Rath Clointarff
Irish Dungeon Adventure

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Game Systems

Playable realism. Many games which are realistic can't be played; most playable games aren't terribly realistic. Traveller: 2300 is both at once, balancing exquisite detail with simple, accurate game systems.

The heart of Traveller: 2300 is its task resolution system. With it, the referee has a plethora of examples and precedents to use in any situation, and the players have a reasonable idea what their options will be on any given task. Rules cover all aspects of conflict resolution from arguments to all-out battles. Detailed character generation, starship operations and combat, and economics make Traveller: 2300 the state of the art in science fiction role-playing. If you're playing anything else, you're behind the times.

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The Traveller: 2300 universe deals with star systems within 50 light years of Earth. Extensive research and analysis has produced the most accurate star map ever made. Never before has such a monumental task been undertaken, either in gaming or in science fiction. Over 700 stars in over 500 systems, on a 22" x 25" full color map. Location, spectral type, size, and magnitude are all documented in a separate star catalog.

The local neighborhood of stars contains white dwarves, red giants, and warm yellow stars like our own. The map extends far beyond the furthest reaches of human settlement into the realms of aliens and the unexplored. Traveller: 2300 maps out the local neighborhood in detail never before accomplished, helping to make the game what it was designed to be—the ultimate in playable realism.

Traveller: 2300 includes complete rules for science fiction role-playing, a complete full color map of everything within 50 light years of Sol with accompanying stellar data, and an introductory adventure set on mankind's frontier. Be a part of the New Age, with Traveller: 2300.

GDW Game Designers' Workshop
Since 1973
PO Box 1646, Bloomington, IL 61702-1646
This issue features fantasy - a reminder that Fantasy Gamer is part of the magazine's name. So, in honor of St. Patrick and your Celtic heritage, wander through the dungeon in the Fantasy Section. Don't worry, there's plenty of good hardware in the Space Section.

Even though most of us are looking forward to signs of winter's end, it's not too early to start planning for the summer convention season. I'd like to see some reader input on a particular aspect of the convention, the Origins awards. What do you like about them? What do you want changed? Would you give more consideration to purchasing a game if you knew it had won an award at Origins? Are you aware of other awards given in the industry? If you are, do you feel they compete with the Origins' awards? I'm asking these questions because I want to discover how gamers feel about the awards. There is also another reason. This year, I'm involved in the awards and have an opportunity to initiate some changes. Of course, I have opinions on the awards and what I'd like to see changed. I'm a gamer, after all. But the awards will be better if they reflect the opinion of as many gamers as possible, so write a letter. If you're not interested in the awards, tell me why.

I'd like to see fan participation in the awards continued and expanded. Gamers vote with their dollars when they make a purchase, but not all the award categories are reinforcements of buying decisions. The Hall of Fame and the Graphics categories, for example, are opportunities for gamers to nominate people and games that have added enjoyment to the hobby. What about new categories? Are their areas of gaming that should have a category? The game that doesn't fit into any specific category is a constant problem. A special award of excellence should be available for the academy to present. It should be a category similar to the Hall of Fame, but with the option of no presentation if the awards committee chooses not to do so in a given year. This area still needs a lot of definition, but I think the idea is a good one. A bigger audience at the award ceremony would be a good way to show interest in the awards.

Next issue will feature computer games.

Anne F. Jaffe  
Editor

MIND DUEL ERRATA

Dear Editor,

It is very good to see Mind Duel in print at last, but I noticed a few errors in the published version which I would like to clear up for your readers. Most of them have to do with the diagrams. For example, at the top of the third column on page thirty, just after defining forward and backward, the text says "See diagram #1 for an example". But diagram #1 has nothing to do with forwards and backwards. Instead it illustrates one continuous direction in the wavelength arcs. I trust this hasn't caused much confusion, as the definitions of forward and backward are straightforward enough to require no diagram.

Diagram #5 should be referred to in the text in the third column on page thirty-one, just after the two paragraphs on backword acceleration. Also, upon reflection, I believe that the invalid moves on diagrams #1 and #2 should be on a separate diagram with short explanations (but this is my own fault as that is how I made the diagrams in the original rules).

There are two other problems which I believe should be noted. The first is that although the rules call for counters numbered '0' through '4', the actual counter sheet includes '5' as well. Though not originally called for, if people want to expand the game to include the '5' they should. The second problem is that with the new board design the wavelength arcs are no longer arcs. Sorry folks, when I proofread the final text I did not have a copy of the new board designs or diagrams.

Despite these flaws I hope that people have enjoyed it. For those who want a really bloody game, I suggest they try considering pieces which would decay beyond the unconscious #6 arc as lost. It can make stuns hurt a whole lot more.

Faithfully,

Lester W. Smith
This is the place to discover what's new in gaming products. There will be a list of scheduled releases from the manufacturers. There will also be a short write-up of new products that make your gaming more enjoyable.

**New Releases**

**Columbia Games, Inc.**
- Tharda, Harn Kingdom module
- Melody, Harn Kingdom module
- Mengloa, Ivinnia module

**Steve Jackson Games, Inc.**
- Son of Toon, Toon supplement
- GURPS Battlemats, GURPS Combat Showcase, Car Wars supplement
- Ogre Reinforcement pack, Ogre Science Fiction Characters, Cardboard Heroes
- Car Warriors, Cardboard Heroes

**West End Games, Inc.**
- Your Own Private Idaho, Price of Freedom adventure

**Ral Partha Enterprises**
- Armored Ninja
- Ninja wigimmick weapons
- Armored Samurai

**Chaotic, Inc.**
- The Shattered Isle, Hawkmoon supplement
- Terror Australis, Call of Cthulhu supplement

**BattleTech**
- The Vedette, 50 ton tank (2)
- Velk-ga Valkyrie, BattleTech CPLT-C1 catapult, BattleTech

**TSR, Inc.**
- Laser Tag Live Action Game
- Laser Tag Handbook

**FASA Corporation**
- Star Fleet Intelligence Manual, Star Trek rules supplement
- Trader Captains & Merchant Princes, Star Trek rules supplement
- Gorn battleship, Star Trek miniatures
- Romulan Bright One destroyer, Star Trek miniatures
- Klingon Stingtongue missile destroyer, Star Trek miniatures
- Mercenaries Handbook, BattleTech rules supplement
- The Klingons, 2 volume set, Star Trek supplement
- The Strider Incident/Regula One Deck Plans, Star Trek adventure sourcebook set

**Chaosium, Inc.**
- The Sudden Striker, Hawkmoon supplement
Tournament of Dreams, Pendragon Supplement

**Dark Horse Miniatures**
Mauler, Mekton
Scimitar, Mekton
Vector MKII, Mekton
Vertech Fighter, Robotech
Vertech Guardian mode, Robotech
Vertech Battloid mode, Robotech
Gladiator Destroid mode, Robotech
Excalibur Destroid mode, Robotech
Spartan Destroid mode, Robotech
Zentraedi Scout Pod, Robotech
Zentraedi Tactical Pod, Robotech
Zentraedi Command Post, Robotech
Player characters, Robotech
Russian Char., Price of Freedom
American Char., Price of Freedom
Groo the Wanderer, 75mm
Road Hogs, Teen-age Mutant Ninja Turtles
Elementals

**Palladium Books**
Advanced Recon, Recon rules supplement and adventure
The Robotech Defense Force Manual, Robotech rules supplement
The Zentraedi, Robotech supp.

**Mayfair Games, Inc.**
HI VE, Heroes adventure
Crystal Barrier, Role-Aids adventure
Who Watches the Watchmen?, DC Heroes adventure
Legion of Superheroes Volume II, The Worlds

**Iron Crown Enterprises**
SpaceMaster Companion,
SpaceMaster rules supplement
S.H.A.D.O.W. Over Scotland,
Danger International adventure
Haven of Gondor, Middle-earth
Role playing campaign
Pirates of Pelargir, Middle-earth
Role playing module
Robin Hood, Rolemaster & Fantasy hero campaign
Rolemaster Combat Screen,
Rolemaster
Adventurers Club #9

**Victory Games, Inc.**
On Her Majesty's Secret Service,
James Bond 007 adventure

**Grenadier Models, Inc.**
Julie Guthrie Fantasy Personality #2
Legion of Superheroes boxed set
Monster manuscript #11 & #12
Goblins, Battllords boxed set

**Game Designers' Workshop**
Airlords of the Ozarks, Twilight:
2000 module

**Strategic Simulations, Inc.**
Realms of Darkness, Apple computers

Repeating our offer from last issue.
Lou Zocchi, the inventor of the 100 sided die, is interested in compiling a book of uses and tables for your 100 sided die. He's asked the readers of Space Gamer to help. To help motivate your thinking, there are three 100 sided dice to be won. Send your ideas for tables and uses to D100 c/o the Space Gamer. We'll pass along all your suggestions and give away three D100 to the people having the most useful ideas on the die.

Astute readers will note that there is no deadline mentioned. The deadline is October 1, 1987. The winners will be announced in the November/December, 1987 issue.

Reality Simulations, Inc., the folks who run Duelmasters and Hyborian War play by mail games, now have a customer service telephone number, (602) 967-7979.

Dr. Ruth's Computer Game of Good Sex is available for IBM-PC, Commodore 64/128, and the Apple II series home computers from Avalon Hill for $29.95.

Electronic Arts announced a Commodore 64/128 version of Moebius, a fantasy adventure game set in a martial arts environment. It retails for $39.95.

**Quizam**, a home computer game for the Commodore 64/128 and Apple II series from Electronic Arts, is set in space. The player must capture and disable malfunctioning satellites. Gaining access to the satellite involves answering trivia questions. $29.95 is the retail price.

Software Golden Oldies is
available from Electronic Arts for
the Atari ST for $34.95. Software
Golden Oldies includes the games
Adventure, Eliza, Life and Pong.

Electronic Arts is distributing
Computer Scrabble in the United
States. The game is available for the
Commodore 64/128 for $32.95, and
the IBM-PC for $39.95.

Electronic Arts announced that
Game Designers’ Workshop (GDW)
has joined the company’s line-up of
affiliated labels. Electronics Arts is
distributing The Battle of
Chickamauga and Rommel Battles
for Tobruk by GDW. The games
are available for Commodore 64 and
Atari 8-bit computers for $39.95.

Reluctant Publishing, Ltd. is
the new publisher of Stardate
magazine. They plan to publish
adventures, articles, book and game
reviews about science fiction
gaming. Stardate supports FASA
Corp. products. Editorial address is
7732 Auburn Rd., Utica, MI 48087.

All you Star Fleet Battles
players, Captain’s Log #4 from
Task Force Games, includes the
consolidated addenda thru Nexus
#17.

Strategic Simulations, Inc. (SSI)
introduced a line of classic games
that retails at $14.95 for the IBM-
PC, Apple II series, Atari and
Commodore 64 computers. The
classic games offered are Combat
Leader, Computer Baseball,
Computer Bismark, Cytron
Masters, Eagles, Fortress,
Galactic Gladiators, Gemstone
Warrior and Warp Factor.

Strategic Simulations Inc. (SSI)
announced the release of Wargame
Construction Set for Atari and
Commodore computers. The game
also features eight pre-designed
scenarios and sells for $29.95.

TSR, Inc. announced that it
purchased all shares of the
company owned by Gary Gygax.
TSR, Inc. retains all trademarks
and copyrights. The company plans
to continue to support existing
product lines while developing new
products and licensed properties.

GURPS players, Steve Jackson
Games, the publisher of the game,
prints a newsletter called
Roleplayer that is filled with
material you need. The November
issue has all the latest errata. To get
on the mailing list, write to Steve
Jackson Games, Box 18957, Austin,
TX 78760.

Nova Game Designs, Inc.
announced that Cold Drake, Man in
Plate, and Lizardman for the Lost
Worlds gamebooks are back in
print.

The Laser Tag Official Live
Action Game Handbook
published by TSR, Inc. contains
safety rules and tips and games to
play with your light gun. Look for
a hardback manual on the planes for
the AD&D game in the summer.

Games Workshop US
announced new releases in the
Citadel paints line. Also look for
new boxed sets of the Regiments of
Renown. The new sets feature all
three command figures and more
soldiers. The first two sets are listed
above. The Warhammer Role-
Playing Game scenario listed
above is the first of six planned
releases. Each will feature rules
expansions and world information
as part of an ongoing campaign that
the scenarios comprise.

Dark Horse Miniatures
announced that Bob Charette is
sculpting the Robotech line of
miniatures and Julie Guthrie is
sculpting the Price of Freedom
figures.
TWO NEW GAMES
From Schubel & Son Inc.

Siege America and War 1940 are both battalion-level, correspondence war games. Both games follow the tradition of Global Supremacy. These games are two sided with 15 players per side. It is very important to work together with the players on your side.

In Siege America each player begins as the leader of an army in a war between American forces and Communist forces. The Communists are attempting an invasion of the Continental United States sometime in the near future after a major breakdown of American military and economic power.

In War 1940 each player begins as a general of an army in the beginning of World War II. It is the Allies vs the Axis in a game that covers the entire war, both the European and Pacific theaters of operation.

A New Price Structure

Unlike most other Schubel & Son Inc. games, both Siege America and War 1940 use fixed pricing rather than optional turn pricing. What that means is your charge for playing, with the average turn around of two turns per month is $15.00. There is no charge for battles. There are no optional charges. You may only play two turn sheets per turn and conduct one attack. These new games use this fixed price structure so your turn fees will be completely predictable; they will be no more than $15.00 per month. No player can buy an advantage over you.

Siege America or War 1940 can be entered for $7.50 which includes the rule book and set up fee. Turns are $5.00 with a $5.00 monthly adjustment. There are no other charges. A rule book may be purchased separately for $4.00.

QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1974!

NO CHARGE FOR BATTLES

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SHIPS OF THE GALAXY

Stiletto Class Yacht

By Gary Reilly

Every small troupe of Traveller adventurers needs to be mobile, to be able to travel among the stars. One just can't depend on the commercial starliners, especially when speed is of the essence and you need to leave at odd times. Sooner or later, owning your own starship becomes a necessity.

The Stiletto Class yacht may be just what you ordered. Although it displaces a mere 100 tons, this starship provides ideal transportation for small parties of wanderers.

The Jump Drive (JD) sits piggyback atop the main structure. A Jump-2 capability provides reasonable interstellar mobility. The Tandem Starrunner Class B Maneuver Drives (MD) generate a maximum acceleration of 4 g's, enough power for most situations. Fuel scoops (FS) allow for emergency refueling by skimming unrefined material from gas giants.

The Stiletto may accommodate up to six adventurers. The three double occupancy cabins (C) offer comfortable in-flight living quarters. These staterooms, a communal fresher (FR) and a galley (GAL) cluster around a small, but functional common area. A ship's locker (L) may hold a variety of equipment including weapons, maintenance tools, etc.

This compact ship requires but a single crewman for its operation. All systems are controlled from the forward pilot's bridge (B). The ship's avionics (AV) and computer (CP) may be accessed from this area. A reinforced iris valve allows the bridge to be isolated from the rest of the ship if necessary.

Ship's defense centers on a single weapon turret (T) mounted in the nose of the craft. Fire control (FC) is located on the bridge. In the model pictured, the hardpoint sports a triple weapon system consisting of the universally accepted combination of pulse laser, missile rack and sand caster. The turret is operated remotely from the bridge.

Up to 12 tons of cargo may be carried in the hold (CH) located behind the crew's quarters. This represents a rather large capacity for a vessel of the Stiletto's size. An external ramp in the hold's deck may be lowered to facilitate the loading of cargo. The cargo bay is available for other duty as well. Several temporary staterooms can be installed to increase the ship's passenger capacity, or house an aircar in the bay for planetside transportation. Any such conversions would increase the ship's construction price.

The starboard airlock (AL) forms the primary access to the vessel. In addition, the small engineering section at the rear of the cargo hold contains an iris valve set in the deck. This compartment may be decompressionized, doubling as an auxiliary air lock.

DECK LEGEND

| AL | Air Lock | FR | Freshner |
| AV | Avionics | FS | Fuel Scoop |
| B  | Bridge   | GAL | Galley   |
| C  | Stateroom | JD | Jump Drive |
| CH | Cargo Hold | L  | Ship's Locker |
| CP | Computer  | MD | Maneuver Drive |
| F  | Fuel      | PP | Power Plant |
| FC | Fire Control | T  | Turret   |

Technical Specifications

Length: 48m.
Beam: 15m.
Displacement: 100 Tons
Hull Configuration: Needle/Wedge
Atmospherically Streamlined
Star Drive: Sheldon Lightjump A-10
Max Jump: 2
Maneuver Drive: Tandem Starrunner Class B
Max Acceleration: 4g.
Power Plant: Fuselli Pulsar Mod B
Power Rating: 4
Fuel Capacity: 24 Tons
Avionics: 20 Tons
Computer: Starhull Model 1 Bis
Fire Control: 1 Ton
Quarters: 3 Crew Cabins
Ship's Armaments: 1 Triple Turret
Cargo Capacity: 12 Tons
Crew Roster: 1 Pilot/Navigator
Auxiliary Vessels: None
Construction Costs: 45.7 MCr
Naval Architects: Morgari Shipyards
Universal Ship's Profile (USP):
Y - Stiletto
Y-1122A1-010000-00000-0
Passengers = 5, Cargo = 12,
Fuel = 12, EP = 4, Agility = 3
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As a bonus, we'll extend your subscription by one issue for each friend you recruit to buy a gift subscription. For example, if you recruit two friends and buy a third gift subscription (SG/FG is definitely the right gift for any adventure gamer!), then you'd get three extra issues added on to your SG/FG subscription!

Okay, the fine print is that your must be a current Space Gamer / Fantasy Gamer subscriber to receive bonus issues added to your subscription for recruiting or buying gift subscriptions. Furthermore, the person to whom you are recruiting or receiving your gift subscription must be a truly "new" subscriber and have not been an SG/FG subscriber within the past year. Finally, full payment must be enclosed for each "recruited" and gift subscription. This offer is only good until the publication of the next issue of SG/FG, at which time it may be withdrawn (by not appearing), modified or continued.

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THE JEWEL THIEF

A Non-Player Character Encounter For Champions

By Michael DeWolfe

This is a short scenario intended to fill into adventure as a beginning or an end. The scenario may have nothing to do with a larger adventure, other than to break the monotony. It is suitable for characters that are built on less than 200 pts. The scenario is especially suited for crime fighting heroes.

Player Information

A burglar is climbing his way up a side of the Grand West Hotel. He is dressed in black and is carrying a partially empty backpack. When he reaches the 14th floor, the thief successfully deactivates the security system at a window and then opens it. Upon entering, he goes over to a picture on the wall of this bedroom and takes it down. Behind it is a small safe. He attempts to open the safe and steal its contents; money and jewelry.

Referee Information

The preceding paragraph describes the plot of the scenario, up to the latest point where a superhero could enter into the plot. The superhero could sight the burglar while on a normal tour of the city or while the character is playing civilian for the night. Whatever the beginning, the superhero encounters the thief before he completes the robbery.

Once the thief is confronted, he will try to flee. He would attempt to Move Through or Move By to get away. The burglar is an egotistical weasel, so the last thing he wants to do is fight or be caught. To escape, he'll use the window, not the door. If cornered, with no way of escape, the thief will attack with his Martial Arts or his knife. The knife is concealed in an inside coat pocket. The room is dark, so both groups make attacks at -1.

If the thief gets out the window he'll climb down the rope. If the superhero follows him he leaps from his lines and traverses a full eight inches before gliding. The thief would next glide to the ground and attempt to escape on foot.

The burglar is not going to give up, even if he is shown that the superhero is definitely superior. So, the character has to subdue and hold the thief before taking him to the authorities. He is going to use any means possible to evade capture. The hero may not find this criminal easy to catch.

When the thief is captured he'll be spouting obscenities like, "You'll pay for this!" The police thank the hero for his work and take the thief away.

The Thief and His Story

The thief's name is Eric Smith. His story is typical of his type. He started out on the wrong side of the tracks. Until his teens, he was just a gutter kid. He soon found that being a criminal was easier than honest work. He was able to pick up climbing, martial arts and burglary skills by the time he was twenty-seven. Now, he's a two-bit burglar whose lucky because he's never been caught.

<table>
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POWERS & SKILLS

ENHANCED VISION +2
ENHANCED HEARING +2
GLIDING +8 inches
SUPERLEAP +8 inches
CLIMBING 14, 6 inches
100 + DISADVANTAGES
VERY EGOTISTICAL

CHA COST (39) + POWER COST (106) = 145, DISADVANTAGES = 100 + 45

SECURITY SYSTEMS 14-
MARTIAL ARTS 2 X DAMAGE
STEALTH 13-
ACROBATICS 15-
KNIFE 1 and 1/2 D6 HKA

HUNTED BY POLICE 11-
**TECHNICAL DATA READOUT**

by Dale L. Kemper

**FLE-15 Flea Type Light Battlemech**

This is the first of a series of write-ups for the Ralph Partha BATTLETECH miniatures. These are not official FASA Corp. approved statistics.

**OVERVIEW**

The FLE-15 Flea Type Light Battlemech is one of the older recon vehicles in the Succession States' forces. First produced in 2521 A.D., the Flea was one of the first massed produced 'Mech models in the old Star League. Old League records show that over 250,000 of these 'Mechs were constructed before the rise of the Successor States. The best estimates calculate that somewhere over 10% of these 'Mech are still in operation today. Currently, the Flea is out of production, being superseded by newer or heavier Scout 'Mechs. It is still a favorite of some MechWarriors, however, and no less than four popular versions can still be seen on battlefields throughout the Known Sphere.

The main mission of the Flea is reconnaissance. With its nearly nonexistent armor and light weapons it must rely on its great speed to avoid situations in which it would easily be destroyed. The Flea is also used as an infantry buster, being able to screen heavier 'Mechs from pesky foot soldiers and their armored vehicles. The large number of light weapons on the standard version of the Flea aid it in its mission, and its great maneuverability insures that it

---

**BATTLETECH Game Stats**

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**WEAPONS and AMMO**

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<tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Ammo (MG) 200</td>
<td>CT</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>
These one rarely get caught unawares.

CAPABILITIES

The Flea Type Light Battlemech is extremely fast and maneuverable. In open terrain it is one of the fastest 'Mechs yet created. These movement abilities help the Flea avoid heavier 'Mechs it could not hope to defeat. Its armament is designed for short and medium ranges only. Thus, care should be taken to avoid long ranged fire fights due to the fact that the Flea cannot reply. The Flea's main anti-'Mech armament is its single Diverse Optics Type 15 Medium Laser. Its small laser and machinegun armament has too short a range to effectively reply to 'Mech attacks. Experience has shown that any 'Mech battle in which the Flea is close enough to use her small arms against an opponent usually results in a disabled Flea. Only against infantry and their lighter armored vehicles can the Flea ever act offensively with much of a chance for success.

BATTLE HISTORY

During the First and Succession Wars Fleas were used extensively as scouts and infantry screens in almost every engagement of the conflict. Their losses were tremendous, however. In the Battle of Pohlan in 2794 fully 80% of the 300+ Fleas that were used by the House Kurita and Devion forces were destroyed in the two month campaign. More cautious tactics have prevailed in the centuries since those conflicts, and no other MechWarrior pilot has learned to be more cautious than those operating Fleas.

More recently, during a bandit raid on the planet New Riga in 3995 A.D. by Hendrik III of Oberon VI a recon lance of pirate Fleas was able to lead the defending 'Mechs away from their defense point and into an ambush. The Fleas were easily able to outdistance their lumbering opponents until Hendrik's heavy 'Mechs were able to get behind the defenders, overwhelming them.

VARIANTS

There are four popular versions of the FLE-15 Flea in operation today. All essentially change armament to give greater armor.

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values. Type A is the Standard Model as noted above. Type B is the anti-infantry models and adds two additional Browning machineguns in place of the Diverse Optics Medium Laser. This type has the same armor values as the Standard Model but is prone to rapid MG ammunition consumption when in extended combat. Type C drops all the machineguns and adds an additional Diverse Optics Medium Laser while increasing the armor (to 48 points). There is a slight heat buildup problem with the Type C, but with caution, it usually poses no problem. The Type D version strips the Flea of all but its inherent twin small lasers in the center torso and adds the maximum amount of armor to its skin (64 points). This increases its staying power on the battlefield but essentially turns it into a noncombatant scout vehicle.

**NOTABLE USERS**

There have been many notable MechWarriors who operated Fleas. One of the more famous is Lieutenant Anton Brisbane of the 21st Marik Militia. During a raid by forces of House Kurita in 2992 A.D., Lieutenant Brisbane, in a berserker rage after seeing one of his lance mates killed when her Flea exploded nearby, charged the attacking Kurita Phoenix Hawk at full speed. His Flea was very difficult to hit as it ran toward the medium 'Mech. No one could understand Brisbane's tactic since the enemy was fully three times his size. Finally, the Phoenix Hawk pilot was spooked and began to withdraw toward a supporting lance. At that moment Brisbane's Flea smashed into it, neatly clipping off the right leg at the knee actuator. The Phoenix Hawk began to topple over as the pilot ejected, and ran toward the other Kurita forces. Lieutenant Brisbane's Flea was entirely demolished in the collision but he was removed unconscious from the wreckage.

He needed a bionic left arm and right eye. He was offered the repaired Kurita Phoenix Hawk as a reward for his foolish bravery but insisted on going back into his recon lance with a new Flea. His wish was readily granted.

**PLEASE NOTE!** Rail Partha Enterprises offers a fine line scale model of the FLE-15 Flea in their extensive BATTLETECH miniatures line (Catalog #20-805). Check them out at your local gaming supply store.
Feeling overwhelmed by the number of products for mechwarrior gaming? Here's a survey of FASA Corps' BATTLETECH products.

What's it like to pilot a huge, lumbering robot grinding its way across a rusting wasteland hell-bent on the destruction of another lumbering machine bent on your destruction? It's easy to find out: Go to your nearest hobby store and pick up a copy of FASA Corporation's BATTLETECH. More than just a game of tactical machine to machine combat, BATTLETECH is a comprehensive system involving various aspects of conventional tanks, artillery and infantry together with air to ground, air to air, and space to space combat, along with a fine role playing system added in. The game system itself is very easy to learn, and is suited to perform spur of the moment slugfests or hilarious technical battles. Let's take a look at the various products available and what they offer.

The first game of the series is called, appropriately enough, BATTLETECH. For someone interested in the subject matter, this game is a must, for it contains all of the rules necessary to play (an important aspect). BATTLETECH contains two levels of play, beginner and advanced. The basic rules are more of an introduction to the movement rules than the actual game itself. The combat system explained in this section has nothing to do with the system used in the rest of the game and are therefore better ignored. The movement is important, however, and once that's learned, the players are advised to skip straight to the advanced rules. Moving your multi-ton 'mech is an easy process of walking and running modes, and a few of the more talented individuals have a third movement called jumping, which is as close as you can come to flying without actually doing any flying.

Once walking and running has been mastered, one must learn the art of blowing things up, which is the reason you're out there walking and running around in the first place. BATTLETECH's combat system is a simple and clean one. A base die roll modified by range, movement and cover to see if you hit, and one to see where you hit about sums it up for the firer. Each 'mech is divided up into hit locations, each with its own protective layer of ablative armor. Hits on a location wear away the armor and then proceed inward to damage what's inside (pilots don't like this part at all!). Weapons in the game range from low tech machineguns and flamethrowers to missile racks, various and sundry lasers, autocannons and the really nasty projectile cannon (or just "ppc"). Each weapon does a fixed amount of damage depending on its type, so you don't have to wonder whether your heavy laser is going to punch through your opponent's armor or just roast a few marshmallows. Fighting isn't limited to only taking potshots at your opponent. Punches, kicks, charges and the like are all within the scope of the game (don't expect 'mechs to move around like Ninjas, but placing a good, swift kick to someone's afterburner can be quite fun!).

Running around and shooting up the countryside may be fun, but with a little fun comes the price to pay: heat. It gets really hot inside a 'mech, what with sitting on top of an aging fusion reactor, firing all those weapons. In the middle of a firefight the temperature can go from very hot to really very hot in no time at all. Each 'mech is equipped with a battery of heat sinks which almost, but not quite, get rid of all the excess heat. Building up too much heat tends to cause problems, like having the reactor shut down, the fire control sensors get a bit hazy, or something really inconvenient like the ammunition blowing up. Moderation proves to be quite useful when piloting a 'mech.

The game rounds out with statistics for the various standard 'mechs, ranging from the small but fast LOCUST to the ultra nasties like the 70 plus ton MARAUDER and WARHAMMER. There are also rules for situations like; a WARHAMMER is standing in a grove of trees to your left and you can't seem to be able to zap him fast enough. What do you do? Easy. Start a fire in his nice, little protection (WARHAMMERS are notorious for their ability to generate vast amounts of excess heat) and give him a hotfoot. Fire setting rules and terrain conversion are only some of the optional rules included. BATTLETECH is a good game which stands on its own, but lacks in two important areas which the next two supplements cover; warfare in an urban environment and air combat.

The next game in the BATTLETECH series is expressly designed for those liking a more "suburban" feel. CITYTECH contains all of the rules for advanced combat with 'mechs, and contains specialty areas for urban combat. Complete rules for using various prepositions (IN the building, ON the building, BEHIND the building...) in accordance with city obstacles is explained, along
with line-of-sight, damage to structures, what to do if you are IN a falling building) and "let's see what happens if we set the building on fire" to make it all-in-all a very useful addition indeed.

Another important aspect of CityTech is the addition of advanced rules for use with conventional forces, i.e., tanks, artillery and infantry. Tanks come in a variety of shapes; tracked, wheeled or hover. They basically use the same move and shoot rules that the 'mechs use, and tend to be a little less mobile than their legged adversaries. Artillery tends to be the "direct fire" sort and more comprehensive indirect fire rules are to be found in the role playing supplement to be mentioned later. It is in CityTech that infantry come into their full potential. Standing around in open country and getting slaughtered seemed to be the poor infantryman's lot until CityTech came out. Walking through a city can be one very unpleasant experience for a mechwarrior when he turns a corner and suddenly finds a hail of fire coming at him from both sides of the street. Infantry in buildings can be quite formidable, and their firepower at the short ranges experienced in a city fight or be more than enough to cripple or destroy any 'mech that doesn't leave the vicinity FAST!

AeroTech is the next in the series of BattleTech. It differs from the previous two games in that it presents a new system for handling space-to-space and air-to-air combat. The game stands on its own as a tactical game involving the huge dropships which carry 'mechs to the surface of a planet and the aerospace fighters designed to stop them. The game is played on a map consisting of a generic planet and moon configuration, with a "vector" symbol gravity well surrounding the whole. Each dropship and aerospace fighter has a thrust ratio with which it may control its movement around the board. Coasting and gravity are taken into account, as well as fuel and the ability of a craft to perform high-gee maneuvers without breaking up. The actual mechanics of dropping a 'mech from orbit is kept very abstract, and I am a little disappointed at not having a little more detail here. Combat within the atmosphere of a planet is also a little vague, and a bit more detail would have been nice. AeroTech contains a rules interface section dealing with incorporating atmospheric fighters to a land based action as ground support, and this makes up a little for what would otherwise not prove to be a good investment for a player interested in mainly the land based aspects of the BattleTech system. There are also rules for the creation of land-air 'mechs, or LAM's. These triple-changing 'mechs are a combination of both plane and robot, and tend to make very effective high speed recon craft (gee, I wonder where they got the idea for that...). All in all, AeroTech is a nice game, but is certainly not necessary for the system as a whole. One nice side note, however, AeroTech contains rules for designing your own aerospace fighter, following in the footsteps of the BattleTech and CityTech games, which contain design sequences for 'mechs and armored vehicles.

Now we come to a completely different aspect of the BattleTech system; role-playing. Mechwarrior is the role playing supplement designed to really get players into the seat of a giant battle machine. Mechwarrior's generation system is a points allocation system, instead of the usual die rolling used by most roleplaying games. Each player has the usual characteristics like strength and dexterity, and also a number of skills based partly on the background of the character. Skills range from such physical ones as brawling to more esoteric ones such as land management.

Mechwarrior has a very comprehensive combat system which works quite well, and uses a hit location system for allocating wounds a character suffers, rather than a mystical hit point total. The rules contain a very detailed section of what to do once you've been hurt in one of those locations, what sort of aid you're likely to receive, and how you're going to feel afterward. The rules also have a very nice section on integrating the game with BattleTech and the other games, and contains the previously mentioned rules on how to conduct offboard artillery bombardments. Then there is the appendices. These are sections devoted to information on the state of technology, the five major houses ruling space in the BattleTech world, and the various personas involved. Included as a bonus are nifty color pictures of various House uniforms, equipment, vehicles, and of course, the 'mechs. I found this supplement very useful, for not only did it provide a roleplaying side to the game, but the background material was useful in setting up scenarios and the like.

This particular product I highly recommend.

Next on the list of BattleTech products is the BattleTech Technical Read-out. This is a nice thick book done in the "Star Wars" sketchbook style. It contains a plethora of 'mechs, vehicles,
Space Gamer / Fantasy Gamer magazine is returning well in time for Christmas, and with so much to herald, we want to make sure you get the right gift! Space Gamer magazine has been published for eleven years, and has served Science-Fiction and Fantasy gaming fans faithfully through the years. It is a magazine with a long history, an outstanding reputation, and now it's having a glorious rebirth.

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ON THE HOUSE

Popular House Rules For BATTLETECH

By Stephen Fuelleman

_BattleTech_, by FASA, Corp. is an interesting and popular game involving huge war machines (sort of a tank with legs) and open field battle in a fantasy world of the far future. Even without the role playing rules found in the Mechwarrior supplement, the game is quite playable and a lot of fun. Its only real drawback is that it takes too long to play. This article includes a few popular house rules intended to speed up the game and give more options to the players. These suggestions are contributed by Chris Carleson, Raymond Loh, and the lunatics at the Cal State Fullerton Game Club.

New maneuvers:

In _BattleTech_, each mechanical warrior, called a Mech has the movement options of walking, running, and jumping. Movement is plotted in map hexes, counting each hex as one point of movement, and each course change as one point of movement. This means that turning your mech one sixth of a circle (one face on a hex) is the same as moving one hex. To speed movement slightly, some people allow the mech to move sideways, as well as forward and backward. This maneuver requires a dice roll vs pilot skill, with failure meaning that the mech has fallen. By saving the movement points that would have been used making the complex turns involved, mechs can get into position in fewer turns, making the game proceed faster.

Consider this unusual maneuver: Crawling. A crawling mech can move at one half normal walking speed, and can't sidestep. The advantage to this is that you can't be seen if it is moving in shallow ("Level One") water, or hiding behind high trees or low mountains. Forest cover is upgraded by one, making light trees act as medium, and medium as heavy. It isn't possible to crawl in heavy woods. This adds the element of surprise to the game as it is possible to hide. Of course, if someone does get a clear shot at you, it is treated as if you were a prone target. To keep such unseen mechs' position a secret, the owning player writes down his mech's movements, position and direction, removing the miniature from the board until someone spots it. This takes trustworthy players, of course.

Multiple attacks:

The _BattleTech_ rule book implies that each weapon can be fired only once in a round. It does not explicitly state this. This oversight is corrected in the Mechwarrior supplement but allowing repeat firing of some weapons can take hours off of a large battle. It would be illogical to think that a weapon system with any kind of mechanical feed could fire any faster than once a round, but energy weapons might. Consider allowing PPCs (a sort of laser cannon) and heavy lasers to fire twice a round, medium lasers to fire three times a round, and light lasers may fire up to four times a round. If a mech goes into positive heat in a round where a weapon was mulitple-fired, a critical hit roll should be made against every weapon that multi-fired, to see if it burned out. All attacks with a weapon must be against the same opponent. This would speed up the battle without disturbing the game balance.

Called shots:

The _BattleTech_ game tracks armor and damage by hit location, shot placement being randomly rolled. That means that two mechs standing face to face could fire point blank, and have absolutely no control where they hit each other. Consider allowing some slight control of shot placement, based on how solid the hit was. If a hit was rolled at least two points better than the number needed to hit, than the attacker could modify the hit location by one from the one rolled on the dice. This modification would never be allowed to make a shot go to the head, of course, nor could it move a hit to a location that normally could not be hit from that current angle. The game uses different hit location tables for front, side, and rear attacks. You can only move to locations that appear on the table you rolled the location on. A center torso hit could be modified to left or right torso. Left or right torso shots could be modified to center torso, arms or legs. Arm or leg hits could be modified to side torso hits.

A variation of this rule would require the attacker to declare the intent to place a shot before the shot was rolled. If the hit was made (two points better than needed), than the shot location could be modified as noted above. If the location was missed, or was not two points better than normally needed to hit, than the shot was missed entirely. Some people might not allow this for long range weapons, or even restrict it to short range weapons only. This is up to the players and the referee. By allowing this slight amount of control in aiming weapons, it becomes possible to concentrate on weakened areas, which ends battles sooner.

Construction ideas:

Wouldn't it be nice if you could repair your mech's armor in the field? One way to do this is to build a shield plate on one of your mech's arms. This shield would cost you one and a half times as much as the straight armor (in all respects, tonnage included), but could be held as a cover a damaged torso area (front or rear). When not in use it
has no effect on the game. When in use, you would be able to use the arm with the shield, or any of its weapons (use being declared after the movement phase of each round). It would be expensive, but could give you that extra bit of armor right where you need it.

New combat sequence:

This variant of the system is called the Perpetual Movement system. Instead of turns being divided into distinct firing and movement phases, try dividing them into two general purpose action phases. On your action phase you may move or fire, but not both. Movement penalties are based on what you and your target did on the last action phase. Cooling is taken at one half per action phase, with "Torso Twist" maneuvers available at the beginning of any action.

Mechs could turn in place during a firing phase, but suffer the attack penalties as if that had been actual movement. Mechs shooting at you don't have that penalty, since your location hasn't changed, just your field of fire.

By allowing mechs to spend several consecutive actions on movement, getting into position on the board takes less time, and consecutive firing sequences make the actual combat run more quickly also. Actions are taken in the normal way, alternating between teams, but initiative is less important: You will not be able to shoot from an opponent's blind spot so easily since they will have an action between the time you move and the time you fire. They could run around or move away. The overall effect is to allow more strategy and less blind luck in the game, and eliminate time wasted on unused phase.
Legion of Super-Heroes
Source Book: Vol. 1
Reviewed by: Michael R. Jarrell
Published by: Mayfair Games, Inc.
Designers: Paul Levitz & Steve Crow
Price: $10.00
Complexity: Moderate
Rules Clarity: Good
Graphics Quality: Excellent

All you DC Heroes fans out there watch out! There's a bright, new product on your horizon. And, NO, I'm not talking about the Ambush Bug Adventure. I'm here to rant and rave about the Legion of Super Heroes Source Book I, by Paul Levitz, Steve Crow, and Mayfair. It's GOOD! Despite the inconsistencies, errors and omissions. Rao knows there are enough of them. But the single fact that this supplement is dedicated to the biggest, baddest, and best hero group in the DC Comics lineup overshadows anything that could possibly be wrong with it.

Those of you who are familiar with the Legion of Superheroes are going to recognize the name Paul Levitz. He writes the Legion and he's been doing it for quite some time now, too. But I can't help but feel that Levitz didn't do a great deal of work on this project, past the development stage. Here's a man who has in his possession the LSH handbooks. These handbooks contain all the secret knowledge of what has happened and what will happen. Yet, the mistakes that do appear in the source book are blatant. No LSH fan would miss them. Levitz certainly should not have done so. But I won't bother to try to lay blame. The mistakes are there and they're obvious to LSHophiles. But I will point them out to you.

What's the one thing you always find in the gaming product? Always. Typos and grammatical errors. Well, the LSH source is no exception to this. In certain places it seems as if the writers were rushing to dinner and just threw a paragraph together with whatever words were available. I, as a longtime LSH fan, am disinclined to believe that Garth's (Lightning Lad) "greatest tragedy" was Irma's, (Saturn Girl), giving birth. That's one type of mistake you're likely to find. But for the most part the mistakes that were made were in the characterizations, origins, powers, and skills.

Let's look at some of the characters and I think you'll see what I mean. Phantom Girl: They mention her extra-dimensional phasing powers in her origin yet they don't bother to state the power. Rond Vidar/Brainiac 5: Both of these characters are credited with the creation of the original time machine. Actually, Vidar is the creator of the original Time Cube. Colossal Boy: The writers actually left out Density Increase. It has been mentioned in the series that he has DI. Superboy: Here's where the writers out did themselves. Superboy has always been one of my personal favorites and this version is no exception. It's perfect. Except for one "minor" detail. Superboy's status isn't reserve. It's deceased. Ultra Boy: Another All time fave done to a T. But who's this Reflecto person? Ultra Boy was, at one time, a character called Reflecto, (no R on the end). A shameful typo that's repeated throughout the book. Sunboy: No skills?? Sorry guys. Sunboy is one hotshot physicist. And charismatic to boot. Cosmic Boy and Magnetic Kid both have limitations on their powers involving heat. Logical enough since heat causes magnetism to weaken. But the temperatures listed are low. According to them there's no way that Coz or his little brother could use their powers at the beach or on a nice, summer day.

And the Karate Kid's origin it states that Kirau Nezumi was the Black Dragon. Kirau Nezumi is the Sensei, Vals adopted fathernel teacher. It's fairly obvious just by looking at Vals that the Dragon's last name was Armorr.

These are the sort of mistakes you're going to run up against. And don't bother to look for Dev-Em, my favorite bad boy hero, because he isn't there. They forgot him. One of the few surviving Kryptonians and they LEFT HIM OUT!

On page 48 you find a short section entitled equipment. Two pages. And they only put in the most frequently used pieces at that. But what really gets me is the typo that starts here. They list a super element called Inerton. The proper name is Inertron. All of the supplements typos seem to pop up only in critical places where the potential for misinformation is great.

Overall I would have to say that the designers did a credible job of writing this supplement. Mayfair Games, as the publisher, did a good job too. But they did manage to overlook a few things that could have improved this fine supplement. Character cards. Remember those sharp looking character cards in the boxed set? Nice, huh? Why didn't they do a set for the LSH? Mayfair should seriously consider publishing a set of character cards as a supplement. Publish all those characters who have appeared since the original set was printed. Maps. There is not one single map in the whole book. Not one! No HQ, no Academy. Not even a cruiser. There should have been no problem finding them since they've been published in the comics series a dozen or more times. Putting them in the second, upcoming, source book won't cut it. They should be in number one. Another thing that should have been covered, even slightly, was the 30th Century. There's just not enough background for a non-LSH fan to grasp the setting. Sure, I'll have no problems. But what about you?

The rules clarity was good, overall. And I only saw a few minor inconsistencies in the characters, (what happened to Timberwolf's superspeed?). And the Legionnaires AURA and INFLUENCE seemed a
bit low for my tastes. By Rao!
Legionnaires are IMPESSIVE!
Some of the characters seem a bit
underpowered, to me. Most notably,
the Emerald Empress, Darkseid,
Timber Wolf, Mon-El and Wildfire.
Maybe it’s just me, but the comics
portray them as more powerful than
the source book.

As you can see, though, most of
the errors and such, in LSH 1 are
minor technical difficulties. The
good in the supplement definitely
outweighs the bad. By now, having
read this far, you must be saying to
yourself what is there that is good
about this supplement, and why
should you spend any money to own
a copy?

Despite the glaring errors, this
supplement is a gem of information.
It contains all the heroes and
villains that you’ll need to run a DC
Heroes campaign in the 30th
Century. If you, and your players
are already familiar with the back-
ground, that is. If, on the other
hand, you are a newcomer to the
field, you may experience a bit of
difficulty until LSH 2 comes out
next year. Another reason to buy
this opus is that, as a DC Heroes
player you’ll get to really cut loose
with your powers and DO
something. While the Legion has a
code against killing, they aren’t in
the least shy about using their
powers. Thrashing a Khund battle
cruiser or saving Medicus 1. And
you’ll rarely have to pull a punch
when going up against super
villains. Like the Legion, their foes
are also tough cookies. But most of
all you’ll get to use your brains and
imagination. The world setting is so
large that you’ll have no choice.

You’re also going to like the new
powers, additions, and combat-
options presented here. They are
much needed additions to the DC
Heroes system. The Non Player
Characters section is a real
highlight to the rest of the book. If
you don’t feel like running or
playing the LSH you have a
plethora of characters to choose
from like the Lallorrian Champions,
the Wanderers, the Legion of
Substitute Heroes, or even your
favorite Science Police person.

If you’re an art lover, like
myself, then you might just want to
purchase the book for that reason
alone. It’s almost worth the ten
dollars right there.

In conclusion, I have to urge you
to run out to your local game store
and take a look at this fine Millay
supplement. If you like it then buy
it. Bugs and all. I don’t think you’ll
regret it. Long live the Legion!

Marvel Super Heroes:
Advanced
Reviewed by: Andrew Pearson
Published by: TSR, Inc.
Complexity: Low
Rules Clarity: Excellent
Graphics Quality: Excellent

As a reader of this magazine you
must be familiar with roleplaying
games. You also must be familiar
with an upgrading of a successful
gaming system. Now TSR, Inc. has
come up with an upgrading of its
Marvel Super Heroes game.

As other reviewers have said of
the original, the advanced set has
realism. The realism of this set is of
the intensity one would have if he or
she were actually living a
Marvel Comic. A more
comprehensive listing of powers and
talents is given in the new Player’s
Book. More exacting explanations of
these features are given that can be
compared to the realistic spell
explanations in TSR’s Advanced

Dungeons & Dragons Player’s
Handbook. Contacts are now the
replacement of Neighbors, Friends,
etc. Of course, this does not mean
you cannot have neighbors or
friends, it just means that you can
have a larger amount of each.
Contacts are those who can aid you
in a gainful way during a campaign
(ie. support, information,
equipment).

A major change is the deletion
of Resource Points. It was figured
that a large amount of Resource
Points would be difficult to handle
in numerous transactions.
Replacing the points is a Resource
FEAT which is rolled like other
FEATs. Only one Resource FEAT
may be rolled per game week and
the roll signifies if such a cost
purchase can be made. This limits
the amount of large purchases a
wealthy character may make,
though. Very few other changes
have been made to the rules in this
set, so as to keep the simplicity in
the game playing making it
entertaining and exciting.

A Judge’s Book has been
included in the Advanced Set along
with a larger set of character stat
cards, a new set of 3-D fold-up
characters and a new map. The
Judge’s Book contains very little
practical information, containing
mostly combat information, but it
does contain a set of character stats
for various Marvel characters like
Wolverine, Doctor Doom, and the
Kree. The character stat cards are
like the original set, but there are
more of them and they are more
colorful.

The artwork of the Advanced
Set is superb as it’s done by the
infamous Marvel Bullpen but it is
sparsely by a Marvel fan’s standards.
That’s me.

On the basis of entertainment
value, artwork, ease of playing and
realism, I give this product a 9 out of
a possible 10.

The problem that keeps it from
receiving a 10 is that the character
stats in the Judge’s Book are by no
means complete. TSR has
announced that it is releasing an
Advanced Set Marvel Hand-book, a
form of roleplaying version of the
popular Handbook of the Marvel
Universe series put out by Marvel,
to solve the problem, though.
Orcbusters follows in the vein of Clones in Space rather than Acute Paranoia in as much as it is a complete adventure, start to finish, not a collection of snippets or partially developed ideas. As one can gather from the title, West End has dared to merge fantasy roleplaying material into the Paranoia mythos. Whether this is a good idea is another point.

Cross pollinating genres has, in the past, turned out to benefit neither genre, as too many characteristics from one or the other area must be discarded to make the system function overall.

Orcbusters proposes to turn loose wizards against our friend the computer and its lowly trouble-shooting clones. Obviously, given the hi-tech available to our pals, the wizards are going to have to be more adept (powerful) than your normal ones to survive. Hence, they will have to be very atypical, fantasy characters. Which means that they might well have been made aliens from space instead (oops, done already), the bottom line effects are the same. A cynic might say that West End was trying to overly appeal to the fantasy folk to broaden the Paranoia sales base.

Orcbusters claims to be "a reincarnation of the Good Old Days." This is due to the addition of a dungeon crawl. Yes, folks, complete even to pits, Water Elementals and Killer Penguins (Greg, is that you?) All done tongue in cheek naturally, but a dungeon nevertheless. A real tour de force. The dungeon is hard to run and does provide fun, but the main drawback is that it is on the short side. GM's may want to expand it for effect.

As a matter of fact, Orcbusters itself suffers from this malady. It reads and feels like a 48 page module edited down to 32 pages to save on production costs. While this may not be the case, Orcbusters really cries out for amplification in spots, as the narrative moves with a clipped manner from point to point. If the calling card of Orcbusters is fantasy and the dungeon, it seems that the dungeon could have been expanded from the 6 - 7 pages it currently occupies.

Two other points worth noting: The Wizards, with their ability to materialize and de-materialize from point to point, are not going to be threatened much by the orcish friends. After all, the object of Orcbusters is to get the players into the ending dungeon. You need the wizards for that. And the pregenerated clones? Nerds, pure and simple. Except for the woman, who is in fact well done, none of them struck me as likable or saveable. You may do better to work on your own.

Summing up, Orcbusters is a weak addition to the Paranoia line. While not everyone can be a Yellow Clearance Black Box Blues, the GMs should not have to be placed in the position of punching up the module to generate some interest. Most of us do, to some extent, but Orcbusters more or less requires it. What West End ought to do is create a magazine format to run short works in. Whether this means running another Acute Paranoia or a magazine is up to them (I'd opt for the magazine), but there is a definite need for such a format.

West End has set for itself a style of presentation in which a very readable, clever, humorous and intelligent manuscript is melded into an adventure. This style is rather rare, and appreciated accordingly. West End deserves a lot of credit for taking this approach. In fact, it made me, a board wargamer, become a Paranoia player, which was no mean task. However, by creating this style and carrying it off so well, all new modules are measured against a demanding model. Orcbusters, while good, does not fully match the standards set.
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SMART TIPS FOR SMART P.C.'s

From the Secret "Scheme Books" of Asker, the Bookman and Grimli, the Treasure Finder Supreme.

by A. Di Giacomo

What do smart player characters do with their money? What do most player characters do with it? If your characters are making endless forays to the various merchants of your world hunting for more and more powerful junk, then maybe this article is for you.

Perhaps these ideas can help your characters get the most from their hard earned booty. These ideas are suggested for those long in the future days, when they'll be too old, or too battle bashed, to go out and earn a living.

These ideas can be applied universally. Any roleplaying game, from fantasy to futuristic, and from horror to superheroes, can benefit.

1. Why carry around bulky, dangerous, and tempting monies? You can invest them, instead! Put money into a smithy, fletchery, bowyer's shop, or other weapon making business. Weapons will always be needed, so why not be a stock holder, or part owner, of a lucrative business that is a guaranteed money maker? Ditto, are trading companies, shipping lines, etc.

When you help someone by investing needed capital in a business YOU gain part of what they gain, in their earnings. Buy into businesses, and earn cash dividends for yourself, saving these for that eventual time when you want to retire from the adventuring life.

You become a stock holder, and the business gets the initial boost it needed. In this way, your money works for you.

2. Why not start up your own Guild? Bankroll the formation of a new Guild, catering to those that are in, and need the services of the profession in which you specialize. Again, you get a substantial income, and also the respect of, and control over, the actions of your members. You as GUILDMASTER, have almost total say within your Guild.

3. Many games have options for fighters. Why not start your own MERCENARY COMPANY? Run it like a Guild. Have members pay dues to belong to a strong, well publicized, profitable (on an individual basis), business concern. You will not only command loads of troops, but will also gain a reputation with those who need and can afford to pay heavily for your mercenaries.

4. Take the Guild venture one step further. Create a general type of PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY where you can be a general contractor of sorts providing such needed service tradesmen as: Fighters, Mages, Thieves, Spies, Assassins, Smiths, Armorers, and what have you. As GENERAL CONTRACTOR, you receive monies in the following manner: A service tradesman loaned to a client for 500 whatevers per month will net your business 300 whatevers per month with you personally skimming a fat 100 whatevers off this as Guild earnings. The tradesman earns 200 whatevers per month. Enough to keep him or her comfortable.

5. Why not bankroll a colonization effort? There are always people out there who want to settle new lands. Give them the cash to create a new haven, and you and your party will always have a safe place to go! Not only that, but it is really nice to be a town hero!

6. For the Post Holocaust entrepreneur minded survivor, there is always the establishment of an inn, bar, tavern... whatever you want to call it. Build a relatively strong building surrounded by stout walls and hire (or use your own) guards, to protect it. Open up a sure fire money making operation. Booze is easily distilled from grain, corn, etc., and it can be sold for a tidy sum of whatever. You could even have a counter and small storeroom for getting rid of the hard to use forms of "capital". Such as bartered goods (two nice candlesticks that got some poor sot a hanging bowl of stew and a bottle of rot gut).

If you take these ideas to heart, and wallet, I am sure you'll profit greatly.

REMEMBER... Only You, Can Make A Buck, For YOURSELF!!!!

GAMING THE SMART TIPS
A Game Master's Guide

Your players will need to have their schemes gauged out for them. This is easier than it seems. Whenever one of them has the guts to ask for a scenario dealing with one of the schemes, you can consult this handy reference section. Following are tables and scenario ideas dealing with the players' character's investments.

Businesses will generate the following incomes for those having a percentage in them. Game masters are encouraged to use a single four sided die, and roll it for every quarter of the business year.

1. Excellent business: 25% of net receipts.
2. Moderate business: 15% of net receipts.
3. Slow but steady business: 7 to 10% of net.
4. Barely afloat: 2 to 5% of net.

 Guilds will garner incomes dependent on the type of currency used in the game system. For coinage based on the gold standard:
1. 200 to 500 gold pieces per
tradesman per month.
2. 500 to 1,000 gold pieces per soldier, per month.
3. Guild dues of 100 gold pieces per year per member.

For coinage based on a silver standard with gold as an ultimate highest medium of value:
1. 500 to 1,000 silver per soldier per month.
2. 100 to 500 silver per tradesman per month.
3. 500 silver per year per member, dues.

For Post Holocaust, use your own individual systems, or adopt Ammunition as Currency. I use a system where small arms ammo is used as currency. .45 is the highest in value with the following calibers leading up to it in order from lowest to highest:
22, .25, .32, .38 special, 9mm parabellum, 9mm .380 acp, .357, .44, and of course .45 acp.

The ratios are set at 5:1, which means roughly that 1 single .45 round is equal to:

| 50 | .22 rounds |
| 45 | .25 rounds |
| 40 | .32 rounds |
| 35 | .38 rounds |
| 30 | .38 special |
| 25 | 9mm parabellum |
| 20 | 9mm |
| 15 | .357 |
| 10 | .44 |
| 5  | .44 |
| 1  | .45 |

I generally stay clear of long gun ammo, but if you need a good system, use the 5:1 ratio, and base it on 223/5.56mm as your highest and .30 carbine (used in the M1 carbine), as second highest, followed by 3006, .30 30, and 12 gauge slugs.

This encourages player characters to save up ammo from guns they don't own or use. When they take out a party of hostiles, they'll strip any caliber of round for the cash value.

How to get the profits:

Couriers from the businesses in which the player characters have investments deliver dividends to them. Also, the owner can deliver them. Alternately, player characters can pick them up.

If they founded a guild, they simply dip into those guild coffers unless they don't live in the guild house in which case they're open to the old npe or pc, abscond with the take, bit. The player characters will need to negotiate with other guilds.

If the player characters funded a colonial effort, it takes more than putting up cash. They must purchase food, gear, supplies, and essentials for the settlers; provide sufficient guards to insure the settlers get to the land; and arrange for the payment of passage bribes, tolls, and tributes along the way as the settlers pass through occupied areas.

Alternatively, they can do the following: purchase or securely claim the land the settlers are to homestead; build man a fortress or stockade garrison to hold the land and provide for the colonists' protection for their first year; and arrange for payment of passage bribes, tolls, tributes, etc.

Paying the mercenaries:

We'll assume the mercenaries are far from headquarters so you have to arrange for their payment. First, send a paymaster and an accountant to the client. These two people will take the cash and disperse it to the mercenaries, then transport the guild's take to headquarters by various means: Airborne couriers (pegasi, flying ring wearing couriers, etc.) or by land (auto, wagon, horseback caravan, stagecoach, etc.) All of these transport methods are subject to robbery.

The couriers can be sent conspicuously with heavy guard, or with few guards in normal clothing, or sent with decoys, whatever. The trick for the gamemaster is to get the player characters into the fray of a robbery. Let them have to make an effort at revenge, vengeance, etc. Also, suppose the caravan comes upon helpless people who had been victimized? Might they not help, and get caught up into hazardous situations?

Of course, in a futuristic game setting, computer transfer of funds from the clients' accounts to your guild accounts, then from the guild accounts to the mercenaries' accounts are the best solution. Another way would be to send a ship to the client or have the paymaster and accountant take either chartered ship or cruise liner to headquarters. No matter what you choose, make it exciting for the couriers.

Scenarios involving paymasters and accountants:

1. The turncoat: Someone is skimming guild profits while enroute to headquarters. This is either for legit reasons (bribes, etc.), or a scheme to get rich being implemented by a crooked employee. Solutions: Send a spy on the payroll runs. He'll insure that they get to the headquarters intact, or send out a negotiating team to the briebees, and resolve the conflict. This could be hamstrung by overwhelming odds against them, or could mop up the briebees.

2. The client does not have the money to pay, and is very embarrassed about it, holding up the mercenaries and their deserved renumeration. Send a negotiator there to work out a settlement.

   The client has legitimate reasons for not paying. Poor performance by your mercenaries, etc. You can send a sneak inspector to the site to catch the slackers, and then prod them into being more productive.

   Perhaps the client is being arrogant, and is withholding in breach of contract refusing to honor the agreement. You may rectify this in two ways:

   Send a punishing force to the client (assasins, saboteurs, or soldiers). You can also have your mercs sabotage him. Or, if you want to keep it businesslike, you can pull out your forces, and if he gets into trouble, aid his enemies.
Rath Clointarf

By Michael J. Mullen

This Dungeons and Dragons adventure was presented for the ORCCON convention of 1984. The original day on which it was presented was March 17th, and the day suggested the theme: an Irish Druid. It became the first of a trilogy of adventures using the clan O'Flynn, who came from our "home" campaign. If you are using this for your own campaign, some of the Irish customs and themes could be expanded.

It seems that inconvenience follows the O'Flynn clan like a dog follows the heels of its well known master. No. Not inconvenience... Bad luck. The luck of the Irish. An' sure if it doesn't follow you, Finn O'Flynn.

Why else would you be setting off for the black bog of Clointarf on the evening of Beltain, when all the lights in Ireland are put out, waiting to be rekindled from the secret, Druid flame. Bad luck, and leprechauns.

Wasn't it just a week hence that one appeared at your feasting hall when you heard the claims of justice of your clansmen? And hadn't he pointed an accusing finger at you, saying that you cared so little for the honor of your clansmen that you let the leprechaun's magic be stolen?

"Magic?", says you, "Sure, an' magic is no concern of mine. I'll be devil'd if I ever touched your magic."

"It wasn't you I said too it," says he, "But the nasty shee of the O'Donnals. If your clansmen are men, and not milksops, they'll get it back for us."

"An' why should I?" says you. "Besides, I wouldn't know your magic if I fell over it."

"You'd know it, for it's a pot of gold. It's the gold that lets us make our magic. If we do not have it by the time of the Druid's fire is lit at midnight of Britain, our clan is doomed to extinction. And so," he says, "is yours, for we won't be able to make good luck for you."

Ah, the great dispute that followed the speech of the leprechaun. The Druid of the clan had said that what the wee fellow claimed was indeed true. And the family bard had made a satire that stained your honor with shame. Your lady scorned you, and turned you out of your bedchamber. Small children ran away from you in your own village streets. Superstition and nonsense! But you have gathered seven of your best, clansmen and others, to try to regain the treasure of the leprechauns.

You are at the village of Clointarf, just as the sun begins to set. The Druid has come to see your party off. He won't be coming along because he has to make the mystical fire after sunset, and will be busy until the midnight hour. The imbalance of the forces of nature, and the right of your clan, lie at Rath Clointarf, the deserted fortress of the rival O'Donnal clan, brooding in the middle of the bog. Keep to the path, and you should be able to reclaim the leprechaun's gold by the midnight hour.

The moon is just above the forest. Midnight is but four hours away. It is a good thing that the moon is full tonight, for you and your men will need it to reach the tower in the bog...

The Bog of Clointarf

The afterglow of the sunset reveals a path winding downward onto the peat bog, a narrow ribbon of solid ground in the mire and rank vegetation. A low mist shrouds the bog, obscuring all that may lie within... All except the broken tower of Rath Clointarf rising above the center of the eerie fog. The moon lights the ruins of the ancient O'Donnal outpost from above, while something else lights it from below.

As you stand contemplating the task ahead of you, the music of a piper comes to your ear, beckoning you into the bog...

THE LONE PIPER

The rises and falls of the path
seem to lead upward gradually, and the mists become lighter. The ground is more rocky and less of the peat lies underfoot. There is a high rock just ahead, partly obscured by the swirling mists. As you approach, the moonlight seems to become brighter.

The sound of the piper has become louder, and the music is strangely compelling. Rounding the rock, you see him, playing in the moonlight. You stand listening, fascinated by the beauty and intricacy of the music.

The piper is sitting on a tree stump, skirling away in peaceful contentment. The mists are much thinner here, and the night is bright by the light of the moon. There is an open scroll in front of the piper, filled with notes and melodies that seem to glow on their own. A pen and inkwell lie nearby. The piper pauses, and raises his head in greeting.

"An' a pleasant good evening to ya', sirs. A fine evening for the feast of Briget, an' for the playing of the pipes. A pity that more of the village isn't appreciatin' of fine music. So what's a poor man to do but practice in the peace of the bog, where his missus won't be breakin' his pate with plates for lack of likin' his tunes?"

"But it's strangers you are to these parts, to be sure. If you have a mind to be goin' on, you'd best be stayin' on the path. Many a foul beastie makes a home o' the bog. The quarry is but a little ahead, if you're after a bit o' the turf to keep the chill away after the lights are lit again. Sure, you'll not be lightin' it before, good men that ya' are."

He turns back to his pipes,
pauses, and looks up with a sly grin.
"Ya' wouldn't be knowin', perhaps, a new tune for a poor auld piper, would ya?"

The piper is actually Oghma, the god of music and knowledge:

OGHMA
Fighter/Cleric/Druid 15th level in each.
Magic user/Illusionist 18th level in each.
Bard 20th level
AC -6
Hit Points: 310
Str: 25 (+7 to hit, +9 damage)
Int: 25
Wis: 25
Dex: 22
Con: 20
Chr: 23

Oghma is here to observe the behavior of the party and to gather the material for what may be a very good heroic song. His initial attitude towards the party will be neutral, or perhaps a bit friendly. He is willing to talk to the party if they wish, or to let them pass, if they don't. Some things to consider:

1. Oghma is the patron of the bards. If anyone offers him a song, the pen will animate, dip itself in glowing ink, and transcribe the song for future reference. If the bard offers him a song, he will be most favorably impressed, and the bard will find, on completion of the next encounter (the wereboars) an ancient broach lying half buried in the past. This broach, a large cloak pin with a large jade in the middle, encircled by the entwined art of the Celts, is the broach of Shielding, as per the Dungeon Master's Guide.

2. If the party has any fire lit when they meet the the god, he will be extremely un-cooperative. He will answer questions in three words or less, or not answer them at all. He will move the party on its way quickly.

3. If the party talks with him, he will converse quite pleasantly. His answers will generally be vague, but truthful. For example, if asked about the Leprechaun's pot of gold, he might reply: "Leprechauns? Ah, leprechaun's aren't the only ones to play tricks.", and leave it at that. If the party does something extremely thoughtful for the old man, he may give them a hint as to what is to come:

*Fighters bold and men of Eire, trust you not the warmth of fire.
Though your sword be prompt and sharp, forget ye not the spell and harp.*

*Secret names can give you power, needed neath the evil tower.*

*Secret name of Cashinol, can a spirit send to hell.*

*Thus can all the mighty men, return home to Clan O'Flynn:*

*Rich in glory, spirits bold, but leprechauns shall have the gold.*

Should a member of the party remember the name 'Cashinal', and use it in the presence of the banshee, commanding it to be gone, the banshee will be sent back to that unholy place from which it came.

4. Should any of the party be rash enough to fight the old man, he will request that they wrestle with him. (Oghma is able to add his strength to the strength of the person attacking him.) If they should attack him instead, he will not hesitate to use all the means at his disposal to deal with them.

A. He can use his bagpipes to charm the party. (20th level bard)
**CATHLYN O'FLYNN**
Clanswoman: Fighter, Level 6  
Alignment: Neutral Good
Armor Class: 3 (5)  
Hit Points: 62
Str: 16 [-/+ 1]  
Int: 11, Wis: 10, Dex: 16, Con: 17, Chr: 16
Chain Mail, Large Shield, Spear, Javelins of Lightning (2), Short Sword of Speed, (NSMI) allows 2 attacks/round, user automatically gains initiative.
Cloak, Lg. sack, Lg. belt pouch, 3 torches, Tinderbox, Water skin, Iron rations

---

B. He can use any cleric, druid, magical, or illusionist spell.
C. He has the ability to command, geese, or quest (no save).

Oghma will obviously not have to bother fighting the party. Nor does he want to fight them. If they are so far out of line, he most likely will charm or quest them to recover the leprachaun's pot of gold. Those who are not charmed or quested will be neutralized, and in no circumstances will he stay around if he should begin approaching 100 remaining hit points.

**THIS ENCOUNTER IS NOT HERE TO WASTE THE PARTY.**

In the Tournament Scoring, we gave points to a party that actually sang a song. And a bonus for an Irish one. You might give experience to the player who braves the criticism of his fellow players and sings a song for you.

**CROSS COUNTRY ENCOUNTERS**

If the party does not have the sense to keep on the pathway they will encounter the following, in order, as wandering monsters in the bog:

1. A stego-centepede
2. 4 Anhkeg
3. An old black dragon

The party stands a good chance of getting lost in the bog, due to the fog and the difficult terrain. Should they enter the bog, they have a 1 in 6 chance of getting lost and moving in a random direction. Thus, if they move back to the path after the first encounter, they should be allowed to do so unless they roll a '1' on a D6. Otherwise, they will have all three encounters before reaching the rock promontory that contains Rath Clointarff.

Additionally, there is a 2 in 6 chance of stepping into a sink-hole or deep pool in the bog, unless the party is proceeding VERY cautiously. A random number of the party will discover the pool. He must roll six or less on d20 or lose an item in the pool. (Remember that packs, bags, etc., also include their contents. Also, this applies only to parties who are off the trail. Those following the path will have no problems.)

The bog is more difficult to pass than you first believed. The ground quickly begins to rise and fall, and you realize that it is more moss than actual ground. Small rock outcroppings make for some change of scenery, but with the fog rising from the peat, you can't really enjoy the view. Even the tower is lost in the fog clinging to the ground.

As you cross one of the numerous, low lying pools of black water, a rustling comes from in front of you. Bursting out of the fog and into the pool is a large insect, nearly eight feet long! A row of shielding plates rise along its back as it rushes to the attack...

**STEGO-CENTEPED**

AC. 3 (underside, AC 6)  
Hit Points: 42
HD = 9  
Bite: 2d4, save vs. poison.
Tail: 3d4, save vs. poison.
On initial charge, horns for d6 in addition to bite.

---

We had very few parties leave the path during the running of this dungeon. This encounter was enough to send them back to the path in every case.

The bog opens into a large, gently rolling area as you continue to press on towards the ruined tower. With each step, your feet gently sink a few inches into the resilient moss. Suddenly, the ground erupts, and four more insectoids rip at your clansmen. You barely have time to think before you find yourself fighting for your life once again...

**ANHKEG**;

AC 2 (underside 4) HD: 5  
Hit Points: 24 HD: 8
Hit Points: 42 HD: 6  
Hit Points: 32 HD: 8
Hit Points: 35

The anhkeg surprise this party:

5 in 8 (if no light)
2 in 6 (with light spell)

# attacks: 1 damage: 3d6, plus d4 (digestive acid)

SPECIAL: 1 acid squirt, 8d4, each anhkeg, save vs. breath weapon for half damage.

The tower is now close to your group, close enough to see that there is a low wall perched upon a large outcropping of rock, enclosing a fortress-like area.

You detect a trembling in the moss beneath your feet. You peer into the mist, trying to find the latest threat. A deep hissing comes from your left rear. You spin around to confront a huge, black form rising out of the mists. DRAGON!
CORWIN O'FLYNN
Priest of Dagda, Cleric, Level 8  Alignment: Neutral
Armor Class: 6  Hit Points: 59
Str: 18 [1+1/+1]  Int: 10, Wis: 17, Dex: 14, Con: 16, Chr: 16
Studded leather, Shield, Staff of Striking (10 charges), Mace, Holy symbol, 2 vials of Holy water
Cloak, Back pack, Lg. sack, Water skin, Belladonna
Spells: Cure lt. wounds (2), Detect magic (2), Detect evil, Light, Hold person, Know alignments, Silence 15' r, Continual light, Dispel magic, Prayer, Remove curse, Detect lie, Neutralize poison

BLACK DRAGON
AC 3
Hit Points: 56
HD: 8
# attacks: 3
Claw = d4, Claw = d4, Bite = 3d6
or Breath Weapon: Acid stream = 56 points damage; save vs. breath weapon for hald damage (usable 3 times).

THE PEAT QUARRY
The path descends deeper into the fog bank. It has become a trench, cutting through the peat. As if passing through a hallway into a room, the sides of the trench fall away at right angles, and you move into an open area. The peat "walls" of this open air chamber are about 8 feet high. Under foot, you sense solid ground only inches below the springy moss.

As the party moves into this area, they will become lost in the fog on a roll of 1-5 on d8 if they do not follow the walls. They will find the wall again on a roll of 1-2 on d6. This is an area where there once was a thick peat bed and the villagers have been "cutting the turf" to use as fuel for some time. That this is not a natural formation will be obvious if they take time to inspect the walls. The cutting marks will be seen on closer inspection.

After the party has moved away from the entry trench,
You smell wild pig. In the fog, you hear the sounds of boars rooting, but you can't judge from which direction the sounds come. Dim shapes approach, and run away. Something passes behind you. In the distance, out of the fog, you hear the roar of a dragon. There seems to be more than one beast in the fog with you.

A random number of the boar will attack the party the first round, with the rest appearing out of the fog 1 per round until all six are in the fight. The party will be surprised on a 1-4 on a d6.

WERE - BOAR (6)
AC 4
Hit Points: 34, 25, 36, 24, 27, 29.
HD: 5 + 2
# attacks: 1
Damage: d12

Whether the party has gone overland or followed the path, the following is used for the main section of the dungeon.

RATH CLOINTARF
The path resumes with a steep climb on the far side of the open area. The ground becomes more rocky. In front of you, the walls of the fortress loom out of the fog. Steps have been cut into the rock leading to the gate of the fort.

The fort is perched on a rock outcropping that rises above the thickest part of the fog.

You see the gate is partly open, hanging from the top hinge. It doesn't seem safe to you. And it is barely large enough for passage.

The gate is safe as long as the party doesn't fumble (score higher than six on d20). The opening will accommodate one person at a time. An attempt to open the gate will unhinge it, unless levitate or other means are used to secure it. If it falls on the party it will do d10 damage (save vs. paralysis to avoid). It will alert those within, of course, if it falls.

Within the gate, the fortress courtyard stands, almost deserted. Coming towards you and your clansmen are four men. Three are fighters, the other is in robes. The light from their torches reveals their O'Donnal tartan.

These fellows are a party from the O'Flynn clan's rivals. There is a 3 in 8 chance that they will surprise the party in which case the approach will be as they charge the players. Otherwise, the encounter will be at the normal range (10 to 60 yards). They will reach the surprised party when one to four are through the gate. The first act of the magic user will be to push the gate down on the party remaining outside the gate. This party will try to cut through the O'Flynn's escape.

FIGHTER:
Level 8 (s: 17, D: 16)
Bastard sword +1, small shield.
AC 3, Hit points: 65

FIGHTER:
Level 6 (S. 15, D: 17)
Spear +2, Large shield.
AC 2, Hit points: 38

FIGHTER:
Level 7 (S. 18/75%, D: 15)
Battle ax +2
AC 2, Hit points: 38
AC 4, Hit points: 59
SEAN O'FLYNN
Clansman: Magic User, Level 7    Alignment: Chaotic Good
Armor Class: 8 (10)    Hit Points: 29
Str: 9, Int: 17, Wis: 9, Dex: 16, Con: 15, Chr: 10
Robes, Dagger: +1/+2 vs. Magic Users, Scroll: Protection from evil, 10' r.
Cloak, Hooded lantern, Oil, Tinderbox, Lg. sack, Sm. sack, Wine skin
Spells: Magic missiles (2), Levitate, Shield, Continual light, Invisibility,
Web, Dispell magic, Lightening bolt, Ice storm

MAGIC USER:
Level 11 (D: 16)
AC 1, Hit points: 49
Bracers AC 3
SPELLS: Jump, Darkness 15' r.,
Dispell Magic, Confusion, Teleport,
Magic Missile, Invisibility, Haste,
Fear, Rock to Mud, Pyrotechnics,
Lightening Bolt, Push, Protection
from Normal Missiles.

CONFUSION (d%)  
01 - 10 Wander away 1 turn
11 - 60 Stand confused for 1 round
61 - 80 Attack nearest creature for 1 round.
81 - 00 Attack the O'Donnal clan members one round.

Save -2, re-check each round.
Duration: 13 rounds
Area of effect: 6" x 6"  

After the fight, the party will have time to note the inside of the Rath.

Inside the enclosure, you can see there are three buildings, none in very good shape. There is a Long Hall to your right, beyond which is a circular tower. Nearly a third of the tower wall is in rubble, exposing the inside to moonlight. Directly opposite the gate, a large building is in ruins. You can see the skeleton of burned rafter over scorched walls. To your left is a tangled patch of bushes, beyond which a large oak tree casts its shadow towards the ruined building. Low weeds and high grass grow where there are not stones in the courtyard.

THE LONG HALL

The building once was the home and meeting place of your rivals, the clan O'Donnal. It is in disrepair, but still sound. Three shuttered windows face you, and a door is at each end of the building. Through a crack in the door a low, orange glow can be seen.

Let the party decide how they will enter the building, provided that they don't mount a major assault, read the following:

The inside of the Long Hall is dimly lit by a peat fire in the large fire place. Broken tables and benches are piled in the west side of the hall. Neglected cots lie in nitches, their rushes unchanged for decades. The rank smell of the rotting reeds is overcome by a different smell: Irish Stew.

You hear a soft sound of humming and sweeping comes from the hearth. An old woman, in dress and shawl, is sweeping the floor in front of the fireplace with a broom. The stew is in an iron pot on a hook over the fire. A poker lies propped near the fireplace. A calico cat is curled up by the fire, grooming his coat. A usable table is in front, with a battered silver bowl on it.

The cat notices you first. He yowls languidly. The woman turns to look at the cat, and glancing around, notices you.

"Sure, an' I didn't notice ya' sirs, standin' quiet like that. My old ears aren't what they once were, at all. Come in, come in, and pull up a chair. The stew's for sharin'. Hospitality for all...."

The old woman is Mother McKree. Moms is a witch (wicca). The "stew" is prepared to the time honored recipe in McBeth (eye of newt and wing of bat...) but has the illusion (visual and smell) of Irish (lamb) stew. The cat is her familiar, and the broom is a broom of flying.

If the party detects magic, the stew will show its nature, as will the broom. Both the stew and the pot
SHAMUS O'FLYNN
Clansman: Thief, Level 7 Alignments: Neutral
Armor Class: 5 (7) Hit Points: 36
Str: 15, Int: 12, Wis: 9, Dex: 16, Con: 13, Chr: 11
Leathers, Short sword: +2, Daggers (3),
Cloak, Thief's kit, 6 spikes, Hammer, Lg. belt pouch, 3 lg. sacks, 50' rope, Grapling hook

Mother McKree will claim to be the last of the stronghold, staying on to the end of her days where she started them. The players will have to shout to make themselves understood, for she is really hard of hearing.

Mother McKree will not initiate an attack, but she still has a way of causing the party mischief: She will invite them to partake of some stew before they leave.

The stew has random, magical effects: (Save vs. poison negates).

1. Acts as a potion of extra healing.
3. Acts as a potion of speed.
4. Acts as a potion of frost giant strength.
5. Acts a potion of regeneration (1 hp/rnd for 12 rounds).
7. Increases hit points by 10, permanently.
8. Decreases hit points by 8, permanently.
9. Increases constitution by 1.
11. Reduces dexterity by 3 for 8d8 turns.
12. Raises strength by 1 (or 20% max. 18/0).
13. Increases intelligence by 10.
14. Character grows a wart on his nose.
15. Character lights up with a green light (glow in the dark): 2-12 turns.
16. Character grows a wart on his nose.
17. Character will be surrounded by fire shield next melee.
18. Character covers mouth on hot stew (3 points damage).
19. Character eats to throw a slow spell next melee.
20. Character has invisibility and silence cast upon him. Effect lasts two turns. This is undetectable. For most purposes, the character has disappeared. The player can still operate normally, and can touch, and fight as usual. Melee will not negate the invisibility. Spells can not be cast through the silence. Character can not communicate with the other members of the party (except by touch, etc.) but can hear what they say and observe what they do. Automatic surprise against any opponent.

If the party attacks, here are McKree's stats:

Mother McKree:
Witch HD 7
AC 7
Hit points: 52
Damage d6 (poker)
# Attack 1
Alignment: Chaotic Evil.
Familiar: Cat AC 7
Hit points: 4

SPELLS: M. Missle, Darkness 15'r, Haste *, Polymorph self, Shield *, Mirror image, Cause/cure light wounds, Hold person, Cause blindness, Produce flame, Silence 15'r, Fear.

Mother can cast a few of these spells (*) if the party is inattentive before the melee starts, and it becomes obvious that the party is planning an attack.

The secret door leads to the wine cellar.

THE ROUND TOWER
Part of the wall of the tower has been destroyed. The upper floors are exposed to the moonlight. The way in is cluttered by fallen stones, laying in a rubble pile. The light mist around the bottom of the tower is illuminated from behind this pile of stone blocks.

Climbing over the rocks, the players will find the occupants of the tower's lower floor.

THE GROUND FLOOR
You see three men on the far side of a campfire. They are talking quietly among themselves, and are engaged in counting a large amount of gold coins that are filling an iron pot to overflowing. Each time they pull some coins out to count them, the pot fills up again, and a few coins drop onto the ground, causing the men to chuckle. They are in leathers and clothing, wearing an unknown tartan. They are armed with two-handed swords. You note that three pikes and large shields lie within reach. There is a dilapidated, wooden stair against the far wall, leading to the upper floor.

The 'men' are three Firblog. They have already duped one group of adventurers and are willing to take the party in their con game. The gold in the pot is fool's gold, being cast upon copper coins. The pot is a unique magic item, Mormac's Everfull Pot which will reproduce any item put into it as long as it is upright. If the pot is horizontal or upside down, the magic won't work. The Firblog will gladly trade the party some (or all) of the gold, and the pot as well, for things which may be of use to them, such as the party's weapons and armor.

Party members are allowed a (SECRETLY rolled) saving throw against the fool's gold; members...
DOUGHERTY O'FLYNN
Clansman: Fighter, Level 7
Alignment: Neutral
Armor Class: 4
Hit Points: 68
Str: 16 [-/+1] Int: 10, Wis: 13, Dex: 13, Con: 15, Chr: 12
Scale Mail, Shield: +1, Spear: +3, Short Sword
Cloak, Lg. sack, Sm. sack (2), 50' rope, Water skin (2 pts. beer)

save on the following score (or less) on d20:

Finn - 7, Shamus - 6, Dougherty - 5, Maeve - 9, Cathlyn - 4,
Kevin - 5, Corwin - 5, Yorl - 6, Sean - 11.

The Firblog are already in their "diminished" state. There are three
turns and four rounds left on the
duration of the spell.

FIRBLOG:
HD 13
AC 7 Hit points: 69, 82, 91
# Attack: 1
Damage: Sword d10 + 10
Pike d6 + 11

Boulder 5 d6
Magic resistance: 15%
SPECIAL: Can catch or deflect up
to two missiles per
melee round if one hand
is free. Needed: 6 or
more on d20.

Spell-like powers: Detect magic and
forget.

There is a secret door under the
stairway that leads to the dungeon.

THE SECOND FLOOR
The floor stretches to where the
wall is open to the night. A dusty
and unused set of stairs continue
upward after a landing. A rattling
of bones attracts your attention.

The monsters are Elven
skeletons. If turned, they will
"retreat" off the edge of the tower.
Of course, the fall will kill them.

Skeletons: (20)
HD: 1
AC: 7 Hit points: 6 each.
# attack: 1 Damage: d6

THE UPPER FLOOR
Open to the sky, the top floor of the
tower looks out on the fog enclos-
ing the bog. In the middle of the
floor, something starts sparkling.

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Spectres: (3)
AC 2 Hit points: 45, 48, 39
HD: 7 + 3 # attack: 1 Damage: d8 & lose 2 levels.

THE STABLES

This is a stone building which once had a thatched roof. The roof has been burned except a skeleton of rafters. Over the doorway is a carving of horses prancing. Double doors once filled the doorway, but one is now missing. From the inside, a horse nickers.

There are a number of stalls. Inside the far right stall is the monster:

Nightmare:
HD: 6 + 6
AC: -4 Hit points: 38
# attack 3 Damage: 2d4/2d4 + 2d4 + 2.
SPECIAL: Breathes vapors & smoke. Save vs. breath weapon or be -2 to hit and damage.

THE OAK TREE

Standing in the corner of the enclosure, stands a giant oak, neglected but still managing to exist.

There is mistletoe, should the bard want to gather some fresh material components.

MAEVE SLIEVE-SHANNON
Half-elven Foster daughter: Fighter/Magic user, Level 6/6
Alignment: Chaotic Good

Armor Class: 5 Hit Points: 45
Str: 17 [+1/+1] Int: 16, Wis: 10, Dex: 13, Con: 15, Chr: 14
Studded leathers +1, Bow: +1, 24 arrows, 4 arrows: +2, Longsword: +1
Cloak, Water skin, Quivver, Back pack, 2 sm. sacks, Iron rations, Wolfsbane
Spells: Jump, 2 magic missiles, Detect magic, Continual light, Strength, Haste, Lightening bolt

THE HAWTHORNE BUSH

A thick tangle of bushes spread far across the compound. They are Hawthorne bushes.

The party will find that they are extremely sharp and prickly. Each round they spend searching, or otherwise messing around, the bushes will cause d4 damage.

THE WINE CELLAR

Inside this room are many barrels and racks with bottles. A dwarf sits with his back propped against one of the center barrels, drinking from a horn.

A barrel has been turned upright in the center of the floor. A large candle, burned almost to a stub, casts a dim circle of illumination from its guttering, and sooty flame. Standing in the light of this candle is a man dressed in an O'Donnal tartan cloak over the robes of a priest of Arawan, the god of the dead. He is slowly turning over cards from a deck, and laying them in an intricate pattern.

The deck of cards is a tarot deck. The priest will scatter them on the commencement of the melee.

Unless the party is looking up, they won't even see the dwarves on the ceiling above them. There is one above each door (they were having a wall climbing contest; the third dwarf being the judge.) The dwarves, if undetected, will automatically gain surprise on their attempts to backstab. Chances to hit

have been increased by +1 because of the momentum of the fall. The dwarves will fight to escape. The priest will seek to slay or damage as many of the party as he can.

Dwarven Fighter-Thieves

THE DRINKER:
Level 6/6
AC 5 Hit Points: 36
# Attack: 1 Damage: d6 + 3

The hall door:
Level 6/7
AC 6 Hit points: 32
# Attack: 1 Damage: d6 + 2 Backstab: +5 to hit, damage x3

The corridor door:
Level 6/7
AC 6 Hit points: 32
# Attack: 1 Damage: d6 + 2 Backstab: +5 to hit, damage x3

HIGH PRIEST OF ARAWAN:

CLERIC:
Level 9 (w: 16)
AC 5 Hit points: 69
# Attack: 1 Damage: d6 + 3 Chain mail, Flail + 2
Spells: Detect Good, Hold Person (2), Dispell Magic, Poison, Flame Strike, Darkness, Silence 15' r (2), Feign Death, Cure Serious Wounds, Cure Light Wounds, Know Alignment, Prayer, Cause Light Wounds (2).
YORL SVENDERHAUS
Dwarf Mercenary: Fighter, Level 6
Armor Class: 5
Hit Points: 67
Str: 16 [-/+1] Int: 13, Wis: 12, Des: 13, Con: 17, Chr: 12
Chain mail, Battle axe: +2, Heavy crossbow (10 Quarrels: +1), 2 throwing axes
Cloak, Back pack, 3 lg. sacks, Water skin (2 pts ale), Iron rations, 6 spikes, Hammer, 50’ rope

THE DUNGEON UNDER THE TOWER

There is no natural source of light in the dungeons. In the round room under the tower there are several sets of manacles and shackles on the wall. One set of these holds a prisoner. At her feet is a discarded length of rope. The woman looks at you, eagerly, as you enter. She is dressed in O’Donnal tartans, a dirk on her belt. She looks at you and says, “Release me, and I will do anything.”

The woman is an Erinyes Devil who has polymorphed herself into a woman. Among her equipment is a dirk which is her dagger, and the rope at her feet is the rope of entanglement. She is held prisoner due to the pentagrams which are on the inside of the manacles. If released, she will gladly turn on her rescuers and “do anything” to harm them, but she can’t gate anyone in.

ERINYES DEVIL:
AC 2 Hit Points: 33
# Attack: 1

THE CONNECTING CORRIDOR

The corridor is 10’ wide, and 20’ away is a door.

Inspecting the door will reveal that it has no visible hinge. A handle on the door is mounted horizontally. The door is a swinging door. The following trap applies: If the party pushes the door in the direction of the wine cellar, a pit

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KEVEN McKENNA
Harper: Bard, Level 6 (Fighter: 5, Thief: 6) Alignment: Neutral
Armor Class: 5 Hit Points: 57
Str: 17 [+1/+1], Int: 12, Wis: 15, Dex: 15, Con: 11, Chr: 16, Charm: 32%,
Legend Lore: 16%
Leathers: +1, Bastard sword, Spear: +2, 6 darts, Harp, Scroll: Cures serious wounds
Cloak, Back pack, Sm. pack, Wax candle, Tinderbox
Spells: Detect magic, Fairy fire, Shelligh, Cure lt. wounds (2), Heal metal

opens (a portion of the floor tilts into a sliding ramp) dropping the party into an acid bath. Weapons and armor save or become useless.
Damage: 2d4 per round.

In the wall on the tower side is a secret door. It is concealed when the door in the hall is open. Behind the secret door is a shaft with a ladder leading down 20' to the under dungeon.

THE FINAL ROOM:

A short, 20' corridor with a wooden floor leads to a door. If the party successfully listens, they will hear someone moaning inside. This is the lair of the Banshee (groaning spirit).

An ancient, pale, elven woman sits inside the small room, sobbing and moaning. In front of her is a golden pot.

The banshee will immediately attack the party. She will use her wail on the second round. If the party has learned her name (Cashinell) from Ogma, they can use it to banish the banshee.

BANSHEE:
AC 0 Hit points: 33
HD: 7
# Attack: 1
Damage: d8
Magic resistance: 50%
Special:
Not affected by charm, sleep, hold, cold, or electrical attacks.
Special:
Wail (Keening) causes all within 30' to save vs spell or die.

All looking upon her must make (one) save vs spell or flee in fear. May be turned on the cleric's table as a special.

The pot, which is made of gold, and covered with runes, is the real leprechaun's treasure.

The Celts were much concerned with bravery and heroism. This accounts for the overall low armor class of the party. On the other hand, their weapons will count for much in the battle to come...

On bogs: A bog is generally a lake that is in the process of sitting up. The land of Ireland has a lot of water and is basically flat, so there are several places where this has taken place. In Ernie, the bogs are often places where a type of moss (peat moss, used in gardens over here) grows. The moss will eventually fill up the level of the lake and the stream will find a new course, but the moisture will keep the moss growing for decades. In some places the moss beds are twenty or more feet deep. The Irish use this moss for fuel and call it "turf". The amount of problems this would give a party varies. They may sink in a pool of water to a depth of several inches, or several yards. Generally, a bog is a lot less of a problem than a swamp. Of course, however, this is an adventure.

To exit, the players must trace their way back out of the bog. If they wish to leave at any time, allow this. They will be judged accordingly. Thank them for finding the treasure and having a successful run.

Remember that this dungeon was run on St. Patrick's Day, and is an Irish dungeon, so if you can manage a brogue for the conversations, so much the better.

Enjoy, and may the luck of the Irish be with you.
Helping the "Real World" Gamemaster

by Bob Kindel

You have to pity the gamemaster who runs a campaign set in the real world - whether he is playing an historical game or a modern day game. If a fantasy gamemaster says that the caravan trail from Kush to Cummera takes seven days to travel, than it does. No arguments; on with the game. If a science fiction gamemaster decides that the Mark VII Gargleflieber should be added to the weapons list; he puts it on the stats. Who can argue with him? How can a player know what a Mark VII will do?

However, if the Top Secret administrator says that the bad guys can drive from Lisbon to Zurich in twelve hours, some wise soul is bound to object, saying, "But that's a 1,384 mile drive. It takes longer than that."

If the Recon director assigns the same fire rate to the Ingrams Mark 10 as to the Uzi, someone is bound to protest. What can the gamemaster do?

There are several options. The first is to say, "Who cares? It's only a game." Which is true, I suppose, but a real world game is spiced by the reality of the setting. Constant arbitrary alterations of reality, especially when unnecessary, cause reduced enjoyment which leads to reduced interest which can result in a dead campaign.

Another alternative is to spend hours of research in addition to the hours of time already involved in preparing for a game. This alternative is impractical for those gamemasters who would like to work, go to school, or have a social life.

A third alternative, the one I suggest, is to gather a list of fast reference books -- books from which you can find and extract the needed information without wading through a morass of unwanted verbiage. Please note that I said a list. Most of the books you will want can be checked out of the local public library. You needn't buy the books. This is one of the advantages of real world games. Also, most of the material you will need aren't copyright-righted by the manufacturer and are readily available at the library at no charge. Those books you feel like buying are generally cheaper than the reference books published for fantasy RPGs.

At the end of this article is a list of books that I have found to be helpful. This is not an all-inclusive list by any means. It is just meant to give you ideas. If the books listed aren't available at your library, your reference librarian can help you find similar books that are. The books on the list are there because I've found them to be fast and easy books from which to extract information.

There are, of course, a few books that I like to own for one reason or another. The book I think every real world gamemaster should own is Bernard Grun's The Time Tables of History: A Horizontal Linkage of People and Events, Simon and Schuster, N.Y., 1979. This is a book that goes from 5000 BC to 1978 AD, with yearly entries from 5001 AD on, and lists important facts for each year in separate areas: history/politics, literature/theatre, religion/philosophy/learning, visual arts, music, science/technology/growth, and daily life. You can scan across the pages and see all the events that effect your players in the specific year in which their adventuring.

Not only does the information presented give you background information to make your campaign more real, but it also gives you an idea for an event in your campaign. I used the information that New York had its first eclipse in 300 years in 1925 as a springboard to a cult kidnapping in my 1925 Call of Cthulhu campaign. Looking through the columns helps you make your campaign more three dimensional, increases the pride you have in the campaign, and increases player interest.

A companion book to this one is Laurence Urdang's The Timetables of American History, Simon and Schuster, N.Y., 1981. This work focuses on US history from 1000 AD (the Viking discovery and settlements) to 1980 AD. This book has four columns: history/politics, the arts, science/technology, and miscellaneous. Each column is subdivided into two sections; the US and Elsewhere.

Another useful aid is the Happy Wanderer World Wide Travel Planner, Happy Wanderer, Inc., 7842 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, IL 60077; Phone: 1-800-323-1818. While this book is designed primarily for travel agents, and is marked at $4.95, it is sent free to anyone who calls or writes the company and requests it to help plan a vacation. It lists over 2,000 information packets/brochures that will be sent to you free when you send in the attached card. The information obtained is useful in establishing local color and planning a game set in a locale the gamemaster has never actually seen. In addition, the book has such potentially useful information as mileage charts, notes on weather and seasons, and such items are in easy to follow charts.

Real world gaming, whether historical or modern, can be very enjoyable. If you have the right books, the research needed to heighten the background of the campaign, aid roleplaying, and reduce the chance of arguments need be neither tedious or time consuming.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following books may be useful, depending on the game...
you're playing. They, or equivalent books, should be readily available at your public library except where noted.

**ATLASES**

There are a number of good atlases; both contemporary and historical at every library. Rather than signal one out, I'll just let you find the one available to you. Worth noting in this section however, is: American Forts: Yesterday and Today by Bruce Grant. Published by A & W Publishing, N.Y., 1970. This is a listing, by region, of 1,200 American forts from early settlements to current ones.

**AIRPLANES/AIRSHIPS**


**AUTOMOBILES**

T. R. Nicholson and M. Sedgewick have written a series of books for Blandford Press (London) that have color plates and data of various cars around the world. Data given includes horsepower, engine size, cruising speed, and history. These books include: Cars of the World 1905 - 1912, Cars of the World 1913 - 1923, Cars of the World 1924 - 1942, Sport Cars of the World 1907 - 1927, Sport Cars of the World 1928 - 1939.

**MOTORCYCLES**


**WEAPONS**


This pair of books lists modern firearms. Data given includes size, weight, caliber, muzzle velocity, and peculiarities.

Mack Bolan: The New War

Book by Don Pendelton (ed.) is published by Worldwide Books, NY, 1984. While this book deals mostly with the Mack Bolan series, it includes a 37 page section entitled The Combat Catalog which is a very useful, very concise description of modern weapons. Very useful for secret agent gamemasters.


Weapons: A Pictorial History by Edwin Tunis is published by World Publishing Co., NY, 1954. This reference lists not only firearms but also all hand weapons from prehistoric to modern day.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

The Q Manual was designed by Greg Gordon and published by Victory Games, NY, 1983. This is a supplement for the James Bond/007 game. The information contained in this may be used for any modern game. Probably not in the public library.

A History of Land Warfare by Kenneth Macksey is published by Two Continents Publishing Group, NY, 1973. This book is an impressive history of warfare over the ages. It is especially useful to the gamemaster because of the armament tables concerning the approximate average effective range of missiles/artillery (pre 1914 and post 1914), estimated average daily rate of advance, and military engineering.
Interview with the Bard

Michael: We asked one of his suggestions which was a good idea due to the fact that there would have been more coincidences, and that could have led to a really sticky situation.

SG/FG: What should we look forward to in The Destiny Knight scenario?

Michael: It is, in every way I can think of, an upgrade of the previous scenario. The combat is more complex, with distances for melee and missile ranges. Spells have ranges and there are a lot of new spells. The whole scenario is larger, and more difficult. The Bard's Tale had sixteen levels of dungeons and there are twenty-five in The Destiny Knight. The number of puzzles and traps are more complex, and encounters with monsters will be more varied. There is an outdoor wilderness area and six cities to explore. But you will be able to bring your original characters to the scenario, though some magic items won't work.

SG/FG: How about some specifics on the scenario. Such as the story line.

Michael: After your characters get out of Skara Brae, you find your homeland has been invaded by a magician's army. He has stolen a magical scepter which allows the armies of your country to be rallied. He has broken it into seven pieces and has hidden them in separate dungeons. They are hidden in real-time puzzle rooms which you will have to solve within a certain amount of time to recover the segment. After recovering and reforging the pieces you can become the Destiny Knight, who is pretty indestructible. Then you have to find the wizard and destroy him. He has always been present in the game, but you won't recognize him right off, and you characters will have to go around sixtieth level to survive.

Brian: From my standpoint, the best part of the game is the real-time puzzles. You've got a clock ticking against you and a computer...
that’s impartial. You run out of time and you’re dead.

SG/FG: Will first level characters have as much trouble surviving as they did in The Bard’s Tale?

Brian: We have done many, many things to solve that problem. The fun of the game is not in just getting a first level party going, there is a lot more to it than that. We have made it a lot easier and people will notice it. We have given magicians a first level spell for healing and some other things. You will still have do some thinking to survive, but you won’t have to be a genius.

SG/FG: How do you feel about the wave of piracy that is taking place?

Michael: I feel it’s wrong. When I was younger I pirated some games, but they were games that we never would have bought because of their lack of quality. I feel that I did not kill any sales. However, I no longer do it.

Brian: That’s my viewpoint on the subject. I don’t get upset by that kind of piracy. It’s like trading baseball cards. What bothers me is the organized approach to piracy. The bulletin boards that download pirated ware or copying the documentation. For example, the kid who buys The Bard’s Tale for forty bucks and then his friends say, “You jerk, I have it for free.” The next time around the kid isn’t going to buy any software, especially if it’s free.

I think in the future, software companies are going to combat this with more elaborate documentation and game aids. The Destiny Knight is going to be in a box with a bigger manual and reference aids.

Michael: When it comes down to it, if someone were to offer me a game for free, I would take it. I’d be stupid not to. But if I asked about does and they said they would print it on their dot-matrix printer, I would say to forget it. I’d rather go out and buy the game in order to have the nice documentation.

SG/FG: What projects is Interplay working on for the future? Will there be a Tales of the Unknown III?

Brian: We haven’t decided what to do with the next sequel. Our hope is that there will be demand for a sequel and we will be able to do it for a long time. As long as people are interested. We are looking into doing other fantasy games. Right now we are working on one that is a "post nuclear war, Mad Max" type of roleplaying game. That will be released in ’87. We are also looking at other types of adventure games, and we’re adapting The Bard’s Tale for other types of computers as well.

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**RULES MURPHY’S**

By Tim Callender

In GDW’s Traveller, no matter how fast a character is or what kind of weapon he uses, the character can only fire a weapon once every fifteen seconds. -Bill Barton

In GDW’s Traveller, an advanced computer capable of piloting starships and firing weapons has no programs for figuring taxes or balancing books. -Bill Blanton
Welcome to the world of Moebius. In this adventure you are a disciple of a vaguely oriental monastery. Moebius is the spiritual guardian of the world, and the founder of your order. Your mission is to travel the four elemental planes, seeking out the temples in each one and casting out the evil monks, assassins, and warriors who have corrupted them. You are equipped with basic provisions and sent out upon your quest.

Traveling overland you can see the countryside around you, including any passing people or adversaries. This is done from an overhead view, with reasonably good graphics. Motion is directed with the keyboard, as are all other aspects of this game. Because of this, the animation is done frame by frame, but this presents no problem.

When you meet an opponent you are shown the fight in detail, and have full control over your attacks. Although the animation is still stop action, the graphics of the combat are excellent. You can control the speed and the play is excellent. You may fight with a sword, or use a karate style, unarmed combat technique. This offers a wide range of options, including type and placement of your kicks and swings, timing of your blocks, as well as full mobility about the battlefield. The game keeps track of fatigue as well as wounds (body points), and it all happens in arcade style action. Again, this is controlled from the keyboard. There are simply too many options to be handled by a joystick.

The author of the game is to be commended on the effort he made to give depth to the fantasy, even during the startup procedure ("Please place Side A into Magic Box number 1"). The documentation is of a very high quality, well written and entertaining.

Beware, however, the greatest danger of the game. Frustration! When you first start playing you will probably lose a character or two. That is not unusual in a game of this type, but it is frustrating to face and defeat every opponent, only to die of thirst because you can’t find out how to get water. There are mountains, forests, rivers and oceans between you and the only available water, and you don’t even know in which direction to look. You will be set upon by guards who will attack, stun and rob you. You will face wild beasts of all sorts, meet strange and interesting people, explore towns, and fight for your life many times before you reach a pool of water from which you may drink. Don’t let these setbacks stop you. The game is well worth playing is spite of the frustrations.

For those who have this game, or are interested in getting it, here are a few playing tips. Before you begin the adventure, you must train against a guard or assassin. Try both, with and without a sword. You only need to defeat one of them to pass the training requirements, but you will face both in the game. Remember that combat runs at the highest speed unless you set it lower. Carry your sword when traveling since you will meet beasts that cannot be driven off without it. Put the sword away whenever you meet anyone. Even an enemy. It will scare otherwise helpful people away, and you can fight more efficiently bare handed. When you start the game you will find a small village north of your starting point. Begin by visiting it as it will enable you to gain a level or two. Then look east and south for a temple (which is also the nearest water). Do not bother running from opponents since they can move as fast as you, and you will always run into an obstacle which will enable them to overtake you. Conversely, you should chase guards that have robbed you because eventually you will be able to catch them and you will be able to retrieve your possessions. When facing assassins, use low, short kicks or cuts. When facing guards, use short, middle kicks or cuts. When facing evil monks, close as quickly as possible and combine low and middle kicks (you can’t use a sword on them). When facing a Warlord, use everything you’ve got and hope that it is enough!

Overall, the game is excellent, in spite of the graphic animation and frustrations of play, or perhaps because of them. They lend an interesting flavor to the game and keep you on your toes. The graphics are good, and the animation doesn’t overshadow the plot. This one is a gem, and the flaws only add a little more fire to it. Not only a must have, but probably one you would like.
Chessmaster 2000
Reviewed by Bob Ewalt
Publisher: The Software Country
Designers/Developers: Walt Bilofsky, Michael Duffy, Dave Kittenger
Price: $39.95
Rules Clarity: Excellent
Complexity: Low
Graphics Quality: Excellent

Chessmaster is an advanced chess program for IBM, Atari, Apple, and Commodore computers.

The graphics for the game are superb. It will work with RGB, composite, and monochrome monitors, but does not support enhanced graphics on the IBM. Chessmaster offers two options for display. One with two dimension graphics which shows the different places on an 8x8 grid, and a the dimension graphic which shows the pieces on a gameboard. I found the three dimensional display distracting to the point of being annoying.

The ability of the game itself is very good. I personally am only a fair player and have a very difficult time winning at level two (of 12). Each level is stronger, so one can only imagine how good level 12 is.

The thing that was best in Chessmaster was the number of options. As in real chess they are almost unlimited. You type in the moves or use the cursor. You can play the game yourself, or (and this is helpful if you wish to really improve your game) it will suggest moves for you, at your request. It will also analyze the gameboard for you in the number of turns you select.

Between each of the twelve playing levels there are three sub-levels. Each level gets progressively longer between moves. The first level is sixty moves in five minutes, while level twelve averages one move every four days. (Holy mackerel!) However, by using the opening library of 71,000 moves you can cut this time down considerably.

Another interesting option is the ability to replay 100 famous games, including the two game series between Sargon III and Chessmaster.

There are a number of other options including the ability of the computer to think during your move, thereby improving its move. Another, for the beginner, is the teaching mode whereby the computer shows you where the selected piece can move. Of course, the games may be printed out for later study. My personal favorite option is the "If the boss wanders by" key which converts the screen to a real estate investment analysis. Naturally, a game may be saved for later reference.

All the options may be accessed through the use of pop-up menus for on-screen documentation. This cuts down the need to refer to the reference sheet.

The rulebook included in the game has an introduction to chess provided by the U.S. Chess Federation. It also has a very interesting history of the game of chess and the part that computing machines have had in that history.

One thing that did anger me was the protection scheme on the product. Being a programmer, I am not against copy protection schemes in the software, but I like to use my original copy as backup and play from my hard disk. However, copying the disk to the hard disk gives only a sample copy which terminates the game after a certain period of time.

Overall, I like the game. Most of the options I rarely use, but its nice to have them. The $39.95 price tag is nominal for such a professionally designed game. It is a good program for learning the game, playing on many different competitive levels, ease of movement, and replaying famous games.

Autoduel
Reviewed by: Steve Fuelleman
Published by: Origin Systems
Programmed by: Lord British & Chuckles
Complexity level: Average
Graphics quality: Poor

Autoduel is an arcade version of the popular, role playing game, Car Wars from Steve Jackson Games. In it you pit your driving skill against all the hazards and pitfalls of driving on futuristic freeways. These freeways are relatively free of traffic and have very few rules.

In fact there are only two rules: The right of way belongs to the one with the biggest guns, and drive offensively.

In the game you get to design the driver and the vehicle, and you may improve on both. Your driver's skills will increase with practice, and this practice will yield money which can be spent to improve your car.

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CONVENTION HOURS
GAMEX 1987 will be open for registration at 8:00am on Friday, May 22nd, with Open Gaming Activities running throughout the evening tournaments and other activities will begin Saturday morning and will remain open around the clock until closing at 7:00pm on Monday, May 25th.

CONVENTION LOCATION
GAMEX 1987 will be held at the Pasadena Hilton Hotel located at 115 S. Los Robles Avenue in Pasadena, California. The Pasadena Hilton is just a couple of blocks south of Colorado Blvd.

You may not pre-register for more than one section of the same game tournament. For example, you may only pre-register for both of the ADD & AXI or AXI & ALLIES tournaments.

PARTIAL BOARDGAMES EVENTS SCHEDULE
Events in outline print are new at this convention, those in bold print are recommended for all members of the family.

Saturday, May 23rd

Event # 1 - Time — Event Name
061 10:00am — Diplomacy
062 10:00am — Happy Dots
063 10:00am — Call of Cthulhu
064 10:00am — Star Fleet Battles
085 10:00am — Illuminati
066 10:00am — Axis & Allies #1
067 10:00am — Riki!
010 11:00am — Civilization
011 12:00pm — Monopoly
012 12:00pm — Lost Worlds
013 12:00pm — Wooden Ships & I.M.
014 12:00pm — Brit. Satellite Empire
015 12:00pm — Car Wars
016 12:00pm — Talisman
017 12:00pm — War at Sea / V.T.P.
018 12:00pm — Trench Pursuit
019 12:00pm — Ogre
020 12:00pm — Naval War Card Game
021 12:00pm — 7-Carat Gold Poker

Sunday, May 24th

022 9:00am — Blue Max
023 9:00am — Avalon Hill Classics
024 9:00am — Machiaveli
025 9:00am — W. W. T. C.
026 9:00am — Third Reich
027 9:00am — Axis & Allies
028 10:00am — Start Wars
030 10:00am — Car Wars
031 10:00am — Kingmaker
032 10:00am — Tank Leader
033 10:00am — Empire Builder
034 10:00am — Up Front / Banzai
035 10:00am — Acquire
036 10:00am — Cosmic Encounter
037 10:00am — Age of Dis
038 10:00am — 5-Carat Drue Poker

Monday, May 25th

039 9:00am — All Baseball
040 9:00am — Scrabble
041 9:00am — Rail Baron
042 9:00am — Rail Gunman
043 9:00am — H-17
044 9:00am — Car Wars
045 10:00am — Nuclear Escalation
046 10:00am — Hearts

PARTIAL ROLE PLAYING EVENTS SCHEDULE
Events in outline print are new at this convention, those in bold print are recommended for all members of the family.

Saturday, May 23rd

Event # 1 - Time — Event Name
061 10:00am — AD&D #1
062 10:00am — AD&D #2
063 10:00am — AD&D #3
064 10:00am — AD&D #4
065 10:00am — AD&D #5
066 10:00am — AD&D #6
067 10:00am — AD&D #7
068 10:00am — AD&D #8

Sunday, May 24th

221 10:00am — AD&D #9
241 10:00am — AD&D #10
242 10:00am — AD&D #11
243 10:00am — AD&D #12
244 10:00am — AD&D #13
245 10:00am — AD&D #14
246 10:00am — AD&D #15

Monday, May 25th

247 10:00am — AD&D #16

ADDITIONAL RPG EVENTS
All AD&D events will feature all of the best in every thing from 5-20mm, HO to Micr, and of course, 1,240 naval miniatures.

Brian Sucke will be coordinating miniatures events and a complete schedule can be obtained by calling (213) 400-3075.

MINIATURE EVENTS
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Brian Sucke will be coordinating miniatures events and a complete schedule can be obtained by calling (213) 400-3075.
which may be used to improve your driver’s skills as either a driver, mechanic, or marksman. Each of these abilities will also be improved with experience and training. Earning experience will start in the arena where you can participate in the major spectator sport of the future: Autoduell! By winning in the arena, you can add to your savings, which may be spent to add to your car, which, in turn, can add years to your life.

The arcade action of the cars seemed strange at first, since the cars can turn even when they aren’t moving. The reaction time of the game varies, depending on how many cars are on the screen at one time, and cars move faster on the screen when turning or traveling in any direction other than north-south or east-west. This unpredictable game speed can also result in that strangest phenomenon of all: You can be killed by opponents that you have already killed since the guns don’t always stop firing when they should. There are also times when you can drive through parts of some barriers, and you can frequently fire weapons through them (and even through cars).

Having played the game for many hours, I learned a few things which deserve to be shared. First, make sure that your joystick is properly adjusted and centered. If it isn’t you will end up fighting your car instead of it fighting for you. Second, when creating your character, divide your 50 points evenly between driving and marksmanship, which effect your ability to manipulate your car and fire your weapon. Mechanical ability is useless unless you survive long enough to get out of the arena and onto the road. Play the “Amateur Night” arena frequently, but don’t be afraid to leave it early. This will cost you a bit of prestige (your character’s reputation), but there is an advantage to keeping a low profile early in the game, and a big advantage in staying alive. Finally, back up your character disk after every major victory. The game allows you to have a “clone” of your driver made, but it costs $5,000 of game money, and the time that you need it most is in the beginning, when you can least afford it.

If you want to get onto the roads early, and skip some of the arena time, you can go and gamble in the Atlantic City casino, trying your luck at poker or blackjack. I recommend blackjack. However, don’t cut the arena out completely since you will need the practice with the cars, and your driver will gain in both marksmanship and driving skill. The arena action may seem a bit boring and frustrating at first, and could be improved in many ways, but the excitement of open road combat is much better, and can get quite challenging at times.

The road map and manual are of very high quality and well illustrated. The manual tends to go into too much detail on the mechanics of how to design a car, without telling you what it is to be. However, the construction of the cars is quite well done, giving you a wide variety of body styles and sizes, suspension and chassis improvements. It allows you to armor your car in any amount and distribution you choose, and the selection and placement of weapons is impressive. The only problems I saw in this section were the shortcomings in the manual: There are no examples of vehicles, only general notes on the philosophy of car design. The question of how much armor to use, damage ability of weapons, and how safe is a lightly armored car is not addressed, and there is no such thing as a “standard” car in this game.

Overall, the game is a fair reproduction of Car Wars, but lacks a clear cut goal for the players. There is a way to win the game, but it is simple, without any buildup. It is mentioned in the rules only indirectly. With two lines at the end of the manual suggesting that there might be one. Many of the in town transactions take too much time, both in game days and in real time.

The flow of the game is broken by the frequent disk activity, which makes it hard to sustain excitement. I was using two drives, so I did not have to change disks, but it was still an irritating delay. It is to bad that the game can’t take advantage of the extra memory that some computers have to cut down on the disk activity.

In the past we have seen some excellent games come from Origin Systems, and the team of British (author of the Ultima series) and Chuckles (author of many excellent arcade-style games) would seem like the ideal one for tackling the difficult project of computerizing the popular Car Wars game. Yet, I am sorry to say that their efforts fell a bit short of the mark. The game is pretty well conceived, but is marred by just enough technical flaws, substandard graphics, frustrating limitations, and general user unfriendliness that it just isn’t much fun to play. If you are already a Car Wars player, you might really enjoy it. It was a great idea whose time has not yet come.
Running The Gauntlet

By Tim Bailey and Michael DeWolfe

The most interesting function of Lode Runner is its capacity to let you design your own levels. If you’ve forgotten how to use this function, it works as follows: Insert the data diskette, and after the Lode Runner logo appears, push ctrl-E once. This gets you into the edit mode where you can alter, move, create or play levels at your choice. The number of different types of levels is incalculable, and each can be radically different from the last. The next section deals with the strategies of design that can be employed. We have compiled six types of obstacles to fit into a level to make it interesting.

DIGFEST

The 'Digfest' structure, as shown in Figure 1, requires more dexterity as it is made more difficult. It can function as both a gate or obstacle. The player must dig out successive layers of block levels in order to traverse the obstacle effectively and not get buried doing so.

![Figure 1](image1)

The brick levels must be one block wider than they are deep. And, the structure should not be 'deeper' than six levels. Either side should be lined with either a solid 'undiggable' block or some other structure to keep players from digging into the side. If ladders are placed on either side, they can be used to dig into the space and ruin what was planned to be an obstacle. The Digfest may be as wide as the whole screen if you wish. Width gives the novice player the illusion that he must dig them all before proceeding. This level can be altered by putting in a tunnel of trap floors that lead straight to their target. The tunnel can be discovered one or two levels down. However, a partial tunnel of trap floors ruins a Digfest and makes it impassable. This structure can be applied by using two Digfests to sandwich in a layer of boxes.

TOMB

The tomb is one of the more difficult obstacles, for if trapped, you are entombed until you kill your own man. This obstacle requires more timing than any other type of obstacle. You dig out the wall on the side from a ladder, climb back up, dig out the block above the target box, drop down, retrieve the box and escape before the dug out wall refills.

Of course, the box(es) have to be hanging in space, as in Figure 2, to give the player a reason to go back up to the top and jump down upon them. The structure should not be larger than fourteen blocks high, by three blocks wide, and they should not be less than three high by two wide. Any unnecessary blocks (those not to be dug out) should be made of solid #2 blocks.

VAULT

The vault is the most challenging structure presented in this article. It requires that the player successively dig out all of the singular blocks to the side to enter. Then, before the last block refills, he must run in, traverse the intervening distance, picking up boxes, and then escape. An example of a Vault is found in Figure 3.

The bottom of the Vault is made solely of solid #2 blocks. The way in is the way out. If the top can be entered, then a 'stupid' player may leap in and be trapped. The distance across a Vault should not much larger than twelve blocks. This would mean a Vault with three ladders is close to maximum size. You will have to experiment to arrive at a size that is challenging for you but not impossible.

NET

There are two types of Nets: dimensional and linear. Figure 4 demonstrates a Dimensional Net and Figure 5 demonstrates a Linear Net.

A Dimensional Net is simply an array of ladders and/or wires which a player must brave in order to pick up a number of boxes while avoiding his enemies. There is no hidden peril in this Net. The only difficulty is that they can be extremely tricky to traverse, mainly because they either greatly restrict, or allow total freedom of movement, depending on the position in the Net. A level comprised only of a Dimensional Net is a supreme challenge. This is because the enemies can be camouflaged in the myriad of ladders.
A Linear Net is more organized and effective at a smaller size. It consists of two linear rows of unbroken ladders to allow sideways movement. One row of ladders is positioned directly above one or two other levels. The two rows are joined every few blocks by ladders. This leaves a blank space between levels. The blank areas are exceptionally useful; it is where the player can run in relative safety.

SAFEHOUSE

Safehouses are structures in which players can stay in safety from enemies while still being able to attack them. Safehouses can be given one of two options, or both. A Safehouse is basically a trap floor that is put atop a surface that a player can stand on. The blocks directly below and beside the Safehouse can be diggable blocks. When a player lands in a Safehouse, he can stand there, wait, or dig pits on either side. However, a basic Safehouse has faults. One is that once enemies move in on both sides, the player is trapped. And another is that an enemy could follow you in and kill you. Figure 6 demonstrates a basic Safehouse. Figure 7 shows a Safehouse with the first problem remedied. It has a ladder directly below the Safehouse; this allows escape at the player's choice. Figure 8 is a diagram of the remedy to the second problem. It allows a player to dig out the block above the Safehouse. You drop in and you're safe from overhead attacks.

LOCKED DOOR

The Locked Door is a simple structure. It consists of a ladder as high as the bricks that are to be dug out. Next to the wall of #1 blocks is a wall of solid blocks without a bottom segment. The missing bottom segment is where the player is forced to move. The height of these Locked Doors can be anything from two segments high and up. The Locked Door in Figure 9 is four segments high. These structures are useful because they force a player in one direction only.

SPECIAL LEVELS

There are a few themes to levels that are not easily explained as individual structures. We have presented several such themes with details so that you'll be able to design your own.

One type of Level is the Attrition Level. It depends on the regular deaths of enemies so that they may be able to bring boxes to you. These boxes are unattainable by the player, although they are essential for him to leave the Level. Placing these boxes, that are reached by attrition, is tricky and will take a minimum of one or two attempts at design and redesign. A simple and effective Attrition Level could be one where the player is on the bottom of the screen atop a layer of diggable blocks. The boxes are in mid-air and the enemies have full access to them, and the player. All the player can do is dig and kill until every box has been brought to him. These levels take great patience, because you must continue to dig and wait until they have brought all the boxes down to you.

Another style of level is that where the player is forced to move in one direction until he can finally make it back after moving to an edge of the screen. He can be forced downwards by replacing a vertical row of ladders with a vertical row of wires. This would allow a player to move left, right, and down, but not up. A horizontal version of this idea can be arrived at using one of two methods. First, you could use wires and ladders across a space. These would be placed so that the player could drop down onto ladders, wires, or blocks, but could not return to them. The player could only continue forward, or wait. The second method involves blocks. The player can jump down a staircase series of blocks which he can't reclimb. These types of levels can be used to prompt players into using strategy by placing something in a section of the screen where they have only one chance to get it.

Another style of level could be one that teaches a player to use common sense. If a level consists of mainly boxes, in a solid block of about twenty-two by about fifteen blocks, not all the boxes have to be taken to activate the secret ladders. If the right number of boxes are taken, the player can leave the level. Otherwise, he is trapped there to rack up points and die. The level is simple in design, but very tricky.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

When designing Levels, you have complete discretion as to its structure. Try to adhere to some sense of structure. Try to adhere to some sense of structure. Be careful. We made more than a few mistakes ourselves. Usually by placing a box where no one can get to it, and then hoping the player gets away. This is because we were more interested in the theme of the Level, and didn't think out the path the player would have to take.

Lode Runner is one of the best games made for the Apple Computer, as the game allows more leeway and is more user-friendly than any other. The suggestions we made are only a few of the possibilities and techniques usable with this game, including variations on the ones suggested in this article.
Even before the night had fallen, they came back; hordes of mutated creatures, demons and ghosts, armed with rifles and grenades by their master, the insane sorcerer Black Wolf. Teinquerion watched his friend ready another arrow and take aim at the closest mutant; for nearly two days now, they had fought back attack after attack on this lonely crag of rock, and the elf still did not show any signs of fatigue. Teinquerion, human by birth and fighter by trade, thought back on all the fiends he had vanquished in his life. He remembered the giants that had raided his homeland, smashing entire houses with their bare hands, the wars between the Free States, the soldiers who fought with steel and the merchants who fought with gold, the witch-king he had defeated in single combat, and so many others. He had fought all his life, against swords and against spells... and now against machines. An elf screamed to his left, flung off the crag by machine gun fire, dead before he hit the ground; hideous creatures threw themselves on him, swinging blood encrusted axes and maces. Teinquerion blocked the first one's blow, and riposted with his longsword, slashing deep in the mutated flesh; the creature howled, falling on his comrades who were still scaling up the crag. As the elves fought on and the mutants fell back, Teinquerion began to hope that he might live to see another day, in the grim world of FIRELAND...
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(continued)
aerospace fighters and dropships. Each has a line drawing of the craft in question, and a full background including construction notes, design quirks, history, notable battles involved in and even famous crews! Listed for most of the entries are modified versions and variants.

This is a very handy book to have, for it also includes the game statistics for each vehicle, making scenario building a snap. The book itself is also fun to read, for it contains much information about the BattleTech universe. Again, I recommend this product.

All in all, the BattleTech system is a very welcome addition to the gaming world, and is a worthwhile investment for those interested in the military aspect.

While the list of products seems rather extensive, the game is really very easy to learn, and the rules are very easy to comprehend and remember. The game as a whole is very enjoyable to play and might make a good introduction to those new to the hobby. Having to give BattleTech a rating, I give it a:

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