

DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS

NUMBER 21

January 12, 1978

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG. Membership also open to Canadians and any other bona fide M's. Dues are being raised to \$2.00 per year (see article below). Non-mensans may receive this paper for \$2.00 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., Baltimore, Md. 21214.

Chairman & Publisher: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207
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A REPORT ON THE TREASURY

Aside from the money which has gone for drink, there has been a steady decrease in the size of the Treasury in recent months. Virtually all of our 1977 dues had been received by the end of April, while postage costs continued throughout the year. In March 1977, the SIG was left in a fortunate position, in that it inherited a paper supply left over when the Maryland Local Group newsletter switched over to offset production. So, the only expenses the SIG has had for 1977 were for postage, for mailing the newsletter. I absorbed the other mailing expenses, such as in response to inquiries re membership, out of my own pocket. Even so, the money that came in is now gone. Furthermore, we will have to buy more paper before the end of 1978.

Here are the figures:

Funds in Treasury as of Dec. 31, 1976:	\$10.60
Dues Rec'd Jan. thru Dec., 1977	+31.00
	<u>41.60</u>
Cost of Postage, 6 issues, Jan. 1977-Nov. 1977	-34.85
Funds in Treasury as of Dec. 31, 1977:	\$ 6.75

The cost of mailing some issues was lower than others, as I am sometimes able to include the DIPLOMAG inside an issue of BUSHWACKER, for those who receive both, if they come out about the same time. As the membership goes up, the mailing costs also go up, of course. The \$6.75 in the Treasury will barely pay for the cost of mailing the current issue. Accordingly...

IT IS NECESSARY TO RAISE THE DUES TO \$2.00 A YEAR EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 1978.

This will cover postage and paper costs, and perhaps leave a slight surplus. As in the past, I will not charge the SIG anything for the use of my mimeograph machine, ink, and other stationery supplies. (\$2.00/year appears to be the dues now charged by most other U.S. SIGs).

Since the Annual Mensa Dues campaign is beginning, we will start our dues renewal efforts right now. Please send me your dues now. As before, publishers and those rendering special services are exempt from dues. For 1978, the exempt people are Horton, Montgomery, Pike, Reges and Young. I will also exempt our newest members, who have joined since Sept. 1, 1977; namely: John Bell, Stephen Greenberg and Alain Meloche. Canadian checks are accepted at par. I'd be very happy to see all dues renewals received by March 10, 1978.

I will mail out a new Autobiographical Questionnaire with the March DIPLOMAG, and print a new membership list with the May newsletter. Don't forget to renew your National Mensa membership as well.

By the way, if anyone would like to design a fancy masthead for DIPLOMAG (one not taking up too much space), I'll see about having it made into a mimeograph stencil (similar to the BUSHWACKER masthead) via an electronic stencil. As a prize, to induce some entries, we will give the winning designer free SIG membership for 1978.

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NEW MENSA PUBLISHER

Craig Reges, 16 W 761 White Pines Rd., Bensenville, Ill. 60106, has started a new zine called AGAINST THE ODDS. Craig started by adopting three orphan games from Len Lukofka's LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES. He will be starting new games, including, maybe, a variant. Subscriptions are 10 issues for \$3.50. Game fees are an additional \$2.00, plus a \$2.00 deposit, refundable if you don't drop out or make more than one NMR per game. Nice xerox printing. Let's give a fellow Mensan a hand and try his zine.

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Did you notice Bill Young's new address on the masthead? We're happy to announce that Bill married Joyce Reid of Kansas City on November 3, 1977. Congratulations to both of you in your new home.

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IN-PERSON DIPLOMACY PARTY ANNOUNCED

Fred and Inge Davis will host an in-person Diplomacy party, open to all Maryland, Washington and Diplomacy SIG Mensans, to be held at the Castle at 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207, on SUNDAY, February 26, 1978. Please come at 1:00 p.m. We'd like to start the game as soon as possible after that time. Light refreshments will be served, including some beer and wine. BYOB for the hard stuff. Spouses welcome. We will have Monopoly, Mastermind, Careers, Clue, etc. available for non-Diplomats. We will probably break for dinner at a local restaurant around 6 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: Take Baltimore Beltway (I-695) to Exit 15, U.S. 40. This is in Catonsville, WEST of Baltimore City. Go east on Route 40 one long block to Ingleside Ave. (There is a Howard Johnson's on the corner). Turn left, and go north on Ingleside about 4 blocks to Newfield Rd. Turn right onto Newfield. Go two very short blocks, and turn left (the only way you can turn) onto Clairidge. We live in an end house halfway up the block on the right-hand side. Park wherever you can find a space. If you get lost, call us at (301) 747-7248. RSVP.

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IDA/NORTH AMERICA ELECTIONS UNDER WAY

IDA

Only those people who paid their/1978 dues on or before December 31st are eligible to vote in this election, I'm told, so it's too late to urge any non-members to rush out and join. However, you may be interested in knowing that two of our SIG members are running for office. Bill Young is running for Treasurer, and Craig Reges is a candidate for Ombudsman. John Baker is not running for re-election as Ombudsman.

I try to keep DIPLOMAG nonpartisan by not listing my choices here. In any event, there has been a delay in receipt of the final list of candidates, so I honestly don't know the full list of candidates. The election results will be published here next issue. I expect to publish my recommendations in the February BUSHWACKER.

DON HORTON, PUBLISHER OF CLAW & FANG, asks where are all the Mensans who've joined the SIG? He has some openings in all-Mensa games to offer you, but several of our newer M's have not made any contact with him. We recognize that some of you may already be playing in other zines, or may only be interested in playing in-person games. However, we'd think more of you would be interested in engaging in high-I.Q. combat with your fellow members of the 98th percentile. Please contact Don directly at the address shown on the masthead to get into an all-M regular game. Write to me for information about variants.

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THE MARCH ISSUE OF BUSHWACKER will mark my sixth anniversary in the postal Diplomacy publishing field. This is a rather important milestone, as only seven of the current Dipzine publishers have gone beyond their sixth anniversary without a break in publishing. (The average life of a Dippy zine seems to be about four years). Except for John Boardman (1963) and Hal Naus (1966), no other recognized publisher currently printing goes back further than 1969 (not counting the works of Conrad von Metzke, who has gone up the scale from the ranks of private publisher to the Editorship of DIPLOMACY WORLD). BUSHWACKER is, I think, the world's 10th oldest recognized games-carrying Dippyzine. (A "recognized" zine is one whose publisher furnishes complimentary copies of his publication to the Boardman No. Custodian and the Hoosier Archives. There is one publisher who refuses to do so, so he is "beyond the pale" in my calculations.)

Accordingly, we are going all out (for us) with a big Sixth Anniversary issue. This will be approximately 16/18 pages, many of which will be reprints of some of the more humorous and interesting articles from past issues. Many of these articles will bear no relationship to Diplomacy, but we thought they were fun. Anyone wanting a copy may have one by sending me 50¢, if you are not currently on the BUSH mailing list. This March issue will be printed on or about March 2, 1978. If you want a copy, please let me know by Feb. 20th, so I can judge how many copies to print.

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NEW MEMBER

Stephen E. Greenberg, 276 State St., Apt. 2, Portland, Maine 04101. (207)⁷⁷⁴⁻9007.

As we go to press, it appears that Rollie Straton is about to win 1976BN (Mensa Game #6). As of Spring 1908, his Russia has 17 Centers, with little chance of being stopped.

See you in March.

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U.S.A.

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