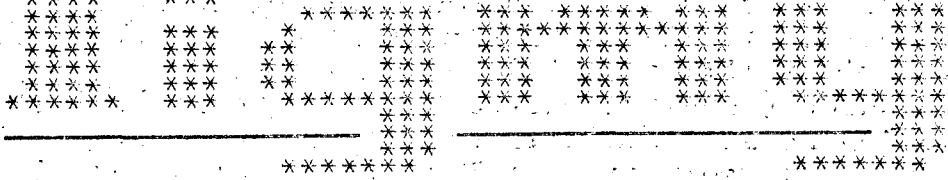


NOT PYGMY



ISSUE  
THE  
TWELFTH

FIGMY : Stephen Agar, 3 North Road, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham.  
DH3 4AQ Tel. Ch-le-St 883309. Cost: 1p per side + postage.

As it says above, this is not the first issue of Figmy. However some may refuse to believe me. The reason you've probably overlooked Figmy in the past is that for the last (or should I say first?) eleven weeks Figmy has been a photo-copied mini-zine with a small (~~XXXXXX~~) readership. My intention when Figmy started was to slowly expand - and the time has now come for that expansion. I think I've proved myself to an extent with Figmy's past performance, - the only large delay due to GFC inefficiency and player apathy. However this is slightly more ambitious so I'm not making any promises, but the outlook is pretty good. Unfortunately the recent arrival of M, WM, & PV may well have taken away the market for ~~xxx~~-enlarged zines - we shall see.

This issue is aimed initially at zine editors. I would be very grateful (crawl) for a plug and perhaps a review. There's that many zines going out of the hobby that I'm sure you'll agree that zines like this need a fair chance to get going. If any one would like to consider trading their zines for Figmy, then would you please send me a copy of your thing. I will trade with as many zines as I can afford to. Oh, could you also tell your readers that they can have a free copy of this issue by asking. Thanks.

ZINE POLL RESULTS

Why am I bothering to print these again, surely every other zine has already done it. Maybe, but some of my readers don't read other zines (good taste).

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1) Dolchstoss. (4)       | Mick Bullock has used a different system to process the poll results, which although it gives fairer results, tends to hammer the smaller zines eg. <u>Gallinaufry</u> . |
| 2) Ethil the Frog. (14)  |  |
| 3) Chimaera. (1)         |  |
| 4) Lemming Express. (11) |  |
| 5) New Statsman. (-)     |  |
| 6) The Tinamou. (16)     |  |
| 7) Jigsaw. (3)           |  |

Now the real results:

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 8) 1901 and all that. (2)    | 1) Mr Gladgrind.        |
| 9) Puppet Theatre News. (10) | 2) Figmy.               |
| 10) Greatest Hits. (7)       | 3) Beeston Beadle.      |
|                              | 4) Sno-Pake & 7 Dwarfs. |
|                              | 5) Watch your Back.     |

Numbers in brackets are last years results.

Since I started producing Figmy I've become accustomed to pick out the spacefillers at a glance. Since most publishers will receive this they should immediately recognise why I bothered to say it.

Editorial (Maybe that sounds a little pretentious?)

Many of you mortals reading this probably didn't know I existed till about 5 minutes ago. So I'd better do a little explaining.

I am 17 years old. There I've said it. I am indeed a 'schoolboy editor'-so what. If you wish to debate how reliable 'schoolboy editors' are write to Paul Openshaw, let him justify my existence, I don't intend to.

The fact that I am seventeen seems to sum up my entire life, no, I'll mention that I go to an independant school in Newcastle and that I'm a member of the Labour Party. I wonder who'll be the first to scream hypocrite? I'm doing 'A' levels in History, Maths, English, and General Studies (which is incredibly easy/boring). Just because I'm doing English don't think that I can spell - which reminds me I must buy some of that liquid stuff for covering up mistakes on stencils, otherwise you'll become accustomed to seeing ~~EEEE~~ and ~~RRRR~~ etc. This ~~DDD~~ (HA!) problem will be overcome by next issue, I'm still not used to using stencils, (cringe, excuse).

As for my spare time (what spare time?) I tend to sleep a lot. Apart from that I play bass with a local group, read books, write letters, and exhibit my total lack of writing talent for the amusement of the general public. I am also a very bad loser.

One word which repeatedly crops up in editorials is 'feedback'. This editorial is no exception. With Pigmy 1-10 I think I've been on very good terms with the players (witness the press for P/1, the current fad is to pretend you're Italy - they're just jealous Ian). With Pigmy from now on I want to keep up this sort of 'feedback' - however diplomacy players are generally apathetic. Pity. So I'm offering the customary bribe of a free copy for substantial contributions. By the way any letters I get I consider fit to be published will be, unless you give direct instructions to the contrary. Anyone care to write a zine review? I was going to do one of Whiskey Mac available from the aforementioned Openshaw. But I won't - I'll wait to see what he says about this first, okay so that's blackmail, don't attribute any scruples to me that Diplomacy killed years back.

By the way, has anyone noticed the recent socialist infiltration of Diplomacy? The writing is on the wall.

As current players in Pigmy will have noticed from the deadline Pigmy now has 4 week deadlines instead of three week ones. I want this zine to be a good one to play in, but I think that if I continued with 3-weekly orgies then the standard would fall - after all I've got to do schoolwork sometime.

Looking at the zine poll result I see that I came third (I'm not counting the first 32 zines) - hang on that means I came second, and what's more someone put Pigmy above Ethil on their list. Fame at last.

What about fantasy games. What about them? I've no experience of them and indeed I have no wish to experience them. I also dislike standbys, mainly because of the admin. so none will be used. I don't mind dippy variants, if you want to play in one let me know and I'll open a list - though I can't guarantee that the list will ever fill.

I don't think I have any enemies in this hobby yet - so if anyone wants to relieve their tensions feel free to write marking their envelopes 'Not to be opened or published'. I will then read the letters and tell the world of your perverted fantasies, (Simon Dally = Cats, John Piggott = Frogs etc.). If I've missed anything out I'll put it in somewhere else.

PS. If Bullock had used the old system I would have beaten Albie!

## ZINE REVIEW - ETHIL THE FROG

Available from John Piggott, Flat 6, 15 Freeland Road, Ealing Common, London W5 3HR. Cost 25p per issue (including postage).

I have come to believe that the opinions that many people hold over the virtues (or otherwise) of Ethil are probably closer to what they think of John Piggott, rather than what they think of the zine. This is unfortunate. I have always found Ethil a very good zine to play in, both punctual (every 4 weeks) and reliable GM'ing. What many players dislike is the letter col, I know of several people who put Ethil low on their poll lists just because they resent having to read all the letters, and yet they all feel obliged to read the letters because they seem to think that if they don't they're somehow wasting their money. This is just a matter of taste - personally I find the letter col. interesting.

Others, however, don't object to the letter col., they just object to Piggott giving his opinion. I'm not sure whether they just dislike all he stands for, or whether in some sort of way they are jealous because he can contemptuously dismiss his critics (those that vent their feelings publicly) with ease, whereas they lack the necessary skill - and hence confine their snide remarks to private correspondence.

As a person I agree that John Piggott is insufferable if you get into an argument with him - so the message is just sit back and enjoy him ripping to pieces some other poor sod. That people in general like to see others publicly humiliated is borne out by the popularity of programmes such as 'New Faces'.

Apart from Dippy there's not much else in Ethil (that isn't a criticism), although I seem to remember that we are promised a Third Age II game in the near future. Ethil also boasts the two top anonymous columnists in the hobby, Lucifer and Petlock, but neither seems to appear on a regular basis. Anonymous columnists are something else which is a matter of taste - as a guide, if you resent reading letter col.'s, and aren't really interested in politics, they aren't for you. Finally Ethil has a sci-fi section that I very rarely read as it doesn't hold much interest for me.

The game-fees for Ethil are a bit high (£1.50 No deposit) but they seem to do what John intended ie. few drop-outs without having to administrate deposits, and nobody forces people to play in Ethil if they're willing to pay that, they obviously think it's worth it.

On the whole I think Ethil is a very good zine with plenty to interest readers apart from their game reports. However if your only concern is your adjudication, and you don't want to read anything else, and don't want to pay 25p per issue mainly for things you don't want to read, then don't get Ethil (starring John Piggott). Recommended.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Impressions - MEGALOMANIA

Available from Chris Tringham, 25 Auckland Road, London SE19 2DR. Cost 25p per issue (including postage).

An unsolicited copy of this arrived earlier in the week. Like Ethil it's litho and Chris seems to have Piggott's conviction that a litho zine should have plenty of reading matter (and artwork). To be honest I don't think Chris has Piggott's ability to dissect people - so you could argue that the zine is more readable than Ethil. The production is neat and GM'ing good. Recommended.

NGC thing

Am I a member of the NGC? I don't know. I joined in early 76 and I'm sure my membership money must (note the alliteration) have expired ages ago - yet nobody's asked for any more cash (not that they'd get it if they did). Also I started two NGC Dip. games that year (NGC 184 & 201) paying \$1 deposit in each case. I was eliminated in 201 sometime last year, but I've heard nothing about a deposit being refunded - and I haven't got a clue who I should write to about it - I don't think there'd be any point in trying Gordon Bell.

Anyway, I'm not bothered about that money, this isn't a list of complaints, it just shows that the NGC is completely inadequate - as everyone has known for ages. As a new player what did the NGC do for me? Simple, they gave me my first gamestart. Nothing else. I'm still in the hobby, so I conclude that all the NGC needs to do is run a system which gives new players their first game. Let them take it from there. There's no need for the NGC to be a club. Indeed the idea of splitting the hobby is ludicrous (quickly picks up dictionary to check spelling of 'ludicrous', only to find it's spelt 'ludicrous' HA!).

I am completely in favour of Mick Bullock's proposals to dismantle the NGC, and turn it into an efficient organization for introducing new members, so if you intend to vote in the NGC GenSec elections (assuming you know if you are entitled to vote - could someone tell me if I am allowed to vote) then please weigh up the two alternatives (disband or reorganize) and having done that vote for Mick Bullock as the new NGC GenSec. You know it makes sense!

\*\*\*\*\*

Tots died last September. In issue 20 (the last) Greg Hawes said:

"DON'T start a dippyzine unless:

- X 1) You have at least 35 hours free time to spare, one weekend in 4. This means having absolutely nothing else to do all Friday evening, and all day Saturday and Sunday.
- / 2) You can afford (a) your own reliable duplicator and (b) your own typewriter.
- ? 3) You are a real fanatic about Diplomacy, and can draw a Diploma board from memory.
- X 4) You are over 18.
- / 5) You are unmarried and have no dependants.
- ? 6) You have both dedication and self-discipline.
- ? 7) You are literate and have a good sense of humour.
- / 8) You can type with more than two fingers faster than 40 w.p.m.
- X 9) You foresee no change in your circumstances for at least 3 years - if you do consider folding.
- / 10) You're as mad as a hatter, and a social dropout."

That's four ticks, three don't knows, and three crosses. I would guess that that's about average for most zine publishers. Does the perfect zine producer exist? Richard? not quite.

As for change of circumstances I will be going to university after my 'A' levels in June '79. However I might postpone entry to university till Sept. '80. I haven't got a clue what I'll do when that happens. We shall see.

\*\*\*\*\*

This is the last space I've got to fill. I'll just plead with zine producers to give me a plug/review, and who knows we might see a gamestart next issue...

GAMES

(P/1) (1977GJ)

SPRING 1906

Five against one?

Italy continues to grow

ENGLAND (Keith Smith) A(Yor)Std. F(Den)Std. F(Lon)-ENG  
FRANCE (Phil Dyson) F(MAC)-Spa s.c.\* S by A(Gas) & A(Mar)  
GERMANY (Martin Styler) A(Bur) S FRENCH A(Mar) A(Mun)-Boh  
A(Ruh)-Mun S by A(Kie) A(Hol)-Ruh  
ITALY (Ian Phillips) F(WMS) S F(For)-MAC A(Rum) S A(Bud)-Gal  
F(GoL) S A(Spa) S A(Fie)-Mar A(Tyr)-Vie A(Ven)-Tyr  
F(EMS)-Smy A(Ser) & A(Bul) S A(Rum) F(AEG) S A(Bul)  
RUSSIA (Norman Williams) F(NWG)-MAC F(Edi)-NWG A(Sev)-Rum  
A(Nwy)Std. A(Ukr) S A(Gal) S GERMAN A(Mun)-Boh  
F(BLA) S TURKISH F(Con)  
TURKEY (Kevin Harbottle) A(Ank) S A(Smy) MS F(Con)

Retreats etc.\*

FRENCH F(MAC)-Bre

I have received an endgame proposal for this game, it is a six-way draw. I think this result is a little unlikely but your votes on it will be required with your orders. Failure to vote counts as a vote in favour.

Press

Ian Phillips Speaking: All my press this move will be headed by the title: 'The Wonderful Italian Tyrant', or the abbreviation thereof. Any other press is an imitation.

Italy-Germany & Russia: The question is, can you trust each other?

Rome-Berlin: Don't forget that if you attack Russia now, then second place is yours!

Friend-Constantinople: It's not only the game that is pretty boring.

T.W.I.T.-Russia: You've no hope of winning now, especially against a player like me. Resistance is useless.

Italy-Constantinople: Do you want to finish 6th and spend the rest of the game playing pocket billiards with your thumbs. I would advise you to twiddle your thumbs in another direction.

Berlin-Moscow: 1 gone only 4 to go.

Italy-France: You are about to do exactly as your name suggests.

T.W.I.T.-Everyone: I've run out of green fleets in my set now - just shows how good I am.

Berlin-Moscow: I hope you've made the right choice.

Italy-Russia: Are you so far above us that you will not sink to the level of us peasants and write some press.

Italy: Correction. 3 against 2 against 1.

COA

Everyone pay attention because Mick Bullock now lives at 36 Greenroyd, Green Lane, West Vale, Halifax, W.Yorkshire.

\*\*\*\*\*

(P/2) Pref. list analysis (Absolutely of no interest other than to the players)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	
FRANCE	3	1	1	0	1	0	1	= 20	Total = sum of each position multiplied by the no. of times that country was preferred in that position.
GERMANY	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	= 20	
ITALY	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	= 23	
TURKEY	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	= 23	
ENGLAND	1	0	1	3	0	2	0	= 28	
RUSSIA	1	0	1	1	3	1	0	= 29	
AUSTRIA	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	= 34	

Odd that Italy did so well, and that Russia did so badly.

\*\*\*\*\*

LETTERS

Phil Dyson,  
Paddock Way,  
Howell Hill Grove,  
Ewell,  
Epsom,  
Surrey

"If, after your trial period, you do decide to embark on a full zine, what would you say to including games other than Diplomacy itself? The reason I ask is that for some time I have been considering the possibility of running a game of 'Soccerboss'. I don't know whether you've come across this game ((Sure have))

but I know that a few zines run it. I myself was playing in "Japhidrew" - and as a result have the rules of the game, and a list of the disappointed people who were playing. The number of players is variable - anything from about 10 to 30. I have a typewriter, but no access to a duplicator."

∟ Firstly I should mention that Phil wrote that letter last July so his suggestion mightn't still apply. Unlike some people I am not biased against Soccerboss, although the sort of arrangement Phil describes could lead to unnecessary delays in publication. However the recent arrival on the publishing scene of Pyrrhic Victory has really taken away the market for 4-3-3 etc. so I don't think that I will be running a game of it in Dippy. Besides to be honest, Soccerboss tends to scare off Dippy players, which is unfortunate if your zine is Dippy orientated (as this is). ∟

I only put that in to reassure any potential Dippy players. Still if I can't get another gamestart soon, and hundreds of people write in asking for Soccerdross, I may be forced to rethink my position. It's really up to you.

I've got no other letters to include, perhaps some of you could remedy this for next time. Sh\*t about 9 lines left to go.

\*\*\*\*\*

Heavy Horses by Jethro Tull

I bought this album last week, and having heard it a few times I would recommend it to anyone with taste. Miles better than the superficial dribble churned out by groups like Abba! Or the Pistols!

(F/1) Press continued

Constantinople-Friend: This is still BORING!!! Wait till next time.

Italy-Russia: You can have second place if you want it, or suffer the fate of Austria if you don't.

Italy-Russia: (for the third time!) One of your puppets actually sent me a letter - he is becoming increasingly impatient.

\*\*\*\*\*

(F/2) (1978BS)

AUTUMN 1901

Italy hurts Austria

Turkey lucky?

AUSTRIA (Keith Smith) F(Alb) S A(Tri) A(Ser) S RUSSIAN F(Rum)-Bul

ENGLAND (Brian Douglas) F(NWG)-Nwy F(NTH) C A(Edi)-Hol

FRANCE (Ian Phillips) F(MAO)-Por A(War)-Spa A(Bur)-Bel

GERMANY (Paul Hurtley) A(Kie)-Hol A(Ruh)-Bel F(Den)StF.

ITALY (Steven Rennie) A(Tyr)-Vie A(Ven)-Tyr F(ICN)-Tun

RUSSIA (Phil Dyson) F(GoB)-Swe A(Ukr) S A(Sev) F(Rum)-Bul e.c.

TURKEY (Mick Robson) A(Bul)\* S F(BLA)-Rum A(Arm)-Sev

Retreats etc. \*

TURKISH A(Bul)-Gre

Winter 1901 Adjustments

A: 3 Centres: ~~Y&Z~~, Tri, Bud, +Ser. No change.

E: 4 Centres: Lon, Lpl, Edi, +Nwy. Builds A(Lon).

F: 5 Centres: Far, Bre, Mar, +Por, +Spa. Builds A(Far) & A(Bre).

G: 4 Centres: Mun, Ber, Kie, +Den. Builds A(Mun).

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

R: 6 Centres: Mos, StF, War, Sev, +Bul, +Swe. Builds A(StF) & A(Mos).

T: 5 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, +Rum, +Gre. Builds F(Con) & F(Smy).

Hol & Bel remain neutral.

Press

Ankara Radio: 'Today our forces attacked the joint might of the AUSTRO-RUSSIAN alliance - concentrating in a two pronged manoeuvr on Rumania and the Port of Sevastopol - fighting is continuing.....'

Vienna: Following the successful annexation of Serbia in the spring, there have been demands in Austria for the annexation of the remaining Balkan territories. Since the interest of other powers in this area seems to be negligable, the Austrian government should have no trouble in fulfilling these demands.

Paris-Brian: Looks like I'm going to have no trouble in keeping up my 100% record in postal diplomacy.

France: I've got the feeling several people like me in this game.

(P/2) Press continued

Rome-~~Vizna~~ Budapest: No, there is no reason for us to fight in the fall, but there is a reason for you to fall in the fight.

England: Irish newsflash - Elvis Presley is still dead!

London-Paris: See you in Morecombe then.

\*\*\*\*\*

Diplomacy

Lists are of course open for hundreds (well three or four) Diplomacy games. The game fee is 50p + 50p returnable deposit. Standbys will not be used. Spring 1901 NMR's count as resignations and any deposit paid is liable to be kept - unless you contact me quick. I reserve the right to refuse to give a game to any well-known dropouts. That's about all, but I'll print Figgott's famous condensed house rules to keep everyone straight.

"Two-season game year; Winter builds to be ordered with Autumn moves, and may be conditional; conditional retreats to be ordered with previous season's moves; unordered retreats disbanded by GM; unordered removals taken by GM (his choice); two consecutive NMR's = anarchy; deception of the GM = instant removal from all games; GM's decision final, but mistakes can be corrected if notified at once." Preference lists accepted.

'Nuff said?

DEADLINE SETURDAY 27th MAY DEADLINE SATURDAY 27th MAY DEADLINE

In keeping with the age old hobby tradition I shall sometime in the future produce a late issue. Rather than have to invent excuses when that time comes I will now publish a list of excuses so that I can just quote the appropriate no.

- 1) Duplicator (everyone's favourite).
- 2) GPO failure.
- 3) Con or holiday.
- 4) Close ~~RRRRRRRRRR~~ relative's funeral.
- 5) Serious operation (eg. acute thingy)

A quick mental calculation tells me I'd better stop here. Goodbye.

\*\*\*\*\*

PIGMY 12

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England

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IF UNDELIVERED

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