

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy Special Interest Group, bringing hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in playing 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. The game is available direct from the manufacturer for \$14.00 postpaid.

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

* * * * *

DIPCON XII NEWS

DipCon will be part of the ORIGINS '79 wargaming convention in Chester, Pa., from Friday, June 22, thru Sunday, June 24, 1979. Registration for Origins costs \$8.00, and the fee for entering the Diplomacy Tournament is \$2.00. Dorm space is available on the Widener College campus @ \$8.00 per night, in double rooms. Only 1/3 of these rooms are air-conditioned, so get your reservations in early if you want to get one. Off-campus housing is available in nearby motels for players travelling with their families or desiring privacy. The Howard Johnson's 2 blocks from the campus is already completely booked up. Your best bet is the Holiday Inn, 45 Industrial Hwy., in Essington. (Shown as "Philadelphia Airport - South" in the Holiday Inn directory). That's where I'll be staying.

Chester is 7 miles south of Philadelphia International Airport. There is a shuttle bus from the airport to Howard Johnson's. If you come by AMTRAK, there are local commuter trains from the Philadelphia 30th St. Station to Chester, and maybe if you beg and grovel AMTRAK might just give you the schedule. By car, take I-95 into Chester from either direction and leave at the Edgemont Ave. exit. Complete driving directions will be in the brochure you'll receive when you register.

To register, send your check, made payable to "Origins '79", to: ORIGINS '79, c/o Strategy & Fantasy World, Valley Forge Shopping Center, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406. (Doesn't that address just get you? Ja wohl!)

The Dip Tournament will consist of three rounds, of 4 hours each, starting at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. on Sunday. We believe there will be trophies for both the seven players with the highest total scores and for the highest scores for each individual country in a single game, such as "Best Austria". There is also going to be a Diplomacy seminar on Friday night. Room numbers will be posted.

The International Diplomacy Assn. will conduct its Annual Business Meeting at 10 p.m. Saturday evening, following Round #2 of the Tournament. I will be presiding, as President Bob Hartwig has resigned. There will be two important items on the agenda. One is the nomination of candidates for all 7 positions on the IDA Council, as a new election is to be held as quickly as possible. Mail nominations will be accepted for up to 30 days after June 23rd, but we'd like to have as many serious nominations as possible made at DipCon.

The second item is the selection of a site for the 1980 DipCon. By vote and precedent, the Central part of America is entitled to host next year's Con, since DipCon is supposed to rotate to a different region each year. Accordingly, groups from Detroit,

Chicago and points west are invited to submit their invitations at the IDA Meeting. There is no certainty that the 1980 site will be picked on June 23rd, but any group submitting a bid should have an inside track on the ultimate selection. (See Correction of DipCon site selection procedure in 4th para. on Pg. 4).

Incidentally, anybody who walks into the room and pays his \$3.00 dues for the 1979-80 year automatically becomes a full member of the IDA on the spot, so com'on in. There will also be a discussion of what services the IDA can perform for the hobby in the next year, such as subsidizing the Boardman No. Custodian and game insurance.

There will be no formal Mensa Diplomacy SIG meeting, but you're all welcome to come and see what a lousy FTF player your Esteemed Leader is.

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS

Deborah Gonzales, 302 County Rd., Torrington, Conn. 06790
Daniel Strickland, SC-36, Epidemiology, U. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98195

Two of our old members rejoined late. They are:

Walter Compton, Casilla 211A, Quito, ECUADOR
Roland Straten, 36 Erwin Park Rd., Montclair, N.J. 07042. (Thanks, guys)

Membership remains at 39, as James Heubach has sent his regrets, advising me that he'll be out of the country for the next year or so. We also have 10 outside readers, including Mensa official copies, Trainers, and Subscribers.

* * * * *

KANSAS CITY AG, ANYONE?

The only SIG member whom I know is planning to attend the AG is Steve Morrill, POB 2696, Tampa, Fla. 33601. If you're planning to attend, and are interested in getting up a Dippy game, drop Steve a line and let him know. Copies of DIPLOMAG will be on display on the SIG Table throughout the AG. I regret that I won't be able to make it. I was at the Washington RG instead, where I explained the nature of our SIG to a few people, who then called the men in the white coats.

* * * * *

MENSA GAMES REPORT

Arnold Vagts (FRANCE) won Mensa #5, 1975HG, in 1915, with an 18-Center Rulebook Victory over Sid Jolly and Konrad Baumeister. This was the longest game, in real time, in the SIG's history. Was it CLAW & FANG's longest game, Don?

Mensa #7, 1977CY, shows little change as of 1909, with Craig Reges (AUSTRIA) still ahead with 12 Centers, and H. D. Bassett (ITALY) second with 10.

Mensa #8, 1978AZ, also remains about the same as of Fall 1905. H.D. Bassett (FRANCE) has 8 Centers, Paul Funkenbusch (AUSTRIA) 7, and Rollie Straten (TURKEY) and Bill Young (ENGLAND) 6 each.

Mensa #9 has now been given the Boardman No. 1978W. A bit too early to make any predictions, although Walter Hodgon's TURKEY is in the lead with 7 Centers after 1903. I believe Don Horton is now accepting players for Mensa #10, with first preference being given to new members who haven't played in any previous all-Mensa games. By the way, congratulations to CLAW & FANG for having reached issue #100. I think C & F is only the fourth North American Dippyazine to reach this auspicious figure.

DIPLOMACY SIG BIOGRAPHIES (Second Edition) - Part III (Members who've joined since August 1978)

KEY: 2. Address. 3. Date of Birth. 4. Marital Status. 5. Occupation or School. 6. Year joined Mensa. 7. Active in Local Group? 8. Isolated M? 9. Any Mensa office held. 9a. Participated in any Mensa FTF games. 10a. Year began playing Diplomacy. 10b. Year began playing Postal Diplomacy. 11. No. of Postal games you're currently in. 12. How did you learn about Diplomacy? 13. Other favorite games. 14. Other major interests. 15. Remarks.

CHARLES A. BYRNE, III. 2. 2229 Southgate Sq., Reston, Va. 22091. 3. Sept. 7, 1946. 4. Married. 5. Economist. 6. 1969. 7. No. 8. No. 9. None. 9a. Yes. 10a. 1977. 10b. Just entered postal hobby. 11. None. 12. Through friends. 13. Avalon Hill type, Cards. 14. Hiking and backpacking, Softball.

ALAN H. CHAMBERLAIN. 2. 4352 N. Able Dr., Kingman, Ariz. 86401. 3. Sept. 7, 1950. 4. Single. 5. Librarian, Mohave Community College. 6. 1977. 7. No Local Group. 8. Yes. 9. None. 9a. No. 10a. 1976. 10b. 1978. 11. One. 12. Simulations Publications, MOVES Magazine. 13. SPI games, especially with WWII themes. 14. Fiction writing, illustration, theology, literature, parapsychology, science fiction, history, mythology, "on-the-wall" occult. 15. "Where would we be today if Adolf Hitler had had a decent hobby shop around when he needed one?"

CHARLES H. DEISE, III. 2. 1150 Freeland Rd., Freeland, Md. 21053. 3. Jan. 31, 1951. 4. Single. 5. Building contractor. 6. 1978. 7. No. 8. ? 9. No. 9a. No. 10a. 1976. 10b. Just joined SIG. 11. None. 12. Friend. 13. Tournament Chess, Bridge, Tennis. 14. Economics, History, Politics, Music, Furniture making, Fishing, Gardening, Softball, member of the Jay-Cees.

STANLEY DUNN. 2. 3205 Powelton Ave., Apt. B, Philadelphia, Pa. 19104. 3. Aug. 11, 1956. 4. Single. 5. Dual major in EE and CS, Drexel University. Graduating, June 1979. 6. 1975. 7. No. 8. No. 9. No. 9a. No. 10a. 1979. 10b. 1979. 11. Soon! 12. Ad for DIPLOMACY WORLD in Flying Buffalo Quarterly. 13. D & D, T & T. 14. Computers, Woodworking, Watch repairing.

GREG MILLSPAUGH. 2. PO Box 11124, Las Vegas, Nev. 89111. 3. April 21, 1947. 4. Single. 5. Systems Analyst. 6. 1977. 7. Yes. 8. No. 9. None. 9a. Not yet. 10a. 1966. 10b. Pending. 11. None now. 12. MIT Strategic Games Society. 13. Avalon Hill historic & strategic scenarios, Rail Baron, Acquire, Risk, Chess. 14. Female Homo Sapiens, German beer, politics, history, science fiction, Big Brothers, Ju Jitsu, 1800's western U.S. railroads.

VERNON E. SCHALLER. 2. 207 Garfield Ave., Cherry Hill, N.J. 08034. 3. June 23, 1941. 4. Married. 5. Systems Analyst. 6. 1978. 7. No. 8. No. 9. No. 9a. No. 10a. 1978. 10b. Not yet started. 11. None (when written). 12. Mensa. 13. Go, Chess, Othello, war simulations games. 14. Math Astrology, Yoga, Egyptology.

DAN STRICKLAND. 2. SC-36, Epidemiology, U. of Wash., Seattle, Wash. 98195. 3. Feb. 24, 1946. 4. Married. 5. U. of Washington, Epidemiology. 6. 1974 or 75. 7. No. 8. Yes. 9. None. 9a. No. 10a. 1979. 10b. 1979. 11. None. 12. Through a friend. 13. See letter (Sorry, Dan, I've misplaced it). 14. Languages, Oriental calligraphy & Art, Philosophy, History, Computer Programming, Sailing, Transportation systems, Oratorio singing.

This completes publication of the Second Edition of our Biographical sketches. We probably won't print any more for at least another year. In adding up some of the figures from all 3 Parts (minus one drop-out), we came up with the following:

Marital status: 9 of our members are married, 18 are single, and one divorced. We salute the Diplomacy Widows.

Occupation: 20 SIG members are employed or self-employed. 7 are fulltime students. One is retired. This is quite different from the "typical" Postal Diplomacy (more)

players, who are supposedly mostly college students. (You may recall that the median age of SIG members was computed to be 34 in November 1978).

Isolated M's: Only six of our members answered "Yes" to this. A couple didn't know what an isolated M was. I would have guessed that a higher percentage of isolated people would have been engaged in PEN games, but, if they're really isolated, the poor devils may not have ever been introduced to the hobby in the first place! The term, Isolated, of course, refers to people isolated either by geography or the nature of their jobs or social circumstances. When Harper Fowley started publishing THE ISOLATED M (which gave us a good plug), he found that over half of his subscribers lived in urban areas.

Mensa Membership: Varies from 1 to 16 years. Bob Stimmel has been an M the longest, having initially joined in 1962. Bill Ahlenius and I joined in 1964; Sid Jolly and Arnold Vagts in 1966. The median is 4 years (1975).

Knowledge of Diplomacy game: Varies from 0 to 18 years. John Hammond and Lincoln Beaumont discovered the game in 1960/61, perhaps even before Games Research sets came on the market. Greg Millsbaugh discovered it in 1966, Sid Jolly in '67, and Frank Kenesson, Arnold Vagts and myself in 1968. The median year of discovery is 1974.

* * * * *

THE OVERLAP BETWEEN DIPLOMACY AND SCIENCE FICTION is a phenomenon which has been noted on many occasions. The Postal Diplomacy hobby and zines initially sprang up out of the SF fanzine publishers. Within Mensa, members of the Diplomacy SIG may also be interested in MenSFan, the Science Fiction & Fantasy SIG. Subscriptions to that SIG's newsletter, ASTERISKS, are \$4.00 for six issues (issued bimonthly). For a sample copy, send 50¢ and a SASE to their Coordinator, Michael Mitchell, 3607 Sege Rd., Clinton, Md. 20735. I am currently trading DIPLOMAG for ASTERISKS. Michael is moving from Maryland to Louisiana about June 1, 1979, but all mail will be forwarded. Because of this move, the next issue won't be printed until July, so don't get alarmed if you don't get an immediate response from him.

* * * * *

NATIONAL GROUPS OFFICER PAUL VICTOR writes in SIGNAL to ask if anyone is interested in founding a Tolkien SIG. Write directly to Paul if this rings a bell. (Obviously, any Tolkien SIG worth its name would have to include at least one round of a Middle Earth Diplomacy variant!)

* * * * *

DIPCON SITE SELECTION PROCEDURE

HAVE JUST RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM ROD WALKER. Cap'n Rod advises me that the Committee to select the 1980 DipCon site is separate from IDA, although Rod is an IDA Officer. The Site Committee Open Meeting will immediately follow the regular IDA Business Meeting in the same room. This means that I will simply be handing the gavel (or the machine gun) over to him. The Committee will take all site bids and suggestions under advisement, but will not make a formal decision in the heat of the night. What this means is that whether or not you're a member of IDA or Mensa or the Site Committee (or the IRA or the SDS, for that matter), you'll want to come to the same room for the orgy of instant insanity which will occur therein. The Site Committee will probably make its final decision a couple of months after DipCon, but this is your chance to add your own input.

* * * * *

FOR YOUR INFORMATION (and to fill up this space), you may be interested in knowing that the new Postal regulations on MAXIMUM and minimum sizes for First Class Mail go into effect on July 15, 1979. The Maximum size letter you can mail for one ounce is 6 1/8" x 11 1/2". You'll have to pay a 7¢ surcharge for anything over that size. This surcharge does NOT apply to letters weighing over one ounce. So, you can't use the traditional 7 x 10 envelopes unless you're mailing at least two oz. And you can't use index cards as postcards, as the Minimum size permitted is 3 1/2" x 5".

SWISS DIPLOMACY II (Mensa Variant Game #2)

SPRING 1903

ENGLISH CHASE HIGH SEAS FLEET BUT LEAVE BACK DOOR OPEN. FRENCH RECAPTURE CHAMPAGNE, BUT LOSE BORDEAUX VINEYARDS TO SWISS. AUSTRIANS GET HUNGARY, AND TURKEY IS SLICED PRETTY THIN. RUSS SWIMMING IN OIL (PUMPS ARE OPEN).

AUSTRIA (Baumeister): A Serbia-Budapest. A Zara (S) A Serbia-Budapest. A Vienna (S)
 (6)(5 units) A Serbia-Budapest. A Bulgaria-Rumania. F Const.-Smyrna.
 ENGLAND (Kenesson): A Norway (S) F Sweden. F Sweden (H). F English Channel (S) F
 (6) Belgium. F Belgium Unordered (H). F London-North Sea.
 F Edinburgh (S) F London-North Sea.
 FRANCE (Morrill)(3): F Picardy-Brest. A Gascony-Paris. A Castille-Marseilles.
 GERMANY (Young): F Kiel-Holland. A Ruhr (S) F Kiel-Holland. A Denmark-Sweden.
 (5) F Baltic Sea-Denmark. F North Sea Denmark (dislodged), (R) to
 Yorkshire per Right-Hand Rule.
 ITALY (Montgomery): NMR. F Tyrr. Sea (H). A's Croatia, Venice and Tunisia all (H).
 (4)
 RUSSIA (Turtledove): A Budapest-Rumania. F Sevastopol (S) A Budapest-Rumania. F Gulf
 (5) of Bothnia (S) BRITISH F Sweden. A Galacia-Vienna. A Moscow (S)
 F Sevastopol.
 SWITZ. (Funkenbusch): F Andalucia-Western Med. A Morocco-Andalucia. F Gulf of Lions
 (6) (S) A Morocco-Andalucia. A Burgundy-Gascony. A Marseilles (S)
 A Burgundy-Gascony. A Geneva-Lombardy.
 TURKEY (Bapple): F Armenia-Sinope. F Black Sea (S) F Armenia-Sinope.
 (3) A Syria-Smyrna.

PRESS RELEASE: ST. PETERSBURG: Russia's forces abandon the fleshpots of Budapest for Ploesti petrol to bring "unleaded" home to Moscow. Vienna lotta trouble from the fuel crunch back home.

DEADLINE for FALL 1903 orders is WEDNESDAY, June 13, 1979. Telephone deadline will be 9 p.m. Tuesday night, June 12th, Eastern Time. With DipCon and Summer vacations coming up, if you'd like to include prospective builds/removals for Winter 1903 with your orders, that will be fine. (If you don't want combined seasons, just say so with your orders). If everyone gets them in, we'll try to print both Fall and Winter. If anyone wants their game report handed to him at DipCon, please specify this with your orders. I'll be seeing Jerry Montgomery shortly, so please assume that he's still playing Italy unless you're notified otherwise.

#

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

June 12, 1979

TO: All Players in SWISS DIPLOMACY II GAME in DIPLOMAG

FROM: Fred C. Davis, Jr., GM
1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207

I regret that due to an incredible technical error, there will be no game report this month. One of the players mailed me TWO letters, ONE of which (having no bearing on this game) was to be forwarded to another party. I proceeded to mail ONE of the letters to the third party. Upon opening my game file last night, I discovered that I had mailed the WRONG letter! So, due to GM error, I have no orders on hand from one of the players.

If next week were not DipCon week, I could have set a new deadline, but both DipCon and my private zine BUSHWACKER are due ~~then~~. Since the regular DIPLOMAG SIG newsltr. must come out about the 15th of next month, I have no choice but to defer the FALL 1903 deadline to FRIDAY, July 13, 1979. Telephone deadline will be Thursday, July 12th, at 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time. The party whose orders were lost is being asked to submit a duplicate set. The rest of you do not need to do anything unless you wish to change the orders I have on file. (As this is written two sets of orders are still missing. If by chance either of you has missed the June 13th deadline, you've received an extra life, to July 13th.)

Temporary changes of Address:

Paul Funkenbusch (to Sept. 1, 1979): Apt. 12, Springside Manor, 6713 Hickory Lane,
Hanover Park, Ill. 60103 (312) 830-3629

Konrad Baumeister (to about Aug. 8, 1979): c/o Birgit Solzbacher, Dellenweg 28,
534 Bad Honnef, WEST GERMANY

Only one person submitted tentative adjustments for Winter 1903. If the rest of you want to do so, we'll try to report both Fall and Winter in the July DIPLOMAG, but this will be only if everybody does so.

See some of you at DipCon.

With apologies,

Fred

Fred C. Davis, Jr.