



THE TETRACUSPID

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MEMBER OF TDA, IDA, DNYMPA, AND MITSGS

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A tetracuspид is the graph of an equation of the form $x^{2/3} + y^{2/3} = a$. The Tetracuspид is a Diplomacy* oriented zine published on the last Friday of every month (other factors permitting) by Richard Kovalcik, Jr., Room 205, Bexley Hall, 50 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139 who may occasionally be reached by calling (617) 494-8759 any day of the week between noon and midnight.

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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.

All trades are quite welcome.

I have game openings in one game of regular Diplomacy which will in all probability be guest-gamesmastered. The houserules used will be the Koval Publications' Houserules dated July 1st, 1976 with the exception that no phone calls will be accepted by the GM. To play you must maintain a subscription or trade, pay a \$2.00 game-fee, 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. For information on the number of openings available and the geographical requirements please see inside. 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 Tetracuspид. If you're interested in standbys please let me know.

Anyone writing an article which is published herein will receive two cents of sub credit per line used toward anyone's account. This money can even be used to provide a sub for someone else. However, it may not be refunded.

I am a member of DNYMPA (Duh New York Mafia Protective Association). This means that should I be forced to fold the games contained herein will be rescued by the other member of DNYMPA.

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*Diplomacy is the registered trademark for the game invented by Allan B. Calhamer and manufactured by the Avalon Hill Company of Baltimore, Maryland.

R A N D O M R A M B L I N G S

(1) This issue's cover was made where I work. It was done on a Xerox 6500 Color Copier interfaced to an Inderdata Model 85 mini-computer. The two are set up so that a person can sit down at a drawing tablet and draw a picture which the computer stores in its memory and displays on a color TV screen. When you're finished drawing you type a series of commands at the computer and presto - copies of the picture come out of the xerox. This type of computer system is called a raster scan display. Anyone wishing more information should write to me.

(2) As you can see there are no games in this issue. This is because the next deadline for 1974FQ is not until October 22nd, 1976. There should be an issue of the Tetracuspid out by October 29th, 1976 to carry the adjudications for 1974FQ.

(3) Next issue I hope to have reviews of all the zines I receive and maybe some articles. However, I probably won't have any articles unless you write them. So please write. Remember that I pay for articles in sub credit.

(4) I have four gameopenings in the game mentioned on page 2 for anyone not from New York or New Jersey.

(5) I have only two people on my standby list at the moment. They are Ron Kelly and Roland Straten. I desperately need more people so if you're interested please write.

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

(7) Anyone wishing to reprint anything from the Tetracuspid that is not specifically copyrighted may. I only request that you credit the magazine and author.

(8) I have started a new policy with regard to zines I don't trade with. I will only subscribe to especially good zines. I'm going to let most of my subscriptions to other zines run out. If the publisher of that zine wants to trade fine, otherwise I just won't get that zine.

(9) I have heard that both sets of IDA elections are being delayed to allow for debate and a vote on the new constitution. I hope that something good comes out of this because the current IDA is going down the tubes.

(10) Alan Rowland has taken over as the head of the American half of the IDA Novice Project. All interested GMs should write to him at Lafayette College, Easton, PA.

THE BOARDMAN NUMBERS - AN OPINION
by Richard Kovalcik, Jr.

Doug Beyerlein has announced that he is charging a one dollar fee for every Boardman Number assigned after November 1st, 1976. I feel that this is uncalled for and totally unacceptable.

Never before has there been a charge for a Boardman Number. Doug Beyerlein is using the excuse that Avalon Hill has cut off their subsidy to the Boardman Numbers. First of all, Avalon Hill hasn't really cut off their subsidy. They have merely decreased it and suggested that Doug Beyerlein and Walt Buchanan publish one zine together to cut down on costs (a perfectly good suggestion as far as I'm concerned). Also the Boardman Numbers haven't always been subsidized.

So why does Doug Beyerlein need a subsidy? I say he doesn't need one. He is in affect publishing a zine which many people trade for. Many of the zines he gets are worth reading so that he'd probably trade for them even if he was publishing a normal zine. For this reason he should be willing to lose money on his magazine as almost every other publisher does. One must also ask how much does it really cost to publish Everything and assign the Boardman Numbers? Doug Beyerlein and John Weswig charge a subscription rate of 10 issues for \$4.00. This tends to indicate that they think it costs 40¢ per copy to publish Everything. If it really does cost them that much to publish it, then they're either getting ripped off by someone or they can't manage their financial affairs. Through commercial copy centers in Cambridge, Massachusetts I can get xerox copies for 2¢ each. Hence a xeroxed issue should cost at most 35¢ per copy assuming 10 pages per issue which most issues of Everything are. By going to mimeo or ditto they should be able to cut their cost to at most 25¢ per copy. This plus the cost of a postcard for each number assigned doesn't amount to that much. Let's do a worst case analysis. In the last Everything there were 28 numbers assigned. This number was one of the smallest I've ever seen. The average is probably at least 50. This means that Beyerlein would be taking in \$60 per issue based on one dollar per number from the gamesmaster and thirty cents per number from the IDA less the cost of a nine cent post card. Also in the last Everything I counted 85 traders. This means that at 25¢ per copy (as explained above) each issue should cost Doug Beyerlein and John Weswig about \$21. This means that Doug Beyerlein and John Weswig will be making almost \$40. per issue. I challenge you, Doug Beyerlein and John Weswig, to show otherwise. Doug Beyerlein and John Weswig could even cut their costs further by not sending out a postcard for each Boardman Number assigned. The GM will find the number out the next time Everything comes out, or the next time Doug Beyerlein writes to them, or they could include a SSAE. However, the savings would be so negligible that it probably wouldn't even be worth it.

Since I feel this fee for a Boardman Number is a ripoff, I will not pay for it personally nor will I force it on the players in my games by increasing my gamefee. What I will do is this. I will continue to trade with Doug Beyerlein and will forward the

money for a Boardman Number to Doug Beyerlein with the Fall 1901 adjudications (which is when Doug Beyerlein insists on having it by) if anyone comes up with it. Starting when I announce the game start I will request that anyone willing to help pay for the Boardman Number for that game let me know. When I publish the Fall 1901 adjudications I will see how many people have said that they are willing to pay for a Boardman Number and will deduct their share of the cost of the Boardman Number from their subscription account and send Doug Beyerlein a check for one dollar. Hence if four people say that they want a Boardman Number for a game it will cost them each 25¢. At no time before the Fall 1901 season will I say that someone has said that he is willing to pay for the Boardman Number let alone how many people have said this. After the Fall 1901 season I will announce whether or not a Boardman Number will be gotten and how many people contributed. I am doing this for one simple reason. By not announcing whether or not someone has expressed a willingness to pay for a Boardman Number for a game people who want a number will be forced to help pay for it. Otherwise they will have no guarantee that a number will be obtained. If I did it any other way people would not say that they would help pay for the Boardman Number once one person had said that he would pay for it. Finally, if Doug Beyerlein is not willing to trade with me on these terms then I'll still forward him the money for a Boardman Number assuming someone is willing to pay for it but the people wanting the Boardman Number will also have to help pay for the cost of a copy of the issue and the cost of mailing it to Doug Beyerlein. Under no circumstances will I subscribe to Everything or allow this policy of Doug Beyerlein's to cost me money.

Doug Beyerlein said two other things in his announcement of this one dollar fee that bother me. The first was "... if an alternative source of funds becomes available (such as, complete funding by IDA) then the policy may ((my underlining)) be revised." If by this he means that he may keep the one dollar fee even if he gets more subsidies then I think that he should immediately resign as Boardman Number Custodian because I for one don't want the postal Diplomacy hobby to get hurt any more by this money making tactic of Doug Beyerlein's and John Weswig's. Doug Beyerlein also says that unnumbered games won't get rated. He is wrong in at least one case and probably more. I have just spoken to John Beshara, Chairman of the Board of THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION, who says that TDA will rate any game as long as they have a final supply center chart. I'd be interested to hear what other rating-masters plan to do about this.

Finally, in the event that someone is willing to assign Boardman Numbers without a fee to the gamesmaster or players then I think that Doug Beyerlein should immediately resign his position in favor of this new person. If Doug Beyerlein fails to do this then I would most probably cut off my associations with Doug Beyerlein and recognize this new person as the one and only Official Boardman Number Custodian. I call on all other postal Diplomacy publishers and players to seriously consider doing the same. Furthermore, I am willing to help any new Boardman Number Custodian who doesn't charge a fee in any way I can although I haven't the time to become Boardman Number Custodian myself.

SSSZ

Attached you will find a form for the SSSZ (Standby Service for Small Zines I believe). I urge all interested people to fill this form out and return it to John Leeder, 208 Haysboro Crescent, SW, Calgary, Alberta, CANADA T2V 3G3. Please don't return it to me. For more information I suggest that you write to John. At long last maybe there'll be a solution to not being able to get enough standbys.

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COAs

Wayne Callahan, 234 Woodside Apartments, Utica, NY 13501
(effective immediately)
Ira Rosen, 122 South Baker Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
14853 (effective immediately)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Computerized Color Xerox Drawing.....	1
General Information.....	2
Random Ramblings.....	3
The Boardman Numbers - An Opinion.....	4
SSSZ.....	6
COAs.....	6
Table of Contents.....	6
SSSZ Form.....	attached

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What's happening ???

☐ Would you like to subscribe?

☐ Would you like to trade?

☒ Please see the note above.

☒ You get this regularly because

☐ you subscribe. You have a sub balance of .

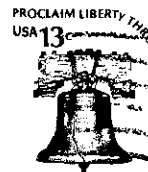
☐ you're in an orphan game herein.

☒ you trade.

☐ you know me.

THE TABLE OF CONTENTS IS ON PAGE SIX.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

[REDACTED]
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