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... mais ce n'est pas la guerre. (Marshall Pierre Bosquet)

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CIRCULATION : 73

29th February 1992.

EDITORIAL THOUGHTS

January 1992

IN LOCO LITTERATI : This space was reserved for the letters, but nobody wrote me any. So that's put a bit of a damper on that.

I have received what is obviously a form letter from Duncan Proffit, who is seeking material for a book about the Hobby. Now I hate to pour cold water on someone with a genuinely enthusiastic idea. But...

Only one book has even ever been published about the game of Diplomacy in Britain, and Richard Sharp's The Game of Diplomacy went out of print fairly rapidly. (I exclude Rod Walker's book, which, although available in the U.K., was published in the U.S.A. by The Avalon Hill Games Company, and in any case is more a tie-in for the game than a stand-alone book.)

The general community of Diplomacy players was a much larger potential market than just Hobby members. I don't see any publisher going for a book which has such a restricted target readership, and not even any kind of guaranteed take-up rate within that market.

The only other alternative would be for Duncan to approach a firm of "vanity publishers" as a "self-financing author," a situation wonderfully satirised in Umberto Eco's Foucault's Pendulum.

YESTERDAY IN PARLIAMENT : "I have today offered my resignation to the Prime Minister, due to the controversy after I was pressurised into singing on a T.V. chat show in Dublin. I now realise, in hindsight, that in order to further the Peace Process and help defeat the I.R.A., what I should have done is to have shouted 'Fuck off, I'm not singing for you, you load of murdering Feinian bastards,' and stormed off."

The current READLIST includes Bernard Ingham's autobiography, Kill the Messenger, which was out in paperback for Christmas. I'm still only really half way through, but what becomes clear from the book is Ingham's paranoia about the power of union bosses, even whilst he was still a card-carrying member of the Labour Party. This made him a potential zealot for the union reforms of the early 1980s.

As Pete Birks noted in a recent Greatest Hits, the cumulative effect of this legislation has been mainly to increase the number of unofficial strikes, which the national union leaders then have no control over. The latest round of proposed Union legislation (including the wonderfully silly requirement for Unions to give seven days written notice of official strike action - as if employers weren't capable of cottoning on when the pre-strike ballot is announced) will only increase this trend.

WHILE MY GUITAR GENTLY SWEEPS

January 1992

Anne Nock, the editor of Rianna Games Review, was killed in a car crash just before Christmas. All of us who knew Anne (in my case, as a co-player in Monochrome) are shocked by her death and will remember her with great respect.

The zeen itself will be taken over by Anne's friend (and one of the large crew of RGR outside g.m.s) Mike Pugh, with help as required from David Watts. This will keep all the games together, which is obviously the best option.

Buckeye Rail Gazette #17 is probably the leading U.S. Railway Rivals zeen at the moment, as editor Ken Hill is David Watts' "agent" for the U.S.. It's a very attractive D.T.P. publication, using the minimum of typefaces (avoiding the "We've got 200 fonts and we're not afraid to use them!" syndrome) and neat little scoring boxes. Probably not of much interest to most of you, as there's not much chat besides the games, which are probably just a little bit too quick to play in from over the Atlantic, but a neat little product.

Carolina Command and Commentary #45 considers the ballyhoo surrounding the 50th Anniversary of Pearl Harbour. Mike Lowrey points out that, militarily at least, Pearl Harbour was not actually that important. The eight ships damaged were all of an obsolete class, and even when repaired contributed little to the war effort. Most of the modern ships were in the Atlantic, where the naval war between Britain and Germany was already raging. Of course, the key importance of Pearl Harbour was political, in that it enabled Franklin D. Roosevelt to bring the United States into the war with public opinion totally behind him.

Costaguana 214 sees Conrad von Metzke bemoaning his new "short" stature. The old bones are obviously beginning to shrink, and after years of being 6' 7"-plus, Conrad is now officially down to 6' 6". He also talks about linear separators, dream cars (a Delorean!?) and Church and State controversies. Meanwhile, on the games front, this issue just contains a winter season separation and an abandonment notice for an unviable orphan.

Dolchstoß 159's lettercolumn features Richard Sharp trying to defend amateurism in Rugby Union, whilst accepting the right of players to make money from writing or after-dinner speaking. Given that no-one would pay to hear the thoughts of Will Carling were he not an England international, surely he is being paid for his ability to play Rugby Union just as much as if he received a wage-packet at the end of each match?

Greatest Hits 168 is another bumper issue from Pete Birks, with the first part of an article analysing the prospects for the 1992 General Election. This first part looks at the background, and especially at the social make-up of each party's voters in the 1979, 1983 and 1987 elections. He also produces some more "chartist"-style analysis of the Big Boot bourse game, and manages a fairly large lettercolumn as well.

Heroes of Olympus 14 continues to truck along as a small multi-games zeen, with a politix/hobbynews/sport slant. Steve Nicewarmer now has a Regular Diplomacy game to go with the Rail Baron and a highly-international Empires of the Middle Ages game. As well as a slam of the new U.S. Zeen Register (not seen by me, so no comment), Steve also gives his College American Football predictions, in which he reveals a certain bias against "The Fightin' Irish."

Lemon Curry #119 features an article on the scoring system used in amateur ice skating. This is by no means as simple as it might seem, as it involved awarding marks, converting these into places, combining the scores for each round (with the appropriate weightings) and then re-converting these into places. Quite what Nick Kinzett would make of such a blatantly places-based system I'm not sure.

The waiting list for Don Del Grande's United game is still filling, and although Don will be running this in a separate zeen, I'm sure that he can be prevailed upon to take the odd ½-page of LC to keep us posted on the scorelines and league standings.

Now Eat the Rabbit features yet another mammoth lettercolumn, in which William bemoans the growth in scientific papers, on the grounds that it means he has to read more of them just to get a basic coverage of any reasonable scientific subject. This is also true of social science, of course. But in this field, as soon as you get an area that's too big, you just lead a schism and create a newly discrete area (e.g. the distinction between Keynesian and Monetarist Economics).

The Numbers Game 15 continues to catch up on the stats backlog, and also carries a complete Openings Survey for Russia. Richard Sharp tries some statistical analysis to correlate openings to results; although every game will be different, it would appear that, in general, openings where Russia opens

A(Mos)-StP (thus getting across the stalemate line from the start) tend to produce better results.

Ode 131 contains a review of 1991 by John Marsden, pointing out the increase in drop-outs this year, and speculating that this might be linked to the recession, and consequent loss of disposable income and leisure time.

David Watts also reveals that he is abandoning the 52-town format for new Railway Rivals, and will be reverting to the 36/42-town format for all future maps. Most Railway Rivals g.m.s I know will consider this a Good Thing. More controversially, David also intends to re-design all the current 52-town maps to the other format. I'm not sure whether this, effectively "re-writing history," is such a good idea. However, David, as the leading map-designer for his own invention, presumably knows what he's doing.

Realpolitik 74 contains news of Guy Thomas' contribution to the media coverage of Robert Maxwell's death. It seems that a BBC reporter, seeking some background on the design of the Lady Ghislaine, telephoned Guy's workplace, Motorboats Monthly. Guy managed to detain said journalist on the phone for three minutes before he realised that Guy didn't actually know anything about it.

Guy is also talking about winding down Realpolitik a bit, closing waiting lists and reducing editorial content. The intent is to get the zeen back to a regular six-weekly frequency, which has been a bit strained recently.

Springboard 54 sees Danny Collman talking about one of his other hobbies - breeding locusts. This is certainly a tricky prospect, as I know from when my mother was a part-time Biology lab technician, and had to go in to school every day during the holidays to feed the little blighters and check that their light bulbs were still on. Kath's Bit also features a quiz, with a couple of logic-style questions I've not seen before (including "Is it possible to answer this question in the negative?" - hmmm).

A Step Further Out 46 features a plethora of lightbulb jokes, not all of which I'd heard before either. Steve Howe has also opened up a game of "Who Am I?" This is *not* a rôle-playing game based on the life of Denis Jones, but is in fact a postal variation of that old favourite, Twenty Questions. The twist is that your final score depends both on the number of questions you ask and the number of issues you ask them in. So you're faced with the dilemma of asking lots of questions at once, many of which may be irrelevant, or only a few at a time, and racking up the issue count.

Variants and Uncles 28 turned up, with lots of chat from James Nelson about his doings at University, as well as a Napoleonic theme to the Diplomacy variant content which gives the zeen its name. There is also an article on variant design in general. James Nelson also makes a bid to take over the U.K. Variant Bank, which current custodian Richard Jackson is seeking to hand on.

Victoriana 53 is a pre-World Dip Con issue, and thus thinner than usual. However, Frank Meerbach in his Nostradamus sub-zeen talks about Australian Diplomacy tournament policies, which gave me some ideas to think about for Manorcon. I would certainly like to arrange the second day's draw so that people don't (as far as practical) play the same people as on the first day. However, the realities of Sunday morning at a convention like Manorcon mean that a pre-draw is impossible, and I think it's even more important to get games underway quickly than to waste too much time on the draw. Opinions, anyone?

Richard Walkerdine produces the first Manorcon Progress Report for MANORCON TEN, with news that bookings are going well, and that everything is gearing up for the convention at the new venue of Lake Hall, over the weekend of Friday 17th to Monday 20th July 1992. Enclosed with this issue for most of you should be a copy of the Manorcon booking form - now that the Holiday Season is over,

why not get down to filling it in now, instead of leaving it till the last minute, like you usually do?

EDITORIAL ADDRESSES :

Buckeye Rail Gazette, twice-monthly, 14 pages, A4 pc, invitational(?)

Ken Hill, 6199 Rockland Drive, Dublin, OH 43017, UNITED STATES.

Carolina Command and Commentary, monthly, 24 pages, A5 pc, US\$1.50

Mike Lowrey, 3005 Kenninghall Court, Charlotte, NC 28269, UNITED STATES.

Costaguana, ???, 7 pages, A4 pc, invitational.

Conrad von Metzke, 4374 Donald Avenue, San Diego, CA 92117, UNITED STATES.

Dolchstoß, 5-weekly, 24 pages, A5 pc, 75p.

Richard Sharp, Norton House, Whielden Street, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 OHU.

Greatest Hits, 5-weekly, 26 pages, A4 pc, 70p

Pete Birks, 181 Friern Road, East Dulwich, LONDON, SE22 OBD.

Heroes of Olympus, 5-weekly, 10 pages, A4 pc, \$1.00 in U.S.

Steve Nicewarmer, 1310-11 Ephesus Church Road, King's Arms Apts., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, UNITED STATES.

Lemon Curry, 5-weekly, 16 pages, A5 pc, 60¢ in U.S.

Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339, UNITED STATES.

Now Eat the Rabbit, 6-weekly, 18 pages, A4 pc, £4.00/year

William Whyte, 200 Iffley Road, OXFORD, Oxon., OX4 1SD.

The Numbers Game, irreg, 16 pages, A4 pc, 50p.

Steve Doubleday, Norton House, Whielden Street, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 OHU.

Ode, 6-weekly, 28 pages, A5 pc, 65p

John Marsden, 33 Weston Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3HA.

Realpolitik, 6-weekly, 22 pages, A4 pc, 60p.

Guy Thomas, 8 Tithe Court, Parlaunt Road, Langley, SLOUGH, Berks., SL3 8AS.

Springboard, 5-weekly, 38 pages, A4 mimeo, 40p + postage

Danny & Kath Collman, 14 Westover Road, Handsworth Wood, BIRMINGHAM, B20 1JG.

A Step Further Out, monthly, 14 pages, A4 mimeo, 50p.

Steve Howe, 1 Castle Court, Castle Lane, Hadleigh, BENFLEET, Essex, SS7 2AE.

Variants and Uncles, quarterly, 16 pages, A5 pc, 50p.

James Nelson, Clifton Hall, Room P17, Brunel University, UXBRIDGE, Middx., UB8 3PH.

Victoriana, 5-weekly, 16 pages, A4 pc, AU\$2.00

John Cain, P.O. Box 4317, Melbourne University, VIC 3052, AUSTRALIA.

YOURS SINCERELY, WASING AWAY

((As you may have gathered, what you have been reading so far is some of the stuff which would have gone into CMag 110, but for the problems caused by the duplicator suddenly deciding that it would be a neat idea to ink the stencil so much that every sheet of paper fed through would stick to the drum, and be unreadable when peeled off. So in fact, we do now have some letters :))

HARRY BOND, Stafford : How on earth does Don Del Grande know that it was Private Eye that sold his address off? Is it his only British magazine? (Can't be - he gets CMag doesn't he? Was it you, Sullivan?!) Or does he use a subteky different form of his name and address for every different subscription?

((Given the usual accuracy of mailing labels, I would guess Don gets a slightly different form of his name and address for each subscription, whether he likes it or not!))

KERN DINGSDALE, Dockland E14 : Could you add something from the OGRE perspective on the Springboard fold issue raised in Gallimaufry?

((Well, I've not seen the original Gallimaufry article, and don't believe in passing comment based on someone else's commentary. But rest assured that I have considered what would happen if Springboard were to fold, even if this doesn't amount to anything like a formal "contingency plan."))

HARRY BOND, Stafford : Yes, you can get the Civilisation expansion cards here in the U.K.. They aren't much good to anyone with the Gibsons' edition, though, as they have a different back design. Why don't Avalon Hill call themselves Avalon Hill any more? And what do they call themselves? Inquiring minds want to know.

(("The Avalon Hill Games Company" or "TAHGC" I believe. As this is the United States, I presume it has something to do with a litigious namesake.))

DAVID OYA, Banbury : Q) Will Pete discover the terrible truth - the fact that my orders are in fact NOT on separate pieces of paper, but one sheet of paper roughly torn into two halves?

A) Only if you write it on the back of the envelope.

((They're separate by the time they get to me, which is all that matters.))

HARRY BOND, Stafford : Oh lordy, New Age. Knowing me you'd imagine this to be my cup of tea, but whilst I still have soft spots for certain bits (mainly the one involving the innate goodness of human beings), I've been soured on a lot of it by the apparant need for those interested to leave their every trace of scepticism outside (gosh, wow, I agree with Nick Drage for once). As for Geller, I can never decide which is the greater nutter out of him and Randy Wosname - their vendetta transcends all bounds of decency and scientific credibility.

((Well, that's a very interesting opinion, but one which both myself and Messers. Sue, Grabbit and ap-Cynan don't necessarily share...))

DAMIEN COSGROVE, No fixed address : Congrats. on actually getting CMag 110 out, I know that if something like that breakdown happened to me at the moment I'd fall apart. It's only the high tension that's actually holding me together. "The Boy Done Well."

((With a duplicator, you're always aware that something like this is going to happen, even though duplicators are probably significantly more reliable than a modern photocopier. If only I'd given up and decided to go for "carbon-copy" adjudications a couple of days earlier, maybe we could have done it with a 4-week deadline instead of a (first-ever?) 5-weeker *rats*.))

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

With effect from the publication date of this issue, the subscription rate for CMag is going up to 45p an issue, with the "bulk discount" rate going up to £6 for 14 issues. Due to the slow-down in frequency, this is probably still about a year's worth.

As usual, existing subscriptions will be honoured at the old rate until expiry, partly because it's too much hassle to go through and take everyone's last issue number, subtract 111, multiply by 40, divide by 45 and add 111 again.

It's tempting to blame this price increase on the switch to photocopying, but it would also be telling porkies. The fact is we would have been facing a price increase around about now anyway, as my duplicator supplies are running out and there's a new catalogue. And the savings I make on overseas postage by going photo-reduced are quite heart-warming.

As far as frequency goes, I intend to continue as a "three- to four-weekly zeen." Although for the next nine months, the emphasis will be more on the 4 than the 3. I may consider doing a few interim deadlines for the international games, to keep them going six-weekly, but the views of the players concerned are invited on this.

We now return you to your normal programme...

REVENGE OF THE DECIMAL TABS

The 1991 British Isles Diplomacy Zeen Poll was the nineteenth of that ilk. Previous results have been :

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Org.</u>	<u>Voters</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>
1.	Jan 1974	(RJW)	14	Ethil the Frog	Mad Policy
2.	May 1974	(RJW)	34	Dolchstoß	Mad Policy
3.	Mar 1975	(RJW)	54	Dolchstoß	Mad Policy
4.	May 1976	(RJW)	69	Chimaera	1901 and all that
5.	Apr 1977	(RJW)	111	Chimaera	1901 and all that
6.	Mar 1978	(MB)	151	Dolchstoß	Ethil the Frog
7.	Jun 1979	(MB)	133	Greatest Hits	Puppet Theatre News
8.	Jul 1980	(MB)	69	Greatest Hits	Fall of Eagles
9.	May 1981	(RJW)	101	Greatest Hits	Puppet Theatre News
10.	Jul 1982	(RJW)	101	Ode	Greatest Hits
11.	Aug 1983	(RJW)	224	Greatest Hits	Mad Policy
12.	Jul 1984	(RJW)	258	Hopscotch	NMR!
13.	Jul 1985	(RJW)	248	Mad Policy	Dolchstoß
14.	Oct 1986	(JCP)	192	Home o t Brave	Dolchstoß
15.	Nov 1987	(JCP)	339	War & Peace	Zeeby
16.	Nov 1988	(JCP)	235	Realpolitik	Zeeby
17.	Jan 1990	(IDB)	197	Nertz	Electric Monk
18.	Jan 1991	(IDB)	145	Electric Monk	Y ddraig Goch
19.	Jan 1992	(IDB)	142	... see below ...	

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Zeen</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Change</u>
1(7)	Dolchstoß	26.790	88.111	(+12.051)
2(2)	Y Ddraig Goch	26.634	87.535	(+1.051)
3(1)	Electric Monk	26.618	87.474	(-5.321)
4(31)	Greatest Hits	26.270	86.149	(+53.248)
5(13)	Arfle Barfle Gloop	23.294	75.163	(+11.211)
6(4)	Realpolitik	22.964	73.942	(-7.433)
7(3)	A Step Further Out	22.395	71.833	(-11.146)
8(8)	C'est Magnifique	22.265	71.353	(-2.231)
9(18)	Small Furry Cr. Press	21.791	69.596	(+18.512)
10(6)	Cut & Thrust	21.561	68.746	(-7.410)
11(12)	Bloodstock	20.216	63.763	(-0.601)
12(9)	Take That You Fiend	19.206	60.025	(-11.557)
13(--)	Smodnoc	19.084	59.569	(--)
14(--)	Arglebargle	19.974	59.165	(--)
15(19)	NMR!	17.988	55.442	(+4.831)
16(11)	Prisoners of War	17.488	53.659	(-13.598)
17(15)	Mopsy	17.190	52.555	(-7.074)
18(26)	Mouth of Sauron	16.621	50.449	(+11.325)
19(--)	Borealis	16.482	49.934	(--)
20(14)	Now Eat the Rabbit	16.457	49.842	(-9.864)
21(20)	Gallimaufry	16.146	48.690	(-1.684)
22(25)	Rianna Games Review	16.108	48.549	(+8.711)
23(--)	A Little Original Sin	16.077	48.433	(--)
24(21)	Pigbutton	15.957	47.989	(-2.352)
25(--)	Up Around the Bend	15.568	46.549	(--)
26(--)	Die Große Dampfmaschine	15.255	45.389	(--)
27(23)	Hopscotch	14.977	44.359	(-4.300)
28(10)	Ode	13.657	39.471	(-27.963)
29(16)	Ac-Mông	12.553	35.382	(-23.557)
30(17)	Springboard	11.885	32.908	(-21.767)
31(27)	Variants and Uncles	11.339	30.886	(-8.054)
32(--)	Phyrric Victory	11.125	30.094	(--)
33(--)	Age of Reason	11.067	29.878	(--)
34(--)	Garbage In Garbage Out	7.921	18.226	(--)

The table on the previous page shows each zeen's position, its position last year, its name, its score (consisting of the average vote, on a scale of 1-10, plus the preference matrix score, on a scale of 2-20), its score as a percentage, and the change in percentage from last year's result.

And so Dolchstoß becomes only the second zeen to win the Poll four times. Richard Sharp's record is, if anything even more impressive than that of Greatest Hits, in that the four victories came spread over 18 years, as opposed to GH's 4-from-5 "purple patch." Dolchstoß has been much the same for the past few years, but its distance from the mainstream has always made it difficult to get the vote out. The combination of the growth in stats work bringing the zeen more into the mainstream, and Richard Sharp actually plugging the Poll and distributing ballots removed this problem for this year's Poll.

Y Ddraig Goch scored the highest on the preference matrix (18.636), but had a lower average vote than any other top five zeen. This is a deserved repeat of last year's runner-up spot for a zeen which, whilst slowing down, is still one of the better reads in the hobby.

Electric Monk falls from last year's top spot. Whilst the zeen hasn't really deteriorated over the year, it hasn't improved either, and the number of different sub-zeen "voices" probably dilutes the overall editorial identity a tad. I quite like this zeen, yes.

Greatest Hits has the highest increase in both position and score, in what has been a very good year for the zeen. There have been ten issues this year, more than many a games zeen. The zeen is undoubtedly part of the Diplomacy hobby. Despite running no games, it probably talks about games more often than this zeen, f'rinstance.

Arfle Barfle Gloop enters the top ten for the first time. Despite the alleged "Family Zeen" tag, this zeen seems to be developing an increasingly *double-entendre* ridden lettercol, in the best traditions of British humour. As Julian and Sandy would say, it's always fabuloso to vada this organ whenever it makes an appearance.

Realpolitik is slimming down now, and may well return to being pretty much a BUDS (Birmingham University Diplomacy Society) Old Boys production, which is what it was before entering the Poll for the first time (as the winner) in 1988.

A Step Further Out, from hobby ninny Steve Howe, carries the distinction of being the only zeen still produced by manual typer and stencil duplicator. Steve has a nice line in stream-of-thought "articles," combined with a good, varied, games service (I'm not so sure about the German Antiques Game, mind...).

C'est Magnifique stays at eight place, despite slowing down a tad over the last year. Curiously enough, the switch to photocopying may actually improve turnaround, as the printing was becoming more and more of a drag, even when the stencil duplicator was behaving itself.

Small Furry Creatures Press, home of the biggest En Garde! campaign in the hobby, was the winner on average vote, but had a much lower preference matrix score. This reflects its almost-fanatical following amongst a small hard-core of supporters, but the zeen tends to get marked down by editors for its "semi-pro" approach to zeen production.

Cut & Thrust reached 100 issues this year, but this doesn't seem to have affected its result. After surviving the death of co-editor Glyn Roberts a few years ago, this multi-games zeen has gone from strength to strength, with a mixed diet of music and game reviews.

Bloodstock is apparently an efficient multi-games zeen with little chat - I can't remember ever seeing a copy. Those that see it, like it. Those that don't like it, don't see it.

Take That You Fiend was originally started to re-house the En Garde! campaign from Home of the Brave in the early 1980s. Since then, it has developed

as a multi-games zeen, running just about everything except Diplomacy. It is also noted for John Harrington and Kevin Warne's sense of humour which comes over in the chat, described variously as "robust" and "acerbic."

Smodnoc is the highest "new" zeen, although in fact Toby Harris' production was a subzeen for quite a while in Veni Vidi Vici before taking over. It is now a fully-fledged multi-games zeen, with multiple subzeens of its own. I suspect some editors may have marked it down due to Toby's habit of relentlessly plugging the zeen in other zeen's lettercols (including a full-page puff in a recent Springboard).

Arglebargle is a fringe zeen which mainly runs narrative-style RPG games, and is thus possibly of dubious eligibility. However, it has a surprisingly large overlap with the Diplomacy mainstream, and is always placed well in the Poll whenever it garners the minimum number of votes needed, something it failed to do last year.

NMR! was probably the consistently best zeen never to actually win the Poll during the 1980s. Since issue 100, it has been a much smaller production, and is probably nothing like as central to the lives of editors Brian Creese and Ken Bain as it used to be. This is also the last refuge of Geoff Challenger, settling down to sub-zeen status, but still capable of producing a classic "pyramid lead" editorial when he feels like it.

Prisoners of War has just folded after 50 issues, as co-editor Doug Rowling has now emigrated to Australia, and Wol Nicholl decided this was a good point to draw things to a close. Renowned for its large size, and general "prettyness," albeit marred somewhat by the number of different typefaces.

Mopsy comes in once again as the "Average Zeen," a position it has occupied for the last two years. This zeen is notable for probably the strictest g.m.ing in the hobby - if you write a province name out in full, rather than use the proper three-letter abbreviation, Brian Betts will treat this as a disorder. Well, I suppose it's cheaper than dialling the 0898 Miss Whiplash numbers...

Mouth of Sauron is, despite Crazie Markie's best efforts, gradually becoming respectable. An NYGB-sanctioned zeen (North Yorkshire Games Board), this is basically a large quarterly-ish chat zeen, talking about the hobby, science fiction fandom, bridge and similar topics.

Borealis (previously Blood and Iron) is the only English zeen to be published from the North of this one. I've never seen a copy, but it is reputed to be a cheap but otherwise unexceptionable new zeen.

Now Eat the Rabbit suffers from the fact that many subbers can't always read the thing, stencil-duplicated 20 pitch type in red ink on orange paper not being the most readable format. Has also suffered from what has been rather a stagnant lettercol this year, with Chaos Theory and Marxism dominating. Will either get better or fold from boredom, and I bet it's the former.

Gallimaufry suffered the single heaviest defeat in the preference matrix, losing 0-0-25 to Dolchstoß. This reflects their high mutual readership more than any inherent defect in the zeen. With Steve Doubleday's involvement in the stats service, this zeen has added hobby politix/organisation to its normal focus of games design and re-design.

Rianna Games Review would probably have finished much higher if news of Anne Nock's death had been known during voting. As it is, it is under-rated here. Anne was a interesting writer, and had begun to expound a bit more in the zeen recently. She will be sadly missed.

A Little Original Sin will forever be tarred as the zeen that Danny Collman thought was edited by a woman, because the first issue featured one on the front cover (I wonder if he would have applied the same logic to NMR! 48...). This is one of the few zeens to publish short stories, and I'm told most of them are actually worth reading, which makes a change for hobby-published fiction.

Pigbutton is a hardy perennial in the Poll, of which I've only ever seen an occasional copy. Clive Palmer is perhaps better known as a personality at Manorcon, complete with a new silly hat every year.

Up Around the Bend garnered the highest turnout, with 55 voters out of the 142 total mentioning it. I still maintain that this zeen's game load is stifling Haz the fan-writer, but Harry Bond has sensibly slammed the brakes on the waiting lists, and will hopefully be able to cut the turnaround time.

Die Große Dampfmaschine is another new zeen. Coming from Bristol, it's one of the last strongholds of what used to be the Viennamob (along with Bill O'Neill's Excidio, which didn't qualify). Never seen, so no further comment.

Hopscotch is a former Poll-winner, now pretty much a games-only affair, with a couple of Diplomacy variants making it eligible. The main focus of the zeen is Alan Parr's original United league, now in its Nth season.

Ode's position will no doubt cause John Marsden much grief, but he shouldn't really worry. The zeen's aims are to provide a comprehensive and efficient games service, which it does well, ranging from straight Dip to 18xx (I typed "18zz" there, and *almost* decided to let it stand...) and Empire of the Middle Ages. But for non-players, there's not all that much to the zeen. And with very few absolute bummers about nowadays (6 out the bottom 7 last year are missing from this year's Poll, for various reasons), it's becoming increasingly difficult to stay out of the bottom third.

Ac-Mong is the only survivor from a clutch of Northern Ireland zeens in the mid-80s (does anyone remeber Coolnacran?), and this former sub-zeen to Lost Cause continues to run games and discuss ancient history.

Springboard is inevitably not going to appeal to the editors and multi-zeen subscribers who make up the backbone of the Poll's electorate, and this is reflected in this result. By failing to mention the Poll at all in the zeen, Danny deprived himself of a few novices' votes, whose 10s would have boosted his average vote into a more respectable position.

Variants and Uncles has inevitably suffered this year as a result of James Nelson's A-levels and moving to University. But the fact that this zeen is still truckin', albeit smaller, is in itself an acheivement. Can James become the first schoolboy editor to continue his zeen right through university to gainful employment since, well, me?

Phyrric Victory was revived to take over from Dib Dib Dib when it folded, and has spent several years out on the fringes of the hobby. The London revival, as evidenced by the new London Hobbymeet, may yet bring this zeen back more into prominence.

Age of Reason was yet another new zeen launched this year at Manorcon. The two issues I've seen showed signs of being poorly proof-read (a function of having the editor and typist on different sides of the Pennines, no doubt) but otherwise no better or worse than any other new zeen.

Garbage In Garbage Out finished a very poor last, but then they that live by the 200 CorelDraw fonts shall die by the 200 CorelDraw fonts... And Dunky Proffit is probably sufficiently of the Rhett Butler school that frankly my dears, he won't give a damn.

No addresses given for any of the above, as I haven't room, and in some cases, aren't sure of them anyway. The best source of address details (together with sub rates, game openings and general mini-reviews) is the latest Mission from God, which should be out Real Soon Now from Andy Key and Madelaine Smith, 144 Perrinsfield, Venymore, Lechlade, Gloucs., GL7 3SE.. Cost is £1 an issue.

Round 9 (RR ??? IN)

Railway Rivals (India)

"KANSAS CITY"

- 15) (64-23) Calicut - Bombay : CURRY 20-10 ; BRITISH 10+10.
- 16) (54-12) Vijayawada - Delhi : EIR 20-3+6+3 ; BRITISH 10-6+3 ; VIC 0-3.
- 17) (16-65) Jaipur - Madurai : BRITISH 20+4 ; EIR 10-4-1+4 ; CURRY 0-4+1.
- 18) (46-55) Cuttack - Madras : VIC 20-5+3 ; EIR 0-3+5.
- 19) (21-04) Ahmadabad - Assam : BRITISH/VIC 20 ; IAN 10-5 ; VIC +5.
- 20) (32-44) Jabalpur - Calcutta : EIR 20-3-7 ; CURRY 10-4+3+3 ; IAN 0+4 ;
VIC 0-3+7.
- 21) (01-36) Pakistan - Varanasi : IAN 20 ; CURRY 10.

BUILDS :

- EIR [grey] (Ken Hill, 6199 Rockland Drive, Dublin, OH 43017, U.S.A.)
(S19) - S23 - Vishakhapatnam. -8
- CURRY [brown] (Martyn Hathaway, 19 Gresham Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM, B28 03A, U.K.)
(Jabalpur) - F59 [-3 I] - F60 - J62 [-1 V] ; (J66) - Patna. -8-4
- BRITISH [red] (Chris Hardy, 60 Heworth Green, YORK, YO3 7TQ, U.K.)
(N56) - N57 [-1 I] - P58 [-1 C] - P59 [-1 V] - R60. -6-3
- VIC [orange] (John Cain, Box 4317, Melbourne University 3052, AUSTRALIA,) no builds
- IAN [blue] (Ian Williams, [term] St. John's College, OXFORD, Oxon., OX1 3JP,) no builds

Scores on the Doors :

	b/f	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	builds	c/f
EIR	128		26	9	12		10		-8	177
CURRY	104	10		-3			12	10	-12 +1	122
BRITISH	109	20	7	24		10			-9	161
VIC	80		-3		18	15	4		+2	116
IAN	104					5	4	20	+4	137

Runs for Round Ten :

- 22) (66-51) Trivandrum - Raipur
- 24) (56-35) Madras - Lucknow
- 26) (24-42) Pune - Bhagalpur
- 23) (15-02) Bareilly - Kashmir
- 25) (43-64) Calcutta - Calicut
- 27) (33-14) Agra - Saharanpur
- 28) (04-22) Assam - Bombay

GENEVA : You may enter up to five of the above runs, then build up to 6 physical points of track. The deadline for Round Ten orders is FRIDAY, 24th APRIL, 1992, to Peter Sullivan, 16 Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorks., DL7 8NN. Telephone +44 609 777074.

I will start thinking about maps for the next international R.R. game soon.

Fall 3027 (90BV ts19)

Downfall VII Diplomacy

"MAXWELL'S SILVER HAMMER"

- DWARVES (Peter Ritchie, 241 Days Lane, Blackfen, Sidcup, Kent.)
A(Nen)-GHa, A(Ere) stands.
- ELVES (Chris Q. Hardy, 60 Heworth Green, YORK, YO3 7TQ,)
A(HPa)-Rhu, A(Ang)-CDm, F(Forlondon)-WES, A(GHa) makes obscene gestures at dwarves, A(Forochel) S A(Ang)-CDm.
- GANDALF (Tim McElwaine, 28 Upper Broadmoor Road, Crowthorne, Berks., RG11 7DA.)
Gandalf(Dun) orders UMBARIAN A(Dun)-Gwa & S SARUMANIC Saruman & A(Gap)-Dun,
Ra(Edo)-Lam (killed), Fe()-
- MORDOR (Chris Davis, 20 Carlyle Road, Edgbaston, BIRMINGHAM, West Mids., B16 9BJ,)
A(Edo) (kills Rangers)-HDe, A(Wit)-EWa, A(SIt) S 2A(Los), Sauron(Wol)-WEm,
A(EEem)-WEm, A(MMo)-Osg, A(Aza)-KDM, A(OFRoad) stands unordered,

2A(Los) S A(Sit), Nazgul & 2A(WEm)-Gap, 2A(Ise) S UMBARIAN A(Ene)-Dun,
 2A(Fan) S 2A(Ise), A(Esg) stands, A(MTi) stands, A(Nur) stands,
 A(Lor) stands, A(Fra)-Gund, A(NMi)-BMa, A(Gla) S A(Crk)-HPa,
 A(Dag) stands, A(SRh) stands, A(Ano)-Los, A(Crk)-HPa, A(Bro)-Wol.

SARUMAN (Simon Greatrix, Ethel Williams Hall, Eastfield Road, Benton, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, NE12 9TY)
 Saruman & A(Gap)-Dun, A(Hol) S Saruman & A(Gap)-Dun, A(KDm)-Aza.

UMBAR (David Wetherall, 184 Lecklampton Road, CHELTENHAM, Gloucs., GL53 0AE.)
 A/F(SOU) C A(SGo)-Ene, A(Por)-Sit, A(Kha) stands, A/F(BAY) C A(SGo)-Ene,
A(Ett)-CDm, A(CDm)-Forodwraith, A(Lam) S A(Leb), A(Shi)-GHa,
 [[A(Dun)-Car]] (see GANDALF), A(Bel) S A(Lam), A(Ene)-Dun,
 A(Leb) S A(Lam), A(SGo)-Ene.

No RETREATS

3027 ADJUSTMENTS :

DWARVES :	Ere, <u>CDm</u> .	= 1 -A(Nen)
ELVES :	Iml, Crk, Blu, For, GHa, +CDm	= 6 +A(Iml)
GANDALF :	(none)	= 0 —
MORDOR :	Bar, MMo, Udu, Nur, DGu, SRh, 3xoff, Osg, RRU, Ano, MTi, EEm, Edo, Wol, And, Iro, Esg, Lor, Gla, EKH, Sit, +HDe +Ise.	=25 +A(Udu), A(DGu)
SARUMAN :	<u>Ise</u> , Kha, Hol, <u>HDe</u> , +Dun	= 3 no change
UMBAR :	Cit, Har, Hav, Min, SGo, Kha, Leb, Bel, Dru, Shi, Bre, <u>Dun</u> , Lam.	=12 -A(SGo)
		<u>47</u>

GENEVA : Note the C. O. A. s for Tim & David, as above. SARUMAN's orders were written on a valid proxy by the ELVES. Both draws were vetoed.

The deadline for Spring 3028 orders & retreats is FRIDAY, 27th MARCH, 1992, to Peter Sullivan, 16 Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorks., DL7 8NN. Telephone (0609) 777074.

PRESSciouss...

HELM'S DEEP : Uglúk looked out at the endless tide of goblins, their black standards emblazoned with the red receding hairline whipping in the wind, their spears and axes waving enthusiastically and their combined halitosis of six Mordorian armoured divisions.

"Boss, don't you think we ought to start looking for a back way out?" Now that Isulder's Heir had left them, treacherously sneaking away into the night, the gallant defenders were Uglúk and sixteen of the discussing Uruk-Hai; Grishnakh, who was convinced the golden ring he had was the real one; four out-of-work cattle rustlers; General Custer; Grima Wormtongue; a masked man in a trenchcoat; Saruman himself, and his pet bugerieggar, Zit.

"This is one wizard who always goes out the front! Sound the Horn of Helm!"

"We melted them down for bullets yesterday, boss."

"Shit. Well let's fire them. Chaaaaarge!" With one mighty kick of his size elevens, the outer gate smashed open and out charged Saruman the Many-Coloured, spraying his Thompson SMG wildly at anything short, dark and ugly. "Oops, sorry Grima."

Out charged Zit, dropping cannisters of Napalm over the hordes of goblins, twittering cheerfully.

Out charged the discussing (disgusting) Uruk-Hai. "Is it not the case that..." "But surely you can see that..." "I think that really we're all trying to make the same point..." Goblins fled shrieking before them.

Out charged the cattle-rustlers, trying to work out what has happened to their herd, and rustling goblins to make up the numbers.

Out charged Grishnakh who managed to convince many gullible goblins he really did have the real ring and nearly managed to turn the tide of battle, until he tried to convince Nazgul #3...

On they charged, the wizard and his companions. Captains and Champions fell

or fled before them. Neither orc nor man withstood them. Their backs were to the bullets and words of the Riders, and their faces to the valley. They cried and wailed in fear, and great wonder had come upon them with the rising of the day.

Then some bright spark shouted out, "There's only twenty-seven of them!" There was a rippling of flies being opened and murmuring of dismay as the goblins realised they still couldn't count that high - they had more foes than they could count!

The panic turned to rout when another bright spark (or maybe the same one) realised, "That's less than lots and lots."

"Oh no," muttered Grima, trying to dig a bullet from his foot, "I feel a cliché coming on."

Stern now was Saruman's mood, and his mind clear again. He let blow the horns to rally all men to his banner that could come hither, for he thought to make a great shield-wall at the last and stand and fight there on foot till all fell and do deeds of song on the fields of the Hornburg though no man should be left in the West to remember the last Wizard of Orthanc.

Then again, maybe not.

"General, what's the normal procedure when surrounded by hordes of unwashed enemy?"

Custer blew away a tomahawk-armed goblin before replying, turning to the wizard as he fired a short controlled burst at another. "Well first you don't run out of ammo."

"Raratatatata click!" said the Thompson.

"Then what?" asked Saruman, fending off more goblins with the butt. Above, they heard Zit go into a final dive, the explosion he made could be heard in Belfalas, as fire blossomed from the wreckage.

"Wait for re-inforcements." Custer threw his empty revolvers at a troll and drew his sabre.

"They ever show up?"

"Nope."

"Here comes another cliché," moaned Grima, sneaking up behind a goblin.

"Where darkness spreads its evil ways, there the Night-raven stings..."

"Not you."

There suddenly upon a ridge appeared a rider, clad in white, shining in the rising sun. Over the low hills the horns were sounding. Behind him, hastening down the long slopes were a thousand men on foot; their swords were in their hands.

"That's better."

"General, it's the reinforcements," yelled Saruman.

"At last, the Seventh Cavalruugh..." The General looked a little surprised as forty arrows hit him in the back.

"Oh no," said Grima, "it's clichés from here on in."

"Once more you come in the hour of need, unlooked for," said Saruman.

"Thus we meet again, though all the hosts of Mordor between us," said Gandalf.

"The Eagles are coming!" chirped Zit with his last breath.

"It's just like bloody Newcastle all over again," said Constantine. Mo-one worked out what he meant.

"This is the hour of doom!" said Uglak.

"It'll be our hour of doom if we don't get the fuck out of here, come on!" ordered Gandalf.

"That's not a cliché."

"Shut up and run."

And thus did the two wizards cleave a path through their enemies, and 'tis said they didn't stop running till they reached the coast.

READLIST : Tom Lehrer, Too Many Songs By Tom Lehrer, With Not Enough Drawings By Ronald Searle ; Armistead Maupin, Significant Others ; Bernhard Ingham, Kill the Messenger ; The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, The Treatment of Overheads in Local Authority Accounts.

Spring 1907 (1991 BS)

Regular Diplomacy

"OCTOPUS' S GARDEN"

ENGLAND (Tim McElwaine, 28 Upper Broadmoor Road, Crowthorne, Berks., RG11 7DA.) ;
 F(BAR)-Nwy, F(SKA) S F(NTH)-Den, F(GOB) S GERMAN F(Den)-BAL, F(NTH)-Den.

FRANCE (John Todd, 70 Alfred Road, DORCHESTER, Dorset, DT1 2DW.) ;
 F(TYS)-Tun, A(Par)-Gas, A(Gas)-Mar.

GERMANY (Graham Nesbitt, 123 Pendrea Park, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 9PQ.) ;
 A(StP)-Mos, F(Den)-BAL, A(Bur)-Mun, A(Kie) S A(Bur)-Mun, A(Ruh) S A(Kie).

ITALY (Edward Ainsworth, 4, Park Avenue, BEDFORD, MK40 2JY.) ;
 A(Spa) stands, A(Pie)-Ven, F(Nap)*-ION.

RUSSIA (Chris Q. Hardy, 60, Heworth Green, YORK, YO3 7TQ.) ;
 A(Sil)-Mun, A(Mun)-Ruh, F(BAL)*C A(Swe)-Kie, F(BLA)-Rum, A(Swe)-Kie,
 A(Tyr) S A(Sil)-Mun, A(Ber) S A(Swe)-Kie, A(Mos) S A(War)-Lvn, A(War)-Lvn.

TURKEY (Pete Smith, 11 Falstone Crescent, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 0TY.) ;
 A(Tus)-Ven, F(ION)-TYS, A(Rom) S F(Apu)-Nap, F(ADR)-ION, F(Apu)-Nap,
 A(Tri) S A(Tus)-Ven, A(Bul)-Ser, F(EMS)-AEG, A(Con)-Bul.

RETREATS : ITALIAN F(Nap) disbands, no retreat possible.
 RUSSIAN F(BAL) disbands, no retreat ordered.

GENEVA : *You were all sent the re-adjudication : ITALY does not build A(Ven), and RUSSIA builds A(Mos) & A(War). Note the C.O.A. for Tim, as above.*
The deadline for Fall 1907 orders, retreats and adjustments is FRIDAY, 27th MARCH, 1992, to Peter Sullivan, 16 Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorks., DL7 8NN. Telephone (0609) 777074.

No PRESS.

Fall 1903 (1991 DQ)

Regular Diplomacy

"THIS BOY/RINGO' S THEME"

AUSTRIA (Mick Dunnett, 171 Lodge Hill Lane, Chattenden, Nr, Rochester, Kent, ME3 8NW.) ;
F(Gre) S ITALIAN F(ION), A(Ser) S F(Gre), A(Rum) S A(Gal),
 A(Bud) S A(Rum), A(Gal) S A(Rum).

ENGLAND (Chris Q. Hardy, 60 Heworth Green, YORK, North Yorks., YO3 7TQ.) ;
 F(SKA) S F(Den), F(Den) S RUSSIAN F(Swe)-BAL, A(Bre) S FRENCH A(Pic)-Par,
 F(ENG) S A(Bre).

FRANCE (Kern Dingsdale, 7 Pointers Close, Docklands, LONDON, E14 3AP.) ;
 F(MAO)-NAO, A(Pic)-Par, A(Bur)-Mun, F(SpaSc)*-Mar.

GERMANY (Rob Trealar, 3 Trethannas Gardens, Praze-an-Beeble, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0LL.) ;
 F(Kie)-HEL, A(Hol)-Kie, A(Bel) stands, F(BAL)-Ber, A(Lvn)-Mos.

ITALY (Ian Williams [term] St. John's College, OXFORD, Oxon., OX1 3JP.) ;
A(Pie)-Mar, F(GOL)-SpaSc, A(Gas) S F(GOL)-SpaSc, F(ION) S AUSTRIAN F(Gre),
 F(TYS)-WMS, A(Ven)-Pie.

RUSSIA (Mike Clark, Auchtydore, Longside, Peterhead, Grampian, Scotland, AB42 7YL.) ;
A(Sil)-Mun, A(Ukr)-Mos, F(Swe)-BAL, F(Arm)-Sev, F(GOB) S F(Swe)-BAL.

TURKEY (Graham Nesbitt, 123 Pendrea Park, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 8PQ.) ;
A(Bul)-Gre, [F(BLA) S AUSTRIAN A(Bul)-Sev] (no such AUSTRIAN unit),
A(Con)-Bul, F(AEG) S A(Bul)-Gre, F(EMS)-ION.

RETREAT : FRENCH F(SpaSc)-MAO

1903 WINTER ADJUSTMENTS :

AUSTRIA : Vie, Bud, Tri, Rum, Ser, +Gre	=6 +F(Tri)
ENGLAND : Lon, Lpl, Edi, Nwy, +Den +Bre	=6 +A(Lon), F(Edi)
FRANCE : Par, Bre, Bel, Por	=2 -F(MAO), A(Par)
GERMANY : Ber, Kie, Mun, Den, Hol, +Bel	=5 no change
ITALY : Rom, Nap, Ven, Tun, Mar, Spa.	=6 no change
RUSSIA : Mos, StP, War, Sev, Swe.	=5 no change
TURKEY : Con, Ank, Smy, Bul, Gre.	=4 -F(EMS)
	<u>34</u>

GENEVA ; *It is indeed too early for an end-game proposal. The rules on signing over units are in the houserules - see section 7.*

The deadline for Spring 1904 orders & retreats is FRIDAY, 27th MARCH, 1992, to Peter Sullivan, 16 Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorks., DL7 8NN. Telephone (0609) 777074.

PRESS :

ITALY - FRANCE : Sorry for the initial attack. But a full-blown Northern Opening was far too tempting. Now you die.

PARIS - ENGLAND, GERMANY, ITALY : You're not on the list, you can't come in.

Round 8 (RR ??? FR)

Railway Rivals

"REVOLUTION 9"

- 8) (66-06) Nice — Spain : NULLA 20-9 ; DIMPLES +9.
 9) (41-61) Strasbourg — Grenoble : PROF 20-1-3 ; TTT 10+3 ; DIMPLES 0 ; NULLA +1.
 10) (15-45) Rouen — Lyon : NULLA 20-4+1 ; DIMPLES 10 ; TTT 0 ; PROF 0-1+4.
 11) (22-13) Cherbourg — Paris : TTT 20-7-4 ; PROF 10+7+7 ; PAPAL 0-7+4.
 12) (35-53) Metz — Toulouse : NULLA 20-10 ; PAPAL 10-2 ; PROF +10+2.
 13) (55-26) Bayonne — La Rochelle : NULLA 20+10 ; PAPAL 10-10.
 14) (05-32) Italy — Dunkerque : DIMPLES 20.

DIMPLES [red] (David Oya, 24 Kingsway, Banbury, Oxon., OX16 9NY,)

(H26) - H23 [-1 N] - Montpellier ; (E70) - G71 ; (Z19) - Orleans.

-10-1

NULL-A [green] (Peter Haslehurst, 16 Falcon's Way, SALISBURY, Wiltshire, SP2 8NR,)

(Orleans) - A58 [-3 Pr] - B57 - Paris - H60 [-3 D] [-8 Pr] [-1 Pa] - J59 [-1 D] [-1 T].

-10-11-4-1-1

TTT [black] (Tom Smith, 16, Thunwood, Chineham, Basingstoke, RG24 0TE,)

(J28) - F30 [-1 D] ; (I56) - J56 - J57.

-10-1

PROF [yellow] (Martyn Hathaway, 19 Gresham Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM, West Mids., B28 03A,)

(Paris) - I61 [-3 D] - J60 ; (S17) - S21 - R21 [-15 Pa] [-1 D].

-10-15-4

PAPAL [blue] (Chris Davis, 20 Carlyle Road, Edgbaston, BIRMINGHAM, West Mids., B16 9BJ,)

(Limoges) - S17 [-8 Pr] - S21 - R21 [-1 D].

-7-8-1

Scores on the Doors :

	<u>b/f</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>builds</u>	<u>c/f</u>
DIMPLES	97	9	0	10				20	-11+10	135
NULL-A	86	11	1	17		10	30		-27 +1	129
TTT	86		13	0	9				-11 +1	98
PROF	40		16	3	24	12			-29+19	85
PAPAL	97				-3	8	0		-16+16	102

Runs for Round Nine :

- 15) (21-62) Brest — Montpellier
 17) (43-25) Dijon — Orleans
 19) (63-36) Marseille — Nancy
 21) (03-51) Germany — Clermont Ferrand
 16) (54-44) Bordeaux — Lyon
 18) (33-12) Lille — Paris
 20) (16-04) Le Havre — Switzerland

GENEVA : PROF pays 1 to NULL-A & 1 to bank for (L13)-K13, missed last time. B/f scores adjusted. You may enter up to 4 of the above races, then build up to 8 physical points of track. The deadline for Round Eight orders is FRIDAY, 27th MARCH, 1992, to Peter Sullivan, 16 Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorkshire, DL7 8NN. Telephone (0609) 777074.

Spring 1902 (91 DW)

Regular Diplomacy

"SHE SAID SHE SAID"

TYROLIAN VALLEYS RESONATE TO GUNFIRE - Press War Breaks Out

AUSTRIA (Eoghan Barry, 21 Grove Lane, Grove Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, IRISH REPUBLIC.) ;
F(Gre)-AEG, A(Ser)-Gre, A(Tri) S A(Bud)-Ser, A(Bud)-Ser, A(Vie)-Tyr.

ENGLAND (Ian Moore, 39 Chalfont Road, Malahide, Co. Dublin, IRISH REPUBLIC.) ;
F(Nwy)*stands, F(NTH) S F(Nwy), A(Yor)-Lon, F(Edi)-NWG.

FRANCE (Ashley Fox, 26 Cherry Road, CHESTER, CH3 5DX., Gt. Britain.) ;
F(Por)-MAO, A(Spa)-Mar, A(Bur) S A(Par)-Pic, F(Bre)-ENG, A(Par)-Pic.

GERMANY (David Hood, 2905 20th Street NE, Hickory, NC 28601, UNITED STATES.) ;
F(Hol)-NTH, A(Kie)-Den, A(Bel)-Hol, A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Ber)-Mun.

ITALY (Martyn Hathaway, 19 Gresham Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM, B28 03A., Gt. Britain.) ;
A(Rom)-Ven, F(Tun)-ION, A(Tyr)-Boh, A(Ven)-Tyr.

RUSSIA (Michael Gonsalves, 530 Treasure Lake, Dubois, PA 15801, UNITED STATES.) ;
A(Arm)-Smy, A(Ukr)-Rum, F(Swe) S F(StPnc)-Nwy, F(Rum)-BLA, F(StPnc)-Nwy,
 A(Mos) stands.

TURKEY (Denis Jones, 75 Kingston Road, ILFORD, Essex, IG1 1PB., Gt. Britain.) ;
A(Bul)-Rum, F(AEG) S AUSTRIAN F(Gre)-ION [no such order], A(Con)-Smy,
 A(Ank) S A(Con)-Smy.

RETREAT : ENGLISH F(Nwy)-SKA.

GENEVA : Game-end proposals are not permitted - even joke ones - until the end of 1905. The deadline for Fall 1902 orders, retreats and adjustments is FRIDAY, 24th APRIL, 1992, to Peter Sullivan, 16 Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorks., DL7 8NN. Telephone +44 609 777074.

PRESS :

NO DATELINE: Although it was not in the Master's nature to be generous, he decided to permit Europe to surrender rather than face his fiendish plans. Besides, the sooner this little squabble was over, the sooner he could turn his attention to the rest of the world.

LONDON CALLING : I don't want to come across as some sort of boring spoilsport, yet I feel obliged to point out that not merely do I not possess a little black beret, but also I do not have a Guy-Fawkes type beard either. I hope this serves to clarify the situation, and dispel any misunderstandings.

HOODFIEND - PRESS WRITER : One clarification on the word "y'all." It is only used for the plural "you," not the singular "you." If you want a negative tone when saying the plural you, the better way to say it would be "you all." If you really want to talk hillbilly, use "y'uns" instead of "y'all".

"WE HAVE NO FAITH, WE HAVE NO BROTHERS, NOR ANY PICTURES ON THE WALL" : The music faded into the distance as the song ended, and the bloated Wildean figure lounging on the Ottoman, turned to the emaciated colonial who was seating in the acolyte's position. "Now you see, Hardy, that this lyric is an example of the influence even to this day of the Cathars on our so-called permissive secular society, whatever one of those may be. Now, as you will remember, there are two kinds of Cathar, the White Cathars such as those slain at Montsegur, and the

black Cathars such as Hubertus Nivalis, whose tomb is mentioned in Raven's In the Image of God..."

Hardy raised his eyes to heaven, Bowen was off again, a pot pourri of vague connections, obscure quotations and even vaguer theology looked like it was on the cards for this evening. Why hadn't he stayed home for an exciting evening re-working the odds in Warlock? "...now, of course, the logical rejection of God as Demiurge..." Hardy started to settle down to sleep, this monologue went on for ages, when suddenly there was a loud knock at the door and Hardy was thrown aside as the door hit his slight form.

A man stood there, very tall with dark hair and a weatherbeaten but noble countenance. He spoke in a rich baritone. "Which of you is the Pollmaster?" Bowen, who had sprung to attention at the sight of this man, replied weakly, "I run the Zeen Poll, what is it to you? And how the hell did you get in here?" The tall man smiled, a thin, bitter smile. "How I got here is not the question, you run the Zeen Poll, you must therefore be Bowen, Steward of the Poll and Walkerdine's Heir. Gather your things swiftly and come with me now. Zeenland is in danger and needs you.

Bowen was staring, he looked at the man calmly and said "Zeenland does not concern me any longer, I took the test and chose to live and diminish, it is no longer important since Teznic left us and Walkerdine was slain at Europa. The young no longer believe in it, but mock it. Hangus MudCon is a ruin, the SkyTower abandoned. Only the Heath of the Forgotten Ones is still occupied, what danger can there be to a desert and waste land filled with rusting Mimeos and forgotten men. It is a thing of my past, and not of my future." Hardy looked at Bowen, fat, he still was, ugly he always will be, but he'd assumed the tone of a lordly man and a light had been re-kindled in his eyes. Hardy cowered in his corner and wondered what was going on.

The tall man sighed, and threw an envelope at Bowen. "From the Cee-Mage, sire. He and Crazy Markie have formed an alliance, they wish you to join them at Eboracum. The shadowy figures of Londinium are moving again, Brisk the Barbarian, Phyrrie Mike and Oaken Paul, they have new recruits now, but their leader is most fell. Denies has entered Zeenland again."

"Denies fell at Europa along with Walkerdine and many others. I will not return for a phantom, and the rest are names from the dim past, shadows with a foot in the grave. For this the Cee-Mage sends the Red Issue?" Bowen turned away and picked up a copy of De Sade's Juliette.

The tall man stepped forward, snatched the book out of Bowen's hands and threw it to the floor. "This filth is corrupting your mind, sire, the Cee-Mage warned, you have not understood, The Disgusting Jones is abroad again, he has returned from other spheres, there is even a rumour of Wild David Hickory, known as the Hooded One. The North must rise or be defeated. Will you come?"

Bowen looked strangely at the tall man, and rose, "This once, for the sake of the Cee-Mage and for his sake only. Well, I'll have to be going now, Chris, see you sometime." Bowen's tone ringing like that of a condemned man in the death cell. "Let's go, twinkie, but I'll know your name first."

The tall man almost smiled and looked at Hardy, piercing him with his eyes. "He is to come too, it may be that even one such as he has some small part to play in this. As for my name, do you not know it?"

NO DATELINE : Special Agent Hood was feeling odd. He knew it had something to do with being first force-fed the dragged through Central London by an incomprehensible Englishman and an Irishman who was not much better. They had lead him into a club that played loud music and had flashing lights. The people were odd, his brain was working in three separate angles at once, and that cute girl had amazingly long fingernails.

"Come on, mate, think," said a voice beside him. Hood realised that this man was getting at him. He flashed his eyes around and noticed that everyone was giving him funny looks. And the lights were searchlights, and moving around the place, looking for him. He moved off in a bid to escape.

Suddenly, a hand was on his shoulder. "Pull yourself together, man, don't shit yourself now." It was the disgusting Jones.

Hood then realised that Jones was doing him a favour, he was about to crap in his pants. Quickly he pushed and punched his way through the crowd. He was screaming, close to tears, trying to get to the toilet. As he made it through the door, he was sure he heard Jones say, "We'll try PCP on him next time."

Sitting on the toilet in the cubicle, Hood found he was having the oddest shit in his life. He was certain shit was coming out, but he he knew he had not yet finished and it felt so odd, he was not sure that he was dumping anything, there was no feeling. Meanwhile, the door was spinning round, his trousers were trying to escape, and the ceiling looked like it was about to collapse. Hood then realised the ceiling was about to fall down, he jumped off the toilet seat, realised he was about to let a large log out, sat back down, and got smothered in tons of yoghurt.

SOMEWHERE IN NORTH CAROLINA : Hood was confused, very confused. A moment ago he had been in a pub talking to the Jones creature; now he was in North Carolina, sitting at the front of pa's house.

As far as the eye could see, there was good green cotton ripe for the picking. And picking the cotton were his share-croppers, miserable creatures paid dirt-cheap wages for their long hours ; but what other use could you find for a Canadian? Canadians were brutes with little wit about them, and needed looking after.

A few miles down the road, a man, tall and with the look of one who had been on the road for weeks, got off the lorry which had taken him so far, and looked at the collection of houses and shops that made up the Main Street of Hoodsville. Picking up his bag, he walked into a bar, and asked where he might find a job.

Hood didn't know it, but life in Hoodsville would never be the same again...

Round 12 (RR ??? J)

Railway Rivals (Map J)

"POLYTHENE PAM"

ERRATA : Race 26 was entered wrongly in the Scores on the Doors section ; it should have been YEx 3, JOB 5, SDu 33 and BSh 12. Brought forward scores have been adjusted. Also, TNC built (H89)-H92.

- 31) (25-23) Burnley — Blackburn : no entry
 Keighley — Blackburn : SDu 20.
 Burnley — Harrogate : JRo 20 ; BSh 10.
 Keighley — Harrogate : no entry
- 32) (61-13) Manchester — Morecombe : JRo 10-2+2 ; SDu 10-1 ; BTW 10-3 ;
 (3-way tie) JIR 0-2+3+1 ; BLOW +2.
 Lincoln — Morecombe : no entry
 Manchester — Hull : YEx 20-1-2-6 ; JIR +1 ; SDu +2 ; BTW +6.
 Lincoln — Hull : TNC 20.
- 33) (51-43) Widnes — Bolton : BLOW 20-3 ; JRo 4-3+3 ; JIR 3 ; BTW 3 ;
 (3-way tie) SDu 0+3.
 Sheffield — Bolton : TNC 20-4-9 ; SVi 10-7+4 ; JIR +9 ; JRo +7.
 Widnes — Wakefield : no entry
 Sheffield — Wakefield : JOB 20+3 ; YEx 10-3 ; BSh 0.
- 34) (12-34) Heysham — Liverpool : JRo 20 ; BTW 10.
 Grimsby — Liverpool : BLOW/JOB 20-5 ; TNC +5.
 Heysham — Leeds : JIR 20-3-3-2-5 ; SDu/BSh 10 ; JRo +3+3 ;
 BSh +5 ; SDu +2.
 Grimsby — Leeds : TNC 20-1 ; JOB +1.
- 35) (46-63) Bacup — Manchester : BLOW 20+2+2+1 ; JIR 10-1+1+1 ;
 SDu 0-2-1-1+2 ; BTW 0-2-2-1+1.
 Dinnington — Manchester : TNC 20-8+6 ; SVi 10-6-2 ;
 JIR +8 ; BLOW +2.
 Bacup — Worksop : BSh 20.
 Dinnington — Worksop : illegal

36) (36-52) Southport — Warrington : JRo 20-2-2 ; BLOW 10+2 ; BSh +2.
 Dewsbury — Warrington : JIR 20-1-1-5 ; TNC +5 ; BSh +1 ; SVi +1.
 Southport — Sheffield : no entry
 Dewsbury — Sheffield : BSh 20+1+1 ; SVi 10-1+1+4 ;
 JOB 0 ; TNC 0-1-1-4.

Scores on the Doors :

	b/f	31	32	33	34	35	36	tot
JIR (Ulf Jiretorn)	360		3	12	7	19	13	414
TNC (Ulf Jiretorn)	354		20	7	24	18	-1	422
BTW (Phil Callow)	418		13	3	10	-4		440
YEx (Phil Callow)	205		11	7				223
BLOW (Iain Bowen)	342		2	17	8	27	12	408
JOB (Iain Bowen)	201			23	8		0	232
JRot (Harry Bond)	170	20	10	11	26		16	253
SVic (Harry Bond)	158			7		2	15	182
SDum (Damien Cosgrove)	240	20	11	3	7	-2		279
BShi (Damien Cosgrove)	207	<u>10</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	272
		<u>50</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>80</u>	

PLAYER TOTALS : Ulf Jiretorn 836 ; Phil Callow 663 ; Iain Bowen 640 ;
 Damien Cosgrove 551 ; Harry Bond 435.

GENEVA : Congratulations to Ulf, and thanks to the rest of you for playing.
 The deadline for any end-game statements is FRIDAY, 27th MARCH, 1992, to Peter Sullivan, 16 Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorks., DL7 8NN.

Rounds 2 & 3 (RR 635 MX)

Railway Rivals (Isle of Man)

"NETHERWHITTON"

TAILLESS [green] (Thane Duffield) ; 2a) (Douglas) - R20 - R19 ; 2b) (R20) - U19 ; 2c)
 (U19) - V19 - Inierbreck - X19 - Y19. =29+6=35

NORTON [red] (Robin ap Cynan) ; 2a) (Z29) - X28 - X24 ; 2b) (X24) - X23 ; (Ramsey) -
 J68 ; 2c) (X23) - X21 - W21 - V21. =32

NOSTROMO [brown] (Conrad von Metzke) ; 2a) (Douglas) - K20 ; 2b) (K20) - Port Soderick
 - K18 - J17 - J16 - K16 ; 2c) (K16) - K15 - Ballasalla. =29+12=41

IMPS [blue] (Dave Erridge) ; 2a) (St Johns) - S11 - Foxdale - P11 ; (Crosby) - R16 ;
 2b) (P11) - O12 ; (Y11) - A52 ; 2c) (O12) - M11 - L11 - K11. =32+6=38

TAILLESS [green] (Thane Duffield, 1 McIntyre Road, Stocksbridge, SHEFFIELD, South Yorks, S30 5DG.)
 3a) (Y27) - A66 - Bungalow ; 3b) (Y19) - Z18 - B59 ; 3c) (R19) - R18 - S18
 - Crosby - S15 [-3 I] - R14. =35+3-3[I]+2[Nr]=37

NORTON [red] (Robin ap Cynan, The Store Barn, Church Street, Madeley, TELFORD, Shropshire, TF7 5BU.)
 3a) (J68) - J64 ; 3b) (J64) - Sulby - I62 ; 3c) (V21) - R19 [-2 T].
 =32+6-2[T]=36

NOSTROMO [brown] (Conrad von Metzke, 4374 Donald Avenue, San Diego, CA 92117, UNITED STATES.)
 3a) (Y27) - A66 - Bungalow ; 3b) (Ballasalla) - H12 - F11 ; 3c) (F11) -
 Castletown ; (F11) - H9 - Ballabeg - H7. =41+3=44

IMPS [blue] (Dave Erridge, 47 Edridge Road, CROYDEN, CRO 1EG.)
 3a) (K11) - K9 ; 3b) (K9) - I8 - Ballabeg ; (I8) - I7 - Colby ;
 3c) (Colby) - Port St Mary ; (F5) - Port Erin ; (A52) - B52. =38+24+3[T]=65

GENEVA : Rolls for Round Four are 3, 4, 4. The provisional deadline for
 Round Four builds is FRIDAY, 27th MARCH, 1992 to Peter Sullivan, 16, Neile
 Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorks., DL7 8NN. Phone (0609) 777074.

pre-Blotmath I (88AM ts19) International Definitive Downfall
"BRAISED CELERY"

DWARVES (Doug Rowling{/), c/o Department of Defense, Naval Engineering Services, CPI-5-B6, Campbell Park Offices, CANBERRA, ACT 2600, Australia.) :
GONDOR (Iain Bowen) : MORDOR (Mark Nelson) : ROHAN (John Cain{/)) :
SARUMAN (John Dods) : UMBAR (Gary Lyon{/)).

GENEVA : {/} = orders on file. Please note the revised address for Doug, as above. The revised deadline for votes, Blotmath I 3019 orders & retreats and adjustments is FRIDAY, 27th MARCH, 1992, to Peter Sullivan, 16 Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorks., DL7 8NN. Telephone +44-609-777074.

Round 2 (RR ??? IX) Railway Rivals (Iowa Praire Development)
"U KNOW MY NAME"

The day the railroad came to Marshalltown...

HTT [yellow] (Mark Nelson, 21 Cecil Mount, Armley, LEEDS, West Yorkshire, LS12 2AB,)
2a) (L31) - What Cheer [+2½] - Q29 ; 2b) (Q29) - S28 - Marshalltown [+½]
[-6 L] ; 2c) (S26) - Ames [+½] [-12 L] - S20. =29+4-18[L]+10[T]=25

UTAH [green] (Andy Cripps, 62 Jespson House, Pearscroft Road, Fulham, LONDON, SW6 2BG,)
2a) (H30) - Ottumwa [+3] - H25 ; 2b) (H25) - H24 - Chariton [+3] - K23 ;
2c) (K23) - Des Moines [+3] - Q20 [-1 L]. =28+9-1[L]=36

MM [blue] (Phil Callow, 82 Langham Court, Mersey Road, West Didsbury, MANCHESTER, M20 8PY,)
2a) (L31) - What Cheer [+2½] - O30 - O28 ; 2b) (O28) - Newton [+3] - O24 ;
2c) (O24) - O23 - N22 - Des Moines [+3] - N19 - O19. =26+8½=34½

CNN [red] (Peter Ritchie, 241 Days Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 8JX,)
2a) (O33) - Belle Plain [+3] - S31 - S30 ; 2b) (S30) - Tama [+2] -
Marshalltown [+½] [-6 L] ; 2c) (Marshalltown) - Ames [+½] [-12 L]
[1 short]. =26+6½-18[L]+10[T]=24½

TTT [purple] (Tom Smith, 16 Thunwood, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hants., RG24 0TE,)
2a) (Cedar Rapids) - S32 - Belle Plain [+2] - R30 ; 2b) (R30) - R29 - Tama
- S27 [-1 L] [-5 H] [-5 C] [-5 K] [-5 S] ; 2c) (S27) - Marshalltown - S24
[-5 L] [-5 H] [-5 C] [-5 K] [-5 S] - P22.
=28+2-6[L]-10[H]-10[C]-10[K]-10[S]=-16-4=-20

KILLDOZER [black] (Denis Jones, 75 Kingston Road, ILFORD, Essex, I61 1PB,)
2a) (Cedar Rapids) - S30 ; 2b) (S30) - Tama [+2] - Marshalltown [+½]
[-6 L] ; 2c) (Marshalltown) - Ames [+½] [-12 L] - S20.
=29½+3½+10[T]-18[L]=25

SMILE [brown] (David Oya, 24 Kingsway, Banbury, Oxon., OX16 9NY,)
2a) (Cedar Rapids) - S30 ; 2b) (S30) - Tama [+2] - Marshalltown [+½]
[-6 L] ; 2c) (Marshalltown) - Ames [+½] [-12 L] - S20.
=29½+3½+10[T]-18[L]=25

LIES! [orange] (Damien "rich" Cosgrove, c/o ACDMM, Cambridge Univ Engineering Dept,
Trumpington Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 1PZ,)
2a) (Waterloo) - W30 - W29 - Reinbeck [+3] - T27 ; 2b) (T27) - S27 -
Marshalltown [+3] - S24 ; 2c) (S24) - Ames [+3] - Q20 - Q19 ≠ Perry
[too far]. =29+9+15[H]+1[U]+15[C]+6[T]+15[K]+15[S]=105

NEW TOWNS : 4♥ = Belle Plain ; 5♥ = Tama ; 6♥ = Marshalltown ; 2♠ = What Cheer ; A♠ = Ames

GENEVA : MM builds only to L31 last turn. B/f scores and this turn's builds duly adjusted. Rolls for Round Three : 4, 5, 5. The deadline for Round Three orders is FRIDAY, 27th MARCH, 1992 to Peter Sullivan, 16, Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorks., DL7 8NN. Phone (0609) 777074.

WHILE MY GUITAR GENTLY SWEEPS February 1992

Arfle Barfle Gloop 39 sees Kris Morris' 40th birthday mentioned several times. Apart from that, the ABG lettercolumn continues, with a serious tone introduced by Jason Asker writing about one of his penfriends, a prisoner on Death Row in the U.S.A. An article on this is promised for next issue.

Buckeye Rail Gazette #18 arrives, with editor Ken Hill getting back into the swing of things after a few late issues. Ken Hill is still involved not only in the postal games scene, but also in the electronic mail hobby. There is a thriving games scene on the U.S. electronic-mail COMPUSERVE service, which can be reached by typing "GO PBMGAMES" at the system prompt, or by e-mailing Ken.

Carolina Command and Commentary #46 features news of DixieCon VI, which will be held over the weekend of Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th May 1992, at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC. There will be a small British presence at this convention, but I won't be able to make it. Contact David Hood, 2905, 20th Street NE, Hickory, NC 28601, U.S.A. for further details of the convention.

Disorientated Express #22, a Grendel Press Publication, has an "Questions to Last Issue's Answers" feature, in which the correct question to "Yes" is revealed as "Which is longer, a coon's age or a year of Sundays?" In the meantime, there are several games of R.R. being run here as well in a small, unpretentious zeen.

Electric Monk 35 contains the news that Andy and Madelaine are setting up their own small postal secondhand book business, to be called A & M Books. It will specialise in childrens' books (Madelaine) and science fiction (Andy), and I'm sure we all wish them lots of luck with this venture. Meanwhile, Richard Walkerdine drops various hints about a job somewhere else - since then, the news media have been full of stories about redundancies at British Aerospace.

Greatest Hits 169 sees Pete Birks draw up to joint second in the all-time production list, and will thus overtake the neo-flyer BDC Journal with his next issue. This GH has a detailed article on the approaching election, and a large lettercolumn, featuring such hobby has-beens as Jonathan Palfrey, Malcolm Smith, Geoff Challenger, Richard Walkerdine and Guy Thomas (*shome mistake shurely?*)

Monochrome 42 features a transcript of an interview with John Adams, who wrote the opera "Nixon in China" which was featured on Channel 4 over Christmas, and has now written an opera based on the hi-jacking of the Achille Lauro. As Adams says, people tend to associate opera with very archaic and old-fashioned stories, and thus his work tends to be labelled "avant-garde" when in fact they are (apart from the subject matter) fairly traditional operatic pieces.

Mouth of Sauron Vol VII No VI weighs in at 52 pages, with Mark Nelson continuing to chat about burning issues raised in the hobby press over the past few months, like Tournament Rules, Deliberate Misorders and Mushroom Recipies (*shome mistake, shurley?*). Apart from that, this issue is notable for the number of times my name is mentioned in the chat, probably more times than in several issues of CMag. MoS's chat issues are about quarterly; there are also player-only games issues which I'm not sure if anyone's ever seen...

Ode 132 bounces back with a chat-packed issue, with John Marsden ruminating on politics, the definition of a Diplomacy variant, and the thorny question of software piracy, his employers having just been put on the rack by FAST (Federation Against Software Theft). And David Watts reveals that he has found another German games company interested in Railway Rivals, so Dampfroß will be

going back into production, with Bavaria, European Russia, Kentucky-Tennessee and Ireland as the featured maps.

Realpolitik 75 features Guy Thomas being rude about Egypt, and (wrongly) predicting that CMag will be the first to break the Zeen Poll results. It also features a Keith Pottage article about Fairy Chess, a subject which I used to follow avidly when I was a semi-respectable chess player. Keith mentions several Fairy Chess ideas I'd not seen before, the best-named of which must be the Edgehog, a piece which can move like a Queen, but only if its move either starts or ends on an edge square.

Springboard 55 looks at the differences between the old and new Diplomacy rulebooks, with Danny coming across several examples where the new Gibsons rules-sheet is ambiguous, or even downright contradictory to previous rulebooks. The best/worst one is that no format is prescribed for the convoy order (only 'suggested') which means things like "A(Nap)-Tun, F(ION) convoys" are arguably legal. Stick with the 1971/76 rulebook, say I, and none of this is a problem.

A Step Further Out 47 sees Steve Howe bemoaning "Zeen Editors' Blues," but still managing to produce an article on jazz (entitled "I Thought Darktown Strutters Ball Was A Social Disease Until I Discovered Smirnoff.") and a lettercolumn. This issue also features the end-game statements for one of the games I orphaned to ASFO after the fold of Wilt!?, and which, according to Steve, originally started in a zeen called "Map Dolicy." Must admit I've not heard of that one before...

Up Around the Bend VIII is a theme issue, as young Haz assumes the mantle of Frankie Howard's Lurcio from Up Pompeii. Not at all bad it is either, even if my favourite bit was trying to translate the zeen names in the hobbynews back from Latin, a pastime not available to the vast *lumpenproletariat* who were unfortunate enough to be deprived of an education in the classics.

In the meantime, Harry Bond's revelation that Nick Kinzett would be running the Rusty Bolts again has been denied by Coventry sources, leading the N.Y.G.B. Think Tank to believe that Haz was intending a takeover bid himself. In fact, this issue sees him launch the Gladrags Awards, which I believe/hope are not meant to be taken as a serious attempt to run a Poll.

Victoriana 54 features the results from World Dip Con III, which had 80 people in attendance, including 2 from Britain, 2 from France, 1 each from the U.S.A. and Germany, and a smattering of New Zealanders. The winner of the tournament was Steve Gould of Adelaide; he hopes to be at WDC IV in Birmingham in 1994 to defend his title! Shaun Derrick was the leading British player, in 16th place, whilst Dane Maslen won the Multi-player Boardgames tournament.

Y Ddraig Goch 61 features a Cosmo-style manners-and-mores self-test quiz entitled "Are you FANNISH?," in which I managed to score 39 out of a maximum 50. A sample question:

"The lettercolumn in Gas Nun is flagging. What would you do?"

- a) Write a long letter about your argument with your friend Keith on the Unwanted Convoy.
- b) Suggest the editors drop it for a couple of 18xx gamestarts.
- c) I don't write letters to letter columns.
- d) Write a cheerful, blasé letter about cycling or T.V. programmes.
- e) Scribe a 5-page over-the-top you're-doomed letter in the best style of Hunter S. Thompson, then get drunk and forget to post it."

Also in this issue is the first article in an ongoing rules forum for Grand Scenario Empires of the Middle Ages. People who like this sort of thing will find this the sort of thing they like.

I can't remember if I've recently mentioned BAYCON '92, but another run-down of the details seems appropriate. This is the spring convention down in the

West Country, which has been going now for six years. This year's event is on the weekend of Thursday 23rd April to Sunday 26th April, at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, which is 5 miles outside Exeter on the main A38.

The main event over the weekend is the Victor Ludorum, which takes account of all games played at the convention, and there will also be subsidiary competitions for Gibsons Games and Rostherne Games. The convention fee is £8 per person for the whole weekend, and accomodation is available at the hotel for £22 per night sharing, or £32.50 for a single, including breakfast. However, these rates also apply if you want to extend your stay either before or after the convention to make a holiday of it, which is useful.

The person to contact for bookings is Bob Mulholland, 16 Cordrington Street, Newton, Exeter, Devon, EX1 2BU. Cheques for the convention fee should be made payable to "Baycon" - accomodation is payable to the hotel at the weekend, as is usual at these hotel-based conventions.

The next NORTH YORKSHIRE HOBBYMEET will be at the Tap and Spile, Monk Bar, York, on Sunday 8th March 1992, commencing at 12 noon. Directions are available from myself or Iain Bowen.

EDITORIAL ADDRESSES :

- Arfle Barfle Gloop, A4 pc, 34 pages, six-weekly, 50p + postage
Kris & Michele Morris, 293 Barn Mead, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6SY.
- Buckeye Rail Gazette, A4 pc, 13 pages, twice-monthly, invitational.
Ken Hill, 6199 Rockland Drive, Dublin, OH 43017, UNITED STATES.
- Carolina Command and Commentary, A5 pc, 20 pages, monthly, US\$1.50
Michael Lowrey, 3005 Kenninghall Court, Charlotte, NC 28269, UNITED STATES.
- Disorientated Express, A4 computer print, 5 pages, not known, invitational.
Conrad von Metzke, 4347 Donald Avenue, San Diego, CA 92117, UNITED STATES.
- Electric Mook, A5 pc, 28 pages, 46p + postage
Andy Key & Maddie Smith, 144 Ferrinsfield, Venymore, Lechlade, Gloucs., GL7 3SE.
- Greatest Hits, A4 pc, 28 pages, 70p.
Pete Birks, 181 Friern Road, East Dulwich, LONDON, SE22 0BD.
- Mouth of Sauron, A5 pc, 52 pages, quarterly, varies.
Mark Nelson, 21 Cecil Mount, Armley, LEEDS, West Yorkshire, LS12 2AP.
- Monochrome, A4 pc, 10 pages, 2-weeklyish, invitational.
Robin ap Cynan, The Store Barn, Church St, Maderley, TELFORD, Shropshire, TF7 5BU.
- Ode, A5 pc, 32 pages, 6-weekly, 65p.
John Marsden, 33 Weston Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3HA.
- Realpolitik, A4 pc, 28 pages, six-weekly, 60p
Guy Thomas, 8 Tithe Court, Parlaunt Road, Langley, SLOUGH, Berkshire, SL3 8AS.
- Springboard, A4 mimeo, 42 pages, five-weekly, 40p + postage.
Danny & Kath Collman, 14 Westover Road, Handsworth Wood, BIRMINGHAM, B20 1JG.
- A Step Further Out, A4 mimeo, 16 pages, monthly, 50p.
Steve Howe, 1 Castle Court, Castle Lane, Hadleigh, BENFLEET, Essex, SS7 2AE.
- Up Around The Bend, A4 pc, 26 pages, five-weekly, 30p + postage.
Harry Bond, 13 Merrivale Road, STAFFORD, Staffordshire., ST17 9EB.
- Victoriana, A4 pc, 12 pages, five-weekly, AUS\$2.00
John Cain, P.O. Box 4317, Melbourne Univeristy, VIC 3052, AUSTRALIA.
- Y ddraig Goch, A5 pc, 20 pages, six-weekly, 60p.
Iain Bowen, 5 Wigginton Terrace, YORK, North Yorkshire, YO3 7JD.

"He trod across the wall-to-wall carpet, which depicted in gold Richard M. Nixon's final ascent into heaven, amid joyous singing above the wails of misery below. At the far door, he trod on God, who was smiling a lot as He received his Second Only Begotten Son back into His bosom, and pushed open the door..."

- Philip K. Dick, Flow My Tears, the Policeman Said

IT'S GETTING VERY NEAR THE END

Now that the repeats of The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin have ended, I shall have to see if I can obtain a complete set of the David Nobbs books on which the series was based. In the meantime, this is issue 111 of that "Great" (or "Super") zeen, C'est Magnifique. I didn't get where I am today without knowing that this zeen runs Diplomacy, variants and Railway Rivals. Neither Mrs. C. J. or I have ever forgotten that it is edited and privished by Peter Sullivan, 16 Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorkshire, DL7 8NN. (He's On Green on (0609) 777074.)

Those who wish to strike whilst the iron is shining (or make hay whilst the sun is hot), may wish to subscribe at the NEW PRICE of 45p an issue, or £6 for 14, unless of course there's been a bit of a cock-up on the finance front. Deadline City, Arizona is FRIDAY, 27th MARCH, 1992, with telephone orders no later than 10 p.m. *the previous night*.

YOU NEVER GIVE ME YOUR MONEY : Players will receive the zeen first class, and overseas subscribers will receive it by Air Mail, both at no extra cost. Cheques should be made payable to Peter Sullivan, or send a book of stamps. I believe the International Subscription Exchange is in limbo at the moment, so check first.

The number in round brackets on your address label is the last issue of your current sub. **Running low** : Edward Ainsworth, Kern Dingsdale, Mick Dunnett, Simon Greatrix, Nick Kinzett, Bruce Maclean, Ian Moore.

WAITING LISTS

Regular Diplomacy : David Wetherall, Mike Clark (5 wanted) [Gamefee 3 issues]

International Downfall VII Stand-bys for "BRAISED CELERY" : James Nelson(*). (more needed) [no Gamefee]

Postal Monopoly : Pete Gaughan, Alan Coulthard, Mike Clark. (2 wanted) [Gamefee 1 issue]. *Last call for this one*

Railway Rivals (Map E - Atlantic & Erie) : (up to 8 wanted) [Gamefee 2 issues].

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This has been C'est Magnifique 111, Startling Press Production 126-ish.