

DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS

NUMBER 14

November 19, 1976

An irregularly published newsletter of the American Postal Diplomacy SIG. Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game invented by former Mensan Allan B. Calhamer, and Copyright by the Avalon Hill Game Co., 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214.

Chairman & Publisher: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3012 Oak Green Ct., Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Senior Committeeman: Don Horton, 16 Jordan Ct., Sacramento, Calif. 95826
Junior Committeeman: Paul Hightower, 3118 Lamar Dr., Lexington, Ky. 40502

WHICH WAY SHOULD THE SIG GO?

I really appreciate the voluntary contributions which came in from many of the members. Some contributions of more than \$1.00 were received for the Cause. However, I think it's time we decided on how we want to handle our finances on a permanent basis.

When the SIG was first formed, I thought we'd be lucky to get 15 members. If we'd stayed around that size, there would have been no problem keeping our records current, and mailing out a short newsletter when the occasion arose. To my surprise, we shot up to 42 members before we began losing a few due to non-renewal of Mensa membership or people dropping out of the hobby. As a result, it's becoming a chore keeping track of who is still a SIG member, and who isn't. The 1976/77 Register shows that 3 people have let their Mensa memberships lapse; therefore, they will be dropped from SIG membership as of December 31st. There is no way I can check on whether Canadian members are still duespaying M's. Furthermore, there is always a question as to whether someone is still in the Diplomacy hobby although he's not playing postally.

As I see it, we have three choices. One, we could just go on the way we have, being dependent upon voluntary donations for the cost of mailing this newsletter. Obviously, the larger the SIG gets, the more expensive the mailing will become. Under this procedure, I'll feel no obligation to put out DIPLOMAG on a regular basis, and will continue to print only on a once every two or three month basis, as conditions warrant.

Two, we could become a more formalized SIG, and charge regular annual dues, as many of the other SIG's have begun doing. Then, anybody who does not pay those dues (or render substantial services as a GM) can be deemed to be no longer interested, and culled out of the rolls. This would save me a heck of a lot of work, checking registers and writing to people. I would see these dues as being \$1.00 per year, for which I'd guarantee to publish DIPLOMAG six times a year (bimonthly). We might consider publishing Dippy articles in an expanded newsletter, if people will write them for us.

Three, we could incorporate DIPLOMAG into the pages of my BUSHWACKER, and require all SIG members to subscribe at the regular rate of \$2.50/year, unless they are already a player or trader for same. I don't like this solutions because: a. It would obligate me to reserve a page of BUSHWACKER for the SIG every issue. b. BUSHWACKER is primarily a variant game zine, and many of our members are not interested in variants. c. It would look like I was trying to inflate my circulation figures at the expense of a captive audience. (In truth, BUSHWACKER's circulation is as big as I want it to be).

Please let me have your opinion on the ballot you'll find elsewhere in this issue.* We will follow majority rule, providing at least 50% of you vote. If Proposal Two is adopted, we'll phrase this in more elegant language for an official By-laws amendment, since the current By-laws prohibits collection of any dues. 1977 will be the first year for which dues would be required, and everyone who has contributed a dollar since August 1, 1976, will be credited with having already paid their 1977 dues.

*On other side of this page. Please show your name on the envelope.

THE MAKEUP OF OUR MEMBERSHIP

The new 1976-77 American Mensa Register is out. It was interesting to look up our SIG members in it. 30 of our members furnished detailed information on themselves. The following characteristics were noted:

SIG members' ages ranged from 18 to 55, as of December 1976. There were clusters of people at ages 19, 25, 29/30, 34/35, 38/39, and 46/48. The average age of the 30 M's for whom this data is available is 34.3. The median age is 34. Four members are 25, and 3 each are 19 and 30. This is considerably higher than in the hobby as a whole. As of a year ago, I believe the average age of Postal Diplomacy players in North America was about 25.

Our membership includes 10 people who are 4-year college graduates (some are now working on advanced degrees), two with Masters degrees, and two with Doctorates. Several others are now in college, or have completed two-year college courses. 17 are Single or Divorced, and 13 are Married. (Anyone want to join the Diplomacy Widow's Assn?) We now have four female members.

Consistent with Mensa as a whole, we are not a very religious group. Our SIG membership includes 8 Agnostics, 3 "Nondenominational", 3 "None" and 1 Unitarian, which adds up to 15, or half the known sample, as being on the "detached" side. Denominations showing more than one member were 3 Lutheran, 2 Catholic and 2 Methodist M's.

A complete SIG Membership List ought to be attached to this newsletter. (38 members).

The Mensa Register is available @ \$ 8.50 from Margot Seitelman, 1701 West Third St., Suite 1-R, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223.

* * * * *

NEW MEMBER (S)

Maryanne Caruth, 4219 Birdwell Dr., Tyler, Texas 75701. (214) 561-2886
(Another name was expected, but not received)

Note Address Changes for Don Dewsnap and Gary Smith, on attached list.

REFERENDUM ON DIPLOMACY SIG OPERATIONS:

Please vote for one proposal, and return the ballot to Fred Davis. You may include additional comments on a separate page:

- ___ 1. Continue the present course of action (No compulsory dues).
- ___ 2. Amend the By-laws to require Annual Dues from all members not serving as GM's for Mensa postal games. It is understood that DIPLOMAG would then come out six times a year. (The initial dues would be \$1.00 per year. The Executive Committee will be empowered to raise or lower these dues as the need arises.)
- ___ 3. Incorporate DIPLOMAG into BUSHWACKER (a monthly Diplomacy zine) and require all SIG members not currently receiving same as a player or trader to pay the regular subscription rate of \$2.50 for 12 issues.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING / MERRY CHRISTMAS. # # #

THUMBNAIL BIOGRAPHIES, MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG MEMBERS, March 1977 Supplement:

KEY: 2. Address. 3. Date of Birth. 4. Marital Status. 5. Occupation or School. 6. Year Joined Mensa. 7. Active in Local Group? 8. Isolated M? 9. Mensa Office held? 10a. Year began playing Diplomacy. 10b. Playing Postal Diplomacy. 11. No. of Postal games you're currently in. 12. How did you learn about Diplomacy? 13. Other favorite games. 14. Other major interests. 15. Other comments or remarks.

JOHN M. BAKER. 2. Cool Springs Rd., Gradysville, Ky. 42742. 3. July 27, 1959. 4. Single. 5. Pre-Law student at Centre College of Ky. (as of June '77). 6. 1976. 7. No. 8. Yes. 9. No. 10a. 1974. 10b. 1974. 11. Three. 12. In Strategy & Tactics Magazine. 13. All, except other wargames. 14. Comic books.

H. D. BASSETT. 2. Rt. 3, Lake Rd., New Town, Ct. 06470. 3. Nov. 6, 1940. 4. Married. 5. Pilot. 6. 1972. 7. No. 8. Practically isolated. 9. No. 10a & b. New player. 11. None yet. 12. Mensa/ Avalon Hill. 13. Chess and many Avalon Hill games. 14. Photography, swimming, children, motorcycling.

MARYANNE CARUTH. 2. 4219 Birdwell Dr., Tyler Tex. 75703. 3. Dec. 7, 1948. 4. Divorced. 5. Business Administration; Accounting. 6. 1975. 7. No. 8. No. 9. No. 10a and b. Novice. 11. None. 12. From Mensa BULLETIN. 13. Spades, Hearts, Gin Rummy. 14. Craft Needle arts, Ghosts, Origin & Denise of the Universe, "True" Philosophy, Foreign Languages.

L. ALLEN CHASE. 2. 2973 Crooked Creek Dr., Diamond Bar, Calif. 91765. 3. Sept. 19, 1931. 4. Married. 5. V.P. & Sales Mgr. for a Metals Warehouse (Aircraft industry). 6. 1973. 7. Sometimes. 8. I subscribe, but I'm not isolated. 9. No. 10a. 1976. 10b. Hopefully, 1977. 11. None yet. 12. Became curious when I saw SIG name, and bought game. 13. Poker. 14. Amateur psychology, Third Reich, Opera & other music, Reading, Cassette Recording, Objectivism. 15. I will be attending the San Diego AG.

WALTER F. COMPTON. 2. Rua Embaixador Carlos Taylor 190, Gavea, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 3. Dec. 18, 1934. 4. Married. 5. Insurance. 6. 1970 or 71. 7. No. 8. YES. 10a. 1974. 10b. No. 11. None yet. 12. Through a friend. 13. Chess.

CRAIG A. REGES. 2. 16 W 761 White Pines Rd., Bensenville, Ill. 60106. 3. Aug. 1. 4. Single. 5. Biological Science, U. of Illinois at Chicago. 6. 1976. 7. No. 8. No. 9. No. 10a. 1976. 10b. This year, hopefully. 11. None. 12. Saw an ad in Mensa. 13. Chess, Backgammon, Pinochle, Hearts. 14. Pets, Science fiction, Reading.

* * * * *

DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS
c/o Fred C. Davis, Jr.
3012 Oak Green Ct.
Ellicott City, Md. 21043

See you at the San Diego
AG, June 24-26th. Come
and play Diplomacy!

FIRST CLASS MAIL