



The STRATEGIC PREVIEW

SUBTITLED AFTER JOBBIES

No. 6

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY AT TSR

Things keep right on moving in the games business, and TSR is no exception. Work goes on for many projects, and eventually these game ideas emerge from the darkness to see the light of day as finished products. In the meantime, they keep us increasingly busy. Other undertakings (such as this journalistic endeavor) are handled as time allows, which explains why this issue of THE STRATEGIC PREVIEW is the first since late July.

What's been going on at TSR through this all? Well, a very successful GenCon IX is now history (see inside), and several new releases have appeared:

Topping them all is the game of LANKHMAR, a boardgame rendering of the adventures and campaigns on the fantastic world of Nehwon. Not only is the game based on Fritz Leiber's Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser series, but it is an adaptation of Mr. Leiber's own game on the subject from the 1930's! In many ways true to the original idea, it has been scaled down to fit a standard-size hex map and embodies modern gaming concepts. The end result is a simple but challenging game for up to four players that is a lot of fun to play. Players, as heroic figures, command the armies of Lankhmar, the King of Kings, the Mingols, and Kvarch Nar. The game features two sets of color die-cut counters, a brightly colored playing map of the world of Nehwon, a 12 page rules booklet, and a number of GEAS and REWARD cards (including plenty of blanks to adapt as you wish, if desired). The game is priced at... \$10.00 postpaid and is available from TSR or your favorite hobby dealer.

In the historical realm, VALLEY FORGE is the latest offering for gamers of the American Revolution. Made for use with miniatures, VALLEY FORGE is an interesting set of rules for any of the major (or minor) battles of the period. Rather unique in its approach, it is in many ways a "thinking man's game" for those who demand the subtleties of warfare as it was in the War for Independence. VALLEY FORGE, which is an 8½ x 11" booklet, features a full color gloss cover, and retails for \$5.00.

The myriad of DUNGEONS & DRAGONS aficionados would never forgive us if we hadn't been hard at work on something new for D & D, and they will not be disappointed with our latest effort: SWORDS & SPELLS. Authored by Gary Gygax, SWORDS & SPELLS is the definitive work for use in fighting miniatures battles with a fantasy flavor--and is designed specifically to be used with DUNGEONS & DRAGONS. Now, the armies of creatures, wizards, and fighting men can be combined in epic battles between good and evil. And none too soon, since the popularity of fantasy miniatures seems ever on the increase--and the official D & D miniatures line by MiniFigs is due for release in the upcoming months! SWORDS & SPELLS is a booklet similar to the four D & D supplements now in print (although itself being a companion booklet rather than a supplement), and is available for \$5.00. As with all TSR products, it can be purchased through your nearest dealer or directly from TSR.

GEN CON IX PACKS 'EM IN

GenCon IX (August 20, 21 and 22 in Lake Geneva) proved once again to be a rousing success this year. The ultimate wargaming/swords and sorcery convention proved once more that its national status is to be recognized. GenCon IX boasted over 1,500 paid participants (as well as a number of local visitors who got a free look at the hobby), with gamers from as far away as England joining the local bunch from across the USA.

GenCon offered over 40 scheduled events (more than any other gaming convention) in its three full days of running--with only 2 exceptions, every single scheduled tournament was filled to capacity--showing that most of the crowd came to play and had a good time doing it.

Among the events at GenCon, highlights were the several popular seminars which featured the following persons: guest of honor Fritz Leiber discussing swords and sorcery, Professor M.A.R. Barker on EPT, and D & D authors Arneson, Gyax, and Kuntz reviewing the monster they created with many interested interested enthusiasts. Also attracting attention were a 100-player D & D tournament under the aegis of Bob Blake, a large KINGMAKER tourney, numerous naval miniatures games (including a 20+ player game of DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP), and a four-hour game of giant LE MANS featuring a huge track and scale model cars. The FIGHT IN THE SKIES Society also conducted its ninth consecutive "Dawn Patrol" at 7:30 AM on Saturday, bringing enthusiastic aviators out of bed for a rousing round of early morning action.

Computer gaming also made its debut at GenCon this year, with two units providing interesting challenges to those brave enough to try their mettle against the machine marvels. One unit featured Star Trek action with players pitting wits against the computer-controlled Klingons. The other unit's most popular game was an artillery duel for two players who fired on each other with varying formulas for inclusion of elevation, terrain, wind velocity and powder charge--with the loser getting blasted away by the first direct hit. Very interesting indeed!

A record number of dealers from all over the United States showed their wares to a receptive crowd of gamers, and a number of new products were unveiled for the first time. Several dealers were generous in providing prizes for convention tournaments, also--contributions that were much appreciated by the organizers and recipients alike.

Even the weatherman cooperated (as he has for almost all of the 9 Gen Cons), making the weekend sunny and warm. And warm it was, as a record number of cases of pop were sold, too, at the concession stand! All in all, the conditions were good and an enjoyable time was had by all.

GenCon celebrates its tenth anniversary next August, and plans are proceeding apace for the 1977 event which will be scheduled for the Playboy Resort in Lake Geneva. See you there!

DAVID MEGARRY - DAVID MEGARRY  A TSR. SOAP OPERA COMIC STRIP



STRATEGIST CLUB NEWS

The Strategic Preview, besides its other contents, also serves as the official newsletter bearing news of the "Strategist Club" (it's the best we can do--what do you expect for a dollar a year?!). So:

The SC Banquet was held on the evening of August 19th at the Gargoyle Restaurant in Lake Geneva. All SC members were invited and a number were gracious enough to join in the pre-convention dinner, along with a number of GenCon exhibitors, TSR employees and invited guests. Chicken and shrimp were the featured dinner fare, with white wine to top off the repast and mellow everyone out for the three days of conventioning ahead. Post-dinner awards went out (with the assistance of special guest Miss Teenage Wisconsin) to Tim Kask, M.A.R. Barker, John McEwan, and Dave Arneson and Gary Gygax for honors voted in the annual SC award balloting.

TSR (through Tim Kask, the SC liason) is considering the possibility of having Strategist Club members assist in future game projects through playtesting. Such participants would be carefully screened regarding interest and experience (and other factors), and a questionnaire is under consideration for the future. SC members will be hearing more of this possibility in the months to come.

SC members are reminded of their special discount which can be had on orders direct from TSR--good on any item at the regular price.

GEN CON, WESTERN STYLE


GenCon West had its three-day debut over the Labor Day weekend in San Jose, California. Under the joint sponsorship of The Outpost shop and TSR Hobbies, the convention was held at McCabe Hall of the San Jose Civic Auditorium on September 4th, 5th and 6th. A large number of California (and other) gamers were in attendance, as were TSR representatives David Megarry, Brian Blume, and Dave Arneson. The convention was a success in its initial effort and another is planned for '77.

TSR RUMBLINGS


WinterFantasy I is in the works for Jan. 8 & 9 in Lake Geneva--see DRAGON #3 for more details... STAR EMPIRES, originally scheduled for release on Sept. 15th, has been pushed back on the schedule... The long-awaited D & D miniatures (by MiniFigs) and EPT miniatures (by Old Guard) are coming--look for the first to appear in the months to come!... Coming off the press soon (maybe by the time you read this) is METAMORPHOSIS ALPHA--a role-playing game in the spirit of D & D but with a science fiction twist. Get yours now--they're going to go fast... The Dungeon Hobby Shop is bulging with game goodies and awaiting you in Lake Geneva--come visit us soon...

DISCOUNTS OF THE MONTH


FOR NOVEMBER




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1066



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NOW ONLY \$9.50



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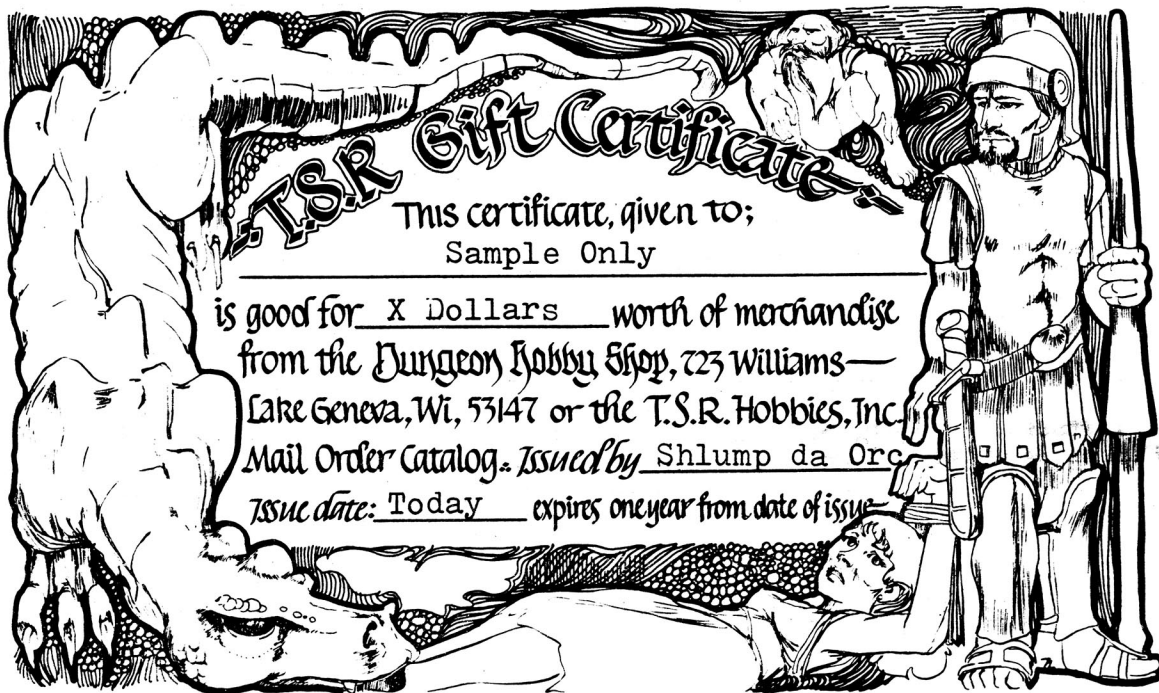
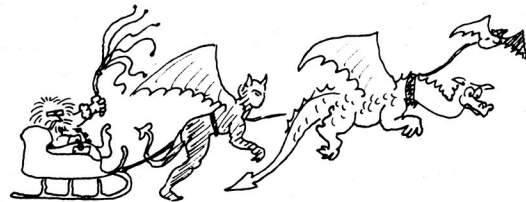
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Here's just the right gift idea for the wargamer on your list. Or maybe it's a good suggestion you can make to those who can never figure out what might be just right for you in the holiday season!

These handy certificates are good for any item carried by TSR Hobbies, either through the mail or in person at the Dungeon Hobby Shop in Lake Geneva: games, rules booklets, miniatures, accessories--even subscriptions to THE DRAGON or LITTLE WARS. Gift certificates come in any multiple of \$5 and are available directly from TSR at PO Box 756, Lake Geneva, WI 53147

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