



# DIPLOMAG

NUMBER 32

November 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 variants by mail. Dues are \$2.00 per year. Non-members 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 manufacturer for \$15.00, postpaid.

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

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## NEW MASTHEAD FOR DIPLOMAG

Sid Jolly suggested using the Mensa Owl in our masthead over a year ago, but nobody volunteered to draw one. I decided to make an adaptation of the owl drawn by Elly Pithian, a Colorado FeM, on the semi-annual listing of LocSecs and SIGs. This had been sitting on my desk for about eight months, but I just couldn't get around to it. Someone finally sent me a Round Tuit, and I finished it up.

This greatly reduced version of Elly's Owl (Still cross-eyed, you'll note) was mounted on a master, together with the title, which is done by dry transfer or Letra-set, and the entire thing was taken to my local mimeograph supplier, who made me an electronic stencil.

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**BILL YOUNG RE-ELECTED JUNIOR COMMISSIONER.** Election Commissioner Stephen Greenberg advised me that he had been unable to obtain a response from Roy Smith as to whether he intended to accept the nomination for office. I gave Steve Roy's phone number, and Steve made one more attempt to reach Roy. When Roy failed to respond to Steve's phone call, Steve had no choice but to declare that he had dropped out of the race, and that Bill Young was elected by acclamation to a two-year term beginning November 1, 1979. Two days after I'd mailed out notices to that effect to the SIG officers and a couple of other members, Steve received a letter from Roy saying that he was a candidate. Inasmuch as the deadline had passed, Steve and I jointly decided that Roy would have to be charged with an "NMR". Terribly sorry, Roy.

<sup>A</sup> few days later, Roy Smith sent me a letter, which said, in part:

"I must admit that I am a little disappointed at what happened, but, after some thought, on the issue, have decided to cancel the contract on your and Steve's lives. I understand Steve's decision, and I take full responsibility for my actions (or inactions, as the case may be). Perhaps I'll run again next election. (More)

DIPLOMAG, Nov. 20, 1979

"Please understand that I have no hard feelings toward either yourself or Steve Greenberg on this matter. And congratulations to Bill on a campaign well run."

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### SIG GROWTH and the NEED FOR GAMESMASTERS

The SIG seems to be growing by leaps and bounds, and has now reached 50 members. (We thought we'd be lucky to ever get up to 14 when we started!). Knowledge of the game, Diplomacy, seems to be spreading, and we are getting good publicity in the BULLETIN twice a year. We have no difficulty handling the paperwork for a SIG of 50 members, but to be honest with you, problems may arise if membership ever climbs over 75.

The thought occurs to me that perhaps someone else may wish to start GM'ing an All-Mensa game. Don Horton has been doing a magnificent job running all the Standard (Regular) games in CLAW & FANG, and tells me that he can handle the current load O.K. However, should the number of people wanting to participate in All-M games suddenly increase, he would need assistance. If anyone in the SIG is interested in being a Guest GM in CLAW & FANG, or in running a game on his own, please contact both Don and me on this matter, and we'll see what we can do. Don advises that he likes to have his Guest GM's run two games, when possible. They have to type the adjudications on a stencil and get it to him as soon as possible after the deadline, which is always the 7th of each month for Guest GM's. Don pays for the stencils, and will advise you on which brand you need to use to match his mimeograph. If someone is interested in starting a new All-Mensa game on his own, I'll print his name and address in DIPLOMAG.

Anyone desiring to become a GM has to be willing to stick with it for the necessary 18 months to two years required to complete the game, so please don't try to run one if you're planning to go to Outer Mongolia or to enter Grad School, where you'll have a 26-hour work-day, within the next two years. Also, anyone having more than one wife, mistress or torrid love affair going on at the same time should not be a GM. A GM must also have assured access to some form of mass reproduction if he's going to print a game report and press releases on his own. (One highly respected zine recently folded abruptly when the publisher lost access to his printing facility).

Starting as a Guest GM in someone else's zine can give you a chance to cut your teeth slowly, and see whether you like being a postal GM. If you then decide to become a publisher, you can transfer your game from the host zine to your own when you start, thereby giving you a game in progress with your first issue. Another easy way to get a couple of games for your own zine is to offer to take on a couple of Orphan Games from a folding publication. That way, you get some experienced players who may stick with you for future games. One word of warning. Don't go overboard by starting up a lot of games at once. That's the surest prescription for "burnout." My advice to any would-be GM is to start adjudication no more than two games at first, and add to your total very slowly. It's my personal belief that if the average GM would limit his zine stable to not more than six Standard or four variant games, there would be a lot fewer burnouts. A lot of GM's who paid no attention to such advice have burned out and left their games in orphan status.

(This does not apply to such superstars as John Boardman and Don Horton, who appear to have energies beyond those of mortal men).

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REMINDER ITEM: OPENINGS NOW AVAILABLE FOR MENSA #10 ALL-M GAME IN CLAW AND FANG. Subscription rate is 12 issues for \$5.00. Game Fee is \$3.00 plus sub. (There was a \$1.00 discount coupon for M's only in the September DIPLOMAG for Mensa #10. This offer is good through Dec. 31, 1979. Coupon is also good toward payment of \$7.00 game fee for "Dual Space" variant game in my BUSHWACKER zine.)

SWISS DIPLOMACY II (Mensa Variant Game #2)

WINTER 1904

ENGLISH RAISE ARMIES AS SWISS NAVY GROWS!

		<u>CURRENT STRENGTH</u>
AUSTRIA (Baumeister):	Remove A Zara	5 (-1)
ENGLAND (Kenesson):	Build A Edinburgh, A London	9 (+2)
FRANCE (Greenberg):	Remove A Mid-Atlantic (from A/F)	1 (-1)
GERMANY (Young):	Remove F Baltic Sea. Note: A Denmark was annihilated in Spring 1904.	2 (-2)
ITALY (Montgomery):	No change	5 (n.c.)
RUSSIA (Turtledove):	No change	5 (n.c.)
SWITZ. (Funkenbusch):	Build F Morocco	8 (+1)
TURKEY (Bapple):	Build F Sinope	4 (+1)

Ed Bapple advises that his new phone number is (312) 545-7169.

DEADLINE for SPRING 1905 orders is TUESDAY, December 18, 1979. Phone deadline will be 9:00 p.m. Monday, December 17th, Eastern Time. Please make adequate allowances for the delay in Christmas mail in getting your orders in. To be safe, you might want to send a set of tentative orders in immediately. I already have tentative Spring 1905 orders on hand for France, Germany and Switzerland.  
(This space was reserved to report disasters, but there weren't any).

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NEW MEMBERS

We've picked up several new members over the past two months, mostly as a result of the plug we received in the July/August BULLETIN. In addition, a copy of the SIG Listing goes to all new Members along with their membership cards, so some of the people listed below are also brand new M's:

- Tim Desmond, 20 Narrows Rd., S, Staten Is., N.Y. 10305. (212) 273-8138
- Oscar L. Doucett, 82 Austin Ave., Greenville, R.I. 02828.
- William Edens, Jr., 3437 Ipswich Lane, St. Charles, Mo. 63301.
- Louis A. Graham, 4620 Summit, Apt. 23, Kansas City, Mo. 64112. (816) 531-2981
- Susan M. Kulakowski, Box 6142, SUNY, Binghamton, N.Y. 13901. (607) 798-3560
- S/Sgt. Joseph R. Marshall, Box 902, APO New York 09109. (In West Germany)
- Mark Tronco, 850 Howard Ave., Apt. 5F, Staten Is., N.Y. 10301. (212) 981-8347
- Cornelius Van den Handel, III, 1409 W. Alameda, B, Burbank, Cal. 91506. (213) 843-4548

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- Edward C. Bapple, 4531 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60630. (312) 545-7169
- Frank Steo, c/o Cupak, Inc., Federal Reserve Plaza, Boston, Mass. 02210

YES, we will prepare a new Membership List in a couple of months. As 1980 SIG Dues of \$2.00 will be due from most of the old members in January, we will wait until January 31st to see how many people renew before printing a new list. (See next item).

DUES WILL BE DUE IN JANUARY...

...from most of our older members. If you'd like to send your \$2.00 in now, we will have no objection. Please make checks out to Fred C. Davis, Jr., rather than to the Mensa Diplomacy SIG. The following people are excused from payment of 1980 dues either because of services rendered to the SIG, because they've already paid their dues thru 1980, or other special circumstances. If your name isn't on this list, please send me \$2.00 sometime between now and January. Thankyou. (continued over):

Excused from payment of 1980 Dues (Cont):

Baumeister, Davis, Greenberg, Hauber, Horton, Montgomery, Desmond, Doucett, Edens, Graham, Kulakowski, Marshall, Mazzer, Olsen, Tronco, Van der Handel.

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WE WERE SWAMPED WITH ORDERS for the rules and maps of several variant games as a result of our article, "A Pocket Full of Variants" in the Fall issue of DIPLOMACY WORLD. It revealed that there is considerable interest in variants out there in Dippy-Land. If you are not already getting D.W., we suggest that you send \$4.00 to Jerry Jones, 1854 Wegner St., Pasadena, Calif. 91107, and ask him to start your sub with Issue #23. We thought that #23 (Fall) was one of the best issues of DIPLOMACY WORLD produced. (The fact that two of my articles were printed therein has nothing to do with my opinion).

SPEAKING OF VARIANTS, Lew Pulsipher is offering a Science Fiction & Fantasy Variant Package for \$2.50 postpaid. Lew has just returned from England, and smuggled these in in the false bottom of his trunk. His address is: 209 Alexander, Apt. D, Durham, N.C. 27705.

A NEW NOVICE PACKAGE is going to be designed by Bruce Linsey, 71 Hudson Terr. Apts., Newburgh, N.Y. 12550. "Brux", as his friends call him, has just started a new, neatly printed Dipzine called THE VOICE OF DOOM. (Subs are 10 issues for \$4.50. Game fees are \$3.00, plus a \$3 refundable deposit, which is returned if you don't drop out.) Upon learning that novices were not receiving any response from the former Novice Package Coordinator, Craig Reges, he volunteered to write and distribute a new one. It's not ready yet, but if any of you wrote to Craig for the Novice Package and failed to receive one, send your name and address to "Brux" now, so he'll know there is a demand for same. You might also want to let me know if Reges failed to respond to your request.

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I WILL BE STARTING A NEW JOB at Social Security Hqs. on or about December 10, 1979. This may mean a severe cutback in access to photocopying service. It could also require a lot of extra study time learning the new job. (As of right now, I don't even know what the new position will be, as SSA is in the middle of a reorganization). So, please understand if my ability to respond to inquiries or fill Variant Bank orders is delayed.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING # # # MERRY CHRISTMAS

DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS  
c/o Fred C. Davis, Jr.  
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DIPLOMACY - SWISS DIPLOMACY II GAME REPORT

NUMBER 31.1

October 18, 1979

Published by Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207.  
Phone: (301) 747-7248, 7 to 10 p.m. weekdays, Noon to 10 p.m. weekends.

**SIG ELECTION CANCELLED. BILL YOUNG RE-ELECTED JUNIOR COMMISSIONER BY ACCLAMATION.**  
Stephen Greenberg did not receive a reply from Roy Smith before the deadline for stating whether he would accept the nomination. Accordingly, Steve had no choice but to declare that he had dropped out of the race, and that Bill was automatically elected to a new two-year term beginning November 1, 1979.

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SWISS DIPLOMACY II (Mensa Variant Game #2)

FALL 1904

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Edward C. Bapple (TURKEY), 4531 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60630

**ENGLISH MAKE FAST MOVE TO EXPLOIT FRENCH LEAVE. FRENCH FLEET BECOMES A FLYING DUTCHMAN. ITALY STABS GERMANY WITH "UNKINDEST CUT." TURKS & RUSS JOIN UP TO OUST SLEEPING AUSTROS.**

**CORRECTION, SPRING 1904:** Swiss move "A Marseilles-Savoy" was inadvertently omitted.

- AUSTRIA (Baumeister):** (6) NMR. A's Vienna, Budapest, Serbia, Zara all (H). F Aegean Sea (H). A Bulgaria (H) /r/, (R) to Greece (only space open).
- ENGLAND (Kenesson):** (7) F Belgium-Holland. A Kiel (S) F Belgium-Holland. A Denmark embarks F North Sea, A/F North Sea-English Channel, A disembarks Brest. F Helgoland-Denmark. F Sweden (S) F Helgoland-Denmark. F Edinburgh-Clyde.
- FRANCE (Greenberg):** (2) A Brest-Portugal. F Mid-Atlantic (C) A Brest-Portugal (Fast Ferry). Per Rules, A remains aboard F (but see below).
- GERMANY (Young):** (4) F Holland-Belgium. A Ruhr (S) F Holland-Belgium. F Baltic Sea-Berlin.
- ITALY (Montgomery):** (5) A Algeria-Morocco. A Venice-Lombardy. A Tyrol-Munich. F Tyrr.-Ligurian Sea. F Sardinia-Gulf of Lions.
- RUSSIA (Turtledove):** (5) A Silesia-Berlin. F Gulf of Bothnia-Baltic. A Rumania (S) **TURKISH** F Black Sea-Bulgaria. F Sevastopol (S) A Rumania. A Ukraine (S) A Rumania.
- SWITZ. (Funkenbusch):** (7) A Tunis (H). A Castile-Gascony. F Lombardy (H). A Savoy (S) F Lombardy. A Geneva-Zurich. F Andalusia-Portugal. F Western Med.-Morocco.
- TURKEY (Bapple):** (3) F Black Sea-Bulgaria. F Const. (S) F Black Sea-Bulgaria. A Armenia-Smyrna.

**PRESS:** SWISS H.Q.: "Eenie, Meenie, Minie, Moe..."

SUPPLY CENTER CHART, WINTER 1904: GAINS, ~~LOSSES~~

- AUSTRIA:** 3 Home, Greece, Serbia, ~~BYZANTIA~~
- ENGLAND:** 3 Home, Belgium, Kiel, Norway, Sweden, BREST, DENMARK (5, Remove 1) (9, Build 2)
- FRANCE:** Paris, ~~BREST~~
- GERMANY:** Berlin, Holland, ~~MUNICH, DENMARK~~ (1, Remove 1) (Must remove A from A/F) (2, Remove 2)
- ITALY:** 3 Home, Sardinia, ~~MUNICH, TUNIS~~ (5, No change)
- RUSSIA:** 4 Home, Rumania (5, No change)
- SWITZ.:** 3 Home, Andalusia, Castile, ~~Marseilles,~~ Portugal, TUNIS (8, Build 1)
- TURKEY:** 3 Home, BULGARIA (4, Build 1)

**DEADLINE** for WINTER 1904 adjustments is **FRIDAY, November 16, 1979.** Telephone deadline will be 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Thursday, November 15th. Jan Luckenbill has just come aboard as a new stand-by.

