

News of the Variant Bank is that it has been re-organised again. Now you send your orders to Andrew Herd, your money to Dave Pink, your stamped addressed envelope to Dermot Dwyer, and Vince sends 'em out.

Or is it money to Dermot, orders to .....

Anyway, our New Year's Resolution here at the Hannibal H.Q. is that we're determined to improve on our GM'ing which we admit hasn't been too good recently, in fact, down right poor, but what with 11 plus and things, well, anyway, it's going to get better.

As from next issue we won't be starting any more games, except for one regular, well, maybe two, plus ~~2/2/2/2/2~~ three variants. Or four.

We are definitely going offset-litho next issue whatever happens, well, probably anyway, when we've got these 39 quotes in. Till then sorry if this is a bit feint but we've run out of paper again, er, I mean ink. ~~Stixx, the Game Opponents, Subplot, World Xp/Pl....~~

Zine Review.

Bellicus. a b x F X Y C R A P. Recommended.

And now,

it's...

1901's Flying Circus.....

Atishoo, 41.

5791 ,ht01 yraunaJ

Circulation 69, no,66,  
er, 96. Or 99?

1901 and all that..., a serious Diplomacy magazine devoted to articles on strategy and tactics, ratings systems, good play, surveys, and other serious stuff like that. Occasionally we let our hair down though.....

This issue is costing you a new Dolchstoss record price of 5p plus postage (remember, 1p per side less 1p per issue?); send it back to Mick Bullock, 14 Nursery Avenue, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 5SZ, UK. Tel. 61624, who will exchange it for you free of charge for a valuable Elsinore map. Limited offer.

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CoA's p 11 (bottom)    New games p 21.    Rubbish 1-22    Spacefiller - Here

Edi Editorial: I aren't going to go rabbitting on about the proposed postal increases; it won't do any good so there isn't much point. But: the increases are obviously needed if people are to continue receiving the excellent personal service they currently get, e.g. there is a particular house (maybe more than 1) in the Yorkshire Dales which has a delivery of mail twice a week; this involves a man with transport making a 12 mile detour from his normal route, frequently with only one item of mail. Think how many postal Diplomacy letters it takes to make the profit that subsidises that kind of inefficiency, or should I say efficiency, and you see why the rates need to rise.

Economies at this end have involved the cancellation of a handful of U.S. trades (if you get this, you're still with us), printed matter surface rates are to double, I believe. I don't want to start using 2nd class exclusively, but any individual is free to request it if he likes. That's all.

News at Ten th.

War Bulletin 60 has a flyer advertising 'British Games Convention '75' - to be held over a weekend in the Autumn, at a hotel most likely in London or the Home Counties, for board wargaming and Diplomacy. Write to Hartley at 7 Cambridge Rd., Beaconsfield, Bucks. HP9 1HW, enclosing an SAE for the flyer, if you can't wait till next issue - Hartley, send me 60 or 70, I'll be glad to distribute them

This is not the same Convention which is being planned by the NGC, organisation of which is now well under way; June's the date, full details next issue.

Citicon 2 is provisionally set for March 1st: number 1 was a great success, write to Andrew Holt, Computer Unit, City University, St. John St., London EC1 to book your place etc.

The only purpose this line serves is to tell you that the News continues on page 21.

FORUM - The Adult Correspondence Column (Incorporating Gay News)

Les Pimley,

"We do like 1901... else we wouldn't play in it, but let's not forget the contribution of SF and Wargames.

"SF was the original carrier of Dippy and many, repeat, many players are avid readers. At every SF Con and Wargames Con in Britain Diplomacy is played. I think that I can say that the majority of people reading Black Spot also play wargames. You are not expected to put either in 1901.. but don't knock others. Anyway, who has Sniper?"

"Personally, of the list you 'suggest', I don't prefer, or even like, Elsinore, Lee v. Meade, Left v. Right, Moorcock or Bradbury, so at least we agree on something. We also agree that, I imagine, you should keep up the standard of 1901..that you, and your subscribers, enjoy so much."

∟Ta for the kind words, but you do me a slight injustice. It wasn't I who was knocking other publishers simply because they print stuff I don't happen to like; I objected to the r attitudes toward 'game-only' publishers. Subtle difference, but tres important. See further down too.

∟Yes, I am well aware of the fact that postal Diplomacy sprung from SF'ers and Wargamers, and am eternally in their debt. I am also grateful to postal Diplomacy for reintroducing me to SF after a 10 year lay off.

∟Sniper gathers dust.....∟

John Piggott,

"Of course the attraction of non-games material is that it provides something for spectators to read. It's particularly important, of course, if the press is weak or non-existent; but if you just restrict yourself to games you may find non-players and traders start to drift away. I suppose you've now reached such a high circulation that you wouldn't be displeased to lose a few readers!"

"We who enjoy book reviews and political chatter can always disguise our offerings as press releases, of course. Indeed I think you've published some pretty borderline material yourself as press in the past -- the scientific gobbledygook indulged in by the Dwyers springs to mind. And what about the long stories I write? I'm sure some of us would appreciate a policy statement on this point....."

∟Well of course, if I'd made myself clear last issue, I wouldn't have had ~~anything to pad this one out with, would I?~~

∟Some of the following is a bit similar to what I just said up there, but I prepared this at a different time!

∟My little editiradial was not that other publishers were printing non-Dippy stuff, wargames, books etc. - if that's what they want to offer to their readers, well and good. My objection was that some were giving the impression that those publishers who don't fill their squibs up with irrelevant (to Diplomacy) material were lacking something, which is clearly not necessarily true. It is my personal opinion that regular doses of Squelch, Elsinore, Harold's favourite tobacco etc., are just so much waste paper, and I spend longer reading a page of game reports than I do reading a page of any of them.

∟But I appreciate that some people like to see these things (some even going so far as to admit enjoying politics! I'd always thought it was un-British to enjoy politics - surely it's an American hobby?), and so I accept that these magazines are primarily catering for someone else, and not for me. Why don't they accept that some publishers don't want to print non-Diplomacy material instead of derogatorily styling them 'games-only'?

∟My policy was, is, and will continue to be, that the games (etc) come first, but after that I'm likely to print just about anything that comes along, which may, from time to time, even include book and wargame reviews, support for rightist politics, and the Football League Division One table, when it suits.

∟But when I do, I won't suddenly start criticising those who don't for not doing so. Any clearer?

∟As for what you should send me, my admiration for your literary talents holds no bounds, as you well know, and were you ever to visit Halifax (one of only 4 teams in the Football League to have an 'x' in its name, along with Oxford (where?), Wrexham and Exeter, would you believe?), the full hospitality and resources of this humble publishing organisation would be yours to command! Otherwise, just keep sending me the good stuff, and Black Spot the crap, huh?∟

Geoff Challenger,

"Your comments on the subject of the ideal zine interested me. I don't remember making any such comments myself unless you include my asides in Lemming Express. ((In which case please accept my provisional grovel grovel...)) Despite what I said in LE I feel that no limit should be set on the number of games from the outside. If a publisher has the time and can afford it, I think he should obey the laws of supply and demand and keep his lists open, even if this means 30 or more games running... (Cont)



Final Report --- 1901..HOTEL

1973 IP.

Magazine: 1901 and all that... Gamesmaster: Mick Bullock.  
Players: A. Jane Coombe (won A06). B. Geoff Challenger.  
 F. Steve Biggs. G. Geof Nuttall. I. Edi Birsan. R. Steve Plater.  
 T. Geoff Corker (drop A02), anarchy (out A06).  
Started: January 11th, 1974 (issue 24). Finished: December 13th, 1974  
 (issue 40).

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
A.	3	6	7	9	13*	17**	19*
E	3	4	6	5	5	5	8
F	3	5	5	6	3	2	1
G	3	4	5*	5*	5	4	3
I	3	4	4	6	6	4	2
R	4	5	4	2	1	1	1
T	3	4	3	1	1	1	-

Final Statements.

AUSTRIA:

I started off with an Austria-Italy alliance against Turkey. As this would take two to three years to become effective I decided to obtain a strong position by attacking Russia which, as seen, was very successful. Then Italy was able to begin his attack against Turkey with my help and were greatly assisted by Turkey's fall into Anarchy. Then came the fateful season when Italy missed his orders and his standby set sent an Italian army threateningly against Austrian held Sevastopol. This move instilled the first thought of an Austrian attack against Italy. So next season Austrian units moved against Italian held supply centres whilst Italy in an effort to keep to the alliance moved further westward against France. Then, that Autumn, Italy again missed his orders (this really sent us roaring) and his second and most famous set of stand-by orders were used. With Austrian units threatening to take undefended Ven, Rom and Nap, Italian units went further westward against France. Then with the aid of France I advanced on Germany and firmly secured my eighteen supply centres.

STOCKHOLM:

Nobel Press-release Prizewinner Alexander Sothjubledispirin, living in exile in Sweden after being chased out of his beloved Russia by the repressive Communist regime headed by Austrian expansionist dictator Jan Commie, today issued a letter addressed to the self-styled 'Soviet Leader'. In it, he accused Commie of 'practising widespread repression, enforced by violence and military action', of 'disturbing the peace of all Europe to further her own insatiable lust for expansion and power', of 'seeking to establish an empire from the shores of the Mediterranean to the North Sea, at the expense of freedom, and directly against her own professed beliefs opposing Imperialism', of 'using established diplomatic channels for the purpose of threatening, political manoeuvring, and deliberately misleading peace-loving Heads of State as to their intentions', and finally, of 'telling lies'. The letter is a searing indictment of the leader who has extended her power over half Europe, and of the turmoil, violence, death and destruction which her megalomania has brought upon the free nations of that continent.

Sothjubledispirin also accuses the Turkish government of 'pusillanimity, cowardice and complicity in the Commie regime's evils' and of acting like 'carrion preying upon the half-dead body of once-proud Russia'. The letter has roused feelings of indignation and anger against the excesses of the Jan Commie regime throughout the free world, and pledges of resistance against such repression wherever it may occur have been pouring in to the writer's home and to the United Nations (not invented yet - Ed.); well, to the League of Nations then (that neither - Ed.), oh, hell, to the newly-formed L.F.G.P. A.E.F.D. (League of Formerly Great Powers Against Evil Female Dictators). The long struggle now begins to prevent further expansion of the Commie imperialists, and where possible to liberate occupied Europe from the oppressors. Top-secret experiments have already begun to this end - these are believed to involve practising the liberation of Europe from Germany in parallel time-tracks (known by code names such as MDC2, a cover named after the man in charge of the experiments, Prof. Bordmann), so that when the moment comes there will be no mistake and the forces of liberation will sweep triumphantly through the Commie rabble and restore freedom to the people of Eastern Europe.

Footnote: Woman's Lib. Movement (Moscow and St. Austell branch) has described the 'achievement' of Jan Commie as "a tremendous blow against male domination: marvellous".

GERMANY:

Germany congratulates Jane on her excellent and rapid win; may she always find herself on opposite sides of the board to Steve Biggs.

ROBERT BENCHLEY:

'Even nowadays a man can't step up and kill a woman without feeling just a bit unchivalrous'.

((Cont))