

Press Release / March 10th, 2023

Unfinished Business: A Plagiarism and that with Full Intention

A group around the German blogger and YouTuber Stefan Gust (Digger) has announced a game with the title "*Unfinished Business*" as a crowdfunding project, which not only according to our opinion, but also according to that of many online commentators, is to be considered a plagiarism of the game *BIG DEAL* by Brent & Jeffrey Beck. *BIG DEAL* was in the program of Schmidt Spiele a few years ago. The group has apparently made it easy for themselves: The existing game is taken, adapted to the new setting by naming it and enriched with a few action cards. It is not denied that *BIG DEAL* was taken as a basis. In the game rules version V9.9.5-2023 large parts of the *BIG DEAL* instructions were still taken over verbatim. During the further editing, V9.10.8-2023, the creative activity of the "authors" is limited with the taken over passages to the slight reformulation of individual sentences, without changing the content message. This handling of already existing works discredits the activity of serious game authors. Ultimately, this group also disqualifies itself with its pretentious word contributions on the YouTube channel *BoardgameDigger/Meeple Porn*.

As a representation of the interests of game authors, the SAZ condemns this behavior in the strongest possible terms. Such a treatment of the author rights of third parties contradicts the unwritten code of honor of creative and serious game authors. We urge the publishers of "*Unfinished Business*" to enter into an appropriate licensing agreement with Brent & Jeffrey Beck or to stop the project immediately. Gamers should consider whether they want to support a project that tramples on the copyrights of game designers. We will also advocate for the idea of Eric Martin (BGG) to create on *BoardGameGeek* a database for such "unlicensed copies" to become reality and increase public pressure on plagiarists.