

Special bumper ~~Annexe-less~~ eve-of-poll issue!

ISSUE  
NUMBER  
66.

Issue clickety-click (do you realise I've been waiting for 65 issues to be able to say that?) of MAD POLICY, a postal Dippyzone of mind-battering ordinariness from Richard J. Walkerdine, 43 Chapel Grove, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 1UG, England (Weybridge 40136), with openings in regular Diplomacy for a fee of 60p (40p for IDA members) and little else. Most back issues still available at rather silly prices - and speaking of prices please see below!

Today is Monday, March 21st, 1977.

+++++

Prices: This is the last issue of MP to be printed on my current stocks of this rather ordinary paper, and from next month the old thing will be looking extremely pretty on some nice new gold paper which (I hope!) I've just ordered. But although my new paper is quite cheap it's still more pricey than this old stuff, and I bet you can guess what's coming next can't you? That's right, it's going to be you, dear reader, who pays for my new paper with a small rise in the zine's price. I want to raise the price to 10p actually, but a 50% rise is a bit steep so I'm going to do it in two stages; 1p now with another 1p to follow.

From next issue this rag will therefore cost you 9p plus postage per issue, and later in the year - maybe not until autumn - it will rise again to 10p. Sorry and all that but we do live in inflationary times...

The Annexe: Got a phone call from John Morrison's wife the other day to say that the old devil has been laid low by some virus for the past week or so and consequently hasn't been able to type up TA. Should be with us again next month of course, and in the meantime I'm sure we all wish John a speedy recovery (and how about a bit of sympathy for his wife who now has to put up with the old sod all day long - gawd what a job!).

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(Games on pages 7-13 this time - and take a peep at the foot of page 9).

DEADLINE

WEDNESDAY, April 13th (Bourse & Mensamind 2 days earlier please).

STANDBYS

Calls to RON KELLY ('X' Game), ANTHONY DAWSON ('AD' Game), ROGER COLLINS ('AE'), T.

GOAs

- JOHN LETTICE to Flat 4, 8 Wyndham Crescent, London, N12.
- CHRIS SLIDE to c/o Norfolk Gardens Hotel, Hall Ings, Bledford 1.
- JOHN MILLER to Flat 7, 2 Oakley Road, London, N1 3LS.
- DAVE PENGELLY to c/o Poste Restant, GPO Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.
- ANTHONY DAWSON to M.Dawson Anthony, Les Orsans, 84270-Vedene, France (April 1-16)

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Flyers this issue include a copy of RSD rules to the 11 potential players (see notes on pages 6 & 14), a summary of current Boardman Numbers for every UK GM running regular games, and the first issue of Segal's Overstop IDA/UK orphans zine for IDJ players and UK publishers.

No TFTs yet - can't do everything at once - but prospects appear bright for one or two issues of it next month. Remember patience is a virtue. Be seeing you . . .

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Just by way of a change we'll start with a book review:

DOCTOR MIRABILIS: James Blish. (Panther 75p.)

RJW will recall my writing to him several weeks ago complaining that I had read this book twice and that I hadn't understood a word of it - a pardonable exaggeration! However, having re-read it yet again, I can tell you what it isn't. It isn't a historical novel; it isn't a cor-blimey treatment of Bacon as a medieval Thomas Edison (which he most emphatically was not!); it isn't even a, necessarily mostly fictional, biography. (Surprisingly little is known of Bacon's life, apart from myth - and hands up all those who confuse Roger Bacon with Francis Bacon... Thank you!)

Bacon was one of the 12th-13th century Western European Scholastics (you know, those tiresome people prone to dispute with infinite ingenuity and at intolerable length concerning the number of angels capable of dancing simultaneously on the point of a pin). For my sins, I know more about Scholasticism than most - indeed, it was on this subject that I read this book most critically: alas! I am no match for Mr. Blish's scholarship - but I will accept a small wager that 90% of MP's readership are acquainted with one famous Scholastic; William of Ockham, inventor of the famous Razor.

I found the book extraordinarily difficult to read owing to the impenetrable style in which Mr. Blish has perversely chosen to render it. Definitely not to be read at one sitting! There is some amount of Latin but, as Mr. Blish promises in his foreword, those unfortunates unaquainted with this ancient and noble tongue need not despair, the context is easy to grasp by a carefully crafted running commentary in English.

Re-reading the above, I seem not to have told you what this book is about. Well, it's about Roger Bacon, as the more perspicacious will have grasped! It tells the sketchy story of Bacon's life as one of the young clerks of Oxenford. His sojourn amongst the hundred colleges of the University of Paris and his famous dispute with the formidable Albertus Magnus for his Master of Arts degree, ending with his death, in his 70s, at Oxford following 13 years imprisonment for heresy in Italy. But the skein of the narrative is incredibly tangled: Mr. Blish has, for example, superimposed a (fictional) sub-plot of unrequited love on the part of Roger's colleague, Adam Marsh (or Marisco, another name familiar to us Scholasticism aficionados) for the Lady Eleanor, sister of King Henry the Third; what this has to do with his subject is never made clear.

(A typical book review: tendentious, didactic and replete with minor inaccuracies - par for the course in fact! But it makes a change from the unending diet of Science Fiction in other, less fortunate, zines.)

-- Goncourt Freres.

((Thank you, Sir, for a most interesting contribution - and one from an area where I warrant the majority of us are rather lacking. This issue is gratis in payment for the above, and any future articles will always be welcomed on these pages.))

////////support//your//local//linear//separator//revival//squad//////////

### Boardman Numbers Are Go!!

Yes folks, we're up to date again. All UK publishers to whom I owe Numbers should find a sheet enclosed with this issue listing the Boardman Numbers of all the regular games they are running - doing it this way allows you to check that your earlier games are correctly numbered as well as the later ones. Light games started at the back end of '76 are still awaiting extra supplies of last year's numbers I'm afraid, but I've told Doug and he should be sending them through shortly. So that's all right then.

Speaking of Doug Beyerlein, some of you have commented on his recent decision to ask for a \$1 fee per Number issued and it's probably as well to set the record straight. Here goes. Doug is the overall Boardman Number Custodian worldwide (I'm only his associate for the UK) and as such he is responsible for publishing Everything, which is the zine in which he records all numbers as they are issued, with details of zine, GI, players etc., and writes up all completed games as they

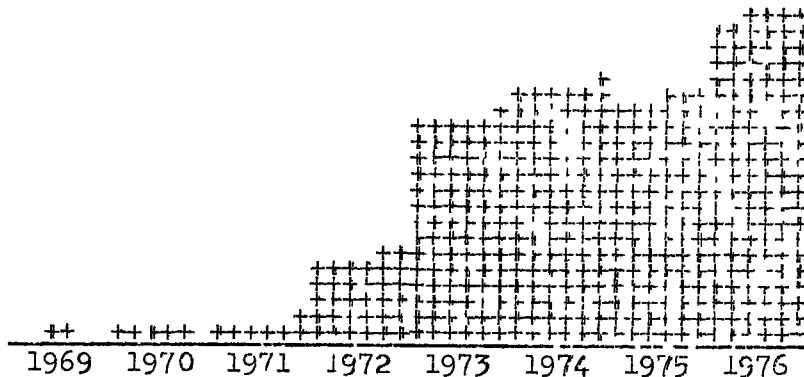
finish, from all over the world, in much the same way as I do in DF. Everything is available on subscription at a rate of ten issues for \$4 surface mail or ten for \$8 airmail (cheques, money orders etc. payable to 'Chittiman Enterprises' and should be sent to 2115 N.W. Elder St., Corvallis, OR 97330, USA) and Doug also offers to trade it with all publishers who are running regular games (trade offers should be sent to Doug at 240 Hawthorne, Apt. F, Palo Alto, CA 94301, USA). But the cost of publishing the zine is in no way covered by the few subscriptions taken out for it and so Doug needs a subsidy in order to cover his costs. At one time he received subsidies of several hundred dollars a year from GRI, the original manufacturers of Diplomacy, and the IDA, but with the Avalon Hill takeover of the game and the internal disputes in the American branch of the IDA both these sources of finance dried up. So Doug last year introduced the \$1 fee for all games which he numbered and that in theory balanced the books. The latest position is slightly different in that Avalon Hill have now agreed to a small subsidy with the result that Doug has made the \$1 fee voluntary rather than mandatory.

How all this affects us over here is not at all. I receive a small subsidy from IDA/UK which covers my costs and TPI pays for itself quite happily, so for as long as I am the UK BNC there will be no charges associated with the Numbers over here - apart from anything else I'd never get away with it!

But believe it or not that wasn't what I started out to write about in this article. Having now tidied up last years game-starts I thought you might like to know how many there were last year compared with earlier years. So here are the total number of game-starts of regular Diplomacy in the UK in each year since the British hobby started (including anonymous games and local games):

1969: 2, 1970: 5, 1971: 7, 1972: 32, 1973: 85, 1974: 97, 1975: 93, 1976: 124

Or, to put it another way:



Which is quite a lot - 445 to be exact. Predictions for this year? I'd expect to see a total of 142 regular games being started...

//////////linear//separators//make//you//fool//good//all//over://////////

Diplomacy World International Variant Design Competition

The objectives of this competition are to obtain high quality material for publication in Diplomacy World (circulation over 700), to promote careful, logical variant design, and to reward and recognise variant designers. Any unpublished variant may be entered. Entries must include an English translation if the original is in another language, and it will be necessary to judge the entry on the basis of the translation. Each entrant agrees, by the act of entering the competition, the permit first publication of a winning variant in DW. Designers retain all other rights. It is not required that entries be 'playtested', though such aid is permitted and encouraged, so long as the variant is not publicly distributed in printed form. Variants designed by more than one person are acceptable and there is no limit to the number of entries that may be submitted by any designer. Each entry must include return postage if the designer wishes it returned when the contest is over.

Due to the impracticability of forming a judging panel among which each entry would have to be passed by mail, and because the first objective is to

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acquire material for Diplomacy World, the sole Judge will be the DW Variant Design Editor and organiser of the competition, Lew Pulsipher. All decisions and interpretations of the Judge will be final.

It is impossible to exactly describe judging criteria. However, completeness and clarity of rules are very important since no variant is worth much if it cannot be played owing to uncertain rules. Play balance is also very important, that is, each player should have as much chance of winning as any other. A game in which one player has much smaller or larger chances of winning will be severely penalised. Originality is desirable, but it should be remembered that using old forms in new ways is as original as devising new ones. Finally, where variants are equal in other respects those designed for a variety of numbers of players, and which may be played both face-to-face and by mail, will have the advantage. All entries must be playable face-to-face, without a gamesmaster. No revisions of previously published variants will be considered.

Variants may be entered in one of four categories, but only one category per variant. In borderline cases the Judge will assign the entry to a category. The four are:

- a) science fiction or fantasy, excluding Tolkien based games
- b) historically based variant using a new board
- c) variant using the standard board with rules less than 1250 words
- d) open. Any variant not covered in one of the three above is permitted, again excluding Tolkien.

For a variety of reasons Tolkien based variants are completely excluded from the competition.

Prizes. The most valuable prize, of course, is the large circulation a winner will obtain for his variant. Also, on a more or less random basis I have asked several publishers to contribute prizes. I hope some who were not asked will add to the list. The distribution of prizes among the winners will be determined by winners' preferences and geographical locations.

Four Science Fiction and Fantasy Variant Packages (L.Pulsipher)

Two one year subscriptions to Diplomacy World (W.Buchanan)

Two half year subscriptions to Dolchstoss (NGC)

Subscription to Bumm or some variants from the Continental European Variant Bank (W.L.Haas)

Twelve issue subscription to Vortigern (R.Prevot)

One year subscription to Mad Policy (R.Walkerding)

Ten issue subscription to Rats... (P.Svanson)

£1.50-worth subscription to Chimaera (C.Booth)

Selection of variants printed in past issues of Bushvacker (F.Davis Jr.)

Note that the first five listed represent four countries, and Britain has contributed a larger number than any other country.

Send entries to L. Pulsipher, London House, Mecklenburgh Square, London, WC1N 2AB, UK.

Deadline for entries is 30th November 1977.

//////////use//linear//separators//today////you//know//it//makes//sense!//////////

#### ROKKOR

by Paul Willey

Rokkor is an alien policeman who has formed a symbiotic union with Nick Morgan, a young photographer. He is pursuing a being of his own race who has entered the body of a Somerset bobby.

#### PART SIX

The city editor of the Bristol Herald called one of his junior reporters. "Fellow called Blackmore," he said, "out at Huish Barrow. It's another flying saucer story. He reckons he's seen a little blue man, but this one's different. A copper is supposed to be taking the feller to the country infirmary because it's dead or something. Here are the details. Check it out for me, will you?"

The young reporter nodded and headed for a telephone. Ten minutes later, he came back to the editor to report that no little blue man had turned up at the county infirmary, but P.C. Forbes, the constable who had taken the body away, was

missing. The editor shrugged, and told the youngster to make some more calls in an hour or two's time, and see if anything had developed.

The said P.C. Forbes was beginning to recover consciousness. He had lain in the car for three hours since the alien had passed into his body, ample time for the creature to connect nerve paths and absorb knowledge from the policeman's mind. Ample time, also, to connect overriding nerve paths to the motor cells, so that the alien could control his body.

The policeman climbed out of his car, which was still standing cross-wise in the lane, where it had skidded at Forbes' panic-stricken braking. Heedlessly, he began to walk back up the lane and, before long, he reached the field where the ship still stood, nose pointing to the morning sky. Without a break in stride, he paced across to it and climbed in through the open door.

When he came out he was carrying a bulky piece of equipment. He closed the door and retreated across the field with the apparatus. Kneeling down, he set the alien machinery on the grass and began to operate it. Vapour began to escape from the base of the ship, then a great gout of flame burst from the tail. Slowly it began to rise, delicately balanced on a pillar of fire. The speed increased rapidly until it was racing into the upper air at a tremendous velocity.

The policeman stood, and picked up the control equipment. The ship would remain in a parking orbit until he needed it again. Meanwhile, he had to find a safe place for his apparatus.

By now the day had fully begun, and the ship had not gone unobserved. Even before the young reporter's first hour was up, the switchboard of the Bristol Herald was jammed with calls.

P.C. Forbes made his way to Jed Blackmore's farm. "Jed," he said. "I want you to hide this equipment, and tell no-one about it. Do you understand?"

The portly farmer looked at him. "No-one? Why's that?"

"I can't tell you at the moment, but I'll give you a full explanation when I collect it. All right?"

Jed nodded. There was something odd in the policeman's manner, but he could not understand what it was. He seemed to be having difficulty in forming his words, but there was more to it than that. Just what was strange though was indefinable. Nevertheless, he took the control apparatus and put it in his loft. And when the reporters and newshounds came to see him, later in the day, he told none of them about the equipment. Even when they told him that P.C. Forbes had delivered the blue alien at the county mortuary nearly four hours after it had been found, and then vanished, he did not pass on the information with which the young policeman had trusted him.

The following morning the story was in the national press, and Nick and Rokkor read it in Nick's hotel room in Scotland.

I don't understand what's going on, Nick subvocalised.

"Well," Rokkor told him, "as I understand it from the newspaper account, Gradon killed his host -"

Who?

"Gradon," repeated Rokkor. Although he communicated with Nick by imparting impulses to the auditory nerves, to Nick it seemed that he was listening to an invisible speaker. "Gradon is the murderer I am pursuing. I have to take him back to my own planet for trial."

But why should he kill his host? persisted Nick.

"Because a blue alien would be surrounded by publicity within minutes. He wants to just merge with the crowd and disappear. If he simply left his host's body, the host would resume control of it, and would be able to warn Earthmen about the alien parasite. I think he stopped his host's heart, somehow got into the body of this young policeman, and sent the ship into a parking orbit with its remote control apparatus. It's my bet that the policeman, controlled by Gradon, will take on some new identity and we shall never hear of P.C. Forbes again."

But why do you want your arrival kept secret? I could make a fortune out of those photographs in my camera.

"That would put Gradon on his guard," Rokkor told him. "At present he thinks I am probably dead. You see, out in space we exchanged force ray shots, and he scored a glancing hit on my ship which knocked it out of orbit. It was all Karang

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could do to prevent the ship falling into the atmosphere and burning up. He managed to get it under control again, and we made an entry half a day after Gradon had landed. But the ship was crippled, and there was no way we could avoid the crash landing which killed Karang."

I don't really see what difference it makes, Nick objected. If P.C. Forbes has disappeared, how can we find him?

"Find the remote control apparatus," replied Rokkor, "and we find Gradon. We have to go to Somerset."

Wait a minute! exclaimed Nick. I'm a photographer. I've got a job to do. I can't just leave it, and go shooting all over the country.

"On the contrary," Rokkor told him. "The pictures you have here will do, and there are some pictures you have to take in Somerset. Why don't we do those next?"

Since the information had been taken from Nick's mind when Rokkor first linked nerves with him, there was no disputing it, and Nick could find no further objection to make.

-- continued next issue.

//////////linear//separators////one//of//the//good//things//in//life!//////////

#### IDA/UK News

Orphans: Paul Segal is getting it together now and the first issue of Ovorstop is going out to players in the Maiden orphans and all UK C.I.s. Any C. wanting orphans from Paul is requested to get in touch with him (not me) as soon as possible please if you haven't recently done so. Also, any players in an orphaned game which hasn't yet been dealt with should drop him a line too please. Paul's address is 29 Heath Hurst Road, London, NW3 (tel. 01-435-0460). Note that this service applies only to non-NGC games of course. (From the amount of data he's extracted from my files lately I'd say Pete Cousins has the NGC orphans well under control!)

Dip. Players List: This intended supplement to the NGC list, covering mostly people who aren't members of the NGC, is now available from me for anyone who wants it for the price of postage only. Forty or so names with brief details of occupation, preferred games, travelling arrangements etc. all typed up by Bill Orr from the replies to the questionnaire that was circulated in several zines last year. If there's a reasonable response to this one we'll do another one later in the year.

1977 Handbook: At present this is only in the planning stage but IDA/UK has a firm intention to do it, with publication likely sometime in the autumn. We're article hunting at the moment, with Segal heading the search. I know he's already started sweet-talking people into writing something for it, but if you think there's something you'd like to contribute (any sort of hobby-related articles, variants etc.) and haven't yet been asked why not drop him a line (address above) and tell him what you can contribute? Naturally, all contributors get a free copy of the finished article.

N.A. Elections: The North Americans hold their elections for IDA/NA the other week and rather late in the day decided to include us in the electorate. Everyone who was a current member in February got a ballot and 21 of them were returned to me in time for me to phone the results across to the States. Quite a good response really - thanks. Full results in the next QVF I hope.

Add to that list the free members discussion-zine, QVF, and any other brilliant ideas anyone can think of and I hope some of you non-members might be thinking you're missing something. Annual membership is only £1, payable to me.

//////////get//the//strength//of//linear//separators//around//your//line!//////////

#### Rather Silly Diplomacy - progress!

Anthony Dawson has earned my undying gratitude and proved himself to be a Thoroughly Splendid Fellow by sending the missing rules I needed. All players should find a copy enclosed here and I'd like preference lists from all eleven of you by next deadline please (that's for the 7 normal countries plus Mastermind, Soothsayer, Doctor and Joker). I might slightly rewrite a couple of rules, but not enough to notice. Final version of rules will be ready next issue.







1976AJ ('Y') -- Spring 1907

Blimey, these battles are getting complex...

AUSTRIA (Martin Rundle): A Bon - Vie S by A Bud, A Ser - Rum,  
A Bul & F Smy both S (ITALIAN) F Aeg - Con.

FRANCE (Paul Willey): F Lon S (ITALIAN) F MAO = Eng.

GERMANY (Allan Ovens): F Kie - Den, A Sil - Boh, A Mun - Bur, A Tyr - Pie,  
A Bur - Mar S by A Gas, A Bre stands, F Eng - Nth, F Cly - NAO, A Lpl - Yor.

ITALY (Roy Taylor): F Aeg - Bul(SC) S by F Gre, F MAO Stands, F Nap - TyS,  
A Ven - Tyr S by A Tri & A Pie, A Por - Spa, F War - GoL.

RUSSIA (Tony Ball): F Nwy - Nth, F Pru - Lvn, A War - Ukr, A Gal - Bud,  
A Sev S A Rum, A Con - Bul S by A Rum & F Bla, A Arm - Smy.

Retreats: German A Tyr - Mun.

Paris - Rome: Lost your envelope. Was that right? If not, serves you right. Should have written it inside!

Imrryr: Forgot to mention up there that Paul Willey is now in permanent charge of France and Kern Dingsdale is blacklisted...

(Y)

1976GJ ('Z') -- Autumn 1905 Only 3½ countries really in it now...

AUSTRIA (Tony Crouch): A Boh is very sad and lonely and so attempts to go home to Vienna ((but finds the door locked and the windows barred...)).

ENGLAND (Norman Nathan): F Ska - Den S by F Bal, A Yor - Hol C by F Nth.

FRANCE (John Herlihy): A Bur - Mun, A Pic - Bur, A Bel S (ENGLISH) A Yor - Hol,  
F GoL - TyS, F Tun - Ion, F TyS - Rom S by A Ven.

GERMANY (Pete Lindsay): F Den stands, F Hol - Bel, A Mun - Ber, A Ruh - Kie.

ITALY (Dave Tant): A Apu S (RUSSIAN) A Tyr - Ven, F Rom - Nap.

RUSSIA (Peter Berlin): A Tyr - Ven, A War - Gal S by A Vie, F Rum - Sev,  
A StP - Mos, F Nwy S F Swe, A Fin S F Nwy, F Swe S (ENGLISH) F Ska - Den.

TURKEY (Neil McDonald): F Alb - Tri S by A Bud, A Bul - Rum S by A Ser,  
F Aeg - Gre, F Con - Bla, A Arm - Sev,

Retreats: French A Ven - Pie.  
 German F Den & F Hol both try to retreat to Hel, therefore both disbanded.  
 Russian F Rum annihilated.

Winter 1905 Adjustments

- A: 0 Centres: ~~Edi~~. Eliminated. Removes A Boh.
- E: 5 Centres: Edi, Lon, Lpl, Den, +Hol. Builds F Edi.
- F: 9 Centres: Bre, Mar, Par, Bel, Spa, Por, Tun, +Rom, +Mun. Builds A Par, A Lpl.
- G: 2 Centres: Ber, Kie, ~~Edi~~, ~~Nth~~. No change.
- I: 1 Centre: ~~Edi~~, ~~Nth~~, +Nap. Removes A Apu.
- R: 8 Centres: Mos, Sev, StP, War, Swe, ~~Nth~~, Nwy, Vie, ~~Nth~~, +Ven. Builds A Wa
- T: 9 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, Ser, Gre, Tri, Bul, +Bud, +Rum. Builds F Smy, A Con.

Somewhere near France: A stab in the back is worth two in the bush.

(Z)

Look carefully at these seven names:

JOE LOUIS, CHRISTINE KEELER, AL CAPONE, BONNY & CLYDE, JOE MONTEFALCONE,  
 THE KRAY TWINS, MOHAMMED ALI.

Decide how many of those names you recognise, then look at the foot of page 12 to discover what it's all about....

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1976GZ ('AA') -- Autumn 1904 Russia ravaged, Anglo/German alliance still holds..

ENGLAND (Martin Dean): F Nwy - Swe, F Nth - Nwy, F Naf - Tun, F MAO - WIS,  
A Bre - Pic.

GERMANY (Bill Orr): A Den S (ENGLISH) F Nwy - Swe, F Ber - Bal, A Mun - Sil,  
A Wal plays Railway Rivals, F Eng - MAO.

ITALY (Richard Potts): A Pie wonders where all the little froggies have gone ((run  
to hide from Ethil, every one...)), A Tri - Bud S by A Vie, F Ion - WIS,  
A Ser - Rum S by A Gal, F Gre - Bul(SC) S by F Aeg.

RUSSIA (Roger Collins): F Sev - Bla, F Bul(EC) - Con S by A Smy, A Rum prays and  
hopes it works as well as before ((it doesn't!)), A StP - Nwy S by A Fin,  
F Bal - Swe, A Sil - War.

TURKEY (Paul Segal): F Con - Bul(EC) S by F Bla.

Retreats: Russian A Rum - Ukr.  
Turkish F Con - Ank.

#### Winter 1904 Adjustments

E: 6 Centres: Edi, Lpl, ~~Nwy~~, Bre, Por, +Tun, +Swe. Builds F Edi.

F: 0 Centres: ~~Par~~, ~~Mar~~. Eliminated.

G: 10 Centres: Ber, Kie, Mun, Den, Bel, Hol, Spa, Lon, +Par, +Mar. Builds A Mun, A Kie.

I: 10 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, ~~Tun~~, Tri, Vie, Gre, Ser, +Bud, +Bal, +Rum.  
Builds F Nap, F Rom.

R: 7 Centres: Mos, Sev, StP, War, ~~StP~~, ~~Kab~~, ~~Edi~~, ~~Bal~~, +Nwy, +Con, +Smy.  
Removes F Con.

T: 1 Centre: Ank, ~~Con~~, ~~Bal~~. GM removes F Bla.

Grateful thanks to Ron Kelly for the unused standby orders...

European War Correspondent: Last months printing error was Itely instead of Russia.

Germany - Russia: I thought it took two hobbits to be hobbit-forming?

Germany to World: Please excuse A Den excursion last move, they were looking for  
their white sticks and their dogs.

Somewhere in the Eastern Med: I was going to spend my holidays in Tunisia until I  
discovered Smyrna.

Russia - All: I have nothing to say to any of you - in case I put my big foot in it

Turkey - Russia: If you knew how to play Diplomacy I would be kamikazeing on  
Italy. Unfortunately you gloated....

A.N.Other to Insecure Schizophrenic: Are you still there? Or have you run away  
with yourself?

Insecure Schizophrenic to A.N.Other: Please see next months issue for this months  
comment, we're still arguing about it.

(AA)

1976ARbb ('AB' - Multiplicity) -- Winter 1902 England to make fleeting visits?

ENGLAND (Keith Black): Builds A/2F Lon. (also has F's Bre, Nwy, Swe, StP(NC))

FRANCE (Paul Willey): No change. (Has A's Bel, Bur, Gas, Gas)

GERMANY (Duncan Morris): Builds A Kie. (also has F Den, A's Hol, Mun, Mun)

ITALY (John Lettice): Builds F Nap, 2A Ven. (also has F Ion; A's Tri, Ser, Bud, Bud)

RUSSIA (Graham Buckell): No change. (Has F Bla; A's Arm, Ank, Rum, Ukr)

TURKEY (Anthony Dawson): Removes A Alb. (Has A's Bul, Con, Smy)

Loudon Wainwright VII of the InterGalactic Dippy Zine Corps: Episode 7; Deneb 17:

There, visible through the window behind the alien speaker, something flew  
briefly into sight only to be snatched from the air by a disarmingly pretty flower  
which moved with remarkable speed and accuracy. Undoubtedly a Triffidblume, a

native of Dened 16, the planet whose orbit lay just inside that of Deneb 17. Loudon switched off the Dictaphone and congratulated himself on his good fortune.

Things were obviously moving fast - even now the seven could be six! Even now the Intergalactic Diplomacy Anarchists could be gathered on Deneb 16 to formulate their sinister plots, and it was up to Loudon to uncover their plans. Speed was of the essence if he was to save the Galaxy from their evil machinations, and exact his revenge for the foul deed the IDA had already perpetrated against him.

Paradoxically, it would inevitably take far longer to reach Deneb 16 from Deneb 17 than it took to reach Deneb 17 from Earth, because Transmat Nexi were only located on the major civilised planets and not on uncamed jungle-planets such as Deneb 16.

Loudon would have to use conventional space travel to continue the chase...

-- to be continued.

(AB)

'AB' Bourse: No Bourse this time as it's the Winter season in 'AB' game. I have transactions from Rhvovia, Greenberg, King, Piggott, Southsea, Avenger, Davidson, Orr and Aries already. Others by next deadline please - existing orders may of course be changed before then if you wish.

(B)

1976HY ('AC') -- Spring 1903 Austria for the early bath - France asks for seab

AUSTRIA (Eddie Horsup): A Ser - Bud S by A Vie.

ENGLAND (Keith Black): F Lpl - NAO, A Wel throws strangled moles at the French, F Nth - Nwy, F Swe S (GERMAN) F Den - Bal, F Eng S (GERMAN) A Bel - Pic.

FRANCE (Dave Black): F MAO - Por, F Bre - Eng, A Pic - Par, A Spa - Mar.

GERMANY (Jonathan Palfrey): F Den - Bal, A Ber - Mun, A Kie - Mun, A Bel - Pic S by A Bur.

ITALY (Peter Berlin): A Tri - Vie S by A Tyr, A Ven - Tri, F Adr S F Ion.

RUSSIA (Ron Canham): F Bal - Ber, F Rum stands, A StP - Lvn, A War - Sil, A Gal - Boh, A Bud S (TURKISH) A Bul - Ser, A Gas S (GERMAN) A Bur - Par.

TURKEY (Anthony Dawson): F EMS - Aeg, F Aeg - Con, A Bul - Ser S by A Cre, A Con - Bul.

Retreats: Austrian A Ser - Alb, A Vie - Gal.  
Russian F Bal - GoB.

Note please that Dave Black now takes permanent control of France. while Les Kennedy is dropped...

Vaduz: Hello campers! We've got some simply super games lined up for your entertainment, and I want you all to try as hard as you can to smash up those in other houses. The Bully Boys are having great fun slaughtering the Austrians just now; why don't you join in? But no sharking, mind. Only the other week, the Bully Boys had to haul up in front of the Commandant some campers who they caught showing mercy to a victim. In fact the case of an Italian camper is still being investigated. Do you know, he actually helped the terrible Turks to capture Greece! I simply cannot allow co-operation of this sort to continue. Some campers - they know who they are - will be put on a food-free diet, from tomorrow. They better hadn't miss the last supper, tonight.

Russia: Keep out of Portugal! It is preserved for my long range array in..... (enter name as applicable).

Byzantium: The Turkish oppressors have been overthrown and the empire is now under the benevolent rule of that most heroic of peoples, the Greeks. We would like to point out that we have not yet stabbed anyone in this game, nor do we intend to. If there are any complaints about the standard of this press, you'll have it in the original Greek next time! ((Typing, however, might be just a wee bit difficult....))

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1976IY ('AD') -- Autumn 1901 England in a spot of bother?...

AUSTRIA (Paul Ward): F Alb - Gre, A Bud - Ser, A Vie - Tri.

ENGLAND (Dave Pengelly): A Yor - Wal, F Nth - Den, F Nrg - Nvy.

FRANCE (Neil McDonald): A Pic - Bel, A Spa stands, F Eng S (GERMAN) F Hol - Nth.

GERMANY (Andy Davidson): F Hol - Nth, A Kle - Den, A Ruh - Hol.

ITALY (Geoff Challinger): NMR!! A Apu, I Ion, A Ven all stand unordered.

RUSSIA (Duncan Morris): F Rum - Bul(EC), A Gal - Sil, A StP - Nvy, F GoB - Swe.

TURKEY (Chris Side): A Bul - Rum S by F Bla, A Con - Bul.

Retreats: English F Nth disbanded - no retreat space specified.  
Russian F Rum - Sev.

#### Winter 1901 Adjustments

A: 5 Centres: Bud, Tri, Vie, +Gre, +Ser. Builds A Bud, A Vie.

E: 3 Centres: Lon, Lpl, Edi. Builds F Lon.

F: 5 Centres: Bre, Mar, Par, +Bel, +Spa. Builds A Par, F Bre.

G: 4 Centres: Ber, Kle, Mun, +Hol. Builds A Mun.

I: 3 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven. No change.

R: 5 Centres: Mos, Sev, StP, War, +Swe. Builds A StP.

T: 5 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, +Rum, +Bul. Builds A Ank, A Con.

Personnel notes. Duncan Morris takes over Russia permanently, Kern Dingsdale is dropped permanently. Anthony Dawson gets thanked for the unused standby orders and asked to please send some for Italy this time. Thanks chaps.

??: Looking at the intelligence reports, he was worried. Added to some hostile locking moves was the volume of diplomatic communication - there wasn't any. An epidemic of paralysis of the writing arm must have struck. In the old days you would react by throwing a hex on the person, but this required your subject to be in close proximity. You used his hair or excrement in the charm and gave him a symbol or ju-ju. He then acted as you desired, or died. However with the advent of modern technology satisfactory results can be achieved via hexogramme.

He grabbed MP and cut out the name, address, country and moves of the victims. Add oats brain, lizard tongue, eye of newt and dehydrated toe of frog. Mix with tomato juice and stir. Add salt and pepper to taste. Connect to 240 volts 50 hz supply for five minutes, stirring with an insulated bone. Point the bone in the desired direction and chant the required orders.

Counter-charm available for a price.

Imrryr: Looks like those counter-charms work only too well, eh?

Turkey: Apologies to everybody for bugging up the start. In fact I did send in orders about a month ago, but due to some confusion on my part in getting this game and another started at the same time the orders I sent were for the German units (sorry Rick - I can assure you it wasn't deliberate). Luckily these moves were identical to those ordered by Andy.

Another problem which has cut down my letter writing recently is caused by my move of house. Since the beginning of January I have been living out of a suitcase from Sunday to Friday in a Bradford hotel pending purchase and removal to a house in the ~~city~~ city. This should be completed by Easter after which everyone can look forward to lots of lovely mail promising alliances, supports, attack, stabs, intrigues.....-- Chris Side.

(AD)

Continuing on from the foot of page nine...

How is it you know all these gangsters, prostitutes and mugs and you don't know good old Joe Montini?

He's the Pope - you ignorant protestant bastard!

((This joke specially dedicated to Mick Bullock)).

1976TZ ('AE') -- Autumn 1901 (Special Pensioners' Invitational)

Strange goings-on in the north-west. Just who is fooling who?...

AUSTRIA (Mick Bullock): A Vie - Tri, A Ser - Tri, F Alb - Gre.

ENGLAND (Richard Sharp): F Eng - Bre, A Yor - Nwy C by F Nth.

FRANCE (John Meadon): A Bur - Mun, A Gas - Spa, F MAO - Por.

GERMANY (Bob Howes): A <sup>K</sup>ie - Hol, A Ruh - Bel, F Den stands.

ITALY (Roy Taylor): F Ion - Tun, A Apu stands, A Tyr - Boh.

RUSSIA (Norman Nathan): F GoB - Sve, F Sev - Rum S by A Ukr, A Mos - StP.

TURKEY (Glyn Palmer): NMR! F Ank, A Bul, A Con all stand unordered.

No retreats, naturally. (Gentlemen never retreat).

#### Winter 1901 Adjustments

A: 5 Centres: Bud, Tri, Vie. +Ser, +Gre. Builds F Tri, A Bud.

E: 5 Centres: Edi, Lon, Lpl, +Bre, +Nwy. Builds F Lpl, F Edi.

F: 5 Centres: ~~Bye~~, Mar, Par, +Spa, +Por, +Mun. Builds A Par, A Mar.

G: 5 Centres: Ber, Kie, ~~Man~~, +Hol, +Bel, +Den. Builds A Kie, A Ber.

I: 4 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, +Tun. Builds F Nap.

R: 6 Centres: Mos, Sev, StP, War, +Sve, +Rum. Builds A Sev, A Mos.

T: 4 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, +Bul. NBR! 1 unit short.

Standby orders for TURKEY please from ROGER COLLINS (92 Wilmot Way, Banstead, Surrey). Ta.

((I suppose old men do get forgetful, don't they? -sigh-))

Berlin: You realise, you lot, that I will soon be a Sexagenarian? And that's another flight of fancy as well...

.10' nmutuA erofeb emolpid ot yenom fo etsav a si ti :syas rast ehT

The Glyn Palmer Eventide Home - Prospectus: Have you got an aged, infirm relative you can't be bothered to look after? Quite right too. Old people are a damned nuisance, aren't they? Just idle mouths - mouths that need snuffing for good.

Don't they make you sick? Padding backwards and forwards to the lavatory at all hours of the night, leaving their teeth in your best finger-bowls, dribbling on their clean shirts, wetting their clean sheets, spitting on the carpet, farting uncontrollably at meal-times? Ugh! Nasty old beasts.

We know how to take care of them. Just sign the attached sheet, a formal declaration that you don't care what happens to your aged relative, and we'll do the rest.

Applicants should bring with them: one sleeping-bag; one straw mattress; one vest; one pair underpants; one bucket; one Bible; one plastic mug, plate, knife, fork, spoon; £50's worth of poker chips; one cheque book; one bank reference; one coffin (cheapest quality).

Fees: there is no fee for the first 48 hours' residence. Arrangements for longer stays can be made later, if the question should happen to arise.

Free transport service: just bring your relative to the Weaver's Arms at 3 p.m. on any weekday and stack him neatly in the large plain van. After that, it's our problem.

EUTHANASIA WORKS! Let Palmer put a Dampan on your Grampa:

Rome: Is the combined ages of 'us lot' really 400, Richard?

I am 32, Glyn Palmer is 48, Mick Bullock is 37 & Richard Sharp is 41. That's a total of 158 years & leaves Meadon, Howes & Nathan at 70 years old each!!

Imrryr: Actually it leaves their average age at 80<sup>2</sup> years each, but never mind. To explain: let's correct your 'poetic licence' and make your age 52 shall we? I shan't argue about the other three. Meadon is in fact a spritely 35 while Nathan must be 66 if he's a day. That makes 279 and shows Howes to be a mere 121 years old. So what's the problem?

(AE)(AE)(AE)(AL)(AE)(AE)(A.) (AE)(AE)(AE)(AE)(AL)(AE)(A') (A)' (AE)(AE)(AE)(AL)(AE)(AE)

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New Games, Waiting lists etc.

Let's get the next regular game off the stocks now. To be known as 'AF' game or 1977BX, here's the line-up:

AUSTRIA: Bob Armitage, 227 Church Road, St. Annes, Lancs, FY8 3NW.

ENGLAND: Charles Burton, 18 St. Anne's Court, Aigburth Road, Aigburth, Liverpool 17.

FRANCE: Bob Howes, 180 London Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9ED.

GERMANY: Michael Allaway, 60 Poynter Court, Gallery Gardens, Northolt, Middx, UB5 5PA.

ITALY: Clytemnaestra Hope-Piggott, 61A Broadway West, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

RUSSIA: Paul Ward, 15 Craigmuschat Road, Gourrock, Scotland, PA19 1SE.

\*TURKEY: Martin Feather, Dept of Artificial Intelligence, Univ. of Edinburgh, 2 Hope Park Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9NW, Scotland (before Apr 2nd and after Apr 20th) and 3 Green Close, Eastburn, Keighley, West Yorks, BD20 8UX (April 2nd - 20th). ((Phew!))

Money next. You've all got oodles of credit left after deducting the game-fee (IDA discount for Howes and Feather) except for Burton ( $\frac{1}{2}$ p left before paying for this issue) and Ward (-34p before this issue!). So you two will need to top up by next issue please. Ta.

Preference lists used by everyone (sorry you weren't familiar with them Clytemnaestra, hope everything's straight now following your phone call) and nobody had to take worse than third choice. So that's all right.

First deadline for this game will be next issue but, as usual, if anyone requests an extension to this I will permit the start to be held over until the following issue, i.e. MP68.

One interesting little aside. When Clytemnaestra phoned me the other day to sort out the preference list business (she says she's usually referred to as 'Pippa' by the way) I asked her if she was related to the infamous John Piggott. She sort of hedged and said, "Well, yes, in a way. But we don't talk about it these days." You know of any skeletons in your family cupboard, Jom?

'AG' Game - Rather Silly Diplomacy

After I typed the bit at the bottom of page 6 explaining about the rules you players should find enclosed here I realised I'd forgotten to tell you who you are! The full list is: Peter Berlin, John Lettice, Paul Segal, Selena King, John Smith, Keith Black, Pete Lindsay, Stewart Buckingham, Conrad von Netzke, Michael Allaway, Keith Loveys. Which is exactly 11 of you which is exactly the number required which is rather lucky, eh?

Anyway, please read those rules and let me have your preference lists in good time for next issue. I will have the final RJW-type rules ready by then (which will only differ very slightly from these ones - but I might add just a few little nasties here and there) and all being well we can ~~xxxx~~ start right then. The game-fee will be £1, reduced to 80p for IDA-members, which is going to mean that Berlin, Lindsay, Buckingham, Allaway and Loveys will need to top up credit in the not-too distant future. You're okay for the moment though.

'AH' Game - Regular

At the moment I intend to start this in MP69 but only if one or two of the existing games have finished by then. Waiting list currently consists of: Paul McGivern, Eddie Horsup, Keith Loveys. Four more needed - don't forget to send me a preference list along with your request for a place in the game (Paul, Eddie, Keith, I have your pref. lists already - thanks).

Other Games

I've no intention of running any more variants at the moment, so don't bother asking. I might offer another Multiplicity game when the current one ends, but that's it for a while. I will certainly offer a new Mensa and game when the current one finishes - anyone apart from Martin Feather want a bigger one? - and another Bourse when the 'AB' Bourse ends, but apart from Regular games starting approx. every third issue that's all I'm intending to carry at present. Okay my loves?...

And here's a little something called:

Swanson you Fink, I'll get you for this if it's the last thing I do!

The latest issue of Pete Swanson's Rats live on no evil star dropped onto my doormat this morning, always a pleasant event, and I was soon eagerly devouring its contents as I knocked back the old egg and bacon. But imagine Claire's surprise when I suddenly leaped to my feet in a shower of mushrooms and with a cry of 'The miserable bastard! Just wait 'til I get my hands on him!' started leaping round the room kicking chairs.

Know what the horrible little worm has done? A hatchet job on our own lovable Walkerdang, that's what! Gawd, all those years spent building up my image and he goes and pops it as if he were bursting somebody's pet balloon (!):

I'd better explain. He's reprinted the first-ever issue of MP, an eminently forgettable effort of 4½ years ago and something I'd hoped was well and truly buried in the mists of antiquity by now, in the Rats 'blast from the past' feature. Oh the shame, will I ever live it down?

But that's not all! Not content with his mischief he's then gone and told the world the real truth about Multiplicity: How it was never more than just a little bit of fun until everyone started taking it seriously, and how I've never actually played a game of it myself! Oh the shame of it all....

So, I thought, there must be a few skeletons in the Swanson cupboard, surely? Well I've only had a few hours to check back through old zines etc., but I did find one nice little snippet...

Remember in issue 1 of Rats the nasty little runt tried to tell us that the idea for the palindromic title was all his own, that it had come as a flash of inspiration over breakfast one morning? Don't you believe it....

Ever read The Swords of Lankmar by Fritz Leiber? Well, about halfway through the story Glipkerio Kistomerces is telling the sorcerer Hisvin that he is beginning to think the rats with which the city of Lankmar is plagued rule the whole of the universe. Hisvin replies, 'Against that pernicious thought, I present you with a most powerful palindrome: Rats live on no evil star.'

Well, Pete?...

I've just looked up Pete's first issue - not of Rats but the first Flashpoint, the subzine Pete ran in Der Krieg many years ago. It includes this little gem:

'I'm afraid I have not had very much experience of this, and I don't quite know what I'm doing. Next time I'll stop sooner.'

I only wish he had....

((Rats live on no evil star, 2p per sheet plus postage from Pete Swanson, 6 Welford Place, Wimbledon, SW19 5AJ (home) or Jesus College, Cambridge, CB5 8BL (term). In all seriousness very highly recommended. Buy it, it's good.))

//////////still//Swanson//does//usc//linear//separators//-pretty//cruddy//ones//though';

#### Hobby News

Pimley Memorial Award: This is an award being organised by the BGC in order to commemorate Les Pimley, a very well known hobby member who sadly died last year. It is intended to go to the person who is judged to have done the most for British Diplomacy, and the list of candidates, in alphabetical order, are: Pete Birks, Walter-Luc Haas, Graeme Levin, Glyn Palmer, John Piggott, Richard Sharp, Don Turnbull, Doug Wakefield, Richard Walkerdane. To vote, list the candidates in order of preference, omitting as many as you wish, and send your list to Nicky Palmer, Lchwaldsvej 3 8g, DK-2800 Lyngby, Denmark. I'm not sure of the deadline for votes but I believe it's quite soon so I urge you to send in your votes to Nicky as soon as you can.

Dolchstoss Player Poll: Now established as as much of an 'annual' event as the Zino Poll, the Player Poll now rears its head for the second time. To vote you should list as many players as you wish, and give each a mark between 0 (dreadful) and 30 (superb). Marks should be related to your personal experience (as player or GM) of players' performances at regular Diplomacy only, and may include anyone

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currently playing in a UK or European zine. You are asked not to give random marks based on hearsay to players you've never encountered. You may vote for yourself. Send your votes to Richard Sharp, 27 Elm Close, Amersham, Bucks, to arrive not later than April 30th. Anyone who doesn't receive Dolchstoss but who would like to see the results should send an A5-size stamped s.a.e. with his votes in order to receive a free copy of the issue containing the results - which is the cheapest way you'll ever find of getting a look at one of the best zines in the country. Remember the deadline, April 30th. Please vote.

Ethil The Frog: As you will all have read by now in just about every zine in the country, he really is back again - and in typical Piglet fashion! Maximising his publicity by firstly making it look like a hoax and then deliberately getting the issue number wrong! Good game John, good game... Good zine too actually, and with a few more issues under his belt this upstart newcomer could even end up with quite an acceptable little fanzine! No point in my telling you what's in the thing as it's got just about everything that a good Dippyazine needs - and issue 48 (which is issue 2 in Piggott numerology - just add 46, you can't go wrong) even has a couple of games in it! 25p a copy (double that for overseas airmail) with regular games at £1.50 each, all in A5 offset litho and, yes, dammit, worth every penny! From John Piggott, 15 Freeland Road, Ealing Common, London, W5 3HR.

= Japhidre7: A new game of Soccerboss is starting in Phil Stutt's zine soon and he is still looking for a few more players to make up the required number of divisions. Phil's amended the rules somewhat in order to, hopefully, make a better game of it, and all Soccerboss (or even Soccerboss) fans should write to Phil at 10 Muller Road, Horfield, Bristol 7.

Pendulum: Saddest news of the year so far is that John Coombo's long-established zine is about to fold. After 52 issues in the last 3½ years he has finally made up his mind that enough is enough and announced that the zine will disappear as soon as new homes for the games can be found. John says in his editorial 'It takes more courage to get out than to get into G.Ming, that's for sure', and the fact that he's doing it in a thoroughly responsible manner only goes to prove his own worth to the hobby. I'll miss old P John, and I suspect a good few others will too...

//////////one//more//linear//separator//then//that's//it//for//this//issue//////////

And that really is just about it for another issue. Please don't assume I'm going to make a habit of running to 16 pages; 12 is my preferred limit, with 14 an acceptable stretch now and then. Still, no Annexe makes a difference of course.

Next issue will of course include the Zine Poll results, and I rather suspect they will take up most of the available space. Still, we'll see... Bye til then, then.

////////// (this space vacant - apply to your local linear separator bureau) //////////

MP66 on it's own!

Richard J. Walkerdine  
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KT15 1UG  
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Richard Sharp  
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