

RAMBLING WAY

Issue #7

May 1991

Here we are again, with another issue. Unfortunately, my hopes of getting this printed on a laser printer didn't work out. Not planning on a holiday weekend, I couldn't access my friends' computer/printer, as their business was closed.

To hopefully solve this problem for the future, I'm changing the deadline for orders from noon Friday to noon Thursday (before the last full weekend of the month). I'll write up the game orders and such Thursday night and modem them to my friends. They can print it out on Friday, leaving me the weekend to copy, address and stamp all of the issues.

So, this issue is printed on my Okidata 120, using a new ribbon and photocopied. Hopefully it will be legible enough to read. As I'd made a number of commitments for copies of RW, I couldn't print each one on the printer as I'd done in the past.

All of the kind comments are greatly appreciated. Also, the many suggestions for improvements in game reports and the 'zine have been extremely helpful (especially Fred Davis's lengthy letter). There are a few thoughts that have to wait until I get the laser printer (underlining, specifically); however, any additional comments, suggestions and criticism are welcome.

I want to especially welcome one new reader. Bart DePalma just returned to Germany after a lengthy stay in Saudi Arabia (he was in charge of a Bradley platoon). His unit saw combat against the Medina Tank Division, and was very successful, suffering only minor damage to one Bradley, with no casualties.

Bart's been another longtime gaming opponent of mine, mostly Anzio. We were just getting ready to start a game of Battle of the Bulge, when he was sidetracked to the sandy desert. He placed well at the Origins Dip tournament in Atlanta, scoring enough points to be rated #38 under the IDTR system for 1990.

Some of you have asked if I'll be at any conventions this year. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend any at all. The only one that is possible (extremely remote, right now) is DallasCon held early in August. They do have a Diplomacy tournament, though the convention is weighted more towards RPG/minatures (I attended last year).

I will be at a Mensa RG in Lansing, Michigan, over Thanksgiving. That's where I'm originally from, and my family's Christmas present is a plane ticket to visit them (and go to the RG). If anyone is going to be there, be sure and let me know.

That's all from the Alamo City, this month. I hope y'all had an enjoyable Memorial Holiday!!

GAME OPENINGS

One position open for a Gunboat game

Six positions for a Regular Game
(Brooks)

Requests for other Dip variations and pbm games are welcome. If anyone would like to run a game here as a guest GM, or in a subzine, just contact me for details.

OPPONENTS WANTED

The LDBA (Long-Distance Baseball Association) is in need of a replacement manager, and back-up managers. It is a play-by-mail baseball league using the APBA basic game system (with some modifications). The league is in its eleventh year of competition. Contact: Mike Willett; 9693-1 Basket Ring Rd.; Columbia, MD 21045.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

I'm still working on updating my House Rules. I hope to have version #2 out with the next issue of RW. Any comments, suggestions, criticism or improvements are VERY welcome.

AWARDS BALLOT

Enclosed is a copy of the 1991 Awards Ballot for the Don Miller, John Konig, Melinda Ann Holley and Rod Walker Awards. Note the due date of July 12th, and the new address for Ron Cameron.

POLL QUESTION

(comments due by June 27th)

Samuel Polak wrote regarding my subzine in Bob Hartwig's ORPHAN SON. I had written a column based on a Gallup Poll of the American public. So, the same question is asked of RW readership:

"Who is the Greatest Author of All-Time?"

Commentary, justification and other statements are encouraged, and will be published in the next issue of RW, along with the results of the Gallup Poll.

TRADES

Any 'zine publisher wanting to trade for RAMBLING WAY is strongly encouraged to contact me. Current Trades:

ORPHAN SON published by Bob Hartwig (cost \$.01/page + postage)

MENSA #35

"Thistle and Shamrock"

BN: 1991A

SUMMER 1902

Russian A gal-WAR
Austrian A ser-TRI

FALL 1902

Turkey (Grose): A ser-GRE, F AEG s a ser-gre, F bla-RUM,
A BUL s f bla-rum

Russia (Kohnke): *A war holds (r-lvn/ukr/otb), F sev-BLA, F SWE holds
*A rum-bul (r-bud/ukr/sev/otb), F STP (nc) holds,
A MOS s f stp

Italy (Polak): A apu-TUN, F ION c a apu-tun, A ven-APU

England (Kilmer): A FIN s russian f swe, F bar-NWY, F nth-HOL,
F edi-NTH

France (Hight): A SPA holds, F lyo-WES, F iri-LPL, F ENG c a bel-lon
A bel-LON

Germany (Baumeister): A hol-BEL, *F DEN s f bal-swe, *F BAL-swe,
A sil-WAR, A PRU s a sil-war

A/H (Harris): A bud-SER, A TRI s a bud-ser, *A GAL- (holds)
*F gre s russian a rum-bul (r-alb/otb)

CENTERS/BUILDS

Turkey (6): Con/Ank/Smy/Bul/Rum/Gre = +2 units

Russia (4+): Mos/StP/Sev/Swe = remove two, one if retreat A Rum-Bul;
less one for each unit retreated otb

Italy (4): Rom/Nap/Ven/Tun = build one

England (3): Edi/Nwy/Hol = remove one

France (7): Par/Bre/Mar/Por/Spa/Lpl/Lon = build two

Germany (6): Ber/Kie/Mun/Den/Bel/War = build one

A/H (4-): Vie/Tri/Bud?/Ser = even or remove one if
a retreat of A Rum-Bud

DUE DATE for

AUTUMN/WINTER 1902 & SPRING 1903

June 27, 1991 at 12:00 noon

GAME NOTES

Ø1) A/H A Gal ordered to hold as the order was written "A Gal- ", no destination was given.

Ø2) Split seasons will only be granted if two or more players ask for it it. Even if you request split seasons, be sure and send in orders to cover all called for seasons.

PRESS

(Austria) -- BELGRADE, SERBIA: Conditions here in the capital of Serbia continue to worsen every day since the mongol hordes of the Sultan rolled into this fine city a few short months ago. Corpses litter the streets. Food is scarce. Water, undrinkable. The underground resistance grows in strength each day, even as hope fades that the benevolent rule of the Harrisburg clan of Austria-Hungary can be restored by diplomacy. It seems that only the brute force of the Austrian Empire can save these despondant souls from eternal damnation at the hands of the barbarian Turks.

NEW ADDRESS

Samual Polak's new (summer) address, effective immediately, is: 409 College Ave., #407; Ithaca, NY 14850. Phone: (607) 273-7195.

CHANGE to DEADLINE

Deadlines for orders have been changed to noon, the Thursday before the last full weekend of the month. Further details elsewhere in RW.

DISCLAIMER

Diplomacy is a game published and copyrighted by The Avalon Hill Game Company of Balitmore, Maryland. The game was invented by Allan Calhamer.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cost per issue is "postage + \$.06/page". Send a check to establish the subscription (\$10.00 is recommended) and I'll keep track of your balance and inform you when it gets low. Trades are very much encouraged, just contact me for details.

GAME FEES

Only a \$5.00 NMR fee is collected, refundable if you play the game until completion or your elimination. However, a subscription to RAMBLING WAY is necessary to play in a game.

GM: W. Andrew York; P.O. Box 2307; Universal City, TX 78148-1307
(512) 658-6066; CIS: 73210,3053; GEnie: W.YORK1

QUESTIONS
(some paraphrased)

Q1) How can you "retreat off-the-board"?

Ans: Under the current rules (copyright 1976 with a note "2nd Edition/Feb. '82) units may disband when retreating (aka retreat off-the-board). The nomenclature of off-the-board (otb) is used to represent a unit disbanded.

Q2) Why do you use (sic) after each spelling mistake you notice in the press?

Ans: Well, sometimes a player will intentionally make a typo in their press/orders which I shouldn't correct. Also, it indicates which typos are player generated (noted by the sic); while those generated by the GM (real typos) are easily noticed. If any player wishes me to correct typos in their press (NOT orders) they may request it.

Q3) Why do you charge "postage + \$.06/page" instead of a flat rate?

Ans: I DO NOT want to make a profit by publishing this 'zine. Thus, I charge basically what it costs me. The postage should be obvious, while the \$.06/page covers the charge at the photocopy place I plan on using. I plan on absorbing the the publishing costs, as opposed to the printing/mailing costs. However, if someone wants to subscribe at a flat rate, it will be \$1.00 per issue or \$11/year.

Q4) Do you have any bulletin boards in San Antonio that you call so that any moves can be uploaded there?

Ans: I call only "The Embassy" (512) 494-4389 on a somewhat regular basis. The only sure way is to upload your moves to GENie or CIS, at my addresses.

Q5) How much is a sample issue?

Ans: Sample issues are free, though a stamp or two is appreciated; or a SASE.

(Personal Note, Maybe):

1991 AWARDS BALLOT

NAME: _____

HOBBY ROLE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Vote for one choice only in each category. The above ID portion MUST be completed. Receipt deadline is July 12, 1991!

1991 DON MILLER AWARD

For service to the hobby;

- _____DAVID HOOD: DIPLOMACY WORLD revival and hosting Dipcon '90
_____VINCE LUTTERBIE: For work with orphan service and hosting Poolcon '90
_____TOM NASH: For publishing BDT and Zine Register
_____PETER SZYMONIK: Pioneer of PBEM
_____CAL WHITE: CDO Coordinator and Northern Flame, #1 in 1990 Runestone Poll

1990 JOHN KONING AWARD

For outstanding play of Diplomacy;

- _____GARY BEHNEN: Play by Mail play in 1990
_____KATHY CARUSO: Outstanding stand-by play in 1990
_____STEVE COOLEY: Excellent FTF play in 1990
_____LAWRENCE WATT-EVANS: Solid Play by Mail play in 1990
_____NO AWARD DESERVED THIS YEAR

1990 MELINDA ANN HOLLEY AWARD

For quantity participation in the hobby;

- _____JIM DIEHL: In games everywhere
_____MELINDA HOLLEY: GMing, playing, and publishing REBEL
_____VINCE LUTTERBIE: PBM AND Orphan Games participation
_____TOM NASH: Game participation and publishing ZINE REGISTER
_____MICHAEL WADE: GM and plays in many PBEM games

1990 ROD WALKER AWARD

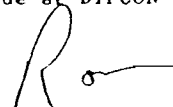
For literary excellence;

- _____MARK BERCH: "THE POWER AND THE GLORY" (an analysis of triple alliances) in Vol. 26, #14 of THE GENERAL
_____CHRIS CARRIER: "A VISIT TO SLAPPY'S WORLD, PARTS I & II" (satire on on hobby feuding with an intergalactic touch) in MEGADIPLOMAT
_____GREG MAYNARD: "SUPERMARKET DIP" (comedy of playing/fantasizing Dip in a grocery store) in ONE REGULAR GUY
_____GREG MAYNARD: "I TAUGHT MY KIDS DIP" (comedy on children's activities as compared to a Dip scenario) in MANIAC'S PARADISE
_____PAUL MILEWSKI: "MILEWSKI ON SCORING SYSTEMS" (study and comments on scoring systems in Dip) in BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Return Ballots to: RON CAMERON, 7821 Bouma Circle, La Palma, CA. 90623, or

* * * Please note C.O.A. for RON CAMERON after May 22nd: 8781 Walker St. # 13, Cypress, CA. 90630 * *
Please vote early! Deadline is July 12th! Publishers are encouraged (begged) to reprint this ballot in their very next issue. Should anyone wish to receive a copy of the articles nominated for the Walker Award, send \$1.00 with your request to RON CAMERON, address above. Winners will receive plaques, nicely engraved, as well as their names on a perpetual plaque. This COSTS MONEY so please accompany your vote with a donation. Never once has this hobby service had to charge a ballot fee or depend on PDO money. That, in itself, is a credit to all of us. Please DONATE!!

The committee this year is to be indeed complimented. They rejected proposals to charge a voters fee, to reduce the final ballot to 3 nominees, (instead of five), and to create a fifth award for non-Diplomacy literary excellence. The committee, I believe, did one hell-of-a job. Comprised of both old and new hobbyists, geographically mixed with combinations of players and publishers, FTFer's, PBMer's and PBEMer's, the hobby is well represented. Hat's off to: Robert Acheson, Gary Behnen, Fred Davis, David Mc Crumb, Cathy Ozog, Garrett Schenck and W. Andrew York. It will be fun to see which of the finest are awarded their due at DIPCON in TORONTO. Hope to see you there!!!



RON CAMERON, HOBBY AWARDS COORDINATOR