

DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS

NUMBER 31

September 20, 1979

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 many variants by mail. This issue is coming to you at a new time, as I find that it is more convenient to prepare DIPLOMAG around the 20th of the month than around the 15th, as has been done previously. Maryland Mensa usually meets on the second Wednesday of each month. When the meetings were held between the 12th and 14th of the month, it made it difficult to get the newsletter produced, especially after we started our Swiss Dip demonstration game. Now, there will be adequate time.

SIG Dues are \$2.00 per year. Non-Mensans may also subscribe 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., 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214. The game is available directly from the publisher for \$15.00, postpaid.

* * * * *

SIG ELECTION INFORMATION

Two persons were nominated for the post of Junior Commissioner for the two-year term beginning November 1, 1979. They are Roy Smith and Bill Young. The Election Commissioner is Steve Greenberg, 38 Alder St., #11, Portland, Maine 04101. Steve will be mailing the ballots to all members. Yours may arrive before you receive this issue of DIPLOMAG. You may wish to drop Steve a postcard if your ballot hasn't arrived by Sept. 30th. All ballots must be returned to Steve within 30 days of the date of mailing. The results will be announced in the next issue of DIPLOMAG, and will also be printed in the October Game Report, if they are known by that time.

RESULTS OF THIRD ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN ZINE POLL

John Leeder, 121 - 10th Ave., NE, Calgary, Alta., CANADA T2E 1N9, has completed his third annual poll in his zine, RUNESTONE. Rated on a scale from 1 to 10 (with 10 the highest possible score), some 60 North American zines received votes. This included both gamezines and genzines. (A genzine is a zine which exists primarily or exclusively to bring news, services and/or reprints to the hobby. Why, even DIPLOMAG received some votes!) The three highest rated zines were:

1. 8.40 - GRAUSTARK. John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11226*
2. 8.34 - DRAGON & LAMB. Steve McLendon, P.O. Box 57066, Webster, Tex. 77598
3. 8.14 - WHY ME? Lee Kendter, Sr., 4347 Benner St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19135

Among Mensa-edited zines, Don Horton's CLAW & FANG received the highest rating, being voted fourth place, with a score of 8.09. Konrad Baumeister's EGGNOG was rated 12th, with a score of 7.26. My own BUSHWACKER was given a rating of 7.00. Roy Smith's BREW & REEFER, now folded, was listed 27th, at 5.13. Craig Reges' AGAINST THE ODDS, which may or may not have folded, was given only a 4.50 rating, as it has been very irregular lately. The quasi-official hobby zine, DIPLOMACY WORLD, came in 5th at 8.02. (Up from a 10th place rating of 7.54 last year, reflecting Jerry Jones' excellent work).

If you are looking for a new game, I can highly recommend the first three rated zines, plus CLAW & FANG, EGGNOG, and Leeder's RUNESTONE, which came in just below C & F for gamezines, with a 7.78. However, John has just remarried, and has announced that he won't be starting any new games for quite a while.

*World's first, and oldest, Diplomacy zine, founded in 1963.

IDA ELECTION NEWS. Elmer Hinton has dropped out of the race for President, leaving it between Ed Birsan ("Birsauron", former publisher of ARENA, and former IDA President), and Robert Sacks (Former Miller No. Custodian, Chairman of the Diplomacy Variant Comm., and former publisher of LORD OF HOSTS). IDA members should be receiving their ballots shortly. Members will have up to 30 days from date of mailing to return their ballots to me. As IDA's Ombudsman, I get to have the fun of counting them. If anyone would like to join me in this task, I'd be glad to have your help. (You don't have to be an IDA member to do so). Once I count the ballots, they'll be sent to Scott Marley, the Hobby Archivist, for confirmation and storage for at least 60 days.

* * * * *

NEW MENSA VARIANT ZINE. Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, Wis. 53130, has put all of his variant games from EGGNOG into a new zine called POLITICIAN. In addition, there may be openings in new games. Subs are 10 issues for \$3.50, and I think the game fees are \$2. Send SASE and 25¢ for a sample issue.

I know that Konrad is looking for stand-by players for my Atlantica III game that's just started in POLITICIAN. Atlantica games feature the 4 Western Powers of Europe, plus Canada, USA and CSA, set in the year 1870. I'm playing CSA myself (we won the Civil War), so here's your chance to stab me.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

Several new members have joined the SIG in the past six weeks. They are:

- Ronald J. Brown, 424 rue Guerette, Maniwaki, Quebec, CANADA J9E 1N5. (819) 449-2257
- Jan Luckenbill, 1101 N. Tenth St., Phoenix, Ariz. 85006
- Michael A. Mazzer, 1338-B Harvard St., Santa Monica, Calif. 90404. (213) 828-1085
- Robert R. Olsen, 9100 E. Harry, Apt. 211, Wichita, Kans. 67207. (316) 686-7935
- Thomas A. Trainer, AMEMBASSY, A.P.O. New York 09159

Tom Trainer is physically located in The Hague, Netherlands, so we now have SIG members on three continents. Our SIG now has 45 members.

Change of Address: Edward C. Bapple, 7008 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, Ill. 60626.

* * * * *

GAME OPENINGS

Don Horton announces the opening of MENSA 10, the newest All-Mensa Standard game, in his CLAW & FANG. He especially wants to invite our newer members to join this game. See masthead for Don's address. His subscription rate is 12 issues for \$5.00. Game fee is \$3.00 plus a sub. There is a one dollar discount for SIG members who wish to enter MENSA 10. Use coupon below for \$1.00 discount.

I have openings for Dual Space Diplomacy (aka "Overlapping Seas") in BUSHWACKER. Certain sea spaces overlap, giving greater mobility to Fleets. Normal Game Fee is \$7.00, which includes your maps/rules and receipt of BUSH for the duration of your game. Stand-by fee is \$3.50. No regular subs available now. All members of the Mensa SIG will receive a \$1.00 discount on above rates if they sign up. Use coupon below: - - - - -

GAME COUPON. Good for \$1.00 Discount on either a Standard Game in CLAW & FANG, or a Variant Game in BUSHWACKER. Offer good for Mensa SIG Members only. Offer expires Dec. 31, 1979. (Note: If you wish to sign up for both games, send Coupon to Don, and mention the offer in your letter to me). Only one Coupon can be used per game.

SWISS DIPLOMACY II (Mensa Variant Game #2)

SPRING 1904

MUCH THRASHING IN BALTIC AND DENMARK LEAVES ONE GERMAN ARMY ROTTEN AND A STALEMATE IN KIEL. RUSSIANS RUSH INTO SILESIA, HOLD ONTO GALICIA. SWISS PULL A FAST ONE IN TUNIS AS ITALIANS RACE INTO DESERT. KAISER KOUNTERMANDS KID BROTHER'S ORDERS AND KONKS OUT.

- AUSTRIA (Baumeister): A Budapest-Galicia. A Vienna (S) A Budapest-Galicia. A Zara-Budapest. F Aegean Sea-Const.. A Bulgaria (S) F Aegean-Const.. A Serbia (S) A Bulgaria.
- ENGLAND (Kenesson): A London boards F English Channel, A/F Eng. Channel-North Sea, A disembarks Denmark. F Edinburgh (S) A/F Eng. Channel-North Sea. F Helgoland (S) A disembarks North Sea-Denmark. F Sweden-Baltic Sea. A Kiel-Holland. F Belgium (S) A Kiel-Holland.
- FRANCE (~~Morrill~~) (Greenberg): F Brest-Mid-Atlantic. A Paris-Brest. (Since no orders were rec'd from Morrill, Greenberg's back-up orders were used).
- GERMANY (Young): A Denmark-Sweden (dislodged)(Annihilated). F Baltic Sea (S) A Denmark-Sweden. F Holland-Kiel. A Ruhr (S) F Holland-Kiel.
- ITALY (Montgomery): A Tunis-Algeria. A Venice-Lombardy. A Tyrol (S) A Venice-Lombardy. F Sardinia-Gulf of Lions. F Naples-Tyrr. Sea.
- RUSSIA (Turtledove): A Galicia-Silesia. A Ukraine-Galicia. A Rumania (S) A Ukraine-Galicia. F Sevastopol (S) A Rumania. F Gulf of Bothnia-Baltic Sea.
- SWITZ. (Funkenbusch): A Portugal boards F South Atlantic, A/F South Atlantic-Western Med., A disembarks Tunis. F Andalucia-Gulf of Lions. A Castille (H). F Lombardy (H). A Geneva (S) F Lombardy. A Mars.-Savoy.
- TURKEY (Bapple): A Syria-Armenia. F Const. (H). F Black Sea (S) F Const.

NO PRESS. With the drafting of Steve Greenberg into this game, we have only one stand-by player left, Vernon Schaller. If anyone else would like to be a stand-by, you can have a set of the map & rules for only \$2.00. To repeat, Steve Greenberg's address is: 38 Alder St., #11, Portland, Maine 04101.

That last sentence in the headlines above refers to the fact that Konrad's brother, Uli, had submitted tentative moves for Spring '04 while he was away. Konrad phoned in a new set of orders one hour before the phone deadline, after I'd already made a map adjudication of the moves. Believe me, Konrad, you should have let Uli's orders stand!

DEADLINE for FALL 1904 orders is WEDNESDAY, October 17, 1979. Telephone deadline is Tuesday, October 16, at 9:00 p.m.

* * * * *

FORGOT TO MENTION THE RESULTS of the GM Ratings of the North American Poll. The top three GM's were: 1. John Michalski, 9.18, 2. Karl Schuetz (formerly a SIG member), 9.0, 3. Lee Kendter, Sr., 8.89. SIG Members were rated as follows: 9. Fred Davis, 8.50, 11. Don Horton, 8.42, 19. Konrad Baumeister, 7.64; Craig Reges, 5.17; Roy Smith, 4.0.

* * * * *

In a comment on our review of WHY CIVILIZATIONS SELF-DESTRUCT, Robert Stimmel writes: "One reason high I.Q. people are decreasing in numbers is that they spend so much of their lives being educated. Perhaps a limit should be placed on schooling, based on I.Q. Over 150 I.Q.'s must leave school by age 16; 130-150 I.Q. by age 18; 110-130 I.Q. by age 21; 85-110 I.Q. by age 23. Anybody with I.Q. below 85 should be encouraged to become a professional student and to remain in college permanently."

(What makes you think that would stop them from breeding, Robert? Based on my 23 years' experience with Social Security, I can assure you that we can never hope to compete with the fecundity of the lower echelons. The only hope of civilization is to get everyone to cut their childbearing level to that of the middle class. The key is to get the women to understand that there is something more to life than having babies. The macho male is a hopeless case. This is actually happening in a few places, like Costa Rica, where strong family planning programs are supported by the government.)

MENSA GAMES REPORT

In 1977CY, Mensa #7, Linc Beaumont has replaced Craig Reges as AUSTRIA, and that power has fallen to 10 Centers. H.D. Bassett (ITALY) now leads, with 12, as of Spring 1912. Mensa #8, 1978AZ, has reached Fall 1907, with Bassett (FRANCE) starting to pull away with 10 Centers. TURKEY (Rollie Straten) has climbed to 7, while Paul Funkenbusch (AUSTRIA) & Bill Young (ENGLAND) are both dropping from 7 to 6. Only 5 Powers left. Mensa #9, 1978W, has already eliminated Italy, and left Austria with one Center and no units, as of Fall 1905. Still anybody's game, with France, England and Turkey showing 8, 7 and 7 Centers, respectively, on the scoreboard.

MILLER NUMBER LIST AVAILABLE. If anybody wants a copy of the Miller Number List, the designators assigned to the approximately 260 Diplomacy variants which have been played postally over the past 14 years, I have recently received a copy from Michael Smolin, the outgoing Acting Miller No. Custodian, and could make you a photocopy for a SASE. The Miller Nos. assign one or two lower-case letters to each design, beginning with "a", and running chronologically to "iy", the highest designator so far assigned. They are not classified by types. The letters are simply assigned in the order in which the MNC receives a copy of the new variant design, together with information on the start of a postal section.

I still have nothing to report on the Variant Numbers, which are in the hands of Der Garvey in Ireland. The Variant Numbers are supposed to show a designator for every known Dip variant, broken down by categories. The Master Record will also show the names of their designers, and which Variant Banks stock it.

* * * * *

A DIFFERENT TYPE OF PLUG. If any of you are interested in poetry, Rod Walker, one of the real Old Timers in this hobby, and Custodian of the N. American Variant Bank - West, announces that his EREHWON will be resurrected as a poetry magazine, and he is in need of original contributions. Rod is asking for "real" poems, that is, poems that actually rhyme; rather than some of the modern poetry which just strings words together. Both light and serious works are wanted. Submissions should not have been published elsewhere, unless you've retained the copyright. For more information, or a sub to EREHWON, write to Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, Cal. 92024. Subs are \$4/year (2 issues).

#

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