



GREATEST HITS VOLUME TWENTY-ONE is produced by Pege Birks, who, for the next two issues, is back at 39 Handforth Road, London, SW9 0LL, for the purposes of both orders and trades. Greatest Hits runs the following games of regular Diplomacy:- NGC 90, NGC 98, NGC 103, NGC 115, NGC 123, NGC 153, NGC 159, NGC 53, NGC 66, and DK 74/7. Today's date is Friday the 27th of February, and circulation is somewhere around 95, including Dave Tant, who I seem to have missed off my mailing list recently.

WHATS ON. (Reprinted from UH, available from Roger Kitchener, Stoneyard Lane, Poplar High St, London, E14, asking 1/2p per side plus postage.)

Roy Taylor of 63A St Nicolas Park Drive, Nuneaton, Warwicks, will be holding a Con at Easter; it will be a long weekend affair with plenty of room for the various games one is likely to be playing. For details write or phone (Nuneaton 329837) Roy.

Mike Roberts, of 56 ~~XXXXXX~~ Willowfield Drive, Marple Gardens, Kidderminster, Worcs, is holding a weekend Con which starts tomorrow (the 28th Feb) so there's no point in me mentioning it, since it's already finished.

Barry McManus, of 54 Overton Road, Sutton, Surrey, will soon be commencing his Sunday Dungeons and Dragons. If you want to play D. & D in a really good dungeon then drop Barry a line.

If you live in London and like the idea of regular weekend meets then get in touch with Mark Batchelor of 18 Tant Avenue, Canning Town, London, E 16.

Tadek Jarski, of 27 Quintin Ave, London, maybe holding a Con in the not too distant future. Tadek has space to cope with about twenty or so of us, so if you bombard him with requests, Tadek would take out the 'maybe' and confirm a date.

 Last issue or so I said, jokingly, that the next Committee meeting would be public, and that Dave Allen would be holding it, allowing for the attendance of 600 people! How anybody could take this any other way but as a dig at Dave Allen's demands that Committee meetings be 'public' when it is up to the host who he invites, I do not know. However, it seems as even Dave took me seriously, and is now thinking of holding a con at sometime! His address is 11 Alma Heights, Off Cavendish Way, Mickleover, Derby, if you want to obtain some probably non-existent details.

The Gods Themselves is being included as a supplement to this issue of Greatest Hits. I will assume that any GH subscriber will wish to receive TGT unless he specifies otherwise. I do hope that all of you will wish to receive it, though, especially since it will only be appearing every other issue.

I have recently purchased a copy of "Win Place And Show", which is 3M's version of Totopoly, with the important difference that it is eminently playable. It also struck me that postal play is a distinct possibility, with possibilities for all sorts of nasty occurrences being written in the rules. If enough interest is shown following publication, I may run a game. By the way "Win, Place And Show" is recommended as the best 3M game apart from Speed Circuit and Thinking Man's Golf, both of which are classics.

At the moment, I have literally no idea how large this issue is going to become. There's a lot that I want to put in - I feel that a Poker article is long overdue for a start - but time, cash, and effort may not be forthcoming. After the disaster of last time, though (I had everything typed up by the Saturday, they were duplicated only on the following Friday, and then I didn't send them until the following Friday, mainly due to my not having a minute to spare) I intend to make as sure as possible that this is sent promptly (I mean promptly)

It so happens that the duplicating costs, plus stamps, for a 22 page issue (which is the smallest that this can be, including TGT, are £8.50 (stamps) + £7.00 (duplicating) + £1.50 (stencils) which comes to £17.00. I do recoup about £9.60 for subs, though, leaving a substantial loss of £7.40 - £3.00 (trades) equals £4.40 a month. And, surprise surprise, this does not mean that I am going to put the price up. In fact, I think that £1 a week is a reasonable expenditure on a hobby that I enjoy very much. But please, dispel that image that any Diplomacy publisher is a rip-off artist!

The number of NGC GMs is slowly coming down - Ken Jones has apparently finished; Richard Scott has folded Fifth Column (see obituary column), and another NGC zine looks as though it could soon be folding. This means that the game allocations will soon be such that each and every NGC GM can have enough NGC games to fill his zine. Already Bruce has told me that it can take only a couple of games more for the moment, while Trojan Horse only wants one more game. It shouldn't, with luck, be more than a couple of months before Gummiballs, TOTS, and Jigsaw are full, and then we can get down to the pleasant task of simply replacing games in established zines. Excellent!

FIFTH COLUMN

Back in the Summer of 1973, Richard Sharp realised that the NGC was providing too many games to be run in just Dolchstoss and OJ. He asked for volunteer GMs, and out of the many offers he selected John Coombe and Richard Scott to run games from BDC 30 onwards. Thus Pendulum and Fifth Columnist (as the first few issues were called) were born. My first variant was BDC 33v, having Umbar in a game of Third Age which gains my vote as the best Press game I have ever seen. With Sherrad as Mordor (remember him?), Sharp as Eriador, Piggott as Gondor, Walkerdine as a standby Rohan, and Andy Holt as Rhovanion, the game reached a bizarre conclusion when Mike (who had offered me a two-way draw, an impossibility according to the rules!) misordered his Triple Army, thus getting it annihilated, and ending the game! What was even funnier that the two players who got together to annihilate this unit didn't even win - Sharp did, having pursued a policy of quiet expansion while Mordor ravaged the rest of Middle Earth.

As Fifth Column grew, its reputation as a prompt, regular zine grew, and its placings in the Mad Policy zine polls showed that many players prefer the fast game that rarely dies through lack of interest. Articles during the first half of its life were not infrequent, and always interesting, and although it became clear that Richard was fast losing interest in running a zine, he had the decency and politeness to fold in the most elegant manner, providing for all the games in FC, and making sure that the changeover of GMs was as simple as possible. If all zines folded like this, "drop-out" would take on a respectable meaning.

South, game all, you dealt.

	South	West	North	East
♥ 9753	NB	10	20	20
♦ Jxxxx	NB	30	40	NB
♠ 10 xx				

This is a Sharp problem,

shown to me at last.

Saturday's Poker game.

I got to the right contract

in the wrong way. What is

south's bid?

South.

Accl systems, both side.

And now, as a special offer, for the first time, the GH mailing list, in no order at all.

Richard Sharp:	27 Elm Close, Amersham, Bucks.	C
Gordon Bell:	"Midtown", Easton, Nr Wigton, Cumbria.	C
Richard Scott:	"Desscot", Kingswood Common, Henley-On-Thames, Oxon.	T
Mick Bullock:	14 Nursery Ave, Halifax, West Yorks.	T
Walt Buchanan:	Box 324, R/R No. 3, Lebanon, Indiana, 46052, U.S.A.	T
Adrien Baird:	"Bridleside", Hazel Grove, Orpington, Kent. OR	S
	St Peter's College, Oxford.	
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Robin Allen:	Family Ration Issue Section, GATOW; BFPD 45.	S
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Norman Nathan:	3 Erooke Close, Bushey, Herts.	S

And that is it. Total is 87, plus copies that I give to about five people at college. 28 Trades, 4 Complimentary, and 55 subscribers. We've lost Stephen Asserson and Anthony Woodrow this issue, and gained Norman Nathan, who seems to be re-entering the hobby after a slight lull.

15 copies go to the U.S.A, 2 to Canada, 1 to West Germany, 1 to Switzerland, 1 to France, 2 to N. Ireland, 2 to Wales, 3 to Scotland, 1 to Spain, and 59 to England.

STOP PRESS: Add on:- Peter Mearns: 10 Moy Terrace, Inverness. T
and also:- John Leeder: 208 Haysboro Cres, SW, Calgary Alta, Canada. T

SCIENCE FICTION:

Ward Moore. "Bring The Jubilee"

Fritz Leiber said, in his review article on books in Fantastic Science Fiction and Fantasy, July 1973 - that "Bring The Jubilee (is) one of the ten greatest Science Fiction novels ever written.....profound and brilliantly novel treatment of the American Civil War." (p 113). But that is not to say that it is just about the nature of the two sides in the American Civil War; it is also about the nature of time. The story opens with a young man in the Confederate States of America (The Union lost the War, and is now a backwater, rather like Sweden after the Great Northern War) who goes to town: and learns about history. He then joins a 'haven', a scientific community with an eccentric woman genius. She creates the "HX-1", a time machine. One of the best pieces of irony is where the inventor goes back to the year 1900. An observing professor states that she goes back in her mind, and that all the people viewing hallucinate. The professor seems to exist (or does he?) when Hodgins B. Backmaker goes back in time to a period in a battle (that of Gettysburg), but he appears in a position that changes the outcome.

The whole novel is fully ironic, and personally tragic (Hodgins had only just been married). The underlying viewpoint of history is interesting. The view of history is a little jumbled, but it is basically what Tom Shippey would call Whig. That is to say that personal actions are the determinants of the future world rather than social groups and trends in the mass. The latter, Malthusian viewpoint is tacitly adhered to though, in that other excursions didn't have the same effect.

The nature of the Confederacy and the people of it comes out well. The Science Fictional treatment of such themes, however, allows a much greater freedom of thought, and, at best, the questions so often ducked by historians are answered.

Steve Doubleday.