

there be a radical revision of ETHIL's financial policy? Or are things best left as they are? We haven't lost any players yet...

Anyone who thought that our first issue looked good may well be in for a shock when he sees this one. The stencilling seems to be going all right at present, but this is the first time I've touched stencils for three years. We shall see... Meanwhile I'm revelling in the new-found joy of having one's typer keys clog up with bits...

May as well do the game now, I guess. It'll save me from thinking what to write at any rate...

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'A' GAME (1972K) -- Spring 1901

ENGLAND: The T.P.S. (Tripe Projectile Station) at Oldham has just made a major breakthrough. Dr Wolfgang Helmut Smith, in charge of the research, disclosed in a recent interview that the new high-powered tripe projectiles are now capable of a range across the whole of Europe and well into Turkey. The new projectiles have a 10 megaton tripe warhead which brings about the total destruction of an area of about 10 square miles. Many of these new rockets are now in production, in case any of England's enemies plan any backstabbing...

RUSSIA: The following statement has at last been issued by PRAVDA, the official Russian news agency.

"In the early hours of Sunday, the first day of February, 1901 A.D.? loyalist Russians took up arms against the century-old Communist dictatorship. By mid-morning the Revolution was well and truly over, and administrative units were beginning to piece together again a new democratic civil government. At precisely twelve noon the formation of BURP, the Bolshevik Union of the Russian Peoples, was announced.

"The former President and Party Leader of the old regime, unprincipled men going under the names of Lenin and Stalin, were taken down to the cellar of the Kremlin and, from there, they mysteriously disappeared. It is claimed from numerous sources that they were executed without trial. This charge has been flatly denied by a spokesman from the Ministry of Home Affairs, but nevertheless an investigation, presided over by the able hands of Nicholas Detectski, has been launched to uncover the true nature of the disappearances.

"By late evening things were calming down as law and order were once more enforced. Grand-Duke Grahamov, heir to the throne of all the Russias, returned from his Rumanian Exile and, to the cheers of ecstatic crowds, was crowned Czar of all the Russias and Leader of the Bolshevik Union of the Russian Peoples as the clock in the remamed Blue Square chimed midnight."

Other news included a report on the 1901 Russian Oceanographical Expedition which left its St. Petersburg base on a survey mission to the Baltic Sea. The command ship, the "Moskva", carries a MiG 3 $\frac{1}{4}$, a newly developed aircraft to be used in mapping the ocean floor. How long the expedition is likely to take is unknown, but it is hoped that foreign powers will not interfere with this purely scientific venture.

There now follows a Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Russian nation. The speaker is His Imperial Majesty the Czar.

"These are troubled times. Diplomatic ties have been broken and Europe is about to be plunged into a total war. As a token gesture, therefore, Russian forces have been despatched to protect Rumania after their hospitality during my recent exile there. Meanwhile, all Russian forces have been placed on standby alert, as the political situation grows more tense with each passing minute. It is hoped that the Great powers of Europe will find some peaceful solution in these grave times.

"But, as the situation worsens, remember: the Rouble in your pocket has not been devalued!"

ITALY: Plans for the canal linking Venice and Genoa are well advanced, and digging should commence in the near future, Professor Krakowski, President Gumboil's Russian engineering adviser, said yesterday.

News has reached us also of the Spanish plans to widen the Straits of Gibraltar. Prince Carl's Russian engineering adviser has put forward plans to widen the straits to approximately 120 miles -- "about the same as the distance between Genoa and Venice." No trouble is expected from the population of Melilla.

AUSTRIA: From the Vienna Sausage Association Gazette, May 1, 1901:-

"As the countries of Europe rush headlong towards conflict, Austria prepares her armies with a flood of newly devised equipment. Rubber gun emplacements have been developed to bounce off enemy shekls, while road signs near the borders have been written in Swahili to confuse enemy reconnaissance units. To further confuse the enemy there are plans afoot to put Vienna on wheels and park it temporarily in Albania. The people have great hopes that the Emperor might even finance a small army and navy, but these are probably just rumours. Hungary, however, has fully prepared, and armed men marched off southwards singing about going to fight the Chinese. Some hope, or fear, that moral collapse and stupidity will cause the Empire to slide into the Adriatic before an enemy soldier sets foot on Austrian soil."

Austria makes it known that her leaders are in the habit of conducting diplomacy in an honourable fashion. Any ally may request an agreement bound by a signed treaty to which Austria will adhere strictly. Any friendly nation will be subjected to persuasion before violence is offered; and an enemy will receive a formal declaration of war before hostilities commence. We practise no treachery, double-dealing or skulduggery.

However, we feel it only fair to others to point out that, though only occasionally, we also tell lies.

GERMANY: and no press release!!!

GAMESMASTER: And after all that, now for the moves:-

ENGLAND: F Lon-Nth; F Edi-Nrg; A Lpl-Edi.

GERMANY: F Kie-Den; A Ber-Kie; A Mun-Ruh.

RUSSIA: F StP(S)-GoB; F Sev-Rum; A War-Ukr; A Mos-StP.

TURKEY: F Ank-Bla; A Smy-Con; A Con-Bul.

AUSTRIA: F Tri-Alb; A Vie-Tri; A Bud-Ser.

ITALY: F Nap-Ion; A Ven-Pie; A Rom-Ven.

FRANCE: F Bre-MAO; A Par-Pic; A Mar-Spa.

All moves succeeded this time. Maybe next time there'll be a bit of war...

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Waiting Lists

Regular: Mick Christianson, Bruce Davidson, Martin Davis.

Abstraction: Andy Davidson, Graham Jeffery, Kevin Feintuck, Martin D Davis. Any others?

Publications Received

NIFLHEIM (Hartley Patterson, Finches, 7 Cambridge Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks) is a broadsheet designed to introduce the newcomer to postal Diplomacy. If you want to see one, write to Hartley -- he's asking for ideas as to what he should do with it.

ON LES AURA! (Michel Liesnard, Ave. E.de Meersman 43, Berchem-Ste-Agathe, B-1080 BRUXELLES, Belgium) is a magazine which reports on a game of the Youngstown Variant, which has 10 players, the extra countries being China, India and Japan. A game of Feudalism II (eleven players) is also said to be in the offing. For some reason two editions are produced of each issue; the 'numero gratuit' just contains a record of the moves made, while the 'regular' (for want of a better name) issues contain all this this plus screeds of propaganda. Quite good stuff, too. It's all bilingual (French/English) and non-players pay 25p for 6 issues, players 10p for 5.

MOESHOESHOE (Michel Feron, Grand-Place 7, B-4280 HANNUT, Belgium) is being reactivated as a normal postal Dippy zine. Number 16 which I have is "un numero special de promotion" and, as far as my French allows me to understand, has much the same function as NIFLHEIM. It's all in French... non-linguists, beware!

ALBION (Don Turnbull, Flat 13, Gilmerton Court, Trumpington Rd, Cambridge) is once again accepting players for regular games and Abstraction, played in the subzine COURIER. ALBION itself is 10p or 20p + postage per issue, depending on size, and game fee is £1 with free ALBIONS (but not free postage) thrown in. Recommended.

Standby Players

Or rather, lack of them. Standby players are people who replace any players who drop out of a game. This is a better system than simply placing playerless units in anarchy, as WAR BULLETIN's veteran readers will know well! The 'carrot' for becoming a standby player is that you receive ETHIL THE FROG free whilst you play a game in your standby capacity; the only money you have to fork out is postage costs and, maybe, a few quid to bribe the other players... Any offers?

Other games

We continue to be on the look-out for new games. Will Haven has suggested we might extend EtF to include Risk, Shogi and other games which might be played postally. I know nothing about Shogi; however, Will has an article in the next ALBION which should explain all. Postal Risk is a possibility, but postal play might be a bit awkward. Has anyone any ideas, please?

One Dippy variant which has really caught my fancy is a thing which I believe revels in the name of Hyperspace Diplomacy; I believe it's one of Don Miller's variants. It's played with two boards, and each player controls the same country on each board. In addition to all the regular moves, it is possible to move between corresponding territories of different boards, and so on. For example, an army in Munich on board A may support an army in Munich on board 'B', or it can attack Munich on board 'B', etc. etc. Perhaps Don will oblige with more information.

Bits and Pieces

- *** I have a few photocopied 'logical' Dippy maps (as originated by the infamous Dave Berg for use with a computer player. A bad idea, that. The only computer that I've ever heard of playing Diplomacy lost in 1903 or somesuch... Anyway, send a 2½p stamp if you want one of the maps... (don't all rush at once!)
- *** Phil Jones' telephone number is 051-427 5044. As he doesn't specify what time he's in, one must assume he is available at most hours. I will publish any other phone numbers if asked to do so.
- *** On Saturday, March 11, your humble GM will be moving from Jesus College to his home address: 17 Monmouth Road, Oxford, OX1 4TD. This is one day after the deadline I've set.
- *** All Autumn 1901 moves and Winter 1901 build requirements must be in hand by Friday, March 10, 1972. Don't forget that if you don't say what builds you want, you won't get any.
- *** Mailing code: T = trade; a number = the number of your last paid issue; ? = status under review or unknown; S = sample copy.

This is

ETHIL THE FROG 2

from:

John Piggott
Jesus College
Cambridge
CB5 8BL
U.K.

Walt Buchanan

Printed matter only.
Return requested if undelivered.