

DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS

NUMBER 26

November 15, 1978

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG. Dues are \$2.00 per year. Non-Mensans may also subscribe for \$2 per year, but may not join the SIG. Send all funds to the Chairman. Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game Copyright by Avalon Hill Game Co., Baltimore, Md. 21214.

Chairman & Publisher: Fred G. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207
Senior Committeeman: Don Horton, 16 Jordan Ct., Sacramento, Calif. 95826
Junior Committeeman: Bill Young, P.O. Box 907, Clearfield, Pa. 16830

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MENSA DIPLOMACY ZINE PUBLISHERS:

CLAW & FANG. Don Horton, address above. (916) 383-4848. Regular games, including several All-M games. Considered by many the most reliable zine in the hobby.

AGAINST THE ODDS. Craig Reges, school address: 1501 Higgins Hall, Western Illinois U., Macomb, Ill. 61455. (309) 295-7176. Regular games; and maybe a variant.

BREW & REEFER. Roy Smith, 64 Addicks Rd., Westwood, N.J. 07675. (201) 666-2887. Regular games. Openings in one all-M game, the last I heard.

EGGNOG. Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, Wis. 53130. (414) 425-4631. Regular and Variant games. Has great prospects.

OUR DUES POLICY is that Publishers pay no SIG Dues, providing they furnish complimentary copies of their zines to the SIG Chairman. If a publisher cannot afford to send me free copies, please let me know your annual subscription rate. I'll send you \$2.00 less than that amount, and credit you with payment of your 1979 dues. This will eliminate the need for double transactions between us.

BUSHWACKER is in need of some replacement players for the Small World variant which has been running there. Although my own zine is phasing out, it was necessary to restart this 8-man game from Square One. Three of the old players were unable to continue. I have picked up two new players, but can still use another, plus some stand-bys. I'll offer slots @ \$3.00, including the cost of the maps & rules and a sub to BUSH for the duration of the game to anyone who'd like to play. Stand-by slots are available for \$2.00. This is a global game, pitting the 8 most important Power blocs in a struggle for control of the world. However, there are only 47 Supply Centers, so it's truly a "Small World."

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GAMER'S GUIDE TO DIPLOMACY, Rod Walker's book, is now available directly from Avalon Hill, 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214, for \$3.00, plus 30¢ for postage. This has to be the best book ever written on the subject. It covers both face-to-face and postal games, with separate sections on suggestions for playing each country. There are 36 pages packed with information on almost everything you wanted to know about Diplomacy, including material on the game's history, conventions, clubs, and a brief mention of variants. As a bonus, the rules and map of the original 1958 Calhamer version are included. There is one big typographical error on Pg. 12, where part of "Playing England" is inserted in the middle of "Playing Austria". However, the overall quality of this production is first class. If you intend to make Diplomacy one of your main hobbies, this book is a must.

THE IDA NOVICE PACKAGE is available from Craig Reges, 1501 Higgins Hall, Western Illinois U., Macomb, Ill. 61455, for just 28¢ in stamps and a business-sized self-addressed envelope. I'd suggest enclosing the stamps separately. Canadians need only submit an envelope. The Novice Package is an 8-page guide for new players through the highways and byways of postal Diplomacy. It includes sections on selecting a zine, writing orders, corresponding with other players, and composing press releases.

This is one of the services provided to the hobby by the International Diplomacy Assn., a loose organization of (mostly) American and Canadian players. You'd don't have to be an IDA member to get the Package. It should be a great help to every novice player. It may also convince some people that the IDA is a worthwhile organization to belong to.

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SPEAKING OF THE IDA, two members of our SIG have been nominated for office therein. Bill Young, who is currently IDA Treasurer, has been renominated for a second term. And your Chairman has been nominated (blush) for the post of Ombudsman.

IN CASE THIS NEWSLTR IS LATE, the reason is that I've just spent a fun weekend and some evenings typing up the IDA 1978 NORTH AMERICAN PLAYER CENSUS. This job fell on me as an emergency matter. For the first time in any publication, I can now announce that the 1978 Census is completed, and on its way to a publisher! It's availability will be announced in Bob Hartwig's PODUNK NEWS, Jerry Jones' LIES, DECEITS... and in DIPLOMACY REVIEW, the IDA Newsletter. In case you receive none of the above, I'll announce here when and how you can obtain a copy of the Census.

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The 1978-79 American Mensa Register is out. As I did two years ago, I looked up our SIG members and obtained the following interesting information about us:

As of December 1978, our SIG members range in age from 16 to 55. Our youngest member is Konrad Baumeister. We are pretty scattered in age brackets, but there is a cluster of 3 members at age 27, and a rather surprising cluster of 6 at 36. The average age for the 40 M's on whom data is available is 33.5 (down from 34.3 in 1976). The median age is 34 (no change from 1976). This is considerably higher than the average for North American Postal Diplomacy players, which was last calculated to be 25. Our members could be divided by age into four groups, as follows:

Ages 16-22: 8 members	Ages 31-38: 15 members
" 25-29: 7 "	40 and over: 10 "

Interestingly enough, all of the publishers and officers fall into either the first category (Baumeister, Reges, Roy Smith) or the last one (Davis, Horton, Young).

The Education record shows that 6 of us hold Doctorates, 3 have Masters degrees, 3 are currently grad students, 8 are 4-year college grads, 3 are college undergraduate students now, 4 others have completed some college but are not presently in school, 3 are high school graduates, and 2 are currently in high school. (The "typical" American Postal player is supposedly a college student).

We have 7 members in California, 3 each from Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and New York State, 2 each from Connecticut, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Virginia, 8 from other parts of the U.S., 3 in Canada, and one living Overseas.

The 1978-79 Mensa Register is available @ \$10.00 from American Mensa, Ltd., 1701 West Third St., Suite 1-R, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223.

AT LAST! THE DIPLOMAG GAMES BEGINS!

SWISS DIPLOMACY II (Mense Variant #2)

SPRING 1901

FIRST BLOOD DRAWN IN ENGLISH CHANNEL. ITALIANS GOOF, WHILE GERMANS & SWISS MARCH EAST. EVERYONE IN RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA MOVES SOUTH FOR THEIR THANKSGIVING TURKEY.

- AUSTRIA (Baumeister): A Budapest-Serbia. A Vienna-Budapest. F Zara-Albania.
(3)
- ENGLAND (Kenesson): A Liverpool-Yorkshire. F Edinburgh-North Sea. F London-English Channel.
(3)
- FRANCE (Meloche): A Paris-Gascony. A Marseilles (H). F Brest-English Channel.
(3)
- GERMANY (Young): F Kiel-Holland. A Berlin-Kiel. A Munich-Ruhr.
(3)
- ITALY (Earl): A Venice (H). F Naples-Tyrrhenian Sea, (C) A Rome-Tunis.
(3) A Rome-Tunis (Impossible Order).
- RUSSIA (Turtledove): F Sevastopol-Black Sea. A Moscow-Sevastopol. A Warsaw-Ukraine.
(4) F St. Pete.-Gulf of Bothnia.
- SWITZ. (Funkenbusch): A Geneva-Savoy. A Zurich-Geneva. F Lombardy-Ligurian Sea.
(3)
- TURKEY (Bapple): A Const.-Bulgaria. F Sinope-Const. A Smyrna (H).
(3)

UNDERScoreD MOVES FAIL.

I will generally spell out the names of provinces in full. However, I will usually abbreviate long names like Constantinople and St. Petersburg.

SPECIAL NOTES: Tony Earl: Please study the Convoy rules. First, you have to have a Fleet in a sea space, before you can convoy. Then, you can either form an Army/Fleet, or, if crossing no more than one sea space, convoy by the classical Calhauer method, which is known in all Davis Variants as the "Fast Ferry."

Alain Meloche: Please do not use Special Delivery. If your letter had arrived one minute later, no one would have been home, and we would have had to make a 5-mile trip to a ghastly P.O. in the ghetto, as they will not make a second attempt to deliver. The U.S. mails are back to normal. However, always add an extra day to your calculations when sending mail to the States.

Jerry Montgomery: Thankyou for your stand-by moves for each country. Fortunately, they were not needed. Everyone is now on their own. We always have back-up orders for Spring 1901, but not from now on.

All Players: Do not use Special Delivery. See House Rule 10. If in doubt, phone me, or send a Mailgram. Use your enclosed Code Numbers on Mailgrams or Telegrams. I've just prepared a revision of my House Rules. Write me if you'd like a copy. A SASE would be appreciated.

NOBODY WROTE ANY PRESS. Brief Press releases are accepted. Humorous ones, containing anachronisms, outrageous puns, or feghoots preferred. (100 word limit, if possible).

DEADLINE for FALL 1901 is THURSDAY, December 14, 1978. Mail early to beat the Christmas Rush. Telephone deadline is Wednesday, December 13th, at 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

DIPLOMAG, Pg. 4

THERE IS A PLUG for the Postal Diplomacy SIG in the November MENSA BULLETIN. This may bring in a lot of inquiries from potential members. I've received two already. For the present, we have the following membership changes to report:

NEW MEMBERS:

Greg Millspaugh, P.O. Box 11124, Las Vegas, Nev. 89111. (702) 293-3544
Vernon E. Schaller, 207 Garfield Ave., Cherry Hill, N.J. 08034. (609) 482-0471

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Marvin J. Hauber, Box 2000, B-41110, Vacaville, Calif. 95688
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PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED EXTRACT FROM SIGNAL, the Mensa SIG Newsletter, edited by Paul Victor, our National Groups Officer. This is from Pg. 3 of SIGNAL #14, dated October 1, 1978.

In view of this appeal, I have sent \$10.00 from our Treasury to the GRF Defense Fund for Harper Fowley's legal defense. Some of you may wish to make your own personal contributions to help "the grandest guy in Mensa" in his legal defense against one of the Four Bears, who is suing Harper for libel. If you have ever met Harper, or read a copy of THE ISOLATED M, you'll know how important this is.

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF DIPLOMAG will be published about January 15, 1979. At that time, we'll be calling for payment of 1979 dues, which will remain at \$2.00. (See, Mr. President, we're holding the line). Players and stand-bys will receive a Xerox report on the Swiss II game in December. So, I'll just wish players a Happy Thanksgiving, and to everyone else, Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

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DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS
c/o Fred C. Davis, Jr.
1427 Clairidge Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21207
U.S.A.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Rarely comes there a time when all of us have an opportunity to demonstrate our solidarity as national SIGs as this one. Listen carefully, please:

As some of you perhaps know, the 1973 Mensa election caused a number of problems and eventually resulted in the filing of law suits against nine Mensa members involved in that election. Several of these suits have since been dismissed or decided in favor of the Defendants. Our own Harper Fowley (see above), however, and two others still have to defend themselves at great personal expense, as they were sued as individuals. Thus, Mensa cannot become involved in view of the provisions of the Mensa constitution.

Harper Fowley is probably the father of the national SIGs - he was Groups Officer when there were just a handful of you. To this day, he has maintained a great deal of interest in the SIGs and their development and

regularly published a SIG column in the "ISOLATED M", the newsletter he publishes. Whenever there is a matter of importance before the American Mensa Committee, Harper can be counted on to support us.

Now you must know, I am sure, that anyone can get sued, no matter how frivolous such action may appear or how foregone one might consider the outcome. It takes a lot of money to defend a lawsuit. Harper Fowley, who is currently Second Vice Chairman of American Mensa, is facing financial ruin as a result of the thousands of Dollars that have been required to pay the legal fees, costs and other bills in the defense of that suit.

There are over 175 viable national SIGs. I have been thinking...

If each of the SIGs gave \$10, we'd collect \$1,750.00. Some of you may be so fortunate as to have a surplus in the kitty, so that you can give a little more, some others might not be able to contribute at all -- but a \$10 average doesn't sound impossible. What do you say? I am personally appealing to all of you coordinators to show what we can do as a group when one of the most dedicated and beloved figures in Mensa and a real friend of the SIGs needs help. Also, some of your members might wish to contribute. But I am writing here to you, the coordinators of our national SIGs. Contribute \$10, \$20 or more to this fund. Send your check to me, made out to the "GRF DEFENSE FUND".

I would enjoy nothing more than to be able to report that the SIGs have indeed come through for a very special and deserving fellow member, whose problem arose in the first place because of his dedication to Mensa.

PLEASE GIVE THIS YOUR FOREMOST ATTENTION.

Note my new address: Paul Victor, 4010 Park Newport #102, Newport Beach, CA 92660. If you need more information and want it by phone, you can call me at 714-644-2330 evenings and weekends or at 213-685-5630 during California office hours.

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DIPLOMAG - SWISS DIPLOMACY II GAME REPORT

NUMBER 26.1

December 15, 1978

SWISS DIPLOMACY II (Mensa Variant #2)

FALL 1901

SWISS GIVE THE WORKS TO FRENCH RHINE WATCH. AUSTRO-RUSSIAN FORCES TAKE RUMANIA, BUT FAIL TO LIBERATE STARVING ARMENIANS. KAISER GETS THREE NEW BUILDS FOR CHRISTMAS. ITALIAN STOCKING IS EMPTY.

AUSTRIA (Baumeister): F Albania-Greece. A Serbia (S) F Albania-Greece. A Budapest (S)
(3) RUSSIAN A Ukraine-Rumania.
ENGLAND (Kenesson): A Yorkshire boards F North Sea, A/F North Sea-Skagerrak, A dis-
(3) embarks Norway. F London-North Sea.
FRANCE (Meloche): A Gascony-Burgundy. A Marseille (S) A Gascony-Burgundy.
(3) F Brest-Picardy
GERMANY (Young): A Ruhr-Belgium. F Holland (S) A Ruhr-Belgium. A Kiel-Denmark.
(3)
ITALY (Earl): NMR. A's Naples and Venice (H). F Tyrr. Sea (H).
(3)
RUSSIA (Turtledove): A Sevastopol-Armenia. F Black Sea (S) A Sevastopol-Armenia.
(4) A Ukraine-Rumania. F Gulf of Bothnia-Sweden.
SWITZ. (Funkenbusch): A Savoy-Marseilles. A Geneva-Burgundy. F Ligurian Sea-
(3) Sardinia.
TURKEY (Bapple): A Bulgaria (H). F Const. - Black Sea. A Smyrna-Armenia.
(3)

Underscored moves fail.

SUPPLY CENTER CHART: GAINS, ~~LOSSES~~

AUSTRIA:	3 Home, GREECE, SERBIA	(5, Build 2)
ENGLAND:	3 Home, NORWAY	(4, Build 1)
FRANCE:	3 Home	(3, No Change)
GERMANY:	3 Home, BELGIUM, DENMARK, HOLLAND	(6, Build 3)
ITALY:	3 Home	(3, No Change)
RUSSIA:	4 Home, RUMANIA, SWEDEN	(6, Build 2)
SWITZ:	3 Home, SARDINIA	(4, Build 1)
TURKEY:	3 Home, BULGARIA	(4, Build 1)

NEUTRAL: Andalucia, Castile, Portugal, Tunis

BUSHWACKER: BURGUNDY: Winegrowers in this province are trying to shake off the shock of being invaded by a legion of German speaking gnomes wearing Lederhosen and carrying cuckoo clocks. The most embarrassing moment came when they were rescued by a regiment from Bordeaux, who to a man spurned offers of Burgundy's most famous product, preferring instead to sip their own Bordeaux wines. Thus, on the morning after the battle, the fields of Burgundy are covered with the hated Bordeaux bottles and ticking clocks.

Tony Earl, please let me know that you're still around, even though you don't have any builds coming up. I have an advance Build order on file for Turkey.

DEADLINE for WINTER 1901 adjustments is MONDAY, January 15, 1979. Telephone deadline is 9:00 p.m., Sunday, January 14th.

Bill Young has suggested that if any of you were planning to send a contribution to the Harper Fowley Defense Fund, you might wish to add this amount to your 1979 DipSIG Dues, and ask me to send a single combined check to Paul Victor in the SIG's name. Bill and I have started the ball rolling with our own contributions. Anyone else?