

THE ARENA

The Arena is a poorly EDited zine by Edi Birsan, 48-20 39 St., LIC, NY, 11104. And I might add that if you are reading this its because you may want to subscribe at the cheap price of 7/\$1. (Back issues are 25¢ each and available are: 1,4,6,7,9,10,13&14)

GM GOES NUTS AND BROKE

I have decided to send out about 20 copies of this rag air mail to several of the more distant players so as to equalize the advantages shared by NYC players. The local crowd do have an advantage by getting their issues earlier than most of the others. Some have arrived on Monday and most get their issue on Tuesday. The long distance players have complained about not getting their issues in less than a week after the deadline. I, not wanting to give the local gang any more advantages than their urban, street education may provide in a game like Diplomacy, have taken upon myself to raise the cost of operation without a raise in operating expenses.

As part of the 'cheap' policy we have stated in the past, in less words than this, I may note that all issues ever 1 oz will be sent to traders and subscribers through third class while the players will still see their issues arrive first class or air mail as the case may be. I presently have a subscription of about 70-75 (Actually I have a circulation of about 70-75 with subs numbering about 23, trades 20 and players 32). I always want more subscribers, so let me know if you think anyone in your area can spare the buck to support a good cause: my poverty.

PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS:

1. a review of some of the zines around
2. a mailing list
3. comments on 'dirty diplomacy'
4. What makes a good zine?
5. Some more Lost Battles Diplomacy
6. Some ideas on Lord of the Rings
7. A surprize detailed account of a Westard NYC Blitz!

ABOUT TELEPHONING IN ORDERS FOLKS

Yesterday night (Friday) from 8PM till midnight I received no less than 15 phone calls from people in the games. Because I work from 7:30 till 5+PM every day, I do not like being pulled asleep by the phone. I hit the sack around 10:01PM (Give or take 30 seconds). I LIKE MY SLEEP! I Have a bad habit of waking up as soon as the phone rings and becoming wide awake within 2 minutes of my feet (or other part of the body) hitting the floor in the mad scramble to get the phone. It's a royal pain in the body to go to sleep 15 times a night! S00000oooo...I will not accept phone call orders after 10PM. On Monday's and Wednesdays I am not home till 30 seconds before I go to sleep, so don't call or I'll stay on the line and laugh in your face long distance! Just in case your sneaky don't call before 7:30 in the morning either! Remember: A Tired GM may miss file your moves on a critical move and poof goes your country!

POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY ZINES

There has been a long tradition of political comments in Diplomacy zines. A major figure in this respect has always been John Boardman of Graustark. Recently there have been others who have taken to the political commentary field and have made various observations upon the political reality we share in the United States. As a brief guide to these few zines I offer the following outline of who is what and supporting whom or what.

KENOGOGIC (Larry Peery) Registered Democrat, club member, supporting Nixon

PLATYPUS PIE (Brent Ver Ploeg) Democrat, supporting McGovern from Primary

Days till the present.

COSTAGUANA (Conrad Von Metzke) Democrat, supporting McGovern from Primary

Days till the present.

ANTARES PROJECT (Labelle) Democrat, McGovern makes him sick,

GRAUSTARK (John Boardman) Registration Unknown, Sees no choice between Nixon

and McGovern and can't stand either of them and says so often

" " (Masser) No open stand on the election, pro Laissez-faire capitalism

LIASONS DANGEREUSES (Len Lakofka) Registration unknown, supporting McGovern

THE ARENA (Edi Birsan) see else where in this issue.

I have no hard nosed information available on the other zines, but the above have taken a stand in print on one or two of the items listed.

Many people have attacked GM/publishers for printing their political opinions in their zines, stating that politics should not interfere with the play of the game. Most of these objections have been aimed at John Boardman probably because he not only prints more political oriented material than anyone else but also doesn't exactly fit into the mainstream of American political commentary. People are always more willing to say that something they don't agree with doesn't belong here or there than when it comes to removing or reacting against something they agree on. My own personal opinion is that a GM's zine is exactly that: his zine. If he wants to publish an unabridged edition of the Brooklyn Telephone directory in installments that's his right. As long as the games are adjudicated and the deadlines met who the hell is being interfered with? If you don't like the political stand of a certain GM then don't play in his zines.

It is crazy to expect that a hobby based as our's is, on a political event should not be accompanied with political commentary on the world around us. In Arena #3 I explored some of the possibilities of projecting a political theory from the game boards of Origins and Diplomacy. In future Arena's I hope to explore the overflow of the game's political outlook into the real world we live in. This is but one side of the Politics of Zines; the reaction of GM's to current political events is the other side. To suppress or limit one is to make understanding of the other impossible and a mockery out of the Bill of Rights.

THE ARENA POLL: A GROWING TRIUMPH OF CO-OPERATION

As of Oct. 7, 1972 the polls will be closed on the Arena's poll of players attitudes towards Victory and achievement. As of Sept 14, 1972 I have 53 questionnaires back. Aside from the Arena, P. Pie, Costa, H.A., " ", Smut, Shaaft and Lomokomoe have sent out flyers/questionnaires with their issues. If you haven't sent yours in please do as I would love to have 100 questionnaires to work with. A full report will be printed in the Arena after the Oct. 7, 1972 deadline.



THE ARENA TAKES A STAND ON THE ELECTION!

This will be my third election since I was able to vote. Each time I entered the booth, I entered as a Democrat. I am a member of the West Queens Independent Democrats having been a member of the regular Democratic Club (Anorce) and resigning after their right wing attitudes and anti-youth, women, Black, Puerto Rican and student views became clear to me. The Independent Democrats in NY are the liberal branch of the party in the city. While not able to embrace the whole line of 'liberal' thought cleverly wrapped up in blubbery naivete and off the wall plans, I find a healthy respect for different opinions within my present club. A fact which I tested when I supported Muskie and attempted to run against a McGovern slate in my district (with two club officials on it.). So much for personal background.

In the three and half years that we have/miss-administered by the Nixon crowd, unemployment has risen as a result of his/their actions. The dollar is floated; freezes are made; agreements with Japan and France and we still have more unemployment that 4 years ago. Inflation has chewed apart our saving accounts and placed our grand parents below the poverty line due to Social Security lags in keeping pace with price increases. He has written off the Blacks and minorities in this country and for some one with a law and order theme we have more crime now than before. The past years of a republican in the Justice Department has done wonders for IT&T and corporate America but there is still no relief from the crimes in the streets or organized illegal operations. The wage and Price freeze was a cruel hoax on the American working man as it quickly was felt that wages were frozen while profits and prices still managed to rise. The money going from the many to the few. And now we come the war.

For 3½ years we have marched in the streets and avenues of America; and the war goes on. For 3½ years Congress has had committees and the like attacking our stand on Vietnam; and the war goes on. For 3½ years our men have been killed and our flyers taken prisoner; and the war goes on. AND for 3½ years we have waited for his secrete plan; but the war goes on. THIS WAR MUST STOP...NOW!

After 'hard hats' fought with anti war demonstrators, Mr Nixon sits down with them for dinner that very night. He breaks bread with Chairman Mao and Kremlin leaders but will he meet or 'negotiate' with the anti war groups: no.

So there it is folks: we or I at the Arena give support to McGovern.

THE ARENA TAKES A STAND ON THE AL

While we are taking stands on this or that, allow me to plug my favorite baseball team: the New York Yankees. I hope they do a stomp job on the AL (American League) and then go on to take the World Series. I might also add out of a misbegotten civil libertarian spirit that the occasional 'staff' of one (CJT) finds something of value in those upstarts in Flushing (NY Mets).

DON'T CALL

me $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{after 10PM} \\ \text{MON, WED-EVEN} \\ \text{before 6PM} \end{array} \right.$

THE BALTIC OPENING VARIATION

by edi ersalesi jr. birsan

There is a prevailing current in Diplomacy circles that Germany, like Austria and France is best played very cautiously in 1901 saving its major moves for 1902.

Yet, many players thirst for action in 1901 to mutually satisfy a blood lust and a well guarded death wish. Regardless of the origin of the motivation let us explore some of the possible move sequences for a German attack on Russia early in the game.

When Germany is attracted to Russia in 1901 there are two basic "traditional" patterns of development. By traditional I mean the most commonly thought of procedure for handling the attack. The first has been the all out attack or banzai charge into Silesia with Army Berlin usually accompanied by Fleet Kiel going to Denmark and then dancing around the north with the Russian fleet hoping to keep the Russians out of both Sweden and the Baltic while the main brunt of the fighting is done by armies punching into Warsaw from Prussia and Silesia. Sometimes the Eastern Stampede is made twice as ridiculous by the moving of both armies into Prussia and Silesia in 1901. Oddly enough, while such moves would rationally demand a very strong alliance with France and an equally strong alliance with England they have been accompanied by neither of them when these moves are resorted to on the Diplomacy board. The principle reason being that the German player has set as his goal the elimination of Russia or the destruction of Russia's chances to finish well in the game and has therefore decided to suicide against the Russians and thus drag him down with the eventual fall of Germany.

The other method for a German attack on Russia is far more common and involves the standing off of the Russian Fleet attempting to take Sweden while the German keeps his fleet based in Denmark. This allows for the building of two (and sometimes three units if the French and the British have yielded up the lowlands without a fight) and the beginning of what I called before: the punching away of several armies into Warsaw. The Diplomatic manouvers behind this are somewhat less than in the all out attack procedure but high on the list of pre-requisites is a neutral France and England either hitting Russia in the North or occupied with France. The Russian answer to this has always been to threaten and sometimes actually move F Gulf of Bothnia to Baltic in the Fall 1901 move, thus positioning itself to attack Den, Kiel, Ber and Sweden as well as give support into attacks on Prussia. Thus we have a choice or a guess to face as the German player when we go to Denmark: if the Russians suspect a cross over Sweden they may forget trying for a build there and instead go for position. If we try to block the position move we will be pulled out of a supply center and placed in an awkward position with the Russians getting a build for Sweden.

The Alternative to all this is what I call a Baltic Opening. In the Spring of 1901 the Germans play to the Baltic with their fleet and the armies head for Ruhr and Kiel. In the Fall, the Germans play Army Kiel to Denmark, Fleet Baltic to Sweden and Army Ruhr to Holland, thus giving up Belgium to either France or England to try to cause discord there or to appease one side or the other. If the Russians play to Sweden they will be blocked by the move of F Baltic and will be confronted with the prospect of kissing off Sweden as the Germans would have A Den and F Bal on the centers borders with no Russian unit but one fleet to support it. If the Russians play to the Baltic the Germans will get three builds and can safely blast the Russians out of the Baltic

as there will be ubits left in the coast supply centers to prevent a Russian retreat to the area after being swiftly dislodged. In the Fall the Germans can then place crushing pressure on the Russians by following up their moves with the convoy of an army into Livonia.

The sequence of moves might look like:

S01 F Kie-Bal, A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Ruh	
F01 F Bal-Swe, A Kie-Den, A Ruh-Hol	
W01 Build A Ber, A Mun	Or if the Russians go for the Baltic: add F Kie and:
S02 A Den-Swe, F Bal S A Den-Swe,	S02 F Kie-Bal, F Swe S F Kie-Bal
A Mun-Sil, a Ber-Prus	A Mun-Sil, A Ber S A Mun-Sil
F02 A Sil-War, A Pru S A Sil-War	F02 A Den-Liv, F Bal C A Den-Liv
((If either move missed on the Spring	A Ber-Pru, A Sil S A Ber-Pru
then a support by the successful unit	
in the fall will still bring the Ger-	
mans into a position to place two armies	
on Warsaw in the Spring of 1903.	

As th above moves sequence indicates the Russians are actually worse off by trying the Baltic as it leads to the arrival of three armies on Warsaw in the opeing Spring 1903 moves which means that not only may Warsaw fall but also most of Russia in that year can go under.

The diplomatic keynote is to keep the West occupied. The Germans have at least one and possibly two armies to play around with on a supported attack on France if they please or they can stand pat and hope that Italy will turn against France with the English. In the East the Germans could use the Turks as an ally. In fact the possibilities of a Turkish-German alliance have long since been ignored and maybe we should look into the possibilities latter. Once the Russians are hit by the Germans with force a wave of paranoia usully follows over such territory as St. Peter-sburg and Sevastapole as no country attracts vultures like Russia. A rough attack plan is one in which the Germans try to combine the attack with Austria as there is usually a dispute over who gets Warsaw and when.

I have seen the opening twice in over the board games and the re-sults were hard to judge as in each game the players for Germany and Russia played so well during the middle to and game period that it is hard to judge just how much of a boast or a hinderence the opening was. Why not try it out on your face to face group and keep the move sequences in mind for varing your opening play postally. Let me know what you think.

THE GAMES

LOST BATTLES
Spring 1902

ENGLAND GETS A SECOND ENEMY FLEET ON LONDON
TURKEY REMAINS IN TACT AS STRM NEVER ARRIVES

THE WEST:

England	F Nwy-Norweg, F EDI S F Nwy-Norweg, A Yor-Lon, F Eng /h/
(Drakert)	F English Channel must retreat: Wales, Irish or Off the Board
France	A Por /h/, A Spa-Gas, F Mar-Spa sc, F Mid S
(Johnson)	F Bre-English Channel, F-Bre-English Channel
Germany	A Bel-Pic, A Hol-Bel, F Kie-Den, F Ber-Kie, F Nth-Lon
(Johnson)	

CONTINUED PAGE 6

((DO NOT CALL ME AT ALL ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY AND ONLY BETWEEN 6-10PM. PLEASE TRY NOT TO CALL ME LATE FRIDAY NIGHT. BEST TIME WOULD BE SAT MORN BETWEEN 8-9AM))

LOST BATTLES cont

The East:

Turkey (Johnson) F Con-Aeg, F Blk S A Bul, A Bul /H/, A Arm-Sev
 Italy (Drakert) F Ion-East Med, F Nap-Ion, A Ven /H/, A Tun /H/
 Austria(Drakert) F Tri-Alb, A Vie-Bud, A Ser-Gre, A Bud-Ser, F Gre-Aeg,
 Russia (Drakert) F Rum /H/, A Ukr S F Rum, A Sev /H/, A Mos S A Sev,
 A War-Gal, F Swe /H/

The Deadline for the Fall 1902 moves is set for Sept 30 noon. Moves may be conditional upon the retreat. If I get the retreat in within a reasonable amount of time I will drop a note to the players with it on the card to make life easier.

72.10a CONSERVATIVES AND RIGHT WINGERS MOB THE USA
 Spring 1940 THE LAST MOVE MAY ACTUALLY BE INTERESTING!!!

USA (JOLLY) 7pf to Germany, 5pf to USA, 5pf unordered remain in USA
 FRA (DRAKERT) 11pf to Britain, 11pf to Germany, 5pf to USA(None left home)
 BRI (HENDRY) 6pf to Ger, 6pf to Russia, 6pf to USA
 RUS (JOHNSON) 8pf to France, 8pf to Romania, 6pf unordered remain home
 GER (KOMADA) 6pf to Rus, 6pf to Ita, 6pf to Bri, 6pf to Fra, 39pf to USA none left home

totals:	ALS	AUS	BAL	BRI	CZE	FRA	GER	ITA	POL	RHI	ROM	RUS	USA
USA	-	x	x	(10)	-	(5)	7	-	x	-	-	-	10
FRA	-	x	x	11	-	-	11	-	x	1	(5)	-	5
BRI	-	x	x	-	(5)	(5)	6	(5)	x	8	3	6	6
RUS	-	x	x	(7)	-	(13)	-	-	x	1	10	6	(5)
GER	-	c	c	6	-	6	-	6	c	-	2	6	39

If the game were to end now the points would be: USA 14, FRA 17, BRI 21, RUS 6, GER 19. Deadline for the Fall 1940 attacks is set for Sept 30 noon. Attacks may be made conditional upon the results of previous attacks remembering the order of attacks of USA, FRA, BRI, RUS, & GER.

72.15h PRO BRITISH UNIONS ARE CRUSHED BY SA IN GERMANY
 Fall 1937 COMMIES FAIL TO CATCH SIMILAR WORKERS IN THE BALTIC

USA(KOMADA) no attacks
 FRA (Harris) no attacks, U in Cze
 BRI (Drakert) no word from Williams, Drakert takes over
 RUS (Sheinberg) attack USA in Baltic 12-6 (2-1 die roll 5 no change)
 GER (Johnson) attack Britain in Germany 16-5 (3-1) roll 4 exchange
 totals

	ALS	AUS	BAL	BRI	CZE	FRA	GER	ITA	POL	RHI	ROM	RUS	USA
USA	x	x	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	6
FRA	c	x	-	-	(5)	7	-	-	-	x	x	-	-
BRI	x	x	-	12	3	-	-	(8)	-	x	x	-	-
RUS	x	x	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	c	6	-
GER	x	c	7	-	-	-	11	-	5	c	x	-	-

Deadline for the Spring 1938 moves is Sept 30 noon. The point totals so far would be: USA 21, FRA 6, BRI 3, RUS 3, GER 9. As a foot note, Komada had no objections to walking into the US position.

72.18h
 Winter 1934?

Due to the fact that I forgot to place a deadline in the last issue of this zine for this game, the deadline is now set at Sept 30. Which my way of thinking dictates that this would have been the deadline anyway allowing for players to have two issues (3-4 weeks) to talk over their move

ISSUE CONTINUED

1971DI
WINTER 03

THIS GAME FINALLY MOVES ON AFTER ALL AGREE

NOT TO DISAGREE WITH A TWO WEEK DEADLINE

- AUSTRIA (PYLE) No change, has A Vie, A Buda
- ENGLAND (Roll) Build F Lon, A EDI, has F Lon, F Nth Sea, F Swe
- FRANCE (Van Andel) no change, has A Bur, A Mar, F Lyon, A Pic, F West Med
- Germany (Turpin) F Den refuses to retreat and is removed, has: A Ruh, A Bel, A Mun, F Holland
- Italy (Verheiden) no change has: A TRI, A Tyr, F Tyrr, A Ven, F Tun
- RUSSIA (Proujansky) removes A Warsaw; has: A Pru, A Bered
- Turkey (Buchanan) build F Smy; has: F Smy, F Ion, F East Med, F Cons, A Mos, A Ser, A Alb, A Ukr, A Gal

It bugs me that Roll complained about not getting his issue. But he got the news anyway. No one has objected to the two week deadline, so we can all go on with the cost of the game being reduced to me from 78¢ per issue to about 51¢ per issue. I will charge Peery 30¢ per issue (he agreed to defray some of the costs and then he and I will settle on some amount after the game is over. As either Roll, Turpin or Verheiden join other games in the Arena the cost to me and Peery will drop and any adjustments necessary will be made.

I will accept general orders from you folks although no one has yet to miss a move in the history of the game. Deadline for the Spring moves is set for Sept 30 noon (for phoned orders). See also where for times to call. I have experimented in the above titles with different ways of presenting the country name and the players...which do you like best? Does anyone have trouble understanding my loose abbr.?

1972AD

RUSSIANS INCREASE THEIR FLEET FORCES

Winter 1904

GERMANS DECREASE HOME GUARD!!!!!!!

- England (Key) no change, has A EDI, F Nth, F EC
- France (Lipson) no change, has A Mar, A Bel, A Pic, F Tyr S, F Lyon, F West
- Germany (Proujansky) remove A Berlin, has F Hol, A Ruh, A Mun, A Kie, F Bal
- Italy (Gaydos) build F Naples, has F Nap, F Tun, A Rom, A Tyr
- Russia (Menyhert) build F St. Pete nc, has F St. Pete nc, F Swe, F Rum, A Nor, A Ukr, A Gal, A War,

Austria (Faulkner) no change has: A Vie, A Tri, A Ser, F Alb
 Lipson is not floating around anymore and can be reached at HDQS, US Army Material Command, ATTN: AMCSA-BC (Maj Elliot Lipson); Washington DC 20315.
 Deadline for the Spring 1905 moves is set at Noon, Sept 30.
 For Press release information see the last page of this issue.

1972BP

THE GERMANS ROMP IN THE EAST AS MOSCOW FALLS!

Fall 1903

THE FRENCH STILL CAN'T DO ANYTHING AGAINST THE ENGLISH!

- England (Ricci) F Lvd-Iri, F Wal-Lon, F Nth Sea S Rus F Swe-Den, A Nor-St, P
- France (Menyhert) F EC-Lon, F Mid-Iri, A Mar /H/, A Par /H/, A Bre /H/
- Germany (Honig) F Bal S F Den, F Den /H/, A Hol S A Bel, A Bel /H/, A War-Mos, A Liv S A War-MOS, A Sil-War.
- Russia (Osmanson) A Ukr-Mos, F Bla-Con, A Gal-War, A Mos-St, P, F Swe-Den
- Turkey (Harris) A Sev-Rum, A Bul S A Sev-Rum, A Ser-Bud, F Gre-Aeg, F E, Me to the Aeg.
- Austria (Besser) A Rum-Ser, A Bud S A Ser-Rum, A Vie-Gal
- Italy (Thomas) No moves received and no General Orders! A Tri, A Pic, A Tus, F Tun and F Ion all hold.

72BP continued

THIS GAME FINALLY MOVES ON AFTER ALL AGREE
 NOT TO DISAGREE WITH A TWO WEEK
 SUPPLY CENTER CHART

Russian	A Mos must retreat (Sev or OTB), Turk A Ser must retreat (Aib, OTB)	10/21
ENGLAND:	3 home, Nor.....	no change 4
FRANCE:	3 home, Spa, Por.....	no change 5
GERMANY:	3 home, Bel, Hol, Den, War, Mos.....	build 1..... 8
RUSSIA:	St. Pete, Sev, Swe, Con, Mos, Kie.....	remove 1..... 4
TURKEY:	2 home, Bul, Rum, Gre, Con.....	no change 5
AUSTRIA:	Bud, Vie, Ser.....	no change 3
ITALY:	3 home, Tun, Tri.....	no change 5

Builds may be conditional upon whether the two units dislodged are ordered to disband. A Mos can not retreat to St. P because there was a stand off there. Deadline for the Retreats and builds/removals is set for noon (for all calls) on Sept 30. Press is delayed till next issue.

1972CH LORD NELSON TURNS OVER IN HIS GRAVE AS ENGLISH PLACES COIN
 Fall 02 STOMPED!!!

AUSTRIAN BLUNDER AVERTS RUSSIAN INVASION!!!

England (Weeks) A Pic-Bar, P EC-Mid (retreats) F Nth-EC (Retreats),
 France (Proujansky) F Bre-EC, F Mid S F Bre-Mid, A Gas Bre, A Pacific
 F Mar-Spa so.

Germany (Stevens) F Hel-Nth, P Den S F Hel-Nth, A Kie S F Den, A Tyr-Mun,
 A Bel-Pic, A Hol-Bel.

Italy (Prosnitz) A Ven-Tyr, P Tun S F Ion, P Ion S A R A Gre
 Russia (Komada) F Nwy S Ger F Hel-Nth, F Swe S F May, A War-Gal, A Gal-Boh,
 A Rum S A War-Gal, P Sev S A Rum

TURKEY KONING (A Gre S A Gre, F East Med-Ion
 Austria (Trtek) A Vie-Boh, A Ser-Bud, A Tri S A Ser-BUL (impossible)
 F Aib-Gre, A Bud-Vie

Supply centers:

England:	3 home.....	no change 3
France:	3 home, Spa, Por.....	no change 5
Germany:	3 home, Den, Hol, Bel.....	no change 6
Italy:	3 home, Tun.....	1./a/ build 1
Austria:	3 home, Ser.....	no change 4 remove 1
Turkey:	3 home, Bul, GRE.....	build 1
Russia:	4 home, Rum, Swe, NOR.....	build 1

Builds may be conditional upon the retreats. Deadline for the Builds and retreats and as army retreats that we have, is set for Sept 30 noon for phone calls. Never call me after 10PM, and please do not call on Monday or Wed as I won't be in to take them. All press is delayed till next issue. Sorry for the messy type job folks but we try harder. New Address for Weeks: 256-72-3694, 3770 East Uintah Apt C27, Colorado Springs, Colo 80909.

PCL BGSU

PRESS RELEASE INFORMATION

All press is delayed till next issue. Why everyone wrote 1 page releases I do not know, but I have about 5 pages of the stuff for this issue and there is no way it will fit. Next issue will be between 10 and 20 pages so all press will be caught up on there.