

THE

NOVEMBER 26TH, 1976 / DECEMBER 24TH, 1976

NUMBER 18

KOVAL PUBLICATION NUMBER 53

NOVEMBER 26TH, 1976 / DECEMBER 24TH, 1976

MEMBER OF TDA, IDA, DNYMPA, AND MITSGS

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WILL EVERYONE (ESPECIALLY PUBLISHERS)

PLEASE NOTE THAT

MY ADDRESS FOR

ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS

RICHARD KOVALCIK, JR.

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50 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.

CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

I expect to be at this address twelve months a year until at least May 1979 except for a few one or two week vacations which I will let you know about in advance. Until such time all mail for me (including during the summer) should go to the address above. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 (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) 894-8759 any day of the week between noon and midnight Eastern standard Time. The best time to call is probably around 11 PM EST.

Subscriptions to the Tetracuspid 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 four gameopenings 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 gamefee, and maintain a \$3.00 deposit which will, as stated in the houserules, be deposited in the ISE (International Subscription Exchange) assuming it still exists. This deposit will only be refunded if you stay in the game until you are eliminated or the game ends. Players from New York and New Jersey are not eligible to play in this game as I already have players in this game from New Jersey and upper and lower New York State. 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. At the moment my standby list consists of Ron Kelly, Roland Straten, Alan Rowland, and David Lagerson.

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. Your articles are greatly appreciated.

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 members of DNYMPA. DNYMPA is a group of publishers from the New York and New England area whose sole purpose is to insure each others' games. At the moment DNYMPA and TIDA (The Imperial Diplomacy Association) are in the process of restarting the games from Turnabout which Peter Berggren orphaned.

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

1974FQ

FALL 1907

AT LONG LAST

The deadline for Winter 1907 orders is Thursday January 20th, 1977 by phone and Friday January 21st, 1977 by mail.

ORDERS

England (Civil Disorder)
FCly H. (1 unit)

France (Ken Johnson)

AKie retreats to Ruh.

ARuh S ABur - Mun, FHol S FNth, FEng - Mid, FMid - Spa(sc), FNwg - Edi, ABur - Mun, APar - Bur, FNth H/is dislodged and must retreat to Ska, Nwg, Yor, Lon, Eng, Bel, or OTE/, AMar H. (8 or 9 units)

Germany (Civil Disorder)
AMun H, FHel H. (2 units)

Italy (David Lagerson)

ABoh S GERMAN AMun, FBla - Bul(ec), FAlb - Ion, FCon - Aeg, FIon - Tyn, FTyn - Lyo, FSev - Bla, ABud - Rum, AGal - Sil, ARum - Sev, ATri - Tyr, AVen - Pie, AVie - Gal. (13 units)

Russia (Roland Straten)

AGal retreats to War.

FNwy S FDen - Nth, ABer S AWar - Sil, FDen - Nth, FKie - Hol, AUkr - War, AWar - Sil. (6 units)

Turkey (Ron Kelly)

AArm S ITALIAN FSev/NSO/. (1 unit)

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

England - Lvp. Even.

France = Bel, Bre, Hol, Lon, Mar, Par, Por, Spa, ~~Kie~~, Edi. Even 0 + 1.

Germany - ~~Edi~~, Mun. -1.

Italy - Bud, Bul, Con, Gre, Nap, Rom, Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy, Tri, Tun, Ven, Vie. +1.

Russia - Ber, Den, Mos, Nwy, StP, Swe, War, Kie. +2.

Turkey - Ank. Even.

NMR PROTECTION

I have no winter orders on file.

I have no general orders on file.

I have permission from David Lagerson to call collect if I don't receive his orders.

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

(1) This issue which counts as 11 pages for subscribers (there is no charge for the first page) will be mailed out to most people along with the next issue which should be out next week. This is to save both time and money.

(2) I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a belated seasons greetings. I did not send out any cards because I just didn't have the time to send out all the ones I would have had to. Thanks to all of you who did however.

(3) I have learned from informed sources that the ISE (International Subscription Exchange) will be transferred from Edi Birsan to Ben Grossman as of January 1st, 1977. The ISE provides an efficient means of subscribing to Diplomacy zines in foreign countries. Ben Grossman's address is Apt. 9, 29 East 9th Street, New York, NY 10003. Write to Ben for more information.

(4) From the latest issue of Paroxysm comes the news that the SSSZ has been transferred from John Leeder to Andy Webber. The SSSZ (Standby Service for Small Zines) provides a means of obtaining standbys when you don't have any on your standby list. Andy Webber's address is Apt. 204, 20 Graydon Hall Drive, Dor Mills, Ontario, CANADA M3A 2Z9. Write to Andy for more details.

(5) Recently there has been an attempt to unseat Robert Sacks as Miller Number Custodian. The basis for this attempt is the claim that Robert is not doing his job properly and therefore by an old agreement Conrad von Metzke can assume the job. However, careful investigation reveals that Robert Sacks is doing his job perfectly. Therefore, I must say that I recognize Robert Sacks as the one and only Miller Number Custodian. All people involved in this attempted coup are only causing trouble as far as I'm concerned.

(6) Last issue I published an exposure of the "Greg Warden Ripoff". Well, Mr. Warden refused the copy of the last issue which I mailed him. Therefore, as far as I'm concerned the case is closed. Mr. Warden is a thief. I refuse to have anything to do with him and urge others to do the same. My opinion of anyone who "plugs" him will also decrease by an order of magnitude or so. I intend to start writing to other zines to warn them of him and to rating-masters to recommend that the game be declared irregular.

(7) People are reminded that if they're interested in taking over orphan games they should let me know as I may have orphan games to transfer 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.

(8) Once again I must report that the zine reviews have been put off another issue. The Boardman Number stuff took up quite a bit of room but hopefully this will be the end of it. Therefore, the zine reviews should appear next issue.

ONCE AGAIN THE BOARDMAN NUMBERS
by Richard Kovalcik, Jr.

In the two months that have passed since the last issue of the Tetracuspid came out I have received a couple of letters and read a couple of comments in magazines on the subject of the Boardman Numbers and the one dollar fee per number that Doug Beyerlein has instituted. I will reproduce the letters and comments here along with a summary of Doug Beyerlein's self-defense in Everything along with some comments on my part.

((from Alan Rowland, PO Box 2173, College Station, Easton, PA 18042 to me dated 11/11/76))

Dear Richard:

I still must disagree with you on a merger of DW and Everything. The two most obvious parties who would be involved, apparently don't want it. However, their opinions really aren't worth a damn, and neither are yours or mine for that matter. What matters is the opinion of the most vital segment of the hobby, the players. Perhaps even more importance should be placed on the ideas and feeling of the new blood that will enable the hobby to thrive and grow.

AH ownership of the hobby has brought in over 100 new subscribers to DW. How many subscribe to Everything? How many would be interested in seeing the contents of Everything incorporated into DW on a full-time basis? Finally, how many would stop subbing to DW or leave the hobby because they had the Everything statistics instead of articles on play, ratings, plugs, variants, or news items in DW.

I know I wouldn't want the stats if I were a novice. I didn't sub to Everything and neither do the novices. What keeps people re-subscribing to DW? Why do the novices write me for a copy of the Cepheids or ask me about the IDA Player Handbooks? They want more info on play and/or more DW. Who writes Beyerlein for a free copy of Everything?

Are you willing to accept disinterest, apathy, and a smaller growth rate (at best) or stagnation and decline (at worst)? Your arguments against the dollar fee are ridiculously inane. At the rate you use them it is difficult to see how the cost is excessive. A dollar per number will not add up unless you are going to expand the Tetracuspid to gigantic proportions.

I feel that the best solution would have been the one dollar fee. Unfortunately, I (felt and) have seen that it won't work. The best solution is to have Doug Beyerlein step down as BNC. Hopefully, there is someone out there who would take the job. (I can't, I don't have the time. I hope no student is foolish enough to take over the position.) Work for that instead. You won't cause trouble by not paying for the number in terms of time lost and you will be able to avoid paying the fee in the future.

Incidentally, once my new game is filled, I am cutting my trade with Beyerlein. He'll get the \$1.00 fee, save \$4.00 for a sub, and I'll still send him the game results when the game is over.

/signed/ Alan Rowland

P.S. I also dropped Doug Beyerlein a line to find out how many subbers he has, how much it costs to put out DM ((??? does he mean Everything?)) each year, and how much of his own money he spends. I wonder if he'll answer me.

my comments on the preceeding letter:

Alan Rowland is right in saying that it is the opinions of the players that count. Perhaps someone should conduct a poll to see what they want. All too often publishers publish what they want and not what their subscribers want. To a certain extent this is to be expected but at times it does get out of hand.

I don't know about other people but I can say that if I wasn't publishing I would probably be subscribing to Everything. Maybe Walt Buchanan should conduct a poll in DM to see if the readers would like to see it combined with Everything. Unless he does this we can only really theorize.

The size of the one dollar fee is not the only issue at stake. It is also the principle of the matter. A nickle may not be much but I wouldn't pay it to help buy drugs for dope addicts. I'm not saying that the Boardman Numbers aren't worth while. I'm saying that there are better ways to finance them. I feel that the person running them should be willing to contribute some money as he receives benefits too.

Your decision to cut trade with Beyerlein is just that: your decision. I won't do that because I enjoy Everything.

My comments on Doug Beyerlein's self-defense can be found later in this issue.

((from Doug Ronson, 864 Ingersoll Court, Mississauga, Ontario, CANADA L5J 2S1 to me dated 11/12/76))

With this letter, I hope I can clear up a few points on the Boardman Numbers. First of all, I don't necessarily agree with Doug Beyerlein on every point, but I respect his decisions. Richard, you seem to have a grasp of the entire picture, yet you tolerate obvious wrongs. Why?

1) Doug has never desired to make a profit on the Boardman Numbers. He seeks only payment for his expenses and does over a hundred hours of work each year for the hobby which he loves. He should not be expected to spend his own money as well as his own time. He is running a service for Diplomacy players and they should be expected to help pay for the costs of running this service. In

fact, if you had read Everything, # 28 you would see that any profits would be rebated as credit on future numbers.

2) Everyone had a chance to vote on how income could be gained for the Boardman Numbers. Most people voted that the best way would be to charge a one dollar fee. Everyone doesn't have to agree, but the wishes of the majority should be respected. If GMs don't wish to pay the fee themselves, they can charge each player 15¢, a very small price to pay.

3) I don't see why Carol needs \$800 ((a year)) for typing Diplomacy World either. However, this is Avalon Hill's money and they can do whatever they wish with it. Anyone living in the Indiana area could volunteer to help Walt out with DW so his wife wouldn't have to be paid to type DW. Anyone out there?

4) Doug Beyerlien has promised the Boardman Number costs for Everything, # 29. Why don't you wait and see what they are before criticizing?

5) Why did you print the excerpt from Fol Si Fie, # 67? It was clear that the note in Paroxysm, # 41 took precedence over any previous statements. Up until the end of October, I had hoped Walt would share the AH subsidy so I did not wish to charge the fee. Letters from Walt indicated that the entire sum would be used for DW. There will be no delay (and never has been) in assigning numbers in Canada.

It's about time, I think, that Doug was given credit for the fine job he is doing as BNC. Keep it up, Doug!

/signed/ Doug Ronson

cc: Doug Beyerlein

my comments on the preceeding letter:

Doug may have never desired to make money off the Boardman Numbers but I feel that it would be possible to do this with the one dollar fee. For my analysis of this please see the Tetracuspid, Number 16. I also feel that Doug Beyerlein should be willing to spend some of his own money on the Boardman Numbers. I feel that he is essentially no different from all the other publishers in the hobby. Very few if any publishers break even on their zines. Why should Doug Beyerlein? Other people spend time on Diplomacy too.

GMs should not arbitrarily start charging everyone for the cost of the one dollar fee. Only the people who want the Boardman Number should pay for it. This is what I am going to do.

I printed the excerpt from Fol Si Fie, # 67 because at the time I hadn't seen the item in Paroxysm, # 41. I typed up the excerpt from Fol Si Fie and then read the excerpt from Paroxysm which I included later in the issue. I'm sorry if this caused any trouble but I thought that the readers would realize what was going on.

((from Bob Hartwig, 2324 Burge Hall, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242 to me dated 11/22/76))

I read your recent article concerning the Boardman Numbers and your refusal to pay your \$1.00 (14¢ per player). It seems that you think Doug should incorporate with Walt.

A lot of people say it's against tradition to charge money for BNs. Isn't it also against tradition to incorporate Everything into BN?

People complain about paying their \$1.00. Well Richard, if you don't like it why don't you publish Everything for free? Let's see you take things over. Let's see how your finances and time can handle it.

It is apparent that your respect for people is lacking. You can't force an extra hour of work each day out of a man if you aren't going to pay him. And yet Doug is willing to sacrifice that extra hour or two each and every day just to get out Everything and keep up with the Boardman Numbers. He's not trying to make money either, ((he's)) just trying to break even.

He's setting things up for the next custodian, he's published his expenditures, and he's shown that the \$1.00 fee is needed. Now, unless you're willing to come out and call Doug a liar to his face, shut your mouth and put up your buck with the rest of us who can see that Doug's right. The Boardman Numbers are needed to keep this hobby together. And there are too many games going to keep up with all of them and not break even at the same time.

/signed/ Bob Hartwig, Editor/Publisher of the Podunk News

my comments on the preceeding letter:

The Boardman Numbers have been around since virtually the start of Postal Diplomacy. Diplomacy World has not. Diplomacy World has only been around for a couple of years and is therefore not really traditional at all. The content of DW does and will change. It is therefore ridiculous to condemn the merger of Everything and DW on the grounds that it would be untraditional. After all, where did the Boardman Numbers start? In a zine by the name of Graustark.

~~I am not offering to take over the Boardman Numbers at this time~~ because I do not have the time. I take a normal load of classes (which MIT estimates should take me around 70 hours a week), work 20 hours a week during the term (and 40 hours a week during vacations), am house secretary and room assignments chairman for my dormitory, have other hobbies (bike riding and model railroading), and have some social life. When I get out of school and settle down I will probably have the time for the Boardman Numbers. At that time I may offer to take over the Boardman Numbers depending on what my feelings are toward the hobby. I feel that my finances can afford it. This is a hobby and I realize that I have to spend money on it. I am currently publishing a magazine with a total circulation of about 45 only five of which are paying subscribers.

I think that you (Bob Hartwig) fail to understand the Boardman Numbers. They should not be viewed as all work and no play. If the person handling them doesn't get any enjoyment out of them then he should give them up. So Doug Beyerlein is spending an hour or two each day on his hobby, Diplomacy and the Boardman Numbers. My father spends an equal amount of time each week on photography. So what? Doug Beyerlein may be only trying to break even but I still feel that some people (myself included) could make money off the Boardman Numbers by charging a \$1.00 fee.

Doug Beyerlein may not be a liar but I still feel that the Boardman Numbers are costing more than they should. For my comments on some of Doug Beyerlein's expenses please see later in this issue. Furthermore, I still claim that Doug Beyerlein does not have the right to break even on the Boardman Numbers.

((an excerpt from Saint George and the Dragon, # 10, dated 11/14/76 which is published by Robert Sergeant, 3242 Lupine Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46224))

Our hobby seems to be fraught with controversy lately. More than usually. There must be something in the nature of Diplomacy that attracts argumentative people. Since I also play Diplomacy, I shall not hesitate to insert my opinion of the controversy over paying for a Boardman Number.

The main argument is that no one should be allowed to make a profit from a hobby. It has yet to be shown that Doug Beyerlein will be making a profit with the dollar fee. I join my voice to those who lament the fact that what used to be free now costs. Of course, I lamented the installation of pay toilets too. It has been pointed out that Doug is getting free trades with all the zines which he would otherwise have to pay for. I don't feel this is a valid argument. No one can seriously tell me that if Doug had to sub to all those zines he would. I don't trade with all zines. I trade with those zines I would want to sub to. The trades are carried at a loss in postage. They are made up for by spreading the cost into my sub rate, as other zines do. Doug does not, I believe, has such a large sub list to carry the large number of trades.

I notice that the people who are crying the loudest for Doug to either keep things as they were, i.e. no fee for numbers, are the first to explain why they can't possibly take over the Boardman Number Custodianship. No one seems to want the numbers to be taken over by someone who is active in IDA or TDA and the fact is that of the remaining body of Diplomacy players few, if any, are qualified or want to spend the large amount of time required by administering the Numbers. I certainly don't. Diplomacy is only one of my activities - I don't want it to become my only activity. If someone can be found who is deemed qualified by the Diplomacy hobby at large and wants to take over the service, then perhaps Doug should consider turning over the numbers to him. But so far no one has done so. And does the hobby want to run the risk of having a Robert Sacks take over the Boardman Numbers?

The question is rapidly boiling down to whether the Boardman Numbers mean enough to pay for them. It is my opinion that Diplomacy will continue to be played with or without the Numbers. But there will be no hobby without them. Whether or not you follow the ratings, any ratings, and someone must or they wouldn't exist the Boardman Numbers provide an efficient reference point. I can't imagine that zines running a large number of games would do without some sort of reference. They might name their games as I do, but what are the players to refer to when discussing a game that only one is playing is? The sixth game opened in Centurion in 1976?

Some publishers are allowing the players to pay extra for a Boardman Number, if they wish to do so. Is there a time limit, or can someone pay for it after he discovers he's doing well? And some are refusing to use them at all. The Boardman Numbers are a service. If they are a valid service, it is worth paying for. It is, and shall be, the policy of this zine to provide Boardman Numbers for its games. I hope every zine will make it clear to its potential players whether Boardman Numbers will be provided. I further state that I will refuse to play in any zine which does not provide Boardman Numbers for all its games. If it wishes to raise its game fees to pay for this, its fine with me. But I refuse to cooperate with a force of division.

my comments on the above:

In my opinion the main argument is not that no one should be allowed to make a profit from a hobby. This is one of the arguments. Other arguments are that the Boardman Numbers have traditionally been free and should therefore continue to be so, that to make the numbers non-universal would be to defeat their purpose, that Beyerlein should be willing to lose money on his hobby, and others. All these arguments have about equal weight in my opinion.

Although Doug Beyerlein would not subscribe to all the zines he gets for nothing now if he wasn't Boardman Number Custodian, he would subscribe to a substantial number of them. Therefore, he is publishing a zine just like all other publishers. True he may not have that many subscribers but neither do some other publishers including myself. What subscribers he does have however do provide some extra money which can be used to help pay for sending out all the trade copies.

I see nothing wrong with giving the Boardman Number Custodianship to someone who is active in IDA, TDA, or any other Diplomacy organization for that matter as long as the person will treat all people equally. Furthermore, I see nothing wrong with having Robert Sacks or someone like him as BNC. Robert may not be the easiest person to get along with but he does do what he has to do. He has done a fine job as Miller Number Custodian.

The Boardman Numbers do provide an important reference point for the hobby. Zines can and do number their games but its best to have one standard reference point.

If a Boardman Number is to be gotten, it must be gotten by the Fall 1901 season. So it is not possible to pay for a Boardman Number after you see that you are doing well in a game.

((an excerpt from Ruritania, # 30, dated 11/76 which is published by Tony Watson, 201 Minnesota Street, Las Vegas, NV 89107))

Lately, as reported last issue, Doug Beyerlein, the Boardman Number Custodian has decided to charge \$1.00 for each game he gives a number to. He claimed he needs the money to keep Everything separte from Diplomacy World (A proposal I back. All those statistics would ruin Diplomacy World). Now a number of people have come out against this. Probably the most vehement has been Richard Kovalcik, publiher of the Tetracuspid. Others have challenged Beyerlein to show cause for the increase; still others cite to the fact that the granting of numbers has been a hobby tradition and should not be restricted now by arbitrary charges. I can see their point. The numbers have always been free and I would certainly like to see everyone that wanted a number get one. Yet, if that can't be, it can't be.

A big point has been that the games that don't cough up the \$1.00 won't get a number and thus most raters will not rate them. Probably true, as most raters get their data from Everything. Some groups, TDA in particular, will rate any games that supply a final supply center chart. This aspect may mean little to you; myself, I don't particularly care about ratings and I know many players who feel as I do. Yet there are those who play but for glory and this will cause them to abandon zines that don't apply for BNs.

The important thing here is the challenge to the universal use of the Boardman Number. Some publishers will refuse to send in the money themselves or collect it from their players. Others will comply with the new idea in order to maintain some continuity in their gameszines. I for one regard the BN concept as one of the basic unifying forces in the hobby; nearly all zines have their games numbered.

Some could say, with reason, that this is the BNC's fault. Others could say that people who are going to refuse to pay will bear the blame for any future problems.

It's too bad that we have come to argue about this as well. It would seem that the postal hobby as a whole would benefit from more cooperation rather than fragmentation.

my comments on the above:

I really don't have much to say about the above that I haven't said already. Tony Watson has done a pretty good job of summing up the whole Boardman Number controversy.

Last but not least comes Doug Beyerlein's comments in Everything, # 29. His comments which are too long to be reprinted here in full were broken down into five sections: (1) "Hobby Services" which relates the Boardman Numbers to the other hobby services, (2) "What the Boardman Numbers Are All About" which describes the Boardman Numbers, (3) "The Cost of Everything" describes and lists the costs of publishing Everything, (4) "Resign?" which discusses whether or not Doug Beyerlein should resign, and (5) "Final Essay" which was exactly that. Anyone who wants to read the entire comments by Doug Beyerlein can get a copy of Everything, # 29 from John Weswig, 2115, N.W. Elder Street, Corvallis, OR 97330 for 50¢ or xeroxes of the comments only from me for a large SSAE with 22¢ postage on it.

In his comments Doug established that as things stand now he needs some sort of subsidy in order to break even. His statistics do show that he will be making approximately a \$35 dollar profit in 1977 with the one dollar fee. However, he has said that he will use any profit for an acceptable purpose (such as printing a summary of all games ever played) or refund it. Doug does list some questionable expenses. He lists the use of his telephone, depreciation on equipment and mentions the \$20.00 per year he pays for the use of the IBM Selectric in his office. It is my opinion the costs like the first two are very seldom if ever included by Postal Diplomacy Publishers when figuring out the cost of their zines. Doug also fails to include the money made on subscriptions (approximately \$2.86 per issue or \$17.16 per year) in his list of income. As for the \$20.00 a year to use the IBM Selectric typewriter in his office, I think it's totally ridiculous. I've mentioned it to several people at MIT including people I work with and most laughed at the idea of paying to use a typewriter in your office. In the production of the Tetracuspid I very often use the IBM Selectrics in my office, paper and supplies (such as correction fluid), and even the computers for mailing lists and address labels. Doug also mentions the fact that it was Conrad von Metzke who first got the IDA and GRI to help pay for the Boardman Numbers. As I understand it, this was because he could not afford to pay the costs of running the Boardman Numbers himself not that he didn't want to. In the last section of his comments Doug Beyerlein reprints the "von Metzke solution to running to Boardman Numbers" which appeared in Everything, # 18. This solution is as harsh if not harsher than the solution currently proposed by Doug. However, Doug fails to mention that the "von Metzke solution" was never tried and I feel that it never would have worked.

It is now time to sum up my opinions on the Boardman Number Fee. I feel that it is unwarranted for two main reasons. The first is that Doug Beyerlein is publishing a zine and should therefore be expected to spend some of his own money as other publishers do. The second is that the one dollar fee threatens the universality of the Boardman Numbers and hobby tradition. Besides the fact that the Boardman Numbers will no longer be complete this fee opens up the door for more and more fees such as people GMing for money (as John Leeder recently tried to do). As I have said before, I will not personally pay this fee and believe that Doug Beyerlein should either abandon it or step down as soon as possible.