

THE

TINMAN

FIFTY - EIGHT

Boy is it chucking it down outside. Am I glad that I'm inside doing this! Am I? Good question - pass. I'm Bob Brown. Outside is 53 Broadwood Drive, Fulwood, Preston. Lancs. Telephone Preston 863459 (home) or Preston 51831 ext 219 (work). As I won't be getting out another issue before Christmas (not quite), I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all (and your families) a very pleasant Christmas. Cost 20p. Circulation 113

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DEADLINES

En Garde to Dave Waring by Saturday December 15th
Everything else - Friday December 21st

DEADLINES

Don Fisher, 85 Studfield, Astley Park, Chorley. Lancs (Tel Chorley 70030)
Dave Waring, 11 Delgrave House, Stortford Hall Park, Bishop's Stortford. Herts (TS 504715)
Michael O'Shea, 5600 Wuppertal, Uellendahlerstr. 56. West Germany

Right, we'll start off as usual with miscellaneous excuses etc. D37I, Cybercrud 3 and its associated bourse are missing because Dave Johnson hasn't received T57. Now the postal system manages to get T to Japan in plenty of time for Tom & Chikako to get their orders in, but not to Dave, I don't know. Barrat and Callid are missing because I don't have a complete set of orders for either game and I refuse to get started with NMIs in the report. The miscreants will be chased and I will hopefully have a report out on both games by the end of this coming week (touch wood). Why I should end up apologising for the Post Office and twerps that can't get their orders in on time, I don't know....

In the 'various other miscellany' department, please note that the next deadline is close to Xmas and that the postal services may well be sluggish as a consequence - I won't be sluggish so you have been warned. I expect that the GPC will just love me posting T on Christmas Eve (all things going well). Dave Waring asks me to point out to those of you who are coming to StabCon II that he has changed his address (new address given above) because he got thrown out of his old lodgings. Something about hogging the bath and having little boys in his room every week (Dave has tried to fob me off with the excuse that they were playing D&D, but I don't believe that for one minute!). The dates for StabCon II if you had forgotten are Friday 11th - Sunday 13th January at Woolton Hall, Fallowfield, Manchester. £26.25 per night, £1 registration. Michael O'Shea asks me to remind the contributors to Athgor to get your stuff to him by about a week after T hits the streets, then he can get it to me for photocopying in time. This last lot only got done because our Reprographic Unit was quiet - not a common occurrence. Any of you that have played 'Conclave', the ElectaPope game thought up by the Irish crowd may be interested to hear that it looks like being marketed (albeit in a somewhat changed form?) by, wait for it, an Italian games company. There have been other enquiries, but this seems to have been the most positive. I look forward to seeing the game when it comes out - I hope they don't prat about with it too much.

Do we want/need a hobby organisation?

The most interesting topic of discussion recently has been the proposal put forward by Peter Calcraft in spirit of the age that the WGC should be revived from its present moribund state. Most, if not all, of the editorial comment on this idea has been against Peter's ideas. I hope to try and explore the possibilities.

First of all, I have fond memories of the BGC. It was through the Flier in the Diplomacy box that I came into contact with the postal hobby ~~and with the BGC at that time~~. However, I have to acknowledge the fact that the running of the club was always rather erratic. The committee system was tried and was shown to be inadequate to the task and it was only really Richard Sharp that kept things running until he too was unable to carry out the work required. My feeling is that anyone who wants to run something like this should not be a zine editor as the amount of work involved in keeping both projects afloat would be prohibitive. Unfortunately, anyone with the amount of enthusiasm for the task is going to want to produce his own zine in all probability. Impasse!

What would we want out of a hobby organisation? Personally, I think that all we need is a co-ordinated system to introduce new players. The cornerstone of this must be a flier in the boxes of Diplomacy. When the present Central Gamestart System was started up, I talked to various people about getting this flier written and produced and got the feeling that it was all in hand, so my offer of help and finance was not needed. I suspect that no further progress has been made since then, although I have not yet talked to Malcolm Brown about this. The question of fliers in the boxes must be the most important thing to tackle - stuff anything else, let's get them organised for next Christmas as we've missed this one already.

Unfortunately, this is the one area which Pete Calcraft doesn't want to tackle and is the reason why most editors have shot down his ideas. Pete wants his NCC to 'hold the hobby together' as its main task and provide formal backing for hobby members when needed. It would be run by a General Secretary and would also have an editor publishing some kind of newsletter. It would be financed by an annual subscription of £1, presumably to pay for the newsletter as I can't see what else finance would be wanted for.

Along with most other editors, I feel that the hobby is held together quite well by the system of trading zines. There are very few editors that I know of in the UK who do not trade with most of the others - Graham Mills and the Enigma team are the only two that spring immediately to mind. This ensures that news travels round quite quickly, certainly fast enough for most purposes. This is not to say that I wouldn't like to see the NCG (or something similar) be revived; at least as a name. Going back to the recruitment angle, I would have thought that this would be more effective if potential ~~recruits~~ recruits (sorry about that, I'm getting lazy) felt that they would be joining some kind of 'club' when they wrote off for a gamestart. The name would also be available to provide 'official backing' if needed to, say encourage the media to publicise an event such as the big Con each year. Whether Steve Agar would want to bring his Introductory Package under such an umbrella I don't know - not that it really matters.

Having said this, I am afraid that I am no longer in a position where I am prepared to contribute time to setting up such a project, so perhaps I should 'put up or shut up' i.e. shut up. There again, it's my hobby as well so I can air my views along with the next person. I don't know if any of you have any strong thoughts on the various proposals and criticisms which have been flying around, but you are perfectly welcome to air them in The Binamou if you wish.

I suppose the really big question which needs to be answered first, though, is whether we want a 'National Games Club' or a 'National Diplomacy Club'. Kind you, someone is going to object no matter which of the two possibilities were chosen, so it's probably best just to forget about the whole idea???



THE TENELDENE BOOKS: The Chronicle of Glaves, part IV

Aegar read aloud: "The religion of the Ancient Athgorian inhabitants of these lands was magical; and propitiatory. You engaged in certain ritual observances and attended certain sacrifices in order to induce the Gods to grant you certain favours, in the hope that they would ignore your impieties, or simply to ward off disaster and bad luck. The moral content of Ancient Athgorian belief was small or non-existent...." He paused, and his eyes wandered from the text to the scene below him in the Palace Court. A great open theatre had been set up, and rows of benches set in front of it; while propsmen and stagehands were busy with the final preparations for the performance, the principle actors were running through a penultimate rehearsal.

It was one month since the inauguration of Glaves, the former Inquisitor General, as Pope Ignatio, and much had happened to alter the nature of Athgorian politics in the meantime; the King had once again taken the reins of power, inspired directly by the new Pope, in Dune Nuvan had finally executed the delegates sent to inquire into his claim to independence and affirmed in the strongest terms that he was prepared to defend his claim by right of arms, Mondragon and Natha were on the verge of war, and now, as Winter set in, in an extension of an old - normally secular - Royal custom, the Pope was to use the commencement of his second month on the Sacred Stool as an opportunity to make a major statement of religious policy, amid due celebration of His Holiness' first month in office. Part of these celebrations, indeed the major part, was to take place here in the Base Court, where on a specially constructed stage His Royal Highness, King Selephon III, was himself to take the central role in the performance of a Mystery Play. His Majesty could be seen even now putting on his special make-up, backstage. - The key-note of the entire festival was to be one of piety of a reaffirmation of belief, of public repentance, sacrifice and thanksgiving... - The other actors in the play, in accordance with the tradition, were all monks; and his Majesty was only participating by means of a special dispensation.

As he stood on the Great Eastern Wall, looking into the Court below, Aegar, who still acted as Head of the Council of State, and was responsible for the day to day running of the Realm, as chief personal advisor to the King, felt a sudden chill run down his spine. "Winter!" he thought, and turned to descend into the Court where the Rehearsal was due to start again at any moment; several figures in black were seated right in front of the Stage; members of the Inquisition. Several of the gathered dignitaries stood talking just below him on the steps.

"I think it will be sunny, Gentlemen!"

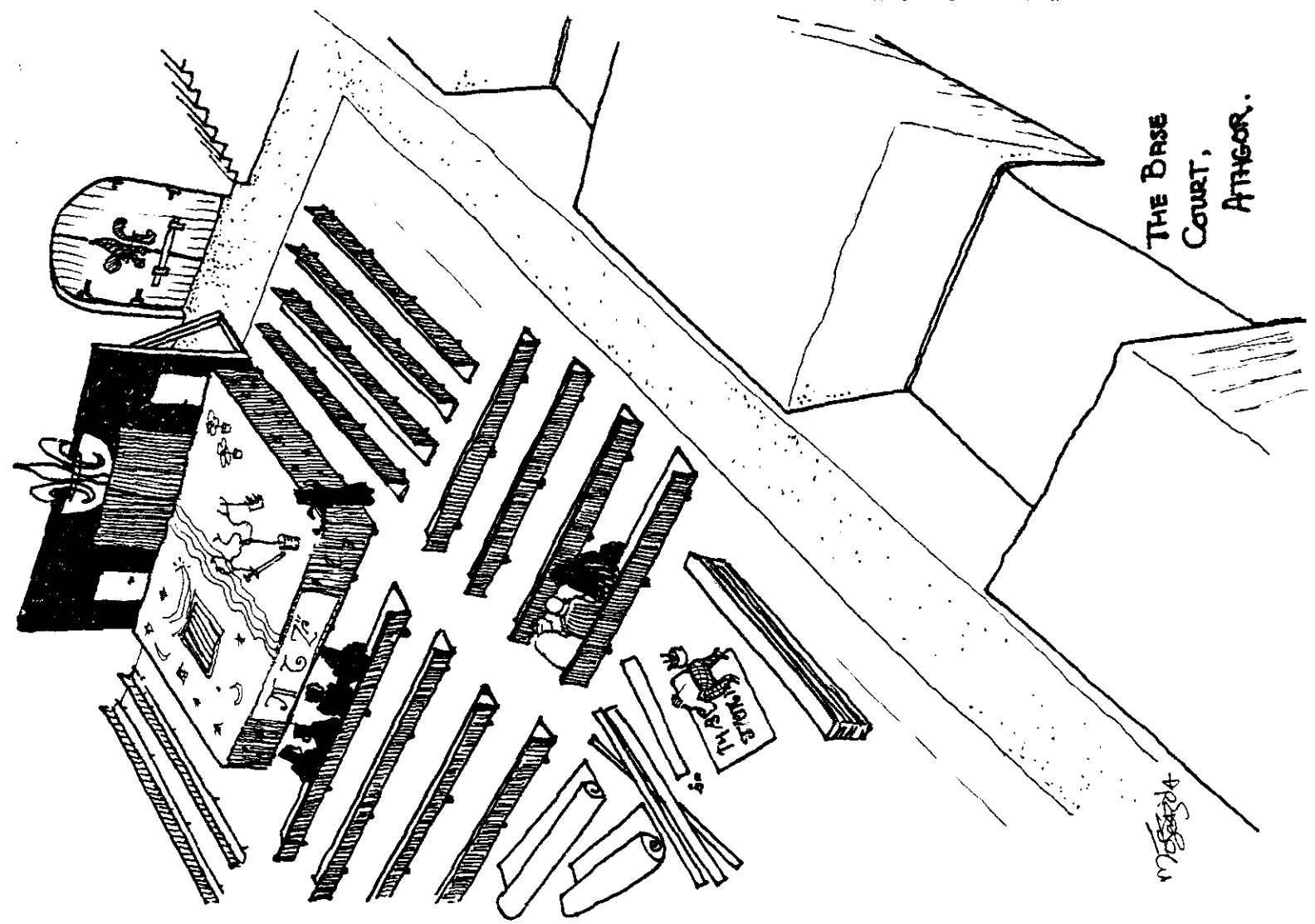
"Ah! Your Highness!" cried the Count Nikaba "The Baron here was just asking if you'd fully recovered from your bout of ague."

"My beloved Baron Thürgau! I am in every way recovered!"

"Forgive me, Aegar, but I cannot see how," replied the fat, rather senescent Baron, the head of one of the Great Houses. "We all know what brought it on, and that cause is still very much present!"

"Aha!" replied Aegar with a smile. "I see you've been talking politics again!"

"And who has not? From the commonest man in the street, to the



M. S. 1984

THE BASE
COURT,
ATHGOR.

To: T.I.N.A.M.O.U.
Letters Column

Department of Occult Studies
The University
SOUTHAMPTON

Dear Sirs,

Ever since the discovery of the "libraries of Athgor" in the Himalayas, there has been plethora of works of "popular science" claiming to provide hard evidence linking the library with Shambhala, the legendary 'centre of shamanic religion' first popularised by Geoffrey Ashe in "The Ancient Wisdom". Most of these books have been based solely on the currently available translations of the Athgor manuscripts and on the works of such notorious 'magicians' as H.P. Blavatsky and Aleister Crowley. They have sought to prove, often by the most tenuous of arguments, that the entire shamanic tradition, encompassing such widely varied religions as Druidism, the beliefs of the American Indians and Voodoo, is a corrupted remnant of a once great philosophic tradition once current in Athgoria and of which the Himalayan libraries were the last surviving remnant. Some authors have even attempted to trace the survival of this tradition down through mediaeval witchcraft to more modern occult practices leading to such wild claims as the theory that Crowley named his 'Order of the Golden Dawn' after the 'Emissary of the Dawn' featured in the histories dealing with the rise and fall of Zatac the Dread.

Whilst there is no doubt that communication in the ancient world was far more widespread than was previously thought, most previous work on the shamanic tradition has had to rely on wild speculation or on inspired guesswork (which are much the same thing). The discovery of the Athgorian records gives us an excellent opportunity to improve our knowledge of this area of Theology and scotch once and for all the wild claims of the vonDanikenists that the knowledge of the shamans was revealed directly from extra-terrestrials. (The number of books which claim that Athgoria was, indeed, on another planet are now legion). Therefore, with the help of my colleagues in the Departments of Theology and Archaeology, I have attempted to carry out a systematic study of the religion of Athgor and the methods by which wizards such as Zatac summoned otherworldly aid.

This may seem, at first sight, a massive undertaking, as the records in the library cover many centuries of Athgorian history and most of the tales are notoriously 'matter-of-fact' about the subjects of magic and religion. However, we are fortunate to have available a fascinating diary of a young priest of the Soloway Islands which appears to have been included amongst the histories for the light which it shed on the atrocities committed in those holy islands during the rule of Zatac. As you will know, the Soloways were a very important cult centre for the people of Athgor and these diaries shed much illumination on the religious and occult practices of these ancient people.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Peter Tamlyn B.Sc., Ph.D. F.R.S.O.S..

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Ed.- It is with much pleasure that I publish the above letter which I recently received from Dr. Tamlyn, better known perhaps for his work on 'The Histories of Bajor', notes to which he has been including in his Occult Studies Journal, THE ACOULTE, for several months now. We look forward to his future contributions to Athgorian and related studies!

NOTE: None of the books referred to above as connecting Athgor with vonDanikan proper to be serious studies, and most do not concern themselves chiefly with Athgor. Unlike Dr. Tamlyn, I tend to think that an open attitude to this question is best at present.

O Seaghdha.

highest ecclesiastic in the land, tongues are a-buzz night and day with these new ideas of 'Central Government' and 'Moral Renewal', when there are far more important things to be done than stirring up wasps!

"I couldn't agree more, but the matter is not in my hands. I have no doubt however that the revolt in Nortonland and the war in Natha and Mondragon, to which I presume you are referring, will form a major part of His Majesty's policies...I've just been reading the text of the Pope's forthcoming speech; he's a man of ideas."

"He's a bloody upstart, that's what he is!"

"Reform was needed in the Church, and the concept of centralising government...The State needs Authority, particularly now. Alas I could not give it, but a religious leader can. There've been far too many petty factions and vested interests...."

"Aegari!"

"Alright Baron, we know we disagree. And as I've said, I have never had so much conviction in the power of ideas, but..." - At this point Aegar stopped a moment and sighed deeply. Something had evidently come into his mind.

"What is it?" asked Nikaba.

"Oh!..." said Aegar with a wave of his hands.

"On that very subject," interjected the Baron Thurgau. I notice that the rehearsal is about to begin."

The three men excused themselves and went over to the benches a few rows behind the figures in black, who rose and bowed to the Prince. Aegar waved them to be seated, and the gentlemen of the Inquisition politely turned to face the Stage once more.

A strange figure appeared on stage. It was the King. He wore a blue wig and had painted his skin white. Having arrived through a trap-door he began to dance wildly about the stage. A boy carrying a wooden tree walked across the stage.

"Oh God, these old myths!" muttered the Baron Thurgau.

One of the members of the Inquisition briefly turned around and then looked back to the Stage.

By now the King was about to deliver his first lines:

THEY HAVE GONE BUT TO REST:
THE MIGHTY, TIRED OF WARS,
THEY HAVE LEFT A STEWARD, A KING,
CHIEFEST OF THE SERVANTS WHO AWAIT THEM:
TO HIS THIRD AND THIRTIETH SUCCESSOR
THEY WILL RETURN, FORGOTTEN BY MEN;
AND FORGETFUL EARTH WILL REAP ITS REWARD!*

At this point, one of the figures in the front row gave a signal and the King disappeared again.

"I thought this was the beginning," said the Baron.

"Evidently not," replied Nikaba. "But the scenes where His Majesty enters are of primary importance. I must say it seems to be doing him some good."

"I wouldn't take that too far, Nikaba," replied Aegar, who now sat with his head in his hands, obviously in some pain. He looked up, his face ruddy and wet. "How narrow is that gap between nobility and intolerance!" he whispered. "And yet, how ominous this very tolerance which Graves has for the King. Does he not know that the King is mad?...I begin to wonder, Nikaba! I begin to fear that Graves just does not know the difference, and that to him a noble insanity is somehow no different to his 'Moral Reform'! - They work too well together, Nikaba; too well!"

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* cf. The Books of Eleduun, TINAMON Supplement I.-Ed.

Are You a Diplomatic Fiend? by Nicky Palmer

This quiz is similar in form (but new in content) to a piece I wrote for Diplomacy World 17, which got a friendly reception and has been reprinted two or three times elsewhere. The idea is that Diplomacy is not, primarily, a game of tactics; as a board wargamer I don't really think much of it in that respect. Diplomacy is a game of diplomacy and in my view we should see far more discussion of the diplomatic side of the game than all the reams of opening theory which have always dominated the debate. To put it bluntly, there is little evidence that moving to the North Sea from London makes much difference to winning chances, but a glance at the playing records of individual players shows that individual style matters quite a lot.

I don't claim to be especially qualified to write this, but as nobody else seems inclined to do so perhaps I can at least stimulate some ideas. You may feel you have better answers than the preferred solution to some of the questions; unfortunately I will have to take solo responsibility for the contest marking, as it's not something you can do by committee, but if you want to accompany entries with persuasive arguments I'll read them with interest - and if this biases the contest to the most plausible rogues, so much the better. But please choose one of the alternatives offered for each question or chaos will ensue.

Right. The game is at the start, you are Russia, and you have been unable to reply to letters due to a prolonged study course at the Machiavelli School of Writing in Venice. During your absence, the Government has sold the Post Office to 7 Singapore businessmen, and all letters are now routed through Liechtenstein and take two weeks to deliver. Consequently, you have precisely time to send one letter to each opponent. All of them are capable and experienced players. They have written to you as follows, excess verbiage ("I look forward to hearing from you and to a successful alliance") being omitted:

TURKEY, December 27th: In my view, the first two turns are decisive for Turkey, as they determine the future alliance structure in the Balkans. If we can refrain from the customary skirmishes in the Black Sea and I have reasonable luck with Italy, then Winter 1902 will see me in Gre/Bul with my armies and my F moved to Con; I will build A Ank and F Smy, and the "Stenroller alliance" will - as far as I'm concerned - be secure. I don't ask you to commit yourself till you've seen proof of this; you don't have to move to Gal, and if you want to counter England's Scandinavian plans I don't object (though I'd rather you moved to Gal/Ukr to commit yourself against Austria). What I do ask is that you don't take the opportunity to nip into BLA - it would be quite pointless anyway as you presumably want Rumania in the Autumn, but it will make a mess of my Autumn move as I shall need to cover Ank in case.

If you agree to leave BLA neutral, I will order A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con, F Ank St.

QUESTIONS (you are advised to read the other letters before answering)

1. Evaluate this letter from 1 (very plausible, seems to mean what he says) to 5 (most unlikely, a transparent fraud).
2. How do you feel about his offer that you need not commit yourself with an attack on Galicia?
 - (a) a good sign, shows willingness to make the first move in the alliance?
 - (b) a sinister portent, shows he has a strong alliance with Austria?
 - (c) just a diplomatic note to encourage you which doesn't tell you much about his intentions?
3. He doesn't actually refer to any discussions with Austria (by contrast with Austria, see below). Suppose, in the context of the Austrian letter below, he had instead added, "Austria has made me a reasonable offer but I would prefer a Russian alliance since...(some plausible reason)".

Do you think

- (a) it is more encouraging if he doesn't mention Austria, as it shows he is not trying to play off each of you against the other?
- (b) it is more inspiring of confidence if he does include the Austrian sentence, since negotiations are bound to be going on and the Austrian letter shows this to be the case?
- (c) it doesn't make any difference as it's just a platitude to say he prefers you to Austria?

AUSTRIA, December 25th: I, Sir, am a mercenary. It's the only way Austria can survive. I don't have any preferences on alliance, but will join anyone who is willing to give me a firm foothold in the Balkans. I'd be very glad to ally with Russia if you would be willing to leave Galicia empty and move A War-Ukr and F Sev-BLA, or A War-Ukr and F Sev-Rum if you want to risk that. I propose to move to Ser, and undertake not to move to Galicia; the other moves are secret! If we both move in this way there should be every basis for an agreement in the autumn; given support into Bul, I guarantee help against Turkey thereafter - in fact I'd be pretty bound to give it since his first demand if I changed alliances would be to give him Bul back!

I've written to Turkey in similar terms. However, he can't hurt me in any way as much as A War-Gal can hurt me: guarantee that and I will move as stated this turn. I should also welcome confirmation of interest in an approximately 3-year agreement to take Bul and the Turkish centres. You should have a fairly free hand in the north as I gather England is attacking France.

QUESTIONS

4. Evaluate this letter from 1 (plausible) to 5 (implausible).
5. If you promise not to move to Galicia, do you think he will leave it free?
(a) Yes (b) No (c) Impossible to say.
6. Suppose you decided to move as he suggests. Would you be interested in helping him to Bulgaria in the autumn, given satisfactory assurances for 1902?
(a) Yes (b) No (c) Impossible to say without seeing the board then.
7. Assuming that diploming started on December 15th, evaluate the likelihood of an Austro-Turkish deal already existing when the letters were written, from 1 (probably allied) through 3 (don't know) to 5 (probably not allied).

ENGLAND, January 3rd: As you seem to be having troubles of your own on your southern flank, you may be glad to hear that I've no interest in a major Scandinavian effort: I propose to take Norway with a fleet and if you don't obstruct this will be happy to co-operate with you thereafter. I don't suppose you are interested in an early attack on Germany, as this would leave you exposed in the south, but perhaps we might give some thought to this around 1903?

QUESTIONS

8. Evaluate this letter from 1 (plausible) to 5 (implausible).
9. Do you believe he will go for Norway with a fleet? (a) Yes (b) No (c) Dunno.
10. To what extent does this letter affect your evaluation of a possible Austro-Turkish deal?
(a) it seems much more likely than if he hadn't referred to the matter?
(b) it seems slightly more probable?
(c) it doesn't make any difference?
(d) it seems slightly less probable?
(e) it seems much less probable?
11. Do you think his interest in an alliance in 1903 is serious?
(a) Yes (b) No (c) Hard to say.
12. Do you in your reply: (you can choose more than one response)
(a) ask him not to take Norway?
(b) urge him to attack Germany?
(c) urge him to attack France?
(d) ask for help into Sweden if necessary in the autumn?
(e) offer him Sweden if he lets you take Nwy with the Moscow army, while your fleet moves to BAL?

GERMANY, January 1st: I propose to play 1901 pretty conventionally: Kie-Den, Ser-Kie, Mun-Juh or Bur (not yet sure). Since you seem to have Turkey and Austria both wooing you, how about cooperation in the north? I would be very glad to support you to Sweden on condition that you start with A Mos-StP.

QUESTIONS

13. Evaluate from 1 (plausible) to 5 (implausible).
14. Same as question 10!
15. Do you believe that he will let you take Sweden if you go to StP? (a) Yes (b) No (c) Dunno.
16. Do you believe that he will not let you to Sweden if you don't? (a) Yes (b) No (c) Hard to say.

FRANCE, December 28th: Help! A strong Anglo-German alliance is about to steamroller me. The evidence is pretty strong and their letters highly suspicious. Please intervene in Scandinavia if you can. I'm hopeful that Italy will move on Munich through Tyr, since he has agreed to do this on condition that I promise to support him in with A Dur ; between the three of us we should be able to see them off!

QUESTIONS

17. Evaluate from 1 (plausible) to 5 (implausible).
18. Do you think he thinks there is an Anglo-German alliance? (a) Yes (b) No (c) It's not clear.
19. Do you think so? (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure.
20. Does he really think Italy will help him? (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not clear.
21. Do you think so? (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure.

ITALY, December 31st: I understand from A-T that they plan a joint attack on you: may I offer assistance? I don't wish to show my hand on the first turn, but I will order Ven to stand and F Nap-ION - probably I will misorder Ven so it looks more plausible. This should give a fair chance of nipping Tri in the autumn. In the meantime, I strongly suggest that you block BIA and Cal.

QUESTIONS

22. Evaluate from 1 (plausible) to 5 (implausible).
23. Same as question 10!

Now two final QUESTIONS

24. WHAT ARE YOUR OWNERS?
25. Predict the moves of the other players. Correct prediction of the Austrian, Turkish, Italian and English units will give double value.

Some final notes: One can't always tell what's going on, so "dunno" is occasionally the right answer, but generally it pays to back your hunches rather than swan about indecisively. If you think a letter contains some true and some false statements, mark it proportionately on the 1-5 scale.

The crucial decision running through the whole quiz is what you think about Austria and Turkey. I make no apology for this obsessive interest: guessing this correctly is the single most important decision for Russia in 1901.

Good luck!

Contest Rules

1. All entries should be sent with a one pound entry fee to Nicky Palmer, Richenring 73, CH-4058 Basel. Switzerland. (Tel 0104161- 367150(w), 266671(h)). Any individual can submit up to three entries (at one pound each).
2. All entries must arrive by January 15th, 1980.
3. After deducting the expenses of sending the quiz to zines for publication (less than a couple of pounds), 50% of entry fees will be set aside for prize money and 50% for meeting NGC debts.
4. Prize money will be divided evenly between the highest scoring entrants. If there are many entrants but few winners I will add a second prize category: in general I hope to get about one winner per 10 entrants. Prizes will be sent (after deduction of postage) to winners by February 15th. Don't forget to put your address in BLOCK CAPITALS.
5. All zines which send in entries or let me know that they have included the quiz (eg by sending a copy of the issue) will receive a copy of the answers and comments on entries.
6. Nicky Palmer's decision is final.

((To save problems about sending money to Nicky in Switzerland, I will be happy to keep your entry fee(s) and let Nicky know that you have deposited the money with me. Either send me the requisite amount or let me know that you would like it deducted from the monies which I hold of yours. Bob))

((PS. Good luck from me too!))

En Garde - December 1601

"And so a year has passed; a new one is about to begin. What challenges will it bring? Perchance glory, perhaps wealth - but most likely just another bunch of crazy treatises to the Royal Society!"

Would all players please note my COA to 11, BELGRAVE HOUSE, STORTFORD HALL PARK, BISHOP'S STORTFORD. If you want to give me a ring, try Bishop's Stortford 504715 - though I won't be in before 5.30pm during the week. I'll probably be three miles away and up to my knees in mud.....

Sadly, the year ended on a grim note for the Army, who were involved in a Field action which went wrong. Amongst the casualties were even the highest officers, such as Brevet Lt General Seiko Quartz: who died as he lived, being just brave enough to come in sight of the battlefield. Unfortunately, his horse stepped in a rabbit hole and stumbled, causing Seiko to fall and break his neck ((Double six dice roll?!)) Lt Colonel Xngus de Mars immediately instituted a search for "those cursed Spanish agents" who, he claimed, had dug the hole precisely to trap the general. Sadly, he found none. Major Giscard d'Stain was one of two officers who showed commendable initiative on General Quartz's death. Dressing himself as the diminutive commander, he rode up and down to counter rumours of Seiko's death (+1 MA, MID(6), promoted to Lt Colonel, FR). Major Zutre des Champs, Giscard's fellow officer in the GDMG also showed unforeseen intelligence, by hiding Seiko's body in a bag of dirty laundry until after the battle. (+1 MA, promoted to Lt Colonel, Frontier Regiment). Lt Colonel Rice Hauspenger-Kassel had, unbeknown to his fellow officers, been a witness to the General's death, and he then made a cool 800 crowns by taking bets on whether Seiko would die in the coming battle! Subaltern Dottler le Boothoye actually managed to get through another battle without being captured! To encourage him, and to test his abilities further, he was promoted to Captain in his Frontier Regiment. Major Oisin de Paddy was not so lucky, being captured while awaiting a supply train, which was bringing such important supplies as ammunition and alcohol. Subaltern Fortmain fared even worse, succumbing to a fatal wound caused by a mule-kick while attempting to convey the supply train. RIP. Major Mustapha Krappe bravely volunteered to seek out Seiko Quartz's assassins and slay them wherever they could be found. He came back with two dozen rabbits, for which sterling service he was mentioned (5), promoted to Lt Colonel in his Frontier Regiment, and made a Baron! Major Patrick de Foie Gras, eager to distinguish himself, volunteered for all the dangerous jobs going, but only managed to be offered a position as Lt Colonel in a Frontier Regiment and 600 crowns. Major Luther Bloopen did likewise and gained the same rewards, though only 150 crowns and the position was that of temporary Colonel! Captain Stamford Rafflesworth picked up 400 crowns and a reputation for fast movement, the way he kept dodging bullets! Subaltern Frank de Stamp was no doubt extremely brave and did lots of fantastic things. Unfortunately, no-one was around to see them at the time. Ablo de Casserole bought his way out of captivity.

Next month the Army will again be in the field, and the Royal Foot Guards have been ordered to the front to help avenge General Quartz's death.

Events in the City

Life was a little dull, with 60% of society at the frontier, so Breton de Volution and Handolph Catstrangler decided to liven it up by holding month-long drinking sessions in the Frog & Peach. This they did - to the annoyance of the other guests. These included Pierre Bayard, who dropped in for a drink to break up three weeks of cutlass practice. Pierre had originally been intending to court Jane Fondue, until a friend told him she had left Paris several months earlier, following the unfortunate capture and release of the late lamented Seiko Quartz. Tuffus la Custard was also practising cutlass this month, though only for two weeks. Between times he spent a week in Blue Gables, recovering enough strength to leave for the front at the end of the month. Sigismund de Prave was another frequenter of clubs, spending the first three weeks in Bothwells. However, he lost a bet of 500 crowns and retired in a huff to spend the last week practising with his rapier.

Socialists	Culprits	Old	New	Regt	Rank	Ms	Cl	EC	MA
		SL	SL						
Sir Pablo de Casserole, MC	Ned Chapman	14	14	DG	M(2)	20	1	4	4
Sir Sigismund de Trave	Derek Wilson	12	13	KM	M(2)	13	2	3	2
Sir Patrick de Fido Gras	Ian Peherty	12	12	18FG	M(2)	2	1	2	3
Baron Mustapha Krappe, SF	Erion Douglas	10	11	CG	M(2)	11	2	2	1
Sir Giscard d'Stain, FAS	Ion Quilty	10	10	GDMD	M(1)	-	-	2	7
Luther Bleepan	Deryck Povey	8	8	ALC	M(2)	19	4	3	2
Tuffus la Custard	George North	7	7	LM	LCol	9	4	1	6
Xngus de Mars, FMS	John Marsden	7	7	13th	LCol	-	6	3	4
Randolph Catstrangler	Bob Brown	6	7	LM	M(2)	18	5	4	6
Bretton de Volution, FMS	Tim Sharrock	6	7	CPC	Sub	15	5	2	2
Idice Kamsperger-Kassol	Jeremy Tullett	6	6	13th	M(2)	4	5	(3)	3
Zutre des Champs, DF	Ted Londen	6	6	GDMD	M(2)	10	5	(3)	4
Tierre Bayard, CG	Tom Datcher	5	6	LM	M(1)	-	5	2	3
Tierre de Guinness-Light	Andrew Jones	5	5	MLD	M(2)	-	5	2	1
Oisin de Laddy	Der Carvey	5	5	13th	M(1)	-	6	3	1
Frank de Stamp, FMS, D d'H	Robin Hood	4	4	CPC	Sub	7	6	3	2
Stanford Rafflesworth	Philip Jones	4	4	FM	C(f)	8	6	2	3
Bottler le Boothoye	Simon Burke	3	3	FM	Sub	-	-	2	4

Investment. The three months past paid a 10% return.

Death & Breck. Bretton accepts Xngus' challenge and chooses salres. Stanford accepts Tierre Bayard's challenge and chooses rapiers. Would those who haven't sent sequences please do so - especially whether you will accept a surrender!

Lisens. Would you believe Agatha said yes (once(quietly)) while Marjory turned an offer down?

Royal Society. Members are reminded that the next meeting will be first week in January.

NOT MUCH Press these days, is there?

Xngus-Giscard: You can see in what esteem we held you. I shall expect you to hold a party for all your supporters in the U.S. next month!

Bayard - de Casserole. That was really a great party. You'll certainly have to do it again.....to somebody else, preferably!

Bretton de Volution (cough - yuk - spit!) I have received not you apology. So has Randolph Catstrangler not neither. Neither has we not got notice of your intention who you going to duel. Who's the coward now, you slob? ((A "slob" is a euphemism for "drunken lecher", as they tend to sllobber quite a bit. H.R.)) ((Got to keep up the moral tone, haven't we?))

Our Brave Boys at the Front. Yee-hee, Boys, have no fear, Krappe is here.

Pablo de Casserole. Sorry you couldn't make it to your ~~1st~~ ~~1st~~ first meeting, but you was busy.

The mystery of the missing horse deepens. The readers may recall the apparent "death" of one of the mounts of Frank de Stamp. Research and a post-mortem have proved this animal to have been dead two weeks beforehand! This, plus the fact that de Stamp has never been seen in a church - or, indeed, in daylight - and his liking for Burgundy of a dark, blood-like colour, have raised an unwholesome suspicion in several people's minds. His canine teeth seem a little too long, somehow, too.

Dear Pablo, I would have replied sooner in answer to your advert but I was put off by the bit about debauchery. I thought it meant making sausages and things but now I know, I think it a good idea.

I once thought about getting a member of the Royal Society by submitting a treatise on 'French and how she is Spoke' but looking at some of the ignorant worthless, gutter-crawling spineless twerps who are members I have no wish to join them. I think us upper crunks should stick to ether and form a crust to keep out the raff-riff. Next month I will publish some of my findings about the Royal Society and its members. I am currently working on an interview with a lady of ill-repute who has told me plenty about you. No! No!! I mean, not you! I mean I meant Fred, or Ian, Fran, Frank yes that's it, FRANK! FRANK de STAMP, yes. Sir Mustapha Krappe, SF.

Royal Society. Members are asked to vote on the application of Patrick de Foie Gnas - abstention counts as a "No" vote.

WOEEN - A CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

ELEMENT: Wannen.

SYMBOL: W_o.

ATOMIC WEIGHT: Accepted as 118 but known to vary from 100 to 160.

OCCURRENCE: Surplus quantities in all urban areas. Found in various states ranging from common ore to virgin metal.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: Possesses great affinity for gold, silver, platinum and precious stones. Able to absorb great quantities of expensive substance. May explode spontaneously if left alone with element man (symbol Mn). Often has such affinity that partnership is formed. Insoluble in liquids and unaffected by soft soap. Activity may be increased by saturation in alcoholic compounds.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Surface usually protected by a painted film, which sometimes completely obscures the true colour of the element. Boils at nothing and freezes without reason, but melts if given the proper treatment. Bitter if not used correctly. May become either acid or caustic. Yields to pressure if applied to the correct points.

USES: Highly ornamental especially in open carriages, opera boxes etc. Some particularly attractive farm specimens have been noted.

TESTS: Pure specimens turn a rosy shade if discovered in the natural state. Turns green if placed beside better specimens.

CAUTION: Highly dangerous except in experienced hands. Always examine new specimens for traces of gold which may indicate that they have already undergone an irreversible reaction. Illegal to possess more than one specimen although a certain amount of interchange is permitted.

I trust that the gentlemen of the Royal Society find this paper acceptable. If successful I shall hold a little celebration, for at least a week, in bothwells in the 2nd week of January 1002.

Citizens are reminded that there will be fresh enrolment at the beginning of next month for the following courses at the Polytechnique de Paris: Catstrangling for beginners, Intermediate Catstrangling, advanced Catstrangling. All courses will be taught by the Honourable Major and will be held in the Frog & Reach annexe.

Le Casserole. That's another fine "stew" you've got me into! (Ugh!) ((Ugh!))

Randolph - JEN. Sure, I fear that you were misinformed last month. The Frog & Reach "housecat" sitting on my knee was my mistress. There again - she wasn't in when I called for her one weekend, so perhaps "housecat" would be the correct word?

Why is it that the juicy bits are always censored? I was just reading about "the savage rapacity of...." and turned to page 29 only to find that there were only 20 pages in the last issue of the Journal. (My brain hurts! Ugh! ((Monsieur Catstrangler, as you may be aware, certain copies of the Journal are available in public libraries, and sections of these are "cut" to avoid corrupting youth. Due to an error in our subscription Department your copy was mixed up))).

CANALOGUE

With my usual lack of intelligence, I managed to forget to plus this last issue despite Don asking me to. If you fancy trundling around the Cheshire line canal system with a bunch of like-minded Jones Leonies (and presumably stopping at every pub on the way) for a week, I suggest that you contact my brother, Sam, at 611 Church St., Old Sanford, Nottingham NG6 0CL (TEL Nottingham 702718) quickly. I think that he wants deposits in the very near future if you're interested so I suggest that you phone him for more details. I did have most of the details but I've filed them away somewhere (probably in the bin) so I may well be very out when I say that it will cost you about £30 for the boat for a week. Sam, Don and me.

We Apologise for the Delay, but....

RT 81 K - Round 4

DOKS (Graham Cox, black). 4a) (J10)-G12. 4b) (D48)-E17. 4c) (G12)-G13-F13. Still 35 pts.

EAT (Tin Sharrock, orange). 4a) (E13)-E16. 4b) (E16)-E20 (via Bexhill & Hastings); (E17)-F17. 4c) (E17)-E18. 60+10=70 pts

SMHC (Gordon Fish, blue). 4a) (D56)-D54-Tonbridge. 4b) (D70)-C71; (D69)-C69. 4c) (E51)-L50-L49. 42+3 (to SCOME) =39 pts.

SCOME (Deryck Davey, red). 4a) (D69)-A68. 4b) (D70)-C71; (A68)-N28. 4c) (N28)-M29-Folkestone. 42+5+3 (from SMHC) =50 pts.

Throws for Round 5: 4, 2, 3

RT 16 C - Round 7

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Chicago - Billings | FLIT 20-1=19; DYER +1 |
| 2) Fargo - San Diego | No entrants |
| 3) Any R Terminal - Houston | JNR 20+3=23; NMR 10-3=7 |
| 4) St Louis - Any Pacific Port | DITTO 20-4=16; JNR +4 |
| 5) N. Orleans - Duluth | NMR 20 |
| 6) San Francisco - Salt Lake City | JNR 20-12=8; DITTO 10-4+12=18 |

Earnings: JNR 35; DITTO 34; NMR 27; FLIT 19; DYER 1

Bids for DYER Tracks

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	
FLIT	-	-	15	
NMR	5	26	31	
JNR	21	16	6	So NMR gets B and C, JNR gets A.
DITTO	6	18	16	

Builds

JNR (G6)-Los Angeles-San Diego; (Phoenix)-F12-G13-G14; (Des Moines)-J70-Minn St. Paul
Cost 15-10+1 (to EMT) +6 (to NMR) = 12.

EMT (G7)-E6-San Diego; (Portland)-F14-Seattle; (G6)-A66. Cost 16+2 (to JNR) =5+13.

DITTO (Sacramento)-L6-M5; (E30)-E31-E33-E35; (E33)-D32; (E35)-D35. Cost 13+3 (to JNR) =16

NMR (G18)-G13-F12-Phoenix; (F12)-D11. Cost 15+1 (to JNR) =16.

JNR (Jonathan Ralfrey, black)	52 + 35 - 21 - 6 = 60
DITTO (Deryck Davey, blue)	23 + 31 - 16 = 41
EMT (Harry Turner, red)	26 + 19 - 12 = 33
NMR (David Watts, orange)	64 + 27 - 57 - 10 = 24

Round 8 Runs

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 2) Fargo - San Diego | |
| 7) Milwaukee - Sacramento | You can enter any four plus no. 2. |
| 6) St Louis - San Francisco | |
| 9) Kansas City - Denver | <u>Builds for Round 8: up to 11 points</u> |
| 10) Portland - Des Moines | |
| 11) Seattle - Minn St Paul | |
| 12) Los Angeles - Chicago | |

RT 31 H - Round 1

Diesels or Nothing (John Brown, blue) 1a) (Bristol)-E32-E31-C30-C29-Gloucester. 1b) (Glos)-K27-K24. 1c) (K24)-Birmingham-F19. 20+10=30 pts.

Sheffield, Huddersfield & Halifax RR (Tom Butcher, black) 1a) (Hull)-J43-F44-H45. 1b) (H45)-Doncaster-K48. 1c) (K48)-B54. 20+5=25 pts.

Individual Transport (Deryck Davey, red) 1a) (London)-L66. 1b) (L66)-L64-H62. 1c) (H62)-L60-Leicester-B58. 20+5=25 pts.

Giant Mantic Hauls & Co (Geoff Bardinham, orange) 1a) (Breston)-E4-F3-G4-Burnley-J4. (J4)-F5-E4-E3-Leeds. 1c) (E5)-Huddersfield; (G4)-G7-Manchester. 20+20=40 pts.

Round 2 throws: 2, 3, 6

Zephyr, Spring 1905 (1979 PH)

GM: Bob Brown

Austria: A(Vic)-Bud, A(Ser) S A(Tur)-Hum, F(Gro) S ITALIAN F(Bul so), A(Gal) S
(Christian Norris) GERMAN A(Hun)-Ukr

England: F(Den) S F(Pol)-NTH, F(BEH)-SKA, F(MWC)-BAR
(Chris Bishop)

France: F(VMS) St, A(Mar) S A(Tar)-Tur, A(Spa)-Gas, F(BNG)-Pic
(Jeffrey Garrett)

Germany: A(Tur) S A(Pic)-Tar, F(Wal)-Pol, F(Den) S F(Kie)-MAL, A(Tru)-War,
(Dave Thomas) A(Hun)-Ukr

Italy: A(Pic) S A(Wen)-Den, F(Tun) S F(Nap)-ION, F(Bul so) S AUSTRIAN A(Pul)-
(Dave Browne) Hum

Russia: A(Sav) S AUSTRIAN A(Pul)-Tun, A(Ros)-Liv, A(Win)-Stl, F(Sve) ML F(Nor)
(Peter McDonald)

Turkey: A(Sav)-Con, F(ARM) S A(Con)-Bul
(Dick Shears)

Hasties: German A(Tur)-Hum.

Shaking his head in the negative mode, Screwtape laughed long and loud. "No -- no -- my dear Machiavelli! he said to that worthy "It will never happen, be assured."

Machiavelli's expression showed the surprise he felt. "But it is the only logical and reasonable course open to him" he expostulated.

"Precisely" Screwtape replied. "And it is because it is reasonable, logical and plain commonsense that you can rely upon Crazy George not to do it. No, he will never ally with Germany against France, and he will hangle his opportunity to ally with Russia against Germany. You see, he hasn't the brains of one of his own turnips, so he'll plod along from one disaster to another until he is down to two centres when come whining and snivelling to me for an alliance to prop him up."

Machiavelli shook his head in dismay. "And will you ally with him then?" he enquired of his master.

"Of course I will" boomed Screwtape, rubbing his hands with anticipatory glee and exuding bonhomie. "Fleets and weaklings are the best sort of allies you can get -- when you can't lead them around by the nose you can always bully them into doing what you want. Now let's have a look at the Balkans and see what Turkey's done this time."

Italy to World: "Well what happened to all those promises in last turn's press? Is someone telling lies?!"

Germany to Russia: "Booys! Sorry about that; call it a mistake."

Constantinople to Berlin: "For God's sake stop messing around and start putting some pressure on our friends."

President to Kaiser: "Why don't you ally with England against Russia and leave me alone to deal with Italy?"

Anon - Rome: "I am most grateful for your second communication. Such acts are better than a dozen letters and I am making considerable note of it. Many thanks."

Trans-Europe Tours Limited (Vienna): "Hurry now to confirm your Black Sea holiday for next season! Trans-Europe will provide support for your travel to and from your chosen resort and for your stay there. The company has had experience serving many nationalities, including Russians, Italians and Germans."

Vienna - Berlin: "Yes, I have tried to install a telephone link with London. Unfortunately, no reply received to date. Will contact if successful."

Moscow to London: "Dear Crazy George, you can have Norway back if you will help me take Denmark and Berlin."

Paris to Vienna: "Stop Italy now and I will help you."

Breloch - Italy: "I'm sorry if our phone conversation some time ago misled you, Dave (or I just got confused about what you were asking), but your attempted support is not allowed in the 1971 rulebook."

Canadharas, Autumn 1910 (1978 DK) GM: Bob Brown

England: F(Swe) S F(NTH)-Den, F(Edi)-NTH, A(Lon) St, F(IRE)-MAC, F(WIS)-Tun
(Alan Lennox)

France: F(MAO) S F(Pre)-ENG, F(Spa sc) S F(MAO), F(Tun) S ITALIAN F(ION),
(Larry Edgar) A(Tur)-Ruh, A(Hol)-Ruh, A(Kie) S A(Den) St, F(Pel) S F(SKA)-NTH,
A(War)-Tru

Italy: A(Sil)-War, A(Tyr)-Vie, A(Ven)-Tri, F(Nap)-TYR, F(ION) St
(Bob Johnson)

Russia: A(Nor) S ENGLISH F(Swe), A(Mos) S A(StP)-Liv, A(Tri) S A(Gal)-Vie,
(Phil Bass) A(Bud) S A(Tri), A(Ser)-Gre, A(Rum)-Gal, F(AEG)-Gre, F(WIS)-ION

Nasties. English F(NTH)-ENG.

Winter 1910.

England: Lon, Ipl, Edi, ~~War~~, Swe, ~~War~~ removes A(Lon), F(Edi) for 4
France: War, Mar, Pre, Spa, Por, Pel, Ber, Kie, Hol, Tun, ~~War~~ + Den no change for 11
Italy: Rom, Ven, Nap, ~~War~~, Vie, Mun, War no builds ordered, 1 short for 6
Russia: Sev, Rum, Bud, Ank, Ser, Bul, Con, Gro, StP, Smy + Nor, Mos, Tri
builds F(Sev), F(StPno) & 1 short for 13

Prelechs: The draw proposal was defeated.

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Wozand, Spring 1907 (1978 GU) GM: Bob Brown

Austria: A(Bud) & A(Ser) stand unordered
(Anarchy)

France: F(IRE) S A(Wal)-Ipl, A(Gas)-Par, A(Tur) St, F(MAO)-ENG
(Ian McIntyre)

Germany: A(Yer)-Ipl, F(Lon)-ENG, A(Ruh) S A(Ser)-Mun, A(Vie) S A(Pan)-Boh,
(Vic Smith) F(Pic)-Hol, A(Gal) S A(Tri)-Bud, A(War) S A(StP)-Liv, F(Min) S F(MAL)-
GOB, F(Nor)-NTH

Italy: F(Alb) & A(Tyr) S A(Ven)-Tri, A(Pie)-Tus, F(Tun)-ION
(Ian Doherty)

Russia: A(Mos) S F(GOB)-StP sc, F(Ukr)-Rum, A(Sev) S A(Mos), F(Con)-Bul sc,
(John Miller) F(Smy)-Con

Turkey: A(Are) stands unordered
(Anarchy)

Nasties. Austrian A(Bud) dead.

Berlin - Moscow: This move is either so cunning it's evil or so stupid it's cost me the game. It all depends on your intelligence..... ((Don't think it's the latter))

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Whubarb, Spring 1909 (1978 DY) GM: Bob Brown

France: A(Yer), A(Bro), A(Par), A(Mar), F(WIS), F(TYR) & F(Tun) all stand
(John James)

Germany: A(StP) & A(Liv) S A(War)-Mos, A(Boh) S A(Sil)-Gal, A(Tyr)-Pie, A(Pic) St,
(Harry Turner) A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Gas)-Spo, F(ENG)-MAC, F(Edi)-Cly, F(Lon)-NTH

Italy: A(Ven) stands unordered
(Anarchy)

Turkey: F(MAf) S F(ION)-Tun, F(GOL) S F(Nap)-TYR, A(Rom) St, F(ADM)-ION,
(Chris Bishop) F(Smy)-AEG, A(Tri) S A(Vie)-Tyr, A(Bud)-Vie, A(Gal)-Sil, A(Ukr) S
A(Mos)-War, A(Sev)-Mos

Nasties. French F(Tun) annihilated, F(TYR) dead, ENG. Turkish A(Mos) annihilated,
A(Gal)-Rum.

Antler, Autumn 1902 (1979 EA)

GM: Bob Brown

Austria: (Vie)-Bud, A (Bud)-Ser, A (Pro) & F (AEG) S A (Ser)-Bud
(Norman Williams)

England: F (NTM) C A (Eli)-Mer, F (Lon)-ENG, A (Den) S F (Mer)-Swc
(John Lee)

France: F (Spe sc)-DAG, F (VOC)-IRL, F (Pro)-ENG, A (Pic) S A (Par)-Lux, A (Gas) St
(Paul Trebble)

Germany: A (Pol) St, F (Hel)-HEL, A (Kie)-Den, A (Mun)-Juh
(Ken Simpson)

Italy: A (Joh)-Vie, F (ION) C A (Fun)-Alb, F (EMS)-Smy
(Frederic Wenman)

Russia: A (Ukr) S F (Sev)-Mun, A (War)-Gal, A (Mos)-StP, F (Swc) S GERMAL, A (Kie)-Den
(Chris Bishop)

Turkey: F (BLA) C A (Fun)-Arm, F (Ank) S A (Iul)-Con
(Derek Wilson)

Winter 1902

Austria: Bud, Tri, Vie , (Pro, Ser + Bud	no change for 5
England: Eli, Lon, Irl, Den, Mer	no change for 5
France: Pro, Mer, Par, Vie , (Pro, Spa	removes A (Par) for 5
Germany: Par, Kie, Mun, Hel + Hel	builds F (Par) for 5
Italy: Nap, Rom, Ven, Fun + Vie, Smy	builds A (Ven), F (Jap) for 6
Russia: Mos, Sev, StP, War, Mun, Swc	builds A (Sev) for 6
Turkey: Ank, Con, BLA , BLA	removes F (BLA), F (Ank) for 2

England - Germany: cutlink, cur of the blackest kind, why don't you stick to playing in Megalomania where your sort so obviously belong. Bleah, that's all I can say, 'bleah, bleah, bleah.....though I'll let you off if you've made amends this time.

England - France: His letters mean you're channelling your attentions in the wrong direction. Look at the AUSTRO-ITALIAN Juggernaut! It demands your immediate attention.

Meanwhile.....The Dicer paced up and down, muttering to himself and periodically kicking the bowl of water.

"You say that thing's supposed to predict the future? Were like attempting to place us in suspended animation if you ask me. Just look at what happened last time. Nothing, absolutely nothing. Now am I supposed to win this game if my pieces fail to move, answer me that!"

"Mmmmm, yes there does seem to be something wrong. I think it's that the last budget cut we had forced me to use inferior gazine water - only 99% accurate instead of 99.94% for the real stuff."

"Idiot, when I told you to make economies I meant you to get rid of your pet alligators, not start using faulty equipment!"

"Yes, well I've replaced it now, so things should be back to normal."

"Good", good, so now what do you see?"

"Still one dead wasp, a couple of flies....oh, yes, well Germany will not try to be greedy again and FRANCE will turn his attentions towards his other border."

"Perfect, just perfect. Will all his floats go away?"

"Mmmmm, I don't think so. We'd still better cover the Channel, but things (things=players?) seem to be looking up."

"You mean the players are reading the game report and not this? Typical!"

Vatican City, Rome. The Pope today inaugurated the Tenth Crusade and exhorted all the leaders of Europe to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors (by drowning in a river on the way, or getting kidnapped on the way back, or dying of plague, or sacking Constantinople for some light relief, or.....).

Italy - Turkey: A bad workman always blames his tools.

Imperial Visit to Vienna?

Turkey to England, France and Germany.

Dear Friends, much as I hate to interrupt your little squabble in the west, I must point out some rather interesting developments over here in the east. Austria and Italy have successfully combined to beat hell out of myself and south Russia. When they have finished with us (and that won't take long) YOU'RE NEXT! Please do something about it now. If you don't, you've only got yourselves to blame.

The Tiger dozed fitfully, as well he should. There was an uneasy feeling somewhere in his stomach. Having looked into the crystal ball only last season and seen flies, wasps and other assorted carrion, his mind was dwelling on the idea of death.

"Blue fleets wouldn't upset me so much," he thought "at least I'd know what the devils were up to." He struggled out of bed, "Monkeys from drinking vodka" he mused painfully, "are worse than those emanating from fine French wines, but," he winced, "I should not have attempted to blockade the Channel ports."

Finally relinquishing the hold that his head was having on his legs, he walked to the end of his bed, kicked the black-clothed lump at the end of it and rubbed his foot.

"The Druid's head always was dense" he thought, "but no matter, he has his uses." The Druid meanwhile was rubbing his gonads ruefully, "What is it, your Majesty?"

"I wish another look at your ball, Druid. Kindly arrange it at once."

The Druid dutifully arranged his balls as his master had bidden.

"Not that one, imbecile, the crystal one - and be quick or you'll lose that as well!"

The Druid scuttled off. "Sire" he said when he returned "Great news."

"Go on, go on," the Tiger shouted expectantly.

"Well, Sire, I see a great celebration in the near future - a large procession, church bells ringing, people cheering."

"And what is this joyfulness for?"

"I see all the public buildings draped in our national colours and soldiers marching proudly in the streets."

"Here, pass that thing to me," screamed the Tiger in anticipation. There was a crash as the ball broke into thousands of silver pieces. "They are not our colours, Druid," said the Tiger, "they are Tricolours!"

Q: "Who writes this crap?"

ooo000ooo

Xyster, Spring 1907 (1978 JT)

GM: Bob Brown

Austria: A(Gal) S A(Hum)-Ukr, A(Buc)-Hum, (Ser)-Tri, F(ION) St, A(Cro) S(A(Bul)
(Roger Ayre)

England: B(Lal)-MAC, F(Den) S B(Ion)-JETH, F(Edi)-NWG, A(StP) S B(SKL)-Nor,
(Dave Tucker) B(PAL)-Sve

Germany: A(Cro) St, A(Pic)-Bel, A(Bel)-Pau, A(Hol)-Pic, A(Kie)-Ber, F(GOB) S A(Tru)
(Chris Bishop) -Liv

Italy: F(NWG)-BAR, F(MAO)-MAO, F(MMS)-MAO, A(Per) St, A(Tun) St, A(Ven)-Iyr,
(Cordon Geddes) B(Mar) S AUSTRIAN F(ION)

Russia: A(War) St unordered
(Anarchy)

Turkey: A(Pes)-Ukr, F(Sov)-Hum, A(Cen)-Bul, F(AEG) S F(EMS)-ION
(Rob Carter)

Constantinople: Will all players note I shall be at my home address (4 Links Rd., Tenn, Wolverhampton) from 6th December to 9th January.

GERMANY - FABRICATOR: Wanne race?

Austria to Italy: Sorry if I've misjudged you or rather happy if I have - only I feel nervous remembering what happened earlier in the game.

Cybercrud 4, Urime I, Third Age II GM: Ron Fisher

Eriador: A(Shi)-Bra, A(SDe)-Gwy, A(Ett)-Wer, A(Rhu) S 2A(Duh)-Hol, F(Min) S
(George Kingston) CONDOA A(Isen)

Rhevanion: A(Ghe) S A(And), A(And) S A(DG)-Col, A(SMi)-DG, A(Wil)-Bre, 2A(Ere)-fir
(Bob Brown)

Rohan: A(Miz) S 2A(Lrd)-Pur, A(Ede)-Tgr, A(Rau)-Vol, A(FER)-Rau, A(Mas)-Edo
(Simon Burke)

Gondor: (Isen) St, A(Len) & A(Mur) S 2A(MTi), 2A(MTi) S A(Cai)-NIt
(Dave Tucker)

Mordor: 2A(GF) S A(Her)-Ler, A(Hol)-Mor, A(Gwy)-Bra, A(Uru) S 2A(Mit) S 2A(SIt),
(Pat McCarthy) A(MF) St, 2A(Mur) S 2A(Ehe)-Eor

Umbars: A(Har) & 2A(SCe) S A(LH)-Rha, A(Sth) S A(Har), F(SUn) & F(Wol) S
(Geoff Hardingham) 2A(SCe)

Retreats. Mordor 2A(Rha) chopped. Neutral A(Ler) chopped.

Denethor - Theoden: Missive received, however urgency negated by use of black-sweathed dwarf on two-wheeled mechanical device. Suggest Rohan herdes stick to horses! Stand by your VDU.

Denethor - Bilbo & Associated Hobbits: Cleanliness is next to Godliness i.e. wash your feet before you get here!

Denethor - Harbar: Er, what do we do next? Elephants over the Ephel Duths?

Frodo - Theoden: I was on my way to the relief of Helm's Deep, where did you think I was going?

Frodo - Sauron: Gandalf says you'd be wise to pull your forces out of the mines before he remembers the word. You must realise that no mere lackey of Morgoth can hope to stand against the forces that you have so feckishly aroused. Surrender now and perhaps you will be allowed to live.

Frodo - Denethor: You may well ask what is going on in Rohan. It seems that Theoden has come more under the influence of Wormtongue and Saruman than was previously thought. If the Schirrim ever do cross your borders you'd be well advised to find out whose side they are on.

King Thranduil - DarkLords: Beware foul eve if you dare to desecrate the heart of elven-
den on Middle Earth. Vengeance will follow swiftly should orcish hoves trample on the
green swards of Iathlarien. Return to your Dark Holes and stay there ere even the fragile
elven rise up against you.

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BGC 215, Spring 1914

GM: Ron Fisher

England: F(LAG)-Lpl, F(PWG) S A(Cly)-Mi, F(MTH) C A(Wer)-Yer, F(Den)-Swe,
(Hugh Baldwin) A(Ler) S A(Kie) C TURFISH A(Mun)-Luh, F(Hol)-Lcl

France: F(TAL)-GOS, F(Lpl) S A(Mi)-Cly, F(Fre)-ENG, F(MAG) S F(TRI)-NAC,
(George Kingston) A(Pic) S TALLAN F(Ven), A(Mur) S A(Duh)-Lcl

Italy: A(Lin) S F(Ven) St, F(Tun) S F(Lap)-ION
(Ian McIntyre)

Turkey: A(Lin) S F(ION)-Lcl, F(Gre) & F(Alb) S F(EMS)-ION, F(ARM) & A(Cyr) S
(Pat Jones) A(Tri)-Ven, A(Lud)-Tri, A(Mun)-Luh, A(Sil) S A(Pob)-Mun

Retreats. English F(MAG)-Cly. French A(Eci) annihilated.

GM: Arrow proposal was defeated.

Tickle, Spring 1908 (1978 GB) GM: Bob Brown

Austria: A(Ser) stands
(Anarchy)

England: A(Sev)-Rom, F(BAL) S A(Sti)-Liv, F(Swe)-GOD, A(Ber)-Sil, F(Mie)-HEEL,
(Frank Dashwood) A(Hol)-Kie, F(NTH) C A(Lon)-Nor, A(Edi) see below, F(PAR) makes polar
bearskin coats and wishes it were Med. fleet

France: A(Lar)-Dur, A(Dur)-Mar, F(Mar)-GOL, A(Vie) S A(Mun)-Tyr, F(WMS) & F(Tun)
(Martin Styler) S F(TYR), F(TYR) S A(Tus)-Rom

Italy: A(Ven)-Apu, A(Tri)-Tyr
(Don Brown)

Russia: A(Var)-Mos, A(Mos)-Sev, A(Rum)-Bud, F(BLA) S A(Mos)-Sev
(Dave Sharrocks)

Turkey: F(Hap) & F(ION) S F(Rom)-TYR, A(Apu)-Rom, A(Pul)-Gre, A(Con)-Pul,
(Chris Bishop) F(Ank)-BLA

Nasties. Turkish F(Rom) annihilated.

The Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle was a blaze of light. A newly raised regiment 'The McCrockonoot Highlanders' was soon to sail to join the victorious armies in war-torn Europe and 'The Quality' had flocked to their Farewell Ball.

They cared nothing for the expense - 200 guineas for a double ticket, new outfits, jewellery, accessories to match and 5d for the bus - if they could but catch a glimpse of their 'beloved' Emperor Frank Fox-trotting. (and besides the fine for not attending was even more).

In that multi-coloured throng were the famous, the rich, the noble, from all corners of that mighty empire. Round the perimeter of the hall, resplendent in their new uniforms, standing motionless as carved statues could be seen the privates of the Highlanders (well of those whose kilts were a bit short, and only if you bent down to peer - which no-one would). Some danced to the lively music of the woodwind band, some guzzled the Black Forest gâteau, all partook freely of the wood-alcohol punch. B.Sc.'s Calcutta (failed) hobnobbed with Lance Bombardiers, trainee solicitors rubbed shoulders with tax inspectors and a throng of students, computer misoperators, local government 'officers' and other riff-raff discussed who should play 12th man for 'The Moles', the cost of Europe, whether Iranian oil should be sent to the USA (for those damn robots) and other topics of the day.

On a dais at the end of the hall, seated on an elegantly carved throne fashioned from the most exquisite timber, sat His Inextinguishable Majesty. He stroked the magnificently inlaid arms of the throne (Burr-walnut on rosewood) as he surveyed the elegantly dressed notables below: Butchers, Vaseys, Wakefields, Ovens, Allens, Wards, Browns and Brownes.

Waiting to minister to his lightest whim, the Jura Jonquil stood at one side and the Foola Fuschia at the other. At last the king spoke. "Count all the silver carefully and have all the guests searched as they leave," he pronounced.

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Yagatan, Autumn 1905), Stab

GM: Bob Brown

England (Jeremy Tullett) F(Lon)-Wal, F(NTH)-ENG, F(Por)-MWC ((no such units)), F(Den) St

France (John James) F(NTH)-Den, F(Por)-MAO, A(Spa) St

Italy (Graham Box) F(WMS) 3 TURKISH F(Maf)-MAO, A(Mar) S F(GOL)-Spa so

Russia (Mark Evans) A(Liv) S A(Mos) St

Turkey (Dave Thomas) A(Ukr) & A(Sev) S A(Var)-Mos, F(Maf)-MAO

Retreats. French A(Spa)-10. Russian A(Mos) annihilated.

Supply Centres: Austria 0, England 2, France 10, Italy 8, Russia 4, Turkey 10.

Sauba, Spring 1909 (1978 EU)

GM: Bob Brown

Austria: A(Tyr)-Boh, A(Tud) S A(Vie)-Gal, A(Ser) S F(Dal sc) St, F(AEC) S F(ION)-
(Chris Bishop) EMS, A(Hun)-Ukr, A(Tri) unordered

France: A(Iar), F(Bre) stand unordered
(Anarchy)

Germany: F(ENG) S F(Nor)-NTH, A(Tic) S A(Gas)-Bre, A(Hol) S A(Kie), A(Kic) S
(Stewart Wright) A(Hun)-Ser, A(Sil) S A(Ter)-Hru

Russia: F(Bdi), F(Lon), A(Hal), F(Den), F(BAL), A(Fru), A(Cal), A(Ukr) stand
(Anarchy) unordered

Turkey: F(BLA)-Sav, A(Con) MS F(Sry)
(Peter McDonald)

Nastics. French F(Bre) dead. Russian A(Fru) & A(Cal) both dead.

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Changes of Address

Phil Boss to Flat 3, 3 Church St., Redcar. Cleveland TS10 1QZ.

Dave Waring - see front cover.

Waiting Lists

Popular Diplomacy (Gamefee £1). C. Bishop, D. Smith, T. Strom, P. Doubleday. Three needed for the last regular gamestart. The game will start as soon as the list is full (rather than what I said last time).

Definitive Mercator (Gamefee £1). List as before - keep hanging on gents, Ulysses may actually finish someday.

Railway Rivals (Gamefee 50p). C. Fitcher, D. Smith. More needed.

In Garde (Gamefee 50p first year, 20p per year thereafter). Contact Dave Waring.

Athgor (No gamefee). Contact Michael O'Shea.

YOUR CREDIT IS:

TADE/PIRE

And another issue bites the dust. God it's been a lousy day (weatherwise). We were lucky, though. We went out this afternoon for a bit of fresh air 'to blow the cobwebs away' after last night's dinner party and we must have had the only half-hour during the day when it didn't rain. We went up to Beacon Fell, one of the larger hills around here, for a walk. Very nice it was too.

Football? Don't mention it. Thrashed by Southampton and Derby and lost to the team at the bottom of the table; at home, too. (For lost read lost). Cloughie must be losing his touch - thank the Lord that the European Cup isn't continuing until March. Pretty poor display by England during the week too which was only brightened up by the display from Hoddle. Looks a good player.

Three weeks until the end of term and then it's Christmas. Where does the time go to? Matthew was 6 months on Tuesday as well and it hardly seems any time since he was in hospital. Must be getting old - long time to retirement, though. GLOOF.

That was The Tinaron that was. It's over - let it go. It was number 58 in a continuing saga of everyday games folk.