



This is the first issue of Ferkin, a Diplomacy Fanzine edited and printed by Mike Jervis. "Oh Christ" you're probably saying "more introductory crap from a new editor". Well you're wrong because that's it. I'm telling you nowt about myself, my dog, (I don't have one), my job or my experiences at Eurocon and Polycon (I didn't go). This Ferkin zine is for playing Diplomacy in so get to it. Game fees are reasonable, waiting lists are open and the only doubt is the GMs ability to adjudicate.

Ferkin is not going to suffer a proper launch because I don't want it to grow too fast. If it turns out to be a halfway decent effort and people want to play and subscribe then fine but I'm not going to tout for custom. Similarly I'm not interested in Trades because I don't want my house filling with piles of the tasteless pap churned out by a majority of editors at the moment. If I like a zine I'll sub to it and send its editor a free copy of Ferkin each time it's produced. I like to be nasty to people.

Ferkin is a name which has been publicised recently. Apparently he's an American with a taste for obscure Dip variants most of which concern the childhood of people who attended a certain educational establishment in Mansfield. The name of my zine, however, refers to the handsome young gentleman on the cover (what do you mean you thought it was Richard Sharp? Who's he anyway?) The name appeals to me because it sounds evil, dirty and a bit smelly and I had a little trouble deciding whether to use FERKIN or TRINGHAM which sounds naive, spotty and well scrubbed. Oh yes. I want the zines image to be right.

If you want to write to Ferkin you may but I don't guarantee that I'll read your letters and even if I do read them I probably won't print them. As the Tringham says "it's my zine and I'll print what I like in it you bastards; you're all only here to subsidise my hobby anyway" (copyright Megalomania). Any letter that does find itself in print will be edited so as to make nonsense of the writers point of view and will further suffer from the insertion of numerous editorial ((sics)) in order to make the writer look an illiterate fool. I don't want to break with any hobby traditions.

Every issue of Ferkin will feature a Competition Page on which will be found contests based on Scrabble, Boggle and other interesting word games. Prizes will be valuable, if esoteric, such as a weekend away with my wife, Jill, or a wonderful ' I LIKE FERKIN ' car sticker. Winners who do not fancy one of the offered prizes (and who could blame them?) may receive a free copy of Ferkin in order to ensure that they take the prize next time they win.

Every Editor needs his own pet loony to pick on when he's got nothing to write about. Chris Tringham uses me for this purpose but to show I'm not a vindictive sort of person I will refrain from using the respected editor of Megalomania. I've got someone much dafter than Chris, his name is Malcolm and why the hell did this line suddenly drop a millimetre?

So, as I said at the beginning, this is issue one of Ferkin. Not very thick is it? Well what the hell do you expect for 10p, War and Peace?

I hope you enjoy Ferkin and that it keeps you amused for some time to come. As my old Granny used to say "it's a bit black o'er Bills' mothers". Nuff said.

TWO INCH THICK DIPLOMACY A NEW VARIANT BY MIKE JERVIS

So much interest has been shown lately in esoteric Diplomacy variants that no zine is complete without the rules and mapboard for at least one. Ferkin is proud to present this first effort at variant design by one of the hobbies foremost designers.

THE RULES

Two Inch Thick Diplomacy (hereafter called TIT) is played by four players on a board which represents a part of South East London. The name derives from the native characteristic of all Londoners i.e. to be thick as two short planks. The average thickness of a short plank has been statistically proved to be one inch, hence Two Inch Thick. Each player is based in a different part of the area and the winner is the first player to take possession of Auckland Road, on the West side of the Mapboard.

Starting Positions are as follows: Player one....The Crystal Palace National Recreation Centre, Player two....13 Station Road, East Penge, Player three.. ..the Electricity Works and Player four....Betts Park, Anerley. Each player begins with a Field Unit Commander (FUC) and two Peoples Infantry Units (PI).

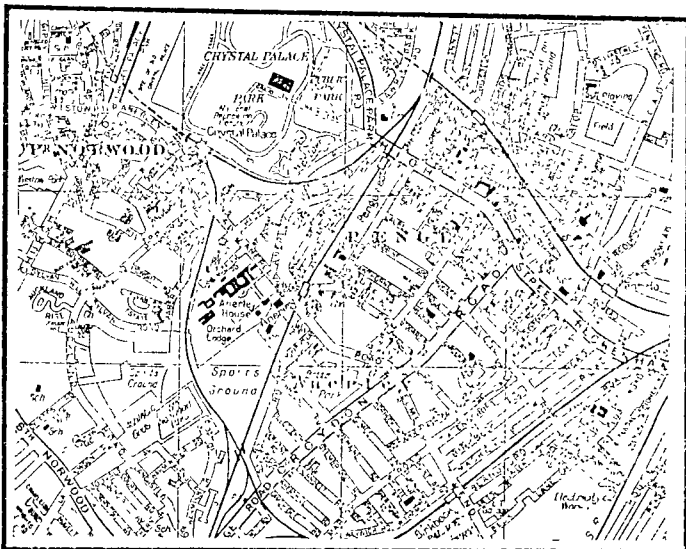
Movement is simultaneous, players writing down their orders in the same way as in Regular Diplomacy. Each unit moves one road at a time and if more than one unit is ordered to the same road combat takes place.

Combat is resolved as follows. Each player involved removes his jacket and retires to the garden or, if the game is being played in a flat, the road outside, and proceeds to beat the hell out of his opponent. The losers unit is removed.

Each turn a new PI unit is created in each players home base. If a player loses his FUC in combat new units are not created.

Owing to the revolutionary combat rules this game is not recommended for postal play but is the perfect game for cons.

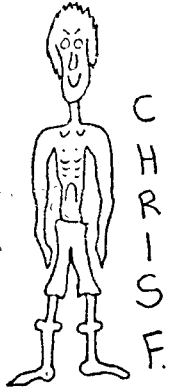
THE
MAP
BOARD



Play testing by Clive Booth, Richard Sharp, John Piggott, Roy Taylor.

GAME START.....GAME ONE.....REGULAR DIPLOMACY

ITALY CHRIS 'Errol' FARMER, 3 Westborough Lane, Long Bennington, Near Newark, Notts. NG23 5ND. Known as Errol since childhood for reasons that are best left unmentioned outside the pages of Megalomania. Chris is a notorious hell raiser, rake and ferret breeder, prematurely ageing as a result of his life of depravity. His book, 'The Art Of Diplomacy In Ferret Breeding' is a standard work of reference for South Kesteven District Council Lavatory Attendants.



FRANCE 'Little' STEPHEN AGAR, 3 North Road, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham. DH3 4AQ. Editor of Pigmy and recent graduate from Snakes and Ladders. Winner of the 1977 'All Durham Bouncing Baby Contest'; his bounced 8'6" and squashed flat three Traffic Wardens and the Bishop of Durham. This fine, upstanding young man is a credit to his species and an example to us all.



ENGLAND MALCOLM 'I have got us a new ally against Austria.....it is.....Austria' BROWN, 2 Park Street, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 1NL.

From the sublime to the ridiculous, Malcolm is a Computer Person but do not accept that as an excuse. He has recently won an appeal against a decision to have him put down after a particularly nasty case of sheep worrying. He is certain to rock the Diplomatic Community to its very foundations if he finishes above seventh.



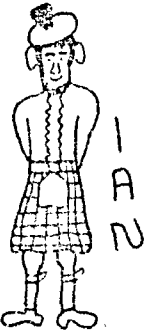
AUSTRIA DON 'The Slab' BROWN, 61a Church Street, Old Basford, Nottingham. NG6 0GA.

Spends his spare time stabbing people and his time at work examining the remains. A remarkably sane person whose only vice would appear to be a penchant for Mild Ale. Don is not related to Malcolm Brown and lives in fear and trepidation lest some family connection be discovered.



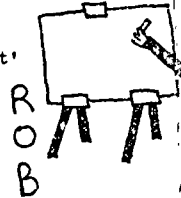
TURKEY 'Deleted' IAN MCINTYRE, Slains Schoolhouse, Ellon, Aberdeenshire. AB4 9SA.

A Scot who, as if being Scottish was not bad enough, has a remarkably devious mind and requires close attention at all times. Incomprehensible on the telephone owing to a speech impediment (his accent), Ian is an insatiable fan of 'Worr Gressy', Gracie Fields to you and me.



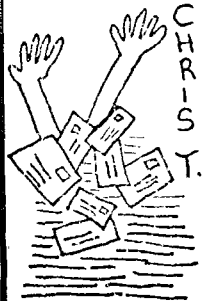
RUSSIA ROB 'Sammy' CHAPMAN, 7 Baymount, Paignton, Devon. TQ3 2LD.

Ex Nottingham Forest and Notts County football star now retired into obscurity, teaching the under fives the secrets of 'The Back-heel Shin Crush', 'The Two-foot Jock Strap Feint' and 'The Nose Elbow'. Part time Professional Wrestler and Needlework enthusiast. Stab if you dare.



GERMANY CHRIS 'Sic' TRINGHAM, 25 Auckland Road, London. SE19 2DR.

Famed editor of Looney Bin and Russian Fish Pie enthusiast. Employed as P.R.O. for Crystal Palace Football Club and the East Penge Amateur Barrel Jumping Association. Used by Madame Tussaud as a model for Margaret Thatcher.



G.M. MIKE 'Fingers' JERVIS, 19 Portree Drive, Rise Park,
Nottingham. Telephone (0602) 274369.

Follower of the "Win at all costs and if you look like losing
take some other bodger with you" School of Diplomacy. Lives in
constant pain caused by repeatedly breaking his fingers. Employed
by British Midland Airways as Accountant because no-one else
there can add up. Thirty years old and never now seen in public
owing to a badly disfigured face courtesy of a load of Wrexham
yobs and my Brother in Law. Avid supporter of Mansfield Town
Football Club (but no-one's perfect) and well wisher towards
Notts County and Nottingham Forest. Hobbies include prating,
Tringham baiting and losing weight.

HOUSE RULES Those of you who play in Fall of Eagles use the FOE
rules. Those who play in Megalomania use the Megalo rules and
those who play in Howay the Lads or Pyrrhic Victory use any or
a combination of all of them. Suitably confused? Good. Please
note that Press is encouraged and I would appreciate it if you
would begin little feuds amongst yourselves as soon as possible.
The GMS byline will be 'Fingers'.

DEADLINES The deadline is THURSDAY 5th OCTOBER for orders sent
through the post and WEDNESDAY 4th OCTOBER 22.00 hours for
telephoned orders. There will be NO double deadline for Spring
1901 orders.

WAITING LISTS are now open. REGULAR DIPLOMACY £1....Chris Farmer
INTIMATE DIPLOMACY 50p...Nobody.
TWO INCH THICK £350.....N. Ali
C. Tringham
B. Clough
1 needed.

BOURSE will not be run because I have a headache.



You Bastard!
The course at home
is two inches higher
than here.



With Thanks to
William Rushton.

A BOGGLE PROBLEM

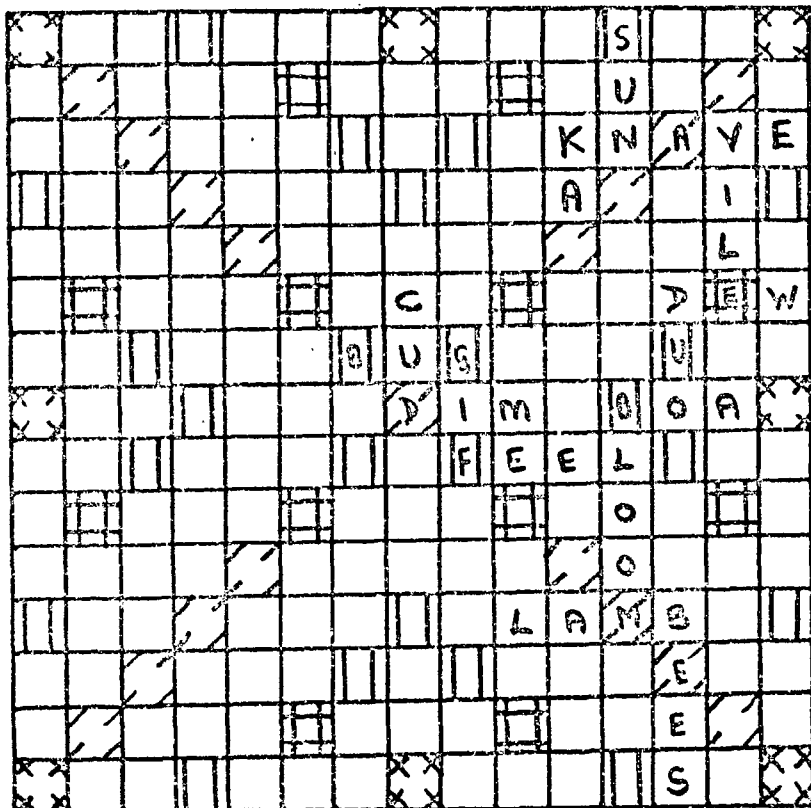
Make as many words as possible from the following. Words made must be of three or more letters which must be linked up, down, sideways or diagonally. No word may use the same letter space twice. The latest issue of Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary will be used to verify the words made. The winner will receive an I LIKE FERKIN car sticker.





B O D I
 O H Q C
 W U A S
 T E G Y

For example, I can see WOOD, QUAG, HOB, GAS etc. etc.

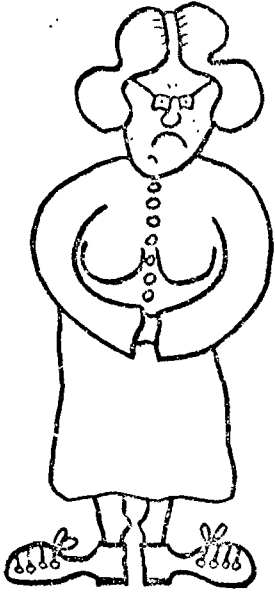
A SCRABBLE PROBLEM

Place the following letters on the Scrabble board here illustrated so as to score more than anyone else who is stupid enough to try to win another I LIKE FERKIN car sticker. Scoring is in accordance with Scrabble rules.
A A I U N T T



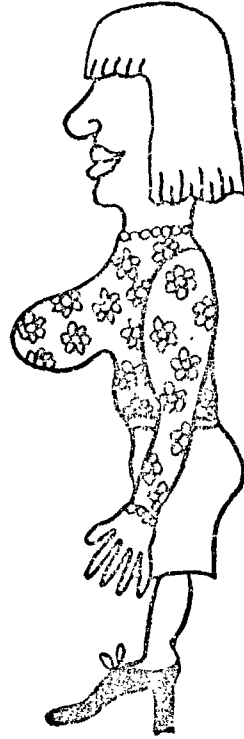
-  double letter score
-  treble letter score
-  double word score
-  treble word score

Famous Ferkins



Ma. Ferkin

Ma Ferkin was one of the old ladies inadvertently locked in the lavatory. After spending a number of days in there she was finally rescued by a specially trained group of firemen. Upon hearing of the event and its successful conclusion the newspapers welcomed "The Relief Of Ma Ferkin".



Nell Ferkin

Nell Ferkin was a lass of rare beauty whose poverty led her into the oldest profession in the world. She was so proficient at her vocation and gave her customers such excellent value for money that the phrase "Ferkin Nell" passed into the English Language as a term denoting admiration.

You could win yourself your very own "I LIKE FERKIN" car sticker by letting me know about any Famous Ferkins you have heard about. The Ferkin Family traces its ancestry back to Baron Godditz Ferkin-Orrful, a Norman noble who brought his family to England two years after the Battle of Hastings, so a quick skim through any good history book should provide plenty of references to what is now one of the countries premier families.

FERKIN comes to you from the keyboard and felt tip pen of that master of Diplomatic activity Mike Jervis who is at present living with his wife and family at.....

.....19 Portree Drive

Rise park

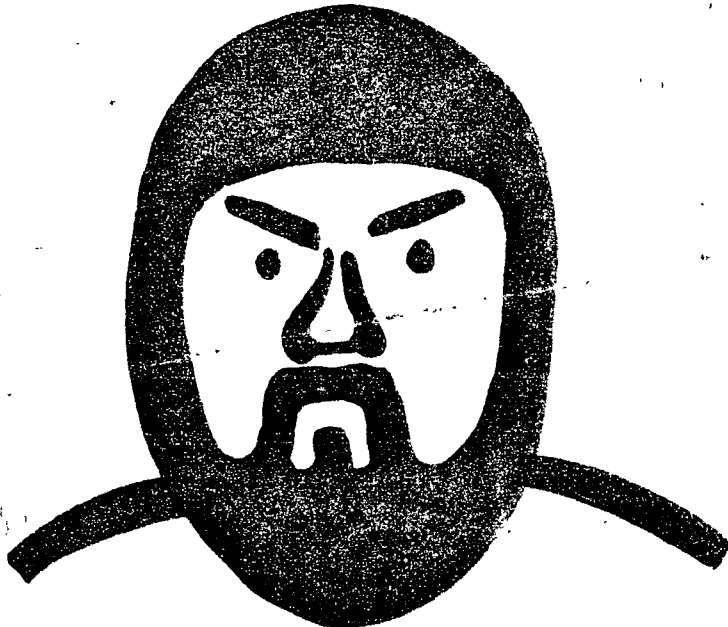
Nottingham.....

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GAMES WHICH THE EDITOR CURRENTLY FEELS CAPABLE OF ADJUDICATING ARE REGULAR TWO SLASON DIPLOMACY AND INTIMATE DIPLOMACY. GAME FEES ARE £*** PER GAME OF REGULAR OR EVEN £1 PER GAME OF REGULAR AND 50P PER GAME OF INTIMATE DIPLOMACY. THE MAGAZINE COSTS 10p A COPY INCLUDING POSTAGE OR 12p A COPY BY AIRMAIL.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR....



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