

SEE ANNOUNCEMENT IN BOX ON PAGE 4

DAGON

#660, APA-Q #570

January 2015

THE FOUR AND A HALF KINGDOMS - VII

(This is the first article I wrote on the Four And A Half Kingdoms. It first appeared in **Graustark** #200 on 3 January 1970, and was reprinted in **Graustark** #627 on 12 February 1994. This, and the next three articles in this series, were provided by Mark Blackman from his files, as I do not presently have access to mine. The next three articles will give the histories of the Temporary Roman Empire, the Grand Duchy of Wogastisburg-Schlampenbüttel, and the Pundschrudruk People's Republic, in more detail than in the articles in **Dagonim** ##657 and 658. I do not yet have a copy of the original report on the history of the Kingdom of Skandalutz, but the account in **Dagon** #655 should be adequate. Information in these articles, including names of heads of state, is as of 1970.)

Strictly speaking, the term "Four And A Half Kingdoms" is a misnomer, since only one of them is called a "kingdom". However, it is a name sanctioned by tradition for the five small sovereignties isolated high in the Balkan Massif. These states, though ethnically and ideologically diverse, have by means of their long isolation been considered as a unit by the few outsiders who have bothered to consider them at all.

As every specialist in the geography of the Inner Balkans is aware, the Four And A Half Kingdoms are the Kingdom of Skandalutz, the Temporary Roman Empire, the Pravoslavnician Patrimony of Polykarp, the Grand Duchy of Wogastisburg-Schlampenbüttel, and the Pundschrudruk People's Republic. (Technically the Grand Duchy is a dependency of the Holy Roman Empire and is the "Half Kingdom" referred to in the region's colloquial name.) Contemporary data about the Four And A Half Kingdoms appear in the table on the next page. Neither the area nor the population figures are given: the former because the mountainous terrain of the region makes surveying difficult, and the latter because the natives are suspicious of foreigners and unable to count sufficiently high themselves. In the last 25 years the only attempt at a census of any of the Four And A Half Kingdoms was provided by a team of Yugoslavs imported at the request of the Pundschrudruki government. After four months the Yugoslavs gave up and returned home; however, one of the team reported that the density of the population was "unbelievably high".

Name	Capital	Principal Language(s)	Religion(s)	Head of State
Skandalutz	Anakhit	Skandalous, Middle English	Mother Goddess Worship	Queen Tanna Hanna CXLV and consort
Temporary Roman Empire*	Roma Tempo- raria	Latin (official), Romanian, German	Syncretic Polytheism	Sextus Licentius Nero Caesar Augustus
Pravoslav- nian Patri- mony of Polykarp	Polykar- polis	Zapadoslavnian, Wendish	Polykarpian Christianity**	Patriarch Vyachislav VI
Wogastisburg- Schlämpen- büttel	Wogastis- burger- Neustadt	German, Polabian, Broken English***	Roman Catho- licism, Protes- tantism	Grand Duke Bardolph IV
Pundschruck	Drzunk- dump	Pundschrucki****	Marxist-Leninist- Trotskyite- Garbulian Communism	People's Chairman Upyür Arslan*****

* - This commonly used name is a mistranslation of "Imperium Romae Temporariae", properly "The Empire of the Temporary Rome". The empire's history provides the reason for this usage.

** - Nowhere else is this recognized as Christianity.

*** - Nowhere else is this recognized as English.

**** - Pundschrucki is a Finno-Ugrian language of uncertain affinities, most nearly related to Dzhibrish, which is spoken by 485 tribesmen on the Upper Yenisei. However, in the larger towns it is always possible to find someone who speaks Seljuk Turkish,

***** - Bayazid Otto Mircea Arpad de Dzhenrut, a waiter at the Schlagoberst Kaffeehaus in Vienna, claims to be the rightful King of Pundschruck, from which the old Royal Family was expelled in the revolution of 1920.

The flags of the Four And A Half Kingdoms are described from data furnished by the American Vexillological Association's Committee on Insignificant Nations:

Skandalutz - The national flag shows the new, full, and old moons in silver on a dark blue field. The Queen and King have their own standards, but these cannot be described in a family publication.

Temporary Roman Empire - The national flag shows a Roman imperial eagle with the initial of the reigning Emperor on its breast. In the corners of the flag are the initials "S. P. Q. R.", and beneath the eagle, in smaller letters, are the words "Pro Tem". All charges are white on a red background. Legionary flags have the legion's own Roman numeral instead.

Pravoslavnician Patrimony of Polykarp - The flag bears the Polykarpian Triple Cross in red on a white field. The Patriarch's personal standard is white, with the Quadruple Tiara in gold above a red padlock.

Grand Duchy of Wogastisburg-Schlampenbüttel - The national flag, indicating the the two ancestral houses of the Grand Duke, is a tasteful blend of Wogastisburg vermillion and Schlampenbüttel maroon in six alternating horizontal stripes. (This flag is said to have been designed by Grand Duke Dietbold the Delicate.) The Grand Duke's personal flag is his arms, but these have so many quarterings and sub-quarterings that that no two writers have been able to agree on an exact description. There is also a naval ensign, dating from the 13th century, when the Holy Roman Emperor Fridolin the Facetious granted to Wogastisburg-Schlampenbüttel a strip of land nine feet wide and extending 75 miles from the Grand Duchy to the Adriatic. This grant was later revoked as a clause in the Peace of Bretigny.

Pundschruck - The flag is the traditional standard of nine donkey tails. Since the Revolution, red ribbons have been tied around them. The Pundschrucki claim their flag to be the original 9th-century battle standard of Arpad the Footpad.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Dagon, a monthly fanzine of commentary on science, science fiction, fantasy, mystery novels, comic art, role-playing games (RPGs), and anything else that seems like a good idea at the moment, is published by John Boardman, 1910 Rosemont Avenue, Frederick, Maryland 21702-8249. My land-line telephone number is 301-662-8718. My cell phone number is 718-736-4901. **Dagon** circulates through **APA-Q**, an amateur press association (APA) which is edited once a month (if enough qontributions come in) by Mark Blackman, Apt. #4A, 1745 E.18th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11229. The qopy qount for **APA-Q** is 20. For information about receiving and/or qontributing to **APA-Q**, write to Mark.

Dagon also goes to others who have indicated an interest in its subject matter. Subscriptions are 10 issues for \$15 in the U. S., and for \$40 elsewhere.

People who were reading my publications before 2009 may recall that each issue carried the “Operation Agitation” colophon which appeared in every issue. The last one, #2141, appeared in **Dagon** #610 (24 January 2009), the last issue published in our Brooklyn home. When I prepared **Dagon** #611 in Maryland in September 2010 I apparently neglected to include this colophon, and it has not since appeared until now. Similarly, the last Brooklyn issue of my gaming fanzine, **Graustark** #788 (20 January 2009) had the colophon number #2140. None of the subsequent four **Graustarks**, or the subsequent 49 **Dagonim**, published in Maryland, have borne these numbers. It is therefore easy to establish the colophon number printed to the right. I will continue to use these numbers in **Dagon**. They represent the total number of amateur publications which I have published.

This is

O At
 P Great
 E Intervals
 R This
 A Appears
 T To
 I Inflammation
 O Optic
 N Nerves

2195

*

A reader has suggested that, since the present mailing list (pp. 8-10) is compounded from several older ones from both **Dagon** and **Graustark**, I may be sending **Dagon** to people who don't have the time or interest for reading it. Such readers should write me and let me know that they are not interesting in receiving further issues of **Dagon**.

*

The lead article in the December **CAR-PGa Newsletter** is “Comics as Patterns for Roleplaying Games Part 5: Star Wars - The Secrets beyond Star Wars”. (The name of the article's author is not given, but I suspect he is Carsten Obst.) It is a review of *Spaß Wars* (“Fun Wars”) by the German artist Matthias Kringe. This book “is a parody of the ever-present “Star Wars”. and “gives the reader a completely new insight of the universe which was created by George Lucas”. We get previously secret material on why Princess Leia wears that hair-do, why Jango Fett changed his name, and why Jaba the Hut tried to lose weight. But we are not told whether *Spaß Wars* has been translated into English.

Paul Cardwell provides us with a list of articles and news reports about playing RPGs. Fortunately, there are no new reports about attacks on RPGs.

Each issue of **CAR-PGa Newsletter** contains a listing of upcoming RPGaming conventions. To receive **CAR-PGa Newsletter**, which is published monthly by Paul Cardwell for the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games. Send \$1.50 a copy or \$15 a year to him at 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418. (Costs are \$2.25 a copy and \$20 a year to addresses outside the United States.) Each issue contains a long listing of gaming conventions and sites. Paul also offers a subscription anywhere by e-mail for \$5.

*

Several readers have offered comments about the verse below, commonly called "Pop! Goes the Weasel". The best-known version is to the right, sent in by, among others, Sherry Heap: But a more complete version, which has more than one verse, came from Ruth Berman, who checked it out with Internet sources. The three verses below come from her. The word "tupenny" is the British "two-penny", indicating a British origin, and "treacle" is British for "molasses". She further comments: "The music, with the title: "Pop Goes the Weasel", was published in 1853, without the words - the Wikipedia doesn't say where a set of the lyrics first got published, but apparently within a few years after. A Church of England pamphlet in 1855 refers to it as a popular song with "senseless" words (meaning perhaps "bawdy") that could do with more wholesome lyrics. For American versions, the entry says a version of the opening verse was printed in Boston is 1858." See below:

All around the cobbler's house
The monkey chased the people
And after them in double haste
Pop! goes the weasel.

In 1901 in New York the opening lines were (see right):

"The most common recent version was not recorded until 1914. In addition to the three verses above, American versions often include some of the following." (see right):

The first of these verses is probably the one Most Americans know, with variations in its third line. Ruth cites "The monkey stopped to scratch his nose" and Sherry cited another version, above, in the first of these verses. I have also heard "The monkey stopped to play with his cock", which indicates that its author had spent some time observing the monkey cage at the nearest zoo.

All around the mulberry bush,
The monkey chased the weasel
The monkey said 'twas all in fun.
Pop! goes the weasel.

Half a pound of tupenny rice
Half a pound of treacle
That's the way the money goes
Pop! goes the weasel.

Every night when I get home
The monkey's on the table,
Take a stick and knock it off,
Pop! goes the weasel.

Up and down the city road,
In and out the Eagle.
That's the way the money goes,
Pop! goes the weasel

All around the chicken coop,
The possum chased the weasel

All around the Mulberry Bush,
The monkey chased the weasel.
The monkey stopped to pull up his sock,
Pop! Goes the weasel.

The third line seems to be the one in which there is the most variation, or maybe improvisation. But in the first line, Ruth reports, the weasel is sometimes chased “All around the cobbler’s bench” or “All around the carpenter’s bench.” Variant third lines also include “The monkey thought ‘twas all in fun”, “The monkey thought ‘twas all in good sport”, and “The monkey thought that it was a joke” (or “it was a big joke”).

Several verses take up where the money goes, including the verse cited above about “the Eagle”. That is the name of a pub which once stood in London at the corner of Shepherdess Walk and City Road, possibly in a complaint about someone who spends too much money on booze. As for the weasel, it may be cockney rhyming slang; “weasel and stoat” stood for “throat”, as in “Get that down your weasel”, meaning “Have something to drink”. (The stoat is a close relative of the weasel.) We also have:

A penny for a spool of thread,
A penny for a needle -
That’s the way the money goes,
Pop! goes the weasel.

Jimmy’s got the whooping cough
And Timmy’s got the measles
That’s the way the story goes
Pop! goes the weasel.

In another monetary connection, “monkey” is also old-fashioned British slang for a £5 note. In the 19th century this was worth about \$24 US, quite a considerable sum if the low wages and prices of the time are considered. And, to add yet further complications, mulberries grow on trees rather than bushes

Jim Dapkus writes that he learned the versions below. The last one he heard girls singing as they jumped rope in the schoolyard.

All around the mulberry bush
The monkey chased the weasel.
The monkey thought it was all in fun
Pop! goes the weasel.

All around the cobbler’s bench
Opossum chased the weasel.
That’s the way the money goes.
Pop! goes the weasel.

Send me for a spool of thread
Send me for a needle.
That’s the way the money goes.
Pop! Goes the weasel.

The “possum” versions are certainly American, since opossums are not found in Europe. Both opossums and weasels prey on domestic chickens, hence the verse that has them chasing around a chicken coop.

*

None of the six surviving players in the Calhamer Memorial Postal Diplomacy Game sent in moves for the “Fall 1906” turn, so apparently they have all abandoned the game. This is a disappointing end for a game in memory of Diplomacy’s founder. It also disappoints me, as I have been running postal Diplomacy games since 1963. But now the game is playable much more quickly by using social media, so presumably it will continue on the Internet.

*

The long-secret CIA report on torturing prisoners has finally been made public, and its nauseating details are now the subject of political debate. Read them. This torture took place under the presidency of Bush the Son, and he and Vice President Cheney have actually defended torture as an “interrogation” technique under their Republican administration.

No such thing must be allowed to happen again.

Only Republicans have defended torture as “necessary”. If another Republican administration ever takes office, then on the record of the last one, torture will become an accepted part of police and judicial routine, in every case from murder to overtime parking. **Keep them out of office or we will all suffer the consequences!**

GETTING CAUGHT UP

APA-Q #59 (December 2014) had not arrived by the time this issue of **Dagon** was ready for the press, so comments on it will have to be postponed to the next issue. Below, however, are my further comments on some of the topics raised in the last issue of **Dagon**.

Dagon \$659 (me): One reader, whose name and letter I have somehow lost, observed that the Book of Mormon is a sort of “Newer Testament”, since it claims to be divinely revealed just as are the other scriptures used by Christendom.

And Muslims claim that “the person whose coming was foretold in John 14:16” was their prophet Muhammad.

There may be another explanation than Mark Blackman’s for the use of the Carthaginian name “Hasdrubal” by Hispanics. Instead of the progression “Carthage→North Africa→the Moors→Spain→Latin America” it might have been, because of the long Carthaginian occupation of much of Spain, “Carthage→Spain→Latin America”. Possibly the Iberians may have preferred Carthaginian to Roman rule, and therefore preserved Carthaginian names.

There was a long review of Michel Faber’s tendentious science-fiction novel *The Book of Strange New Things* in the *Washington Post* of 26 November 2014. I will have comments on that review on **Dagon** #661.

DAGON DIRECTORY

Subscribers are indicated by the number of the issue with which the subscription expires. Other designations are:

K: complimentary copy

Q: member of APA-Q, who therefore receives **Dagon** as a part of APA-Q

T: trade copy

This directory is accurate to the date of 10 December 2014, and includes the names of some people who once got **Graustark** and have informed me that they now want **Dagon**. Please let me know of any changes, corrections or additions that need to be made, particularly if you want your nine-digit ZIP code, phone number, fax number, or e-mail address added. This is particularly important for electronic addresses, which seem to change more frequently than do postal addresses. For removal from this list see p. 4.

People indicated by "address unknown" have not received a recent copy of **Dagon**, which was instead returned to me in the mail. If I do not get a correct address for any of them by the end of March, I will remove their names from this list.

Tom Anderson (Q), #5D, 10 Park Terrace East, New York, NY 10034

Martin Andersson (Q), Göteborg, SWEDEN; <klarkash@spray.se>

Frederick Argoff (T), Penthouse L, 1170 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11230-4060

Mike Barno (656), Apt. 2, 3 Virginia Avenue, Endwell, NY 13760-3505.

Vinnie Bartilucci & Dorian Tenore-Bartilucci (Q), 1509 Olympic Circle East, Whitehall, PA 18052-6109; <vinnieb@ptd.net>; <dorantb@ptd.net>

Ruth Berman (KDrew), 2809 Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416-4209

John R. Biehl (T), 2068 Park Drive, Comox, B. C. V9M 1W2, CANADA

Mark L. Blackman (Q), Apt. 4A, 1745 E. 18th St., Brooklyn, NY 11229; <marklblackman@juno.com>

Dana Boardman (K), P. O. Box 24, Lagunitas, CA 94938

Penny Boardman (K), 3810 Jamaica Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78418

Colin Bruce (T), 30 Almoners Avenue, Cambridge CB1 8PA, ENGLAND

Walter Buchanan (668), 2240 Rockingham Loop, College Station, TX 77845

Andrew Byro (Q), 185 Park Row, 17A, New York, NY 10038; <brooklynite@gmail.com>

Tom Byro (Q), <greenherring@gmail.com>

Paul Cardwell (K,T), 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418-2913; 903-583-9296

Dennis Casey (Q), 24 Northfield Court, Staten Island, NY 10303;
<firecracker10303@yahoo.com>

Jim Dapkus (K), W6575 Dakota Ave., Westfield, WI 53964

Fred C. and Inge Davis Jr. (661), c/o Ullman, 98 Pilot Street, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464
 Don Del Grande, (Q), 34, 117 Sunset Circle, Benicia, CA 94510-2079
 Jim Dunnigan (K), 328 W. 19th St., New York, NY 10011
 Paul Evans (T), 180 Aylsham Road, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 8BF, ENGLAND
 Sue Feder (K), Historical Mystery Appreciation Society, 3 Goucher Woods Court, Towson, MD
 21286; fax 410-847-9303; <monkshould@home.com>; <http://members.home.net/
 monkshould>
 Marc Glasser, (Q), 1088 E, 40th St., Brooklyn, NY 11210
 Sharyn Heap (K), 2876 NY Route 26, Vestal, NY 13850
 Raymond Heuer (Q), 9 Beacon Terrace; Keansburg, NJ 07734-1914
 Robert Jennings (K), 29 Whiting Road, Oxford, MA 01540-2035
 Judith Judson (K), 128 Brittany Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534; <jjudson@frontier.coim>
 Paul Kenny (K), 9 Cobblestone Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-1420
 Susan and Larry Keaveny (K), 1030 Tyrus Court, North Merrick, NY 11566-1935
 Douglas Kent (K), 911 Irene Drive, Mesquite, TX 75149
 Paul Krassner (K), 9829 San Simeon Drive, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
 Devra Langsam (K), 627 E. 8th St., Brooklyn, NY 11218
 Nancy Lebovitz (K), 1014 Mountain St., Philadelphia, PA 19148
 Fred Lerner (Q), 81 Worcester Ave., White River Junction, VT 05001;
 <fred.lerner@dartmouth.edu>
 Guy H. Lillian III, 1390 Holly Avenue, Merritt Island, FL 32952
 Robert Bryan Lipton (Q), 314 W. 22nd St., New York, NY 10011
 Michael Lowrey (K), 6903 Kentucky Derby Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215-6507;
 704-569-4269; <mlowrey@infionline.net>
 Joseph T. Major (K), 1409 Christy Ave., Louisville, KY 40204-2040
 M. I. T. Science Fiction Society (K), Room W20-473, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA
 02139
 Ed and Sandy Meškys (Q), 322 Whittier Hwy., Moultonboro, NH 03254-3627; 603-253-6267;
 cell 603-651-6491; <edmeskys@roadrunner.com>.
 Sharon Offman Meyers (K), 217 Rosebud Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701-4141
 Maggie Montgomery (K), Apartment 5-R, Hershey Plaza Apartments, 215 West Chocolate
 Ave., Hershey, PA 17033 (note new address)
 Sean Murphy & Tavia Phillips (Q), #N-405, 575 Main Street, Roosevelt Island, NY 10044-
 0145; <Frederic 1937@aol.com>
 Albert A. Nofi (Q), 3506 Duval Street, Austin, TX 78705; <anofi@aol.com>
 Carsten Obst (K,T), Pechsteinstr. D-24539 Neumünster, GERMANY
 Kirsten and John Page (K), 17 Centre Ave., Boston, MA 02124-2312

Anthony Perez (K), 260 Willow Brook Circle, Clayton, NC 27527
 Deirdre Perez (K), 19300 Liberty Heights Lane, Germantown, MD 20874; 301-514-7073
 Fred Phillips (Q), #N-405, 575 Main Street, Roosevelt Island, NY 10044-0145;
 <Frederic 1937@aol.com>
 Michael P. Quirk (K), 940 Beckett Crossing Drive, Mundelein, IL 60060; 847-837-0489
 Roberta Rogow (K), Apt. A, 1755-A Manor Drive, Irvington, NJ 07111-1069
 Elyse S. Rosenstein (K), 1910 Henry St., Bellmore, NY 11710
 Kathy Sands (K), 408 Evesham Ave., Baltimore, MD 21212
 Bruce Schneier (K), 4602 W. Lake Harriet Pkwy., Minneapolis, MN 55410
 H. Paul Shuch (K), 121 Florence Drive, Cogan Station, PA 17728
 Elaine and Steve Stiles (K), 8631 Lucerne Road, Randallstown, MD 21133
 Beki Taylor (Q), 432 Scott St. NE, Warren, OH 44483
 Gary Tesser (Q), #5-A, 2455 Haring St., Brooklyn, NY 11235
 Angelique Trouvere (K), Apt. 12, 2003 Georgian Woods Place, Wheaton, MD 20902-1831
 Eric Verheiden (K), 1805 Vista del Oro, Fullerton, CA 92831-1331;
 <everheid@adelphia.net>
 Brenton Verploeg (K), 1980 Tigertail Rd., Coconut Grove, FL 33133
 Conrad von Metzke (K), 4374 Donald Ave., San Diego, CA 92117-3813;
 <metske@san.rr.com>
 Alex Whitaker (Q), #411, 382 Central Park West, New York, NY 10025
 Stephen T. Whitmore (K), 350 Old Paper Mill Rd., Newark, DE 19711
 Karina and Dean Wright (K), Apt. 832-N, 1600 S. Eads St., Arlington, VA 22202;
 301-639-5265
 Deb Wunder (Q), c/o Levy, 2451 E. 26th St., Brooklyn, NY 11229; <otherdeb@gmail.com>
 W. Andrew York (K), P. O. Box 201117, Austin, TX 78720-1117;
 <wandrew88@gma:.com>

Dagon #660

John Boardman
 1910 Rosemont Avenue
 Frederick, MD 21702-8249

() - If this space is
 checked, you may find some-
 thing of interest to you on
 pp. 4, 7, and/or _____.