

Best wishes for this holiday season from
Roz and Ann,
and Christopher,
who has truly arrived in this world
"... trailing clouds of glory."

Dear Doug,

Hope you and Laurie
enjoy the holidays.

See you in Detroit in July!

Best,
Ben

Opening Shot

That delightful smile belongs, of course, to Christopher. Every day is Christmas to him and every new sight is like opening another gift. He squeals and laughs at life as if it's one great delightful toy. He'll even interrupt his crying to laugh at a novelty. He is his own gift to us and to each other. May you share something of his approach to life this holiday season.

I should mention that that picture was nearly in colour. Colour xerography is within reach, but, as I haven't had a paycheque since June, I thought I'd best restrain my enthusiasm. Perhaps next year.

A DOUBLE HOLIDAY ISSUE...

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The lack of paycheques is also responsible for the double number on this issue. With the games stretching to page 18, I would have had to cut a lot of material I wanted to share with you in order to stay within the 20 page limit. So, once that frontier is crossed might as well shoot for 30 plus and the double number.

Otherwise, all is well. I'll be finished my courses by the time you get this and be well on my way to becoming a computer freak. The job market is tight right now, but hopefully things will be looking up in the new year.

SNAFU! has now crossed the Atlantic and we've picked up a batch of subscribers in Europe. Glad to meet you all. We enjoy those stamps--and hearing from you, of course.

The next deadline is a longer one as well to get around the Christmas mail mess, but after that we'll be back to regular five week deadlines again. Thanks for bearing with all the changes and delays these past few months. We're gradually getting settled, but I'm relieved I didn't have to put an issue together a few weeks ago. My study is a mess now, but you should have seen it right after we moved. Hope you enjoy yourself until next year.

SNAFU! is a zine devoted to the postal play of Diplomacy and its variants. The board game, invented by Allan Calhamer, is produced in Canada by House of Games in Bramalea, Ontario.

SNAFU! is published by Ronald J. Brown, 1200 Summerville Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 8G4. Telephone 613: 722-5059 (before 10).

Subscriptions: 10 issues for \$8.00 CDN; \$10.00 US overseas.
Game fees: \$4.00. Game openings listed on page 29.

Hobby News

If you still haven't decided what to get the game-player in your family for Christmas, you still might have time to get Allan Calhamer's newest offering. National Pastime is a baseball game for two players which basically involves each of you trying to outsmart the other. There are no dice or any chance elements. I bought the game a while ago and have had a chance to try it out a few times. It is as Calhamer says. It appears at first glance to be a simple guessing game, but as you get into it skill and strategy play a bigger role. The rules are simple enough for an eight-year-old but the level of play can develop to a degree to keep two experienced gamers involved. Write to Outpost, 501 N. Stone, La Grange Park, IL 60525. Costs: \$5.00, plus \$1.00 postage.

Regarding the \$140. from INFIDEL's account which I am holding, I haven't received any submissions at all. In that case, I will put forward my submission. As you are probably aware, François Cuerrier offered a prize game to his subbers with a \$30.00 game fee. The winner of the game was to receive \$200., with lesser amounts being divided between those involved in a draw. The game barely got under way when François folded. Though there are attempts under way to recover this money, if they come to naught, I would like to offer the players in this game, now GMed by Dave Carter, half of François' stated prizes. I.e., the CDO would award the winner \$100. and drawees would receive half of whatever François had offered. This does not take François off the hook. He still owes the players in that game \$180. (One player says he never paid the game fee.) But, if they get nothing from François, perhaps we can take some of the sting out of their being burned. Reactions?

As some of you may be aware, the Miller Number Custodianship has been having a rough time lately. John Leeder took this job on about a year ago, but soon found himself unable to meet the demands of this on top of all his other hobby activities. He is now negotiating with a successor. MNCs have always appointed their own successors in the past and John is taking care of this. The problem is Robert Sacks. Right from the beginning Sacks refused to recognize that Leeder was the MNC. After months of pretending that there was no MNC, Sacks "fired" Leeder. He now says that if John does not appoint a successor agreeable to Sacks by the end of this year, that he, Robert Sacks, will assume the MNC.

I should like to point out that Robert Sacks has absolutely no authority whatsoever in the hobby. He is one person with one voice. He has no right, other than voicing his opinions, to interfere in any hobby institutions. Seeing as the CDO shares the MNC with the NADF, I will state clearly and forcefully that the only MNC the CDO will recognize will be the one John Leeder appoints. According to the CDO constitution, I have the power to "assign" custodianships if there is a vacancy. If necessary, I will assign the MNC to whoever John names as the official CDO MNC so there will be no confusion at least as far as the CDO is concerned. If our

American friends are willing to let Robert Sacks appoint himself, then, I guess, we'll have two MNCs: one for Canada, appointed by John Leeder, and one for the USA, appointed by no one. I hope it doesn't come to that and that we will continue to share the services of the MNC. But there is no way I, as CDO Co-ordinator, will allow a CDO position to go to someone who assumes authority he does not have, and whose publically stated aim (at Origins last July) is to destroy hobby institutions.

As many of you are probably aware there's been quite a fuss about "player rights" lately. I've written about this subject at great length in other zines and had prepared an eight-page article for this issue which, in my editor's capacity, I cut due to lack of space. Oh well, even when you're in business for yourself you still have problems with the editor. To summarize: players own the games—period. Players have the right to move their games to other GMs if they wish. If a player and GM disagree they fight it out between them until it's obvious they are not going to solve the problem, at which point they can appeal to an outsider to settle their dispute. Both the CDO and NADF have an "official" Ombudsman who can be called upon: Randolph Smyth, 212 Aberdeen St. SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 0R1. However, an ombudsman can be anyone who is agreeable to both parties. As a guide to players and GMs John Caruso has created an Ombudsman Service System which is, essentially, a list of people experienced and willing to help sort out disagreements. John is at 160-02 43rd Ave., Flushing, NY 11358.

Contrary to popular belief, it is not the job of the Boardman Number Custodian to oversee GM-player disputes. The BNC assigns numbers to games and collects statistics when the games are over. He may designate a game as "irregular" if it involves gross violations of postal Dip play (ie., several players living at the same address—that sort of thing). In fact there is no one "supervising" Ombudsmen. The hobby works on the premise that if a player and GM have agreed on a third party to settle their dispute they are honour-bound to accept his decision. I'll have lots more to say on this as I have space in future issues, including that ignored area: GM rights.

Other Zines

Canada will be welcoming another new zine shortly. *Twill be produced by one Anwyl of Weismark of Weismark Publishing, E-6 Pinewood Ave., Toronto, Ontario M6C 2V1. Subs will be 10/\$5.00, games fees \$5.00. Anwyl writes: "The reasons for the 'nom de plume' are varied, personal, and not really relevant." I can assure you there are no sinister reasons behind this (ie., he's not a former pubber trying to make a comeback after burning his subbers). In fact, Anwyl has not been involved in the postal hobby to date, though he has many years' experience as a FTF player. Weismark Dip-Press promises to be attractive and carefully put together, judging from the correspondence I've had with Anwyl. He has openings in three games. (Now I'll have another Torontonionian to poke fun at!)

Sickness is having its toll in the hobby these days. Both DIPLOMACY WORLD and LONE STAR DIPLOMAT have been delayed by publishers being laid low by assorted little beasties, though DW just arrived here the other day. Because of these delays, there will not be a Winter issue of DW, though the Spring issue will probably be earlier than usual. Meanwhile, Rod and Mike have my sympathies and best wishes for speedy recoveries.

If you want to play an international game, write John Marsden 14 East Ascent, St. Leonards, Hastings, TN38 ODS, UK. John publishes ODE, a fine-looking zine which could be your window to a very active European hobby. Being British, he has adopted Canadian spelling, which is a pleasant change from the barbarities that Americans try to impose on the hobby. ODE reminds me of MURD'RING MINISTERS, but it's fatter. Anyhow, the international game will run on six-week deadlines and have a £ 2 (\$5.00 US) game fee. Subs are £ 1 for 3, or double that if you want to get it via air mail (which I would recommend if you intend to play).

1980 IC - Mensa 12

FALL, 1909: ENGLAND PENETRATES MED AS ITALY ENTERS BAIKANS.

AUS (Sharon Poppe*): F Rom* H; A Rum* S A Bud - Gal*; A War* S A Ukr*; A Ukr S A War; A Vie* S A Boh*; A Boh S A Vie.

ENG (Charles Byrne): A Mos* S AUS A Ukr - Sev (NSO); A Ivn* S & A StP* S A Mos; F Spa (sc)* S & F Lyo* S F MAO - WMed*; F Por* S F NAO - MAO*.

GER (Rick Young): A Tyr* S A Mar* - Pie; A Bur* - Mar; A Ruh* - Bur; A Mun* S A Tyr; A Ber* S A Sil*; F Bal* S A Pru*.

ITA (Darryl Phillips): A Pie* S A Ven*; A Ven S A Pie; A Tri - Ser*.

TUR (Dan Wilson): F WMed - Tyr*; F Naf - Tun*; F Tun - Ion*; A Sev* H.

SUPPLY CENTRE CHART: WINTER, 1909

AUS (7 - 6, Disband 1): Vie, Bud, ~~Serbia~~, Gre, War, Rom, Rum.

ENG (8 - 9, Build 1): home, Nwy, Por, Swe, StP, Spa, MOSCOW.

GER (9 - 9, Even): home, Den, Hol, Bel, Par, Bre, Mar.

ITA (3 - 4, Build 1): Nap, Ven, Tri, SERBIA.

TUR (7 - 6, Build 2, as is short): home, Bul, Sev, Tun, ~~Moscow~~.

Winter, 1909 AND Spring, 1910 due Friday, 14 January, 1983.

NOTES: Thanks to Scott Young for unneeded standby orders, Sharon assigned temporary control of Austria to her husband, Bruce, who submitted the orders above. Under Houserule #15 this is quite legal. Apparently it is for this season only, though it can extend to other seasons. In any case, I assume Bruce has access to Sharon's game file and so it shouldn't matter to players which of them is submitting the orders—I think.

Two draw proposals: a four-way: Austria, England, Germany, Turkey. And a two-way: England and Austria. No vote received means "Yes" for the proposal which is unopposed.

PRESS

Rio de Janiero (Newswire of the Free French): "Young, party of one. Young, party of one." Your table is waiting, but it looks as if you'll be dining (ie., winning) alone. May it be known that the French Resistance finds this course far more agreeable than allowing that treacherous swine of a Brit to take part.

1982 I - Mensa 16

AUTUMN, 1903: ENG: F Nwy R Ska; FRA: A Bur R Bel; ITA: F MAO
R NAO.

WINTER, 1903: BELGIUM BAGGED! ENGLISH, GERMAN FLEETS SINK!

ENG (Mike Mazzer): D F Hel. Has: F Nth, A Den, F Ska, A Yor.

FRA (Robert Young): B A Mar & has: F Bre, F MAO, A Spa, A Par.

GER (Windy Windblad) D F Eng. Has: F Hol, A Kie, A Ruh, A Bur.

ITA (Keith Sesler): even. Has: F WMed, F NAO, F Lyo, A Ser,
A Tus, A Pie.

RUS (Dave Lincoln): B F StP (nc) & has: F Bar, A Nwy, F Swe,
A Lvn, A Gal, A Rum, F Bla.

TUR (Paula Marie Dodge): even. Has: F Tun, F EMed, F Ion,
F Aeg, A Gre, A Alb.

Spring, 1904 due Friday, 14 January, 1983.

NOTES: Because of France's retreat, please correct game records to show Fra 6, Ger 4.

PRESS

Moscow - London: Gee, Mike, I didn't mean to make you mad about Norway. This is my first game and when I read the rules I thought that was what I was supposed to do. Would you like to have Norway back?

London - Moscow: Have you ever heard of the old English game of bear-baiting? A bear, usually a Russian bear, is chained in a corner and surrounded by fierce English dogs. German and Turkish dogs are also used. Though the bear is stronger than the dogs, he soon discovers that he can't protect both his flanks. Eventually, the dogs are able to tear him to pieces. It's not a pretty sight.

Moscow - Constantinople: The warning I received about you was obviously unfounded. No harm, no foul.

London - St. Petersburg: Now you've done it! Stabbing me is one thing. But stabbing my beloved Lady Podag! This time you've gone too far!

Moscow - Italy: Not very convincing!

Moscow - London: I'm sorry, but I never heard of Bob Wilson. Does "insane revenge" win games?

Bourse (82 1)

WINTER, 1903: LITTLE CHANGES, SAVE POUND CONTINUES DRAMATIC SLIDE. OIL HEAVILY INTO EUROPEAN CURRENCIES WHILE CRAP BACKS THE US DOLLAR.

	US\$	£	Fr	DM	L	R	TP
MI (Busack)	605.85	0	2850	550	0	1700	1565
JILT (Gaughan)	406.96	666	0	1300	1460	2400	1400
VIC (Jensen)	66.62	600	0	2000	2000	2000	1200
OIL (Lowes)	3.65	1560	1500	1005	1510	2005	2110
MINE (Phillips)	102.00	700	1000	1000	1500	1000	2500
CRAP (Smith)	7300.00	0	0	1000	0	0	0
SBA (Wilson)	402.00	2000	0	0	1000	2400	0
Purchases:		0	575	500	810	1500	400
Sales:		2334	500	500	1000	495	1495
Net Purchases:		-2334	+ 75	0	- 190	+1005	-1095
Old CMP:		1.14	.88	1.08	1.18	1.51	1.38
Adjustment:		-.23	.00	.00	-.01	+.10	-.10
New CMP:		.91	.88	1.08	1.17	1.61	1.28

Spring, 1904 due Tuesday, 11 January, 1983.

NOTES: For some reason I called last season "Fall, 1902." Don't know why. There was a minor error last month. OIL had 2060 £. Don't know why I made that mistake either. Two players sent along computations showing everyone's net worth, but, of course, they are now out of date. Thanks, though, as it was interesting to see how the different companies compared with each other. There's a really tight race for first place at the moment, but everything can change dramatically depending on the parent game, as some of you learned when Austria was suddenly wiped out.

1981 W - North 1

AUTUMN, 1906: TUR: A Gal R OTB.

WINTER, 1906: AUS: B A Bud; ENG: B A Lon; ITA: B A Ven & A Rom; TUR: B F Smy.

SPRING, 1907: FRENCH CRY 'MAUDITS ANGLAIS' AS THEY DIE! RUSSIA SHELLS VIENNA; BATTLE FOR ATLANTIC ON!

AUS (Bob Olsen): F Tyr - WMed*; A Ser* S A Rum*; A Rum S TUR A Sev - Ukr; A Bud* S ITA A Vie.

ENG (Errol Platt): F Nth* C A Lon - Bel*; F Eng* S F Pic - Bre*; A Par* S & F MAO* S A Bur - Gas*; F NAO* S F MAO.

FRA (Bruce Poppe): A Bre H /A/; F Gas - MAO /A/.

ITA (Bill Young): A Vie* S A Tyr*; A Tyr S A Vie; A Ven - Pie*; A Rom - Ven*; A Mar* S FRA F Gas (NSO); F Spa (nc) - Por*; F WMed - Spa (sc)*; F NAF* - MAO.

RUS (Garvin Boyle): A Kie - Den*; A Mun* - Tyr; A Boh* S A Gal* - Vie; A Ukr* S A Sil* - Gal; A Mos* S A Ukr.

TUR (Steve Hutton): F Smy - EMed*; A Sev* - Ukr; F Bla* S A Arm* - Sev; A Bul* S AUS A Ser - Rum (NSO).

Fall, 1907 due Friday, 14 January, 1983.

NOTES: All draws and concessions were defeated. (Why am I not surprised?)

PRESS

Russia - Turkey: The czar is grieved that his long-suffering patience with you and his forbearance in not crushing you has been repaid by this petty land-grabbing on minor border provinces. Never-the-less, he is still willing to come to terms and unite with his southern neighbour in an alliance which would sweep the Austrian usurper from his throne and humble the tyrant of Rome.

Russia - Austrian Fleet: We recommend Calabrian or Morroccan cuisine over sea rations. You should try it while you're down there.

1981 KA - North 2

SPRING, 1904: THAT AUSTRIAN MUST EAT RABBIT FOOT STEW!

AUS (Nelson Millar): A Bud* S Rum - Gal*; F Adr* S ITA A Rom - Ven (NSO); A Vie* - Tyr; A Tri* - Tyr.

ENG (Jan Jensen): F StP (nc)* S A Fin - Nwy*.

FRA (Jack Jung): A Lon* H; F Eng* S F Iri - MAO*; A Bre - Gas*; A Pie - Tus*; A Ven* S GER A Tyr - Tri (NSO); F Lyo* S F Mar - Spa (sc)*.

GER (Blair Cusack): A Tyr* S A Gal - Vie /A/; A Mun - Boh*; A Ber - Sil*; F Ska - Swe*; F Nwy S RUS A Mos - StP (NSO) /d/ (R: Bar, Nwg, Nth, Ska, OTB); A Lvp - Edi*.

ITA (Dan Wilson): F WMed* C & F Tyr* C A Rom* - Spa.

RUS (Pete Gaughan): F Swe - Bot*; A Mos - War*; F Sev* S A Ukr* - Rum.

TUR (Paul Rauterberg): F Bla* S A Bul* - Rum; F Arm - Sev (NSU); F Apu* S ITA A Rom - Ven (NSO); F Ion - Tun*; A Arm* U.

Summer Retreat and Fall, 1904 due Friday, 14 January, 1983.

PRESS

Moscow - London: If you think I'm going to let you survive as a tacky little one-centre power 'way up there on my coast, you're insane.

Warsaw (Tsarist Press): Efforts to reach a non-aggression treaty with Austria-Hungary have been shut down for over a year now, but Austrian nationals in this city have re-emerged and begun demonstrations in favor of a unilateral Russian truce. While the Tsar has no intention of relenting in his campaign to eliminate the vacillating Kaiser, according to high government sources, he is sensitive to the desires of his people and will therefore throw the Austrians out of the country.

Berlin - Ankara: I have a pressing engagement in Vienna. Would you care to meet me there for lunch?

Moscow - Turkey: How 'bout a Hapsburg sandwich? Meet me in Budapest; you know, that little Italian café?

Sevastopol - Armenia: I'm fully aware of your possible treachery; but since the last time I was stabbed by Turkey in this game I find myself very creative in devising revenge.

1982 J - North 3

FALL, 1903: I GUESS THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY A WORLD WAR!

AUS (Nelson Millar): A Ser* S A Vie - Bud*.

ENG (Doug Millstone): F Lon - Eng*; F Nth S F Ska* - Den;
A Swe* S F Nth = = = Den; F Bar - StP^{nc}*.

FRA (Darryl Phillips): F WMed* S F Naf - Tun*; A Pic* H; A Bur
- Mar*; A Mar - Pie*.

GER (Martin Taylor): A Den* H; A Ruh* S F Bel*; A Tyr - Mun*;
A Boh - Vie*; A Sil* - War.

ITA (Roy Smith): F Nap* S F Rom - Tyr (NSU); A Ven* S A Tri*;
A Tri S A Ven; F Tun H /δ/ (R: Tyr, Ion, OTB); F Tus* U.

RUS (Bob Olsen): F Bot - Bal*; A StP - Nwy*; A Gal* - War;
A Mos* S F Sev*.

TUR (Dennis Duncan): A Bul* - Rum; F Bla* S A Rum* - Sev;
F Gre* H.

SUPPLY CENTRE CHART, WINTER, 1903

AUS (2 - 2, even): ~~Vienna, StPetersburg~~, BUDAPEST, SERBIA.

ENG (5 - 5, even): home, ~~Norway~~, Sweden, ST. PETERSBURG.

FRA (5 - 6, Build 1): home, Spa, For, TUNIS.

GER (6 - 7, Build 1): home, Hol, Den, Bel, VIENNA.

ITA (5 - 4, Disband 1): home, Tri, ~~Tunis~~.

RUS (6 - 4, Disband 1 as 1 /A/): Mos, War, Sev, ~~St/Petersburg~~,
~~Budapest, Serbia~~, NORWAY.

TUR (4 - 6, Build 2): home, Bul, GREECE, RUMANIA.

Autumn Retreat, Winter, 1903 AND Spring, 1904 due 14 January.

NOTES: England's F Nth was double-ordered. Never having encountered that before I had to come up with some way of marking it. Needless to say, in such a case, neither order can succeed.

PRESS

Turkey: TURKISH DIPLOMATS DRIVEN FROM MOSCOW. Ibn-Bismullah-Dunca, the Turkish ambassador to the court of the new Tsar, was forced to carry an Ultimatum to the Russian Empire, in exchange for a non-aggression pact with the Olsenoff rulers.

In our humble opinion, the demands are a bit excessive (not to mention a tad silly). We regret to announce that a state of limited war exists between our two nations. We also hope that this can be resolved as soon as possible, hopefully to the mutual benefit of the countries involved.

The former ambassador to the Olsenoff court has been placed in charge of the Rumanian army and has pledged to avenge himself. We, of course, deplore this attitude and have counselled him to restrain his natural desires until such time as the events have been resolved.

Germany - Italy: Don't hear from you too much. Do drop a line—preferably soon, before you are squeezed off the board by France.

Moscow: As he approached the throne room that night, Olsen the Janitor had nothing particular on his mind except, perhaps, the usual sterling commitment to his duties as a cleaner-upper of the Tsar's inner chamber. It was a cold and windy night, but from what Olsen had been able to hear, the fortunes of the Russian Empire were at an all-time high and things had never been better for his people. So it was that with a blithe spirit and a blank mind he opened the door to the Tsar's sanctum sanctorum...and gasped in astonishment and dismay!

What a mess! The place looked like a convention hall for cockroaches. Crumpled maps and note papers were thrown everywhere, empty wine bottles littered the floor. A pair of ladies' nylons hung from the chandelier and there were Turks in Rumania. Spoiled, rotting food was smeared on the walls, and there were Germans in Silesia. The last remnants of old papers smoldered in the fireplace and around it; and the English were in the Barents Sea.

"What a mess!" expostulated the faithful janitor. "No way am I going to clean up after that slob Swider!" And with that he turned to go—and walked into the outstretched arms of the Russian General Staff, who grabbed him and placed the Tsar's slightly tarnished crown on his brow.

The generals carried Olsen on their shoulders and placed him on the throne of Russia. One asked, "What is your first command, sire? Shall we attack the treacherous Turkish barbarians? Shall we throw back the perfidious English? Shall we teach the bumbling Germans the virtues of humility?"

Olsen pondered a moment, and then the solution came to him. "Those are hopeless messes!" he declared. "Let's punish the real malefactor in all this—bring me the head of Tom Swider!"

Constantinople - Moscow: The Turkish people wish to express their condolences to the Royal Romanoff Family and the peoples of all the Russias on the recent demise of Tsar Thomas (surnamed The Terrible).

We sincerely hope that the new Tsar will, as his first official duty, examine the actions of the late Tsar's advisors. If he sees fit, we will gladly accept the services of these ex-gentlemen as guards for the hareem.

The Tsar is dead! Long live the Tsar!

Germany: The Kaiser wishes it known that his move into Warsaw has been requested by the Polish people. He believes it his Christian duty to support freedom-loving people everywhere.

Russia - Board: Whoever of you first wrote to me has an ally. If nobody wrote, then I will choose which enemy to crush like an insect by a random die roll. And be warned; when I throw the bones in Diplomacy, I throw hot dice! Just ask Randolph Smyth.

Germany - Austria: I feel very ashamed at doing this, but I need a build. Anyway, that pizza you left in the staffroom for four months really bugged me. This craving for Italian food—a hint of a future Italy-Austria alliance? Italy's days are numbered so stick with me.

Germany - England: I speak English!

The Harem - Heads of Europe: The Sublime Porte, having been appraised of the ferocity of the wars in Europe, was heard to say, "Mother of Allah, what are those guys smoking, anyway?! It's enough to make one wish for a sleep-filled night in the Harem."

The Sublime One also expressed his satisfaction at the cooperation that was evidenced by the armies of Turkey and the vengeful armies of his friend and ally, Lord Nelson of Austria, which resulted in the annihilation of the renegade Russian army which had been ravaging the Balkan States, especially Serbia.

It is obvious that Allah has blessed our plans as errors in navigation caused our forces to arrive in time to fall on the

1982 J Continues page 20

1979 HA - Orphan 1

WINTER, 1911: ...AND ALL THE REST IS SILENCE. FRANCE WINS!

The concession to France passed. Congratulations to Tom on his win. To tidy things up: in Autumn, 1911 Russia had a retreat due, but both Mary Ann Mills and the standby, Claude Gautron, NMRed. Thus, F Hol R OTB, making Russia even. Austria then built A Tri and France built A Mar, A Par. The rest are even. There is no need to adjudicate the Spring, 1912 moves.

Endgame statements are welcomed for next issue. I should mention, perhaps, that three voted for the concession, and two didn't vote.

This game has been somewhat instructive for me. It could have been a very different outcome if Russia had a leader who was paying attention to the game. Without revealing GM "secrets" I think Austria, at least, was aware of that which may be why he voted for the concession in the end. The situation in the stats, by the way, is that I called Mary Ann Mills to take over Russia when her husband resigned. She had been anxious to get into a game and this seemed a good opportunity. She never sent me as much as a postcard, and so would have been dropped this season in any case. So, I guess Claude is the player of record for Russia as he would have had another season before he would have been dropped. With Russia so badly damaged by NMRs France couldn't help but win in the end.

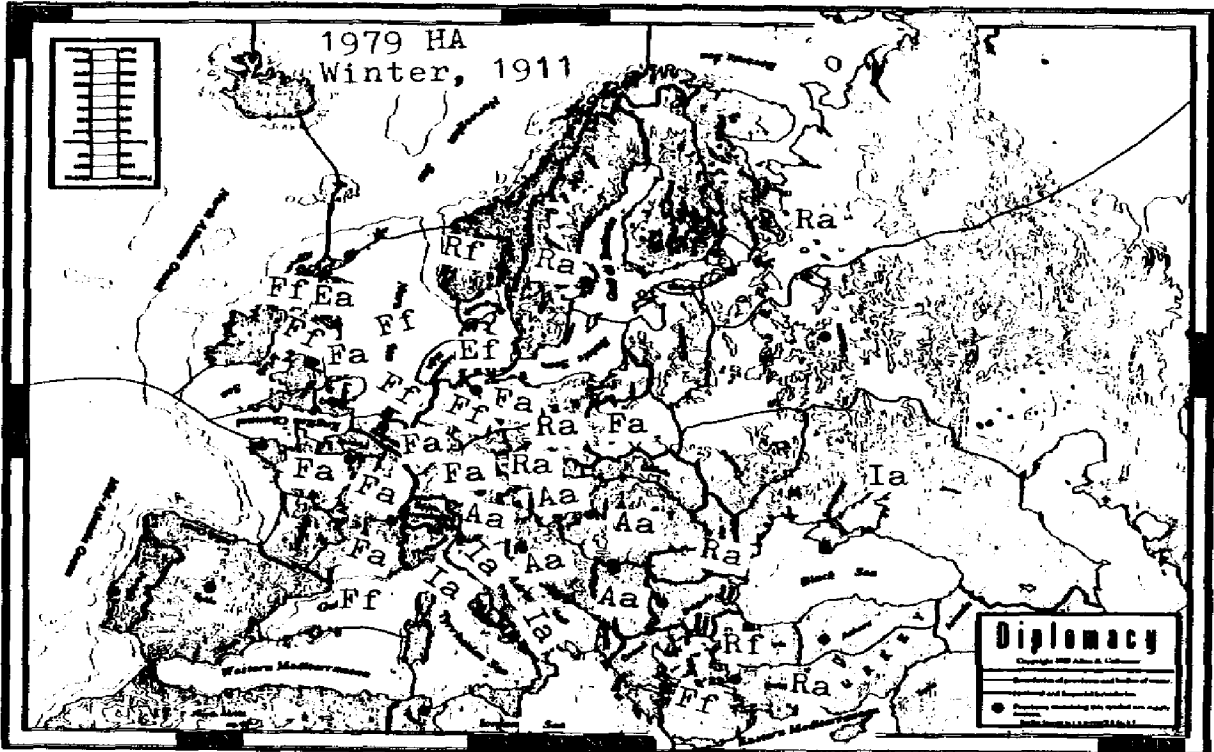
I hope the players don't take this the wrong way, but this was a DULL game. From when I took over in Spring, 1906 it was just a matter of France gradually growing with his opposition divided. The highlight was England's stab of France in 1909. It took a lot of guts, or foolhardiness, for a one centre power to attack a twelve centre power who was all over him. Dave must have had something on the ball to not only grab a centre, but to keep it until the end. Good for you, Dave.

France had some interesting press releases. And Tom ought to be congratulated for so stubbornly seeking those concessions. His country had the tenacity of a bulldog. As said, I'm sure he would have got to 18 centres eventually.

And congratulations to Nelson Millar who never stopped trying to get France's opponents to get their acts together.

And thanks to Bern Sampson for sticking out a hopeless position. And to Dan Wilson for keeping a standby position alive. I was curious, while following this game, to know why Dan stuck to an alliance with France, rather than throwing his weight behind the Austrian effort?

Oh well, I'm sure you'll all have something interesting to say in your endgame statements. Can't wait to see what some of you ~~turkeys~~ fine players have to say. (See Dave? It's not turkeies!)



The Statistics:

TORONTO TELEGRAM to Spring, 1906; SNAFU! to end.

Bill Lafosse to Spring, 1906; Ronald Brown to end.

AUS: Tony Watson (Dro S02); Ron Kelly (Dro S05); Mike Carrol (Dro S06); Nelson Millar.

ENG: Dave Carter.

FRA: Mike Hohnadel (Dro S04); Tom Swider (WINS, W11).

GER: Bern Sampson (Out W10).

ITA: John Kelley (Dro W06); Al Rodriguiz (Dro S06); Dan Wilson.

RUS: Victor Melucci (Dro F06); George Mills (Res S11); Mary Ann Mills (Dro W11); Claude Gautron.

TUR: Ron Beck (Dro F01); Dave Weatherhead (Dro S06); François Cuerrier (Res W08); CD (Out S09).

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	
AUS:	5	4	6*	6*	6#	5	5	4	4	5*	5	
ENG:	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	
FRA:	6	5	8\$	7	8	9	10	12	12	13	15	WINS
GER:	5	5	5	6	6	6	5	3	1	0	-	
ITA:	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	6	4	4	* 1 short
RUS:	6	7	6	6	6	6	7	8	9	10	8	# 2 short
TUR:	4	5	4	4	3	3	3	2	0	-	-	\$ 3 short

1979 AE - Orphan 2

AUTUMN, 1908: FRA: A Spa R Por.

WINTER, 1908: AUS: B A Tri; ENG: B F Edi; FRA: D F Eng & F Nwg;
TUR: B F Con & F Smy.

SPRING, 1909: AUSTRIA INTO BURGUNDY! FRENCH PULVERIZED IN
PORTUGAL; THREE-WAY BOUNCE IN KIEL.

AUS (Dan MacLellan): A Tri - Alb*; F Ion - Tyr*; A Rom - Tus*;
A Nap - Rom*; A Bud* H; A Tyr* S & A Sil* S A Boh - Mun*;
A Vie - Boh*; A Mar* S A Mun - Bur*.

ENG (Bob Acheson): F Lon* S F Edi - Nth*; A Lvp - Edi*; F Den*
- Kie; F Wal - Iri*; A Nwy* H.

FRA (John Davies): F Bre - MAO*; A Gas* S A Bur - Mar /d/ (R:
Bel, Pic, Par, OTB); A Hol* - Kie; A Bel - Ruh*; A Por -
Spa /A/.

TUR (Dave Carter): F Con - Aeg*; F Smy - EMed*; F Tun - Naf*;
F Spa (nc)* S F MAO - Por*; F WMed* S F Spa (sc); F Lyo*
S AUS A Mar; A Mos* S A Lvn - StP*; A StP - Fin*; A Ber* -
Kie.

Summer Retreat and Fall, 1909 due Fri., 14 January, 1983.

NOTES: The Turkish-Austrian draw was defeated. We now have a
proposal for a four-way draw of all survivors. No vote received
means "Yes." Both Austria and Turkey want it known that they
voted for the two-way draw.

PRESS

Turkey - England: Bob, you were not showing any signs of giving
up on France when I need France to be beaten. Can't say as I
blame you though.

1980 AM - Orphan 4

AUTUMN, 1907: ENG: F Spa (sc) R Lyo; ITA: A Ven R Rom.

WINTER, 1907: ENG: B A Lon; ITA: D F Adr; RUS: B A War.

SPRING, 1908: FRENCH VACATE PARIS AS BRITS MOVE IN. THINGS LOOK
BLEAK FOR A FEW POWERS.

ENG (Jan Jensen): F MAO - WMed*; F Lyo* - Mar; F Eng - MAO*;
A Bre* S A Pic - Par*; A Nwy* S A StP; F Ber* S F Bal* -
Pru; A Kie* S GER A Mun; F Nth* C A Lon - Hol*.

FRA (Pete Gaughan): A Mar* ~~S~~ A Par - Gas*; A Spa - Por*; A Ven*
- Pie.

GER (Claude Gautron): NMR. A Mun*.

ITA (Bob Albrecht): A Rom* - Ven; F Nap* - Ion; F Tun - Tyr*.

RUS (Dave Carter): A Mos* S A Lvn*; A Sil* S & A Lvn S A War -
Pru*; A Tri* S FRA A Ven (NSO); A Tyr* - Pie; A Boh* -
Tyr.

TUR (Rob Lowes): F Alb - Adr*; F Aeg* S & F Apu* S F EMed -
Ion*; A Ser* S RUS A Tri; A Gre - Alb*.

Fall, 1908 due Friday, 14 January, 1983.

NOTES: The five-way draw was defeated. There is now a concess-
ion to England proposed. No vote received means "Yes."

As of December 10, Rob Lowes' address will be: RR#9, Peterborough, Ontario. For Bob Albrecht, try c/o General Delivery, Calgary, Alberta.

PRESS

Russia - England: What kind of crazy Fall orders were those? You can lose supply centers by doing that. Next time....

Paris (for the time being) - London: If you really hated me so much you wouldn't have botched this up, making it take so long. Now I have some help, so it's not going to be so easy to be rid of me. And to think, if you'd listened to me Germany would be gone by now.

Constantinople - France: The Sultan would like to present you with the Purple Nose—the honorary Charles de Gaulle symbol of bravery and defiance in the face of the English trying to take over another French province. Bravo.

Russia - Italy: Hey, don't sweat the NMRs. I don't really mind at all.

Rome: Dulce et decorum est; pro patria mori.

Paris - Eastern Front: Any time now, gentlemen.

1980 HM - Orphan 5

WINTER, 1906: ENG: B A Lon.

SPRING, 1907: TURKISH AND BRITISH FLEETS CLOSE IN ON AUSTRIA.

AUS (Mark Keller): NMR. F WMed*; F Lyo*; F Tyr*; F Ion*; A Gre*; A Bul*; A Rum*; A Pie*; A Tyr*; A Boh*.

ENG (John Horn): F Nth* C A Lon - Bel*; F MAO - Naf*; F Eng - MAO*; F Bar* S A Nwy* - StP; A StP* - Lvn; F Por* S F Spa (sc)*; F Spa (sc) S GER A Mar.

GER (Claude Gautron): MNR. F Bal*; A Ruh*; A Kie*; A Bur*; A Mar*.

RUS (Steve Colombo): A Ber* S A Mun*; A Mun S A Ber; A Mos* S A Lvn*; F Sev* H.

TUR (Pierre Touchette): A Arm* S F Con - Smy*; F Ank - Con*.

Fall, 1907 due Friday, 14 January, 1983.

NOTES: Will Keith Sesler, PO Box 158, Fraser, MI 48026 please submit standby orders for Austria and Gary Ferguson, PO Box 338, Maniwaki, Québec J9E 3C9 do likewise for Germany? Thanks.

Note, Steve Colombo has migrated south to 68 Briar Path, Brampton, Ontario.

May as well list all the addresses here. Mark Keller, 9536 Shumway Dr., Orangevale, CA 95662. John Horn, 4340 Wagman, Oak Forest, IL 60452. Claude Gautron, 620 rue St-Jean Baptiste, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2H 2Y1. Pierre Touchette, 1, rue Georges, Masson, Québec, J0X 2H0.

A three-way draw involving Austria, England, and Germany has been proposed. Please vote because if you don't you'll be counted as having voted in favour of it.

1976 CX - Orphan 6

AUTUMN, 1921: RUS: A Lvn R War.

WINTER, 1921: FRA: NBR. RUS: B A Sev.

SPRING, 1922: BLOODLESS REPOSITIONING WHILE FRANCE NAPS.

ENG (Steve Berrigan): F Kie* S A Ber*; F Nth* H; F Bar* S
A StP*; A StP S & F Bot* S A Lvn*; A Lvn S & A Ber S &
F Bal* C A Den - Pru*.

FRA (Eric Kirchner): NMR. F Tun*, F Tyr*, F WMed*, F Tus*,
A Pie*, A Mun*, A Bur*, A Ruh*, A Mun*.

RUS (Steve Hutton): A Sev* S A Mos*; A Ukr* S & A Mos S A Pru
- War*; A Sil* S & A Tyr* S A Gal - Boh*; A War - Gal*;
A Vie* S A Tyr; A Tri - Ven*; F Nap* S A Ven - Rom*;
F Apu* S & F Aeg* S F Alb - Ion*.

Fall, 1922 due Friday, 14 January, 1983.

NOTES: Will John Davies, Box 968, Port Hardy, British Columbia,
VON 2PO please submit standby orders for France? Thanks, John.

Steve Berrigan has a COA: 100 Leacock Dr, Kanata, Ontario
K2K 1S6. Steve Hutton's address, which will change in December,
is: 103 Dunbar Rd. S., Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 2E4.

The three-way draw was defeated. Don Ditter wrote that accord-
ing to old EVERYTHING records, this game was begun in JANUS,
GMed by Cal White. (Why is it I've never heard of any of these
guys?) So, who has old copies of JANUS from which to re-
construct the first three years? Don also mentioned that
though he normally needs complete game records, this game is
so old, and with only three years missing, he may consider it
a special case. Don't count on it though and search those
attics for dusty old zines, please?

And, Dave Carter wants to remove his A Venice. Sorry, Dave,
you should have prevented its annihilation.

Seven Nations

Shortly after last issue was prepared, I received the list of
players who had signed up for this game from John Leeder and
so I contacted the waiting players. I am pleased that every-
one responded, except the Canadian, saying they were interest-
ed in continuing under me.

The idea of this game is that no two players can live in the
same country. We now have players representing France, West
Germany, Finland, Union of Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. We
may have a player representing the USA, but I am waiting for
confirmation. In addition, John Marsden gave this game a
nice plug in Britain in his zine, ODE. It looks, then, like
this game is a go. The only immediate problem I foresee is that
some of you may not be able to respond with subscriptions be-
fore next deadline for SNAFU! as we're headed into the Christ-
mas mailing mess. Assuming I find the two players needed, which
I can't see as a problem, and everyone takes out a sub, the
country assignments can be made in the February issue.

To recap what I said to players when I first contacted them. Subs for overseas players are a straight \$1.00 per issue, but there will be no game fees. Frej Wasastjerna and Walter Compton are paid up for at least a year. I figured it would be easier for you to buy American dollars than Canadian. Besides, the American dollar is worth about \$1.20 Canadian and I have no trouble exchanging it. I did receive a cheque drawn on the Bank of Finland which my bank cashed, but I wonder if it wouldn't be easier all round to buy International Money Orders? Of course, if any of you are publishers, we may be able to work out some sort of trade agreement.

Regarding language, I do read French and you can write to me in that language if you wish. However, I am very selfconscious of my elementary writing skills in that language and so prefer to use only English myself when writing back. Otherwise, my smattering of German and Spanish is so limited I doubt I could get through more than a sentence or two.

The game will be run with 10 week deadlines. That is, orders will be due every second issue of SNAFU! Occasionally it may be a bit longer as I allow extra time at Christmas to avoid mailing problems. Sometimes deadlines are stretched to get around personal plans (like last time when we were moving between issues).

When you next write, you can include a preference list if you wish. That is, list the countries you prefer to play, in order, and, if it's possible, I'll assign you one of your top choices. Otherwise, country assignments will be random.

I have a request from one of the players to use the European, rather than the North American, combination of seasons. That is, orders would be combined as follows: Spring-Summer; Fall-Autumn-Winter. I have no objection to that and suggest that we play it that way--unless I get a serious objection from someone. Okay? I have never used this system myself and so am unclear on what happens if a player neglects to list a legal retreat for a unit which is dislodged. One possibility is that an unordered unit which is dislodged would be retreated Off The Board by me. The other would be for me to apply Just's Right Hand Rule. Could someone please enlighten me on the usual procedure in Europe? I would assume that players would list builds or removals, in their preferred order, for the upcoming winter season. Retreats and builds may, of course, be conditional on events in the proceeding season.

If we use the European system then there would be no separated winter seasons--unless there's some sort of incredible foul-up. That should move the game along a little faster.

I also think that standbys could be a real problem. With only Canadian and American players on my standby list, it may become impossible to assign standbys and still retain the "seven nations" aspect of the game. So, if there are no serious objections, I propose that we play a standby-less game and rule that a player can still submit orders for his country no matter how many NMRs he has unless, say, after 1902 he has two or one units left--in which case I'd put the country in Civil Disorder (Anarchy) after two successive NMRs. Fair enough?

1981 Qwc02 - Variant 1

(Conquest of the New World II)

"Mad, is he? I hope he will bite some of my other generals."
(King George II of England describing Maj-Gen Wolfe, 1758)

1626: FRA: F Québec R St. Lawrence.

1628

AZTECS (Chip Charnley): Even. Has: A Saskatchewan, A Huron, A Texas, A Central America, A Panama, A Cartagena, A Venezuela.

ENGLAND (Fred Davis): Disband F Northern Seas. Has: A Québec, F Bay of Fundy, F Bermuda, F Virginia, A Ohio.

FRANCE (Rick Young): Disband A Delaware. Has: A Maine, F Nova Scotia, F St. Lawrence.

PORTUGAL (Steve Hutton): Build F Laplata & has: F South Pacific, A Bolivia, A Amazon Delta, F Antilles, F Jamaica, F Cuba, F Hispaniola.

1630 due Friday, 14 January, 1983.

NOTES: There were two requests for separated seasons. I have 1930 orders on hand from England, France, and Portugal.

Last month I overlooked the rule which says a European power must retain a supply centre in the New World. As Spain had lost all his New World centres, he was thus eliminated. Players were informed. Also, I neglected to mention that Portugal owns Antilles, though the supply centre count was right.

Blowup

Looks like we can't get this game underway quite yet, as only six people confirmed their intention to play. They are: Bruce Poppe, Nelson Millar, Dave Carter, Steve Hutton, Keith Sesler, and Dave Lincoln. I have not heard from Mark Keller since last issue and, at that time, he said he might be interested depending on his game load when this was ready to start. That's pretty iffy, so I have to wait until I hear definitely from Mark or another player signs up.

I thought I would take this opportunity to answer a question on the rules. Someone asked what happens if a Mine and Disarm order are made simultaneously for the same space. I think it's fairly obvious that they would cancel each other out and the space would remain mine-free (unless, of course, there were other mines there). For example, if two powers mined the North Sea and one tried to disarm it, the disarm order would remove one mine, but the other would still be armed and ready to annihilate an unsuspecting fleet.

Sure wish I could play this variant, but...I'd probably snigger uncontrollably as an attacker approached my mines and be quite impossible to live with when one of my units blew up.

Ann's Column

Fother, Dear Fother

The night we got engaged, Ron insisted I call my parents. Although Mom did not know I was dating anyone, let alone dating seriously, she did not ask whom I had become engaged to. (She later told me that she had been afraid to ask, in case my fiancé turned out to be the man with whom I had -- very platonically -- shared an apartment for three years. She wasn't too crazy about him.) After about 15 minutes, I asked her if she wanted to know the name of my intended.

"His name is Ron Brown," I said. "He's a high school teacher."

"Well, aren't you lucky, to be trading Fothergill in for Brown!" she replied. "I thought Chisholm was bad enough. Then, I married your father."

* * *

That was always my mother's attitude to our last name. She felt that it had been her misfortune to marry a man with a more peculiar last name than her own, and it has been her fervent hope that her daughters would do better. It took me a long time to convince her that I was actually serious about hyphenating my name after the wedding.

For those of you who don't have British backgrounds, the name Fothergill is pronounced "faw-ther-gill". But many people can't even remember that much, and as a result, I've been addressed as Featherington, Fatherhill and Feathergull. My mother was once introduced as "Mrs. Feather-in-the-nest"; and my father, who writes his Gs in a peculiar manner, has received mail addressed to "Fatherpill". However, our best Fothergill stories result from the correct pronunciation.

My family is Roman Catholic, and I grew up in Quebec -- which has traditionally been a strongly Catholic province. Almost every member of the family has been mistaken, at one time or another for a Roman Catholic priest named Father Gil (or the priest's housekeeper or secretary). My uncle, for example, once had a load of lumber delivered with a bill marked "10 per cent discount for clergy".

My Dad, at one time, was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms of the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. (Sergeant-at-Arms is a rather glorified title for what is, essentially, a bouncer.) One night, Dad was in the Legion bar, wearing a dark blue turtleneck with white edging.

"This is Fothergill, our Sergeant-at-Arms," bellowed one jovial man to a new member, while clapping my Dad soundly on the back. The new fellow looked wildly up and down, then drew the jovial man a not-quite-sufficiently-discreet distance away.

"Whaddya doin' with a priest for a bouncer, for Gawd sakes?" he hissed.

I picked up my Dad's habit (I guess, actually, the standard business habit) of referring to myself by my last name on initial introduction. This served me well in university. I went to a small, private institution founded and primarily run by an order of nuns. It was on the outskirts of town, and taxis were virtually the only form of transport to and from the city at night. The taxi companies undoubtedly thought that students were a low priority. Long waits for a car were not uncommon. Not for me, though.

"Taxi for Rosaria Hall, Mount Saint Vincent University? What's the name?"

"Fothergill."

A taxi inevitably arrived within minutes. My biggest problems involved fending off students who had called the company before I, and convincing the driver that this Fothergill didn't wear a black suit and a Roman collar.

There are dozens more stories I could tell. I love the eccentricity of my name, and so, although I'll have to continue spelling it out for every telephone operator and secretary in town, you can probably see why I'm loathe to "shed" it.

I'll leave you with one last story, a common incident from my youth, which is told in the following bit of doggerel that I composed during my late teens.

To be the daughter of a priest.
Now there's a novel thought !
And yet, I forcefully repeat,
That's exactly what I'm not.

As we pass the border station
Of the United States, they say,
"Your name please, sir." "It's Fothergill.
"We come from Dorval way."

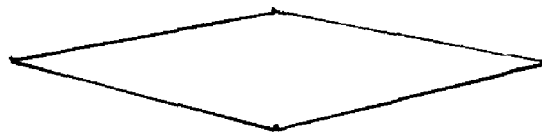
"We are all Canadians:
"My wife and children three,
"And we have come out for a drive
"To admire your scenery."

"Well, have a nice trip, Father Gil.
"Obey all road signs, please.
"Malone is just beyond that hill.
"You'll find your way with ease."

My mother sighs as we pull out,
"It's always just the same.
"One of these days we'll have to change
"That misbegotten name."

As for myself, I'd rather not.
It's too much fun to see
My father, with us three children,
Being accused of celibacy.

* Father Gil acquired a last name when I married. He's now Father Gil Brown.



1982 J CONTINUED

retreating renegades and disperse them utterly on the beaches of Rumania. Despite the prohibitions of the Prophet against consumption of alcohol, the army is in no condition to withdraw from Rumania as the people there decided to throw a month-long celebration for our brave soldiers in thanks for saving them from the rapacious Russian renegades. The Grand Vizier, in charge of this, was no great example in decorum to his troops as he had to be released from the local jail on a "drunk and disorderly" charge, so great was his exuberance at his unexpected success. He has since sobered up and will be making a pilgrimage to Mecca after the war, on foot, to atone before Allah for this unseemly display.

Rules

Last month, in discussing Rule IV, I mentioned a situation I was in where two players had made a deal before the game, agreeing to pay \$50. to a charity if one attacked the other. I mentioned how uneasy I was at that, but expressed some confusion about the legality of such deals.

Charles Byrne was kind enough to photocopy a page from "The Gamer's Guide to Diplomacy" which dealt with cheating. A case like that I described was mentioned with the admonition: "These sorts of tactics have no place in Diplomacy."

Glad someone agrees with me that pre-game deals are contrary to the spirit of the game. However, there is nothing in the rule book on the subject and, in any case, what can one do once one discovers that such a deal has been struck?

If I were ever in a position to rule in such a case I would say that nothing is binding in Diplomacy--and thus if one did violate a pre-game agreement he would not be bound to pay the penalty. Players always have the option of ordering their units wherever they wish and it doesn't matter if the agreement were signed in blood. A court of law may hold differently and rule that certain documents are binding, but, as I've said before, the rules of the "real" world don't often apply in Diplomacy. Meanwhile, all I can suggest is that you don't play with people known to make these kinds of deals.

Travel

I entered downtown Oakland on a bright warm day. It didn't take long to find the hostel which was in an area that looked as though it had been bombed out. The hostel itself was a shack painted in fading psychedelic colours. A cardboard sign said it opened at eight. Seeing as it was only noon, I had lots of time to kill, so I wandered around downtown Oakland for a while wondering at the miles and miles of boarded up shops. I didn't recall there having been a war in California, but the area looked like it had been under heavy attack.

Finally I meandered onto a bridge leading to San Francisco. It cost a dollar to use it and I was shocked, wondering how people could afford to travel back and forth between the two cities. Before I realized it, I was through San Francisco and on a highway heading south beside the ocean. It wound and twisted, giving one spectacular views from time to time. The thought presented itself that I could simply keep going all the way to Los Angeles, but I was tired. At least in Oakland I had a place to sleep. So, when I came to a bluff with a parking lot, I pulled in, intending to finally dip my feet in the Pacific. A tough-looking lady in a jeep demanded a dollar for the right to park. I paid, crossed the highway, and looked down. People dotted the beach and the stairway down was steep.

By the time I was halfway down I realized that the people on the beach were all stark naked. Welcome to California, I thought. People nodded and smiled as I wandered about looking for a reasonably free area, trying not to look too uncomfortable.

It was mainly men on the beach, but there were some young pretty women as well. There was a group of Japanese males wearing nothing but huge grins and cameras, snapping away at everything that moved. I found a spot, and mentally shrugged as I slipped off my clothes and ran, self consciously, towards the sea. The first wave to hit me nearly knocked me off my feet. Huge, oily rollers. I decided not to go right in as I wasn't sure if I could handle these waves. Besides, a yellow scum covered most of the surface and I wasn't too crazy about getting into that. At least I had finally made it to the Pacific Ocean.

I didn't stay much longer after that, as the breeze was very cold. Back in San Fran, I wandered about vaguely looking for the mythical spots of the 60's. As it was late afternoon, I parked downtown and wandered about looking for something to eat. Bought a taco in a Mexican take-out place, eating it as I walked down the street looking in the store windows. A sign advertising a strip joint caught my eye. As I still had some three hours before the hostel opened, I decided to spend some time there. It was my first exposure to hard core porn. I was befuddled, surprised, at the movies, and even more so at the strippers who would wrap their legs around the heads of men in the front row and grind their, um, privates on the man's nose. Nothing like that at home. By the time I left and headed back to Oakland I was dazed--horny too.

Letters

SNAFU! goes international this month with the addition of new subbers from the Continent. Axel Halfmeier, of West Germany, sent a three-page letter in which he described the German hobby. He ended his letter with: "If my English spelling and grammar isn't that perfect, please excuse it and correct me if I make grave errors." I would like to point out that I had to make far fewer corrections in Axel's letter than I have to make in some letters from North American university students. Other than a few problems with capitalizations (understandable, as German and English don't have the same rules) and a few subject-verb agreements, what you're reading is what Axel wrote.

"Once upon a time in Switzerland, a guy called Walter Luc Haas, who was somewhat interested in games, read a notice about an American CoSim game ((Conflict Simulation)) in a German games book. He never heard of something like that before, so he wrote to the author of the book. The author didn't know anything about it and had just included it in his book as a curiosity. But he sent Walter a coloured folder which was a catalogue of the Avalon Hill Company. Walter wrote to AH and ordered some games from them, including Diplomacy. Through a flyer in the box he learned of the pbm hobby and all that. He got involved, yes, even played a game. He then began publishing a continental European CoSim zine, EUROPA, which no longer exists. In 1975 he contacted the then importer of Diplomacy for Germany and asked for the addresses of all the people who bought a Diplomacy set there. He wrote to them; they were mostly Germans, but there were also some from Austria and Switzerland. He told them of the pbm hobby and of his intention to start something like that in the German-speaking area. He received some reactions and so the first issue of BUMM appeared and the first games started.

"...in 1977 came STABSANZEIGER ((pubbed by Axel's father)) which carried some variant games. Shortly after that, a small zine specializing in games like Executive Decision, Business Strategy, etc., called WOLF'S WIRTSCHAFTSBRIEF came out. It has grown rapidly since then, changing its name because of jurisdictional problems to DIE POPPEL REVUE, and is now the major amateur games zine in Germany with a circulation of nearly 400 (!). It is well-worth the price, always full of articles about games, regular features, nearly perfect printing. It is, logically, written wholly in German, but if you can read some German, how about writing to the editor, sending two or three IRCs and asking for a sample?"

((If any readers can read German and are interested in seeing some of the zines Axel mentioned, I can supply you with addresses. I didn't think it necessary to list them here.))

"There is a German edition of Diplomacy which has some faults, like somewhat loosely written rules. (They do not tell, for example, that a fleet which is attacked but not dislodged is still able to convoy an army.) But this has contributed many players to the hobby. You can buy Dippy in nearly every big department store now."

((There are problems with ambiguous rules in English as well. I understand that the French edition of the rules allows a unit under attack to cut support for attacks against it. The French Canadian rules appear to be "correct" though. I saw a German Diplomacy board this summer and must say it is the most attractive. It is similar to the Canadian board but does away with the unnecessary contour lines. The British board, by the way, is awful: each country is designated by bright garish colours designed, apparently, to produce headaches in the players. I'd rather play on Avalon Hill's board than a British one.))

"A problem for the hobby here in Germany is that some people are over-sensitive and condemn war games as being militaristic, immoral and endangering the young--which is in no sense true. In the seven years of the German Diplomacy hobby about 300 people have taken part, from all age groups and from all regions of West Germany, but there isn't one person who could be described as being militaristic or politically extreme right (or even neo-Nazi)! On the contrary, many of the players are rather left-wing, some sympathize with the "Greens" (an environmentalist party which has had some spectacular election victories in the last two years and now sits in many town and state parliaments, including Berlin and Hamburg. It is very likely that they will get into the Bundestag if there is an election in March, 1983.)"

((I think it's a safe generalization to say the majority of Dippies in North America tend to the left as well. There are a few representatives of the far right who tend to make a lot of noise, but generally political extremists wouldn't be interested in playing games and probably regard Dippy as either sissy stuff or a symptom of Bourgeois decadence.))

"This can also be seen by the fact that SPEEL-BOX, the only professional games magazine in Germany, which also sometimes deals with Diplomacy or simulation games, is published by a subdivision of the Vorwärts Publishing House. "Vorwärts" means "forward" and is the weekly newspaper of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), the

party of Helmut Schmidt who was chancellor until October 1st when a group of so-called "Free Democrats" helped Helmut Kohl, leader of the conservative party, become the new chancellor. But I think you know that sad fact.

"Not very long ago, some crazy people wanted to put Diplomacy onto a list of "youth-endangering-publications," which normally contains books, magazines, etc. that mustn't be sold to people under 18, mostly because of pornography or senseless brutality. Luckily this wasn't done by the responsible authorities, but only because of the argument that young people normally wouldn't buy Diplomacy because of the high price—55 DM (about \$20.US), so it wouldn't be necessary to put it on the index...

"For myself I can say that I play many simulation games and things like that, but I never was, and surely won't be, an aggressive militarist. This is also true for all the people in the hobby I know.

"On one side, Germany is certainly in a special situation and many things of the past have not been wiped away yet—militarism and brutality brought so much terror and blood to Germany and other countries. Germany initiated two world wars and it is understandable that older people get shudders when they hear game titles like "Stalingrad," "Third Reich," "Panzerblitz," etc. But I think that we have to live with our past and that the politicians shouldn't try to ban games with small card-board pieces with some numbers painted on them which can't harm anyone. They should instead do everything to free our world from the real existing tanks, guns, nuclear missiles, and so on!"

((My feelings exactly. I think the phenomenal growth of game playing in the past few years is healthy as it provides a socially acceptable, non-destructive means of dealing with frustrations and aggression. Maybe some day wars can be fought as computer games and the only armaments will be those stored in memory banks, so we can rid the world of the real ones. That way the generals can live out their fantasies and leave the rest of us alone.))

"But despite these negative things, the hobby grows and grows: new zines start, many newcomers get into it. All this could never have been done without the massive work of Walter Luc Haas from Switzerland. Still now, with the hobby constantly growing, a dropout by Walter would have fatal consequences. His BUMM has come regularly for years and carries about 30 Diplomacy games! His JOKER is an amateur games zine with much stuff on games, a "must" for every German gamer. And last but not least, he also runs EUROPA HOBBIES, a mail-order games shop with which he imports nearly every British or American simulation game at cost prices. This is a great help because otherwise German players have to order direct from America or Britain which takes a very long time or to pay high prices for "exotic" games from commercial importers.

"So, maybe you now know more about Germany's Diplomacy hobby."

((Wow! Thanks, Axel, for filling us all in. A lot of American and Canadian Dippies forget that there's a thriving Diplomacy hobby in Europe. I look forward to receiving more input from abroad. Glad you took the time to write.))

As usual we have corrections to make to last month's issue. Ben Schilling wrote: "That's not me in the picture with Kathy, that's Steve Duke." Well, Ben, either you and Steve are twins or you don't want John Caruso to know you were lurking round. But, I guess you know what you look like better than the rest of us do. (Hard to believe there were two people at Origins wearing the same hat.)

Scott Hanson has a correction: "Madison has 2,200 people, not 7,700...there are no towns of 7,000 within 50 miles." I rechecked your letter, and I swear those squiggles look like sevens. Guess that's why typewriters were invented.

Scott Marley sent a qualification to the letter I had printed from him last month in which he complained about hobby feuds:

"It hadn't actually occurred to me that you might print part of the letter, and perhaps I oughtn't have singled out Michalski, Masters, and especially Bruce Linsey who I usually get along pretty well with. It isn't that I have anything against any of them in particular; it's just that they're all rather, well, excitable people with a tendency to become argumentative over trivial things. The hobby seems to attract people like that, for some reason, and while I get along well with most of the people in the hobby on an individual basis, when they all come down on you at once it's scary. So it really wasn't fair of me to single anyone out; it's just that there's so many of them!

"Sacks is another matter entirely. He has never been anything but insulting and accusing toward me from the very first moment we became aware of each other, and if I never had anything to do with him again, I wouldn't object."

Pete Gaughan has a different point of view: "Why in the world did you drop in that one-liner about Robert Sacks? ...he's a nice guy--no need to single him out."

I'm sure none of the people Scott singled out were upset. I know that Bruce Linsey, for example, enjoys being "controversial." Some people enjoy argument for the sake of arguing. I do myself sometimes. It's not always in fun, but that's another matter.

Re. Sacks. I agree with Pete. He's a very nice guy--just like Uriah Heep. For those of you unfamiliar with Sacks, he keeps inventing imaginary committees which vote him chairman or whatever. He then uses that "power base" to try to screw up the functioning of hobby custodians. At least those who attended Origins had an opportunity to see Sacks' true colours when he jumped to his feet screaming that he intended to destroy the DipCon Society (without whom there'd be no annual conventions). I also refer you to the current Miller Number Custodianship mess described in this month's "Hobby News" section. You might be interested in writing Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway 5-V, New York, NY 10034 and asking for a sample of his zine HANSARD which he has been plugging for years. The fact that the zine doesn't even exist hasn't stopped him from promoting it and all the imaginary games it carries.

Regarding letters, I've always assumed that anything sent to me, unless it bears directly on a game or the writer has indicated he doesn't want it published, is fair game to use or not. I keep a separate file for letters, so if you write on the back of orders it's unlikely I'll publish—or even answer—as I can't remember everything everyone said and don't like searching through game files when I'm putting together the letter section. I shy away from publishing attacks on other hobby members and have, on occasion, sent the letter on to the one being attacked to let him deal with it. My feeling is that you can fight with me here, but if you want to fight with someone else, do it on his territory. Anyhow, I didn't feel that Scott was really attacking anyone; rather, that he was voicing a general complaint—one that I sympathize with, though I wouldn't necessarily name the same people he did.

About a year ago, Steve Colombo sent me a letter in which he complained about certain features of Mensa. I answered him as best I could. He then wrote back saying he'd like to see it in print. I stalled, for lack of space, and then intended to bring it up a few issues ago. However, I couldn't find Steve's original letter. I asked him if he was still interested and he wrote:

"If I can recall and paraphrase my original statements, the controversy (?) began when Carol received an offer to be tested for entrance to Mensa! Carol knew from previous testing that her IQ was certainly high enough to ensure her entrance (it was over 130 in high school), and my own intelligence is realized by the fact that I chose her for my wife (there was some romantic involvement, too). Thus my complaints about Mensa are based upon the organization per se, not due to envy. What bothered me was the implied elitism contained in the Mensa circular. In my opinion (and I no longer recall the specifics) Mensa was implicitly stating that people of non-Mensa IQ are unable to satisfy the "higher" needs of higher IQ people for conversation, companionship, etc."

Despite all our correspondence, Steve, I am still unable to get a handle on what your beef is. There are all kinds of organizations designed for special groups that have restricted entrance requirements. I suppose I could accuse the National Association for the Blind of being elitist because you have to be blind to join and have your special needs looked after. Some bright people do need help and guidance, especially after going through a school system which invariably works against the fostering of intelligence. It wouldn't surprise me to learn that the majority of bright people have very negative self images developed over years of being exposed to stereotyping, ridicule, and generally being branded as "different" (and hence, inferior). That is not to say that Mensa exists as a kind of group therapy session. Mensa is nothing, except what its members want it to be. As for me, I find it reassuring that there's a group I can meet with anywhere in North America—and much of the rest of the world—where I won't be regarded as some sort of freak or threat simply because my brain cells are a little more efficient than most people's. If you don't need Mensa, good for you. I don't "need" it any more myself—being accepted was enough—but I enjoy what I put into it and what I get out of it.

Inge Davis wrote to ask:

"How do you cook blubber, anyway? And why do you eat it for breakfast? Does blubber go well with eggs? Can you actually buy it? I'm really curious now."

First off, you never cook it. The only way to eat blubber is raw, preferably fresh from the whale. Seeing as all our grocery stores are owned by Americans or Arabs, you can't buy it. So we Canucks have this annual ritual see? Every winter every able-bodied Johnny Canuck loads up his dog sled and mushes on up the the Arctic Ocean. He then unloads his kayak and paddles out until he spies a pod of whales basking in the sunlight. By chanting an ancient Indian song, he lulls the whales into a state of complacency until he can get close enough to put a dash of salt on a tail. That's how you catch them. Afterwards he sings a duet with Jeanette MacDonald then heads home. The reason we eat it is that it so addles our brains that we believe that 40 below zero is a respectable temperature that proves our superiority over Americans who panic at a mere 0°C. Don't bother asking Dave Carter or anyone else from Toronto about this, as they don't know the difference between walruses and carpenters.

Let's talk about kids.

Don Ditter: "Christopher is a real cutey--he must bring you a lot of joy and happiness and other things maybe not so good."

Inge Davis: "Is he learning to crawl yet? Soon he'll be pulling down everything he can reach. What fun!"

Well, he can kind of hunch along backwards, but hasn't figured out the forward gears yet. However, he's really talented at rolling over--and can get just about anywhere that way. Everything within reach heads straight for the mouth. He is amazing. Despite teething and a severe cold, he's still smiling and laughing at the world. So he's teaching us something too. You wouldn't think a six month old could give so much. I've a feeling he's destined to be an actor or poet, as he just loves the sound of words. My little nonsense rhymes leave him squealing in delight.

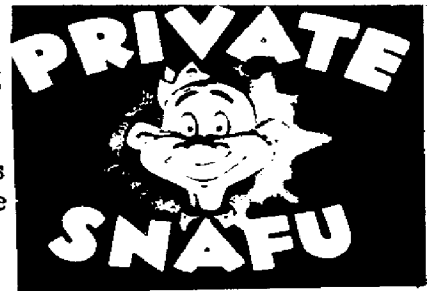
Seems Dippydom is experiencing a baby boom. Must be all the baby pictures I've been publishing. Dave Carter wrote: "Guess who will be a daddy in June of 83??" (I don't know. Do I get three guesses?) Then Rob Lowes says, "Just as your life and Ann's have been full of changes lately so has mine and my wife's Kathy. We are expecting our first child in March. The doctor thought it might be twins but good ole ultra sound says just one. (Sigh of relief mixed with disappointment--both in small batches.)"

Congratulations you two. I guess Dave will be replacing the pictures of naked ladies in SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS with pictures of diapered wee ones? (He'll have to change the spelling of "knights" as well.) We managed to get a picture of Christopher when he was still in the womb, thanks to ultra sound. It also confirmed what we knew all along--that he was a boy. So we had his name picked out before he was born. Anyhow, hope both of you are planning to take part in the delivery. (The doctor offered to let me cut the cord, but by that time I was so shaky, I didn't think I could manage.) One of those all-time highs not to be missed.

I get lots of notes about Ann, like this from Pete Gaughan: "Congrats on finally making SNAFU! a team effort (although I know Ann has worked just as hard in the past, now she gets some credit, eh?)" From Tom Hanlon: "Your wife writes a great column; are you sure she's not the one in charge of SNAFU!?" From John Davies: "Ann, I sure enjoyed your column. Hope you can become a steady feature in SNAFU!" Inge Davis: "I was especially interested in the article Ann wrote....It was so good. I feel that I know you a little, Ann, and I hope you'll write again in Ron's zine. Many of us Diplomacy wives would enjoy that."

You know, it's occurred to me that there ought to be an association for Diplomacy wives. I often get things like, "You're lucky my wife hates Diplomacy." What they should do is get together to put out a newsletter on how to deal with things like husbands who head straight for the mail before saying hello, or husbands who toss and turn all night muttering something about whether or not to attack Venice, about how to deal with publishing weekend or consoling him after being stabbed. I'm surprised no one has done this already. Do not ask Ann to do it. We've already got one room full of Diplomacy stuff.

Scott Hansen sent that thing to the right, along with a note: "I found a logo for you! It's from an ad for a showing of some American WWII propoganda I went to. 'Private Snafu' was a cartoon shown to servicemen as a morale booster...the humor was a bit more racy than your typical Looney Tune. I knew you'd appreciate it."



Thanks, I do. I'll run him here to see how he turns out. Wish I could see one of Private Snafu's cartoons. Never heard of him before, but, I guess if it was "racy" they wouldn't have shown it at the Saturday matinées when I was a young 'un. (You know, when for a nickle you got a dozen cartoons, news reels, a serial, and two feature films, plus a half hour of "coming features." Now it's a hundred times more for admission and all you get is one movie—which may or may not be so great.)

Steve "Wiseguy" Hutton wrote: "I think the CDO should do something about GMS like you who move all the time. I mean, have you no consideration for your players? Welcome to Ontario."

Rob Lowes goes one further: "Congratulations on your move back to Canada."

Grumble, grumble. You realize it's all Reagan's fault. If he hadn't started screwing around with interest rates forcing countries like Québec to the verge of bankruptcy....What's the use? They won't let me vote against him anyhow....Meanwhile, they sure have weird stuff in Ontario. You know they've got phones here with push-buttons that sing tunes and you don't have to call the operator to make long distance calls? Another neat thing is you can just make a quick phone call when you're hungry and a short foreign fellow will bring you food, right to your door. I've eaten more pizza in the few weeks we've been here than in a year in Low. Heck, I don't even have to split wood to keep warm—you just turn a dial on the wall. No wonder people in Ontario are in such lousy shape that they have to jog every day and pay thousands of dollars to get beaten by machinery in gyms.

Scott Hanson again: "You into hockey at all? You must be... all Canucks are; I'm sure you've got Christopher working out on the ice already! I personally was foolish enough to bet with Kathy Byrne against her beloved Islanders...but the North Stars have been doing so well, maybe I wasn't so stupid."

When I was eight years old I used to get up at five am, tie LIFE magazines to my shins, and head on over to the local arena before the sun rose. I really tried, but never did figure out how to keep skates tied. As for the hockey, it seemed to consist of a lot of action at the opposite end of the rink. By the time I'd trip, crawl, and slither my way down there, the action would have switched ends. So, I gave that up as a rather dumb pastime. As for viewing hockey, I used to get to stay up to watch Hockey Night in Canada, but I'd always fall asleep before the third period was over. And then they went and destroyed hockey by letting in all these other teams nobody ever heard of during the '50's. I watched it a few weeks ago, but Johnny Bower and Maurice Richard weren't in the line-ups. They had all these players with Swedish names instead. I have a bet with Kathy too. My money's on the Nordiques as they seem to have more Swedes than any other team. Dave Carter got so desperate he had to pick the Canadiens. We should consolidate all our bets. How about it Kathy?

I'm not sure what I did to merit this, but Charles Byrne wrote: "You just wait, I'll get even. This winter will be the coldest Canada has had for 35 years. Come about the beginning of February, I'll drop you a note asking if you find it a little brisk in the mornings."

Only the coldest in 35 years? That's not so bad. W. O. Mitchell fans should remember the winter of '06 when it was so cold that jack rabbits froze in the middle of the air.

Battle Stations

Expiring Subscriptions

With this issue, we have quite a few people. I trust they will all renew before next issue as I can't afford to send out free issues. They are: Peter Ashley, Steve Berrigan, Blair Cusack, Claude Gautron, John Horn, Eric Kirchner, George Mills, Bob Olsen, Steve Spedakos, Martin Taylor, Windy Windblad.

Next issue (28), the following expire. You lose nothing by renewing early and saving me from having to write up these lists. Doug Beyerlein, Gary Ferguson, Jack Jung, Wayne Norton, Paul Rauterberg, Roy Smith, Robert Young.

Waiting for Game Starts

Six people are waiting for BLOWUP to begin (see page 18). It would be nice to get this one going.

Five people are waiting for SEVEN NATIONS to begin (see page 16). If you live in a country not listed, please consider it, so this one can get going too.

Otherwise, waiting for the next regular game we have: Keith Sesler, Dennis Duncan, and Scott Marley. Four more needed.

Both Steve Hutton and Dave Carter said they'd consider playing WOOLWORTH, a game with 10 powers and 5 players. You get two country assignments, one publically known, the other secretly owned. An interesting variant you might want to consider. Let me know if interested.

Dave Lincoln said he'd like to get into a bOURSE some time, though I think we'll hold off on that for a while. Maybe we can have one with the third or fourth regular game next offered.

Standbys

Remove Darryl Phillips, Tom Swider, Rob Lowes, and Bob Olsen. I appreciate it when people realize they are in enough games and warn me so they won't get put into more games than they feel they can deal with.

Anyone else want on or off the list?

Quiz

Both Dennis Duncan and Scott Marley got Part A to last month's quiz. (I think someone else did too, but his answer was on the same sheet as his orders and I can't find it now.)

A) Mark Twain, Lucille Ball, George Bernard Shaw, and Christopher Columbus were all redheads.

B) You have to think a bit. The connection between the parts is "head" or "top." Charles I and Louis XVI both lost their heads. Carol Doda was the one who introduced "topless" dancing in San Francisco in the 1960's. She was known as the "topless queen." In Elizabethan times it was the fashion for young unmarried women to leave their breasts uncovered. Good Queen Bess was quite proud of her virginity and so went "topless" throughout her reign. (Her portraits were later touched up with floating bits of lace over the "offending" parts.) Hence, I was looking for "topless royalty"—or something along those lines. Nasty, eh?

This leaves Dennis with 1 1/2 Brownie Points, and Scott with 1. George Mills is still the leader, with 4, and Mark Keller is right behind at 3 1/2. Ben Schilling has 3, and a large group has 2 1/2.

This month's questions have something to do with the season.

A) What did the actors Reginald Owen, Alastair Sims, and Albert Finney have in common?

B) What did the songs, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman" have in common? (I want a name.)

SEVEN NATIONS CONTINUED

If you've comments on these, or any other rules, please don't hesitate to write. My attitude is that it's your game. As long as we can agree on the rules before the game begins, I don't foresee any problems in making changes to my house rules to apply to this game alone.

I always feel bad when players are eliminated from a game, but, it has to happen. Good luck to everyone.

Parting Shot

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The divinity of Joshua ben Joseph, whom we know as Jesus, the Christ, of Nazareth, is not at question. That is a matter of faith, beyond the domains of argument and reason. I would add one qualifier; that is, a faith which depends on superstition and violations of the laws of reality, as we understand them, is a sham-faith. If one needs the "miracles" of the New Testament to prop up his faith, he is reducing Jesus, whether man or God, to the level of a second-rate magician. Similarly, "explaining" the miraculous in pseudo-scientific terms violates both the miracle and science. One must remember that the writers of the books of the New Testament were apologists, trying to promote their case that, of the literally dozens of "messiahs" during and immediately after the Roman occupation of Jerusalem, their man was the one. If one reads the New Testament as a political work, interesting insights can lead one to a new understanding of the environment of Jesus. The attempts to link Jesus to earlier prophets becomes contrived at times. The description of the meeting of Jesus and John the Baptist is clearly an attempt to convince John's followers to join in the new movement. (There still exists today a small group claiming John as the Messiah.) The description of Simon Magus (the Magician) is a crude and clumsy attack on the Gnostics, who, at the time of writing, had a far larger following than those who came to be known as Christians. The miracles attributed to Jesus are not really any different than the miracles ascribed to any leader of the times. We should not let the stylistic considerations of the men who wrote the gospels detract us from the message they wished to convey. If Jesus was, indeed, divine (which he rejected emphatically on several occasions) he would not need the tricks ascribed to him.

Some of the more outrageous affronts to human reason, and hence to God, are based on misunderstandings of language. Some so-called Christians, for example, base their faith on the "virgin birth." The word "virgin" in English was, until quite recently, used to describe any young unmarried woman, the technical state of her hymen having nothing to do with the term. This is true in many other languages as well. Turned into plain modern English, we get: a young unmarried woman told her fiancé she was pregnant, he then called off the wedding, but changed his mind after having a dream. His solution was to marry her, but avoid sexual activity until after the child was born. We are left, then, with a simple story involving an affront to family dignity (the pre-marital pregnancy), and of a young man's solution which allowed him to marry his girl and assuage any guilt by foreswearing sexual intercourse until after the child was delivered. Whether the guilt was hers, his, or both, we shall never know—and it doesn't matter. Joseph's decision was a kind of punishment to them both, entirely reasonable given the times.

The New Testament writers had no difficulties describing Jesus' brothers, so why some modern Christians should insist that his mother remained a virgin for the rest of her life is beyond my understanding. I can only assume the contrived objections to

parts of the New Testament is a symptom of Paul's pathological aversion to human sexuality. It is unfortunate that this one man's neurosis should have twisted Western thought for two thousand years, but that is another subject. Needless to say, the gospel writers were untouched by Paul and they accepted that Jesus' mother was a normal healthy female who produced a family as did any other Jewish woman of her time.

So, what are we left with? A baby is born about 6 BC to a poor newly-married couple living in an occupied state. Millions of babies have been born in similar circumstances, millions conceived before the wedding. The father was a carpenter who apparently died before Jesus was matured. Little is known, as there is a gap in the narratives from when Jesus was about 12, when his father was living, until he was 29 and began his ministry. Did the family live for a while in Egypt? Possible, though unlikely. Jesus likely had some schooling from the local rabbis, though it would have been informal religious study. He probably never learned to read or write. There are strong suggestions that Jesus did live and study with the Essenes, an apocalyptic group secreting arms in desert hideaways in preparation for the coming of a messiah who would lead them in armed rebellion against the Romans to establish an earthly paradise led by God.

Jesus lived at a time when apocalyptic visionaries abounded, Rome was seen as the arch-enemy oppressing God's chosen, and revolts were common. Different groups were clamouring for the leadership to unit the Jewish people to throw out the Romans. Jesus did not claim to be one of these leaders. He taught, when at the age of 29 he decided to become a wandering rabbi, how one could survive and retain one's faith despite oppressive surroundings. "Turn the other cheek": to ignore the trivial insults. "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's": give them what they want, but keep the essential matters (pride, faith, hope, etc) to yourself. The material world is not of any consequence when weighed against one's spiritual life. Hold onto your faith and don't become distracted by the outrages in this world. Love your fellow man, because even when they've crucified you, they don't know what they're doing. Pity them, that they've lost their human-ness.

Oversimplified, but not: believe in me and I'll cure your diseases and lead you to world conquest. Not: accept Jesus and give up any need to think and to chose. Not: pray to me and I'll take you to heaven when you die. Not: accept everything said about me even if it violates that most sacred human possession: reason.

Jesus taught, as did others, that man is inately good. Man sometimes loses himself, but he can always be restored to his full human dignity and capacity for compassion and love. If we can remember that, then Jesus' death was not in vain.

Ron