

*(This is correct. Last issue should have been numbered "27")

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy Special Interest Group. It brings hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in the play of the game, Diplomacy, and its variants, by mail. 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., 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214.

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1979 SIG MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As I write this, a total of 37 people have renewed their membership or become new SIG members. I was disappointed that we lost 9 of our old members, but we have picked up several new ones. A copy of the March 1979 Membership List is included with this issue.

A total of \$10.00 in additional funds was collected for the Harper Fowley Defense Fund, and has been forwarded to Paul Victor, Mensa National Groups Officer.

The following people have joined the SIG since January 15, 1979:

Charles A. Byrne, III, 2229 Southgate Sq., Reston, Va. 22091
Charles H. Deise, III, 1150 Freeland Rd., Freeland, Md. 21053
Stanley Dunn, 3205 Powelton Ave., Apt. B, Philadelphia, Pa. 19104
Lyle Gaulding, 6950 Willis Lane, Bequmont, Texas 77708

Where requested, I have not printed telephone numbers in the List. If you wish to add or delete your phone number from this list, or make any other corrections, just let me know. You may note that three of ^{but} members who are "guests of the State" all share P.O. Box 2000 addresses. It seems that this is a code used by the postal service for mail going to people in the hoosegow.

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THE DATE FOR DIPCON XII has been changed to June 22-24, 1979. The location will be at Widener College in Chester, Pa. Registration information will be appearing shortly in the Diplomacy press. Chester is about 12 miles from Downtown Philadelphia; and about 7 miles from Philadelphia International Airport. The campus practically borders on I-95. There will be economical housing available on campus, and better rooms for those with families or greater affluence in a nearby motel, probably at discount rates. Dip-Con will be part of ORIGINS '79, a large wargaming show, but with its own autonomy and Tournament Director (John Boyer, 117 Garland Dr., Carlisle, Pa. 17013). See you there!

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THE CURRENT ISSUE OF DIPLOMACY WORLD ought to have arrived by the time you receive this. This ought to answer many questions about its status and future. There is one error which Jerry Jones has asked me to report. Inadvertently, the article therein, "The Tunisian Pronunciation," is credited to my authorship. While it was printed in BUSH-WACKER in March 1979, as part of my Sixth Anniversary issue, the author is Mark Berch.
(more)

The error was made by the former Editor, Conrad von Metzke, who set it up for printing. About 50% of the material in the current D.W. was prepared by Conrad prior to his turning over the Editorship to Jerry last December, and Jerry did not check this out until too late to correct. Jerry had hoped to have the current issue of D.W. in the mail by February 19th, but there was a two week delay in getting it printed. Hopefully, D.W. will now be back on a quarterly schedule, with another issue printed before DipCon.

If you don't receive DIPLOMACY WORLD, you're missing an important part of the hobby. This is the flagship zine of the postal scene, with a circulation of 850 (as of the last issue). It's the one zine everyone ought to subscribe to. For a limited time only, you can still sub for only \$4.00 a year for North America. Send your check or M.O. to: Jerry Jones, 1854 Wagner St., Pasadena, California 91107.

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THE IDA 1978 POSTAL DIPLOMACY PLAYERS CENSUS (NORTH AMERICA) 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, U. of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. Admittedly, this list is a bit obsolescent, but since the previous Census was printed in 1974, it at least brings you 4 years forward in time. Any typographical errors are mine, since I typed the final draft, but you can't blame me for wrong addresses. Now, perhaps, somewhere, somehow, we can find a volunteer to prepare another Census in 1980.

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VARIANT INFORMATION

Due to a postal strike, there is a total embargo on mail to and from Ireland (Eire). As a result, we are unable to communicate with our friend and Variant Archivist, Dermot Garvey. Our hopes of being able to announce the official establishment of the new Variant Number Categories in March have been dashed. However, Garvey was able to "smuggle" out the last issue of his zine, AN TAIDHLEOIR, to Belfast, from where it could be mailed out to his non-Irish readers. In this issue, he was able to announce that the Variant Nos. work has been virtually completed. Once the new codes can be mailed out to the current Variant Bank Custodians throughout the world, and to the to-be-appointed Variant No. Custodians, this system will replace the obsolete Miller Nos. for most of the world's Variant buffs (including all Variant Banks). All postal variant games in progress which started in 1978 or 1979 will be issued VN's, if requested by the GM's.

In case there is any misunderstanding, no one is going to be forced to use Variant Nos. Anyone who wishes to go on using Miller Numbers, or no numbers at all, will be able to go right on doing his usual thing. However, the Variant Numbers are so superior that I expect the majority of the hobby will adopt them in short order. Garvey has stored the data on over 550 variants on a computer, and can produce listings of these games in several different orders, such as: alphabetical, by Variant No., by author, by country of origin, and by the number of players in the game.

If you'd like to sub to ANT, as Der's zine is called for short, drop him a line after the postal strike ends, enclose \$2.00, and see how much it will get you. Suggest you send either cash or an Int'l M.O. made payable in Irish funds, as it costs too much to cash a personal check there. The address: Der Garvey, 22 McDonagh Rd., Ballyphehane, Cork, EIRE. (Trades accepted with zines carrying variants).

I HAD SENT ADVANCE INFORMATION on the Variant Number situation to DIPLOMACY DIGEST. My letter was printed in the March 79 issue. The information published there is correct, although not yet "official." In case you don't get DIPLOMACY DIGEST, it consists of a combination of reprints of older articles from other zines, plus new articles and letters on current hobby events. Subs are available from Mark Borch, 492 Naylor St., Alexandria, Va. 22304, @ \$2.50 for 10 issues. (No trades accepted).

POWERS PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS IN BALKANS. ENGLISH BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS THEM. COSSACKS SACK BUDAPEST; AUSTRIANS RECAPTURE ST. SOPHIA; MARINES LAND IN ZEEBRUGGE. SWISS BRING NEUTRALITY TO FRANCE AND SPAIN. FRENCH TAKE LEAVE.

SWISS DIPLOMACY II (Mensa Variant Game #2)

FALL 1902

- AUSTRIA (Baumeister): F Aegean Sea-Const. A Greece-Bulgaria. A Serbia (S) A Greece-Bulgaria. (5)(2 units short)
- ENGLAND (Kenesson): F North Sea-Belgium. F English Channel (S) F North Sea-Belgium. (4) F Skag.-Sweden. A Norway (S) F Skag.-Sweden.
- FRANCE (Meloche): NMR. A Gascony (H). F Picardy (H). A Marseilles (H), /r/. (3) May (R) Castile (only space open).
- GERMANY (Young): A Munich-Silesia. A Denmark (S) ENGLISH F Skag.-Sweden. F Kiel (S) (6) A Denmark. F Helgoland-North Sea. F Berlin-Baltic Sea. A Belgium (S) SWISS A Geneva-Burgundy /r/. May (R) to Holland or Ruhr.
- ITALY (Montgomery): NMR. A Tunis (H). F Tyrr. Sea (H). A Croatia (H). (3)
- RUSSIA (Turtledove): A Warsaw-Galacia. A Rumania-Budapest. A Kazakhstan-Moscow. (6) A Sevastopol-Rumania. A Persia-Sevastopol. F Sweden prays! /r/. May (R) to Finland or Bothnia.
- SWITZ. (Funkenbusch): A Savoy-Marseilles. F Gulf of Lions (S) A Savoy-Marseilles. (4) F Western Med.-Andalucia. A Geneva-Burgundy.
- TURKEY (Bapple): A Bulgaria-Rumania. F Black Sea (S) A Bulgaria-Rumania. (4) F Sinope-Armenia. A Smyrna-Syria.

SUPPLY CENTER CHART, WINTER 1902: GAINS, ~~LOSSES~~

- AUSTRIA: Vienna, Zara, Greece, Serbia, BULGARIA, (6, Build 3)(Was 2 short)
CONST., ~~BUDAPEST~~ (Room for only 2 builds)
- ENGLAND: 3 Home, Norway, BELGIUM, SWEDEN (6, Build 2)
- FRANCE: Brest, Paris, ~~MARSEILLES~~, (CASTILE?) (yes) (3, No change, or 2; Remove 1, depending on retreat)*
- GERMANY: 3 Home, Denmark, Holland, ~~BEILGIM~~ (5, Remove 1)
- ITALY: 3 Home, TUNIS (4, Build 1)
- RUSSIA: 4 Home, BUDAPEST, ~~RUMANIA, SWEDEN~~ (5, Remove 1)
- SWITZ: 3 Home, Sardinia, ANDALUCIA, MARSEILLES (6, Build 2)
- TURKEY: Sinope, Smyrna, RUMANIA, ~~CONST.~~ (3, Remove 1)

*In Davis variants, dislodged units do not go OTB unless Power is in Civil Disorder. If France failed to submit a (R) order for Winter 1902, she would be in C.D. Therefore, Stephen Morrill, P.O. Box 2696, Tampa, Fla. 33601, is asked to submit stand-by orders for France for Winter 1902, which will be used only if Alain drops out.

PRESS RELEASE

LONDON: Speculation in certain European capitals has it that while untried Russian forces fiddle in Siberia and the Middle East, a deranged monk has won the Czar's ear, and is presently conducting foreign policy.

ADJUSTMENTS for WINTER 1902 should be submitted by THURSDAY, April 12, 1979. Telephone deadline is Wednesday, April 11th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

CLARIFICATION OF THE CONVOY RULES: The crossing of one body of water in one move is accomplished by the Standard Rulebook method, called the "Fast Ferry" in this variant. A Fleet cannot pick up an Army, convoy it across a sea space, and support it ashore in a single move. A Fleet can support an Army ashore, providing it doesn't move. As in the Standard game, a support order prevents the unit from doing anything else on that turn. Players are reminded that they must sign their orders.

GAME OPENING. Some of you may be familiar with my "Atlantica" variant. This design combines the four Western Powers of the Standard board with 3 North American Powers (Canada, USA, and CSA), set in the year 1870. There are 47 Supply Centers. The South won the American Civil War. Prussia has just established a new Germany. The North Atlantic is at the center of the board. Fleets and A/F's are needed to win this game. Special boxes provide for around-the-world movement via Suez, Panama, Alaska and Siberia. I have now completed an improved design called "Atlantica III", which was initially open only to those who had played in previous Atlantica games. I plan to play in this version myself, to get a better feel, so I've arranged for Konrad Baumeister to GM it in his EGGNOG zine. We were not able to fill the game from among those formally invited to join, so I'm now throwing Atlantica III open to all members of the Diplomacy SIG. If you'd like to play, send a check for \$5.50 (\$3.50 for your sub to EGGNOG, plus \$2.00 for the game fee) to: Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, Wis. 53130. If you already get EGGNOG, just send \$2.00. Also, write to me, and I'll send you a set of the maps and rules, at no additional charge.

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REMINDER. There will be a general meeting of the International Diplomacy Assn. at Dip-Con in June. Anyone wishing to express an opinion on what IDA should be doing in the way of services, or on whether IDA should continue to sponsor the production of DIPLOMACY WORLD, will have a chance to express himself. It is possible that votes may be taken on certain issues, or certain matters may be referred to a referendum of the entire membership. You should make every effort to be there if you wish to have some input into what the hobby is going to do over the next 12 months. If Bob Hartwig, IDA President, is unable to attend, I, as Ombudsman and Vice-President, would have to chair the meeting, Heaven help us.

The duespaying IDA membership is under 90. As I write, it's still not absolutely certain that the D.W. subscribers are going to automatically be made members of IDA. This means that the Mensa Diplomacy SIG has nearly half the membership of the IDA. We, as individuals, can have a lot of input into IDA operations. (Like Mensa itself, the SIG will never take a political stand). Remember, 2/7 of the IDA Council consists of SIG members, and at least 3 other Council members are Mensa-eligible.

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THERE IS NOW A MENSA SIG ARCHIVES, for all SIG newsletters, similar to the Hoosier Archives established for all Postal Diplomacy zines. The Mensa SIG Librarian is a Ms. Judy Goldman in New York City. You'll be pleased to know that all copies of DIPLOMAG from Issue #5 to the present are now on file in the SIG Archives. (The first 4 issues were more in the way of flyers than real newsletters, and the first two were not even numbered, so we didn't want to clutter up the Archives with them). As you Old Timers know, the SIG news was carried as a column in the Hightowers' zine, K'DOO, from November 1974 to March 1975. Even I don't have a complete file of K'DOO, as I made photocopies of the pertinent parts of K'DOO issues #2 thru #7, and forwarded the originals to the Hoosier Archives. The Hightowers had failed to send copies to the Archives, not realizing its importance, so I made the supreme sacrifice of my copies. If anybody has a need for back issues of DIPLOMAG, I'll make copies for you, at 5¢ a page.

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WE HEAR THAT THE LAS VEGAS DIP TOURNAMENT originally scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend of May 26-28 has been postponed. Only 30 players signed up, and 49 were needed. Dave Grabar advises me that he hopes to reschedule the Tournament for a later date, and perhaps design it on a smaller scale for a smaller number of players. He promises to notify me if and when a new date and details are established.

SOMEONE COMPLAINED that there wasn't enough news about the Diplomacy hobby in DIPLOMAG. We thought we had been providing a fair amount of straight non-controversial information. We've tried to walk the line of not using DIPLOMAG as a personal organ for our own views and projects as much as possible, as my personal opinions are usually seen in BUSHWACKER or in letters to other zines. Anyhow, I think I've given you a pretty good news report in this issue, as well as presented the names and addresses of other good news sources. I've had more time than usual to prepare this issue, now that some other activities of mine have slackened off. Also, I was feeling unusually generous on how many pages to devote to DIPLOMAG. I still don't know, as I write this, whether it will be a 5 or 6-page issue, but either will be a record for mimeo'd material.

I could write lengthy articles on some of my opinions, but I feel that this newsletter should be mainly limited to news about the hobby, the SIG, and anything in Mensa which in any way affects or reflects on the SIGs in general. We'll also accept contributions from our members, providing they don't exceed one page in length. I hope that most of you are getting at least one or two of the regular Postal Dipzines, and reading the editorial and news columns therein. Remember, the game is merely the peg on which we hang our hats in this hobby. As one of the Big Name people once said, "The Diplomacy hobby is a lot bigger than just the game of Diplomacy."

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WE HOPE YOU DIPLOMUTS have been watching the series on "Edward the King" (Edward VII) running on various independent stations around the country. No Baltimore station deigns to carry it, but fortunately, we can pick it up on a Washington channel. It's full of 19th Century politics and intrigue. Also, don't miss "Europe, the Mighty Continent," narrated by Peter Ustinov. This tells the story of Europe from 1900 to 1945, with a magnificent collection of file films, including some incredibly ancient shots going back even prior to 1900, of kings and armies. Ustinov's explanation of the origins of World War I sounded exactly like he was playing Diplomacy. I believe this is a BBC production, being carried in the States on the Public Broadcasting System.

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MENSA GAMES REPORT. It appears that Arnold Vagts, as FRANCE, is about to win 1975HG. As of Winter 1913, France had 17 Centers. Sid Jolly (ITALY) had 12. The remaining 5 Centers belong to Konrad Baumeister's TURKEY. This is a very old game, which has had numerous delays due to protests and other problems, but which may now be ending before it celebrates its 4th birthday. (This is Mensa #5).

Mensa #7 (1977CY) is going great guns, with Craig Reges' AUSTRIA leading the pack with 12 Centers, and H.D. Bassett coming up, the outside with 9 (ITALY).

In Mensa #8 (1978AZ), six Powers still survive after 1904, and things are still very close. FRANCE (Bassett) has 8, AUSTRIA (Funkenbusch) 7, and TURKEY (Straten) 6. Why didn't you renew your SIG dues, Rollie?

Mensa #9 (No Boardman No. yet) has gotten underway. The Johnson in the game is Leonard, of Alaska, not Bob, of D.C. I did a double-take when I first saw this. Too early for any analysis yet. One of the players is no longer a duespaying member of Mensa, and has not been since April 1, 1978. However, I don't believe I informed Don Horton of this fact until after the game had started, so I'll take responsibility for the "irregularity."

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NEXT MONTH, we plan to print the Biographies of all of the newer members. I have six biography sheets on hand right now. If anyone else who hasn't done so wishes to submit a biography form, please do so right away. If, perchance, you're a new member, and I failed to send you a biography sheet (or you've misplaced it), please drop me a line immediately, and I'll send you a copy.

DIPLOMAG, Pg. 6, MARCH 1979

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MENSA is an international society in which the sole requirement for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any standard, recognized IQ test. Mensa is a nonprofit organization whose only purpose is to serve as a means of communication and assembly for its members. Qualification for membership may be determined by tests administered by Mensa or by submission of properly certified prior evidence. All inquiries concerning membership (in the United States) should be addressed to: American Mensa Selection Agency, Suite 1-R, 1701 West Third St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223. Addresses in other countries available on request.

(The above paragraphs are included at the behest of the National Groups Officer, Paul Victor. Publications with the space to do so are requested to include this information in every issue. Because of the normally very tight space available in DIPLOMAG, this will probably be reprinted only about twice a year here.) *(Have only done so once a year - F.C.D.)*

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COMMENTARY. On a man-for-man basis, I think the Vietnamese Army must be considered the second best in the world (after Israel). Having already defeated two of the world's Great Powers, France and the United States, the Vietnamese have now racked up at least a stand-off against the Chinese: (CHINA: A Kwangsi-Hanoi. A Yunnan (S) A Kwangsi-Hanoi. VIET NAM: A Hanoi (H). RUSSIAN A Irkutsk (S) A Hanoi.)

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We hope you appreciate this 6-page issue. It's the largest ever printed for the Mensa Diplomacy SIG. See you again in May.

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DIPLOMAG, Mensa SIG Newsltr.
c/o Fred C. Davis, Jr.
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

DIPLOMAG - SWISS DIPLOMACY II GAME REPORT

Number 28.1

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SWISS DIPLOMACY II (Mensa Variant Game #2)

WINTER 1902

NEW FRENCH PRESIDENT ELECTED. ARMIES AND FLEETS WAX AND WANE.

		<u>CURRENT STRENGTH</u>
AUSTRIA (Baumeister):	Build A Vienna, A Zara.	6 (+1) (1 unit short)
ENGLAND (Kenesson):	Build F London, F Edinburgh.	6 (+2)
FRANCE (Morrill):	A Marseilles (R) Castile.	3 (no change)
GERMANY (Young):	A Belgium (R) Ruhr. Remove A Silesia.	5 (-1)
ITALY (Montgomery):	Build A Venice.	4 (+1)
RUSSIA (Turtledove):	F Sweden (R) Gulf of Bothnia. Remove A Persia.	5 (-1)
SWITZ. (Funkenbusch):	Build A Geneva, A Morocco.	6 (+2)
TURKEY (Bapple):	Remove A Rumania.	3 (-1)

PRESS RELEASES

VIENNA: After the ill-fated assassination attempt by the Serbian Cavrilo Princip, whose bullet missed the Archduke but punctured the gas tank, causing the automobile to explode (luckily, the Archduke escaped unhurt, although his wife died in the flames), our favorite Archduke acquired a brand new limosine. A year later, and still in mourning, the Archduke was driving through the streets of Budapest when a Russian-born revolutionary also made an attempt on his life, likewise with a gun. Due to the would-be assassin's lack of skill, the bullet destroyed the engine, instead. In view of the recent losses of one wife, two shiny new limosines, and Budapest, the Archduke is now searching for a good used harlot.

BUSHWACKER: A limousine in 1902? Yes, Konrad, I fully understand that you did not mean a used Harley-Davidson!

PARIS: The entire Parisian taxi fleet has been pressed into service to rush badly-needed reinforcements to the front lines near the River Marne. One cabbie, Messr. Jean-Marc L'Officier, was heard to complain, "These poilus are a bunch of 'no-tippers'!" Meanwhile, field marshalls were complaining that they had been unable to coordinate their attacks because they had been supplied with defective Swiss watches. Commanders are now being re-equipped with borrowed taxicab meters.

THE ABOVE FRENCH PRESS is from the new French player, Stephen Morrill, P.O. Box 2696, Tampa, Fla. 33601. Last month, Alain Meloche's orders for France arrived two days after the deadline. They had been mailed only two days before the deadline. I advised him that he must mail his orders sooner if they were to arrive on time, but again he's missed. Accordingly, I have had to replace him with Steve Morrill, who also happens to be Editor of the Tampa Bay SOUNDING (Tampa Bay Area Local Group newsletter). Send him 50¢ for a sample copy; it's very good. (Jean-Marc L'Officier is a real French M who will be living in the U.S. for the next year or so).

DEADLINE for SPRING 1903 orders is MONDAY, May 14, 1979. Telephone deadline will be 9 p.m. Sunday night, May 13th. I already have provisional orders on hand from France, Germany and Switzerland.