

MEMBER OF TDA, IDA, DNYMPA, AND MITSGS

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A tetracuspid is the graph of an equation of the form $x^{2/3} + y^{2/3} = a$. The TETRACUSPID is a Diplomacy* oriented zine published on the last Friday of every month by Richard Kovalcik, Jr., Room G316, 450 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139 who may occasionally be reached by calling (617) 253 1000 any day of the week between noon and midnight and asking for dormline 5-9336.

Subscriptions are available at the rate of 1¢ per page plus postage. When subscribing please specify how you want me to mail your issues to you (e.g. First Class, Airmail, Printed Matter, or Third Class) and send a lump sum of at least \$2.00. Please make all checks payable to me. Send cash at your own risk.

I have gameopenings in one game of regular Diplomacy which will in all probability be guest-GMed. The houserules used will be the Koval Publications' Houserules dated July 1st, 1976 with the exception that no phone calls will be permitted. To play you must maintain a subscription or trade, pay a \$2.00 gamefee, and maintain a \$3.00 deposit which will, as stated in the houserules, be deposited in the ISE (International Subscription Exchange). This deposit will only be refunded if you stay in the game until you are eliminated or the game ends. Please send me your preference list and a lump sum of money if you want to play.

Standbys are needed. To be eligible to standby the only requirement is that you regularly receive the TETRACUSPID. If you're interested in standbys please let me know.

*Diplomacy is the registered trademark for the game invented by Allan B. Calhamer and manufactured by Avalon Hill, Inc.

Peter A. Berggren
John Boardman
Fred Brenner
Greg Costikyan
Robert Goldman
Ben Grossman
Adam Gruen

Brad Hessel
Ray Heuer
Bob Lipton
Drew McGee
Michael Muchnik
Doug Reif

[illegible]

(1) This issue is only one week late. This is pretty good in view of the facts that recent issues have been about three weeks late on the average and that I was away for a week and a half at the end of July.

(2) On the masthead you will see "JULY 30TH, 1976 / AUGUST 6TH, 1976". This means that this issue should have been out on July 30th, 1976 but instead come out around August 6th, 1976. This notation will be used in the future whenever an issue is late.

(3) The adjudications for my games in the EXPONENT are included in this issue. This is being done primarily to show the TETRACUSPID to the players in those games.

(4) Standbys are desperately needed. I currently have no one on my standby list.

(5) If anyone out there is interested in taking over an orphan game please let me know as I may have orphan games to transfer from time to time as Games Compensation Officer of THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION. So far Jim Benes has expressed an interest in taking over an orphan game.

(6) On the next page is a copy of an open letter to the hobby which was drafted at Dipcon in Baltimore. This letter is followed by an account of my experiences at Dipcon.

(7) The next issue will probably be all games and comments by me unless I get some outside contributions. Please write!!!

[illegible]

A new zine which has just recently crossed my desk is The Watergate which is published by Ron Kelly, # 120, 225 Virginia Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20061 and edited by Cliff A. Mann, II, 8 Armor Green, SW, Washinton, DC 20032. Issue # 2 contained 2 games, plugs, a tactics article, a letter to the editor, and an article on press releases. In my opinion this zine has great potential. Send an SSAE to Cliff Mann for a sample issue.

The IDA General Meeting at Origins II unanimously agreed that the restructuring of the IDA is vital to its continued existence as a hobby service organization. The IDA depends too heavily on the president and editor. Nonetheless the IDA has expanded its non-working legislative and judicial bodies until there are 13 members on the Council and 13 on the Judicial Committee.

Even if the IDA could survive as two debating factions, we cannot expect a few people to work while the rest talk. If present conditions continue, the IDA will collapse.

We believe that this is not just a solution, but the only solution. The IDA cannot continue in its present form. A revised and healthy IDA is needed to work for the hobby.

We, the undersigned, urge all IDA members, and all members of the hobby, to support the general meeting's proposal for a new IDA.

Lewis Pulizko Walter Buchanan Leroy Schuman
John Boyer Robert Lytle Roger D. Allen
Tony Bayless Marie Bayless Walter Kasper
Howard Walker John M. Baker Peter Ruppel
Tim Tilson Richard A. Lewis Michael Roseman
J. W. Bura Sweetwater 36 Hessel
C. White Root Locks

D I P C O N

Another Dipcon has come and gone. This one was held in conjunction with Origins II at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. This Dipcon was my first but hopefully not my last. All in all I would say that Dipcon was very good and quite enjoyable. Of course there were minor problems (e.g. Robert Sacks, tournament rules problems, name calling, and so on) but fortunately no major problems. The three major events at Dipcon of interest to the Diplomacy Hobby were the Diplomacy seminar, the Diplomacy tournament, and the IDA General Meeting (sic). Also of interest was the exhibit hall featuring booths from various companies.

At the exhibit hall I picked up one of the first Avalon Hill Diplomacy sets in bookcase format. The game was frankly not all that I had hoped for. The board certainly is more convenient than the GRI board. However, it fails to show that the Eastern Mediterranean borders on the Ionian. Fortunately Avalon Hill listed this error on the back of the rulebook. Another problem was that the postal Diplomacy flier was incredibly out of date. In fact the flier is exactly the same as the GRI flier which was in the game I bought over a year ago. I hope that something is done about this fast. One nice thing about the new set is the inclusion of a short summary of the rules. The rulebook is exactly the same as the GRI rulebook with the exception of the errata listed on the back cover which I've previously mentioned and the change of the copyright on the front cover. Also at the exhibit hall I ran into Rick Loomis at the Flying Buffalo booth. We discussed using computers to run wargames. Flying Buffalo uses its computer to run Nuclear Destruction by mail. They do not run Diplomacy by computer however (Tony Pandin are you listening?) as they felt it wasn't worth the trouble. Their Diplomacy games are run by carbon copy.

The Diplomacy seminar took place Saturday morning before the tournament and was very well attended. It featured talks by John Boardman, Walt Buchanan, Doug Beyerlein, and Edi Birsan. Unfortunately Allan B. Calhmer the inventor of the game did not show up. John Boardman started the seminar with a talk on the very early history of the hobby and the invention of the Boardman numbers. John Boardman also mentioned early press releases and the hoax to the effect that Conrad von Metzke was really the one who founded the hobby. If my memory serves me correct next came Doug Beyerlein who talked about the history of the Boardman numbers. He was followed by Walt Buchanan who talked about the later history of the hobby and the Hoosier Archives. The final speaker was Edi Birsan, the ex-President of the IDA. He first spoke about how to make Turkey lose. He felt this was necessary as Turkey did quite well in the Origins' Diplomacy tournament last year. Needless to say Turkey didn't do that well this year. After that he mentioned the correct way to pronounce his name which brought up the humorous affair he had with Buddy Tretick.

The Diplomacy tournament started later that afternoon. It was a two round affair whereby each contestant got one point for each supply center he held, one point for each player who had the same country in that round he did better than, and three points if he

placed in the top board of the second round. The games lasted eight game years or until a specific time. Prizes were awarded to the top two players overall and the player who did best with each country. First place went to Tom Reape and second place went to Bill Stone. Tom Reape had 56 tournament points and Bill Stone 55. The best showing overall was a 17 center Austria. In my opinion there were several problems with the rules. First of all, there was a board in the first round which consisted of Chuck Weber, Bernie Agosta, Lew Pulsipher, Edi Birsan, Pat Walker, Mark Orman, and Stan Wrobel. This board was supposedly organized because there was one person who wanted to play after the nineteenth board was organized. I think this board was highly unfair because there were three people in the game who knew each other very well (Birsan, Pulsipher, and Wrobel). This violated one of the tournament rules to the effect that people who knew each other would not be placed in the same game wherever possible. Also Edi Birsan and Stan Wrobel were tournament directors and I feel should not have been playing in their own tournament. Edi Birsan claims that this game was run for the benefit of the player left over after the nineteenth board. However, I feel that things could have been arranged differently so that at least Pulsipher, Birsan, and Wrobel played in different games. Another problem was that of the 3 point advantage to people playing in the top board on the second round. This was done because the tournament directors felt that play in the top board would be significantly harder than that of any other board. I beg to differ with this. I was playing in the third board of the second round and it was pretty tough. Things happened in that game that I don't think would have happened had it been the last board in the second round. Still another problem was the way in which some of the second round games ended. There wasn't enough time to play most of the games until Winter 1908 so many of them were called at the end of the time limit. The problem was that if a game was ended after a spring season the preceeding fall's supply center chart was used in computing the tournament results. I feel that if certain games were played to completion or if the supply center standings after the last season were used the tournament results would have changed.

The IDA general meeting was held Saturday night. The only thing of hobby wide importance that occurred at that meeting was the formation of a Constitutional Drafting Committee to write a new IDA Constitution. This was done because most people thought that the IDA had to be reformed. By the end of the weekend the new constitution was written and an open letter to the hobby (which can be found on page 3 of this issue) was drafted. As you can see various Postal Diplomacy players including myself signed this letter. The new constitution calls for a five man conseil which hopefully will be able to get more done. This constitution has been submitted to the IDA membership for ratification.

All in all the weekend was quite enjoyable. I met many people I had been wanting to meet. Hopefully I'll be at Dipcon next year and maybe I'll see you there.

THE END

1975BLfh

CONTINUED

OTTOMAN EMPIRE (KARL SCHUETZ)

FAEG S FEMD - ION
 ALIB S FTYR - TUN
 AKAS - MAH
 ABAG - PER
 ASIN - KHA
 FEMD - ION
 FPNG - ARS
 FTYR - TUN
 AGRE H
 AOMA H

PORTUGAL (RICHARD WARE)

ABHA S AJUN - VDG
 ALAG S FLIS
 AOPO S FLIS
 FLIS S ALAG
 AJUN - VDG
 FANG - KAL
 ANYA - NAL
 ASZE H
 FAZO H

RUSSIA (RUSSELL FOX)

AMAN S AMON - CHN
 AORE S AVAN - MTA
 FSWE - DEN/IMP/
 FCAL - MEX(WC)
 AVAN - MTA
 AKIE - MOS
 AMON - CHN
 FCRI - BLA
 FEPC - GOT
 FURA - SIB
 APTD H

SPAIN (???)

FFIJ H/is dislodged and must
 retreat to COR, NWZ, SLS,
 TAR, or OTB/
FTUN H/is dislodged and must
 retreat to ALG, WMD, or
 OTB/
 AARG, AHUE, AMEX, AMRC, ATEX,
 FMNL, and FSOG all UOH

*The way I interpret the map SKA separates DEN from SWE. Any opinions?

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

A - BAV, BUD, COL, ECU, NAP, POL, PRA, SOM, TAN, TRI, VIE,
 MAL, MOZ, PSA, VZA. +4.
 E - AUS, BTL, CON, FIJ, LIV, LON, LOU, NIG, NWY, VIR,
 FLA, KAM, RUA, SAM. +4.
 F - BOR, DAK, MAH, MTA, PAR, PDY, PPS, QUE, SAV, TOU, VOL,
 GHA, ICE, ONT, SEN. +4.
 N - ANT, BLM, CPC, HAG, HAN, JAV, SUM, SUR, UTR, DEN,
 VZA. +1 or +2.
 O - AFG, BAG, CNP, DAM, EGY, IZM, JER, PER, SOF, YEM,
 KHA, OMA, TUN. +3.
 P - ANG, BRA, COC, LAG, LIS, MAC, OPO, VAG, ZAM,
 AZO, BHA, NAL, SZE, VDG. +5.
 R - ALA, AMU, CAL, CRT, HAW, IRK, KIE, MOS, ORE, PTD, SWE,
 CHN, MAN, VAN. +3.
 S - CAD, IFN, MAD, MEX, MNL, TAR, TEX, TUN, VAL,
 ARG, MRC, NWZ???. +2 or +3 or +4.

NMR PROTECTION

I have winter orders on file from the Ottoman Empire.
 I have general orders on file from Austria, England, and Portugal.
 I have permission from Russell Fox, Gene Prosnitz, and Richard
 Ware to call collect if I don't receive their orders.

SPRING 1905

(1) Fall 1905 orders are due to me by Friday September 3rd, 1976.

FAeg S RUSSIAN FEas - Ion/NSO/, FGre S RUSSIAN FEas - Ion/NSO/,
AMos S AWar, AWar S AMos, ABoh - Gal, ASer - Bud, ASev - Rum.
 (7 units)

FEng - Nth is dislodged and must retreat to L. on ... OTB/
FDen - Kie, FBar - Nwg, ASwe H. (3 or 4 units)

FBre S FPic - Eng, ABel S AHol, AHol S ABel, AGas - Spa, APar - Gas,
FMid - Iri, FPic - Eng. (7 units)

AKie - Mun, ASil - Mun, APru - Sil, FEdi - Nth. (4 units)

FION S RUSSIAN FSmy - Aeg/NSO/, FAdr S FION, ATyl - Vie, AVie - Bud,
Aven - Tri. (5 units)

ASyr - Arm, FBot - StP(sc), FEas - Syr, FSmy - Con. (4 units)

I have no permission from Eric Verheiden to call collect if I don't get his orders.

(Vienna, er Budapest) When last we watched Mary Hartman, Mary had just met this handsome Prince from Wein, who was named Ron. This did not thrill Mary's husband, who hired a professional killer to get rid of Ron. Meanwhile, Ron M., her secret lover, was knifed on his way home from work.

What does all this mean? Nothing. But, it does fill up space which would otherwise be empty. ((Not quite))

(Serbia) It is with sad hearts that we must announce the passing of King/Emperor Ronald of Vienna. His heir, Russell, will now take over for his ex-majesty.

[illegible]

SPRING 1904

(1) Fall 1904 orders are due to me by Friday September 3rd, 1976.

CONTINUED

FGre S FAIb - Ion, ABul - Con, ASer - Tri, ATri - Tyl, ATyl - Pie,
FAIb - Ion. (6 units)

FLon S GERMAN FNth - Eng/NSO, is dislodged and must retreat to Wal,
Yor, or OTB/, ALvp - Cly, FEdi - Cly. (2 or 3 units)

FENG S GERMAN ABel - Lon, ABur - Pic, FMid - Iri, FNat - Lvp,
AGas H. (5 units)

FNth C ABel - Lon, FHel S FNth, ABel - Lon, ADen H, AMun H,
PKie H. (6 units)

Fion S FAPu - ADR is dislodged and must retreat to Tun, Tyn, Nap, Eas, or OTB/, AVen - Tri, ANap - Rom, FAPu - ADR. (3 or 4 units)

ARum S AUSTRIAN ABul/NSO/, FArm S FBla - Ank, FNwy S FSwe,
FSwe S ANwy, AS^tP Fin, FBla - Ank, ASev H. (7 units)

Fank S FCon - Bla/is dislodged and annihilated/, FCon - Bla,
FAeg - Con. (2 units)

I have permission from Lee Kendter and Eric Verheiden to call collect if I don't receive their orders.

[illegible]

FALL 1904

(2) There has been a call for a concession to Russia. Please vote on this with next seasons' orders.

FEDI H/1's dislodged and annihilated/. FLVp H. (1 unit)

AGas S AMar - Bur, APar S ABur - Pic, AMar - Bur, ABur - Pic,
FEng - Bre. (5 units)

1975GJ

CONTINUED

Germany (Wayne Norton)

AYor S RUSSIAN FNwg - Edi/NSO/, FPic S FLon - Eng/is dislodged and annihilated/, ARuh S AMun - Bur, ABer - Mun, AMun - Bur, ATyl - Pie, FHol - Bel, FLon - Eng. (8 units)

Italy (Joe Blaylock)

AVen S ATus - Pie, FTri S AVen, ATus - Pie, ATun - Wes, FTyr - Lyo, AGre UOH. (6 units)

Russia (Tom Ripper)

FSmy S ABul - Con/is dislodged and must retreat to Aeg, Eas, Syr, or OTB/, FBla S ABul - Con, FNwg S FCly - Edi, ABul - Con, ARum - Bul, FCly - Edi, FSka - Nth, AGal H, AMos H, ANwy H, AWar H. (11 units)

Turkey (David Head)

AANK S FCon - Smy, FCon - Smy. (2 units)

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

ENGLAND - ~~ØØZ~~, LVP. EVEN.
 FRANCE - BRE, MAR, PAR, POR, SPA. EVEN.
 GERMANY - BER, KIE, MUN, BEL, DEN, HOL, LON, VIE. +1.
 ITALY - NAP, ROM, VEN, GRE, TRI, TUN. EVEN.
 RUSSIA - MOS, SEV, STP, WAR, BUD, BUL, NWY, RUM, SER, ~~ØØY~~, SWE,
 CON, EDI. +1.
 TURKEY - ANK, ~~ØØX~~, SMY. EVEN.

NMR PROTECTION

I have no winter orders on file.

I have no general orders on file.

I have permission from Joe Blaylock, Tom Ripper, and Eric Verheiden to call collect if I don't receive their orders.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL PLAYERS

(1) The deadline for the submission of orders in all games is Friday September 3rd, 1976.

(2) Sometime before the next deadline I will probably be moving. I do not yet know my new address. However, mail will probably get forwarded so there's nothing to worry about. If for any reason mail to this address comes back please try the following address: Richard Kovalcik, Jr., c/o The Architecture Machine Group, MIT, 9-516, Cambridge, MA 02139.

(3) If at any time, for any reason, you do not receive a complete set of adjudications or there is something seriously wrong with them do not fret. Write to me and tell me. I will do my best to correct the situation as soon as possible and will grant a deadline extension if you need it.

[illegible]

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X You game(s) are on page(s) 1. Please see the note above.

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[illegible]

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450 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139
USA

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