

THE HELPLESS DOORKNOB (09?? ????)

Hundred Diplomacy – 1440

BURGUNDY (Ian Andrews): F DOV-Cal, A Dij-Dau, A Sav S A Dij-Dau, A Can S A Dij-Dau, A Fla-Dij.

ENGLAND (Tony Dickinson): A Cal st, F Lon S A Cal, A Num-Sco.

FRANCE (Howard Bishop): A Tou-Pro, A Dau S A Par, A Orl S A Dau, A Par S A Dau, A Nmd S A Par, A Bri S A Nmd.

Retreats: None.

B Dij Lux Fla Hol Can (5) *No change.*

E Cal Nmd Lon Dev + Sco (4) *Builds F Dev.*

F Dau Orl Par Tou Guy Bri + Nmd (7) *Builds F Tou.*

Burgundy-All: I'm terribly sorry but at this time I'm not able to give either of you gentlemen or this game the attention that's necessary. I've asked the GM to find another player, though until one is found I shall continue to send in conditional orders. Thank you for your time and patience and the best of luck.

Toffle: I shall ask around, certainly, although this game could well have finished in the time it takes to persuade someone to step in...

LES ECHANGES MALANDREUX

Tutankhamun – Turn 9

Tim refuses to give up and takes another Chair, Bruce picks the final Candelbra and earns 4 useful points, then James snatches the last available Chair, scoring 8 points for himself and 4 for Tim. Allan goes for another Cartouche and Howard keeps up his Chest collection, while Alan ensures that his King Statues will bring him at least 3 points...

James Hardy : tile 65 : Mummy Statue (4).
Allan Stagg : tile 68 : Cartouche (4), Mummy Statue, Pharaoh.
Alan Coulthard : tile 51 : King Statue (3), Chalice.
Howard Bishop : tile 54 : Chest (4), Queen Statue, King Statue (2).
Bruce Edwards : tile 46 : Cartouche (3), Chalice.
Tim Deacon : tile 44 : Queen Statue, Chest (2), Chalice.

By-passed tiles: Brooch, which is then discarded immediately as it is a single tile artefact.

Scores (first to 14 wins): Howard 2, Alan 5, Tim 6, Bruce 6, James 8, Allan 4.

Order of play for turn 10: Bruce Edwards, James Hardy, Allan Stagg, Howard Bishop, Alan Coulthard, Tim Deacon.

THE FATAL LOZENGE

Middleman – Turn 6

Alan Coulthard (280) plays 16 score 280

Bruce Edwards (361) plays 95 score 361

Arthur Owen (140) plays 21 score 272

Congratulations to Alan on winning his third game of Middleman, although it was pretty close! Thanks for playing, chaps, and I hope that you enjoyed it.

FANFARONADE. As a youth Allan Stagg paid heed to at least one Old Wife, if his keen eyesight is anything to go by: 'Your speculation about the nationality of the scribe in your illustration prompted me to have a closer look at it and, in particular, at the writing implements. In his hand he appears to hold a stylus, while there is a quill pen on the table, plus what looks suspiciously like a nibbed pen and metal inkpots. A whiff of anachronism perhaps?' (*I would prefer to think of it as evidence for the existence of an ancient race possessed of technology far in advance of its time, who were wiped out in a great cataclysm and are remembered now only dimly as men from Atlantis, Numenoreans or 'gods' from beyond the stars... It's astonishing how easily this claptrap trips off the tongue, isn't it? I had better stop now, though, because Nick Kinzett has probably chewed through his own tongue in frustration...*)

Howard Bishop, meanwhile, targets the Grey Pound with an intriguing new scent: 'I haven't tried Unicum, but it sounds like something my gran would have had in the cupboard in the sitting room. Her house seemed to exude industrial smells from every pore. When you got home you had to have a good hot bath to remove the odours of Wright's Coal Tar Soap, Uncle Joe's Mint Balls and liver. When the Unicum futures market crashed in 1987, some bright spark had the idea to sell it off as other things. What do you think Vosene shampoo is made of?' (*I may have to try washing my hair with Unicum as I can't see myself drinking any more it, somehow. It must be the only drink in the world that tastes even worse when mixed with something else – not even Coke works, which is surely a thing unheard of?!*)

OBSIDIAN

Issue 161

19 Aug 2009



A fansheet for postal Diplomacy, variants and anything else we can get started, supplemented by as much reading matter as I can squeeze into the remaining available space, from Alex Richardson of 43 Letchworth Road, Baldock, Herts, SG7 6AA (or alex.bokmal at gmail.com, should you prefer using electronic mail to its snail alternative). Each issue pops up every five weeks or so and is free to anyone who wants to play a game, trade zines or write me a letter.

Additional invaluable assistance is provided by subzine editors Simon Cutforth of Ty Gwyn, Town Lane, Woodbury, Exeter, Devon, EX5 1NH (*The Amnesia Express*) and Andrew Fisher of 25 Talbot Street, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 2QU (*Green is the Colour*), as well as outside GM Richard Turner of 29 Southcourt Avenue, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 2QD, who runs the Princes of Florence games.

WAITING LISTS. Diplomacy: Tim Deacon (1/7); Intimate Diplomacy: Empty (0/2); Breaking Away: Arthur Owen, Tim Deacon (2/6); Middleman: Arthur Owen (1/3); Scrabble: Andrew Fisher, Tim Deacon, Alan Coulthard, Ian Andrews, Arthur Owen (5/6).

PILFERINGS. Our cover this issue was drawn by J. D. Batten for an edition of *The Arabian Nights*, though I found it in *Of the Decorative Illustration of Books Old and New* (George Bell, 1972) by Walter Crane.

THE NEXT DEADLINE. All commiserations welcome for FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2009, my 39th birthday, and if you'd like to send in your orders by then as well, so much the better...

THE GLORIOUS NOSEBLEED (09BA)

Diplomacy – Spring 1903

AUSTRIA (Jonathan Amery): A Ser S A Bud, A Bud S A Ser.

ENGLAND (Colin Bruce): A Bel-Pic, F ENC S A Bel-Pic, F NTH-Den,
F MAO st, F NAO S F MAO.

FRANCE (Ian Andrews): A Pic-Bre, A Mar-Bur, A Gas S A Mar-Bur,
F Por-MAO, F Spasc S F Por-MAO.

GERMANY (Tim Deacon): A Bur S English A Bel-Pic, A Mun S A Bur,
A Ber-Pru, A Kie-Den, A Hol-Kie, F Swe st.

ITALY (Douglas Kent): A Tri-Alb, A Tyr-Tri, A Vie S A Tyr-Tri,
A Ven S A Tyr-Tri, F TYS-Tun, F Nap-ION.

RUSSIA (Stephen Agar): F BAL-Kie, A Rum S F Sev, A Gal S A Rum,
F Sev S A Rum, A Mos S F Sev.

TURKEY (Nick Kinzett): A Arm-Sev, A Bul-Rum, F BLA S A Bul-Rum,
F ION-Tun, F AEG-Gre.

Retreats: None.

France-All: I'm terribly sorry but at this time I'm not able to give you gentlemen or this game the attention that's necessary. I've asked the GM to find another player, though until one is found I shall continue to send in conditional orders. Thank you for your time and patience and the best of luck.

Germany-All: Sorry, no e-mail as no job! Attempting to correct this by getting internet access at home.

ZAROZINIA

Civilization – Round 8.2

E9) TRADE. ILLYRIA (3/6/Ochre) with EGYPT (3/10/Iron); ILLYRIA (3/14/Iron) with EGYPT (3/6/Iron); ILLYRIA (3/9/Ochre) with BABYLON (3/8/Hides); ILLYRIA (3/8/Cloth) with ASSYRIA (3/7/Grain); AFRICA (3/15/Cloth) with ASSYRIA (3/15/Bronze); ASSYRIA (5/23/Salt) with BABYLON (3/22/Cloth).

E10) ACQUIRE CIVILIZATION CARDS. BABYLON buys POTTERY with 6 Ochre, 1 Hides and 8 Tokens; ASSYRIA cashes in 6 Cloth and 15

Tokens to buy MEDICINE and ARCHITECTURE; ILLYRIA does likewise with 7 Grain, 3 Hides and 15 Tokens for ARCHITECTURE and ENGINEERING; AFRICA buys ASTRONOMY with 3 Bronze and 2 Spice.

E11) RESOLVE CALAMITIES. Earthquake: ASSYRIA reduces Tro and THRACE reduces Byz; Flooding: EGYPT loses 3 Tan, 3 Mem, 3 Akh and 2 UEg, while AFRICA sees 2 Akh, 2 UEg and C Sai drown; Famine: EGYPT loses C The and C Pet, then orders ILLYRIA, THRACE, ASSYRIA and BABYLON to each remove 5 of their own units.

And that's about as far as I think we may venture this turn, since the Flood has made a nonsense of Tim's orders for the Civil War and I feel that the players affected by the Famine should have some say in which of their units are for the chop. Round 8.3 will thus be rather a short one, but better that than to have me making decisions for you...

UNIT POSITIONS AFTER ROUND 8.2. AFRICA 2(Cam), 1(Coy), 2(Del), C(Car), 2(Cyn), C(Cyr), C(Had), C(Lep), 1(Liy), 2(Mlz), 2(Num), C(Pan), 2(Sab), 1(Sah), 1(Siw), C(Syc), 1(Trp), 2(Tun), 2(WDe); ILLYRIA 1(Cis), C(Cum), 1(Etr), 4(Ger), 2(III), C(Olb), C(Pno), 3(Rub), 1(Sam), C(Taq), C(Tar), 1(Apo), 1(Epi), 1(Mac); THRACE 2(Cri), 3(Dac), 5(Dan), C(Ist), 3(Scy), 1(Sud), 3(Byz), C(Ode), 1(Thr); ASSYRIA 1(Bit), 2(Cil), 2(Cyp), 2(Gal), C(Gor), C(Hat), 2(Ion), C(Kan), 1(Lyc), 2(Pha), 2(Sar), 2(Tro), 2(Arm), C(Ass), 2(Asy), 2(Azb), C(Nin), C(Tra); BABYLON C(Ale), 1(Ara), C(Bab), 2(Chd), 2(Dam), 2(Ela), C(Mar), 1(Mes), 1(Mid), C(Pal), 3(Pho), C(Sid), 1(Sum), 3(Sus), 1(Syr), 1(Ur); EGYPT C(Jer), 1(Jes), C(Tyr), 1(EDe), 1(Gaz), C(Hie), 2(Pto).

CIVILIZATION CARDS IN HAND. AFRICA Pottery, Astronomy; ILLYRIA Architecture, Engineering; ASSYRIA Mysticism, Architecture, Medicine; BABYLON Pottery; EGYPT Mysticism, Pottery.

LA MENAGE FUNESTE (09?? ????)

Intimate Diplomacy Ia – Yule 1900

	\$	A	E	G	I	R	\$
FRANCE Bruce Edwards	20	1	5	4	7	3	4
TURKEY Jonathan Amery	20	5	3	1	1	5	10
Status for 1901:		T	F	F	F	T	

THE INANIMATE TRAGEDY

Breaking Away – Turn 5

55	Napoleon, Nickelback	3
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49	Christopher Ecclestone	3
48	Jon Pertwee, Sal, Tevez, David Tennant	4
47	Mainwaring, Queiroz, Mendez	8
46	Han, Pike	11
45	Steely Dan, Led Zeppelin, Tom Baker	13
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41	Susan Ivanova, John Sheridan	3
40	Skid	5
39	Iron Maiden, Jackal, Stephen Franklin	6
38	Michael Garibaldi, Wilson	9
37	Jones	11

THE BABYLON FOUR (Jonathan Amery): John Sheridan 7, 5, 3, 3; Susan Ivanova 3, 3, 3; Michael Garibaldi 9, 3, 3; Stephen Franklin 6, 3, 1.

DAD'S ARMY (Alan Coulthard): Mainwaring 8, 5, 3; Wilson 11, 9, 3; Jones 11, 6, 3; Pike 11, 10, 8.

HEAVY METAL (Bruce Edwards): Led Zeppelin 15, 13, 8, 7; Nickelback 10, 3, 3; Iron Maiden 9, 6, 3; Steely Dan 13, 5, 4.

THE DOCTORS (Kevin Lee): David Tennant 6, 6, 4; Tom Baker 13, 3, 3; Jon Pertwee 7, 6, 4; Christopher Ecclestone 4, 3, 1.

CARLOS (Arthur Owen): Tevez 10, 4, 3; Queiroz 9, 8, 3; Mendez 8, 6, 6; Jackal 6, 3, 3.

SOLO RIDERS (Allan Stagg): Napoleon 8, 3, 3, 2; Han 11, 8, 1; Sal 7, 6, 4; Skid 11, 5, 4.

Team scores so far: The Babylon Four 0; Dad's Army 10; Heavy Metal 7.5; The Doctors 6; Carlos 0; Solo Riders 15.5.

KEIKEN-NA OSANAGO

Middleman – Turn 4

Kevin Lee (139)	plays 28	(cards 1 5)	score 167
Arthur Owen (207)	plays 98	(cards 3 4)	score 207
David Oya (186)	plays 98	(cards 1 4)	score 186