

# EPGS Heroics

Newsletter of The Eastern  
Pennsylvania Gaming Society

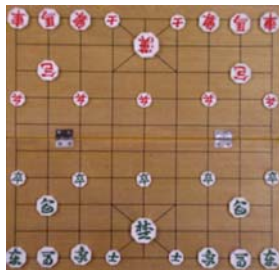
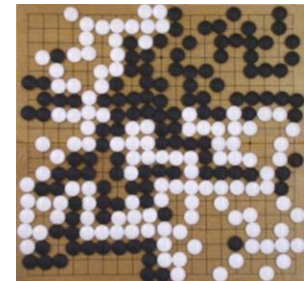
March 2005

EPGS meets from 10:00 AM to 9:30 PM this Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, in Oxford Valley Mall's Community Room. Subsequent meeting dates are April 2&16, May 7&28, and the first and third Saturdays through the end of 2005.

## Asian Games: The Art of Contest

By Brian Miller

This is the title of a current exhibit at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery on the Mall in Washington D.C. Scores of centuries-old game boards, playing pieces, dice, cards – even a *Weiqi* (Chinese version of *Go*), strategy manuscript from the sixth century – are on colorful display. Also included are art and literary works prominently referencing game-play. I'll not soon forget the illustration of a famous Japanese warrior, surprised by three armed attackers, attacking his opponents with his *Go* game board. I think every gamer would be able to find something interesting here, as by no means are the items of interest I mention here a complete list.



The presentation begins with Dice and “Race Home” games such as *Snakes-and-Ladders*, *Backgammon* and *Pachisi*. Generally, the Indian and Islamic versions of *Snakes-and-Ladders* depict a spiritual journey; the Chinese version was usually a game of promotional gains in a bureaucratic setting. Some of the *Backgammon* and *Pachisi* sets show generations of use but still were clearly lovingly cared for. Of course, some sets were made more for display than for use – indicative of the prestige of game playing. There is even an exhibit of a 19<sup>th</sup> century Indian game designer and his games, including his design incorporating *Snakes-and-Ladders* on a traditional *Pachisi* board.

War and Strategy is comprised of the ancient games *Go*, *Weiqi*, and *Chess*. In the Indian and Islamic worlds red and green are the traditional colors used in *Chess*; in the Cambodian and Thai versions of this classic game the queen is a diminutive piece on the board and less powerful than in European chess. Characteristic of Chinese, Korean, and Japanese strategy games are pieces distinguished by written characters rather than form.



Card games are a prominent part of the Memory and Matching exhibit. If you love card games, then you could definitely spend a lot of time here. The only card game I enjoy is *Blackjack*, so it was the non-card displays that caught my eye in this exhibit. The most elaborate game set I've ever seen is for the Japanese game of incense called *Jishu-ko* where the aim is to detect scents!



The final exhibit is games of physical skill such as *Polo*, *Kickball* (where the goal is to keep the ball in the air rather than score goals), and *Pitchpot* (think of throwing wadded paper into a wastebasket – except using arrows).

Please visit <http://www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/current/AsianGames.htm#> for more information. This child-friendly exhibit is on display thru May 15<sup>th</sup> with family programs scheduled the weekends of May 1<sup>st</sup>, and May 14-15. Don't neglect to click on the site's link to the interactive online exhibition. Good Gaming!

(Illustrations are of *Go/Weichi*, *Changgi* (Korean Chess), *Xiangqi* (Chinese Chess) and *Shogi* (Japanese Chess).

## Anniversary Gaming

I was glad to see that some of you paid attention to last month's column and played *Heart of Africa* at the March 19<sup>th</sup> EPGS meeting, the anniversary of David Livingston and Richard Francis Burton's births..

March 26<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of several game-related events. *The Book of Mormon* tells the story of *The Settlers of Zarahemla* (Inspiration). Conflicts on the subcontinent can be gamed with both *Indo-Pakistani Wars* (Decision/S&T #171) and *India-Pakistan War* (Flying Buffalo).

March 26<sup>th</sup>

- 1827 Composer Ludwig von Beethoven died
- 1830 Joseph Smith published *The Book of Mormon*
- 1865 Syngman Rhee born, President of South Korea 1948-1960
- 1914 General William Westmoreland born, U.S. commander in Vietnam War
- 1930 Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Conner born
- 1931 Actor Leonard Nimoy of *Star Trek* fame born
- 1941 Italy used first manned torpedo "Chariot" to sink British battleship York at Crete
- 1953 Polio vaccine announced by Jonas Salk of The University of Pittsburgh
- 1971 East Pakistan declared independence and changed its name to Bangladesh
- 1979 Anwar Sadat and Menachim Begin signed peace treaty at White House
- 1989 Soviet Union held its first free elections, Boris Yeltsin winning



April 2<sup>nd</sup> is Charlemagne's birthday, for whom there is the eponymous game *Charlemagne / Krieg und Frieden* (Think Games / TM Spiele). Ponce de Leon can be commemorated by exploration games such as *Conquistador* (SPI S&T #58) / Avalon Hill), *Viceroy*s (Task Force) or *New World* (Avalon Hill). The Battle of Copenhagen is famous as the scene of the commander's ship sending up a signal flag ordering Nelson's ship to fall back. Realizing that his commander could not see that the situation had changed, Nelson put his telescope to his blind eye and said he saw no signal to retire, and sailed forward to victory. Naval sail games such as *Wooden Ships and Iron Men* (Battleline / Avalon Hill) recreate the battle. The obvious game for replaying the North Vietnamese 1972 spring offensive is *Year of the Rat* (SPI/S&T #35). Games concerning the most popular television show of the early 1980s are *Dallas* (SPI), *Dallas* (Yaquinto), *Dallas: The Game of Empire Building Strategy* (Maruca). Games on the 1982 war between Britain and Argentina are *Battle for the Falklands* (Guild of Blades), *Falklands or Malvinas* (Lightfoot), *The Falklands War* (Close Simulations), *War in the Falklands* (Mayfair).

April 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 743 Charlemagne born
- 1123 Pope Calixtus II declared a crusade to reclaim Spain from the Muslims. It succeeded in 1492.
- 1513 Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon discovered Florida
- 1792 U.S. Congress authorized first U.S. mint in Philadelphia
- 1802 British victory at the Battle of Copenhagen over the Danes
- 1862 Peninsular Campaign began in the American Civil War
- 1865 Lee's Confederate army began its final retreat to Appomattox
- 1872 Telegraph inventor Samuel Morse died
- 1889 Charles Hall patented aluminum
- 1902 First U.S. movie theater, *The Electric Theater*, opened in L.A.
- 1914 Actor Alec Guinness of *Star Wars* fame born
- 1917 Peace candidate President Wilson requested Declaration of War one month after his inauguration
- 1932 \$50,000 ransom paid for Aviator Charles Lindbergh's kidnapped baby
- 1935 Watson Watt received patent for radar
- 1972 North Vietnam began offensive capturing part of Quang Tri
- 1978 First episode of television show *Dallas* broadcast
- 1979 Menachim Begin visited Cairo
- 1982 Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands



## The Games We Played

Newcomer *Pirate's Cove* joined old-timer *Advanced Squad Leader* as the most popular game of the month, being played four times apiece at the two meetings. *Puerto Rico* was third with three plays. Thanks to Alex Bove, Jason Wagner and Steve Cameron for recording the games played in my absence.

NEW	GAME	PUBLISHER	FEB 19	MAR 19
	<i>Acquire</i>	3M / Avalon Hill / Hasbro/Avalon	1	
	<i>Advanced Squad Leader</i>	Avalon Hill / Multi-Man	3	1
	<i>Anno 1503</i>	Kosmos / Mayfair	1	
G	<i>Around the World in 80 Days</i>	Kosmos / Rio Grande		1
G	<i>Assassin</i>	Avalon Hill	1	
	<i>Axis &amp; Allies - Pacific</i>	Hasbro/Avalon	1	
	<i>Barbarossa to Berlin</i>	GMT		2
	<i>Carcassonne - The Castle</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Carcassonne: The City</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande	1	
	<i>Category 5 / 6 Nimmt</i>	Amigo / US Games Systems	1	
	<i>Citadels / Ohne Furcht und Adel</i>	Hans im Glück / Fantasy Flight	1	
	<i>Cosmic Encounter</i>	Eon / WE / Mayfair / Hasbro/Avalon	1	
	<i>Die Sieben Siegel</i>	Amigo	1	
	<i>Domaine</i>	Mayfair		1
G	<i>Edel, Stein &amp; Reich</i>	Alea		1
	<i>Exxtra</i>	Amigo		1
	<i>Go</i>	?	1	
	<i>Goa</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande	1	1
G	<i>Great War at Sea: Russian-Japanese War</i>	Avalanche		1
	<i>Guillotine</i>	Wizards of the Coast	1	
G	<i>Heart of Africa</i>	Phalanx / Rio Grande		1
GP	<i>Hive</i>	Gen Four Two		1
G	<i>Ingenious / Einfach Genial</i>	Kosmos / Fantasy Flight	1	
	<i>Leapfrog</i>	Fragor		1
GP	<i>Mermaid Rain</i>	Gentosha Comics		1
	<i>Meuterer</i>	Adlung		1
	<i>Modern Art</i>	Hans im Glück / Mayfair	1	1
G	<i>Naval Battles</i>	Phalanx	1	
GP	<i>Niagara</i>	Zoch / Rio Grande	1	
	<i>Pirate's Cove</i>	Days of Wonder	2	2
	<i>Power Grid</i>	Rio Grande		1
	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	Alea / Rio Grande	2	1
G	<i>Quicksand</i>	Fantasy Flight	1	
	<i>Relationship Tightrope / Drahtseilakt</i>	ASS / Überplay	1	
	<i>Russian Campaign, The</i>	L2	1	
	<i>Saint Petersburg</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>San Juan</i>	Alea / Rio Grande	1	
G	<i>Sole Mio!</i>	Abacus / Rio Grande	1	
	<i>Sticheln</i>	Amigo		1
	<i>Struggle of Empires</i>	Warfrog		1
	<i>Sword of Rome</i>	GMT	1	
	<i>Talisman</i>	Games Workshop		1
	<i>Ticket to Ride</i>	Days of Wonder		1
	<i>Traumfabrik / Fabrik der Träume</i>	Hasbro		1
	<i>Twilight Imperium</i>	Fantasy Flight	1	
	<i>Untergang von Pompeji, Der</i>	Amigo	1	
	<i>Vinci</i>	Eurogames/Descartes		1
	<i>Zero!</i>	GMT		1
GP	<i>ZooSim / O Zoo le Mio</i>	Cwali / Gigamie / Rio Grande	1	
<b>13/4</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	-----	<b>28/32</b>	<b>26/28</b>

G = New Game

GP = New Game and Publisher

Military Games are Red

Railroad games are Blue

## EPGS Information

*Heroics* is the official publication of The Eastern Pennsylvania Gaming Society, (EPGS). Contributed articles are always welcome.

To subscribe to *Heroics* send an email to:

[epgs\\_announce\\_subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:epgs_announce_subscribe@yahoo.com)

To unsubscribe, send an email to:

[epgs\\_announce\\_unsubscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:epgs_announce_unsubscribe@yahoo.com)

To view the group on the Web:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/epgs\\_announce](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/epgs_announce)

Join the EPGS email discussion listserve on Yahoo! Groups' EPGS Community. Addresses:

Post message: [epgs@yahoo.com](mailto:epgs@yahoo.com)

Subscribe: [epgs\\_subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:epgs_subscribe@yahoo.com)

Unsubscribe:

[epgs\\_unsubscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:epgs_unsubscribe@yahoo.com)

List owner: [epgs-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:epgs-owner@yahoo.com)

Home page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/epgs>

Visit the EPGS Website: <http://epgs.org>

---

## EPGS Officers:

18 month terms expiring May 20, 2006.

President:

Steve Cameron  
(610) 322-3630 (cell)  
[stevegamer@snip.net](mailto:stevegamer@snip.net)

Treasurer:

Randall MacInnis  
(908) 781-6555  
[randall.macinnis@verizonwireless.com](mailto:randall.macinnis@verizonwireless.com)

Publicity:

Mike Fisher  
(215) 438-9966  
[mikefisher65@yahoo.com](mailto:mikefisher65@yahoo.com)

Webmaster:

Don Myers  
(610) 917-3664  
[donmyers@mac.com](mailto:donmyers@mac.com)

Editor:

Frank Cunliffe  
(610) 394-9119  
[fhc2@hotmail.com](mailto:fhc2@hotmail.com)

## Quartermaster Corps

The following suppliers of gaming merchandise have agreed to post our newsletter or an advertisement for EPGS. To show our support, we list the names of these outlets.

Abington Game & Hobby

1562 Easton Road

Roslyn PA 19001

(215) 657-9550

Sun-M: N-4, T-Th: N-6, F-Sat: 11-8

[www.abingtongh.com](http://www.abingtongh.com)

Allied Hobbies

243 Oxford Valley Mall

Langhorne PA 19047

(215) 757-8086

<http://www.alliedhobbies.com>

Alternate Universes

2034 Parker Avenue, (at McDade Blvd)

Holmes PA 19043

(610) 583-9960

M-Th: N-10, F: N-M, St: 11-11, Sn: N-8

<http://www.alternateu.com>

The Compleat Strategist

580 Shoemaker Road

King of Prussia PA 19406-4205

(610) 265-8562

M-Th: 11-7, F-Sat: 11-8, Sun: N-5

<http://www.compleatstrategist.com>

Days of Knights

173 East Main Street / P.O. Box 4577

Newark DE 19711

(302) 366-0963

Mon-Sat: 10-7, Sun: Noon-5

[www.daysofknights.com](http://www.daysofknights.com)

The Gamer's Realm

Princeton Arms Shopping Center

2025 Old Trenton Road

West Windsor NJ 08550

(609) 426-9339 (New Jersey)

(877) 658-8754 (toll free)

[www.gamersrealm.com](http://www.gamersrealm.com)