

The Spice of Life



CONTENTS

Art by Brad W. Foster.....Cover

Contents/Messages.....1

Editorial by Miguel Lambotte.....2

The catalogue of the Belgian Variantothèque.....5

List of PBM Games in the LVB.....10

List of categories in the NAVB.....11

The Last Word by Jef Bryant.....15

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Next Edition in March 1990

M E S S A G E S:

EDITORIAL

by Miguel Lambotte.

It is a great honour for me to write the editorial of The Spice of Life (hereafter, SoL). That which you are holding in your hands is not a new magazine but a "newsletter" designed to keep the new additions to the Belgian Variant Bank up to date (La Variantothèque Belge, (hereafter, LVB)). This constitutes the amalgamation of variants from two magazines, Dipsomania (edited by Jef Bryant) and Mach die Spuhl! (edited by Alain Henry and Miguel Lambotte). Assembled here are nearly all the variants of French origin as well as the classic Anglo-Saxon variants. In total the LVB contains about 200 variants as well as 50 PBM games which are played in the French magazines. (numbers as of 30/10/89).

What is the purpose of the LVB and its mouthpiece, SoL? Initially, we hope to make available to everyone a potential of variants equal to the United Kingdom Variant Bank (UKVB) or the North American Variant Bank (NAVB) (which contain several hundreds of variants). A way of getting to know the creations of everyone.....

Secondly, we would like to prove that our goal is not just to simply file away the variants in a box. With the help of SoL we want to provide a crossroads of thought and creativity, to inspire the imagination in order to multiply the number of variants and articles on these variants. Our sincerest wish is that SoL be something more than the simple perpetuation of the variants created in the '70s. With this in mind all contributions will be welcome.

Also, we would like to start a policy of exchange with all who can increase the number of postal games for the disposition of the players. We wish to exchange not only with those in the Francophone region but also with the other variant banks, United Kingdom, America, Germany, Holland, etc. In this way we hope to make our contribution to improving the relations between the hobbies. SoL is capable of occupying a key position in these exchanges as it will be published in French and English. Jef Bryant will be responsible for relations in the Anglo-Saxon domain whereas I will occupy myself with the Continental variant banks and zines.

It goes without saying that these objectives cannot be reached without help, at least the cooperation of those who have the development of PBM games at heart. Fred Davis, Jr., the previous custodian of the NAVB recently said in an article which appeared in Moonlighting - 2 that, "It is a known fact that many

postal Diplomacy players drop out of the hobby after playing a few games. While other factors, such as early elimination, contribute to this drop-out rate, I believe that one reason is that some people get bored with 'the same old thing'. Fred Davis, Jr. thinks that the 900 known variants and their amazing variety could change this state of affairs.

While we may not be so sure, we are certain that everyone will agree that "Variants are the Spice of Life....."

Editorial Policy

SoL will appear at the rate of 2 or 3 issues per year with a maximum of 32 pages (A5 format). If you want to receive SoL, you only have to send Jef or myself your subscription by an international postal/money order. (you can buy one in all the major post offices). Exchanges with other organisations and/or Variant Banks are also possible.

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Price

One issue of SoL= 40FB.

The cost of photocopying is 2FB per page (see the number of pages for the variants in the catalogue.)

This amount must be added to the postal charges which are:

- 12FB for 1 to 3 pages.
- 18FB for 4 to 9 pages.
- 25FB for 10 to 19 pages.
- 45FB for 20 to 49 pages.
- 50 pages and more : why not read the

variants you ordered first?

Example: You would like Americana 1860 (=5 pages), Falkland (=1 page), Islam (=6 pages) and Pourquoi Pas? (=3 pages) : That makes a total of 15 pages (x2FB = 30FB) the postal charge costs 25FB; 25FB + 30FB = 55FB. The only thing left is to fill in your international postal order.....

Exchange of Variants

The LVB will exchange variants on an equal basis, without cost, with the custodians of the other variant banks and/or the designers of variants not yet held in the LVB.

Explanation of the headings for the list of variants in La Variantothèque Belge.

- Column 1: Chronological number of the variant in the LVB
- Column 2: Name of the variant.
- Column 3: Author(s).
- Column 4: Number of pages.
- Column 5: Language in which the variant is available:
E = English
F = French
N = Dutch
- Column 6: Catalogue number. This number is the unique identification of the variant. We have adopted the same method of classification as the NAVB, the most widespread in the world. This number is composed initially of 2 letters (principle category and sub-category) and a number (01 for the first variant in that sub-category, 02 to 99 following the order of incorporation of the variants in the NAVB). The number is followed with a slash (/) and another number indicating the number of players. If this number varies, the minimum and maximum number is shown ("/02-5" signifies that the game can be played with 2 to 5 players) "0n" signifies an indefinite number of players. The catalogue number allows another classification apart from the alphabetical list: It allows you to locate the variants based in different periods or on other continents that may interest you.

Nom	La Variantothèque belge. Auteur	P	L	Catalog#
October 1989				
192 273 BC	Fred C. Davis, Jr.	5	E	ac12/05
196 1000 AD	Jon Lovibond	3	E	mb03/07
051 1492	Edwin Godfrey	4	E	ue01/04
180 1499	James Nelson	5	E	pw04/08
015 1885 IIIR	Fred C. Davis, Jr.		E	hp03/09
128 1914	Lewis Pulsipher	7	F	?/05
171 1914 (ACM)	Gordon McDonald	1	E	rx18/02
159 1938 - III	D. Struckman, F. C. Davis Jr	3	E	qh09/09
043 1939 - I	Lew Pulsipher		E	qh04/05
214 1939 - II	Lew Pulsipher	4	F	qh05/05
126 Aberration I	Fred C. Davis, Jr.	3	F	cb28/07
126 Aberration II	Fred C. Davis, Jr.	2	F	cb29/07
061 Aberration III	Rod Walker	4	FE	ca01/09
089 Aberration IV	Rod Walker	5	E	cc01/09
090 Aberration V	Rod Walker, Andrew Poole?	2	E	?/09
062 Abstraction I	Fred C. Davis, Jr.	6	E	cb34/07
092 Abstraction II	Fred C. Davis, Jr.	4	E	cb30/07
129 Aigle et le Tigre	Michel Liesnard	3	FN	?/0
121 Air Diplomacy II	M.Janta-Polczynski	2	FE	rn08/07
050 Air War 1917	Steve Doubleday	1	E	?/07
125 Ambiguïté II	M.Janta-Polczynski	2	FE	rb47/07
130 America Latina 1821	F.Janssens	2	F	?
131 Américana 1860	Tim Tilson	5	F	nu02/05
048 Anarchy VII	Jeremy Tullett	2	E	rh10/07-34
055 Ancient Hebrew King	John Biehl	3	E	ap01/04
049 Antithesis	Steve Doubleday	1	E	rs41/07
189 Apocalypse 1900	Dave Russell	1	E	?/07
046 Apposition	Pauly Willey	2	E	sg08/05
045 Archipelago II	M. Draper	4	E	uu18/06
044 Ark Royal Dip I?	Rowland C. Goodman	4	E	qh10/05?
011 Atlantica III	Fred C. Davis, Jr.	5	E	oa01/07
040 Autarchy Dip	Stephen Jilks	2	E	rx19/02
161 A/F rules module	Fred C. Davis, Jr.		E	?/On
066 Barebones	Howard Mahler	1	E	ug01/08
124 Baseball Dip	Lew Pulsipher	1	E	ra01/07
198 Bid	Lew Pulsipher	1	E	?/03-06
094 Black Angels	Lew Pulsipher	1	E	xa01/07
039 Black Hole	Randolph Bart	1	E	rr01/07
064 Blind Dip (1801)	Doug Brown	1	E	rd18/07
038 Blitzkrieg II	John Norris	2	E	rm48/07
102 Blowup	N.Millar, R.Brown	1	E	rn16/07
123 Bolchevik I	H. Patterson	2	F	rs02/08
053 Bourse III	Don Miller, R. Walkerdine.	2	FE	uv05/nn
132 Bruxellisme I-IV	M. Liesnard	7	F	?
085 Cabinet Dip	Steve Doubleday	2	E	?/21
120 Capitalist Dip	Dave Tant	1	E	ub01/0n
154 Capitals Dip	Lew Pulsipher	1	E	?/07
063 Cartel	M.Brown, K.Loveys		E	rs26/07
037 Centenary	William Preston	2	E	?/07
158 Chained lightning	S. Doubleday	1	E	rb50/07

The Spice of Life - 1

Nom	La Variantothèque belge. Auteur	P	L	Catalog#
122 Chaos II	Michel Feron	1	FE	rh06/34
174 Character Diplomacy	Fred C. Davis, Jr.		E	rm49/07
168 City State	H. Patterson	2	E	pw03/07
077 Cline IV	R.B.Cline, Fred C. Davis, Jr.	6	E	cn05/09
078 Cline V	R.B.Cline, Fred C. Davis, A.Poole	4	E	cn08/09
042 Cline VI	R.Cline, F.Davis, A.Poole, D.Rothery	5	FE	cn10/09
119 Colonisation	Lew Pulsipher	1	E	rw01/02-n
177 The Conquerors	Lew Pulsipher	2	E	ac11/04
173 Conquest New World 3	Fred C. Davis, Jr.	7	E	wc03/05
185 Corner Diplomacy	Eric Brosius	1	E	rb61/07
068 Cosmic Dip II	Rus Rusnak	2	E	rm42/07
118 Dalarna I	John Leeder	3	FE	fd02/06
087 Dark Tower III	Steve Doubleday	7	E	ts17/07-11
088 Dark Tower IV	Steve Doubleday	12	E	ts25/07-11
133 De Bello Belgarum	Alain Henry	2	F	?/05
005 Deluge	Tim Sharrock	5	E	ru02/07
082 Diadochi II	Richard Vedder	2	E	ac02/07
013 Diadochi V	Richard Vedder	5	E	ac03/05
036 Diplodocus I	Paul Meerts, Nick Kinzett	1	E	rh08/34
083 Diplodocus II	Paul Meerts, Nick Kinzett	1	E	rh09/17-34
156 Diplomacy Classic	A. Calhamer	10	FEN	----/07
135 Diplomatie Mondiale I	Guy Humbert	2	F	?/07
135 Diplomatie Mondiale II	Guy Humbert	2	F	?/07
134 Diplomatie Offenbach-Moltieri	Alain Henry	1	F	?/07
117 Diplomatie Sismique	Pierre Lavaurs	4	F	rr17/07
149 Diplomatie Torique	Ch. A. Brouwers	3	F	?/05
137 Dippy Ret	Marc Piret	1	F	?/07
116 Downfall I	H. Patterson	2	E	ts01/08
091 Downfall III	P. Lindsay, H. Patterson	2	E	ts13/07
114 Downfall V	H.Patterson et al.	4	E	ts15/07
163 Downfall X	R. Egan, J. Cudmore	9	E	ts22/08
164 Downfall Definitive	J. Norris, G. Rogerson	8	E	ts19/08
113 Drink Diplomacy	Miguel Lambotte	1	F	?/07
014 Dual Space	Fred C. Davis, Jr.	2	E	cb31/07
017 Dynastic Dip IV	Steve Doubleday	2	E	rm57/07
202 Ecodip	François Budai	10	F	?/10
035 Economic Dip IV	Fred C. Davis, Jr.	2	E	re03/07
184 Elitist Diplomacy	Bryan Betts	1	E	rn27/07
153 Emhamia Bourse	Mike Mills	1	E	NON DIP
138 Empires et Progrès	B. De Scaraille	9	F	?/07
008 English Civil war II	Steve Agar	4	E	pe09/02
012 Excalibur	Kenneth Clark	3	E	pe02/07
139 Express Diplomacy	Michel Liesnard	1	F	?/07
112 Extremely Anonymous	Jeremy Maiden	1	E	rb29/07
069 Falkland	John Ketchell	1	E	NON DIP
059 Fall of the Empire	Steve Doubleday	15	E	?/04-07
010 Fall of Rome	Chris Hunt	1	E	ar08/07
140 Fantastica	C. Szigetvari	3	F	?/08
210 Final Conflict II	Tom Swider	3	E	?/07
176 Five Dynasties Dip	Steve Doubleday	2	E	ec03/09
054 Five Italies	Mike Lee	2	E	ug12/05

The Spice of Life - 1

Nom	La Variantothèque belge. Auteur	P	L	Catalog#
034 Five Nations	Peter Northcott	2	E	hx01/05
096 Fleet Rome	R.Sharp		E	rb41/07
206 Flintlock II	John Leeder	3	E	ne02/06
057 Foreknowledge	Pete Calcraft	1	E	rx10/02
078 Forex	Ian Whitchurch	1	E	NON DIP
033 Future Tense Dip	Richard Young	3	E	rb54/07
032 Game of the Clans	Wayne Hoheisel	8	E	pe03/09?
031 Geophysical I	Jeremy Maiden	1	E	ru03/07
084 Geophysical II	Jeremy Maiden, Keith Black	1	E	ru01/07
191 Geophysical III	Nick Kinzett et al.	3	E	ru04/07
030 Gesta Danorum I	John Leeder	3	E	pe04/04-08
209 Gitdip	Bate,Richards,Thomas,Richards	1	E	??/07
018 GLC Battleground	Antony Jones	5	E	vj14/07
084 Goszila II Hu	M.Lambotte et al.	1	F	?/10
111 Great War	R. Egan	1	E	rx17/02
098 Gunboat I	(Avec communiqués de presse)	1	FE	rb32/07
098 Gunboat II	(Pas de communiqués de presse)	1	E	rb59/07
098 Gunboat (British)	M. Hansen (Avec et pré-presse) (Gunboat=Diplo très publique)	1	E	rb58/07
052 Hitchiker	Nicholas Whyte	3	E	cb36/09
110 Holy Roman Empire I	Lew Pulsipher	2	E	rw02/07
109 Hyborean Diplomacy	Jim Peters	3	E	fh04/02-11
029 Hyborian Age II	Burt Labelle	2	E	fh02/05
028 Hyperspace Dip II	Don Miller	3	E	rv03/07
076 Imperator	Richard Vedder	2	E	ar01/05
160 Imperator	J. Norris	4	E	?/08
065 India	Steve Agar	2	FE	ei01/05
047 Interstellar I	Lew Pulsipher	5	E	sg11/0n
047 Interstellar II	Lew Pulsipher	-	E	sg12/0n
009 Intimate Dip Ia	A.Baird,S.Doubleday,S.Wyatt,G.Hawes	1	E	rx03/02
152 Intimate Stab	?	2	E	rx?/02
142 Invasions Barbares	J-Ph Musarella	3	F	?/07
058 Irish Dip	Colin Walsh	1	E	rr05/21
170 Irish Dip II	Mark Nelson *	1	E	rr20/07
143 Islam	Max Feron	6	F	?/07
144 Jumble	?	2	F	?/0n
108 Karma League	Jeremy Maiden	1	E	rs29/07
207 Killtest-Team Dip	Andy Mansfield	1	E	rt08/06
095 Kriegsmarine	Andy Phillips		E	cm01/07
190 Landbridge II	Lee A. Kendter, Jr.	2	E	cb49/07
107 Leaders (or Heroes)	L.Pulsipher, F.C. Davis, Jr.	1	E	rn24/0n
187 Lebling Variant	Dave Lebling	1	E	rb11/07
072 Legalese Dip	P. McDonald, A. England	2	E	rb51/07
145 LiMa (1-6)	C.Hemming,M.Liesnard,J-P.Macedoni	15	F	\$\$
203 LiMa 3	M.Liesnard,J-P.Macedoni	2	FE	xm17/10
204 LiMa 5	M.Liesnard,J-P.Macedoni	1	FE	xm18/10
027 Mad Dip	Jon Lovibond	1	E	rv04/07

The Spice of Life - 1

Nom	La Variantothèque belge. Auteur	P	L	Catalog#
026 M.A.D. Dip	Graham Tunncliffe	2	E	rn12/07
188 Dip Malheureusement Définitivement Sabotée. Ch. Matriche		1	F	??/07
146 Mare Nostrum Annos ?	C.Szigetvari, M.Lambotte	3	F	?/07
201 Masters of the Vortex	R. Egan, A. Bate	1	E	ug15/08
178 Medieval Dip II	Andrew England	2	E	ma04/06
208 Men who would be King	Jimmy Walker	5	E	pe06/10
166 Mercator-Definitive	Doug Wakefield	16	E	gp18/13
165 Middle Earth II	Don Miller	2	E	tw01/05
165 Middle Earth V	Lew Pulsipher	2	E	ta02/07
060 Middle Earth VIII	Lew Pulsipher	2	E	ta04/08
093 Milan	John Norris	2	E	cm04/07
213 Minefield Dip	George Beccaloni	1	E	??/07
167 1st Mithridatic War	Mark Nelson *	2	E	??/05
199 Mobtown II	Steve Agar	2	E	uu14/06
025 Multiplicity	Richard Walkerdine	1	E	rm05/07
007 Napoleon	Steve Agar	2	E	hn05/05
097 Napoleonic Dip	A. Calhamer	1	E	rf03/05
194 Norman Europe	Gerald Drews	2	E	mc03/07
070 North America 2020	Glenn Overby	5	E	na02/07
071 Nuclear Dip 4	M. Nelson, J. Norris	1	E	rn29/07
024 Omnibus Dip	C. Turner	9	E	ch01/07
193 Dip. Ondulatoire	Dany Haas.	6	F	??/04-08
041 Original 1958	Allan Calhamer	2	E	cb05/07
187 Pacifist Dip	Nicky Palmer	1	E	rb48/07
023 Persian II	M. Janta-Polczynski	8	E	cb14/07
150 Petroleum	Thierry Luca	3	F	?/07
187 Plague II	Adam Gruen	1	E	rb49/07
183 Post Atomic Dip	Fred Hemmings	1	E	qr03/07
151 Pourquoi Pas?	Charles Turquin	3	F	?/07
086 Ptolmaic Dip	Pete Berlin	1	E	uc01/07
022 Quantum Space	T.A. McCloud	1	E	ud01/0n
105 Quête-Frite Runique	M.Liesnard	9	FE	qr01/08
021 Range War	Colin Bruce	2	E	ns06/08
106 Rather Silly Dip.	(Débilité) Jeremy Maiden		F	vj07/11
020 Raymond Luxury Yacht	Glenn Miles	1	E	vj18/07
019 Republic	Der Garvey	2	E	pi05/05
104 Rhinocéros Sacré I-3	M. Liesnard	8	FEN	xd01-03/7
147 Roi et ses Généraux	C-A. Brouwers	1	F	?/29-41
103 Scramble for Africa	David Watts	3	E	dc01/08
155 Sexomatie revisited	Daniel Clamot	2	F	?/07
197 Slightly democratic Dip	Guy Thomas	1	E	rb60/07
001 Small World IIR	Fred C. Davis, Jr.	4	E	gf08/08
115 Song of the Night	Lew Pulsipher	7	E	fn02/02-07
073 Stab	Andy Evans	3	FE	rd? /07
081 Stock Dip	Craig Nye, S. Doubleday	1	E	rm37/07
101 Struggle for Hegemony	Lew Pulsipher	9	E	hc04/04-07
195 Succedaneum	Mark Berch	2	E	rb20/07
079 Superbourse	Richard Sharp	1	E	ub07/0n

T h e S p i c e o f L i f e - 1

Nom	La Variantothèque belge. Auteur	P	L	Catalog#
181 Superfluid Dip II	Andrew Poole	3	E	cb40/03-08
187 Supply Centres I	Gareth Simon	1	E	rb33/07
187 Supply Centres II	Gareth Simon	1	E	rb34/07
127 Suvorov Dip	John Norris	1	E	cb45/07
136 Sword and Sorcery II	Lei Saarlainen	3	F	fn?/07
212 Ten Man Dip	Keith Black	1	E	rm17/10
211 Ten Player Dip	?	1	E	rm60/10
186 Terroriste International	Claude Bourles	2	F	?/07
182 There are Aliens...	Paul Willey	1	E	rm28/08
100 Time Lords	Steve Doubleday	1	E	rd17/07
099 Treachery	M.Janta-Polczynski	1	E	rb28/07
148 Tridiplomacy	Jean Mauviel	2	F	?/11
056 Tri-State Variant	Rick Brooks	1	E	rs15/11
075 Triumverate	Richard Vedder	3	E	ar02/05
080 Troubleshooter II?	Dermot Garvey	2	E	ub02/0N
003 Twin Earths I	Don Miller	2	FE	rs16/07
172 Twin Earths III	Lew Pulsipher	1	E	rm11/14
175 Two-plus Diplomacy	Pete Calcraft	1	E	rz04/03-06
006 U-Boat	Barry Evans	3	E	cb37/07
002 Ultra Stab	Malc Brown, Paul Prebble	1	E	rd11/07
074 Universal Stab	Steve Agar	2	E	rd09/07
157 Vain Rats-Definitive	Mark Nelson *		E	?/?
200 Vain Star	Andy Bate	2	E	rm67/07
179 Viking Dip II	Jim Ronson	2	E	pz02/05
162 Viking Dip III?	Ian Whitchurch	1	E	?/07
016 Woolworth IID	Glenn Overby, F. C. Davis, Jr.	5	E	cb19/05
169 World War III	Scott Resenburg	2	E	qp02/08
205 Youngstown IIb	Rod Walker, Burt Labelle	4	FE	xm01/10
004 Youngstown Package	Various.	19	F	\$\$

PBM games in the Belgian Varianthothèque.

Name:	Author:	P	L
Acquire Postal	Ch. Losberger	3	F
Asmanie	G. Humbert	7	F
Asmanie 2	G. Humbert	3	F
Basket	F. Abrassart	6	F
Battle	R. Ashby	2	E
Champagne électorale	Th. Spicher	1	F
Circus Maximus	?	2	E
Civilisation	?	13	F
Civilisatin bis	?	9	F
Cluedo	?	4	F
Conquérants	Max Feron	12	F
Diadoques	J.M. Zaninetti	12	F
Double-Jeu	P. Lafontaine	2	F
En Garde!	?	55/32	FE
En Garde! (Waterloo)	P. Dumont	9	F
Executive Decision	Ch. A. Brouwers	2	F
Football	A.Parr, K.Dolata	7	FE
Germaines	Max Feron	2	F
Grande Boucle I	E.Joustra,D.Bleecke,H.Nishof-Jacobs	6	F
Grande Boucle II	idem	9	F
Grande Boucle III	F. Abrassart	6	F
Hare & Tortoise	D.Parlett,Mike Dean	2	E
Holocauste	Michel Feron	7	F
Horse Racing	Ch. Burrows	5	E
Indoor Soccer	F. Abrassart	22	F
Influence Mondiale 2	Ch. Barot	66	F
In-Hu-Dhao (Ho)	G. Humbert	11	F
Les Jeux du Cirque	Ch. Losberger	3	F
Jugement à l'Auberge	du Joyeux Condamné P. Cretton	39	F
Jungle Game	R.C.Bell	1	FE
Kingmaker	A. McNeil	21	E
Machievelli	?	33	F
Madame Guillotine	Ch. Ruffle	9	F
Monopoly Postal	?	1	F
Monopoly Postal II	?	3	F
NFL Bourse	A.Bate,R.Clyne	1	E
Nomic	?	2	E
Omega	?	1	F
Origins of WWII	?	5	FE
Place de la Bourse	M.Vié	2	F
Postal Green Things	D. Wilson G. Roberts	5	E
Postal Finchley Central	R. Bairstow	1	E
Postal Source of the Nile	D. Wilson	5	E
Push Ball	R. Ashley	1	E
Psychos(h)occer	A.Parr, K. Dolata	6	F
Rivaux du Rail	D.G. Watts	13	FE
Rois de Perdition	J.P. Moreau	10	F
Sopwith			E
Ts'in	M. Laine, Max Feron	11	F
L'unité de l'empire	M. Laine, Max Feron	41	F
Vitriol	Pete Fayers	1	F
White Box	J. Jacobs	2	E
Zine Poll Bourse	A. Bate, R. Walkerdine	1	E

The NAVB Category List 1989:

This list has been abstracted from the NAVB catalogue 1989 and lists alphabetically the categories and subcategories of all the variants theoretically available. This is intended to aid the reader in obtaining further information concerning a particular variant if the catalogue number is known. It will also enable the reader to obtain variants not yet available in the LVB.

All the variants which have been classified fall into one of the following categories. (It maybe noted that the double small letter prefix is used as the Miller number prefix - given to variants played in the zines.)

A. Ancient Period (to 475 A.D.)

- ab. Britain.
- ac. Carthage, Rome and the Greek east.
- ag. Greece.
- ai. Persian Empire.
- ap. Palestine
- ar. Roman Empire.

B. Biosphere Games.

- be. Evolution.
- bs. Survival.

C. Modifications of the Basic Games (Europe, 1900-1918 with Changes to both Maps and Rules) Essentially based on the Regular Board.

- ca. Alternate world, different great powers.
- cb. Changes to both map and rules
(average complexity).
- cc. High complexity rules
- ce. One extra power added.
- cg. One giant power added.
- ch. High complexity map.
- cm. Minor changes to map only.
- cn. Two extra great powers added.
- cs. I: Series of identical regular maps, used for different eras. (Sold as a package)
II: Irregular diplomacy for 4-6 players.
- ct. Team game on modified board.
- cv. Changing values for supply centres.

D. Africa

- da. Pre-colonial period (-1860).
- dc. Colonial period (c.1861-1960)
- dm. Modern period (1961-).

E. Asia and Middle East.

- ea. All Asia.
- ec. China.
- ee. East Asia.
- ei. India.
- ej. Japan
- em. Middle East.
- es. Southeast Asia.

F. Fantasy Settings (see 'T' for Tolkien variants)

- fa. Kregen.
- fb. Barsoom.
- fc. Chronicles (of Thomas Covenant).
- fd. Darlana.
- fe. Earthsea.
- ff. Dune.
- fh. Conan's World (The Hyborian Age)
- fl. C.S. Lewis (Narnia)
- fm. Miscellaneous settings.
- fn. No specific literary setting.
- fv. Dying Earth.
- fw. Witch world.
- fy. The young kingdoms.

G. Global games (See also category U.a)

- ge. Global/ Economic.
- gf. Post 1920 period (including indeterminate dates)
- gh. Pre-1871 period.
- gp. 1871-1920 period.

H. Europe 1501-1900

- ha. 16th Century.
- hb. 17th Century.
- hc. 1701-1789 period.
- hn. Napoleonic period (1789-1815).
- hp. Late 19th Century (1815-1900).
- hx. Indeterminate Date.

L. Central and South America.

- lc. Central America.
- ls. South America.

M. Europe 476-1500 (Medieval)

- ma. 476-900 period.
- mb. 901-1050 period.
- mc. 1051-1200 period.
- md. 1201-1350 period.
- me. 1351-1500 period.
- mi. Indeterminate Date

N. North America

- na. Entire continent.

- ne. Eastern area.
- nm. Mexico.
- np. The early period/Indians.
- ns. One state, province or small region.
- nu. United States.

O. Oceans.

- oa. Map centred on Atlantic Ocean.
- od. Map centred on Australia and surrounding seas.
- op. Map centred on Pacific Ocean.
- on. Map centred on Antarctic ocean.

P. Portions of Europe (i.e. Includes individual countries)

- pa. Austria-Hungary.
- pb. Southeast (Balkan) region.
- pd. Dutch and Belgian areas.
- pe. British Isles or Great Britain.
- pf. France.
- pg. Germany.
- ph. Iberia.
- pi. Ireland.
- pn. Northwest (England, France, Low Countries).
- pr. Russia (including Siberia).
- ps. Scandinavia.
- pw. Italy.
- pz. North Sea & Baltic Region.

Q. Europe after 1920.

- qf. 1920-1933 period.
- qh. World war II & origins (1934-1945).
- qp. Post WW II (1946-Near future).
- qr. Europe, the far future.

R. Rules revisions using the Regular Board. (with none or minor map changes.)

- ra. Regular rules plus rules for other games.
- rb. Change to one basic component only (short rules)
- rc. Players change rules during game.
- rd. Hidden movement.
- re. Economic games (see cc. and ge.)
- rf. Fewer players: per the rulebook.
- rh. Home centres assigned randomly-large # players.
- rk. Earlier and pirated versions.
- rm. Major revisions (medium complexity)
- rn. New type(s) of unit(s) only.
- rp. Compilations of simple variants.
- rr. Random & chaotic alterations of the map.
- rs. Major revisions with short rules.
- rt. Team games (see ct.)
- ru. Players remake map or map alters progressively.
- rv. Major revisions with long, complex rules.
- rw. Alternate past or future.
- rx. Two players only.

The Spice of Life - 1

- ry. One player only!
- rz. Three players only.

S. Science Fiction & Space.

- sa. Based on the Foundation series by I. Asimov.
- sb. Based on the Spindizzy books by J. Blish.
- sg. Planets, Stars and/or Galaxies.

T. Tolkien based games.

- ta. Angmar period (Third Age).
- tf. First Age.
- tm. Multiple scenarios.
- ts. Super-Sauron (Third Age).
- tw. War of the Ring without Super-Sauron (Third Age)

U. Abstract & Hypothetical Games.

- ua. Alternate World settings; global.
- ub. Stock/Currency market with regular games.
- uc. Map constructed before game.
- ud. Map constructed during game.
- ue. Map discovered during game.
- ug. Geometrical (perfectly balanced) board.
- uh. Hybrid games.
- um. Board is a maze.
- un. No board at all.
- ur. Hypothetical board with random & chaotic changes
- uu. Hypothetical Geographical area.

V. Put-ons, Jokes & Satires.

- vb. Board is a put-on.
- vc. Social satire.
- vg. Gambling, actual funds.
- vh. Hobby put-on.
- vj. Rules are a put-on or a joke.

W. Western Hemisphere.

- wc. Colonial period.

X. Expansions of the regular board.

- xa. Extra abstract or unreal spaces.
- xd. Added area not directly connected to main board.
- xm. Youngstown variants.
- xo. Other designs with large areas added.
- xr. Board and rules changed.

Z. Political Games.

- za. Goal is to win an election.

THE LAST WORD

by Jef Bryant

Phew! At last, the first issue has been completed.

Most of what I wanted to say has already been mentioned by Miguel in the editorial. However, I would like to emphasise that SoL is being simultaneously published in French and English and this should improve communication between the national hobbies which are, unfortunately, still fairly isolated.

The raison d'être of SoL is very simply to promote Diplomacy variants in the best and most practical way possible and to encourage players to participate in them.

In the following issues it is intended to publish articles concerning variants as well as the rules (and maps), initially concentrating on the lesser-known ones emanating from the continental part of Europe.

Other features will include catalogue updates with a short description of the new additions to the LVB. I intend to extract, combine and publish the waiting lists for Diplomacy variants from the francophone (and anglophone!) zines presently published on the continent. Hopefully, the editors concerned will support this service as it is for their benefit as well as for the players: This should enable a player to choose a zine in terms of the variant that he wants to participate in.

Any letters are welcome and, if worthwhile, will be published in a letter column.

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This has been The Spice of Life - 1, a Jim Crint Enterprises production (Belgium) (#17) published by Miguel Lambotte and Jef Bryant in November 1989. The editorial address for enquiries in French is Miguel Lambotte, Rue Wiertz, 39/2, 4000 LIEGE, Belgium and in English is Jef Bryant, Rue Jean Pauly, 121, 4300 ANS, Belgium. All items in these pages are (c) by M. Lambotte and G.A. Bryant with all texts reverting to the originator on publication.
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