

DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS

NUMBER 27

January 16, 1979

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 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, P.O. Box 907, Clearfield, Pa. 16830

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THE TREASURY REPORT

Due to fortuitous circumstances, we were able to get through 1978 without having to purchase any more mimeograph paper. However, the supply is now gone, and we had to buy more last week. I mention this to explain why the Treasury Report may look quite good superficially, when actually we are operating on just about a break-even basis. Incidentally, complimentary copies of DIPLOMAG go out to several people within both the Mensa and Diplomacy establishments. This includes copies for both the Diplomacy and Mensa Archives.

Funds in Treasury, as of Dec. 31, 1977:	\$6.75
Dues Rec'd, Jan. thru Nov., 1978:	71.50
	<u>\$78.25</u>

	<u>Expenses</u>	
Cost of Postage, 6 issues, Jan. 1978-Nov. 1978:	\$39.76	
Mailing labels:	2.80	
GRF Defense Fund contribution:	10.00	
Misc. Postage:	1.50	
	<u>\$54.06</u>	
Funds in Treasury, Dec. 31, 1978:		<u>\$24.19</u>

Note 1: We have already received \$14.00 for 1979 dues in the month of December, which are being credited to the Treasury effective January 1, 1979. We've also spent \$4.91 for mimeo paper. This puts our net worth at \$33.28 prior to the publication of the January 1979 DIPLOMAG.

Note 2: All game fees and expenses for Mensa Variant #2 are maintained separately, as a privately run game.

DUES IS DUE FOR 1979

All members not otherwise excused who have not already paid their 1979 SIG Dues should send me \$2.00 at your earliest convenience. If paying by check or M.O., please make same out to "Fred C. Davis, Jr.", as the SIG does not have a separate bank account. I'd like to see all dues received by March 1, 1979, so I can prepare a new Membership List for this year. Canadians, please send either a M.O. in U.S. funds or cash (American or Canadian money equally acceptable).

The following members have already paid thier '79 dues: Bapple, Beaumont, Carter, Chamberlain, Cromie, Greenberg, Hauber, Heubach, Hodgdon, Kenesson, Klein, Millspaugh, Morrill, Schaller, Sussman and Young. The following are excused from payment of '79 dues for various reasons: Baumeister, Bell, Horton, Montgomery, Reges, Roy Smith. That leaves just 22 people who have to renew for this year. (over)

Anyone who has let his Mensa membership lapse may still subscribe to DIPLOMAG for \$2.00 a year, but cannot be a SIG member. We hope you will all renew your National memberships as well in January or February.

1979 International Diplomacy Assn./North America Officers

President: Bob Hartwig, 304 Slater Hall, U. of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Ombudsman: Fred Davis (address on masthead)

Treasurer: Bill Young (address on masthead)

DIPLOMACY REVIEW Editor: Elmer Hinton, 20 Almont St., Nashua, N.H. 03060

Special Projects Editor: Jerry Jones (Now also DIPLOMACY WORLD Editor), P.O. Box 8529, San Marino, Calif. 91108

U.S. Representative: Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, Calif. 92024

Canadian Representative: Cal White, 1 Turnberry Ave., Toronto, Ont. CANADA M6N 1P6

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DIPLOMACY WORLD NEWS

Despite rumors to the contrary, DIPLOMACY WORLD is not dead. Conrad von Metzke and Rod Walker have turned control of D.W. over to Jerry Jones (address above). Jerry will continue publication at the old quarterly schedule, at the same sub rate of \$4.00 per year. This rate will only last for a short time, as inflation will force an increase to \$6.00/year before the end of 1979. So, if you don't already subscribe to D.W., you'd better do so now, before the rate goes up.

In addition, DIPLOMACY REVIEW (the IDA/NA newsletter) will be merged with D.W. All D.W. subscribers will automatically become members of the IDA. The record should show that DIPLOMACY WORLD would have gone down the tubes if IDA President Bob Hartwig and outgoing D.REVIEW Editor Jerry Jones had not stepped in to take over. Additional financial assistance to D.W. will come from both the IDA and from D.W.'s founding father, Walter Buchanan.

Because of the tight financial situation, D.W. can no longer afford to give free trades to all publishers. Effective immediately, publishers will have to pay one-half of the going subscription rate. (\$2.00). Jerry has announced that once again the bulk of D.W.'s editorial content will be aimed at the postal hobby.

All future Archives copies of Dipzines should go to Jerry Jones, rather than Von Metzke. The new Archivist will be our own Mensa member, Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Ln., Hales Corners, Wis. 53130.* However, Jerry needs to read the zines 1st for hobby news. He will then ship them to Baumeister on a monthly basis. Walt Buchanan will continue to maintain the records of all zines published up to June 30, 1978 in HOOSIER Archives. *Stop Press: Have just learned that Archivist will be Scott Marley instead. (Addr. unknown)

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ABOUT THE HARPER FOWLEY FUND

Committeeman Bill Young has suggested that if any of you were planning to send an individual contribution to the Harper Fowley Defense Fund, you might wish to add this amount to your 1979 Mensa Dip SIG Dues, and ask me to send a single combined check to Paul Victor in the SIG's name. Bill has started the ball rolling with a check for \$2.00 for '79 dues, plus \$3.00 for the Harper Fowley Fund. I will add \$2.00 of my own. Anyone else? Be sure to specify amounts if you do this.

I have some good news from Paul Victor. The lawsuits against Marvin Grosswirth and Genie Fox were dismissed after a hearing in a New York court in November 1978, leaving only the suit against Harper (in a Kentucky jurisdiction) unresolved. A total of \$500 had been collected by the SIG's alone by the middle of November. Anything left over after all expenses have been paid will be donated to the Mensa Educational Research Fund.

I have an idea for the 1979 AG in Kansas City:

Save all of your back issues and bring them to the AG. If you do not plan to attend, send them. An address for this purpose will be announced prior to the AG. If you send back copies of your newsletter, I will reimburse you for the postage on request, I will arrange for a display area at the AG where Ms can browse through all of the available SIG newsletters. I am sure this will awaken a great deal of interest and produce a lot of new SIG members. It will also familiarize our M-friends with the extent and the quality of our newsletters. But, please, don't send your back issues to me, as I cannot haul a whole trunk to the AG. I am sure that with 117 newsletters at this time there will be at least 50 or 60 of you who have a quantity of back issues on hand that can be used for this purpose.

SIGS THAT CAN BENEFIT ALL MEMBERS

While the majority of our national special interest groups appeal to members who share a special interest, there are some who can benefit all Mensa members. It may be well to include some mention of these SIGs in one of your upcoming newsletters.

VACATION EXCHANGE (Aubrey Dunne, 9355 Monona Dr., La Mesa, CA 92041) will compile data on members who are offering and/or seeking to exchange their homes for vacations.

PEN/Ms (Monica Marko, 300 N. State #3426, Chicago, IL 60610) will list any member free of charge in quarterly listings by subject for the purpose of starting correspondence between Ms. Lists are available for 25¢ and a stamp. Anyone wishing to get listed should also send for a current list as it will describe the details.

CALL-AN-M (Rebecca Prather, 2902 Cleave Dr., Falls Church, VA 22043) is really an M-to-M Service, a free information/expertise sharing operation with over 200 volunteers on over 900 different subjects. A brochure is available for an SASE.

TAPE BANK (Cassettes) (Paul Rozendaal, Rubelmann Rm. 111, Washington Univ., St. Louis, MO 63130) has many tapes and cassettes available. An SASE will bring a list and details about membership.

And, of course, there is S.I.G.H.T. which all of you know (or should know) about. There are local coordinators (listed in BULLETIN). Rules to follow are available through them.

THIS IS A GOOD WEEK TO GET CAUGHT UP
ON ALL YOUR SIG MAIL.

LANC



HOW TO KEEP RECORDS
NON-MS
MENSA BULLETIN
INTERLOC
THE GROUPS OFFICER
WHEN THE SIG GETS TOO LARGE
BE RESPONSIVE
WHAT IF YOU WANT TO BOW OUT?
SOME IMPORTANT RULES

Naturally, the handbook may be of value to all of you. Once approved, I will send each of you a copy.

Having coordinated numerous local SIGs in my group here in Los Angeles, I have also learned a great deal about the operation of local SIGs, and have included in the handbook a section on LOCAL SIGS, with such chapters as:

HOW TO GET STARTED
USING YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER
DOOR CHARGES
WHAT ABOUT GUESTS
SIG ETIQUETTE
WHERE TO MEET

At the most recent AMC Meeting in Portland, OR, David Warren, an officer of INTERNATIONAL MENSA got a hold of a copy of the handbook. I just received a very nice letter from him in which he writes, among other things:

"I have read your draft of the SIG Guidelines and think it would be of great use throughout the world."

Naturally, American Mensa Special Interest Groups are the envy of all national Mensas, due to the great variety and numbers. Australian and New Zealand Mensa have a number of SIGs, so does France, England and a number of others, but the number and variety are, of course, very small compared to the U. S., as Mensa has a much smaller membership in these countries.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH

Don't forget, the BULLETIN appears only once in Jan/Feb, with the SIG Listing in the centerfold. Pull it out for future use. INTERLOC also skips January. Watch for THE SIG OF THE MONTH in the February issue.

That's all, folks.

SWISS DIPLOMACY II (Mensa Variant #2)WINTER 1901

SOME ARMAMENT FACTORIES WORK OVERTIME

		CURRENT STRENGTH
AUSTRIA (Baumeister):	NBR. (Bad weather out there)	5 (+2) (2 units short)
ENGLAND (Kenesson):	Build F London	4 (+1)
FRANCE (Meloche):	No change	3 (0)
GERMANY (Young):	Build A Munich, F Berlin, F Kiel	6 (+3)
ITALY (Earl)	No change. Has been replaced by Jerry Montgomery, addr. below	3 (0)
RUSSIA (Turtledove):	Build A Moscow, A Warsaw	6 (+2)
SWITZ (Funkenbusch):	Build F Morocco	4 (+1)
TURKEY (Bapple):	Build F Sinope	4 (+1)

Although Tony Earl had no adjustments to make, he was asked to communicate with me, since he had NMR'd in Fall 1901. Since he has failed to do so, and has also missed his moves in another game I'm running, I have no choice but to remove him and replace him with our #1 stand-by, Jerry Montgomery, P.O. Box 2000, Box 3, Hagerstown, Md. 21740. Other players are reminded to send all mail to Jerry in letters, not postcards, and it would be most helpful if you'd include SASE's if you want a quick reply. And don't try to phone him- there ain't no phone there!

We have no stand-by players left for this game. Surely, there must be someone out there in Mensa-land who would like to be a #1 stand-by (or even #2) in an all-M game. Just send me \$2.00, and I'll send you a copy of the rules and maps for this 8-player variant.

DEADLINE for SPRING 1902 orders is WEDNESDAY, February 14, 1979. Telephone deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 13th, at 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

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LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT

The first Diplomacy tournament to offer cash prizes will be held over the Memorial Day weekend, May 26, 27 and 28, 1979, in one of the Las Vegas major hotels. The Entry Fee is \$200 per person. However, this includes all food and lodging, as well as the prize money. Only 49 players will be allowed to register. Every player will play seven games, playing a different country each time. There will be 3 games, lasting four hours each, on each of the first two days. On the final day, the seventh game will last six hours. A point system will determine the winners.

Assuming that a full registration of 49 players is obtained, First Prize will be \$2000. Second Prize will be \$1000; Third Prize - \$600., etc. If the Tournament does not fill, the prizes will be for lesser amounts. At my latest report, 24 people had already registered. Registrations must be completed by the end of February in order to get the hotel space reserved, so, if you're interested, register now!

To register, contact: David Grabar, 2450 N. Lincoln St., Las Vegas, Nev. 89110. Send no money. Readers are reminded that such contests are legal in Nevada. We don't expect to make it personally, but we'd be interested in hearing reports from anyone who does attend. This may be a chance to meet some Big Names.

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SPEAKING OF BIG NAMES, DIPCON XII will be held at the George Washington Motor Lodge, Valley Forge, Pa., Friday, July 20, through Sunday, July 22, 1979. This will be part of ORIGINS V. We understand that John Boyer will be in charge of the Diplomacy Tournament. For more information, you can contact John at: 117 Garland Dr., Carlisle, Pa. 17013. This is quite near the Sheraton-Valley Forge, where Mensa held its 1976 AG. It's located at the King-of-Prussia exit of the Pa. Turnpike, and is very convenient to the guided tours of the Valley Forge State Park, which are well worth taking.

NEW MEMBERS

M. Eddie Carter, 30962-138 ECU, P.O. Box 2000, Lexington, Ky. 40511
Alan Chamberlain, 4352 N. Able Ave., Kingman, Ariz. 86401
David Susman, 15075 Lincoln, Apt. 432, Oak Park, Mich. 48237

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Sidney J. Jolly, 7232 El Cajon Blvd., #2, San Diego, Calif. 92115

MOST OF YOU will find a photocopy of part of Page 3 of SIGNAL for January 1979 in your DIPLOMAG. We hope the listing of these other SIG's will be useful to you. You may also be interested in some of the other game SIG's, such as Chess or Scrabble. On a couple of occasions, I carried copies of the Scrabble SIG's flyer to the AG for their Coordinator. While I probably won't get to the Kansas City AG, I will be sending them copies of back issues of DIPLOMAG. If any of you are definitely planning to attend the AG June 28-30, and would like to take the back issues with you, please let me know.

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DIPLOMACY GAMES AND VARIANTS, a book by Lewis Pulsipher, one of the three Grand Old Men of the Diplomacy Variant sub-hobby. Printed by Strategy Games, Ltd., 1 Hanway Place, London W1A 2L3, ENGLAND. Lew has been in England for the past 2½ years, earning an advanced degree. He sent me a letter giving me the exact price in Stirling, but now I can't find it. If you are interested in Dip variants, this book is a must. Three map boards are included for some of the variants described therein. This book may be available in the States from a few sources, but the best way to get a copy is probably to write directly to the publisher.

WHAT SANTA COULD HAVE BROUGHT YOU FOR CHRISTMAS

- *The "Fidelity Chess Challenger" is a solitaire chess set that pits you against a built-in computer. The computer offers you ten levels of play, from novice up to nearly the Master level. Only \$275.00.
- *"Boris, the Talking Chess Computer," goes still further in that he sends messages and snide comments to his human opponent throughout the game. Boris costs only \$400.00.
- *A Monopoly game in which everything is made out of chocolate or butter cream and is completely edible, sold by Neiman-Marcus for only \$600.00. Better luck next year.

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DIPLMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS
c/o Fred C. Davis, Jr.
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U.S.A.

DIPLOMAG - SWISS DIPLOMACY II GAME REPORT

Number 27.1

February 15, 1979

Published by Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md., 21207. Phone: (301) 747-7248. Phone calls accepted between 7 and 10 p.m.; 12 M and 10 p.m. weekends.

First, please correct the last issue of DIPLOMAG to show that that was Issue 27; not 28.

Next, please note that the date for DipCon XII has been changed to June 22-24, and the location to Widener College, Chester, Pa. Registration information will be appearing soon in the Diplomacy press.

The IDA 1978 Postal Diplomacy Players Census is now available. The cost is \$1.50 to IDA members, and \$2.50 to non-members. Send your money to: Bob Hartwig, 304 Slater Hall, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. This List is a bit obsolescent, but is better than nothing. It's been about 4 years since the last Census was published.

SWISS DIPLOMACY II (Mensa Variant Game #2)

SPRING 1902

RUSSIA ATTACKS GERMANY, DECEIVES ENGLAND, MAKES END RUN AROUND TURKEY. TURKISH NAVY "IN THE BLACK." AUSTRIA'S LOSS IS ITALY'S GAIN AS NEW RULER BRINGS ITALY BACK TO LIFE. HUGE BATTLES IN BURGUNDY, BELGIUM END IN DRAW. ENGLAND STYMIED.

AUSTRIA (Baumeister): F Greece-Aegean Sea. A Serbia-Greece. A Budapest-Serbia.
(5)(2 short)

ENGLAND (Kenesson): F London-English Channell. A Norway-Sweden. F Skag. (S) RUSSIAN
(4) F Sweden-Denmark. F North Sea (S) RUSSIAN F Sweden-Denmark (NSO).

FRANCE (Meloche): A Gascony-Burgundy. A Marseilles (S) A Gascony-Burgundy.
(3) F Picardy-Belgium.

GERMANY (Young): A Belgium (S) SWISS A Geneva-Burgundy. F Holland-Helgoland.
(6) F Berlin-Baltic Sea. A Munich-Silesia. A Denmark (S) RUSSIAN F
Sweden (NSO). F Kiel (S) A Denmark.

ITALY (Montgomery): F Tyrr. Sea (C) A Naples-Tunis (Fast Ferry). A Naples-Tunis.
(3) A Venice-Croatia.

RUSSIA (Turilledove): F Sweden-Baltic Sea. A Warsaw-Silesia. A Rumania (S) AUSTRIAN F
(6) Greece-Bulgaria (NSO). A Sevastopol-Persia. A Moscow-Kazakhstan.
F Black Sea-Armenia (dislodged), (R) to Sevastopol (only space open).

SWITZ. (Funkenbusch): F Sardinia-Gulf of Lions. F Morocco-Western Med. A Geneva-
(4) Burgundy. A Savoy (S) A Geneva-Burgundy.

TURKEY (Bapple): A Bulgaria-Rumania. A Savras-Armenia. F Const.-Black Sea.
(4) F Sinope (S) F Const.-Black Sea.

We now have two new stand-by players for this game, Stephen Morrill and Vernon Schaller. Thankyou, gentlemen.

NO PRESS

DEADLINE for FALL 1902 orders is WEDNESDAY, March 14, 1979. Telephone deadline is Tuesday, March 13th, at 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

See you next month.