

"Well," said Hannibal, "here's glory indeed! We've made the front page!"  
"I always knew thirteen was an unlucky number," sighed Hasdrubal.  
"But don't you even realise what this means?" exclaimed Hannibal.  
Hasdrubal sighed again. "Yes, it means we're going to delay our journey to Britain by yet another issue"

MOVES

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 \*\* E T H I L T H E F R O G \*\*  
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More comment on the Abstraction rules  
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Following comments to me by two of Ethil's readers, Fred Davis, the creator of the ABSTRACTION variant, has made further clarifications on certain aspects of these rules.

I was asked whether an A/F may consist of two units from different countries. The answer is that this is forbidden. Ruling that an A/F may only consist of two units belonging to the same country avoids the veritable can of worms which would result if two Powers in the same A/F should declare war on one another.

However, the one-space or Fast Ferry convoy, like the regular Diplomacy convoy, may consist of units from different countries.

A further difference between the two types of convoy is that a Fast Ferry convoy is not disrupted by a non-displacing attack, although the embarkation of an army to form an A/F unit is disrupted by such an attack.

And now, while we're in the mood....

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 \* 'B' Game (Abstraction -- 1972Kco) -- May/June 1915  
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ENGLAND (Stuart). A Yor-Nwy FF by F Nth & S by A/F Ska, F Ang S A Den, F Nwy-Lap, F Hol-Kie S by F Hcl; A Den stands.

GERMANY (Davis). A Kie-Hol\*.

RUSSIA (Feintuck). F Bal-Ber S by A Dre, A Pru S A Dre; F Swe stands, A Fin-StP; F Sin-EBS; F WBS-Rum, A Cau-Vol.

TURKEY (Maule). A Aeg-Gre S by F Aeg & F CMS; A Dam stands

AUSTRIA (D.Christianson) A Smy-Con S by A Mac, A Rum-Ode S by A Mos, A Ser-Rum, A Gal-War, A Boh-Dre S by A Mun, A Tyr S A Mun, F Gre S A Mac\*; A Pie\*, A Ven & A Cro stand.

ITALY (Jeffery). A Tus & F Ion stand.

FRANCE (A.Davidson). F Naf-Tun, F WMS-TyS; F TyS-Sic, A Rom-Ven, A Mar-Pie S by F GoL & A Zur, A Obe S A Zur, A Bur-Swa

\*Retreats: German A Kie disbanded; Austrian F Gre disbanded; Austrian A Pie disbanded.

E: 10 bases: Lon, Ply, Edi, Lpl, Ire, Bel, Hol, Nwy, Den, Kie. Build A Edi.

G Eliminated! All units removed.

R 6 bases StP, Ark, Dre, Ber, Sin, Swe. Remove F Ber, F WBS.

T 4 bases Dam, Egy, Nap, Gre. No change.

A 14 bases: Zar, Pec, Bud, Vie, Mun, Ser, Rum, Bul, Smy, Ode, Ven, Con, Mos, War. Build F Zar, A Pec, A Vie.

I Eliminated! All units removed.

F 12 bases: Bre, Par, Lyo, Mar, And, Cas, Poi, Sic, Mor, Tun, Rom, Zur. Build F Mar, A Lyo, A Par.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Game of the Giants?  
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Colin Hemming's magazine XL is to run a 'GM game' of regular Diplomacy, whose players are all GMs or ex-GMs. They are Colin Hemming, Michel Feron, Graham Jeffery, Michel Liesnard, Hartley Patterson, Malcolm Watson and myself. The gamesmaster for this game will be Jeff Oliver. Players are reminded that lists are open for 'regular' regular games in XL as well. The address to write to is 20 Hilltop Court, Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6LH.

Third Age

We now announce the start of our second game of this variant. Just for convenience, and for reference until Lew Pulsipher gives us a Miller number, we'll call it 'H'. The players are -

ERIADOR John Lettice, 69 Craigie Drive, Dundee, DD4 7PD.  
 GONDOR David Christianson, 14 The Croft, Welwyn Garden City, Herts  
 MORDOR Gregory Ward, Llandisfarne, Linden Gardens, Leatherhead, Surrey.  
 RHOVANIAN Hartley Patterson, Finches, 7 Cambridge Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks.  
 ROHAN Martin Davis, 16 Cross St, Oakfield, Ryde, I.o.W. PO33 1EH.  
 UMBAR Bob Harris, 5B Cawdor Court, Ardler, Dundee.

Game fees, where applicable, have been deducted from subscriptions.  
 Meanwhile, John Lettice is being an awful nuisance ..

John Lettice "If a fleet can load an army in a coastal province, I presume that a fleet sitting in a coastal centre may have an army built on top of it, or, for that matter, an army could have a fleet built under it?"

((I'm not sure, but I suspect the answer is 'no', because of the regular Dippy rule that builds may only be made in empty provinces. I'll ask the designer about this, but until such time as I receive an answer from him I'll rule that such manoeuvres as you describe are not allowed))

"If a country other than Mordor gets the Ring and puts it on for keeps, then all other countries except that country and Mordor are eliminated, and then the army with the Ring enters Barad-Dur, or Mordor's JA is destroyed, who wins? The game ends, but neither of the two remaining players have fulfilled victory conditions" ((Damn you, John! As this won't become applicable for some time, I hope you won't mind if I sit on the fence for a spell over this problem!))

While John Lettice retires to work out sneaky fleet moves for Eriador, Gondor and Umbar, I'd like to say a little about victory criterion 7(d) This states that the winner is the player who enters Barad-Dur wearing the Ring. This means that the player must put on the Ring in some province adjacent to Barad-Dur, e.g. Uauun, and then the next turn enter Barad-Dur. Should there be any delay due to a stand-off, the player must either take the Ring off immediately, or else lose the chance of winning by criterion 7(d)

An idle peep in the pages of LotR shows the reason for this. I hope you all remember that the idea of having a Ringbearer is that he should throw the Ring away at the end of the journey, down one of the cracks of Mount Doom. You will also no doubt recollect that Frodo had worn the Ring too long, and when it came to the crunch he was unable to get rid of the Ring. Tolkien solved the problem in a (to my mind) rather sneaky way, but Gollum doesn't appear in this game!

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 'G' Game (Third Age -- 1972???) -- I Naric 3018

Barad-Dur Sauron has declined to comment on the course of the war so far, or on the fact that he has refused offers of aid from the manager of the Khand Meat Factory. "There's going to be quite enough corn in this game," he said. "I don't intend to beef about it as well."

Eriador. We wish it known that, despite Hartley Patterson, we still exist and are available for diplomatic contact

Withywindle Hey come merry dol' Derry dol a-dillo'  
 Down past the Barndywin, down past Old Man Willow'  
 Visit Tom Bombadil, in his forest clearing,  
 Then to the Barrow-Downs, evil Wights a-fearing'  
 Over Greyflood's waters deep, southwards are you bidden,  
 Down to the Eredwaith, where the Ring is hidden'

Rohan The Lord of the Rohirrim gives solemn warning that the sons of the House of Eorl will not tolerate any action by Mordor and the Dark Lord against our solemn allies and brothers, the men of Gondor. So sucks to all of you!

Hobbiton. "It's up to you now, Frodo," said Bilbo. "If Mordor sweeps the board I swear I'll never steal people's rings again!"

Somewhere beyond the edge of the board "Not far to go now, chaps. Before long we'll be submitting some press releases as well," said Hannibal

(( Moves appear on next page ))

ERIDOR (Morrison) =A Shi-SDo; A Eve-Arn S by F Lhu.  
 GONDOR (Jones): =2A MTr-Sit; A Cal-Nlt; A Lam-Isn.  
 MORDOR (A. Davidson) =3A Bar-Mio, 2A MMo-Nit S by 2A Udu; 2A Mor-GF,  
 A Igd-Dun, A Ang-Ett, 2A MSh-Sit, A Car-Ere; A DG-And\*  
 RHOVANION (Walkerdine) =A Erc stand, A SM1-DG S by A And, A GMo-Mir.  
 ROHAN (Corker) =2A WEa-Igd, A Edo S (Gondor) A Lat-Isn, A Eas-EEa.  
 UMBAR (Jeffery) A Hrd-SGo. F Cit-Bel, =A HUa-Hdw.

\*Retreat Mordor A DG-Cel

Yes, we've got a new symbol. Units which may be Ringbearers get a '=', lucky things. Any unit may transport the Ring, of course. If and when the Ring is actually worn by some player, other players will be notified of this circumstance in words in the game report.

Note that I could do with some standby players for the two Third Age games. Usual conditions apply.

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'A' Game (1972K) -- Autumn 1906

London (Broadcasting House). The BBC announces the start of a new series of twenty-four one-hour programmes, entitled 'A Day in the Life of a Canteen Janitor'. No doubt it will turn out to be a really great ~~ex~~ serial.

Warsaw (Govil): My God, these Germans are tricky! Their bombers have now been spreading a substance called 'Window' about our skies, polluting our air. 'Window' is made up of thousands of tiny flakes, and is spread over the skies in an attempt to confuse our radar. Each individual flake is lightly toasted and high in carbohydrate content, and it is found that one ounce of the flakes contains one quarter of the daily requirements of vitamins and important minerals for a normal adult. Incidentally, thanks to our vastly superior technology, they have no effect on our radar. Thank you, Kaiser, for helping to avert our food shortage, caused, we may add, by the devastating German occupation which ended only recently.

Scunthorpe Who Am I? Competition No. 1

"I'm a first degree student from Sale,  
 At Diplomacy, seldom I fail.  
 4000 AD  
 Was named after me,  
 And my number of games played by mail."

Answers, on a postcard please, to "Spot the Ball", Going For a Song, Keynsham WLA 1AAAAA....

GERMANY (A. Davidson): A Lvn-StP\* S by F Nwy, F Nth S F Nwy; A Swc-Fla,  
 F Lpl-Cly S by A Edi, A Ber-Sil S by A Pru, F Bal-GoB, A Mun-Tyr,  
 A Boh-Vie.

RUSSIA (Jeffery): A Ukr-Mos, F Nrg-Nwy S by F Bar, A StP-Lvn S by A War.

AUSTRIA (Robertson) A Gal-Vie, A Run-Bud, A Bul-Run, A Ven S A Tyr,  
 A Tyr stands; A Pic-Mar, A Tus-Pie, F Ion S F TyS; F TyS stands\*.

FRANCE (D. Christianson). A Spa-Mar S by A Bur, F Tun-Ion, A Nap-Tun,  
 F WMS-TyS S by F GoL.

\*Retreats German A Lvn disbanded. Austrian F TyS-Nap.

G. 11 bases Ber, Mun, Kle, Den, Hol, Bel, Lon, Lpl, Ldi, Nwy, Swc.  
 Build A Ber.

R. 7 bases StP, Mos, Sev, Con, Ank, Smy, War. Build F StP(S), A Sev.

A. 10 bases Tri, Bud, Vie, Ser, Run, Bul, Gre, Rom, Ven, Nap. Build F Tri.

F. 6 bases Bro, Par, Mar, Spa, Por, Tun. No change.

Note that last issue contained an error in the game report for this game. The Austrian move F Nap-TyS was underlined as failing, whereas in fact the move succeeded. Now the fleet's back in Naples... Sorry about that, anyway.

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Waiting Lists

THIRD AGE Martin Mellish.

I've decided it's time I put a complete stop to the growth of Ethel. I'll start one more game of Third Age and that'll be all till some of the games now running end. Abstraction and Twin-Earth are shelved for a while, I'm afraid.

'E' Game (1972CI) -- Autumn 1902

ENGLAND (Maule) A StP-Mos, F Nwy-StP, F Nth-Nwy, F Hel-Hol.  
 GERMANY (Mellish) A Hol stand\*, F Swe stand.  
 RUSSIA (Douglass) F Bal-Kie S by A Ber; A Pru-Lvn, F Rum stands,  
 A Sil-War.  
 TURKEY (Pijohn) A Bul-Gre, A Ank-Smy, F Con-Aeg S by F EMS.  
 AUSTRIA (R.Lawson) A Mun S (Russian) F Bal-Kie, A Boh S A Mun,  
 A Tyr-Tri, A Ser-Gre, A Bud-Ser, F Aeg-Ion.  
 ITALY (I.Lawson) A Naf-Spa S by F WMS, F TyS-GoL, A Pie-Mar.  
 FRANCE (Walkerdine) A Bel S (English) F Hel-Hol, A Gas-Mar S by A Bur,  
 F Mar-GoL S by F Spa(S).

\*Retreat: German A Hol disbanded.

E 7 bases Lon, Lpl, Edi, Nwy, Hol, StP, Mos. Build F Lon. F Edi & A Lpl!  
 G 1 base Swe. No change.  
 R 5 bases War, Sev, Rum, Ber, Kie. No change.  
 T 4 bases Con, Ank, Smy, Bul. No change  
 A 6 bases Tri, Vie, Bud, Ser, Gre, Mun. No change.  
 I. 4 bases Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun. No change.  
 F. 6 bases Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por, Bel. Build F Bre

Note the failure of the Italian move Naf-Spa. This is because there is no land bridge between North Africa and Spain. Perhaps you meant to have the attack convoed by the fleet in the Western Med, Ian... but you didn't write it!

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'F' Game (1972??) -- Spring 1902

Austrian Daily Worker The news from Venice last Autumn was very revealing. We didn't know they were intelligent enough to write such reports.

London (Beano). Tee-hee, readers!

Greece Sixty Turkish soldiers were found insulting the Greek C-in-C today. They have been asked to leave the country before 1992. Rumour has it that these are all lies, though, and spread by Austrian spies staying in Tirone for two weeks' holiday.

London. The King, having discovered that he can no longer think of any wise and witty sayings about white elephants, announces that he definitely will not submit propaganda for Spring 1902.

Paris All white elephants and unfriendly ambassadors have now been expelled.

Paris (one week later): We couldn't find any unfriendly ambassadors, except the Icelandic one. He sold us the 'Sans Espoir', which sank recently. It is thought that the ship carried an exceptionally valuable white elephant.

ENGLAND (Durrhelm) F Lon-Eng, F Nrg S F Nth, F Nth & A Nwy stand.  
 GERMANY (Morrison) F Den-Ska, A Kie-Den, F Ber-Bal, A Hol & A Ruh stand.  
 RUSSIA (Williams) A Lvn-Swe C by F GoE, F StP(S)-Lvn, A Ukr-Sev,  
 F Rum-Bul (E).  
 TURKEY (B.Davidson) A Con-Bul S by A Gre, F Smy-Con, F Aeg S A Gre.  
 AUSTRIA (Davies) A Ser S (Russian) F Rum-Bul, F Alb-Gre; A Bud-Tri.  
 ITALY (Oliver). A Pie-Tyr; A Ven-Tri, F Nap-Apu, F Tun-Ion.  
 FRANCE (Alexander). A Par-Pic, A Mar stands, A Bur-Bel, F Por-Spa(S).

Error! Last issue I inadvertantly said Germany built an army in Berlin. It was, in fact, a fleet. Apologies to all players for this mistake.

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'C' Game (1972EK) -- Autumn 1904

Rome General Henry Pijohn, tired of his persecution of the Runts in Galveo, hastened to Italy today in the company of the French Foreign Legion, recently disembarked from Tunis. He presented a cup engraved 'British Landrace Pig Society' to the Turkish Ambassador for his country's part in the future destruction of the corrupt Italian government, riddled as it is with agents of the Lusaka Girls' Choir. When asked for his opinion of the Italian President, Davis Martino, General Pijohn said, "Who the hell is he?" (( Moves on p.5 ))

ENGLAND (Taylor) A Mos-Sev, A StP-Lvn, A Nwy-StP, A Lon-Nwy C by F Nth,  
F Nrg & F Swe stand

GERMANY (Maule). A Ukr-Gal S by A Sil & A War; A Boh-Vie S by A Tyr,  
A Mun S A Tyr, F Den stand.

RUSSIA (B.Davidson) A Sev-Mos

TURKEY (Jeffery) F Aeg-Con, F Ion-Adr; A Gre S A Bul, A Bul stand,  
A Alb stand

AUSTRIA (M.Christianson) A Tri-Ven, A Ser-Tri, A Rum-Gal,  
A Bud S A Vie, A Vie stand.

ITALY (Davis) A Rom-Nap\*, A Pie-Mar-; A Tus-Rom.

FRANCE (Bell) A Mar-Pie S by F GoL, A Spa-Mar, A Nap-Rom S by F TyS,  
A Bur stands.

\*Retreats Italian A Pie & A Rom both disbanded.

E 8 bases: Lon, Lpl, Edi, Bel, Nwy, Swe, StP, Mos. Build A Lon.  
G 6 bases: Ber, Kie, Mun, Den, Hol, War. Remove F Den  
R. 1 base: Sev. No change.  
T 5 bases: Con, Ank, Smy, Bul, Gre. No change.  
A 6 bases: Bud, Tri, Vie, Ser, Rum, Ven. Build A Tri.  
I 1 base: Nap. No change.  
F 7 bases: Mar, Spa, Por, Par, Bre, Tun, Rom. Build A Par.

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'D' Game (1972BV) -- Autumn 1903

Italian Financial Times (price  $3 \times 10^{15}$  lire). In an effort to boost the Italian economy, which has crashed (and how!) since the Austrian invasion, Signor Burcehoro left for Greece today in a ~~xxx~~ battleship of the Italian 1009th fleet. The purpose of the Signor's trip is to promote the sale of pickled ~~xxxxxxx~~ onions to the Athenian College of ~~xxxxx~~ Botany

Venice Italy's armed forces tried to gain entry here after successfully competing in the recent Tunisian Olympic Games, in which he won the men's 800 metres back~~xxxxx~~ ~~xxx~~ stroke, thus upholding a fine Italian tradition and doubling Italy's gold reserves.

Pentonville Prison: German criminal Johann Pigotschmidt arrived here today to serve his ten-year sentence for meddling with British propaganda. Last Spring's propaganda was altered so much that it sounded as though the British Government were crawling on their knees begging for help, rather than simply warning other "powers" (ha!) about German expansion.

Tin Pan Alley Polycell records are to rush release a new single by that rave band, Graeme Levin and the Boring, Dull Cashgatherers, entitled, "Who is Henry Pijohn?". The B side, provisionally titled "Who put the 'nit' in 'janitor'?", includes Levin on the fiddle

Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth Dancers from the French battleship 'Jusqu'a East Wemyss' were today cheered for their performance at the Llanbadarn Fawr Elsteddfod when, in their traditional studded dancing boots, they 'trod the grapes'. The English contingent of Morris Men entered into the spirit of things by taking the part of the grapes, and were later said to be as well as could be expected.

Cowley, Oxford We regret the indisposition of our Morris Men, and we are rushing a team of Austin men to take their place.

Lusaka " .fa soh lah te doh te lah soh fa mi..."

Pentonville Prison. "It won't be long now before we're free," chuckled Johann Pigotschmidt. "I recently bought Pentonville Road -- only cost me £120, you know -- and I've bribed the janitor to put 'No Entry' signs up at the junctions to my private road!"

Lusaka "Mi ray doh ray mi mi mi... ray ray ray . mi soh soh..."

Pentonville Prison A series of dramatic bank robberies have taken place, following the escape of Johann Pigotschmidt from this prison

Lusaka "Soh mi -- mi fah soh mi' mi' doh'..."

London With the money he has stolen from various banks, the notorious criminal Johann Pigotschmidt has purchased a large number of streets in Central London.

ENGLAND (I Lawson). F Iri-Lpl, F Lon stands, A Nwy-Den C by F Nth.

GERMANY (Jones) A Ruh-Bel S by A Hol, A Pru-Lvn, A Man stands,  
F Den-Nth

RUSSIA (Shaw) No orders received. F Sev\*, F Swe, A Ukr, A War & A Mos  
all stand.

TURKEY (Oliver): A Rum-Sev S by F Bla & A Am1, F Ank-Con, A Bul-Run.

AUSTRIA (A. Davidson) A Gal-Ukr, A Bud-Tri, F Alb-Tri, A Tyr S A Ven,  
A Ven S A Tyr, F Tys-Tun

ITALY (Waldie). F Nap-Rom, A Tus-Ven S by F ndr.

FRANCE (Bell) A Bur stands, F Wal-Eng, F Bre-MAO, A Spa-Gas,  
A Mar-Pic.

\*Retreat Russian F Sev disbanded.

- E: 4 bases Lon, Lpl, Edi, Nwy. No change.
- G 6 bases Mun, Kie, Ber, Den, Ruh, Hol. Build F Kie.
- R 4 bases Swe, StP, Mos, War. No change.
- T. 6 bases Con, Ank, Sm, Bul, Rum, Sev. Build A Ank.
- A 7 bases Tri, Bud, Vie, Ser, Gre, Ven, Tun. Build F Tri.
- I 2 bases Rom, Nap. Remove A Tus
- F 5 bases. Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por No change.

Will RICHARD WALKERDINE please submit standby orders for RUSSIA next move, in case Phil Shaw misses again I notice that Richard is now the only standby player for this game If anyone wants to volunteer to be second standby, they're very welcome to.

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This is ETHIL THE FROG, a magazine which laughingly pretends to report postal Diplomacy games. It comes from John Piggott, 17 Mommouth Road, Oxford, OX1 4TD (Tel. 0865-45045) and is duplicated by Ian Maule. Subscription rates Inland, 10/50p. Europe, 10/70p. Elsewhere, 4/81 by air mail, 8/81 thru class. The number on your mailing label is your last paid issue on your present subscription. This is Tapeworm Publication 18.

DEADLINE 8.30 a.m., Monday 25 September, 1972. Move-missers and latecomers will be afflicted with the Curse of Pickersgill's Eyeball.

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Oh, no! Not another variant!

The fifth issue of Michel Liesnard's gazette, Les Dossiers de l'Hyene Harra, contains (in French) the rules and map for the Youngstown Variant, which is classical Diplomacy with Asia and parts of Africa added to the map. There are 10 players -- the 7 normal countries plus China, India and Japan. This is one of the most popular variants of all in the U.S., so presumably it's one of the best. For reasons stated elsewhere I can't offer games myself, but I hope some philanthropic GM will open a list for this variant soon, as I'd really like to play it. A word of warning -- the map consists of 6 quarto pages.... (Michel Liesnard, Ave E. de Meersman 43, Berchen-Ste-Agathe, 1080 Bruxelles).

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