

Pygmy

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"Hello" is a very underrated word, for instance how many letters do you get that begin with "Hello"? not many I'll bet. It shows that good manners are out of fashion, still I've never been one to follow fashion so prepare yourself.

Hello! This is the third issue of PIGMY. Having said that I might as well remind you that my name is Stephen Agar, and that I live at 3 North Road, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, DH3 4AQ, (phone Chester-le-Street, 883309).

(P/1) (1977GJ)

AUTUMN 1901

Austria surrounded !

Italy does well.

AUSTRIA (Neil Clifford): NMR! A(Vie) A(Ser) F(Alb) stand unordered.

ENGLAND (Keith Smith): A(Wal) Std. F(ENG)-Bel F(NTH)-Nor

FRANCE (Phil Dyson): A(Bur)-Mun A(Par)-Bur F(Pic)-Bre

GERMANY (Martin Styler): F(Hol) S ENGLISH F(ENG)-Bel A(Kie)-Den
A(Ruh)-Mun

ITALY (Ian Phillips): A(Ven)-Tyr A(Tri) S A(Ven)-Tyr F(ION)-Tun

RUSSIA (Norman Williams): F(BLA)-Bul A(War)-Gal F(GOB)-Swe
A(StP)-Nor

TURKEY (Paul Segal): A(Con)-Bul F(Ank)-BLA A(Smy)-Arm

Winter 1901 Adjustments

A: 3 Centres: Vie, Bud, Ser. No change.

E: 4 Centres: Lon, Edi, Ipl, +Bel. Builds F(Lon).

F: 3 Centres: Par, Mar, Bre. No change.

G: 5 Centres: Ber, Kie, Mun, +Hol +Den. Builds F(Kie), A(Mun).

I: 5 Centres: Rom, Nap, Ven, +Tri +Tun. Builds F(Nap), A(Ven).

R: 5 Centres: Mos, War, Sev, StP, +Swe. Builds A(Sev).

T: 3 Centres: Con, Smy, Ank. No change.

Spa, Por, Nor, Rum, Bul, and Gre all remain neutral!

Press

Italy-Germany and England: Why can't you send me letters adressed to other people?

Italy-Turkey: Very courageous of you to continue playing.

Berlin-Everyone: It has come to my notice that the letters I send in apparent confidence seem to take on the form of circulars, being passed on from hand to hand until they eventually come back to me! I'm not sure whether it's my unique prose style that does it, or a masochistic desire to waste money on your part; but whatever, it must cease! In future I shall not bother to send any letters. Instead, I shall publish what I have to say here, and that will save you having to waste stamps. O.K.?

Italy-France: Piece be upon you.

Berlin-Vienna: I understand you were one of the unfortunate few who didn't receive a copy of my letter to France last season. Just so that you don't feel left out, it said:.....

Italy-Russia: Don't kick a man when he's down. After all it's not his fault the G.P.O. failed to deliver his PIGMY 1.

Berlin-Paris: The second principle of postal Diplomacy: "Don't try to make fools of your superiors".

Italy-Germany: If you want me to do what you suggested, you do what I suggested.

LETTERS

IAN PHILLIPS:

I think it would have been a good idea if you had printed some neutral moves for Turkey on the Spring move: eg. A(Con)-Bul, A(Smy)-Con, F(Ank) Std. I am not the only person who holds this opinion, Germany has also suggested this idea.

MARTIN STYLER:

Despite a few technical hitches the position is not too bad. Although with Germany it very rarely is in 1901.

There is one thing about which I must complain though. I happen to believe very strongly that a country shouldn't be allowed to NMR in the first season. This game looks like being a prime example of this, where the Turkish NMR combined with an Italian attack on Austria has left Russia in an unfairly strong position in the south-east. In effect, he has been given a move start over Turkey. I know that it's Turkey's fault for not sending in his moves, but it's not really fair to the rest of us either. Not that I begrudge Norman anything, as we'd all love to be in his position.

There are two viable methods of solving this problem. One is for the G.M. to make the erring country's moves on the average basis, in this case: A(Con)-Bul; F(Ank)-BLA; A(Smy)-Con. It could be said that this would be unfair to neighbouring countries that had undergone negotiations with the offending state, but if the situation was made clear at the outset then I believe the outcome would be more acceptable than what has occurred here.

Congratulations on a marvellous stab in the 'Ingold' game! When I read your comments I was eager to see what you had brought about, and I must admit it was really devastating. It just shows that you can't trust these Italians! The next time you ring up on a Sunday trying to fix up an agreement I won't be in!

∟ I've put those two letters together for an ~~obvious~~ obvious reason. If you want to know my opinion on this matter you'll have to go onto the next page because I'm running out of space!

✓ An NMR in SOL is a tricky situation to deal with. In this case I had a complete set of standby orders for every country but in the end I decided not to use them. You say that Russia has a head start on Turkey, I agree, but surely it is just as unfair to the other players if a country doesn't send in some orders for AOL, the result is the same either way. It would have been unfair to Russia to print some orders, if your enemy NMR's you expect to profit from it. An NMR always gives someone an advantage, no matter when it occurs, so how could I justify to Norman moving the Turkish pieces when later in the game France could NMR and give an advantage over the others to you.

I would propose two solutions different from yours.

- i) The G.M. could publish a list of SOL orders before the game starts and tell the players that in the event of an NMR he would use those. Then if a player missed the first two seasons there would be a standby taking over in AOL and the country concerned wouldn't be a move behind.
- ii) Use standby orders for every NMR - obviously ~~unfair to everyone~~ unfair to everyone.

Getting back to this case, I don't think that (at least for the moment) Russia has a large advantage over Turkey, although the gap between them will probably grow larger in the future.

As you say it would also be unfair to the countries who have negotiated with that particular country. For instance Germany could make an alliance with England against France, under which it is agreed that England will open with a Leopard. Now if England NMR's and the G.M. uses a standard move it would be very unfair to Germany.

This argument could go on for ages, but as far as this game is concerned an NMR is an NMR no matter when it occurs. Although when I start the next game I will take precautions.

Of course in an ideal world people wouldn't NMR at all. Pity this isn't an ideal world.

Anyone else got any comments? ✓

NORMAN WILLIAMS:

No more prattle about boring exams or I shall be forced to mention my (1972) A-level results (Chemistry A Maths A Physics C).

Judging by what I've read and the people I've met I'm a typical member of this hobby. I was born in a mental hospital and was confined in a padded cell till I was four when I escaped by bribing the guard with jelly babies. I was educated in a very exclusive school (so exclusive in fact that only Judges could send you there). I was introduced to Diplomacy shortly after I joined the Central line flashers (an organisation dedicated to giving old ladies pleasant surprises on the underground). My hobbies (apart from D) are sex, violence (to other people), making porno films, watching the Muppet show, drinking meths and listening to the 1812 overture at 2am.

I detest football (but the crowd violence is fun), real ale (I only drink white horse scotch), income tax inspectors and Kent cricket club.

My ambition is to own my own fire breathing, three litre, six headed flying dragon and I've already saved up 15,000 green shield stamps to help pay for it.

I won my first diplomacy game while working for the post office - I remember delivering to the GM's house.

Now I live in a country mansion overlooking the main road. I can see an ambulance coming along now. That's strange - it's pulling up outside and two men in white coats are getting out.

∟ Thanks Norman, I didn't realise we had that much in common! ∟

VARIOUS PLUGS

Iain Forsyth of 6 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland has started to publish a new zine called Scotch on the Rocks. Gamefee for Reg. Dip. is £1 plus £1 deposit. Deadline is every three weeks. I'm sure Iain would welcome inquiries.

"The following is a list of openings in Variant games in the UK, if you are interested in playing any of them, then further details of the openings can be got by sending a 9p stamp to Der Garvey, 22 Mac Donagh Rd, Ballyphehane, Cork City, Eire."

Abstraction// Atlantica// Game of Clans// Geophysical// Intimate Dip// Mercator// Mercenary// Occupation// Origins// Rather Silly Mercator// Stab// Transmat// Youngstown//.

I'm sure Mick Bullock would like a few more subs to his new stats zine NEW STATSMAN. Price 12p plus postage and ~~an~~ approx every ~~an~~ 12 weeks. Mick's address is 14 Nursery Avenue, Halifax, W. Yorkshire HX3 5SZ.

○ With this issue you should find a copy of a Dippy map, god knows what you'll do with it but I had them lying around... ○

As far as Neil's new address is concerned I haven't got a clue. It would be helpful if players in P/1 would let me have their telephone numbers in case I want to contact you. Standbye orders from Chris for Austria please, and thanks for the letter.

DEADLINE: Thursday 13th October . Miss it at your peril.

(I've run out of pretty pictures of post boxes - sorry!)

By the time you get this there will either be a big space under this sentence or there will be a few assorted words in the event that I think of something more to say, just in case I don't, Goodbye.

