was in progress before I got married; marriage altered the time frame a bit, but this was a purely voluntary decision on my part. Marge exerted no pressure - in fact, she was barely aware of the nature and extent of my hobby involvements - and gets quite upset when she thinks others will blame her for my cutback. Truth is, I was overcommitted in all areas and was in the process of easing off everywhere even before I met Marge. Marriage speeded things up a trifle. Also, I live in a second-floor suite and never have to mow the lawn...))

In case you hadn't heard, the results of the IDA by-election are enclosed. ((I hadn't. They were: Birsan 20, Sacks 4. IDA, in its up-to-now futile struggle to regain its former credibility, is now going back to its former President. Could work; certainly Edi was a competent President, and it was his resignation which ushered in the Lakoika Reign and the start of the downhill slide...))

Haven't yet decided whether I'll renew my sub to RUNESTONE. If you plan to combine the remaining games and publish only, say, once every two weeks, and thus lower the postage costs, I'll probably renew. Please let the readers know your future plans as soon as you know what they will be. ((I'm not sure what you're getting at, Fred. As a non-playing subscriber, you get a mailing once a month, regardless of the number of issues I publish in that month. The only way to give you lower postage costs would be to publish fewer pages. The decrease in number of games will partially bring this about, although increased time may see more chat being published, such as this. I suppose I could mail to non-playing subbers every two months, but that seems like a paltry solution. If postage costs are really a factor, you could opt for third-class mailings and put up with slower delivery. This option has always been open but very few subscribers (no one, at present) has chosen it.

((With some games running on five-weeks deadlines, publishing only every two weeks would obviously not work. As for my plans, I'll just continue to play it by ear, same as I've always done.

((Fred also asked me to publicize a new game opening in BUSHWACKER, Dual Space Diplomacy. A flat \$7 covers gamefee plus sub for the duration. One spot is still available; better grab it! Finer variant GMS than Fred simply don't exist. 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207, USA, is the place to write.))

From Fred Winter: My 2¢ worth on the Tretick/Oaklyn problem is that you are handling the situation exactly correctly. One cannot kick someone out of a game unless there has been a violation within that game. Furthermore, unless entrance is limited to one game per person, one should not deny Tretick the right to be admitted into a new game. You are quite correct to say such games-

Diadochi V, Fall 254: SELEUCIDS STOLPED! ROLE EXPANDS INTO EASTERN MED,  
(Game 1978AShe) BUT BOTCHES UP AFRICAN CONVOY!

A concession to Rome is proposed; please vote with your next orders.

Carthage (Steve Payne): F LigurianSea-Sardinia; F IberianSea-Sardinia;  
F NewCarthage-IberianSea; A Saguntum-Aquiltania, s by A Iberia;  
A Hadrumentum-Carthage.

Egypt (Robert Fisher): F SyrtisGulf-Charax, s by F Cyrene; A Nabatea-Jerusalem,  
s by A Sinai; A Alexandria s A Sinai; F EgyptianSea-LevantineSea,  
s by F Cyprus.

Macedonia (Steve Cartier): F AegeanSea-Ephesus, s by A Pergamum; A Colchis h;  
A Thrace-Nicomedia, s by F EuxineSea; F Athens-AegeanSea;  
A Larissa-Athens; A Pella-Illyria; A Scythia h.

Rome (Pete Reese): A Etruria-Rome; A Belgica h; A Aquiltania h, s by  
A Lugdunum; A EastCeltica-Massilia; A CisalpineGaul-Venetia;  
F Rome-NorthTyrrhenian; "F AfricanSea s A Palermo-Carthage";  
A Palermo-Hadrumentum, s by F Carthage; F Meltiasea-SyrtisGulf;  
F IonianSea-Crete; F SouthAdriatic-IonianSea; F Brundisium-Meltias;  
F Sardinia s F Rom-NTy; F Massilia-LigurianSea; F Neapolis-Sty.

Syria (Konrad Baumeister): F Charax h (destroys city); F PamphylianSea-  
EgyptianSea; F Jerusalem-Alexandria, s by F LevantineSea;  
A Tyre-Jerusalem, s by A Philadelphia; A Palmyra-Arbela;  
A Arbela-Armenia, s by A Atrophene; A Armenia-Pontus;  
A Cappadocia-Phrygia; A Galatia & A Paphlagonia s A Nicomedia;  
A Ephesus-Pergamum, s by A Nicomedia.

Note that Charax loses its status as a centre. Retreats: Syrian F Chx to  
Aps or disband; Syrian F Lev to Sid, Iss or disband; Syrian A Eph to Lyc or  
disband.

Centres: Car: Had, Lep, NCa, Gad, Ibe, Sag (6) No change.  
Egy: Alx\*, Cyr, Pto, Nab, ~~Chx~~, ~~AM~~, Cyp (6) Remove 1. Epi  
\*double Mac: Kor, Ath, Lar, Pel, Ill, Thr, Nic, Eph, Khe, Scy (11) Build 2.  
centre Rom: Rom+, Nea, Bru, Rav, Ven, Cis, Mas, ECe, WCe, Bel, Lug, Aqu,  
Pmo, Syr, Sar, Caru, Cre (19) Build 2.  
+triple Syr: Ant\*, Arb, Sel, Arm, Pon, Gal, Cap, Phr, Per, Cyp, Pmy, Sid,  
centre ~~Chx~~, ~~Eph~~, Phi, Jer (15) Build 2, 1 or none, depending on re-  
treats.

Winter orders (and votes) are due Monday, January 21. (A week is added for  
Christmas.) Any press? Nope.

Game 1978Fha, Winter 1655, Spring 1656: NEUTRALS TROMPED, SO OHIO TRIBES  
(Flintlock II) TAKE ON THEIR ROLE!

No joint victory is recorded, since only one player responded to the re-  
quest. An oversight? The game continues (but the question is still open un-  
til a definite "no" is recorded or the conditions change).

Algonkians (Steve Norris): (Built Fron, Nipp, Musk, Pott, RivN); Détroit-  
Neutrals, s by Petun; Lichigan-Détroit; Huron s Petun; Algonquin-  
Trois-Rivières; TroisRivières-Montreal, s by Outouais & Proténac;  
Québec-Chaudière; Gaspésie-Acadie, s by Louisbourg; TerreNeuve-  
GolfeStLaurent; RiveNord-StLaurent; Pottawatomie-LakeHuron;  
Nippissing s Outouais.

English (Robert Fisher): (Retreated A Penn-Cats; Built F Bost); F Boston-LongIslandSound; F Philadelphia h, s by A Catskill; DA Montréal & DA Maine s A Chaudière; A Chaudière & A Champlain s DA Montréal; DA Oneida s A Mohawk; A Mohawk s DA Oneida; A NewYork s F Philadel.  
Iroquois (Vic Melucci): NBR! No units. (One short.)  
Ohio Tribes (Steve Cartier): Builds declined; units in Niagara, Miami, Erie, Seneca, Onondaga, Cayuga, Pennsylvania, FortPitt, Delaware, Kaintuck, Chesapeake & Virginia all hold. (Five short!)

Wendat (Robert Cheek): Neutrals h.

Retreat: Neutrals to LakeErie or disband.

Fall orders are due Mon., Jan. 21 (an extra week due to you-know-what). How about responding on the joint victory question, folks? Press...

Ohio: For the bold of far too many  
Has stained these gentle lands,  
And soon there may not be any  
Brave men left to join hands,  
To rule all, wisely and well,  
From the hills to the sands,  
Cause you will all go to hell,  
If we again raise our brands!

Fred Winter letter (continued from page 1): masters should be censured.

Concerning the transfer of games, I tend to agree with you that you have the right and duty to transfer games when they cannot be completed. I even agree that a pro-rated refund of the gamefee may be in order. Since you are transferring moneys to the new gamesmaster anyway, the player ought to be able to decide if he is willing to play under that gamesmaster. Although mere geography is perhaps a reprehensible reason for resigning, nevertheless I do not agree in general that resignation necessarily hurts the game. If a player is not interested in playing and merely submits moves without negotiations, or takes no interest in the game, then which is worse, replacing him or letting his weight drag things down? In my own case, this is the reason I resigned from the the Roman Empire game (whatever it was called) a while back. ((Have you looked at that game lately? Your successor is about to win!)) Of course, missing several moves because of the international or Calgary mails was part of it too. But if a man isn't interested in playing, for goodness sake don't load him up with guilt feelings for not playing! Let's keep the games filled with interested people.

((True, a resignation sometimes is the lesser of two evils. It nevertheless remains an evil (to stretch an emphasis a little). I think that returning the gamefee of a resigning player, or even a proportion of it, would be setting a horrible precedent which would drive many GMs, especially school-boy GMs (who are usually on a shaky financial footing anyway) out of business; even aside from that question, I think there's no ethical reason for returning the gamefee of a resigning player unless he has suffered some wrong from the GM.

((It would be nice if players in transferred games got to choose their GM or whether or not they wanted to be moved; in practice, as I explained last issue, circumstances just won't allow it. If only we lived in an ideal world...

((Let me remind people that Fred will be opening a section of Colonial Winters as soon as I finish publishing it. And he's back in N.A. now: 6465 Yadkin Rd. #1, Fayetteville, NC 28303, USA.))

GHINO!

