



# Saint George

AND THE

# DRAGON



Vol. II, No. 6

May 8, 1977

A Vast Wilderness Publication

Diplomacy is knowing how far to go too far.

-Kirk Kirkpatrick-

Due to a severe headache which has been plaguing me all week-end when I was supposed to be writing this, this introductory page is going to be brief. In fact, this is all there is.

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 Saint George and the Dragon is a journal of postal Diplomacy\* available  
 from: Robert Sergeant, 3242 Lupine Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46224.  
 Ph.(317) 293-9307. Subs \$2.00/10 issues. NO GAME OPENINGS  
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Saint George Speaks

"Bubble gum" Science Fiction



There is currently a trend in television to present an action-adventure series and label it SF because of one element. This type of show is becoming known as "Bubble gum" SF because of the theory that this is SF of the type which appeals to the adolescent. This is fallacious on two counts. Such a show is not SF, nor does it draw most of its audience from teenagers.

What are these shows? Six-Million Dollar Man and Bionic Woman are two examples, and I have heard that Man From Atlantis will be on in the fall as a third. These shows take a science-fictional element, cyborgs or alien intelligence, and essentially waste it as a gimmick for what is really only another spy series. I have seen Six-Million Dollar Man and Man From Atlantis. I have not seen Bionic Woman, but I am sure it follows the pattern of the other two.

The idea of the Cyborg is an interesting one. How does a person learn to adjust to being partly electronic? And from time to time the show does mention there are problems. One whole show presumably dealt with this problem when a second bionic man was created. We know he was having problems because he started robbing banks. But of course, the good guys talked to him, turned down his "super-powers", and he was all right.

In Man from Atlantis, the origin of the Super-hero is unknown. However, it isn't really important. He merely muses about it as he hunts down underwater criminals. There is no prospect for improvement; the show simply isn't intended to be SF.

Science fiction cannot be written by injecting one superfluous element into a non-SF story. A spy story with a Cyborg as the counter-spy is still a spy story. Good SF need not be morally instructive, although some of the best is, but the SF element must be central to the story.

The Planet of the Apes series a few seasons back was not morally instructive. But it was SF. Why? Because the alien element was essential to the idea. Man From Atlantis so far appears as a remake of Sea Hunt.

The question is why we are getting such schlock? I'm afraid the answer is because that is what we want. People who point to the continued popularity of Star Trek overlook the obvious point that Star Trek is in reruns because it failed to maintain a sufficient audience while it was in production. The vocal minority clamoring for the resurrection of Star Trek is simply that, a vocal minority.

The American population does not want great drama, Roots notwithstanding. Charlie's Angels is crap. I am told that with three girls who look like that, the show doesn't have to be well done. Agreed. But does that mean that it has to be poorly done? I think it does. There are essentially two audiences in America. One for Charlie's Angels and Six Million Dollar Man, and one for Star Trek. And unfortunately the former is in the majority.

As someone once said(it escapes me for the moment who), no one ever went broke underestimating the taste of the American people.

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1976JW The Phoenix Fall, 1903  
 ITALY'S IN THE LEAD

Austria(CD) no units  
 England(Heaton) A YOR H, F SWE S Russian F ~~SKA~~-den, F IRI H,  
 F eng-LON  
 France(Machir) F mae-MAO, F spa(sc)-MAO, F BRE S F spa-MAO,  
 A GAS S F BRE, A PIC H, A BEL H  
 Germany(Bunke) F hol-HEL, F NTH S A DEN, A DEN H, A SIL-war  
A GAL-rum, A VIE-bud  
 Italy(Mann II) A TRI S A SRB, A ALB S F ion-GRE, F eas-AEG,  
 A SRB S F ion-GRE, F ion-GRE  
 Russia(Gibson)(A gal r UKR) F nwy-NWG, F SKA-den, A mos-WAR,  
A RUM S A BUD, A BUD S Turkish A gre-srb, F bla-SEV,  
 A UKR S A mos-WAR  
 Turkey(Staud) A gre-srb(d..a) A BUL S A gre-srb, F arm-BLA,  
 F aeg-SMY



Underlined orders cannot be carried out. CAPS denote final resting place of unit. The Turkish army in Greece is annihilated.

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SUPPLY CENTER CHART 1976JW The Phoenix 1903

|          |                                                    |                              |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| AUSTRIA: | <del>g/b</del> , <del>g/b</del> .....              | 0, out                       |
| ENGLAND: | edi, lvp, len, nwy, SWE.....                       | 5, build 1                   |
| FRANCE:  | bel, bre, mar, par, por, spa.....                  | 6, even                      |
| GERMANY: | ber, den, hol, kie, mun, vie.....                  | 6, even                      |
| ITALY:   | rom, nap, tri, tun, ven, GRE, SRB.....             | 7, even                      |
| RUSSIA:  | bud, mos, rum, stp, sev, <del>g/b</del> , war..... | 6, remove 1                  |
| TURKEY:  | ank, bul, con, smy.....                            | 4, build 1,<br>1 annihilated |

Spring, 1904 moves will be due with Winter, 1903 and may be made conditional upon it.

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1976JW PRESS--

Turkey(No dateline): Et tu Italia ?

Russia(No dateline) Now that it's been revealed: that Hauptmann was innocent and the Lindbergh baby is a healthy, prosperous man; all western Europe was populated by Israelite tribes who left Egypt before Moses was even born((I thought we were still keeping that secret)); the Iroquois-Cherokee tribes were an Irish colony and the Algonquins-Judean and the Carib-Hohokan-sioux-Keresan were Greek Pan-worshipers; that humanity is a cross between Venusian Astronauts, Neanderthal Sasquatch, and Australopithecus Agogwe like "Oliver"; the Star of Bethlehem was a spaceship from Orion; Elijah went off in a UFO; Jesus went in an ion-cloud UFO; what's so fantastic about our redoing history starting with 1901 ?  
 Ivan the Trader

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1976BM

Cyclops

Fall, 1905

FRANCE STABS ENGLAND AND ITALY



Austria(Muchnik) A MUN S Russian A ber-KIE, A BOH S A MUN  
 A tyo-PIE, F ion-NAP, f nap-ROM, A TUS S F nap-ROM, A VEN  
 S F nap-ROM, F adr-ION, a con-BUL  
 England(Deehrer) A den h(d..a), F SKA S A den, F NTH-lon  
 France(Levy) A naf-TUN, F LYO S F mao-WES, F mao-WES,  
F WAL-lon, A HOL S A BEL, A BEL S A HOL, A BUR S A MAR,  
 A MAR S A BUR  
 Italy(Kelly) A rem(d..r apu, otb)S F TYN-tus, F TYN-tus  
 Russia(Bresslour) A arm-SEV, F ank-ARM, F bar-NWG, A NWY S  
 F SWE, A kie-DEN, F HEL S A kie-DEN, F SWE S A ike-DEN,  
 A ber-KIE, a pru-BER, A par(nsu) regrets that it does not  
 exist(In Summer, 1905 F den R HEL)

Underlined orders cannot be carried out. CAPS denote final resting place of unit. Italy must retreat the army from Rome, though it is a moot point. The English army in Denmark is annihilated. COA: Bart Levy, 4416 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

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| SUPPLY CENTER CHART                                                        | 1976BM | Cyclops | 1905                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------------------------|
| AUSTRIA: bud, bul, con, gre, mun, nap, srb, tri,<br>ven, vie, ROM.....     |        |         | 11, build 2 was 1 short  |
| ENGLAND: edi, <del>X16</del> , lon.....                                    |        |         | 2, even, 1 annih.        |
| FRANCE: bel, bre, hol, lvp, mar, par, per, spa,<br>TUN.....                |        |         | 9, build 1               |
| ITALY: <del>X16</del> , <del>X17</del> .....                               |        |         | 0, out                   |
| RUSSIA: ank, ber, den, mos, nwy, rum, stp, sev,<br>smy, swe, war, KIE..... |        |         | 12, build 3, was 2 short |

\*\*\*\*\*  
 DEADLINE FOR WINTER, 1905 AND SPRING, 1906 IS JUNE 11, 1977 12NOON CDT  
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1976BM PRESS--

Oslo(October 17, 1905, Russian Information for the People, RIP)  
 Fyodor Roszak, the out-spoken Russian Ambassador to this Russian-occupied, English-ruled nation, announced today that the proposed billion dollar Russian grant to Norway was all set. The grant, meant to provide Norway with 10,000 badly needed lunch counters, will revolutionize the Norwegian way of life. Roszak said the grant amounted to "the makings of a counter-culture."

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1977??

Cerberus

Winter, 1900



Austria: Richard M. Kehrer, 337 S. Lakeview, Derby, KS 67037  
England: John L. Machir, 2553 Holman Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910

France: Jim Fiack, Rt. 1, Box 430, Glenn, CA 95943

Germany: Tom Johnston, 330 N. Elmer, Griffith, IN 46319

Italy: David J. Bunke, 5512 Julmar Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45238

Russia: John Michalski, 913 NE Sixth St., Moore, OK 73160

Turkey: Mike McManus, 5101 48th Ave., N., Crystal, MN 55429

**CERBERUS**

A Boardman number is herewith requested. Until I get one, please refer to this game by its House Name: Cerberus. For those not mythology fans, Cerberus was the three-headed dog who guarded the Gates of Hell. This will be the last Diplomacy game I shall open for some time.

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DEADLINE FOR SPRING, 1901 IS JUNE 11, 1977 12:00 NOON CDT

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1976IF

Leviathan

Winter, 1902

A; builds A BUD, E: Builds F LVP, R: builds A WAR, A SEV,  
T: builds A COM

Spring, 1903

**TURKS PULL DIPLOMATIC COUP AS BALKANS BURN**

Austria(Nurse) F GRE S Turkish F eas-ION, A pie-TYO, A TRI  
S A pie-TYO, A BUD-gal, A srb-rum(d..r alb, otb)

England(Charnley) A LON H, F nth-EDI, F LVP-nae

France(Hazel) A bur-MAR, A PIC-bur, A bre-WAL, F ENG C  
A bre-WAL, F NAO-lvp

Germany(Berch) A ber-KIE, F DEN H, A hol-BEL, A RUH S  
A hol-BEL, A MUN-bur

Italy(Agosta) A VEN H, A APU S A VEN, F tun-ion(nsu),  
F NAP H(U), F ion-ADR

Russia(McLendon) A WAR-gal, A RUM S Turkish A bul-SRB,  
F BLA S A RUM, A sev-UKR, F swe-SKA, F nwy-NWG, A fin-SWE

Turkey(Mann II) F eas-ION, F AEG S F eas-ION, A bul-SRB,  
A con-BUL



**LEVIATHAN**

Underlined orders cannot be carried out. CAPS denote final resting place of unit. The Austrian army must be retreated from Serbia. Fall orders may be made conditional upon the Austrian retreat. Your GM has asked me to change your deadline day due to his softball commitment. It will now be Monday. Press should be on page 9.

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DEADLINE FOR FALL, 1903 IS JUNE 6, 1977 6:30 PM CDT

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1976BA PRESS (continued)

(Budapest) you promised me all of Italy and delivered me Tuscany. In 1905, you promised me Naples and barely delivered Apulia, nearly losing Venice to boot. Now it is 1906 and we stand before the Gates of Rome like Hannibal. Only Like Hannibal, you shrink at the thought of a battle for it...Fool ! I tell you, the time for preparations is past. I am at patience's end with your excuses, even as Europe, whose memory is short, is tiring of our just cause and weary of this dragging war. I must have Rome, NOW !"

"But Emperor, I beg you. I cannot see the way clear ! Whatever I choose she can counter, and she always does. She always guesses my stratagems and replies perfectly. Please let me clear Piedmont first.."

"Impossible ! There is no time. Have you no imagination or spirit ? She is merely lucky, not infallible. That can be undone easily enough. What are the options for the attack ?"

"Emperor, there are two: attack from Venice supported by Tuscany, or vice versa. Either can be blocked only by an attack from Piedmont... and whichever one I choose, will be !"

"Bah ! Have you a coin ?"

"?"

"A coin, a coin, get a coin !...Good. Now at the command, you shall toss it in the air and let it drop to the floor. 'Heads' we shall call for Tuscany; 'tails' we shall nominate Venice. Set ?...Now !"

Hinckendorff tossed the coin into the air and it arced high towards the ceiling and then dropped to the carpet with a barely perceptible clink. The General sprung to his feet and bustled around a second chair to read it.

"Heads," he called out. "So we attack from Tuscany, then."

"Hardly that, General Hinckendorff. The Italian Empress is nothing, if no fortunate, in her treachery. It would be just her trick to out-guess a coin. You will prepare to attack against Rome from Venice ! Let her outguess the coin...and then let her outguess the coin..and then let her outguess us too..if she can !"

1976R PRESS (continued)

(Smyrna) "Oh, hell ! So you're an Austrian collaborator. You will be shot tomorrow at daybreak.!" This astounded reporter asked him how he could do this to his own mother. "My mother? That's my wife. I was wondering how to get her out of the house," he replied as a line of troop-carriers disgorged his harem of Russian, Austrian and Italian beauties.

Berlin(26 September, 1906) Joy and jubilation swept through the capital city in the wake of the news that the Russian government had at last fallen, after six long years of war. German armies moved to subdue the population centers and surrounding countryside, thereby securing the Eastern Front. Some dissidents spread rumors that the war in the east had been won at the cost of jeopardizing the safety of German citizens closer to home. Official government sources refused to comment on the close proximity of Austrian and French forces to the homeland.

Ruhr(31 August, 1906) A secret diplomatic pouch from Germany to France was intercepted here. It contained the message: It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees.

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1976IF PRESS

Austria: The Austrian Empress shall never rest until the Italian hoods are pushed out of their homeland.

Austria to Russia: With your neutrality and the greatest respect we shall battle on with Italy.

Austria to all other countries: We commend you for the CARE packages, which you have sent to Italy, as we are an honorable people and wish no country to feel deserted by the world. We are pleased that they are on the rise as it is difficult to fight a country when it is down. Or perhaps the Empress was talking about her husband.

Berlin(May 3, 1903) The Kaiser's Guild of Lawyers, Montebanks, and Clowns perused the new feudal code with perspicacity and mirth. What would happen if the players of 1976IF conspired to keep the Winter, 1902 supply center totals thru 1903 & 1904?((You would be bored and the game would be over a declared 7-way draw)) Or failing that, the Winter, 1903 totals thru 1904 & 1905 ? Under one rule the game "will", not "may" be drawn ! However, another rule bans the drawing of games before 1906 ((It bans the players from drawing it, NOT the GM))(tee, hee !) Thus, the game would be drawn and also not drawn. This would be a postal first!!! ((A note on this..I am not the only GM to have this combination of rules. The one which bans voted draws before 1906 is to encourage players to hang in the game and not accept a multiple draw they really don't have to. The other rule is to prevent a player, through refusing to vote on a draw proposal, from keeping a stale-mated game from ending.))

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MINSTREL'S LAY

Slave

by Bart Levy



While in the city, it came to me that I must have a slave to do those things for which I had no time. All I need, I thought, was a pair of strong hands and a clear and trustworthy face. I bought a slave.

He gave me little cause for concern, rather I derived pleasure from the show of wealth which the slave did afford me, all was well. Slave, as I called him, was well treated and gave me good service for next to nothing.

My heart was broken when I discovered that Slave had stolen from me. Though my disbelief soon turned to rage, I kept silent. It is damnable, I thought, that for my expense such should be my fortune.

I dared not to beat him, for despite his appearance, Slave was fragile and I am no murderer. Though what he had stolen had been amongst the prize possessions of my father and my father's father, I could not dismiss him, I would appear too frivolous. I decided to hide him, to keep him behind the scenes,

(continued on page 10)

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to call him only when there was work to be done, be it my bidding or that of others. It gave me great delight to let him work for others, nonetheless, I was repulsed by him, the thief. He seemed to know all along that I knew and he seemed not to care. Day after day he mocked me face to face.

A year passed. One morning upon awakening, I made a quick accounting of that which was mine and found that, once again, I had been stolen from. I shook my head in disgust and wondered how much more of this I was to endure. I went to Slave's resting place to start him on his daily chores as I did every morning. On this morning, to my horror, Slave lay cold and dead. Evidence provided that he had died only moments after I had dozed into slumber that night. I cursed at the thought of now owning a dead slave-thief. But wait ! Where was the loot that he had stolen from me ? Knowing his whereabouts as I did, I resolved that Slave could not have stolen from me that night. In time it became clear that Slave had never been a thief and had served me faithfully to know nothing but my cold stare and silent injustice as a reward.

I'll need another, I murmured to myself. I picked Slave up from where he lay as I did every morning. I buckled him to my wrist and held him up to my ear. He did not hum softly this morning. Yes, I'll certainly need another.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer and owned by Avalon Hill Co.  
\*\*\*\*\*

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\_\_\_\_ Player  
\_\_\_\_ Trade  
\_\_\_\_ Sub

FIRST CLASS MAIL/FIRST CLASS MAIL