

DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS

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This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG. Annual Dues of \$1.00 required for SIG membership. Non-Mensans may receive this paper for \$1.50 per year, but may not join the SIG. Send all funds to the Chairman. Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game Copyright by the Avalon Hill Game Co., 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214.

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THE WASHINGTON DIPLOMATS. Dave Blank (N.J.) and I were the only active SIG members to show up at the Stouffer Hotel for the Washington RG on September 17th. Another SIG member was registered, but we never ran into him - but then there were an awful lot of bars and meeting rooms in the hotel. Fellow Maryland M John Bell, who is now a new member of the SIG, made an appearance, but got lost in the commercial entrapments of Crystal City and couldn't work his way back by game time (sort of sounds like D & D, doesn't it?). So, there were only four players present when we were supposed to start slinging knives at 5 p.m. Therefore, we just ran a practice game through Winter 1902, to give two novices the feel of the game. One player took Russia, and each of the other three operated two countries. I played a combined Italy and Austria, which makes for a very strong Power. In Fall '02 I made a Lepanto Opening, convoying an Italian A from Tunis to Smyrna with the aid of Austrian and Italian F's, virtually destroying Turkey. Italy/Austria had 13 units on the board after 1902, and would have been considered the winner had we been playing for real.

ABOUT MENSA SIGS. I hope all of you have had the chance to see the list of the 107-odd SIGs (and maybe a few that aren't odd) now operating in American Mensa. The SIGs are definitely the most exciting thing going on in Mensa right now. There is something there for everybody. There is no longer any need for anyone to let their membership lapse because they don't like their Local Group, or live too far away to participate in their activities. Nearly 20% of American Mensans now belong to at least one SIG. While I personally urge everyone to try to get to some Local Group meetings, for social reasons if nothing else, I think many of us will find our real brain stimulation in the SIGs. I belong to four. If you don't find a SIG listed for doing your thing, any three people can start up a new SIG. All you have to do is notify the Groups Officer, Paul Victor, that you'd like to found such-and-such a SIG, and he'll publicize this in the BULLETIN and INTERLOC. Usually, a SIG is considered to be "fully operating" when it reaches ten members. Just keep Paul informed of your progress.

One item which may interest many of you is the latest issue of the UFO SIG BULLETIN, featuring a declassified Defense Dept. report (obtained under the Freedom of Information Act) on a 1976 UFO sighting in Iran. This is really strong stuff. And it can't be blamed on the Russians. If you're interested, write to: Charles A. Huffer, Dept. of Mathematics, Berlin American High School, APO New York 09742. Enclose 35¢ and ask for a copy of Bulletin #7.

BLOWING MY OWN HORN. In either February or March 1978, my BUSHWACKER Dippyzine will celebrate its 6th anniversary by printing a Special issue, to include reprints of the best(?) of the old articles, plus maybe one or two original pieces. If you're not playing in, subscribing to, or trading for BUSHWACKER, the cost of this issue will be 50¢. Please let me know if you'd like a copy. (P.S. Send money).

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PURCHASED your copy of the 1977 DIPLOMACY HANDBOOK, I urge you to do so. This is the funniest collection of Diplomacy articles ever gathered in one place. Your knowledge of Diplomacy tactics will be greatly improved by reading "The Value of Building Fleet Norway Left Coast" and "The Tunisian Opening." And you'll surely get a kick out of "Drug Diplomacy" (stomach pump included as optional equipment). Those of us who are not members of the New York Conspiracy may have some difficulty identifying the characters in the "Dudland" press release series (a scorecard should have been provided, showing Who's Who), but it was nevertheless an interesting example of a long press series which came to a logical ending. (My annoyance with the continued story in Dippyazines is that so many of them die halfway through, when the author either loses interest or starts losing the game).

To get your copy of the HANDBOOK, send \$2.00 (\$1.50 to IDA members) to: Greg Costikyan, Box 865, Brown University, Providence, R.I. 02912.

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ALL SIG MEMBERS are reminded that if you do something special within the Diplomacy hobby, like publishing something yourself or having it published elsewhere, please send me a copy or let me know about it. I'll be glad to mention your activity, office, or what-have-you in the pages of DIPLOMAG. From time to time, I see the name of a SIG member mentioned elsewhere in the hobby literature, but I do not read everything, nor do I always have time to stop and make notes, or clip what I've read. So don't hide your light under a bushel. If you're doing something, tell me. That includes changes of address, too.

NEW MEMBERS: Alain Meloche, 323 Labrosse Blvd., Gatineau, Quebec, CANADA J8P 4P7
John L. Bell, 8222 Burnley Rd., Towson, Md. 21204. (301) 828-8656

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WE HAVE HAD A COUPLE OF GAME PARTIES within the combined D.C./Maryland Mensa Groups. We were successful in getting up a full-board FTF Diplomacy game on one occasion, when we had 8 interested people, but only about four people were interested at another event held in Frederick, Maryland. Guess it was too far to travel.

In any event, your Chairman will try to host a (mostly) Mensa Diplomacy party sometime in January or February, at our new home in the Catonsville area of Baltimore County. We have a basement and plenty of dark corners in which stabbings can be arranged. I'd appreciate it if all SIG members who might be interested in coming, probably on a Saturday afternoon, would send me an expression of your interest. We would probably play from, say, 1 to 6 p.m., and then break for dinner at a local restaurant. If conditions warranted, we might resume play afterwards. If there is any particular Saturday in January or February when you could not come, please advise. Also let me know your preference between a Saturday or a Sunday.

We will also have other games available, such as Mastermind or Monopoly, for those who may prefer something other than Dippy. Please let us know if you plan to bring a guest. Spouses most welcome. We will distribute a map of how to find our place to anyone who is interested.

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P.S. NEW BOARDMAN NO. CUSTODIAN (Keeper of records for Regular Postal games):
Calvin White, 1 Turnberry Ave., Toronto, Ont., CANADA M6N 1P6.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING and MERRY CHRISTMAS!