

DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS

NUMBER 22

March 12, 1978

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG. Dues are \$2.00 per year. 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  
Senior Committeeman: Don Horton, 16 Jordan Ct., Sacramento, Calif. 95826  
Junior Committeeman: Bill Young, 618 Indian Rd., Clearfield, Pa. 16830

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THERE HAS BEEN A LESS THAN OVERWHELMING RESPONSE to the notice that SIG dues were due. Even some people who received some special service from your Chairman (story below) have not gotten around to sending in their \$2.00. Some members may be unaware that virtually every other SIG in American Mensa is charging at least \$2.00 annual dues. I can't pay everything out of my own pocket. So, if you enjoy having all-M Diplomacy games, and want them to continue, please help to carry the load.

Please pay your dues by April 15, 1978, so I can make up a new membership list. Make your checks out to me. If you fail to renew, you will not be eligible for participation in future All-Mensa games.

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YOUR CHAIRMAN PUTS ON HIS JUDGE'S CAP

There was an appeal for a replay of the Summer and Fall, seasons of 1975HG (Mensa #5) in CLAW & FANG. In accordance with Article 3.d. of our By-Laws, I was asked to adjudicate the dispute in binding arbitration. The GM, Scott Hightower, did a thorough job in furnishing me with all the pertinent material. We hope to be able to settle any issues involving Mensa games without having to go to the IDA/NA Ombudsman. In this case, I completed my actions on February 8th, whereas the new Ombudsman did not take office until February 16th, after the 1978 IDA elections, so we were able to save considerable time by handling the protest as a SIG matter.

I rendered a decision that the Summer 1910 retreat season would stand as printed, but the Fall 1910 season would have to be replayed, on the basis that several of the players had not been notified of the change in players for Turkey.

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Marvin Grosswirth, AME's Publicity Officer, is writing an article on the operation of Mensa Games SIGs for the magazine, GAMES. Every game SIG has been asked to send Marvin a letter concerning the history and operations of the SIG. I have done so for Diplomacy, with an assist from Don Horton. As a compulsive writer, I sent Marvin three pages of single-spaced typed information. He promises to send me a copy of the magazine when his article is published. I concluded my letter by saying:

"One terrific thing about postal Diplomacy, and all postal gaming, is that you get to make pen pals in other parts of the country, and, indeed, all over the world. I have pen pals in England, Germany, Switzerland, Australia and Brazil, as well as in America.. I find that regardless of whether they are Mensans, they are interesting people... In my trips to Europe in 1970 and 1976, I was able to visit some of these people at their homes, which is a far better way to see a foreign country than from a sight-seeing bus. I strongly believe that playing games by mail promotes international friendship and understanding."

We had a Maryland Mensa/Diplomacy SIG Diplomacy party at the Davis home on Sunday, February 26th. The snowdrifts had been cleared up by that date, so about 14 people came, including a reporter for the Baltimore Sun, who is writing a feature article on Diplomacy players. SIG members John Bell, Steve Ralston and Bill Young attended, as well as some other M's. Prominent among the non-M's were Buddy Tretick, a former publisher, who is now reviving his old zine, LA GUERRE, and Bob and Linda Johnson of Washington, both BUSHWACKER players.

We started an "old pro" game early, in the basement. With late arrivals, and with two people (Tretick and Bob Johnson) playing on both boards, we started a second game upstairs around 2:30. As host, I waited till the second game to participate. Since I was in it, I have better details on this game. We only played to Fall 1904. Here are the final figures:

Austria (Dan Mathias/Bill Young)	- 7 (Bill & Inge took over their spots in 1903)
England (Fred Davis)	- 2
France (Bruce Montz)	- 11 (winner)
Germany (Buddy Tretick)	- 1
Italy (John Bell/Inge Davis)	- 4
Russia (Bob Johnson)	- 5
Turkey (Linda Johnson)	- 3

This only adds up to 33. Either Russia or Austria had one more build coming.

In the "pro" game in the basement, the winner was Buddy's son, Jim Tretick, who took Germany to 8 Centers by Fall 1906, at which point time ran out. Steve Ralston finished second with a 7-Center France. There was much running up and down stairs by Bob and Buddy, and later by Bill. Fortunately, no one had a heart attack. Perhaps we can make this an annual affair.

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#### INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY ASSN. ELECTION RESULTS

Here are the names and addresses of the people elected to serve as officers in IDA/ North America for 1978:

President: Bob Hartwig, 304 Slater Hall, U. of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242  
Ombudsman: David Bunke, 5512 Julmar Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45238  
Treasurer: Doug Beyerlein, 640 College, Menlo Park, Calif. 94205  
Diplomacy Review Editor: Jerry Jones, 1854 Wagner St., Pasadena, Calif. 91107  
Special Projects Editor: Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Ln., Hales Corner, Wis. 53130  
U.S. Projects Chairman (U.S. Rep): Andy Cook, 897 Crescent, Alexandria, Va. 22302  
Canadian Proj. Chrmn (Canadian Rep): Cal White, 1 Turnberry Ave., Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M6N 1P6

IDA Annual Dues are \$2.00 per year. To join, send your check or M.O. to the new Treasurer, Doug Beyerlein, at the address shown above.

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#### Membership Notes

AS PROMISED, A NEW QUESTIONNAIRE (BIOGRAPHY) form is enclosed with this issue of DIPLOMAG. This is almost exactly like the previous questionnaire, but it allows you to update the information. Some of the oldest Biography sheets are now almost 2½ years old, having been completed in September/October of 1975. I hope to be able to reprint the new Biographical Sketches within the next four months. Here are the latest changes:

#### New Members

Marvin J. Cook, 1196 Rona Pkwy. Dr., Fairborn, Ohio 45324. (513) 878-1924  
John E. Hammond, 16 Webster Manor Dr., #1, Webster, N.Y. 14580. (716) 671-1820  
Leonard K. Johnson, S.R. 20100-A, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. (cont. on Pg. 4)

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It would be appreciated if every SIG member would complete and return this form to Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207, U.S.A.

You may use a separate sheet of paper, as long as you include the numbers. We would like to print a brief biography of each member in future issues of DIPLOMAG. Please check here if you are willing to have your data printed: \_\_\_\_\_

I. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Occupation (or School & Major if a student): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Year joined Mensa: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Are you active in your local group? \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Are you an Isolated M? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you hold any Mensa office? (If yes, name office): \_\_\_\_\_  
or participated in \_\_\_\_\_

9a. Have you held/any Mensa FTF Diplomacy games in your area? \_\_\_\_\_ (Please give details on separate sheet)

10a. Year you began playing Diplomacy: \_\_\_\_\_ 10.b. Postal Diplomacy: \_\_\_\_\_

11. About how many Postal Games are you currently in? \_\_\_\_\_

12. How did you learn about Diplomacy? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Other games you like to play: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Other major interests: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Remarks (50 words or less): \_\_\_\_\_

II. QUESTIONS:

1. Would you be interested in attending a meeting of the Diplomacy SIG in connection with a Mensa AG or a North American Diplomacy Tournament, such as DipCon?

(Yes or No) \_\_\_\_\_

Will you try to get to this year's Mensa AG? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you have any suggestions for activities/policies for the Mensa Diplomacy SIG?

Membership Changes (cont.) Changes of Address

Steve E. Greenberg, 72 Park Ave., Apt. 9, Portland, Maine 04101. (207) 774-9007  
Arnold E. Vagts, 19121 Biddle, Irvine, Calif. 92715. (714) 833-8227

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SID JOLLY suggests a Mensa Owl with crossed daggers as a possible masthead for this newsletter. Or, perhaps, an Owl with an olive branch in one claw and a dagger in the other, such as the eagle in the Presidential seal or the Dept. of Defense seal. Does anyone want to try his hand at drawing one or the other, or both?

AS PREDICTED, Rollie Straton won 1976BN (Mensa #6) as Russia in Fall 1908. He finished with a flourish, picking up several Centers on the last turn. I believe a new Mensa game is now forming in the pages of CLAW & FANG, so write to Don Horton if you're interested (address on masthead).

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DON'T FORGET the Face-to-Face Diplomacy game at the Cleveland AG in June. Please let me know if you expect to be there. Bill Young will again be in charge of the game. Bill is bringing two Dippy boards with him, so we can bring as many as 14 people into the Tournament. This year, there will be no advance entry fee, but we request that everyone who expects to play to please notify Bill in advance. The game or games will probably be scheduled for Saturday night. It will be up to the SIG members to contact Bill at the hotel to find out his room number and the time of the gamestart.

In case you hadn't heard, it's the Bond Court Hotel, East Sixth St. at St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44114. Rooms are \$22/night single and \$30 double occupancy. Reservations will not be guaranteed unless made prior to June 1, 1978.

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A FINAL REMINDER that if you want a copy of my BUSHWACKER Sixth Anniversary issue, please send me 50¢, preferably in coin. The last full issue of BUSHWACKER will come out in July 1978. One game will go to M-pubber Craig Reges. The Mensa Variant game may run here in alternate months. All other games will be finished by Xerox copies of very small BUSH. Everything has to end sometime. There will be no diminution of my efforts on behalf of the Diplomacy SIG. As in the past, DIPLOMAG will come out every two months, large issued mimeographed, and small ones Xeroxed.

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Baltimore, Md. 21207  
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