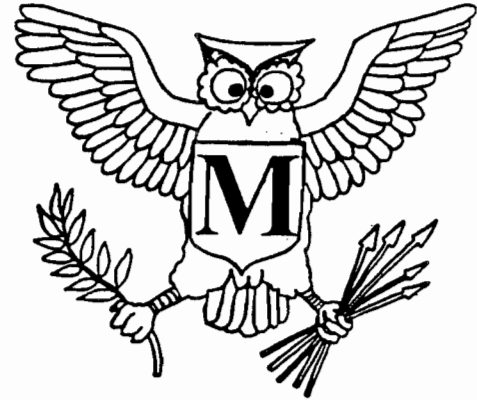


DIPLOMAG

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG, bringing hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in Postal Diplomacy and related events. The SIG arranges postal games for its members, including first games for novices. For SIG game openings, contact the Chairman. As each 7-player game list is filled, the game will be "farmed out" to a Mensa GM. Membership dues are \$5.00 per year, or two years for \$9.00. Diplomacy is a board game copyrighted in the U.S.A. by The Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Maryland. Any opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of American Mensa, Ltd.



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Chairman & Editor: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Phone: (410) 461-1885
Sr. Committeeman: Kate Robison, 14708 - 56th Ave., S., Tukwila, Washington 98168
Phone: (206) 242-7633
Jr. Committeeman: W. Andrew York, P.O. Box 2307, Universal City, Texas 78148
Phone: (512) 658-6066

ELECTION RETURNS

Kate Robison has been re-elected to the Sr. Committeeman post. She collected four more votes than Eric Young. Her new two-year term will begin on November 1, 1992. Our thanks to Bill Young for serving as Election Commissioner.

* * * * *

SIG CHAIRMAN STABBED IN BACK

On August 12th, I underwent back surgery for a ruptured disc at the L3-L4 level. I'd suddenly developed severe back pain in mid-July, and then the pain began running down my right leg. I had all the latest scientific diagnoses, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI's) and a myelogram x-ray, but these only showed a soft disc pressing on my nerve. When the surgeon got inside, he found that the ruptured disc was very old, and had turned hard as rock. It was somewhat of a miracle that the pain had only begun now, although I'd had episodes of two or three days of back pain about once every two years for the past 30 years. Anyway, a simple 40-minute operation turned into three hours "on the table" as they had to use an electric drill to cut open the disc and free the trapped nerve.

When I woke up, I knew how Austria feels after being stabbed by Italy and Russia in Spring '01. I was kept in the hospital for three nights instead of the standard two, to allow a bit more recovery before riding home in a car. There was a mountain to climb as I had to negotiate the 32 steps to our top-floor apartment. Once home, I was not allowed to go up or down the steps for six more days. Then, I was allowed to take walks in the neighborhood, but was still forbidden to ride in a car for another six days, for fear that the car might hit a speed bump or pothole and tear open my stitches. So, it's been a long, slow road to recovery. However, every day it seems that the pain is lessening, and I'm able to walk a bit better. Heavy lifting will be out for keeps, but otherwise it looks like I'll be making a good recovery. *About a 95% recovery. No more cane!*

Andy York had offered to put out the September DIPLOMAG if I were unable to do so, but if you're reading this you know that I am again able to publish.

HOBBY NEWS:

I had hoped to drive up to Harrisburg to visit AvalonCon II on August 1st, but my back had gone out on me, and I couldn't go. I'm sorry I missed seeing some of our East Coast Tournament players, but I do have some results for you.

Oh, I see that I gave you the names of the top finishers at DIXIECON VI in the July issue. 54 people attended, of whom 43 participated in the Dip Tournament. I thought I had the AvalonCon results here, but now I can't find them. If I find them later, I'll put them at the end. I remember reading that more people played Dip in Harrisburg than played in Kansas City, but that isn't surprising when you think about how many more Diplomats there are in the Northeast than in the Great Plains.

At DipCon XXV, there were only four boards (28 players) in the final round, but a total of 31 people played in at least one round. The winner was Marc Peters of Madison, Wis. Other top finishers were: 2. Allan Galhamer (our Founding Father), 3. Steve Cooley, 4. Bob Acheson (top Canadian), 5. Eric Newhouse, and 6. Pete Gaughan.

The 1993 DipCon will be hosted by PacifiCon in San Mateo, CA., just outside of San Francisco. This will be the first time in several years that DipCon has been part of a major gaming con. The hope is that by being part of a larger group, we will attract more novice players, some of whom may join the Postal hobby. While I have no doubt our presence at PacifiCon will bring in a larger number of tournament players, past history has shown that very few of these people will join the Postal hobby. The '93 Con will be held over the Labor Day weekend, which will make it the latest DipCon ever held. It also conflicts with the World Science Fiction Con, being held the same weekend in Downtown Frisco. Some people may have to run back and forth between the two events. (Easier for those already experiencing split personality!). *Such as Sackr. who plans to attend both events*

The DeLuxe Diplomacy sets, with real wooden blocks, will go on sale in February. They may have a copy of the revised Gamer's Guide enclosed. Let's hope they also have the "Play Dip by Mail" flyer enclosed. I think that's the best way to get new players.

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF POSTAL DIPLOMACY ZINES made its appearance in July. Edited by Jim Meinel, with contributions by 21 other authors, this covers every known North American Dipzine. While two of my reviews were somehow overlooked (probably mailed in too late to be included), this book is a must for any Postal devotee. While there are a few minor errors, these will be corrected in the Second Edition. But don't wait for that. Send in your \$12.00 now for your copy, to: Jim Meinel, 2801 Pelican Dr., Anchorage, Alaska 99515. (\$20.00 for Overseas readers).

The book has a comb binding for permanent keeping. There are several boxes and sidebars with other interesting facts. For example, on Pg. 62 you'll find a list of the longest running zines. My BUSHWACKER STANDS in 6th place, with 234 issues, although Conrad von Metzke's COSTAGUANA is creeping up, with 221. I am the only person with two zines on the list, now that DIPLOMAG has broken the "100" barrier. You'll also find an alphabetical list of every American zine publisher in the Index.

You'll find a list of the Top Finishers on the 1992 Runestone Poll of Zines, Subzines and GM's on a separate page. I've added my "Fred's Column" subzine, which appears in Bruce McIntyre's EXCELSIOR, as it finished in 12th place. As I said last issue, DIPLOMAG finished 39th out of the 59 zines which made the main list. This is a slight improvement over last year. Note Eric Young's TACTFUL ASSASSIN finished 26th, and Andy York's RAMBLING WAY 29th.

Full addresses and sub rates are available in the ZINE REGISTER (\$2.50, from Garret Schenck) and in ROAR OF THE CROWD, the Runestone Poll report (5.00, from Eric Brosius at the address shown at bottom of page). I'll also be glad to furnish addresses if you'll enclose a postcard or SASE with your request.

REPORTS FROM THE FRONT - THOSE MENSA GAMES

MENSA #30, 1989 Y. GM: Craig A. Reges, AGAINST THE ODDS

This game has again been delayed. As I understand it, Ralph Baty has requested a replay of Fall 1911, since his original orders were lost. As I type this, I don't know the outcome of the appeal. I only know that France and Turkey*are supposed to be tied with 11 units apiece in Winter 1911. Hey, clue me in guys! *Ralph Baty and Kate Robison.

MENSA #33, 1990 HT. GM: Eric Young, THE TACTFUL ASSASSIN

This game is finally rolling again. The Fall 1910 results finally arrived the day the July DIPLOMAG was mailed. Germany (Mike Morris) gained Venice to go up one to 9 Centers and remain in the lead. Actually, he'd lost London to Russia (Peter Kohnke), but had had A Marseille annihilated, so he got a build anyway. While Russia gained London, he lost Warsaw, to stand pat at 8. Turkey (Andy York) had sliced his way into Warsaw for a 7th SC. France (Mike McCabe) lost Mars. & Tunis, and had 4 Centers and 3 units left. Then, the Spring 1911 report was several weeks overdue, but arrived on Aug. 29th. It corrected the Fall '10 report to show that Russia had gained Mars. and owned 9 Centers, while Germany had only 8 and didn't get a build. Russia captured Spain, with the help of France, while Russia supported France's regaining of Marseille. Meanwhile, a Turkish A captured Sev with the support of F Black Sea. Austria (Peter Fuchs) recaptured Trieste from France. He had stood pat with 6 Centers over the Winter.

MENSA #35, 1991 A. GM: Andy York, RAMBLING WAY

In 1908, Russia (Peter Kohnke) took Ankara, Holland & Serbia, to go up 3 Centers to 13. France (Marc Hight) added Trieste to her empire, and stands at 14, having lost Holland. Turkey, ^(Jim Grose) lost Ankara & Serbia to Russia and Trieste to France, to drop to 4 SC's, while Austria (Jim Lewis) stood pat with 3 Centers. Proposals for a French win and a couple of Draws did not pass. A French Win and a Franco-Russia Draw are again proposed.

MENSA #36, 1991 IG. GM: Tony Dousette, THE CONTINUAL CRISIS

France (David Hood) finishes Spring 1905 with 10 units, having added Holland & Kiel to the Third Republic. Andy York's Austria has 8, conquering Con in 1904, and now has A's marching into Smyrna and Ukraine. Italy (Jeff Eide) stood pat with 6, gaining Ankara and losing Berlin. Eric Young has NMR'd twice in a row as Russia (3 Centers), so it appears he'll be replaced by a standby. The new German player, Ralph Baty, owns 4 SC's, and has just retaken Kiel from France in Sp '05, with some help from England (Jim Lewis, who owns 2 Centers). Turkey (Ram Avrahami) NMR'd, but phoned to say he's still in the game. He has a F in Sev as his only unit.

MENSA #37, 1991 AP. GM: Ralph Baty, BATYVILLE GAZETTE

The Spring 1903 season was readjudicated after new players were obtained for Germany and Italy. The results weren't changed, but the new players' names & addresses were added. Turkey (Jim Grose) continues to lead the pack with 7 Centers, while Austria (Jim Lewis) owns 6. Adrian Tymes is the new Germany (5 SC's), while the 3-Center Italy is now in the hands of William Scharf. England (Eric Young) and France (Ken Henke) are also tied with 5 apiece, while Andy York's Russia brings up the rear with 3.

MENSA #38, Awaiting BN. GM: Craig A. Reges, AGAINST THE ODDS

As of Spring 1902, Russia is in first place with 6 Centers (Stephen Gaddy). Three other countries all have 5 SC's after successful 1901 expansions. They are Austria (Jim Lewis), France (Andrew Cohen) and Germany (Mike Morris). Holland is still neutral. Too early yet to spot any trends.

MENSA #39, 1992 U. GM: Stephen Glasgow, WAR FAIR

In 1901, four Powers picked up two Neutral Centers each. France (Jim Lewis) took Spain & Portugal. Germany (Dennis Klein) occupied Denmark & Holland. Austria (Julien Beasley) marched into Greece & Serbia. Russia (Mike Morris) conquered Norway and Rum. Sweden stayed neutral due to a standoff between Germany and Russia. England (Matt Schonlau) opted to Convoy his A into Belgium instead of Norway. Tim Shaw held on to his position as Turkey. He had not been notified that the game was about to begin.

There is still one slot left for the Mensa #40 game, which will be GM'd in THE TACTFUL ASSASSIN by Eric Young. I also have one player signed up for Mensa #41, to be run by Ralph Baty in BATYVILLE GAZETTE. You may opt to sign up for either game if you'd like to join a new game.

* * * * *

ATLANTICA IV - 1991B oa06 (Mensa Variant #6)

SEPTEMBER 1871

TWO PLAYERS REQUEST SEPARATION OF SEASONS. TWO OF GM'S ERRORS CORRECTED.

AUGUST 1871 REVISITED:

It was reported that the dislodged USA F Spain(sc) had to Retreat to Gulf of Lions. Wrong. Gulf of Cadiz was open, and under the "Right-Hand Rule," this is the space to which this dislodged unit would have retreated, if this had been a "Spring" Retreat.

Also, order for ENGLAND, "F Sweden-Skag" should have read "F Skag-Sweden." All nearby Powers were notified by postcard. GERMAN order F Norway-Skag succeeded.

		<u>Current Strength</u>
ENGLAND (B.Young):	Build A London. F Denmark (R) North Sea.	9 (+1)
GERMANY (Eide):	Remove A Denmark, A Holland	2 (-3), 1 Annihilated
ITALY (B.Johnson):	Build F Rome, F Naples	13 (+2)
CANADA (Chang):	Build A Montreal, A Toronto	9 (+2)
MEXICO (R.Brown):	Remove F Hispaniola. A High Plains (R) Ontario.	7 (-1)
U.S.A. (York):	Build F Boston, F Spain(sc) (R) Gulf of Cadiz	14 (-1), 2 Annihilated

Under my House Rules, players always have the right to write their own retreats after a "Fall" move, such as the August move was. In the case of the English (R) here, the North Sea was the only space open, so there really wasn't any need for England to write an order, but I've shown it anyway.

NO PRESS. I have orders on hand for OCTOBER 1871 from four people. You may, of course, submit revised orders based on these adjustments, if you so wish.

DEADLINE for OCTOBER 1871 ("Spring") will be TUESDAY, October 13, 1992. Remember there will be no mail delivery on the Monday (Columbus Day). Telephone deadline will be Mon., October 12th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We gained one new member over the summer. He is:

Charles R. Rettig, 217 "E" St., N.W., Miami, Okla. 74354.

Several peoples' dues will be due as of October 31, 1992. We hope you will renew at the discount rate of two years for \$9.00. You are:

→ Stephen Gaddy, John D. Galt, David Hambley, Dennis Klein, Peter Palumbo and Ronald Welch.

* * * * *

The 1992 Runestone Poll

Main List entries finishing at or above average

Zines

(59 on main list)

Rk	Zine Name	Votes	Score
1	Perelandra	34	9.081
2	Maniac's Paradise	30	9.078
3	Northern Flame	27	8.977
4	Kathy's Korner	26	8.716
5	Pilot Light *	11	8.236
6	Upstart	35	8.161
7	ark *	12	8.126
8	Ramblings by Moonlight	24	8.109
9	Cheesecake	25	7.705
10	Hoodwink	18	7.562
11	The Abyssinian Prince	17	7.543
12	Carolina Cmd & Cmnty	23	7.528
13	Penguin Dip	19	7.504
14	Orphan Son	12	7.500
15	DOGS of War	18	7.455
16	Lemon Curry	17	7.403
17	Diplomacy World	51	7.370
18	Well, Martha...	21	7.208
19	The Home Office	25	7.064
20	The Zine Register	54	7.028
21	The Encounter	10	6.977
22	Rebel	26	6.806
23	Your Zine of Zines	24	6.636
24	Excelsior	21	6.510
25	Concordia	14	6.496
26	The Tactful Assassin (Mensa)	11	6.438
27	Frueh's Folly	12	6.394
28	Crimson Sky	21	6.388
29	Rambling Way (Mensa)	26	6.382
30	The Curator *	11	6.297
32	GrustyK	10	6.141

All the zines listed above finished at or above average.
The 29 zines that finished below average are not listed here.

* = Not a Dip Game Zine

To order the 1992 Runestone Poll publication, send \$5.00 to Eric Brosius, 41 Hayward St., Milford MA 01757.

I expect to mail the publication around September 1.

Subzines

(22 on main list)

Rk	Subzine Name	Votes	Score
1	The Hounds of Hell	7	8.857
2	DIDOES	17	8.322
3	You're The One	8	7.701
4	Notes from the Bunker	16	7.438
5	Close Your Eyes...	14	7.302
6	Poll Talk	19	6.786
7	The Unabashed Bo(t)	13	6.191
8	Standard Deviation	12	6.010
9	It's Me Again	15	5.893
10	The Unzine Voice	5	5.825
11	Water on the Knee	12	5.738
12	Fred's Column	13	5.733

All the subzines listed above finished above average. The 11 subzines that finished below average are not listed here.

GMs

(54 on main list)

Rk	GM Name	Votes	Score
1	Bruce Linsey	8	9.236
2	Andy Lischett	17	9.033
3	Lee Kendter, Sr.	8	8.474
4	Eric Brosius	8	8.431
5	Kathy Caruso	13	8.377
6	Fred Hyatt	14	8.115
7	Chris Hassler	6	8.081
8	Douglas Kent	18	8.077
9	Jim Burgess	10	7.877
10	Scott Cameron	11	7.874
11	Garret Schenck	22	7.864
12	Russ Wallace	7	7.683
13	Kevin Brown	9	7.677
14	Michael Lowrey	10	7.627
15	David Hood	5	7.605
16	Jim Meinel	7	7.593
17	Stephen Dorneman	8	7.553
18	W. Andrew York (M)	7	7.395
19	Stven Carlberg	6	7.359
20	Michael Gonsalves	13	7.303
21	Pete Gaughan	18	7.287
22	Mark Frueh	5	7.261
23	Eric Ozog	9	7.165
24	Conrad von Metzke	8	7.156
25	Steve Heinowski	7	7.093
26	Bob Hartwig	6	7.061
27	Don Del Grande	5	7.031

All the GMs listed above finished above average.
The 27 GMs that finished below average are not listed here.

The Great Presidential Election Contest, 1992



This year's Presidential election promises to be one of the most exciting in recent memory. I'd like to make it just a little more exciting with a contest. (Some of you may recall that I ran one of these in 1988. That contest drew 42 entries; this one could well draw more.) I enclose a copy of my picks so you'll know I've not seen anyone else's first.

RULES

1. For each state (including D.C.), write in a B if you think Bush will win and a C if you think Clinton will win.
2. If you guess right in a state, you get its electoral votes (ev).
3. To enter, send this form filled out and one dollar so that I receive it no later than Monday, October 26. (My address: Bruce Linsey, 170 Forts Ferry Road, Latham, NY 12110.) No entries by phone, please.
4. Enter as many times as you like by making copies of this sheet. Each entry costs one dollar.
5. Winner takes all. The entry with the most electoral votes guessed correctly is the winner. A tie goes to the entry with the most states guessed correctly. If it's still a tie, the parties involved split the prize.
6. If you'd like to follow the contest on election night, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you do, on October 27 I will mail you a sheet with everyone's picks. Then you can keep score as the election progresses. (Otherwise, results will be available by phone after the election.)

Your name: _____

State	e.v.	Winner (B or C)	State	e.v.	Winner (B or C)	State	e.v.	Winner (B or C)
Alabama	9	—	Kentucky	8	—	N Dakota	3	—
Alaska	3	—	Louisiana	9	—	Ohio	21	—
Arizona	8	—	Maine	4	—	Oklahoma	8	—
Arkansas	6	—	Maryland	10	—	Oregon	7	—
California	54	—	Mass.	12	—	Pennsylv	23	—
Colorado	8	—	Michigan	18	—	Rhode Island	4	—
Connecticut	8	—	Minnesota	10	—	S Carolina	8	—
Delaware	3	—	Mississippi	7	—	S Dakota	3	—
D.C.	3	—	Missouri	11	—	Tennessee	11	—
Florida	25	—	Montana	3	—	Texas	32	—
Georgia	13	—	Nebraska	5	—	Utah	5	—
Hawaii	4	—	Nevada	4	—	Vermont	3	—
Idaho	4	—	N Hampshire	4	—	Virginia	13	—
Illinois	22	—	New Jersey	15	—	Washington	11	—
Indiana	12	—	New Mexico	5	—	West Virginia	5	—
Iowa	7	—	New York	33	—	Wisconsin	11	—
Kansas	6	—	N Carolina	14	—	Wyoming	3	—

The following question is optional, and *all responses will remain confidential*. Only the totals will be published. If you were to vote in this election today, who would you vote for?

___ Bush ___ Clinton ___ Other: _____

Let's see whether we "elect" the same person the country does!

SIG STANDBY PLAYERS LIST (As of Sept. 1992)

We've noticed that some GM's were using just about anyone to fill vacant slots in Mensa games when starting players dropped out. It is suggested that GM's should first attempt to use SIG members to fill these vacancies, if time permits. Here are the names, addresses and phone numbers of those members who've offered to serve as Standbys:

Julien Beasley, 322 Lewis St., Oakland, CA. 94607. (510) 465-5523
Charles Byrne (Hopeless Positions only), 3712 Lockwood Ln., Annandale, Va. 22003.
(703) 354-1974
Stephen Glasgow, 32009 Pendley, Willowick, Ohio 44095. (216) 944-4036
Jim Grose, 3-1313 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ont., CANADA K1Y 3B1. (613) 728-8493
Marc Hight, 446 Conradi, #A-317, Tallahassee, Fla. 32304. (904) 222-9521
Peter Palumbo, 1013 Haral Pl., Cherry Hill, N.J. 08034. (609) 427-9604
Craig A. Reges, 13 Cedar Ln., Succasunna, N.J. 07876. (H) (201) 927-3490,
(W) (908) 204-4161 (answering machine)
Jon Rosenthal, 309 Carothers, 2501 Whitis Ave., Austin, TX. 78705. (914) 357-1877
Sig Street, P.O. Box 1506, GMF, Boston, Mass. 02205. (Phone # unknown)
Andrew York, P.O. Box 2307, Universal City, Texas 78148. (512) 658-6066
Eric Young, R.R. #2, 4784 Stepney Rd., C2, Armstrong, B.C., CANADA VOE 1B0. (604) 546-6943

Please notify the Chairman if you want to be added or dropped from this list. All GM's will want to keep this list handy, with their Mensa games.

* * * * *

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS ON THE WAY (Held over from July issue)

As many of you know, the new Baltimore Light Rail system opened the 14-mile segment from Timonium to Camden Sta. (and the new ballpark) to regular service on May 15th. On August 15th, another 3-mile section south from Camden Sta. to Patapsco Ave., at the City Line, will open. In August 1993, this line will be extended another six stations southward to Glen Burnie. Eventually, there will be spurs to Baltimore-Washington Airport in the south, to Penn Sta. (AMTRAK) just north of Downtown, and to the Hunt Valley Mall and industrial park in the far north. This will give the area 29 miles of modern light rail service.

Old BUSHWACKER readers will recall that I occasionally listed some of the forthcoming rail passenger improvements on the way in that zine. Here are a few more:

June & July 1992: Virginia Railway Express brings commuter rail service from Manassas and Fredericksburg, Va., to Washington's Union Station. It's 55 miles from Fredericksburg (former site of MaryCons) to Downtown D.C. At first, there will only be rush-hour service, but midday service is expected to be offered before December.

Fall 1992: Subway connection south of the Chicago Loop will bring North-South main-line trains from Howard St. to 95th St. on the Dan Ryan line. This will be the most heavily used transit line in Chicago. The lightly-used Lake St. elevated trains will remain on the structure and serve the Englewood and Jackson Park lines on the South Side.

Spring 1993: New Chicago subway line to Midway Airport (9.2 miles) opens, running around the famous Loop structure. Only 39 years after it was planned!

June 1993: Los Angeles Red Line subway opens from Union Sta. to Wilshire Blvd. This is second stage of modern transit system for L.A., where the auto has been god.

July 1993: 18-mile light rail system opens in St. Louis all the way from Lambert Field to East St. Louis, Ill. The old interurban route across the Mississippi had been preserved for 35 years awaiting the return of passenger trains.

Fall 1993: Washington Metro service begins on Green Line from Ft. Totten to Greenbelt (8 miles). This will be a shuttle service from Red Line sta. at Ft. Totten until the missing link to Downtown D.C. is completed sometime around the year 2001. Yes, this will connect with U. of Maryland College Park campus, site of future AtlantiCons.

Jerry: Would you be interested in getting a copy of a report on the Belt. Light Rail system?



'PARDON ME - WHICH WAY TO THE QUAGMIRE?'

This cartoon on Yugoslavia particularly impressed me, as I've seen the "WW I" soldier cartoon somewhere else before (perhaps at the Imperial War Museum in London), and the "WW II" soldier is pure Bill Mauldin. It makes you wonder how many times do you have to do a job before it's finally finished.

* * * * *

WE PRESUME that there will be some Columbus Day 500th Anniversary celebrations live or on TV on October 12th. I've heard that the American Indians are planning some "Well, there goes the neighborhood" ceremonies. While I feel that it would have been better if the Indians had sent some missionaries to Spain and England, to get them to loosen up their lifestyles, I do believe that the contact between the Old and New Worlds was a Good Thing, in the long run. After all, we Americans wouldn't be here if ol' Chris hadn't bumped into the Western Hemisphere. So, if you don't get an answer on our phone on October 12th, it means we're out celebrating.

Next issue will be out in November.

#

DIPLOMAG - Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG Newsltr.
c/o Fred C. Davis, Jr.
3210-K Wheaton Way
Ellicott City, MD. 21043
U.S.A.



Larry Peery
P.O. Box 620399
San Diego, CA. 92162
(Archives copy)

(Letter enclosed)