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 :::::::::::::::::::: 12 October 1972

Hannibal, Hasdrubal and Gisgo beached their tiny craft on the beach after a harrowing trip across the Fretus. "I'm seasick," complained Hasdrubal. "Oh, do stop complaining," said Hannibal. ~~"We've had nothing but means from you ever since we started."~~ Some pieces of paper floated down from the cliffs above. Curiously, Gisgo picked one up and read it out to his companions:- "Join the British Diplomacy Club! Meet other Diplomacy Players! One of the problems of Diplomacy players is to find---" "Be quiet at once," ordered Hannibal sternly. "This column is for true humour. If you're going to use it for advertising one of those hateful Diplomacy things, we'll end it right here."

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BELLES LETTRES

Don Turnbull I'm rather surprised you didn't include a mention of the dirty tactic whereby your support of another country fails because you get the nationality wrong.

Boardman's alter-ego was Eric Blake, incidentally. I have tried to find out the result of that game in my various references, but can't trace it -- I think Boardman won, in one of the names, or was the deception discovered before the game ended? Unfortunately, some folk tried to make out this wasn't a fair trick, even in a Diplomacy game, because the other players had paid their game fees in good faith etc. etc. Personally, I think it's a fine piece of work. I have just realised that it would be close to impossible in Albion at present, since the player would have to subscribe in two names while he was on the waiting list... just in case you had thought of it... ((Uhh... well, you know, Don, I have got an alter-ego actually. It's a terrible thing to have to confess, but his name's Davidson, see, and... and...))

This time I back your moan to the hilt. The British makers of Diplomacy are bloody disgusting. You did at least get a reply, which is more than I got when I wrote to these people three years ago.

John Lettice In view of your article, perhaps I may put myself down for another game; also some relatives of mine, John A.C. Lettice, John A. Lettice, John C. Lettice and John Andrew C. Lettice. Serve you right, too!

How about this one, though? You take a letter (handwritten) which you've received from the one you're going to frame, unobtrusively alter key words, then send it to someone else. Naturally, the letter should be fairly insulting. This may sound far-fetched (confound it, it does!) but I've used it once, and the forgery was only spotted because I couldn't resist slipping in a little extra, a piece of good Latin in among the "author's" pathetic attempts at titles. I still have the letter; at least, the pieces which were flung at me by the understandably irate recipient.

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COA: Phil Jones, Student's Union, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.
 Dave Douglass, 123 Percy Rd, Hampton, Middx (not Sueery!)
 David Christianson is also at Liverpool University, but I haven't received any notice of his address there. Send mail to Welwyn for the time being, I suppose.

Odds and Ends

It seems likely that Rod Walker is dropping out of postal Diplomacy for the present at least. He has resigned most of his game positions, and says his publishing will be at best reduced in quantity. Rod is at present the official custodian of the Boardman numbers, which are assigned to all postal Diplomacy games for the purposes of keeping records. Conrad von Metzke, of Box 8342, San Diego, CA 92102, USA, has appointed himself as acting custodian of the Numbers, and will assign them to any game which comes his way. This is not yet 'official', but it seems likely that it will become so in the near future. I have asked Conrad to assign a number to 'F' game in Ethil, anyway. /// I have just received a copy of Carbon 13 from Fred C. Winter, Alpha Delta Phi House-Room 18 (!), 640 N. Henry St, Madison, Wis. 53703, USA. Fred says he wishes to form trade relations with all zines and begin to compile an archives. I'll open trades, of course, but I would point out that Walter Buchanan is doing an excellent job, and his Hoosier Archives is much better than CL3. 'Nuff said. /// An interesting problem in Diplomacy is posed by John Beshara in Graustark 272; the adjudication of the following moves:- ENGLAND, A Lon-Den C by F Nth, S by F Ska & F Swe. GERMANY, F Hol-Nth S by F-Den. ~~RUSSIA, F-Nw-Nth-S by F-Nrg.~~ John Boardman commented: "The difficulty here is that Germany and Russia are each trying to enter Nth with a force of two, thus failing to dislodge the English F Nth. But this makes possible the convoy, dislodging the German F Den and making its support invalid. When this happens, the Russian attack on Nth succeeds and the English convoy fails. With the convoy failing, the German F Den is not dislodged, and we take up this circular argument at its beginning again." If this situation arose in an Ethil game, I would go along with the majority and rule that all units stood in place. /// Graustark is 12/£1 from Boardman at 234 E.19 St, Brooklyn, NY 11226, USA. It contains the usual Dippyzine contents plus political arguments of a type far more readable than most. John Boardman has a knack of dredging up odd bits of information from various sources, such as the fact that a farmer in California sells his milk yield at 60 cents a gallon, and the cowshit at \$2.40 a gallon. Regrettably I was not able to obtain permission from John to reprint the above Diplomacy problem in time for this Ethil. I'll obtain it now, John, OK? I don't anticipate you'll have any objections... /// I suppose most British editors by now have received a copy of Carpetbagger from Stephen Bell, 5605 Virgilwood Drive, Greensboro, NC 27409, USA. He seems to want to trade with everybody, and though the trade policy he suggests is the most lunatic I've ever seen the zine looks well above average. I hope Stephen is able to maintain the standard. ///

I slipped up while posting copies of Ethil 13. When I reached the end of the pile, I discovered that three people still had to be sent copies, but there were none left. And Graeme Levin, Nick Shears and Don Miller still haven't been sent copies. If anyone in the audience who doesn't collect Ethils would care to send back their copies of Ethil 13 (the second 6-page buff issue) I'll extend their sub for their trouble by one issue... meanwhile, apologies to the above three... /// Phil Jones asks whether there's any chance of getting a 'ladies only' game going in these pages. It won't happen here for the next nine months or so, of course, but it's an interesting thought. At the moment, I believe the only active lady player in British Dippy is our own Irene Taylor. My sense of male chauvinism assures me I'll feel terrible if she wins 'C' game, as seems more than slightly possible. /// Geoff Corker reports that he has received an offer from Jesus to read Maths here in 1973-74. Congratulations, Geoff. /// Well, look at this...! Fancy a good Scotsman like Bob Stuart spelling his capital city 'Edinborough' like all the other Sassenachs...! /// The game adjudications this issue were checked by Andy Davidson. If you find any mistakes have slipped through both of us ~~Y ZAAAYZ XZ AZ ALL SAAZPZSZ~~ it's probably because Andy kept gloating at the 'A' game result... /// The guy on the cover of this issue was pinched from the Beano via the latest XL, which also contains the latest enthralling episode in the saga of Andy Davidson's damned cat. A picture of the cat, which claims to be by Andy's own fair hand, in fact. Unkle Kolin kommented: "Isn't he a funny little boy?" I'll second that! /// The latest Albion contains news that it is not, after all, to finish, nor is it to be limited to 125 copies per issue. Albion is still required reading for all game lovers, and for Diplomacy fans there are lists open for interesting variants. Write to Don Turnbull at 13 Gilmerston Court, Trumpington Rd, Cambridge, CB2 2HQ for further details. /// I'm trying to think of a witty last line, but I can't; so as I bid you goodbye for yet another issue I'll just quietly fade a w a a a a y . . .

'H' Game. (Third Age -- 1972????) -- 2 Narie 3018

Barad-Dur (Govnt): The Great Lord Mauron today delivered His annual palantir broadcast to His troops:-

"Actually, this is not meant for you groups of orcs and sundry brigands that are in My employ, but for those escapists in other countries who insist that this is some kind of fairy story in which half-men can fly on the backs of birds and that sort of thing...

"Certain foreign rulers have seen fit to put words into My mouth to an alarming extent, particularly one Grimli son of Groin, and if this continues I will send My ~~Wazg~~ contacts in high places to punish the offenders.

"Finally, My Ring is most dear to me, and such people who try to degrade it, for example a disreputable toyshop owner who has set himself up as Borelord of all Eriador, will receive the full extent of My wrath forthwith."

At this point, His Supreme Personage got eyestrain and had to sit down, amid cries of "aarrgh" --- but then he always is.

Isengard: Grima Wormtongue stared out of the window and spoke with trembling voice: "Look, master -- the wood is coming!" Saruman gazed in horror as the Ents stormed through his defences and surrounded the tower. "Matches, matches, my kingdom for a box of matches," he cried.

Hobbiton: Thieves have broken into the warehouse of Baggins' Toys & Jokes Ltd. of Bag End. Large quantities of stock were taken.

Old Forest: "Thief, Baggins! Precioussesss, hundreds of them! We hates it, oriental trasssh! We hates it forever!"

Elven King's Halls, 20 Narie: Following the unprovoked attack by hirelings of the Necromancer on Erebor, Dain Ironfoot has implemented the agreement made at the Council of Rhovanion and called on his allies to support him. An Elvish army has been sent to his aid and the enemy will be driven back into the East before the month is out.

A reward of 20 gold pieces is offered for the recapture of Gollum, alias Smeagol. He is described as a small, dark creature with a long neck and large, pale eyes. On no account should he be approached; he is believed to suffer from acute schizophrenia and may be dangerous. Anyone seeing him should report to their nearest fairy ring.

Lorien: Mirror, mirror, in the pool, who is the fairest.... no, that won't rhyme, will it? Celeborn, after ten thousand years of marriage it's high time you bought me a proper mirror!

Buckland: A vagrant, pretending to be one 'Hannibal' has been apprehended. He appeared to be impersonating Hannibal Proudfoot, of Bagshot Row, for his own foul purposes.

Whee: Hi! I'm Hojo Hominigrits, and I want y'all to come along to the Grand Opening of the new BurgerBar at Whee! The Nine Nozdrul will be providing a free Bar-B-Q, Goodgulf has promised some fireworks, and we should all have a gay time, right? See you there, sweeties!

Barad-Dur: "... 359 -- damn! ... 360 -- damn! ... 361 -- damn! ..."

ERIADOR (Lettice): A Arn-Ang; F Lhu-Arn; =A SDo-Rhd.

GONDOR (D.Christianson): A Isn S (Rohan) A Edo-Igd; A Cai S =2A MTi; =2A MTi S (Umbar) A SGo-SIt.

MORDOR (Ward): =3A MMo-SIt S by 2A NIt; 2A SIt-SGo S by 2A MSh; 2A GF-And; A Cel-SMi; A Dun-Mor; A Car-Ere*; A Ett-Ang.

RHOVANION (Patterson): A Rhd-Hol; A MM-Mor; =A Ere-Car S by A Run.

ROHAN (Davis): =2A Wol-Cel; A ME S (Gondor) A Cai; A Edo-Igd.

UMBAR (Harris): =A Hdw-Kha S by A SGo F Bel S A SGo.

*Retreat: Mordor A Car-Iro. Umbar A SGo-Hdw.

E: 5 bases: Shi, Eve, Lhu, Arn, Rhd. Build A Eve, A Shi.

G: 4 bases: Lam, Cai, MTi, Isn. Build A Lam.

M: 12 bases: Bar, Udu, MSh, MMo, SIt, NIt, Mor, DG, SMi, And, Ang, SGo. Build A Bar, A Udu, A Ang.

RH: 5 bases: GMo, Ere, Car, Hol, Run. Owed 1, but no build orders submitted!

RO: 5 bases: Edo, WEa, Eas, Igd, Cel. Build A Eas, A WEa.

U: 4 bases: Hrd, Cit, HUm, Kha. Build A Hrd.

'A' Game (1972K) -- Autumn 1907

Vienna: "I'm certain those armies were there a moment ago..."
Norwegian Sea: Lost, with all hands: the pocket battleship Moskva. Would the Kaiser please remove it from his pocket, and give it back to the Czar. It was carrying his year's supply of handkerchiefs.
Warsaw (Govnt): The Germans continue to be completely amazed at the advanced technology being presented them. Due to a new long-range flak gun, the Red Baron no longer rules the skies. (Not that he ever did, anyway...)
Scunthorpe: Will the winner of "Who Am I?" Competition No.1 please collect his prize? Please? Pretty please?

GERMANY (A.Davidson): F Nwy-StP(N) S by A Fin & F GoB; F Nrg-Bar;
A Pru-Lvn*; A Edi-Nwy C by F Nth; A Boh-Vie S by A Tyr; A Sil-Gal;
A Ber-Sil.

RUSSIA (Jeffery): A Sev-Ukr; A Lvn-Pru S by A War; A Mos S A War;
F StP(S)-GoB*; F Bar-Nwy.

AUSTRIA (Robertson): F Nap MS F Ion; A Tus-Ven S by F Adr & A Rom;
A Gal MS A Vie*; A Ser-Tri.

FRANCE (D.Christianson): A Bur-Bel; A Pie-Mar; F GoL-WMS;
 F Tun MS F TyS; A Naf S F Tun.

*Retreats: German A Pru & Austrian A Vie disbanded; Russian F StP(S)-Lvn.

G: 12 bases: Ber, Mun, Kie, Den, Hol, Lon, Lpl, Edi, Nwy, Swe, StP, Vie.
 Build A Mun & A Kiel.
 R: 6 bases: Mos, Sev, War, Con, Ank, Smy. No change.
 A: 9 bases: Tri, Bud, Ser, Rum, Bul, Gre, Rom, Ven, Nap. Build A Bud.
 No room for second build.
 F: 7 bases: Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por, Tun, Bel. Build F Bre.

'G' Game (Third Age -- 1972???) -- 1 Cerime 3018

Under the Lonely Mountain: Who dares to take my name in vain,
 To issue rhymes without my knowing?
 Who tries to peer through mist and rain
 And tell the world where IT is going?
 The hobbits of the Shire, so meek
 Have cheek enough to do this thing.
 'Tis there, dear readers, you should seek
 The one who hides the Golden Ring!

Minas Tirith: From the Morgul Mountains comes a terrifying shriek as the Nine swoop over the horizon to start the last battle. Orcs break through across the Anduin and form lines of battle. The Prince of Gondor leads his troops, in the front rank of the Royal Cavalry. Every man of Gondor eagerly awaits the arrival of the Riders of Rohan, and Aragorn with ten thousand men...

Bag End Institute of Ecology: Scientists are worried about the spread of pollution from the region known as Mordor. Sporadic outbreaks around Rhovanion will be dealt with using the new detergent 'Harporc', which, it is claimed, will make everything white and pure.

ERIADOR (Morrison): A Arn-Fdw; A Eve-Arn; A Shi-Bra; F Lhu-EM;
 =A Rhd S (Rhovanion) A GMo.

GONDOR (Jones): A Isn-Anf; A Lam S A Cai; A Cai S =2A MTi;
 =2A MTi stands*.

MORDOR (A.Davidson): =3A Sit-MTi S by 2A Nit; A MMo S 2A Nit; A MSh-Sit;
 2A Udu-Nin; 2A Kha-Nur; A Bar-Dag; A Ett-Rhd S by A Hol; A Car-Ere;
 2A GF MS A And; A Mor-Wiz.

RHOVANION (Walkerdine): A DG-And S by A SMi; =A Ere S A GMo; A Run-Rhn;
 A GMo S (Eriador) A Rhd.

ROHAN (Corker): =2A Fan-Wol; A Igd stands; A Rau-Nin; A Eas-ME;
 A WEa-Fan.

UMBAR (Jeffery): F Tol & A SGo S (Mordor) =3A Sit-MTi; A Hrd S A SGo;
 =A Hdw-Kha.

*Retreat: Gondor's A MTi has nowhere to go and is annihilated. The garrison of MTi is annihilated also since it couldn't withstand Mordor's 7A assault!

ENGLAND (Maule): A Yor-Hol C by F Nth & S by F Hel; F Nrg S F Nwy;
F Ska-Swe S by F Nwy; A StP stands.

GERMANY (Mellish): F Swe stands.

RUSSIA (Douglass): A Mos-StP; A War-Lvn; F Den S (German) F Swe;
A Kie S F Den; F Rum S (Austria) A Bul.

TURKEY (Pijohn): A Gre-Bul*S by A Con; F Aeg-Ion S by F EMS.

AUSTRIA (R.Lawson): F Ion-Aeg*; A Bul stands; A Alb-Gre S by A Ser;
A Boh-Tyr; A Mun-Bur.

ITALY (I.Lawson): A Pie-Ven; F TyS-Rom; F WMS-TyS; A Naf-Tun.

FRANCE (Walkerdine): A Bel-Ruh S by A Bur; A Tus-Rom; F GoL-Mar;
F Bre-MAO S by F Spa(S).

*Retreats: Turkish A Gre & Austrian F Ion both disbanded.

E: 6 bases: Lon, Lpl, Edi, Nwy, Hol, StP. Remove F Nrg.
G: 1 base: Swe. No change!
R: 7 bases: War, Sev, Mos, Rum, Ber, Kie, Den. Build A War, A Sev.
T: 3 bases: Con, Ank, Smy. No change.
A: 7 bases: Tri, Vie, Bud, Ser, Gre, Bul, Mun. Build F Tri, A Bud.
I: 4 bases: Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun. No change.
F: 6 bases: Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por, Bel. No change.

Sorry about the slight error in last issue's 'E' Game report -- the French move F Bre-MAO should have been underlined, of course.

.....

'C' Game (1972EK) -- Autumn 1905

Tuscany: "Arrivaderci, Roma!"

Important Notice: Unless otherwise marked, all jokes in this zine are valuable antiques. They are on kind loan from the Tony Blackburn collection.

The Fireplace: Ho, ho, ho! I know it's not Christmas, Kaiser Maulhelm, but I thought I'd drop through your Danish chimney just to make sure it's free from soot. Good heavens! who can that be at the back door?

Fleet Street: Reports are coming in that the Kaiser is mute with fear of what marauding invaders might do to his maya.

ENGLAND (Taylor): A Lon-Hol C by F Nth; A Ukr-War S by A Lvn;
A Swe-Den; A StP-Mos; F Bal-Ber; F Nrg stands.

GERMANY (Maule): A Vie stands S by A Boh & A Tyr; A Mun S A Tyr;
A War stands S by A Sil.

RUSSIA (B.Davidson): No orders received. A Sev stands.

TURKEY (Jeffery): A Ser & F Bla S (Russia) A Sev-Rum; F Adr S A Tri;
A Tri & A Bul S A Ser.

AUSTRIA (M.Christianson): No orders received. A Bud, A Rum & A Ven* stand.

ITALY (Davis): A Tus-Ven.

FRANCE (Bell): A Pie-Ven S by A Rom; A Bur-Ruh; A Pic-Bur; F GoL-Tus;
A Gas & F Nap stand.

*Retreats: Austrian A Ven disbanded.

E: 11 bases: Lon, Lpl, Edi, Bel, Hol, Den, Nwy, Swe, StP, Mos, Ber.
Build A Lon, A Lpl & A Edi.
G: 4 bases: Kie, Mun, War, Vie. GM removes A War & A Vie.
R: 1 base: Sev. No change.
T: 7 bases: Con, Ank, Smy, Bul, Gre, Ser, Tri. Build A Ank, A Con.
A: 2 bases: Bud, Rum. No change.
I: Eliminated. All units removed.
F: 9 bases: Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por, Tun, Rom, Nap, Ven.
Build A Mar, A Par.

It's disappointing to note two sets of missed orders this time round.
Will Andrew Waldie send standby moves for Austria, and Jeff Oliver standby moves for Russia, next time? Ta, mates.

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Next deadline: Saturday 28 October 1972

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'F' Game (1972??) -- Spring 1903

Berlin Centre of Arts & Farces

There was a handsome mariner, who sailed the Baltic Sea.
The Russian peasants sank his boat, and he was forced to flee.
"I vow I'll kill you Russian pigs!" -- this was the last they heard,
But now his wish is coming true; he's Kaiser John the third.

Trieste: Crowds gathered today to see the great Austrian ship in its morrings here. The 'Flower of the Adriatic' will set sail at the earliest possible date, bound, not for Italy, but for Turkey. Sulibob, your days are numbered.

London: The King denieseentirely the statement that he owns certain establishments in the West End. He does not know, or care, what the French do in their spare time, and claims it is all the fault of the permissive Icelandic government who wish to improve the sale of certain articles of stationary. As a punishment, the King has extended British fishing limits to 1000 miles...

NOTE. An error was perpetrated in the last 'F' game report. I ruled that Turkey's move F Smy-Con failed, whereas in fact it succeeded. The rulebook is quite clear on the point: a dislodged unit has no effect on the space the dislodging attack came from, and so Russia's move Bul-Con was ineffective.

ENGLAND (Durrheim): F Nwy S (German) F Swe; F Nth-Bel;
A Lon-Pic C by F Eng & S by A Bre.

GERMANY (Morrison): F Swe stands S by A Den & F Ska; A Mun-Sil;
A Hol-Kie; A Ber-Kie.

RUSSIA (Williams): A Fin-Swe S by F GoB & F Bal; A Arm stands;
A Sev-Rum.

TURKEY (B.Davidson): No orders received. F Con, F Aeg, A Bul,
A Gre & A Ank all stand.

AUSTRIA (Davies): A Ser S (Russian) A Sev-Rum; A Vie S F Tri;
F Alb-Adr S by F Tri.

ITALY (Oliver): F Ion-Alb; A Ven-Tri S by A Tyr & F Adr.

FRANCE (Alexander): A Bel stands; A Pic-Bre*; F WMS-MAO; F Mar-Spa(S);
A Spa-Gas.

*Retreat: French A Pic-Par. GREG WARD please send standby moves For Turkey. Ta.

ETHIL THE FROG 15
c/o John Piggott
Jesus College
Cambridge
CB5 8BL
U.K.