

RURITANIA

#66 June 1970

This is Ruritania, a journal of postal Diplomacy, science-fiction and assorted other interesting (according to you tastes, which are obviously pretty low if you read junk like this). Ruri is published on a monthly basis by Tony Watson, 1481 S. Palm #207, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104. Subscriptions are 10/\$3.50. No openings at this time. Oh yeah, my phone number is (702)-857-4570.

Stuff

1) Well, this is a pretty quick turnaround from last issue. It seems I just put number 65 in the mail yesterday. The interval between issues has been shortened a bit. I'm taking a long weekend in LA starting the 25th and I want to have this in the mail before I go.

2) I haven't seen "The Empire Strikes Back" yet, amazing as that may seem to many of you. It opened last week here in Vegas, but I haven't felt up to fighting those crowds. I drove by the theater the other night and they were lining up for the 12:45 show at 11:15. Apparently from some of the letters you guys have sent, many of you have been luckier than I (and couldn't wait to rub it in either). I've waited three years, I guess I can wait a couple days more.

3) Summer officially started yesterday, but it's been 105° for the last week, ugh. The weather here is nice in the fall and spring, but I guess I'll never get used to summer's heat.

4) Don't mean to sound like I am boasting, but the results of a survey published in the last issue of Dick Martin's Retaliation placed Ruri in the top five 'zines, with an average (on the 1-10 scale) of 8.6. Thanks to all of you who thought to speak kindly of me.

5) I'm going to forgo a cover this issue, and probably the "Spacelanes" I was preparing. I want this issue short and quick. Luckily I've already typed up a page and a half review of the Ringworld Engineers, so I promise you something to read. I'll have seen "The Empire Strikes Back" by next issue (probably about twice--if I'm financially able I'm going to try to see this one at least as often as "Star Wars" which I saw 25 times), so I'll be reviewing that, and I'll have the "Spacelanes" ready, so if I can talk Jeanine into doing a nice SF oriented cover, we'll have the makings of a nice summer time SF special.

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Movie Review: "The Shining"

I've never been much of a Stephen King fan. I always look askance at any novel over two hundred pages, especially a horror book; I mean if Poe could do it in fifteen pages... But anyway, Jeanine's a big Stephen King fan, and I've always liked Stanley Kubrick's films, so we trundled off to see the movie last week.

As these kind of movies go, "The Shining" is pretty good. It's scary, but doesn't rely a whole lot on gore and guts (though there is a touch of that in the film). What is unfortunate is the movie is a bit muddled. A lot of things weren't all that clear, and a number of events that happen really aren't explained. I would have a very difficult time understanding some of the stuff, if I hadn't had someone there who had read the book. I guess that makes "The Shining" a lot like one of Kubrick's other movies, "2001".

The movie is the story of a family (Jack Nicholson, Shelly Duvall and @@@@

a little kid whose name I can't recall) head up to a Colorado mountain resort hotel to be the caretakers for the winter. We learn that ten years before, the winter caretaker, supposedly driven mad by the isolation (the place is snowbound for most of the winter) took an ax to his wife and two little girls. (I can see now you're beginning to get the picture). Upon their arrival they are escorted around the place. The son, Danny, is psychic via a kind of alternate personality he calls Tony, and he picks up a lot of bad vibes from the place. We are also introduced to the hotel's black chef, who is also a bit of an ESPer and can relate to young Danny. Once the family is all alone, the weird stuff begins. The father, Jack, is supposed to be a writer, but his main occupation seems to be slowly going crazy (Jack Nicholson can do some pretty interesting things with his face--there's a nice shot of him just staring out the window like a man possessed.) Danny keeps seeing things, like the axed bodies of the little girls. Only the mousey, big eyed, buck-toothed mom stays normal. Strange stuff happens; Jack finds a woman in the bath tub who undergoes a bizarre metamorphose. He attends a 1920s style party in the hotel's supposedly deserted grand ballroom. Jack is losing his mind (or some one is taking it from him.) The movie climaxes with the father going berserk with the ax and chasing the family around. The last twenty minutes of the movie are the wildest, and a lot of stuff happens that really isn't fully explained. The film doesn't tell you why all these people appear; the first half concentrated so much on the murder of the family ten years before, and reinforcement later in the film only seems to confirm this. It was only by talking with Jeanine later that I found out that scores of people had died in the hotel and their spiritual essences were still there.

If I had to rate the movie, I'd give it about a "B". The camera work and sets are good, Nicholson puts in a great performance (he has the audience rearing with laughter in some cases even as he goes about his manic-acal business), but Kubrick makes a film that is just a bit hard to comprehend without some inside information.

Turn of the Century Dept.

The Game: 1978KF

Spring, 1906

TUNIS FLATTENED IN THREE NATION NAVAL BATTLE

<u>Austria</u>	(Pierce)	A <u>Bok-Sil</u> , A <u>Tri-Tyl</u> , A <u>Vio S A Tri-Tyl</u>
<u>England</u>	(Kassel)	F <u>Lyc-Tun</u> , F <u>Wmd-Tun</u> , F <u>NAF S F WMc-Tun</u> , F <u>MAO-WMd</u> , F <u>ENG H</u> , F <u>Nth H</u> , A <u>StP-Mos</u> , A <u>Lvn S A StP-Mos</u>
<u>Germany</u>	(Kirchner)	A <u>Mar-Tun/IMP/</u> , A <u>Gas-Mar</u> , A <u>Hun H</u> , A <u>Ber S A Mun</u> , A <u>Sil-Gal</u> , A <u>War S A Sil-Gal</u> , A <u>Den-Lyn/IMP/</u> , F <u>Bal C A Ben-Lyn/NEU</u> has F <u>Both/</u> , F <u>Heg-Hol</u>
<u>Italy</u>	(Keeney)	A <u>Pio-Mar</u> , F <u>Ion-Tun</u> , F <u>Tra S F Ion-Tun</u>
<u>Russia</u>	(Alden)	A <u>Mos H</u> and <u>grave/d/annihilated</u>
<u>Turkey</u>	(Perez)	F <u>Tun H/annihilated/</u> , F <u>Gre-Alb</u> , F <u>Aeg-Ion</u> , A <u>Ser-Tri</u> , A <u>Rus-Bud</u> , A <u>Gal-Sil/d/rum</u> , OTB, A <u>Ukr-Gal</u> , A <u>Con-Bul</u> F <u>Sev H</u>

Gamenotea Well, we're finally underway again. I'm sad to say Julio Perez has to resign because of some other commitments (bye Julio) and I'm asking Dennis Sulsberger to take over that choice Turkish position. Bye also to Mr. Alden; Brian, you have a \$2 deposit coming; do want it added to sub fundd or would you prefer a check. Everyone's address (and a COA for pierce) on Pg5

-3-
Bookshelf: The Ringworld Engineers

As it stands, SF has two great trilogies: Asimov's Foundation series and Herbert's Dune trilogy. Both are acknowledged as masterpieces, and deservedly so. It seems that Larry Niven is going to make a go for another great trilogy. Niven's Ringworld, first published in 1970, was acclaimed then and remains extremely popular. This is understandable; it's fine science-fiction. At that time, ten years ago, Niven said there would be no sequel to Ringworld, that the Known Space series of novels and short stories, of which Ringworld was to be the capstone, had come to an end. Everyone's entitled to a change of mind, and



Chmee

for the SF reading public, Niven changed his. The result is the Ringworld Engineers, published this spring. I know I've been talking about trilogies, and Niven has only managed a second novel; the ending of The Ringworld Engineers leaves the ultimate fate of the protagonists' at question, and, well, the Ringworld is a big place and there's lots more to explore. It's my belief a third book will follow and tie everything up.

The Ringworld Engineers takes place twenty years after the events transpiring in the original book. Louis Wu, the adventurer from the first expedition is living on Canyon, a hopeless addict to the wire, a device that directly stimulates the pleasure centers of the brain with electrical current. The Kzin formerly known as Speaker to Animals, has been rewarded by the Kzinti Patriarchy for bringing the Puppeteer drive home, and has been granted land, a harem, and a name, Chmee. For both, their exploration of the Ringworld is behind them, until both are forcibly abducted, and cleverly coerced into cooperation, by Puppeteer, the Hindmost, the mate of Nessus, the Puppeteer who made the first voyage. The Hindmost's faction has fallen from power on the Puppeteer home world, and he wishes to gain the transmutation process that supposedly was used to create the Ringworld, to add to his prestige. He intends to use his kidnap victims as his exploration crew.

The first sight of the Ringworld is a shock; the ring is off center and will, in less than two years, grind against its sun. Louis and Chmee board a lander and begin their explorations. Like the first novel, The Ringworld Engineers is something of a travelogue. The Ringworld is big, with a surface area of three million Earths, so Niven can let his imagination run free, and he does. In this book we find that the Ringworld is inhabited by at least a half dozen vastly different hominid races, and there is considerable interaction between the explorers (especially Louis Wu) and the natives.

The book centers around a number of problems. First there is Louis Wu's struggle with the droud, the pleasure giving wire. Like any addict, he is reluctant to part with the object of his addiction. This makes for an interesting personal conflict, but Niven doesn't play this up as much as he might. There is the problem of the transmutation device, or more accurately, the lack thereof. None ever existed, but the explorers are hesitant

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to tell the Hindmost; the Puppeteer controls the mission via ownership of the starship Needle and, being a Puppeteer, would probably abandon them once he learned his quest was fruitless. Further, there is the problem of the Ringworld's instability. One of the races on the Ring have removed 95% of the Bussard ramjets mounted on the ring wall and used them as motors for space craft, and thus there is no way to right the Ringworld. Louis Wu resolves to find the hypothetical repair center and see if there isn't some sort of back up system to insure stability of the ring. The bulk of the book deals with his exploration and efforts to find the repair center.

The Ringworld Engineers answers a lot of questions the first novel left dangling. We learn who really built the Ringworld, we learn of how the super-conductor plague came to the Ringworld in the first place, find out more about the ever deepening Puppeteer involvement in the development of other species, and we learn what became of Teela Brown (an interesting surprise in itself). All in all, pretty interesting. I liked the book, save for Niven's reluctance to really probe into characterization. Louis Wu is the only character we as readers can really identify with (unless you're really a cat fancier and can relate to Chmee) and he has some very human failings. Unfortunately, Niven casts aside the potential for inner conflict the droud addiction presents, and at the book's climax, when Louis is forced to make a decision that will cost the lives of over a trillion people, there is no room for doubt; it's the only decision that makes sense.

I would heartily recommend this book to you. If you haven't read Ringworld, I suggest you do; it's really essential to the understanding and enjoyment of this second novel. Some familiarity with Niven's Known Space series would help a lot too. I'd suggest the short storie collections, Tales of Known Space and Neutron Star, and especially the novel Protector. All of Niven's stuff is in paperback except for The Ringworld Engineers which has only appeared in hardback so far.

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Plus

Why Me? (Lee Kendter, 4347 Benner St. Philadelphia, PA 19135. Ten issues for \$4.00, a sample for a 15¢ stamp.) Lee's magazine is always very nicely presented, nice typing and reproduction. There sometimes isn't a whole to read if you're not a player. Lee himself doesn't write much, but he often latches on to some very nice articles by other people. A very nice 'zine. No openings.

Retaliation (Dick Martin, 26 Orchard Way N., Rockville, Maryland, 20854. Subs are 40¢ an issue. There are openings.) A pretty interesting magazine, with lots of character. I imagine Dick Martin is a slightly crazy guy, and so is his magazine (and that's a big plus). There's a number of games in Retaliation's pages, and the players seem to have a really knack for writing press if you're into that. Worth checking out.

Volerwanderung (K. Arnett, 1500 Waterway Circle, Chesapeake, VA 23320. I've lost the latest issue so I can't give you a sub price.) Always lots to look at in this digest format magazine. Articles on both Diplomacy and other topics, cartoons and the like. One of the more enjoyable trades I carry. Ask for a sample and maybe you can find out why this has been the most popular magazine to take in the last few months.

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(1978KF continued)

Press:

VIENNA TO BERLIN: Previous German actions have established a very low level of credibility. We will remain faithful to our current friends even if you are ready to abandon yours.

Addresses:

COA David Pierce, 6000 Liberty Bell Ct., Burke VA 22015
Rick Kassel, 984 Eric St. Rd., Macedon, NY 14502
Kris Keeney, 4905 S.E. Henderson, Portland, Oregon 97206
Eric Kirchner, 9036 A. McConnell St., Laughlin AFB, TX 78840
Dennis Sulsberger, Box 65, Climbing Hill, Iowa 51015

The Game: 1979CM Fall 1904

FOREIGN MARINES TORM FRENCH SHORES

Austria (Jacobs) A Tri-Tyl, A Bud-Vie, A Gal-Boh, A Rum-Bud, A Bul'H, F Aqn-Ion, F Aeg S F Adr-Ion
England (Loÿ) A StP-Mos, F Nry-Nwg, F MAO S F Eng-Bre, F Eng-Bre, F Lon-Eng
France (Fleming) A Por S F Spa(sc), F Spa(sc) S A Mar; A Mar S F Spa(sc) /d/r Gas, OTB), F Bre H/s/r Gas, Pic, OTB), A Bel S A Pic-Par/IMP/, A Pic-Par
Germany (Reynolds?) NMR!!! A's War, Sil, Mun, Bur, Ruh; F's Bal, Hol all H
Italy (Myhre) F Lyo-Mar, A Pie S F Lyo-Mar, F WMd-Spa(sc), F Trn-WMd
Russia (Smith) A Mos-Lvn, A Ukr S A Sev-Mos, A Sev-Mos, A Con-Smy, F Bla-Con

Center Chart:

Aust (7) OK: Home, Gre, Ser, Bul, Rum
Engl (6) +1: Home, Nry, StP, Bre
Fran (4) -2: Par, Spa, Por, Bel, Max, BzZ
Germ (7) OK: Home, Den, Hol, Swe, War
Ital (5) +1: Home, Tun, Mar
Russ (5) OK: Mos, Sev, Ank, Con, Smy

Gamenotes: Looks like all the action was out west---perhaps a little too much for Jack, eh? Anyway, the west is where all the centers changed hands. Winter 03 and Spring 04 are due July 21st 7pm. I'm asking David Pierce 6000 Liberty Bell Court, Burke VA to standby for Germany.

DATELINE VIENNA (REUTERS): Recent reports of German mobilization and buildup of German forces at Austria's northern boarder have prompted a "RED" alert. In response to the possible threat to Austria's independence, Austrian forces have gathered to protect her from any and all danger.

VIENNA-ROME: Once again I must remind you that the canals of Venice hold no power over me (ie: please keep Venice).

AUSTRIA-GERMANY: "Don't tread on me." Tread on France.

TUNIS: A general strike has erupted here in protest of Italian occupation. Most significantly, cigarette production has fallen to nil. As a result, Italy can not supply the victims of Linguists' Disease with the appropriate pharmaceuticals. To deal with the situation, Prime Minister Cesare proposed the levelling of Carthage. He was stabbed to death in the Senate for gross historical redundancy and ignornace.

RURITANIA: With a BA in History, I can certainly relate to that term "gross historical redundancy." Great!

LONDON: The British Red Cross is grateful for the Italian report on the cure for Linguists' Disease. Shipments of cigarettes and folding camp beds are being forwarded to Bulgaria by the over land route from France. Due to the emergency, British dock workers were ferried to France to take over for striking Breton longshoremen.

COA: Jeff Myhre, Baker Hall #72, Boulder Co 908310

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The Game: 1979HX

Winter 1903

EUROPE TAKES A RESPITE

<u>Austria</u>	(Williams)	Constant, Hac: A Bud, F Alb
<u>England</u>	(Rodriguez)	Build F Lvp, Has: A's StP, Nry; F's Eng, Iri, Ska, Lvp
<u>France</u>	(Dicovitsky)	Content, Has: A's Trem-Pic, Bur; F's Spa(sc), MAO
<u>Germany</u>	(Jacobs)	Build A Mun, Has A's Mun, Mos, Sil, Bel, War, Ruh, Tyl F Den
<u>Italy</u>	(Dunn)	Build A Ven, A Rom. Has: A's Ven, Rom, Tri, Scr, Gro; F Ion, Tun
<u>Turkey</u>	(Kassel)	Build F Smy. Has: A's Sev, Rum, Bul; F's Smy, Aeg, Bla

Game notes: A seperation of seasons was asked for and granted. Will pick up the Spring on July 21st 7pm. Jerome- retreats are made with the season following the dislodgement, with other players having the option to make their order conditional on the retreat. No seperate season is used.

1988.

GERMANY-FRANCE: Well, I see you're in Burgundy again.

Enjoy the grapes while you can.

MUNICH-PARIS: HA HA

KIEL-PARIS: HA HA HEE HEE HO

BERLIN-PARIS: (Roucous laughter).

BERLIN-ROME: You have nothing to fear from me. Look to the west to find your enemy.

PERLIN-PARIS (again): We have met the enema and he is you.

RURITANIA: Gee, do you guys think there's some trouble brewing between Germany and France?

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The Game: 1978AJ

Fall 1910

RED/WHITE ALLIANCE MANAGES TO LOSE KIEL AGAIN

<u>Austria</u>	(Bannon)	A Mun-Ruh, A Boh-Mun, A Sil S A Boh-Mun, A Tyl S A Pic A Tus S A Pic, A Rom S A Tus, F Nap S F Ion, F Ion H F Aeg-Pic, A Pic H
<u>England</u>	(Kendter)	F Bar S A StP, A StP H, F Bal S GER A Ruh-Kie, F Nwg-Nry, A Bol-Ruh, F Trn-Ion, F Tun S F Trn-Ion
<u>France</u>	(Shoemaker?)	NMR!!! A's Eur, Mar; F's NAF, Lyo all H
<u>Germany</u>	(Pierco)	(Summer: A Kie r Hol). A Ruh-Kie, A Hol S A Ruh-Kie, F Swo-Bot
<u>Russia</u>	(Smith)	A Mos-Stp, A Lvn S A Moc-Stp, A Ber S F Kie, F Kie H 7/d/r Hcg, OTB), A Pru F, F Con-Aeg, F Bla-Con

Center Chart:

Aust (10) OK: Home, Gro, Scr, Ven, Rom, Nap, Smy, Mun

Engl (9) OK: Home, Nry, Bel, Por, Ger, Den, Tun
 Fran (4) OK: Home, Spa
 Germ (3) OK: Hol, Kie, Swe
 Russ (8) OK: Mos, War, Sev, Bul, Rum, Con, Ank, Ber

Sfr June July 20th 7pm

Gamenotes: If that center chart looks familiar, it should; we used it last year! Not a single center changed hands on a lasting basis. The standby for France is Paul Wakefield, Box 188, West Branch, Iowa, 52258.

 Press:

STOCKHOLM: DP (Dambkoff Press) reports that the German leadership was mildly perturbed by the recent actions of its Austrian and Russian neighbors. However, it was optimistically expressed that fall and winter will bring cooler heads and the return of vacation travelers to their homes.

RUHR: It is with a heavy heart that we see our friends in the French leadership stepping down for bigger and better things. However, we welcome the new French leader and extend the hand of German friendship, confident that we can be of mutual assistance.

COA: David Pierce, 6000 Liberty Bell Ct., Burke, VA 22015

 1980G Fall 1902

PLAGUE OF APATHY

Austria (Goldberg)? NMR!!! A's Tly, Tri, Bud, Ser (F Alb r OTB)
England (Rose) A Bel H, F Eng S A Bel H, F Lon-Wal, F Nth-Den, F Nry-Ska
Germany (Gauge?) NMR!!! A's Hol, Kie, Ruh, Mun all H F Den H/d/r Bal, Heg, OTB)
France (Williams?) NMR!!! A's Par, Bur, Gas; F's Bre, MAO all H
Italy (Ashley?) A Ven-Tri; A Tur H, F Ion-Adr, F EMD-Ion
Russia (Asley) A Rum-Arm, F Bla C A Rum-Arm, A Bul S AUST F Alb-Gre /NSO/d/ r Rum, OTB); A Sil-Ber, F Swe S ENG F Nth-Den
Turkey (McManus) F Ank-Smy, A Gre S A Con-Bul, A Con-Bul, F Aeg S A Gre

Center Chart:

Aust (4) OK: Home, Ser, ~~Ger~~
Engl (6) +1: Home, Nry, Bel, Den
Fran (5) OK: Home, Spa, Por
Germ (3) -2: Mun, Kie, Hol, ~~Bel~~, ~~Ger~~
Ital (4) OK: Home, Tun
Russ (7) +2: Home, Rum, Bel, Swe
Turk (5) +1: Home, Bel, Gre

Gamenotes: Well, not the best of seasons for some of us. This will seriously deplete my standby list. One more NMR and I would have had to delay the game. Jim McManus is resigning (bye, Jim) and I am asking Tom Bannon to assume the position. Chris Edwards is asked to standby for Austria, David Smith for France, and David Pierce for Germany. Addrvcs below. Due July 21st, 7pp.

- Robert Goldberg, 16634 Nantberg Rd, Encino CA 91436
- Bill Gauge, 3109 C S. 9th E. Ave, Casa Alvarado, 3131 S. Mingo Rd, Tulsa Ok 74145
- Tom Bannon, 609 E. Waltham Dr, Wallingford PA 19086
- Peter Ashley, 6587 N. Lakewood, Chicago, Ill 60626
- David Carter, 118 Honsham Ave, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2W 1Z9
- David Pierce, 6000 Liberty Bell Court, Burke VA 22015
- Steve Rose, 2404 E. Nutwood Apt 1-32, Fullerton, CA 92631
- David Smith, 4310 Martindale, Garland, Texas 75045
- Don Williams, 3812 Kimballdale, Dallas, Tx 75233

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Press:

ROME: Admiral V.D. Gama and his fleets headed back home after reporting that the 'lost' civilisation of Turkey is alive and well and living in Greece. rather than the Turks having befallen a terrible fate it is in fact the Austrians who have come to hard times.

ROME-VIENNA: If, as I expect, you have taken VENICE then I unclog my nose in your general direction. If you didn't, then this is what you get for making me think that you would. (HUH?)

The Game 1980H

Game notes: This game has been extended, by player request, until June 29th. (not everyone has orders in anyway...)

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The Game: 1979AU

Game notes: As you all know, this game has been extended. It will appear in a Kolymnia going out June 29th.

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The Game: 1978FG

The wrap up for this game will appear next issue. I haven't the time to do it right now. Also, I only have player statements from, Ham, just David Pierce. Anyone else care to comment?

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STANDBIES

My standby pool has been seriously depleted. If any of you could volunteer to standby, I would certainly appreciate it. Many good spots have good labels, so you may just luck into a nice position.

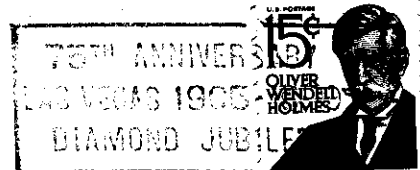
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Well, there's another issue, with about the fastest turnaround on a Ruri (24 hours). Don't get used to it, it's not a Ruffe, it's a Ruffe. That fast again. Once this page is copied, the magazine collated and addressed, I'm heading for California. Take care and see you next time.

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Tony Watson
1487 S. Palm #207
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104

____ Your sub is up
____ You are asked to standby



Jerry Jones
1854 Wagner
Pasadena CA

9407