

THE THERMOPOLOE

Issue number two

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Thermopolae is published by Payton D. Turpin, P.O. Box 6560, La Jolla, California 92037. It is a journal of Postal Diplomacy variant games and is at present concerned with Imperialism IX-R, invented by Rod Walker.

Section number two is filling far more rapidly than I had expected. At present there seven players signed up for this section, only one of whom is playing in section number one. I am quite pleased by this. The remaining two spots are open to anyone, including players from section number one. I will accept the first two preference lists I receive. The gamefee is \$5.00 from new players and \$3.00 from players in section number one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GAME OPENINGS

I received one of the most pleasant surprises of my life last Monday. Dig it. It seems that there is this architect living in Australia with the unlikely name of Alexander Tasker Stewart Ryrie (alias Count Dracula). This architect (called "Tas" by his friends) took the maps of Imperialism IX, enlarged them to about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ' by $2\frac{1}{2}$ ', and made a bunch of beautiful lithograph prints of the whole thing. He sent me a copy, at a cost to himself of about \$3.00, and it reached me last Monday. The print is now hanging over my desk. You would think that after this I would do him a favor in return, but instead I told him that now he's got to play in a game. Tas is now entered in section number two.

If any of you out there would like to receive a similar print, then you're smarter than I thought you were, because they look fantastic. Let me know if you would like one, and I'll see if I can cajole Tas into sending me a few (million) more copies. They should cost about \$1.50 to \$2.00.

I believe that Craig Besinque still has some sets of his Imperialism IX conversion kits, which transforms an ordinary Diplomacy set into an Imperialism IX set. Write Craig at Box 31, Edgewood, B.C., CANADA.

Fred C. Davis of 5307 Carriage Court, Baltimore, Maryland 21229, has openings in three Diplomacy variants. 1) Atlantica: centering on the Atlantic Ocean, this game includes the Western half of Europe and the Eastern half of the United States. Great Powers include United States of America, Confederate States of America, and Canada. 2) Abstraction: resembles regular Diplomacy, but all powers start with at least four units and there are lots more supply centers. 3) Germany versus the World: I'm entered in this one. Just like regular Diplomacy except that Germany and Austria-Hungary have been combined into one power and given two extra units. All other countries are independent.

Blood and Iron, published by Lew Pulsipher, 321A Twin Towers, Albion, Mich. 49224, will run such games as 1) Origins of World War II 2) a demonstration regular Diplomacy game using expert players, as well as such variants as: 1) Anarchy III: uses the regular board but a player's three home supply centers may be almost anywhere. 2) Militarism I: the game is designed by Lew himself, and uses the regular board and rules but has air power thrown in as well. 3) Diadochi: a Punic War variant.

Siberian, Peter Ansoff, Box 5798, Station B, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. 37203. Pete needs replacement players for Hypereconomic Diplomacy. Want to study a fascinating set of rules? Send Pete \$1.00.

Wild and Woolly, Steve Cartier, c/c Dan Alderson, 6720 Day St., Tujunga, Calif. 91042. This magazine, for a long time dormant, has started up again with issue #143, in which there are the rules to several variants. I don't know at present exactly which games Steve will run, but his 'staple' will certainly be worth getting. Write Steve for subscription information.

And now: (fanfare)

THE GAME

1972Con5

Note that we now have the Miller number for this game. The 5 at the end signifies that this is the fifth game of Imperialism IX to begin play.

FROM ALL THE SHORES OF HELLAS HUNDREDS OF SHIPS PUT TO SEA
EPIROS AND THESSALY HAVE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION OVER WHO OWNS THESSALIA
"ELMER IS COMING". CHUCKLE THE PERSIANS

1972Con5

Spring 431 B.C.

Argolis (Peery) Fleet Troizen to Argos, Army Mykenai to Azania, Army Argos to Kleonai.
Attika (Brackman) Fleet Kephellania to Sea of Ithaca, Fleet Rhodes to Palmos Sea, F Rhamnos to South Euboic Gulf, F Thorikos to Mytilene Sea, F Athens to Thorikos, F Andros to South Aegean Sea, F Lemnos to Thracian Sea, F Naxos to Paros Sea.
Boeotia (Besinque) Fleet Tanagra to North Euboic Gulf, A Orkhomenos to Phokis, A Thebai to Tanagra.
Epiros (Brooks) Fleet Apollonia to Epirote Sea, Army Dodona to Molossia, Army Hellopia to Thessaliotis.
Ionia (Verheiden) Fleet Samos to Ikarian Sea, Army Ephesos to Miletos, Fleet Phokaia to Aiolic Sea, Army Erythrai to Smyrna.
Lakonia (Howerton) Army Ambrakia to Akarnania, A Messenia to Elis, A Gythelon to Messenia, A Pellana to Arkadia, A Sparta to Pellana, A Sellasia to Zarax.
Makedonia (Weidmark) Army Edessa Hold, Army Pella to Therma, Army Thera to Abdera.
Persia (Turpin) All units hold. First movement allowed is Spring 430 B.C.
Thessaly (Rack) Fleet Magnesia to Pelasgian Gulf, Army Mylai to Elimeia, Army Larissa to Thessaliotis.

Note in the above that Mark Weidmark missed the opening deadline. I am sure that this was simply an oversight on his part, since I received several pieces of mail from him on other subjects. The Makedonian moves were made by an impartial substitute who was given instructions to make no moves which in his opinion would offend another player.

By now I am sure that most of you have your plans for the next few years laid out. So please send me either tentative moves or sealed orders at least a week or so before the deadline.

And now: (goody)

PRESS RELEASES

Argos, 1 January 431 B.C.: CITY ABOLISHES OLD GOVERNMENT, ESTABLISHES PEERIOCRACY! Acting in the face of the threat of a new war in the Peloponnessus, the Argos City Council today voted itself out of existence and established a peeriocracy in the City. Argolis's foremost soldier/diplomat, Peeryclec, was elected Supreme Peericrat for life and given command of all armed forces and the City's government. The new Government will consist of two bodies: The Council of Greater Peerisites consisting of the top 14 taxpayers in the City; and the Council of Lesser Peerisites consisting of the bottom 14 taxpayers in the City. After deliberations in City Hall Peerycles announced the following members of the Peericratic Council:

Supreme Peericrat: Peerycles
Peericrat of War: (Peerikreig) Moshe Dayanopolis
Peericrat of Naval Affairs: (Peeritub) Admiral of the Backside
Jesus Bar-Shara
Peericrat of Public Works : (Peerimason) Spiro Walkerus
Peericrat of Communications: (Peericomos) Junior Turpin
Peericrat of Foreign Affairs: (Peerimyth) Annanyus Landerus
Peericrat of Health Education: (Peerisex) Helene of Troy

Argos, 2 January 431 B.C.: ALL OUT WAR EFFORT LAUNCHED, GENERAL STAFF SPLIT! After several meetings at War Headquarters (The Peerigon), the General Staff today announced a coordinated plan for waging an all-out defensive war during the current crisis. Under this plan Argolis's natural frontiers will be defended by stationing armies on other cities territories.

Under the first stage of this plan Argolis's armies will occupy the north shores of the Gulf of Korinthos and will occupy the cities of Patras, Sikyon, and Korinthos. With this as a base of Operations the Argolis army will march north and attack Novi Sodom which is located in the mountains north of Greece. The destruction of Novi Sodom was named as the number one goal of Argolis by the Combined Councils in a master strategy planning session with the Supreme Peericrat. In the meantime the fleets of Argolis will make a journey to the Holy Land, secure a cargo of cedars of Lebanon, and then attempt to exchange them on the Alexandrian market for a load of lox and bagels which can be bootlegged on the Athenian market.

Argos, 5 January 431 B.C.: ARGOLIS DENOUNCES OTHER GREEK STATES, SEEKS ALLIANCE WITH ATLANTIS! After denouncing the other Greek states for failing to launch an all-out attack on Persia Argolis today announced it would seek an alliance with Atlantis to destroy the Persian monster. Said the Supreme Peericrat: "The destruction of Persia is and must be the first goal of every Greek. Anyone who fails to cooperate in this effort is not a true Greek but rather a son of a . . ."

Argos, 6 January 431 B.C.: COUNCILS DECLARE WAR! In a short business meeting the Combined Council today passed a series of declaration of war messages against several nations including: Attika, Epiros, Ionia, Lakonia, Makedonia, Persia and Thessaly. Only Boeotia escaped a declaration of war message. Why she should be spared is the number one question in

agolis now. Rumors are that Paercycles is determined to establish a democracy throughout the Greek States and to have a single Supreme Tribunal for all Greece. Oh yes, for good measure the Council has passed a resolution denouncing the assassination just now and then.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES:

To Rackules: Bless!

To Bellarophon: Sorry, wrong number!

To Tarpin Junior: Remember, Big Brother is watching you!

To Attika: Remember, Sylvia and Emeraldia are watching you!

To Rickitickytavia: Remember, Lakofka is watching you!

To Weidmark: Remember, Polish-Canadian jokes are more fun!

To Howeru: Remember, a Pennsacola is a poor man's Peericola!

Sparta, Spring 431 B.C.: King Roberlies of Lakonia stated today before the assembly in Sparta that he sincerely hoped that the growing militancy on the part of various Greek states and Persia would not require Lakonia to give up its agrarian way of life now that the program of turning swords into plowshares was nearing completion. Trouble in the East has already interfered with the normal sea traffic from Persia, interrupting shipments of sheep manure from the dungheeps of Xerxes II. Sheep manure is Persia's largest import and is vital to Lakonia's agricultural way of life. If present trends continue, King Roberlies foresees a shortage of men to tend the olive groves, for which Sparta is famed. Gardeners are preparing a shipment of olive branches to all parties concerned as a gesture of peace and goodwill. A note accompanying each shipment reads, "Make oil, not war".

Casthanaea, 23rd day of Hekatombaion: Saxonphon and Xylophon, bastard twin sons of Rackules XIX, chief oligarch of Thessaly, by la "belle" Telephon, were seen consulting their oracle and beloved music teacher Gramophon on Mt. Pelion by Lake Boebis. At an interview in a local tavern after their visit to Mt Pelion, both agreed, a rather unusual circumstance we may add, that Xerxes II of Persia would attack Hellas if war broke out between Sparta and Athens and their respective allies. They also revealed that reports by Rackules' master spy Radiophon indicate that the Persian Research Institute was split between the cities of Borylaeom and Cydrara and both would work independently on perfecting the ultimate weapon ELMER. The two projects will be known as PRIDEIMER AND PRICEIMER.

Larissa, 24th day of Hekatombaion: Reports received from sheepherders in the Pindus Mountain range deviding Thessaly from their arch-enemy Epiros indicate that the evil dictator Eix the Loquacious is massing troops on our borders. Thessalians of military age are being pressed into service to defend their land.

Larissa, New day of Metageitnion: Radiophon, our spy in Sardis, reports that the start of Xerxes II's campaign against Hellas has been delayed for one year because of technical problems encountered in developing the ultimate weapon. Indications are that PRIDEIMER strayed off its testing grounds onto that used by PRICEIMER. Before he could be brought under control ERIC met PRID and they had a war all their own, invincible strength.

versus irresistible power, until their batteries ran out. No harm came to the ELMERs but over a thousand square miles of Persian land was destroyed for centuries to come. The Persian scientific community was appreciably smaller when Xerxes II lopped off several heads.

Corpus, 17th day of Metageitnion: This fair city on the Peneus river by Mt Ossa was shocked to learn that Rackules XIX had purchased vast tracts of land nearby, for the purpose of testing new weapon systems perfected by two local scientists, Megaton and Kiloton. It is rumored that this will be the Greek answer to the ultimate Persian weapon. Meanwhile the sudden influx of Athenian, Spartan, Makedonian, Boeotian, and Argolite men of learning has put a severe strain on the local accommodation services, especially at the height of the tourist season.

FROM MOUNT OLYMPUS

Greetings! Belliarophon here. Such joyful news I have for you this day, news of a blessed event the like of which Hellas has never seen. Rackules XIX, chief oligarch of Thessaly, is taking himself a bride. No more concubines for "Old Rackitty" (as his subjects affectionately call him). You may well ask, "who is the lucky girl". Well, I'll tell you. King Kichensinque of Boeotia has graciously consented to give Rackules the hand of his daughter, Lysistrata II.

At the insistence of Rackules the wedding is to take place in Larrissa. The only delay involved will be while Kichensinque constructs a cart capable of carrying his daughter all the way to Thessaly. Lysistrata II (affectionately called "Little Lissy" or "Mama Gorilla") is rumored to be quite anxious to begin the journey.

This will not be the first meeting for this well-omened pair. They first met during the 436 B.C. Olympiad, in the final round of the heavyweight anything-goes, no-holds-bared, wrestling tournament. You may recall that on that occasion Lissie threw Rackules completely out of the ring and into the box seat occupied by Tannurhyden, a visiting Ionian Prince. Rumor has it that from that moment Rackules has been hopelessly in love with Lysistrata II. His feelings have certainly been returned.

I mustn't forget to tell you that King Roberlies of Lakonia has asked for my help in dealing with the problems that the manure shortage has caused in his country. I'm afraid that I was not able to be of much help to his majesty. I did, however, use my powers to double the amount of manure produced by all animals in Sparta and the surrounding areas. King Roberlies appreciated this feat less when he found out that it included humans as well as sheep.

I left Lakonia unsatisfied with this solution. I decided to take up the matter with the Argolite Peericrat of Health Education. Her Supreme Peerisex was quite amenable to a week's sojourn in Karystos while we discussed the problem. Fortunately Athene was in Asia Minor at the time watching with great amusement (and participating somewhat) in the antics of the Persian ELMERs. I then left to investigate the Thessaly-Epiros border war in Thessalotis.

BOOK REVIEW

I Will Fear No Evil by Robert Heinlein. I had better say right now that I am a Heinlein fan from way back, but I will try to be as objective as I can. This book, Heinlein's latest, concerns an old man who has his brain transplanted into the body of a gorgeous young woman, with some blowing results.

Using this as the basis of the plot, the book carefully examines sexual myths and mystiques, as well as the very structure of love and personal relationships. As the personality of this conjugate human develops, Heinlein expounds his own feelings on these subjects.

Without a doubt the book moves more slowly than many of Heinlein's others, and there is less action, but the delightful Heinlein wit and philosophy is always there. His phrasing is amusing and captivating, and you'll just love his irascible and crotchety old hero, Johann Sebastian Bach Smith. All in all, a book well worth reading.

Well, that's it, friends. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoy publishing it.

THE DEADLINE FOR FALL 431 B.C. ORDERS IS THURSDAY, THE 23RD OF MARCH
