

DIB DIB DIB

42



Welcome to Dib Dib Dib 42 - this will cost you, the subscriber, 40p an issue in the UK - new prices have yet to be worked out for overseas. All money should be sent to, Tom Tweedy, 29 Stanley Hill AVENUE, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 9BD. Tel. 02403 4513.

Please remember to put Avenue on my address, because the man receiving it at Stanley Hill is getting fed up with passing my mail along.

EDITORIAL

Oh rats! It's all Janet's fault. I've just been dragged kicking and screaming from one of those rather boring Soccer games to do this editorial. Which could well be one reason why this issue might be a couple of days late. I just thought I'd better explain the reasons - then you know you can put all the blame on Janet (send all your complaints to her).

It's strange really, but when I used to see all those boring reams of print involving SoccerLeague, United, and Soccerboss, I used to find myself agreeing with the popular thought that these types of games could be clumped together under the heading 'SoccerDross'. No way was I ever going to play them. Not so now though - Stuart's new BBC computer game 'Soccer Manager', by 'Addictive Games', is GREAT! We stayed up till two in the morning playing just one game (we started at five) and still didn't want to leave it then. (Once again Jan spoiled things by dragging us off.) I can thoroughly recommend the game, though I don't know if they do it for other computers. The BBC version is certainly "addictive".

Like I said, it's all Jan's fault - she went down to the computer shop so Stuart could buy himself a new colour monitor - and they came back with that and the game. Mind you, don't get me wrong when I say HE bought the monitor. I don't want you going away with the idea that we give him mounds of money (hell, Jan doesn't even give ME mounds of money - in fact she gives me nowt). No, he paid for it out of his Premium Bond winnings. Do you know he only had his Bonds for 3 or 4 months and he won no less than three times!! Only £50 each time I admit, nevertheless, I've had mine for must be getting on.... yeesss... 25 years or so now, and I've not got (not got?) so much as a sausage. Where's all this 'on some a little rain must fall', and, 'the sun shines only on the righteous'? I'm righteous and it's been raining on me for a very long time now! Where's my colour monitor, that's what I want to know?

For those that haven't already heard, I'm handing over the Diplomacy Central Gamestart Service to Nick Kinzett. Of course, the now mighty Nick, jumped at the chance to rival the lowly Walkerdine for domination of our glorious hobby. Mind you he vacated one position; he's handed over his 'HDF Wise Man' position to me (a gesture on his part), as he felt he couldn't be HDF banker and choose who gets the money at the same time. Is there now a pie Kinzett doesn't have a finger in? I suppose he doesn't have a key to Dib's Piggy Bank..... er, does he? Anyway, all papers, lists and credits (£24.26 towards the HDF) have been handed over to this hobby pieman. If editors could please publish the details - eventually the information might float back to Martin LeFevre, who has just completed some Diplomacy box flyers so I hear. Pity my name and address is on them. Still, I had to give someone else a chance and I can easily forward everything on.

I hear Mark Billenness is handing over 20 Years On to Ian Shaw. I don't know anything about the man, so can't say whether it's a good or bad thing. But Geoff Chalinger seems to approve of him so that's one thing in his favour. I suppose Mark will be sending out details along with the next issue - I hope so anyway. I don't see the constant (seemingly to some) passing over of 20YO doing its image much good though - although a useful magazine (especially to editors) it may well put off some subscribers, the life-blood of the magazine. I wish Ian the best of luck of course - I'll still continue to get it.

Chris Sandow tells me that he's had to hold 'Catacombs of Copernica' over because of "some readjustments". It seems that if he is to pick up new starters on the waiting list, some amendments must be made to the starters package. It's not much, but in the long run he hopes it'll save him a lot of time. Further information as to what the adjustments are, has yet to be supplied.

HOBBY MEET LIST:

Now here's a novelty. Thought I'd introduce a list of those that I've met recently, as my record lists are all met with derision, especially by Mearns and Birks.

Paul & Jill Morton: Paul recently married... Jill is far too nice for him.

Ian & Elaine Tillson: Came to help collating Spots, for which many thanks.

Clive & Pauline Booth: Had a great day with Clive mucking about with his new video camera. Took some fantastic shots of the new litter, though it's strange seeing oneself on TV. (Got our copy of the cassette yet, Clive?)

John Keight: John comes round regularly showing off the new computer games he's got for his Atari... and proceeds to take over my Apple to play Wizardry! Good on yuh, John.

Mike Dean: Mike was very civilised bringing round a couple of bottle of very nice German wine, after polishing them off between the two of us it didn't really matter what the label was anyway. Came completely sane... left, a shattered wreck and a completely hooked terminal junkie. I had to pry his fingers from the computer keyboard.

THE 1984 ODE DIPLOMACY MAGAZINE POLL

Otherwise named, by John, the Revenge Poll. I'm not sure whether this is a good idea or even if it will be that well received. Certainly I'm publishing it because I like Polls, and normally think to hell with what others might say. I did talk to Richard Walkerdine about it, in passing, and he didn't seem to mind; polls are meant to be fun-type things anyway, and anyone can run one. The only other misgiving I have about this Poll is 'Zine Eligibility' sub para (c) - once again this leaves Hopscotch out, who I think only runs one Diplomacy game. Is this taking revenge too far? Still, this IS supposed to be a hard-line approach type Poll. So....

1. Zine Eligibility: To be eligible a zine must:-
 - (a) be an amateur publication concerned with postal games;
 - (b) be published in the United Kingdom;
 - (c) be running, as of 1/1/85, at least two games of postal Diplomacy that are eligible for Boardman Numbers;
 - (d) have published at least three issues between 1/9/84 and 1/1/85.
2. Voter Eligibility: Anyone who subscribes to or trades with at least two eligible zines may vote for all eligible zines they receive as trader or subscriber (see note). Editors, subeditors, and anyone closely involved in the compilation or publication of a zine, may not vote for that zine.
3. Voting Method: Zines should be listed in order of preference, with the most preferred listed '1', the second '2', etc. There is no need to awards marks, and any such will be ignored.
4. Assessment: Results will be calculated by use of a preference matrix.
5. Deadline: Votes should be sent to John Marsden, 17 Church Road, St. Leonards, Hastings, TN37 6EF, no later than Friday 4th January 1985.
6. Results: Next following Ode. Non-subscribers may receive a copy of the results from John for 20p.

Note regarding voter eligibility: The intention is to exclude anyone who reads or sees someone else's zine without themselves subscribing or trading. Clearly in the case of couples or people who share a house votes may be cast by any one member of the household, or by all in committee. Any editor who sends John his mailing list in advance of the deadline can have his voters checked for eligibility.

LANDMARK II - POSTAL CAMPAIGN
A brand new FRP game by Richard Downes

Following the success of my last postal campaign, Land! I can now announce LANDMARK II. Some of the major features include:-

*Flexible deadlines. You submit orders whenever you feel like it. By return of post or every six months. It is up to you!

*Low cost. The set up which includes rules and 3 turns as well as character and order sheets. £2.50. Subsequent turns cost 50p. All prices are inclusive of postage, combats etc, etc. *Absolutely no hidden costs. If you have payed for turns in advance and there is a price increase your money will be proected against such an event, so that you get what you pay for.

*A wide range of classes to chose from. There are currently 24 catered for. If there is not the one you would like. Tell me and I'll try to sort something out.

*28 races to choose from. You can be a straight human, or an Elf (6 varieties) or you can play a monster such as a Stone Giant or a Jackalwere or even a Mind Flayer.

*Prizes to be won. Scattered about the world there are many artifacts for your hero to find. And when (s)he does you get to keep the item. (e.g. The Ancient Gemstones of Thrale may turn out to be in reality a set of gem dice!).

*Length of campaign. This is estimated to be about 3-5 years long.

*Flexibility of campaign. You decide what type of character you play, what their traits are. Also you may choose to explore lots of dungeons or towns or wilderness, mountains, woods, swamps etc, etc.

*Tested scenario. Land has been running for well over a year now.

*Extra rules to enhance playability, by post it is easier to deal with matters such as armour disintegration (and armourer's repairs), encumberance, thieving etc, etc.

*New spell system for all bar Clerics. No longer do you automatically acquire more spells upon attaining a new level. Rather all new spells must be bought (difficult) or found.

Write now for a place to Richard Downes. 8 Treasury View, Ickham, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 1QY. Enclosing a cheque for £2.50.

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JOTTO Turn 5

|                  |             |                 |             |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| James Steele:    | 5th: 312321 | Richard Sharp:  | 5th: 230222 |
| James Cowie:     | 5th: 222222 | George North:   | 5th: 322221 |
| Ulf Jiratorn:    | 5th: 231220 | Victor Hall:    | 5th: NMR!   |
| Larry Trask:     | 5th: 303222 | Richard Morris: | 5th: 513212 |
| Richard Lampard: | 5th: 211503 | Tim Collieu:    | 5th: 323321 |
| Richard Downes:  | 5th: 414222 | Nicholas Whyte: | 4th: 222130 |
| Brian Moore:     | 4th: 201213 |                 | 5th: 312212 |
|                  | 5th: 131221 |                 |             |

I must point out that it doesn't matter if your initial Turn guesses are in the SOED or not (though it helps if I recognise the word; no anagrams as Turn guesses), all I said was, that MY 6 secret words are in the SOED. Victor, if you want to catch up just send in two guesses next time.

LETTERS

It's no good... I haven't anyone else to start with...

RICHARD SHARP:

"No, you've got it all wrong again! ((Impossible!)) I "don't bothered", as you put it, about where I came in the ratings - no one who's played as many games as I have can rate near the top on any average system. What I "do bothered" about is your constant misinforming of your trusted readers. You told them that in Wink's latest list I was "way down some where near the bottom". Surely 120th out of 350 is not 'near the bottom', is it? ((Well it's not near the top, is it?))

And who's this bloke who's "lost 30 games" - surely only Davidson could claim that, and where does he come in? You can't mean me - even if you count a draw as a loss (a bit extreme?) I've only lost 26, and if you don't I've lost 18. Tut-tut."

((What's all this "don't bothered" and "do bothered" stuff, is the mega-pedantic, doddering Sharp finally cracking up? I don't talk like that. Well, I do, but I certainly don't write like that! Your very words, Richard, were: "I've played 33 games; won 3". You may well have drawn in some games, but you don't count a draw as a WIN, do you? I say 30 games, sir, and not one less...))

oo000oo

But, I see Richard's scribblings have spurred others on to make some comment...

MATT QUARTERMAIN:

"Replying to Richard Sharp: there are still several farce games going on at the moment - a case in point is one in 'Year of the Rat' (ex Dragon Lords). Has been running for 1½ years on 2-month deadlines and is mucking around in 1903 I think. One holdover occured because of lack of Diploming time! Last I heard, Ian Marsh had given up and called it a day. Abandoning the game, thasright. ((sic)) But next thing I know is the info that 1984's upstart Andy Blakeman has taken over the game for Party or whatever he calls the zine. The fact that I didn't sub to Party (having received issue 1 just at the point of my hobby rundown) means I never heard of the transfer. Bleah.

Next. Cut and Thrust at 6 in the zine poll. Well deserved. It runs Dippy efficiently (and is never late) to 5-week deadlines and also runs the best En Gardel campaign in British zines current. If Acolyte could come 4th and 3rd in 1982/1983 for being an En Gardel zine that runs Diplomacy then surely there's nothing wrong with C&T. Besides, Glyn and Derek are okay guys (and Derek's a damn good bridge player). 6th is, therefore, an acceptable position.

As for Hobby Package (Page 9): I sent £1 to Martin ages ago and never had anything, so I presume there's no action on this front. Mind you, this was 6 months ago."

((I should push Martin a bit further, Matt. Apparently he's back in business with a new/different litho machine, and anyway, has old stocks of the Novice Package ready. There's no reason why he shouldn't send you something if you jog his memory.

As for Cut & Thrust, why should it deserve 6th place because of a well-run En Garde game, or because the editors are 'okay guys'? I'm marvelous but that couldn't get me any higher than 7th in 1982! I'll admit though being a damn good Bridge player might get you to 6th...))

oo000oo

JOHN MARSDEN:

"I must strongly object to Richard Sharp's totally misleading and inaccurate statements regarding the sad end of 1974N (BDC41I) - as he rightly says, one of the finest Diplomacy games ever.

The first thing that has to be said is that I received nothing from John

Piggott at all. In fact all the Ethil games were delayed several months in rehousing because John kept promising to send me the orders, but never did, until finally I had to ask the new GMS to call for orders to be resubmitted. In the case of 1974N I could not have been aware of any standing orders, therefor.

I reprinted ( Ode 2, page 11) the Spring 1924 adjudication verbatim from Ethil 23, including the two game-end proposals, both of which were for concession to France. There was no 4-way draw proposed that season, so it couldn't have passed (it had been defeated the previous season). I then sent copies to all players, Robert's and Dave's by Air Mail. The deadline was only three weeks, and by Ode 3 I had only heard from Roland, who vetoed the game-end proposals and proposed the draw instead. I held the game over.

In due course, Robert Correll wrote to me, accepting any draw that included him but tendering his resignation because he had lost interest in Diplomacy. He also apologised for the delay in replying! I therefore proposed to put in a standby for Turkey, to avoid unbalancing the game. This produced a howl of complaint from Dave, who pointed out that the game had never used standbys before, and threatening to resign if I used one then. I telephoned John Piggott, who confirmed that standbys had not previously been used, and that if he had still been running the game he would have put Turkey into anarchy.

I therefore adjudicated Autumn 1924 in Ode 5, with Turkey in anarchy. This created a 'forced win' situation for France, and I therefore conceded the game to Dave.

Richard's piece contains the following untruths:

1. That everyone voted for the draw. The draw proposal appeared in Ethil 22 (Autumn 1923), and was vetoed by Dave Johnson. John Piggott knew this because he typed it up for Ethil 23, which appeared (eventually) as a supplement to Megalomania 14 (which Richard presumably didn't bother to open either, despite it being clearly headed "incorporating Ethil the Frog 23").
2. That I sent Robert Correll Ode by surface mail. It went by Air Mail Printed Paper Rate, and his reply arrived within ten weeks - which was very kind of him, since he'd dropped out of the Hobby.
3. That I NMR'd Robert. Robert never NMR'd; he resigned and went straight into anarchy.
4. That Dave Johnson was "very surprised". I wanted to either end the game as a draw or put in a standby, to maintain the balance, which seemed only fair after so long a break. Dave insisted on his "win", totally devalued though it was, and given the rules as they stood I couldn't deny it to him. I know Roland has never forgiven me for it, but I saw no alternative.

I suggest that Richard checks his facts in future before accusing people in such fashion. I further suggest that he could repay me the many pounds I wasted on writing or telephoning him about this and other games he was either playing in or had abandoned. If he wants 1974N redesignated a four-way draw I would be happy to declare it such - but only when I receive a letter from Dave Johnson agreeing to the result."

((No need for me to comment any further I think - I'm sure we haven't heard the last from this, so I'm getting my head down. Did someone call Marsden soft-spoken, easy-going, liberal, middle-of-the-road? Hah!!!))

oo000oo

NICHOLAS WHYIE:

"I am appalled and disgusted by Larry Trask's comparison of English Christmas cake with Irish peat. ((Trust an Irishman to pick this up)) Irish peat is far more durable and burns far better. How many English power stations run on Christmas cake? I will admit that very little money is found in Irish peat. This is because we have the sense to keep it where we can get at it."

((Don't tell me someone has told you English power stations stoke up on Irish peat? As for peat being more durable than Christmas cake, you've gotta be kidding.))

oo000oo

ALAN FROST:

"Your letter page is getting as serious as the Times. ((Ridiculous!)) The tiresome colonial, Trask, seems to be at the root of the trouble, and forces me to burst into print:

(1) Sporting links with South Africa:

It may be that sports are played in a spirit of friendliness but you've only to go to a Chelsea match to see that the effect on the supporters is not friendly. If they've won, they have a sense of superiority over their opponents which extends far beyond their sporting prowess. If you give South Africa (if that's who you want to aim it at), they will gain a sense of moral superiority which is a propaganda victory to the regime. It is exactly this reason that Russia spends so much time and money on her athletes.

If you don't believe it's true, just try analysing your feelings when the National Anthem was played at the Olympics. You didn't do anything to win, but wasn't there a sense of personal achievement? A knowledge that we're better than them? That there must be something better about our way of life? ((No, just a sense of pride; pride for one's countrymen))

Sport shouldn't be a political thing, perhaps, but, without any help from the politicians, it is.

(2) Trask complains that we don't sound our r's. R's? Shouldn't that be 'ass', Lawwy? Have a nice day, y'hear?"

((It is true what you say about football supporters, Alan - however that wasn't quite what I had in mind. The feeling I have about most sport is different. I was thinking more of the great events. The Olympics, Wimbledon, watching the Clay fights, World Cup matches, these sort of things. It's not only about pride in one's country... it's just GREAT to be there (in spirit if nothing else). The Americans have the right idea about sport. Take a look at their pro football games and baseball: they make it a great day out; take the kids, the wife, even the grandmother. I wouldn't take my son to a football game over here. Forget British football... I try to.))

oo000oo

JOHN PIGGOTT:

"Many thanks for Dib 41 and your note therein. Flattering as it is to be asked for contributions, I half wish you wouldn't, as it seems to put me under an obligation I might find it hard to fulfil. Most of the 'hobby history' stuff I write is sparked off by a chance mention by someone else - as the piece on my TV appearance was - but perhaps I might let you have an entry for your series of pub guides which you must by now be close to starting. That pub in Lancaster where the ScotDipCon party were all thrown out for monopolising the dartboard might make a good start... I'll see what I can do anyway - but not for this issue, I'm afraid!"

((I quite understand the reluctance to write on demand, John, the only reason I asked was because I had promised to try. Certainly it wasn't my intention to put you under any obligation - I know when I was asked to do a couple of reviews, I hated it. Consequently the results were not all that I might have desired.))

JOHN (CONT.):

"And now for Larry Trask - or, as I can reveal, Laurence Cornelius Trask III, the son and heir of L. Cornelius Trask Jr. and Cordelia Dimpelburger. With a pedigree of those dimensions Larry could hardly be anything but an American Patriot, forcefully promulgating the successful aspects of his land while turning a blind eye to its failures. Nowhere is this demonstrated better than in his comments on food. We all know of the innate ghastliness of American food... the English muffins that are neither, the freshly squeezed orange juice that was removed from the freezer only this morning, to say nothing of the tortillas, each neatly embossed 'Du Pont' in the centre... The point is that Larry is not to blame for any of this. When he speaks of a pot roast, he means something that has actually seen the inside of a pot and not just a plastic bag! The problem is that in America such a thing cannot be bought for less than \$50 a portion.

And now to Language. Here Larry speaks with authority, for (as you'll have

read in Dolchstoss ) he has recently obtained his HND in Linguistics. As he says, the American language is notorious for perpetuating archaisms such as 'Fall', 'Center' and the traditional 'Gotten', which have deservedly fallen out of use on this side of the Atlantic. No doubt, when a car breaks down in Peoria, Illinois, the driver shouts, 'Gadzooks!', or 'Zounds!' - and in San Diego, where there are lots of Mexicans, 'Carambal', just like in the comics we used to read as children. One aspect of American which Larry doesn't mention as its coming of unnecessary and repulsive 'simplified' spellings - 'Big Fite Tonite', 'Enuf' and 'Thru' are examples. Or what about their awful habit of adding 'situation' to turn an adjective into a noun, or their longer-standing habit of using a noun as a verb: 'to bus' is the obvious example, and is of fairly recent origin, but the problem is long-standing: the familiar 'sidewalk' falls in the same category, albeit the other way around! But Larry is not to blame for any of this - he merely stands, a horrified spectator, and if his reaction to the whole mess is a murmured 'Mazel-tov', that's just because even he, a linguist, doesn't appreciate the full horror and scale of the damage which these Yanks have wrought, mainly through all the foreign influences on the language they use."

((That's what I like to hear, making apologies for the yanks and their language because they are merely helpless bystanders. More, more!))

oo000oo

It seems Larry has started something again. Less sympathetic...

NICK HOYLE.

"So Trask thinks the English are pathetically inconsistent and imprecise in their use of their own language! His whole letter on the subject is symptomatic of Americans! Misguided belief that they are always right.

It may well be true that they obtained their orniography ((sic)) and pronunciation from emigrants from the Celtic fringe in the seventeenth century, in which case we should have pity on the American nation for being so backward. The fact that we English drop 'r's, not to mention many other letters, is of course merely an intelligence test for foreigners. We really can't help the Yanks if they are so thick that they cannot recognise our homophones and their different meanings. This inability to pronounce our language correctly irrevocably brands Americans as foreigners, try though they might to master its subtleties. We've got to keep them in their place somehow. It wouldn't do to let them forget that they're foreign. ((I agree!))

American English (if it deserves to be associated with our noble tongue) is in any case not without its inconsistencies. Take the word BATHROOM. When I was a tourist guide in Notre-Dame de Paris, an American woman once asked me where the BATHROOM was. Perhaps I should have suggested that she use the font or maybe Americans use baths as we use lavatories? Yet an American BATHROOM need not by any means be a ROOM with a BATH in it. Call that logical?"

((No I don't. In fact on the same point, I recently read of a bunch of American tourists travelling through some desert setting, when one American asked to stop the mini-bus because she wanted to 'go to the bathroom'. As you might guess it caused no small amount of puzzlement to the foreign driver, who probably thought he had some desert-crazed madwoman on his hands. Perhaps she should have asked to go to the powder room?))

oo000oo

RICHARD LAMPARD:

"What good ol' Larry Trask does not seem to realise (spelt, as far as I am concerned with an 's'), is that the conservative attitude of Americans towards these traditions of language only exists because of their pre-occupation with the past, brought on by having no real history of their own, I suppose.

Language is a LIVING thing, and evolves just as the rest of society does - I for one do not fancy the idea of going around addressing people as 'thee' or whatever, let alone learning Chaucerian English, living in Canterbury or not!



Example: jeopardize (with a z - and no need for rational justification). This word comes originally from FRENCH roots (antecedents of JEU and PARTIR it would appear). Around the start of the 15th century it still had a 'U' not an 'O' So what price the less important change from 'Z' to 'S' 3 centuries later, and in an 'end-bit' too?

English is what the English speak now, not 50 years ago or 2 or 3 centuries ago. In any case I have my doubts whether the Pilgrim Fathers went round saying "Gee, Buddy, did ya see those hip freebies who was blown away tonite on the sidewalk?"

Americans speak American (if they deserve the compliment of being allowed their own language at all!).

As far as the pronunciation side of Traskman's letter is concerned, my hardly-posh way of speaking rhymes Gower with 'cower' (appropriately) and does not compress medicine, police, primarily, temporarily or temporally in the way Larry suggests we English do.

P.S. Larry is very privileged if he knows people who frequently use the word temporarily in normal conversation 'cos I don't!

((Ah, I do - it's probably because of the trendy middle-class area I live in (no, I don't read The Guardian). And come to think of it, I don't compress medicine, police, or anything else 'iver. It seems Larry has just got it all wrong. I'd like to bet most Americans have the misconception that the 'average Englishman' speaks with a broad cockney accent. Isn't that how they portray us on their TV screens? Either that or with rolled-up brollys, bowler hats and speaking Old Etonian. Larry?))

oo000oo

And even less sympathetic...

IAN WINSTANLEY:

"I read the last 'Larry Trask' letter with some interest. It was of course a misleading, unintelligent, contradictory load of old rubbish (much like his earlier letters). ((That bad, eh?))

For example, we are criticised for not pronouncing our language as it was spoken in the late 17th century. What makes 17th century English the definitive form of pronunciation (as opposed to say 15th, 16th or 18th century English)? According to 'Larry Trask' because North America was being colonised by England then. Ignoring completely the fact that the English were colonising North America before and after that period.

Then he has the audacity to criticise us for dropping words used by the Anglo-Saxons hundreds of years before his beloved late 17th century.

As for spelling, does he also expect us to substitute 'F's' for 'S's' as was common in the past? Or does his selective, rose-tinted memory ignore such awkward facts.

Also he chastises us for allowing our language to be influenced in recent times by the French. Ignoring the influence French had on our language for years prior to the 17th Century. He also takes no notice of the influence on American English by a vast influx of peoples from Asia, Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe (including, of course the French!).

Clearly it is our English language which has been responsive to the changes of the past 300 years. Evolving in a sensible way to our changing needs during that time, while making intelligent use of outside influences, yet still retaining its natural conservative base to provide with continuity. Unlike American English which merely has pretensions to being vigorous when it is, in fact, being bastardised.

So this drivel of Larry's is based on ridiculous contentions and unsubstantiated arguments, like his previous letters.

Now the above might sound like an attack on Larry. ((Er, yes, that thought had crossed my mind)) It isn't, I assure you. I have met Larry several times and he is a nice, intelligent, personable man (unlike most Americans we meet in this country or see represented by the American media) he is not the sort of person to write such pretentious letters which seek merely to irritate and cause arguments amongst all and sundry. ((Yes he is, I bribed him to do just

that...!))

I suggest that the 'Larry Trask' letters are a hoax or worse, ((Who would...? Or even...)) perhaps Larry is being duped or coerced into passing them off as his own. Who could do such a thing? Probably someone with a monstrous ego, some intelligence and literacy, with a flair for organisation. Also, a knowledge of how to deal with people in a devious and underhand way. ((Well that lets me out...)) Somewhere amongst the zines Larry subscribes to is this fiend, under whose influence he has fallen. It is up to those few responsible hobby members, such as you and I, to find this person and castrate ((Oops, castigate)) him for this foul charade.

While we are trying to discover who it is I suggest you ignore all letters from Larry Trask. Any letter bearing that signature can now be regarded with suspicion. Then when the villain is unmasked the real Larry will have an opportunity to make a genuine contribution to the Hobby."

((Very sharp! but I agree, why should we stick to the 17th Century usage of our fair tongue. Be off with you Trask, lest I set a few more Dib subscribers on your tail.))

oo000oo

CATHY CUNNING:

"OK I can't stand it! It's time for a real American to talk about food. And language for that matter. I won't let you rip into the wonderful Larry Trask like that ((Who?)) - who is right about everything.

Now food - I remember my days while I was at University, er, college in London. Imagine a school full of Americans being forced to eat English food. Now breakfast is wonderful - but who gets up in time for breakfast? Strangely. I noticed that the most popular items were bread, peanut butter and jelly. ((For BREAKFAST! You Americans are sick!))

The problem with trying to describe British food is that one can not remember it long enough to comment upon it. All I really remember was meat, bread, potatoes, meat, bread, potatoes and sometimes fish thrown in for 'a change of pace'."

((What's wrong with that? Sounds like a good, healthy, balanced diet to me. We British didn't get where we are today by being finicky, don't you know.))

CATHY (CONT):

"About language. In High School (that's grades 9-12. Ages 14-18) I thought it was very 'posh' to use the British spellings on many words - like colour instead of color and centre instead of center. It pissed my teachers off to no end. They kept marking my papers up. ((Papers down?)) I would say, "but that is the proper spelling. It's just the British variation!" And they would say, "but this is America, not Britain". And would drop me a grade.

I tried it one last time in college. I was doing a paper about the BBC, ITV and Channel Four. I used 'programme' and a few other ones. Once again, I got my paper all marked up with red marks, and my grade lowered a mark.

So what is proper English? Just depends on where you live."

((In answer to your question, I'd have to say proper English is what the English speak. But looking at it from the American point of view, I have to admit that it must seem a little strange for your teachers to emphasise 'proper English' to an American, and American-speaking nation. Perhaps your teachers should just teach 'American', and to hell with what we British say and do. You don't find the average Frenchman or German worrying about how we pronounce our words. Unless of course they want to learn English. The only German I know who writes English really well (that is, who seems to feel comfortable using it) is Konrad Dolata.))

oo000oo

And now for something completely serious....

(Cont'd over.....)



GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAME

'Jade' (1983BM)

Spring 1908

STILL A LITTLE MOVEMENT IN THE SOUTH - CAN ANYONE BREAK THROUGH?

AUSTRIA (Steve Gregory) A(Tyr)stands, A(Tri) S A(Tyr), A(Boh)stands, A(Vie) S A(Boh),  
A(War)stands, A(Gal) S A(War), A(Ukr) S A(War), A(Mos)stands, A(Sev) S  
A(Mos), F(Gre)stands

FRANCE (Pete Mearns) F(NAf)-Tun, F(GOL) S F(WMS)-TYS, F(WMS)-TYS, F(MAO)-WMS, F(IRI)-ENC,  
F(Yor)-Edi, A(Lon)stands, A(Mar)-Pie, A(Bur)stands

GERMANY (Jon Moss) \*A(Tus)-Rom, A(Pie)-Tyr, A(StP) S A(Lvn), A(Lvn) S F(BAL)-Pru, F(BAL)-  
Pru, A(Mun) S A(Ber)-Sil, A(Ber)-Sil, A(Kie) S A(Mun)

ITALY (Dave Bird) A(Ven)stands, F(Rom) S F(TYS)-Tus, F(TYS)-Tus, A(Apu) S A(Ven), F(Tun)-  
WMS, F(ION)-TYS, F(Con)-AEG

Retreats: GERMAN A(Tus) dies (NRP)

ENDGAME PROPOSALS: Two new proposal have been put forward:-

(a) 1st F; 2nd G/A/I

(b) 4-way draw F/G/A/I ((votes for next time please - failure to vote counts as YES))

'Kevin' (1983DI)

Autumn 1906

UNUSUAL GERMAN MNR - THOUGH HE STILL MAKES A GAIN!

ENGLAND (Richard Wernick) F(StP-nc)stands, F(NWG) S F(Nor), F(Nor)stands, F(Lpl)stands

GERMANY (Victor Hall) NMR! Has: A(Sil), A(Ven), A(Mun), A(Tus), A(Lon), A(Por), F(SKA),  
F(NTH), F(Edi), F(WMS), A(Gas), A(Tyr), F(Den)

ITALY (Anarchy) Has: \*F(Rom)

RUSSIA (R.J. Lampard) A(Swe)-Nor, A(War)stands. A(Sev)-Arm, A(Arm)-Syr, A(Rum) S A(Ser),  
A(Ser) S A(Bud)-Tri, A(Bud)-Tri, A(Tri)-Alb, A(Gal)-Vie

TURKEY (Mike Motley) A(Gre) S A(Bul), A(Bul) S A(Gre), F(Con)-Ank, F(AEG)-Smy, F(ION)-Tun,  
A(Nap) S A(Apu)-Rom, A(Apu)-Rom

Retreats: ITALIAN F(Rom) dies

Winter 1906 Adjustments:

ENG: (Lon), Lpl, StP, Nor

GER: Kie, Ber, Mun, Hol, Bel, Par, Den, Bre, Por, Mar, Spa, Ven, Edi + Lon

ITA: (Rom)

RUS: Mos, War, Vie, Rum, Bud, Tri, Swe, Ser, Sev

TUR: Con, Ank, Smy, Bul, Gre, Nap, Tun + Rom

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| GM disbands F(NWG) for | 3                |
| No Change              | for 14 (1 SHORT) |
| OUT                    | for 0            |
| No Change              | for 9            |
| Builds: F(Con)         | for 8            |
|                        | 34               |

PRESS:

Turkey - Germany: Well done Victor. Let me be the first to congratulate you.

'Lamfhada' (1983EE)

Spring 1905

TURKEY GETS PULVERISED - A TRICKY GAME

AUSTRIA (James Cowie) A(Vie) S A(Bud), A(Bud) S A(Tri)-Ser, A(Tri)-Ser

ENGLAND (David Crawford) F(Hol) S GERMAN A(Den)-Kie, F(Lon)-ENC, A(Edi)-Vor

FRANCE (Alan Sharples) F(ENC)-NTH, F(Bre)-ENC, F(Lpl)stands, F(MAO)-NAO, F(Mar)-Spa-sc,  
\*A(Kie) S RUSSIAN A(Sil)-Ber, A(Mun) S A(Kie), A(Bur)-Bel, A(Par)-Pic

GERMANY (R.J. Lampard) A(Den)-Kie, A(Ber) S A(Den)-Kie

ITALY (Paul Donley) A(Tyr) S A(Ven), A(Ven) S A(Tyr), F(ION)-Gre, F(Nap)-ION  
 RUSSIA (Mike Close) F(StP-nc)-Nor, F(Swe)-Den, A(Sil)-Mun, A(Sev)-Rum, A(Ukr) S A(Sev)-Rum, A(War)-Gal  
 TURKEY (Simon Craddock) \*A(Ser) S A(Gre)-Alb, A(Gre)-Alb, \*A(Rum) S A(Ser), A(Con)-Gre, F(AEG) C A(Con)-Gre, F(Smy)-EMS, F(Bul-ec)-Con

Retreats: FRENCH A(Kie)-Ruh; TURKISH A(Ser) dies (NRP); TURKISH A(Rum) dies (NRP)

COA'S:

R.J. Lampard, Collingwood College, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LT (5th Oct - 12th Dec).  
 Paul Donley, Telford Hall, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3UA.  
 Alan Sharples, 13 Eccleeriggs Avenue, Hawcoat, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 4NG. Tel. 0229 29460

PRESS:

Austria - World: Bloody Hell!

Germany - Russia: Thankyou so much.

Austria - Russia: You and your Chameleons have a lot to answer for.

Austria - Germany: I know how you feel.

Anon - Austria: Don't worry. his time will come.

The Chameleon Strikes Back, Episode 5: The story so far (just in case you've forgotten)... ((We had, we had...))

The devious Arch-Villain of Crime, Thomas Algernon Tweedy, ((!?!)) is intending to take over the world by indoctrinating the masses with his thoughts in the wretched rag Dib Dib Dib. Not only that, but he had kidnapped the fair damsel Janet and had forced her to marry him and settle in his hideout in Amersham.

Only one man (and his organisation) stood between Tweedy and world domination - the experienced crime fighter George North. Backed by his faithful assistants Close, Allen and Piper, and aided by his Secretary Cathy Cuning he would try to save the World from Tweedy's domination. ((Wot, this motley crew?)

Back at Romford, the North Masterplan is about to be revealed...

Around the Lab, caged Dalmatians of various shapes and sizes yapped and panted contentedly. George led Allen and Close to the centre table where two large cages - one containing a male Dalmatian, and the one in front the biggest chameleon you ever did see.

"Meet Charlie the Chameleon" announced George proudly. "Tell them, Cathy".

"We've been training Charlie and Clarissa for several months now to respond to a certain series of commands" said the statuesque secretary. "Watch".

She returned to the cages. "Good Dogs". The Dalmatian's tail began to wag. In the other cage, the chameleon slowly began to change shape and colour, fading to white. Within a minute both cages contained - Dalmatians!

Austrian Empire - Simon Craddock: Ease thy concionous ((?)) my son, the Austrian people forgive your sins.

'Macha' (1983EN)

Spring 1905

CLEVER ITALIAN SELF STAND-OFF IN GALICIA SAVES THE DAY

ENGLAND (Stuart Bailey) NMR! Has: F(Lon), F(Lpi)  
 FRANCE (Bill Haygarth) F(Edi)-NWG, F(NTH)-Den, F(ENC)-Wal, F(Bre)-ENC, A(Hol)-Kie, A(Ruh) S A(Hol)-Kie, A(Bel)-Hol, A(Bur) S A(Mun), A(Mun)stands  
 ITALY (Alan Frost) A(Ven)-Tyr, A(Vie)-Gal, A(Bud)-Gal, A(Ser)-Rum, F(Alb) S F(ION)-Gre, F(ION)-Gre, \*F(AEG)-Bul-sc, F(Nap)-ION  
 RUSSIA (Steve Rennie) A(Boh)-Vie, A(Gal) S A(Boh)-Vie, A(Sil)-Boh, A(Kie)-Ber, F(Den)-NTH, A(Nor)stands, A(Rum)-Bud, F(BLA) C A(Arm)-Rum, A(Arm)-Rum, A(War)-Pru  
 TURKEY (Ulf Jiretorn) A(Bul) S F(Con), F(Gre)-AEG, F(Smy) S F(Gre)-AEG, F(Con) S A(Ank), A(Ank) S F(Smy)

Retreats: ITALIAN F(AEG)-EMS

PRESS:

Turkey - Russia: I hope you've realised your mistake now. If you continue to fight me, you won't be able to hold the lines in Germany or you'll be put on the defensive in Austria. Why don't you use your units there instead?

Italy - Turkey: Sorry, but I couldn't wait any longer.

France - Turkey: Italy is free to do as he wishes, but I think he ought to stop attacking you. That's all I can tell you. Sorry!

'Nuada' (1984BN)

Autumn 1902

FRANCE COMES UNDER PRESSURE FROM ITALY & GERMANY - TURKEY FROM AUSTRIA & RUSSIA  
(What's England going to do?)

AUSTRIA (John Cavanagh) A(Ser)-Bul, F(Gre) S A(Ser)-Bul, A(Bud)-Gal, A(Tri)-Ser  
 ENGLAND (Martin Allen) F(BAR)-NWG, A(Nor)stands, F(NTH)-Den, F(ENC)-NTH  
 FRANCE (Paul Morton) A(Pic)-Bur, A(Par) S A(Pic)-Bur, A(Gas) S F(Spa-sc), F(Spa-sc)stands, A(Bre)stands  
 GERMANY (Mike Close) A(Mun)-Bur, A(Bel) S A(Mun)-Bur, F(Hol) S A(Bel), A(Ruh) S A(Bel), F(Den)-NTH  
 ITALY (R.J. Lampard) F(Apu)-Ven, A(Mar)-Spa, F(WMS) S A(Mar)-Spa, A(Pie)-Mar  
 RUSSIA (Cathy Cunning) A(Mos)-StP, A(Fin) S F(Swe), F(Swe)stands, F(Sev)-BLA, A(Rum) S AUSTRIAN A(Ser)-Bul, A(Ukr) S A(Rum)  
 TURKEY (Chris Sandow) \*A(Bul)-Rum, F(BLA) S A(Bul)-Rum, A(Con)-Bul, F(Smy)-Con

Retreats: TURKISH A(Bul) dies (NRO)

COA 'S:

Paul Morton, 22 Munro Road, Bushey, Herts.

Martin Allen, 14 Trafford Road, Headington, Oxford, Oxfordshire.

Winter 1902 Adjustments:

|                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| AUS: Bud, Vie, Tri, Ser + Bul, Gre | Builds: A(Bud), F(Tri) for 6 |
| ENG: Lon, Lpl, Edi, Nor            | No Change for 4              |
| FRA: Bre, Par, Por, (Bel), Spa     | Disbands A(Bre) for 4        |
| GER: Mun, Ber, Kie, Den, Hol + Bel | Builds: F(Kie) for 6         |
| ITA: Rom, Ven, Nap, Mar, Tun       | Builds: F(Nap) for 5         |
| RUS: Mos, War, StP, Sev, Rum, Swe  | No Change for 6              |
| TUR: Smy, Ank, Con, (Bul)          | No Change for 3              |
| Neutrals: (Gre)                    | for 0                        |

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PRESS:

Warsaw - Berlin: You're wonderful! I worship you and will follow you anywhere! (that is unless you stab me and then I agree with everything Tweedy told me about you.)

Germany - Italy: I think that it's about time we got our act together!!

St. Pete - BAR: Look, we don't have any Vodka. Go home!

Germany - France: Despite the utterings of Tweedy, I had nothing to do with you getting married! However, now you have recovered, perhaps we can talk? ((It takes a lot longer to get over being married than a couple of months, Mike! There are some of us who never do.))

LUTON AIRPORT - Cathy: Many happy returns for the 5th! Sorry I found out too late, I was going to send you Mike Close as a man servant (well, half man) to give you a hand in your dotage... now you're getting on that is. Tell me though, what grand old age are you now?

'Olwen' (1984B0)

Autumn 1903

RUSSIA TAKES SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE - STARTING TO BE A TOUGH GAME

AUSTRIA (Mick Bensted) A(Tri)-Vie, A(Ser)-Rum, A(Bud) S A(Ser)-Rum, \*A(Bul) S A(Ser)-Rum, A(Gre) S A(Bul), F(Alb) S A(Gre)  
 ENGLAND (Grahame MacLennan) F(Nor)-Swe, A(Wal)-Lon, F(NWG)-Edi  
 FRANCE (Colin Pickard) F(Cly)-Lpl, F(ENC)-Lon, A(Yor) S F(ENC)-Lon, A(Spa)-Gas, A(Ruh)-Bur, A(Bur)-Bel, A(Pie)-Tyr

(Cont'd over....)

GERMANY (Kenny Adams) F(Den) S F(BAL)-Swe, F(BAL)-Swe, F(Fin)-StP-sc, A(Hol)-Bel, A(Ber)-Mun. A(War)stands

ITALY (Nick Lourie) A(Ven) S FRENCH A(Pie)-Tyr, A(Apu) S A(Ven), F(Tun)stands

RUSSIA (Nicholas Whyte) F(BLA) S TURKISH A(Con)-Bul, A(Rum) S A(Gal)-Bud, A(Gal)-Bud, A(Ukr)-Mos, \*F(Swe)-Nor

TURKEY (Ian Winstanley) F(ION)-Gre, A(Con)-Bul. F(AEG) S A(Con)-Bul

Retreats: AUSTRIAN A(Bul) dies (NRP); RUSSIAN F(Swe) dies (NRO)  
 COA: (Term time address) Colin Pickard, 61 Osborne Road, Levenshulme, Manchester, M19 2DU.

Winter 1903 Adjustments:

|                                              |                        |                 |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| AUS: Tri, Vie, Bud, Ser, (Rum), Gre          | No Change              | for 5           |
| ENG: (Lon), Edi, Wor                         | GM disbands A(Wal)     | for 2           |
| FRA: Par, Bre, Mar, Bel, Spa, Por, Lpl + Lon | Builds: F(Bre)         | for 8           |
| GER: Mun, Kie, Ber, Swe, Hol, Den + StP, War | Builds: A(Kie), A(Ber) | for 8           |
| ITA: Rom, Ven, Nap + Tun                     | No Builds Ordered      | for 4 (1 SHORT) |
| RUS: (StP), Mos, (War), Sev, (Bul) + Rum     | Disbands: F(BLA)       | for 3           |
| TUR: Con, Smy, Ank + Bul                     | Builds: A(Con)         | for 4           |
| Neutrals: (Tun)                              |                        |                 |

PRESS:

France - Germany: Testing... testing...  
 LUTON AIRPORT - Wick: At the time of typing this you don't owe me money; Jan tells me every time she does the credit (last time was for issue 41). Check your credit on the envelope if you want to be sure this time, but if you haven't received a credit reminder chances are you owe me nothing yet. But to change the subject, PLEASE address my envelope to Stanley Hill Avenue - the bloke at Stanley Hill goes mad when he gets my mail.  
 Turkey - Austria: Let's fight in Rome, not Bulgaria!  
 Berlin - Mos & Con: Sorry! I really did mean what I said on the phone... but then I changed my mind.  
 Russia - Germany: Winter is coming.  
 Marvin: I'd like you all to know I'm feeling very depressed. But what do you expect from a robot with no gratitude circuits? How do I know I haven't got any? I don't - it's just that I've never had occasion to find out. In this game anyway.  
 Nicholas - Ian: Elephants wear ripple-soled shoes to give ants a 50-50 chance. Why are elephants big, grey and wrinkled? ((When you two have QUITE finished - I have to type up all this rot y'know!))  
 Le Figaro: French President heard to be complaining at the lack of inward correspondence. It has been noted that he gets violent when people don't talk to him.  
 Brussels, Spain & Portugal - England: Occupation isn't so bad. y'know.

'Pryderi' (1984DA)

Autumn 1902

ENGLAND SHOOTS AHEAD WHILE IMPORTANT TURKISH DISPATCHES FAIL TO GET THROUGH TO ITALIAN LEADER

AUSTRIA (Pete Mason) A(Gre)-Bul, A(Tri)-Ser, A(Bud) S A(Tri)-Ser, F(ADS)-Tri

ENGLAND (Ralph Baker) F(Wal)-Lpl, F(NTH)-Den, F(Nor)-NTH, A(Bel)stands

FRANCE (John Piggott) A(Spa)-Cly, F(MAO) C A(Spa)-Cly, F(NAO) C A(Spa)-Cly, A(Gas)-Par, [[A(Bur) S GERMAN A(Ruh)-Bel]]

GERMANY (Nick Hoyle) \*A(Den)-Swe, F(BAL) S A(Den)-Swe, A(Kie)-Den, A(Ruh)-Mun, F(Hol) S ENGLISH A(Bel)

ITALY (Mike Pollard) A(Ven)-Tyr, \*A(Ser)-Tri, A(Rom)-Ven, F(ION)-Gre

RUSSIA (David Crawford) A(Fin) S F(Swe), F(Swe) S ENGLISH F(NTH)-Den, A(Mos)-StP, F(Rum) S AUSTRIAN A(Gre)-Bul, F(BLA)-Con, A(Ukr)-Sev

TURKEY (Iain Forsyth) F(Ank)-BLA, A(Con) S A(Bul), \*A(Bul) S ITALIAN A(Ser)-Gre, [[F(AEG) S ITALIAN A(Ser)-Gre]]

Retreats: GERMAN A(Den) dies (NRO); ITALIAN A(Ser)-Alb; TURKISH A(Bul) dies (NRP)