G & P Revisited
Eric Solomon's
Hexagrams & More

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Kingmaker rules. O.K.
Britain's best puzzles and crosswords
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WARGAMING - COMPETITIONS - WORDGAMING - CARDS - DOMINOES - CHESS - GO
DAVID SINGMASTER

on the puzzle that is driving everyone crazy

"A loving device. 'The Hungarian Horse'. A new puzzle, completely without prejudice. An innocent title. A deplorable lack of three-dimensional design. The spinning wheels of the Third World War—designed to reduce the Mind to nothingness. I've never tried to play with it. I have found it to be just a cube that will grip the country."

Guaranteed to drive you mad.

"Magic Cube" will grip the country.

The most significant puzzles development of the decade. Propagating worry balls in Hungary. "Need to buy one for each member of the family in order to drive them mad."

People followed me out of the waiting room on my train. "The next time you're in Budapest, I'll show you the puzzle and make you mad."

Sam Loyd's Puzzle

STRONG words indeed! It is not often that a puzzlebtnes on the world and provokes comments like nature and intensity. The Hungarian Magic Cube looks far to be the biggest puzzle craze since the first one, Sam Loyd's "14-Puzzle" of 1878. It is unlikely that any reader will remember this ingenious puzzle but the name of its inventor is still remembered both historically and as a reminder of what may come with the Magic Cube. According to Loyd, "People became frustrated with the puzzle and indifferent.

BÜVŐS KOCKA

The MAGIC CUBE

"Magic Cube Fever" will grip the country.

"The most significant puzzles development of the decade."

"A friend of mine"...

random moves. It is usually difficult and can be tricky for beginners.

It always starts terribly simple, doesn't it? But can you figure out a mechanism to allow each face to turn in such a way they can incorporate any sort of mechanism and far simpler still produce something which is actually a practical. I call this the Basic Mechanism Problem. Everyone has tried to solve this problem and then examined the actual mechanism against it to a brilliant piece of three-dimensional invention. The mechanism was devised, as it is about 5 years ago, by a Hungarian sculptor, artist and designer, Professor Szil. (see Puzzles and Problems for the School for Commercial Artists in Budapest. It has taken some time for the manufacturers to produce this but now all the problems have been overcome. Quantities are expected to be reached in the UK in the Spring of 1979 and demand continues to outstrip supply, even in Hungary where they are sold to replacing worry balls. Over a million have already been made and production is increasing rapidly towards the million per year mark.

Back to Cube One

SUIT the Basic Mathematical Problem is actually a device that is actually driven by people around the world. However, how do we get the mechanism each face to turn in its original pattern of simple algorithms? This can be done in several ways to start with."

Square One or Cube One? Part of the solution to this requires determining exactly what the possible patterns are. Would you care to guess or estimate how many different patterns there are? Hint: (7)
SOLOMON'S HEXAGRAMS
by Dr. Eric Solomon

The humble hexagon has many fascinating properties, and probably has many yet to be discovered. Whilst playing around with ways of subdividing hexagons the author found the set shown in Figure 1. These represent all ways of joining the edges of a hexagon and shading some, or all, of the regions produced. In fact, the diagrams which produce four regions are not included in the set for technical reasons.

Figure 1 shows an interesting type of solution in that it is symmetric, or more correctly anti-symmetric. Every black area is exactly balanced by a similar white area on the other side of the board.

Look at the basic set in Figure 1, it consists of two pieces of each pair being black where the first is white, and vice versa. There is just one exception — the last piece shown is its own "dual". That is, after reversing the colours it is identical to look exactly the same as it was. The easiest way to produce a solution is to put the two dual pieces in the middle of the board and arrange the dual pieces symmetrically around it.

Some thematic designs are shown in the other figures. Note that the "corner" solution of the hexagram can be in black, or for the Octagram in figure 5, or in white, as for Braid in Figure 6. The board can be viewed in one of two directions, of course.

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CATEGORY B: Best abstract design
CATEGORY C: Best animal design
CATEGORY D: Best thematic design
CATEGORY E: Best illumination

Our normal competition rules apply, but you must send your entries on postcards and attach postage of 5p. Please mark your envelope "Hexagram". The judges reserve the right to award any prize not taken in full. Winners will be notified.

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