

DIB DIB DIB

BE HE ENGLISH OR BELGIAN,
A FRENCH MAN, OR SWISS,
A MAN WILL GO FAR,
TO READ HIS DIB IN PEACE.

(Trad)

37



This is Dib Dib Dib 37 - a postal games zine catering for everyone and anyone who cares enough to read it, with an editor who's fed up with doing these colophons anyway. As always each issue costs 35p per issue UK rates - though quite a bit more, well more than that even, overseas rate. Anyone wishing to subscribe, or send money, need only write to me, Tom Tweedy, 29 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 9BD. Tel. 02403 4513.

EDITORIAL

This is it then, yet another issue. Actually my heart hasn't been in it this time; I've had to force myself to the typewriter more than once to get this out on time. It's all Jan's fault, she does the organising of deadline dates see, and last issue she worked things out so the deadlines of Spots of News and Dib ended up on the same weekend - yes, she did it to me AGAIN! It was HELL getting them both out on a weekend turnaround - but I did it, didn't I? It certainly surprised me.

Anyway, the shot of it all is that it completely knackered me for typing the rest of the month; all I felt like doing afterwards was reading (Roger Zelazny's excellent 'Amber' series). And that's just what I did. But I dunno once Jan sees I've got time on my hands she'll think of something else to volunteer me for. God knows what will happen if I end up with three deadlines on the one weekend! Now it's back to typewriter ho hum.

Because of the rush last issue, I didn't get much time to mention a couple of things I wanted to - that's typical anyway. One of the things was Richard Walkerdine's Zine Archives. It seems Richard is missing certain back-issues of zines, some of them including a few Dib's. These are, issues 1-5, 8-10, 12, and 13. If anyone has these (or has issues of other zines) and would like to help him out, send them to Richard Walkerdine, 144 Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 6PG. Or perhaps give him a ring, Tel. 0483 577312.

If you remember last issue, I mentioned the Fall of Eagles ID Diplomacy Comp. being on its final leg, with Richard Scott and myself playing out the final game. Well I've finally gone and done it, and finished the game with a surprising win in Autumn 1901! I must admit, I was slightly disappointed, I expected a far stronger fight. I mean, winning is very nice and all that, but I really paid my money to play in a couple of good/tough games. Anyway, the £40 cheque as first prize will come in very handy I think - seeing as we've already spent £45 of it!

But this sees out the very last issue of the Fall of Eagles as we know it - Richard Hucknall lets it fade out without so much as a whimper. It's funny, but because of Richard's idea of winding the mag down slowly, no-one has even noticed, or really made any comment on it. Perhaps everyone has just become used to the idea. It seems to me, that if a zine goes out with a bang it's more likely to be remembered - it is certainly noticed - and is more likely to be welcomed back if the editor so desires to start up again. I think if I ever decide to fold Dib (no it isn't likely yet!) I'll make it a quick death. No lingering half-life for me. Still, sad to see the last of FOE.

Never mind though, there are always rising stars to carry on. The Les Pimley Award results have finally been brought out and the winner is none other than mega-star himself, Simon Billeness, who won with quite a definite lead. There's no doubt that Simon has done a lot to spread the word of our hobby around - no fickle little youth here flitting from job to job; once he decides to advertise something, it's advertised!

Mind you, I wasn't too struck by his latest little contribution. At least, that was the case when I first saw it (issue 1). I'm referring, of course, to Simon's new zine, Flame (short for 'Inflammatory Material'). As most of you must know by now, Simon has handed 20 Years On over to his brother Mark. He's done this merely so he can switch over to doing his own chat zine; an organ dedicated to expounding his own views, or so it says in the blurb. Fair enough, most editors air their own views in their mags, it helps to generate feedback. But I

couldn't help thinking after reading issue one, that Simon has really let his ego go over the top this time. First he said he intended to charge astronomical fees for his games so as to "discourage players" from playing in his zine. Not a good start, I thought, attempting to alienate players/subscribers right from the beginning (most editors wait until issue 5 or 6).

Issue 2 of Flame however sees a much more flexible Simon; wanting to please, and offering to supply some sort of service to any suggestions made. It certainly made a far more relaxed and therefore far more interesting zine: There's always been this argument that an editor can do what he likes in his own zine. Something that beats me. This may be true up to a point, but it's no good producing a zine that others won't want to buy, surely? You can expound your views till you're blue in the face and it'll matter not a jot.

Talking of chat zines though, if anyone can make a go of it it's Chris Tringham's Megalomania. Yes yes, I've finally had to give in and have accepted his offer to trade. The man keeps sending it to me, REGULARLY! (I've had two since Christmas!) And I'm the fool, I read it from cover to cover. He's making me dependent on it - the start of an addiction. Oh yes, well do I remember my Megalomania game - the nightmares still come back. And I was prepared never to touch another Meg as long as I lived. But it has to be admitted... when he rambles on, the man CAN write. As long as Chris keeps away from games, stuff that he produces in Meg seems to read alright. It never used to be like that; Chris at one time used to be very caustic in print; gave his subscribers hell - a lowly lot he thought. Now, I think, he's more mature (he'll give me hell for that), and he's taking things nice and easy, writing because he likes to write, and not just because people (the right people) will see it.

You know, I have a sneaking feeling that if any zine could measure up to John Dodds' idea of a Hobby Central Zine (Central Hobby Zine?), Megalomania can. Little by little, while no-one was watching, Chris could take the job over. School for Scandal, a zine produced by Trevor Mendham reports to be after this very same job. But I don't think it stands a chance. Trevor asks editors to send any news they might have straight to him, with the hope of linking the ever-expanding zine scene together. And this is where he fails - editors, as with many other hobby members, are an apathetic lot, most can't be bothered to print the news in their own zines! Chances are, often as not, news won't get sent because editors don't get the time (certainly this will be so 9 times out of 10 in my case), so SOS looks destined to fail. Chris Tringham on the other hand asks for nothing, and gets on with the job. A much more powerful way of putting down roots without anyone noticing - making the lot of us dependent on him. I shall be watching this development with interest.

And just to finish off, a couple of little snippets - Information for MIDCON 84 has finally been released: dates this year are 9th/10th/11th November 1984, and is to be held yet again at the Royal Angus Hotel in Birmingham. Accomodation: a Single Room costs £16.50 per person per night (B&B); Shared Rooms £13.50 per person per night (B&B). Registration £6.00, or a Special Hobby Rate £4.50 (until June 30th). For more information (like who to pay the money to - Chris?) I suggest you write to Chris Tringham, 204 Beulah Hill, London, SE19 3UX.

Most of you should find enclosed flyer of another con, LINERCON II. The ship sails from the River Tyne at 7.30pm on Saturday, 23rd June and returns 8.30am on Tuesday, 26th June. Prices for this are: £38 for a 4 berth cabin or £41 for an outer; £47 for a 2 berth cabin or £53 for an outer. A single cabin is £68, and the convention fee is £2. For more information write to Larry Edgar, 15 Featherstone, Great Lumley, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, DG3 4NB.

Just room I think to tell that there may still be time to send votes in for Mike Allaway's Gladys Awards. It seems because Mike is so late getting Pyrrhic Victory out he may well allow late votes to trickle in. I hear he may be holding the Gladys Awards over anyway. Why is this, Mr A? Slacker! You'll end up clashing with the Zine Poll again!

THE CATACOMBS OF COPERNICA

A postal AD&D Campaign by Chris Sandow

Turns Four to Six

AINA-AMARTH (Nick Clark)

Having opened up the sarcophagus this excuse for a Paladin then decided not to pursue things any further by removing things from it, thus earning the 'Yellow Chicken Award For The Coward Of The Month'. Moving deeper into the crypt they go down a corridor flanked by coffin-filled niches, where they encounter a couple of armour-clad figures (on loan from the set of 'The Old Dark House') These prove to be Undead and are easily turned by Dolmorial the cleric.

Further down the corridor they come to a dead (I) end, but a short search soon revealed the inevitable secret door. They are now examining the room beyond, pondering the meaning of the battered doors (one is completely broken) and the animal odour which they can smell.....

SIR GUY DEWAYE (Derek Andrews)

Things are definitely getting interesting for the Campaign's most pessimistic character. A careful scout around by the party's thief (handy things these invisible potions!) revealed a group of three smugglers, stashing away some crates. With the aid of a neat ambush Sir Guy and his companions have dispatched two of the smugglers and captured the third.

But will he talk...?

THORN (George North)

A 'stairs and pit' trap proved to be no problem (well, not much!) for Thorn and his party. Nor, for that matter, did the bunch of Kobolds who then attacked them - Broadbent's 'Sleep' spell dealt with the lot of them!

However, they have now met with Erasmus Septugesima ((Jessie for short, tee hee...)), the person who apparently controls the kobolds (though even he doesn't seem to know how he does it!), and his sinister-looking side-kick, Sourgrim the gnome. The two of them have a proposal to put to Thorn....

CADELLIN SILVERBROW (Simon Craddock)

Employing his 'Speak with Animals' spell Tromador manages to win over the ape with a promise of food (let's hope they find some soon!). He also learns that the ape is one of the animals stolen from the travelling carnival.

Releasing the ape they search the surrounding rooms, and find themselves to be in part of the old Temple of Soltan - but who is using it now?

In one room they discover three chests, each with a rather odd figure on top, but as they are about to try and open them a troll enters the adjacent hall....

MAGNUS SIMONSON (Clive Booth)

Magnus and Alwyn have suffered the ignominy of being caught by one of the oldest tricks in the book! Fortunately they are not badly hurt, and they are now in the cellar of the derelict house. They discover a secret cupboard, with very little of interest in it, but they also find a well with a ladder inside it leading down to a passageway. Unfortunately their thief, Harris, discovers (to his great alarm!) that the well is guarded....

RANDOLPH THE RANGER (Dave Tant)

Having found their way safely down to the crypt Randolph and company find that it seems to suffer from a lack of exits. They search around, but in the end they discover the exit almost by accident - in trying to ensure that a statue remains safe they triggered a hidden mechanism, and the way out was revealed.

Disguising themselves as clerics of Helvath-Nar (by wearing the robes which they found in the temple) they enter and follow the passage until it bends round and leads to a door with a curious symbol on it. They also find a charred circle on the wall.

Will they fathom out the significance of it all? And what will happen if they don't?....

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