



# CLASSICAL HACK



Issue: 2

News Letter

September, 2004

## Where The Hack Are We Going? Philp J. Viverito

This is the second issue of the *Classical Hack News Letter* and perhaps now is a good time to take a look at where the Hack we are going with Classical Hack and its relations. For those who are new *Hackers*, you probably have no idea what I am talking about.

Well it all began with *Knight Hack*. A simple set of rules which will soon see its *Third Edition* early next year. After the introduction of Knight Hack came *Classical Hack I* and within several years *Classical Hack II* and *Classical Hack III: Hack In The Dark: Warfare in the Dark Ages*. Somewhere in between came Fantasy Hack. Finally there was *Classical Hack First Edition* my first big time production, which could have been better but it was my first real plunge into rules although we had sold hundreds of its predecessors up until then. Following First Edition came *Classical Hack Scenarios Rome*. Shortly after that came *Holy Hack Hacking By The Book: Biblical Warfare* published by Black Falcon out of Canada. After two years a 1000 copies of First Edition had sold us out. Finally it was time to do *Classical Hack Second Edition*. Having learned about the trials and tribulations of the printing world I decided to run a *Special Edition* for members of the Classical Hack Yahoo Group to go through and find errors. Thank God I did this because the same type problems occurred. Not type like kinds of things but type as in type face, leading and spacing. Finally I found a printer who was prepared to help rather than run the thing and be off with my money. This new printer also knew how to bind books properly. While still not perfect *Second Edition* is vastly superior to *First Edition* in ideas, ideals and in production quality. Thank God for Latko Printing (also responsible for the production value of this News Letter).

Ok back to my point. Where are we headed with Hack. Well hopefully we will be doing *Homeric Hack: Warfare in the Time of Homer's Heroes*. Following that the long anticipated *Classical Hack Scenarios Greece: Hoplite Warfare* and then *Classical Hack Scenarios The Celts*. In between the Hoplites and Celts will be *Knight Hack Third Edition*. While there is no set in stone time table that is what is on the planning board.

In regard to Conventions we intend on devoting more time to the smaller conventions like Siege of Augusta, Cowpens, War Fair, Hot Lead and Mini-Wars. We will not shut down the big Cons but do you want to know something? The real gamers, the grass roots gamers are more likely to be found at the small conventions and their appreciation shows it too. So we hope we can attend more of these smaller conventions; where they keep the real gamers.

## New Q.E.D. from Precision Products

John Hutt of Precision Products announced today that his company will be releasing new Q.E.D.s, (Quick & Easy Drawing) for historical gamers. A Q.E. D. is a small booklet that explains how to build scratch built buildings using plastic veneers, glue and panels. The first in a series of historical buildings is a Roman Mile Castle & Barracks Blocks in 25 mm. When assembled the pieces are about 5 inches high and 15 inches by 16 inches. When done it is beautiful and inexpensive. Mark Z. has the prototype and often uses it for Convention games.



What do you get in a Q.E.D.? Primarily it is a booklet that contains a simple yet detailed diagram of a structure, much like one you get with a model kit. The Q.E.D. lists everything you will require; a parts list, assembly instructions and many tips and explanations on how to use panels, veneers and glues. Price is \$4.00 U.S. Veneer sheeting and glue is not supplied and must be purchased separately.

Hutt's products are ideal for constructing very affordable gaming terrain and buildings. In regard to terrain Precision Products has excellent rivers, roads and lakes. The terrain sheets come in 15 inch by 15 inch, white panels. For painting you use enamel spray or acrylic water base paints to finish these. The panels give you 45 inches of roads or rivers both in 15 or 25mm scales. They are white in color, inexpensive and realistic when finished.

Before discovering gaming, Hutt was noted internationally for his model rail road, doll house lines of plastic veneers and Q.E.D.'s in addition to the Q.E.D. releases Precision Products is planning to make megaron style walls for use in the Trojan War period. Troy was made using existing veneers. Smaller 5 by 12 (don't quote me on exact size) for thatch and cedar roofs are available too. The larger sheets include; Celtic and Roman



walls and various terrain. Go to <http://www.precisionproducts.com> or write Precision Products 763 Unit 2 763 Cayuga Street, Lewiston, New York 14092-1724 (phone 716-754-2997). Hutt can be seen at all of the big cons (Cold Wars, Historicon and Fall In!).

## Convention News

### Viverito @ Mini-Wars

On October 15-17 Phil Viverito will be presenting three games at **Mini-Wars** in Glendale, California. At **Mini-Wars** Viverito will present the battle of Thicket Ridge, The Battle for The Black Ships and Destroying Troy the Last Hours. Thicket Ridge is the battle Homer describes in the the first books of The Iliad. Paris and Menelaus will begin the battle and then the armies will have at it. In the second game Hector leading the charge against the Black Ships sheltered by the walls of the Achaean camp. The last game will find the Achaeans and their horse inside the city itself; will Troy burn again?



## Homeric Hack? What's the Dif?

**Homeric Hack Ancient Warfare in the Age of Heroes 1500 B.C. to 1184 B.C.** is a game system set in the Trojan War Period. It follows the basic approach of **Classical Hack** but takes a number of turns which players are sure to like.

First, the turn sequence is much the same with two exceptions. Now there is Heroic Challenge and Divine Intervention; who doesn't like a challenge and then some Divine Intervention? Without getting too RPGish the use of both is optional and when used both are as fast and easy as any high school date; but much more fun.

One of my favorites being the chariot rules. These are well diagramed are as good an interpretation as any. Chariots shoot and melee as 6 figures per model. Missile range and movement have been adjusted as well; being longer and faster.

The D-10 casualty calculation has been retained but with all figures in a unit counted for shooting and melee. Players have no complicated unit calculations as there are only 3 basic Nationalities; Trojan, Trojan Ally and Achaean. Each has a prepared movement, melee factor and Unit Value regardless of figures in the unit.

What's the dif between *Classical Hack* and *Homeric Hack*? Homeric Hack deals with Homeric Warfare. Classical Hack deals with Classical Warfare; knowing the difference from Bronze Age Warfare and Classical Warfare are a *historical gamer*.

## Old Glory Trojans

### Fine figures still at fine prices

While nothing ever seems to go down in price I must say that Old Glory Trojans and Achaeans are still a good deal. Like everyone else *I buy my figures* and you have to admit that even with the price increases the Homeric from Old Glory are still fine figures at fine prices. It's a darn a shame that companies cannot just give stuff away but then who would produce, package and ship things for nothing. Who would want to ask someone to work for nothing? I sure don't like not getting paid, I'll tell you that for nothing.

Anyway, I really enjoy my Old Glory Trojans and Achaeans. They are easy to paint and as you can see are really nice figures. I wish my painting were up to the quality of the figures.

Especially nice are the command groups. There are several different officers and standardbearers. Then too there are horn players who can always be converted from that one extra musician figure that becomes the one guy for when you are a figure short of a full unit. The musical instruments are easy to cut off and replace with a weapon and shield. No one will be the wiser. Of all the gamers who see my figures, not one has yet to say, "What's that supposed to be a musical spear man?"



The figures have a lot of different poses and this makes for a handsome unit where uniformity is completely up to the collector's choice. You can create units like Sackers of Cities. A unit of Heroic killers which used their shields like a plough, to push into shield wall units with the hope of breaking through or into a shield wall. Or if you like you can take the same figures and use them in a more regular organization. In either case these figures are quite versatile.

The main strike force of Homeric armies is generally believed to have been Aristoi or best men who rode to battle and not into it on chariots. Once in position to strike these best men would dismount and charge the enemy. This of course a complete matter of interpretation. It is the one I happen to hold. Old Glory chariots are ideal for using as they are easy to convert into various positions. It shows the drama of war regardless of the period. What you do is simply figure out a really interesting mounting of your vehicle and then create something of a one stand vignette. Here I have used a piece of thin wire and using it as a support have shown the vehicle



in almost mid-air. To increase the drama of the moment I used a casualty figure who is flailing his arms in horror. Who says "Only TNT knows drama."?



As the Aristoi advanced forward to engage the enemy behind them would be units of foot soldiers in shield wall formations. If the chariot fighters were bested they would remount their chariots and seek shelter behind the shield wall units to rally. Here is a shield wall unit. I like to use casualty figures here too (center back rank). More drama.



The shield wall is a powerful unit in Homeric Hack however, its morale value (MV) is relatively low as units go.



These may also have rear ranks of archers. Against chariots they are powerful. Woe to the chariot unit that hits a shield wall.

## The Black Ships

### Next Month

Next month expect to see Lynne's Black Ships or how to build your own Black Ships inexpensively and expertly. They might even really float if done right.

### Contributions Sought

If you wish to send contributions to the Classical Hack News Letter send them electronically to [pviverito1@earthlink.net](mailto:pviverito1@earthlink.net) or by U.S. Mail to

**LMW Works**  
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## Hobby News

### London War Room

Out of Petal MS. comes news that Sharron and Vince carry a very exquisite War Cart (Newline Design #5) for use with Sea Peoples. Pictured here is one of my War Carts (I have several and want to collect one for each unit of my Sea People army). These are dandy and with the forthcoming Homeric Hack I think they would work well as I have included War Carts in the Trojan Allies army. The London War Room has a very complete line of Sea Peoples and Biblical 25 mm figures. These can be seen in their on line catalog at: <http://www.thelondonwarroom.com> or e-mail them at: [tlwr@thelondonwarroom.com](mailto:tlwr@thelondonwarroom.com). The London War Room carries our complete line of **LMW Works** publications.



New Line Deign War Cart recommended for use with Homeric Hack- SEA-5, 25mm

## LMW Works Releases

**LMW Works** will be releasing two new publications this year for Fall In!. Scott A. Monsour's *Rally Round the Flag*; rules for gaming in the American Civil War. Expect to see Homeric Hack: Warfare in the Age of Heroes by Phil Viverito.

See our full line of products at the *Classical Hack* Web Site: <http://www.classicalhack.com>.

## Other Releases

Out of California comes the recent release of Steve Phenow's *Sarissa & Elephant*. These are a set of rules for playing Ancient and Medieval battles. The main rules are a short 28 pages and have 20 pages of addenda which includes order log sheets, scenarios and army information. The book is paper back (8.5" by 11"). Knowing Steve there is a lot of well documented information and his interpretations are usually sound. For use with both 15 and 25mm figures.

## Subscription Rates

Subscription rates are \$6.00 for a year. There are 12 issues produced each year.

### Publication Information:

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## For Sale

Will build to suit any Ancient or Medieval Fortification in 15mm or 25mm scales. For display or gaming use. Contact [pviverito@earthlink.net](mailto:pviverito@earthlink.net).

## Do You Yahoo?

If you are on line and wish to become a member of the Classical Hack Group go to [Http://www.classicalhack.com](http://www.classicalhack.com) and join up. Need help joining e-mail Phil Viverito: [pviverito@earthlink.net](mailto:pviverito@earthlink.net).

## Up Coming Events

***Homeric Hack: Ancient Warfare in the Time of Heroes 1500 B.C. to 1184 B.C.*** will be ready for Mini-Wars (California) in October where you can also see our enormous model of Priam's Troy. Mini-Wars is held in Glendale California on October 15 through 17 2004 A.D. Mini-Wars is one of those very important small local conventions which is at the heart of grass roots gaming. For more information about California Conventions contact Marcelo A. Figueroa at: [squidguru@adelphia.net](mailto:squidguru@adelphia.net).

For next year's convention schedules I will be continuing the Trojan War Epic with more Siege of Troy The Battle for the Black Ships and The Battle of Thicket Ridge at Siege of Augusta in January.

## Did You Know. . .

***LMW Works*** provides speaking programs as well as possible publication services? We travel from Toronto to Atlanta, from Buffalo to California putting on Classical Hack demonstration games as well as seminars. We are also open to visiting small groups doing demonstration games at local shops, clubs and even homes in the Great Lakes region.

Did you know you can do a search on line for Viverito or classical hack and you will our site easily? Try it.

Did you know Classical Hack is available in the U.K through Amazon Miniatures 200 Monton Road, Monton Eccles, Manchester, M30 9PY [info@amazonminiatures.com](mailto:info@amazonminiatures.com)?

Did you know this News Letter tries to be fair and balanced in regard to manufacturers? Got something let us know.

## Other News

Larry Huber at Brookhurst e-mailed me that the store has in stock the full Xyston range of 15mm figures as well as the newly released books Troy 1700-1250 B.C. (#17 Osprey), Mycenaean Citadel (#22) and Crusader Castles in the Holyland (#21). I have these and they are first rate sources. Troy I used to build my interpretation of the Homeric City of Priam.

For those interested in the Roman Republic Brookhurst also carries Spartacus from WAB. Brookhurst carries all the ***LMW Works*** publications.

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To: