



DIPLOMAG

NUMBER 35

May 20, 1980

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 subscribe for \$2.00 per year, but may not join the SIG. Send all funds to the Chairman.

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

Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game Copyright by the Avalon Hill Game Co., 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214. If you are unable to find the game on sale in your neighborhood, it is available directly from the publisher for \$15.00, postpaid.

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DIPLOMACY SIG GETS NEW GM'S

Membership has been growing by leaps and bounds, which leads to the probability of more and more All-M games. Apparently, many Mensans have become familiar with Diplomacy through FTF play, although many were unaware of the extent of the Postal hobby. However, CLAW & FANG is going to cease publication when all of its current games end. Until now, all of the SIG's Regular games have been carried by Don Horton in C & F. (Don and I co-founded the SIG, with the arrangement whereby I would be the Coordinator, and he the GM. We thought we'd be lucky if we got 14 members!) Obviously, new GM's are going to be needed to run the All-M games, without which the SIG would have no reason for existence.

I am pleased to report that we already have three volunteers who are willing to run future postal games. They are:

Edward Bapple, 4531 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60630
Ronald Brown, 424 rue Guerette, Maniwaki, Quebec, CANADA J9E 1N5
Chip Charnley, U.S.NavFac Keflavik, Box 7, FPO New York 09571 (that's in Iceland)

None is currently running a zine of his own, but they have received copies of my House Rules, and some other helpful hints. Ron Brown states that he would be ready to start a game in September, after he returns from his honeymoon. Ron is an Anglo-phon, and lives only some 70 miles from Ottawa. He says that mail from the U.S. (even the West Coast) reaches him in no more than 5 days, so he would not be handicapped insofar as postal communications go. He will gladly run one Regular game, which he can print on his school's mimeograph. Ed Bapple describes himself as a "two-fingered typist" who is ready to go whenever we can get seven victims together, with Xerox copies. Chip Charnley can run games by carbon copy. However, as the mails to Iceland are not running too well right now, Chip will be the last of these three to get a game, in hopes that there will be some improvement in service by then.

I had originally intended to give Ron only players from Canada and the Eastern U.S., and the rest to Ed. However, that doesn't seem necessary now. I already have six people signed up for the next Regular Mensa game. I'll give the first group of players to Ed Bapple, and the second group to Ron Brown. We have one small problem. As a general rule, GM's try to avoid having two players from the same local area in the same game. This gives such players an unfair advantage over the others. Within the U.S., this usually means having no more than one player from each State in a game, except in the cases of California and Texas, where North/South and East/West, respectively, are considered as separate States, because these areas are so large. (Also, because about 15% of the entire Postal Diplomacy hobby membership lives in California). We also try to avoid having players from adjacent States in the same game if they live within a few miles of each other, as in the case of players in New York City and Northern New Jersey, or Washington, D.C. and its immediate Maryland and Virginia suburbs. Unfortunately, three of the six M's signed up live in Southern California. If any of you will send me a preference to play in Ron Brown's game instead, I'll drop you from Ed Bapple's list. Otherwise, I'll have to toss a coin or otherwise select one of these S. California players for the next Mensa game.

I would like to send each new GM a list of 7 players and at least one stand-by, so if you'd prefer to be a stand-by, please advise me on that, too. Stand-bys usually receive the game reports at a lower rate. In any case, here are the names of the M's who have signed up for the next game. If I've inadvertently failed to list anyone's name, please let me know. Also, you can now add your name to the list (as player or stand-by) if you're interested:

John Allensworth, Linton, N.D.; Peter J. Gaughan, Los Angeles, Calif.; Scott Hanson, Madison, Minn.; Charles Letcher, West L.A., Calif.; Michael Mazzer, Santa Monica, Calif.; and Lenning Myers, Clinton, Md.

I will be very happy to have more Mensa GM's, so if anyone is interested in running a game, please let me know. You have to be available for the next 18 months to two years to do so. If you're engaged, make sure your fiancee understands this form of insanity before you commit yourself (no pun intended).

Anyone running a SIG game or games would also be a logical candidate for the SIG Executive Committee. I don't know whether Don Horton plans to run for re-election. We have traditionally had two publishers and one non-publisher on the Committee. While there's nothing that says this must be the case, I'd prefer to keep that sort of ratio on the Committee. So, let's have your thought on this, too, if you're willing to become a publisher. (See next article).

Please let me hear from you, if you're interested, no later than June 18th, as I'll be leaving for San Francisco for the AG a couple of days later. We'll print the news on new game starts and new publishers in the July DIPLOMAG, along with some brief comments on DipCon. (I'll be at DipCon June 6,7,8, if you want to talk to me there).

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ELECTION COMMISSIONER NEEDED

The next order of business is to select an Election Commissioner for the September elections. The terms of the Chairman and one Commissioner (Don Horton) will expire November 1st. In May, we select a person to run the election; in July we call for nominations, with a deadline sometime in August. If more than one person is nominated for office, the Election Commissioner sends out ballots around August 20th, with a voting deadline in sufficient time to report the results in the September issue of DIPLOMAG.

(more)

ELECTION COMMISSIONER (Cont.)

Serving as Election Commissioner has one perk; it earns you a free SIG membership for the following year. The Commissioner is expected to promptly contact all nominees for statements of candidacy, if they wish to make them, and to be able to print sufficient copies of the ballots and any statements for the membership. (In a pinch, we could print them here, but it would be better if the Commissioner did his own work). The SIG will pay the Commissioner's postage expenses. It is most important that the Commissioner take these actions promptly. In the event that two or more people volunteer, the Chairman reserves the right to select the Commissioner from among them.

Incidentally, my personal choice would be to continue to serve as SIG Chairman, and publisher of DIPLOMAG, and have others GM the SIG's Regular games. It is certainly not possible for one person to do both. I'll continue to GM Variant games, one at a time, in DIPLOMAG.

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NEW SIG MEMBERS

We picked up 12 new members and one renewal in the past two months. They are:

- John Allensworth, P.O. Box 815, Linton, N.D. 58552 (701) 254-4203
- Peter J. Gaughan, 2390 Portland St., #308, Los Angeles, Calif. 90007
- Charles Letcher, 1647 Bundy Dr., Apt. 1, West Los Angeles, Calif. 90025
- Eric Lunsford, 2721 S. Bayshore Dr., #321, Coconut Grove, Fla. 33133. (305) 444-9876
- Robert Lydell, Lot 3, Country Sq. Ct., Allegany, N.Y. 14706
- Beverley Moore, 7830 E. Broadway, Tucson, Ariz. 85710
- Lanning Myers, 6609 Horseshoe Rd., Clinton, Md. 20735 (301) 838-7668
- Bruce Poppe, 216 Huntley Rd., Upper Darby, Pa. 19082. (215) 352-8049
- David S. Putnam, 7080 Gradlerock Way, #801, Columbia, Md. 21045. (301) 839-7668
- Steven Ralston, 222 St. Paul St., Apt. 1905, Baltimore, Md. 21202. (301) 837-4365
- Dan R. Wilson, B-2-3-11, 268955, Wynne Unit, Huntsville, Tex. 77340
- Lynn B. Young, Jr., 816 Forest Hills Dr., South Hill, Va. 23970. (814) 447-3393

Dan Strickland is the old member who renewed late. Thanks to all of you.

We have also established a Trade Agreement with the World Conquest SIG, being run by John R. Seixas of Houston, Texas. (World Conquest is a Diplomacy-type game).

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DIPCON NEWS

DipCon XIII will be held as part of MichiCon IX, on June 6,7,8, 1980, at Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan. This is just outside of Pontiac, a few miles north of Detroit. The Diplomacy Tournament will begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 7th. Entry fee is \$1.00. The code number is "037" if you want to sign up now. The Pre-Registration Weekend Ticket costs \$10.00 if purchased before May 25th, or \$12.00 if your letter is postmarked after that date. Make checks out to Metro Detroit Games, and send a single check for both Registration at the Dip Tourney Fee to: Metro Detroit Games, M-9 Pre-Reg., P.O. Box 787, Troy, Mich. 48099.

The official convention motel is the Northfield Hilton, 5500 Crooks Rd., Troy, Mich. 48084. A rather stiff rate of \$44.00/night single is offered, although it's just \$46.00/night for a double. Make your reservations directly with the motel. Dorm rooms are available on a first-come/first-serve basis, @ \$10.14/night single, or \$8.47 per person per night for a double. Make reservations through the Conference Dept., Oakland University, Rochester, Mich. 48063, and make checks payable to (over)

"Oakland University." You must pay the entire amount in advance. Considering the difference in rates, I've made my reservation for a single room in the dorm.

The DipCon Society Meeting will be held at 9 p.m. Saturday. This is the meeting at which the site of the 1981 DipCon will be selected. This will be followed immediately by the business meeting of the IDA and NADF. Admission is free to all of these sessions. There will also be a Diplomacy Seminar at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning (Code No. 105, also free). This will give you an opportunity to discuss your favorite Diplomacy theories or pet peeves with others. See you there.

NADF is the North American Diplomacy Federation, an organization of most of the people rendering hobby services, such as the Boardman and Miller No. Custodians, the Editor of DIPLOMACY WORLD, the Hobby Archivist, the Novice Package Director, and the Custodians of the several Variant Banks, to name a few. The NADF will be holding its first FTF Business Meeting at DipCon. It is expected to come up with arrangements for all Publishers and Guest GM's to join the group at this meeting.

Incidentally, I (Fred Davis) have been appointed as Chairman of the DipCon Society Site Committee, and, as such, will get to chair that meeting. If you know of any wargaming convention which might be interested in submitting a bid, please tell them to contact me ASAP. The only absolute rule is that DipCon cannot be held twice in a row in the same State. The rules also favor a bid from a different geographical region over one coming from the same region. The people attending the meeting will vote on the site selection.

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NEW SIG PUBLISHER

Vernon E. Schaller, 207 Garfield Ave., Cherry Hill, N.J. 08004, has started a zine called DREADNOUGHT to carry his Gunboat Diplomacy Tournament. Gunboat Diplomacy is a variant very similar to "Anonymity," in that none of the players know who any of the others are. The difference is that NO PRESS will be permitted, so, unlike Anonymity, there will be absolutely no communication of any kind between the players. The Tournament consists of 7 players playing 7 different games, one as each Power, simultaneously. A point system has been established for Victories, Draws and Survivals. Sounds like the games will be decided by plain brute force. Sub rates are 10 issues for \$4.00, if you want to follow the games. I don't know whether Vern needs or wants any stand-by players but you can ask him about this.

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ONE OF OUR MEMBERS HAS REMINDED ME to remind all SIG members that we will be happy to receive articles and comments from SIG members. I would prefer that all contributions be typed, but that's not required. Contributions concerning Diplomacy, the game and the hobby, or Mensa, will receive first preference. The Editor reserves the right to decline to print contributions based on the amount of space available, the suitability of said articles, and my own general laziness. The shorter your submission, the higher the probability of its seeing print.

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ZINE DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

THE ZINE DIRECTORY is now available from Michael Mills, 3457 Makyes Rd., Nedrow, N.Y. 13120, for just 75¢. Contains 14 pages, listing, in order, North American Hobby Organizations, Service (Informational) zines, Orphan Game zines, U.S. Zines, Canadian zines, and European zines. An excellent collection, well worth the money. It's only fault is in printing a self-serving false puffery by Oaklyn/Tretick on his own zine, LE FRONT de LIBERATION, without a warning to all novices to avoid this rag like the plague.

SWISS DIPLOMACY II

SPRING 1907

HUGE SEA BATTLE IN TYRRHENIAN SEA ENDS IN DRAW. ENGLISH UNITS ADVANCE ALL OVER THE MAP. ITALIANS & SWISS MEET ON THE RHINE. AUSTRIANS TURN BACKS ON TSAR, WHO TSLEEPS.

- AUSTRIA (Baumeister): F Const.-Smyrna. A Bulgaria-Const. A Budapest-Serbia. (7)(6 units) A Vienna-Budapest. A Croatia-Zara. F Rumania (H).
- ENGLAND (Kenesson): A Finland-St. Pete. F Gulf of Bothnia (S) A Finland-St. Pete. (13) A Archangel-Moscow. A Berlin-Munich. F Kiel-Berlin. F Baltic Sea (S) F Kiel-Berlin. A Gascony boards F Mid-Atlantic, A/F Mid-Atlantic-South Atlantic, A disembarks Andalucia. A Castile (S) A MAO-Andalucia. A Burgundy-Marseilles /d/, (R) to Gascony, per RHR. A Edinburgh boards F Norwegian Sea, A/F Norwegian Sea-North Sea, A disembarks Belgium. A London (H).
- ITALY (Montgomery): F Rome-Tyrr. Sea. F Naples and F Ionian (S) F Rome-Tyrr. Sea. (8) A Zurich-Swabia. A Geneva (S) A Zurich-Swabia. A Venice-Lombardy. A Sahara-Algeria. A Tunis (S) A Sahara-Algeria.
- RUSSIA (Schaller): NMR. A's Galicia, Silesia and Sevastopol all (H). (4) F Courland (K).
- SWITZ. (Funkenbusch): A Marseilles-Burgundy. A Savoy (S) A Marseilles-Burgundy. (5) F Sardinia-Tyrr. Sea. F Ligurian Sea and F Western Med. (S) F Sardinia-Tyrr. Sea.
- TURKEY (Bapple): F Black Sea-Bulgaria(e.c.). F Aegean Sea (S) F Black Sea-Bulgaria. (2)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Jerry Montgomery (ITALY), Box 700, Jessup, Md. 20794. The rule of letters only - no postcards - still applies.

PRESS

MOROCCO: We will fight them on the beaches, we will fight them on the shore, we will fight them across the length and breadth of the country. Just let us know when it's time to give up.

BUSHWACKER: SWABIA: Italian troops reaching Schloss Hohenstaufen are looking for the Countess Ingeborg, as rumors have it that she has certain mysterious powers over the Lord High Gamesmaster who runs this world. (Would you believe a magic ring?)

DEADLINE for FALL 1907 will be Wednesday, June 18, 1980. Telephone deadline will be Tuesday, June 17th, at 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time. I'm not asking for Winter 1907, as I will be busy getting this report out between my return from DipCon and my departure for the AG.

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DO YOU KNOW OF (OR HAVE) ANY CHILDREN WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED in a Children's Game of Diplomacy? One member has a bright 13-year-old who would be interested in playing in such a game. If we could find six other young people between, say, the ages of 8 and 15, he might be willing to adjudicate such a postal game. They don't have to be M's. Send me their names and ages, if you have anyone who's interested. (Brothers, sisters, children or acquaintances). Might as well start them while they're young.

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LATE NEWS FLASH. NEW DIPLOMACY CLUB PROPOSED.

I've just learned that Jerry Jones will propose a new Diplomacy Players Assn. in the next issue of his DIPLOMACY WORLD, to replace the moribund IDA. Jerry would be the non-voting chairman of a 5-man council. This group would exist to help players, (over)

and would complement the already organized North American Diplomacy Federation, which has been created to handle the needs of Custodians, Publishers and GM's. Hopefully, this will end the in-fighting which has paralyzed the IDA for the past three years. (Said infighting has been essentially between a very small band of people in New York City and New Hampshire and the rest of the hobby leadership).

To order the next issue of DIPLOMACY WORLD, send \$1.50 to Jerry Jones, 1854 Wagner St., Pasadena, Calif. 91107. Or, you can subscribe for one year (four issues) for \$5.00 in the U.S., or \$6.00 elsewhere. I think you'll want to read about Jerry's ideas.

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QUOTE WITHOUT COMMENT

(In response to a letter from a reader to THE OWLET, newsletter of the Mensa Gifted Children SIG, the Coordinator, Debby Gunther, replies):

"I found this letter very disturbing... Your attitude is that the gifted have a wonderful lot in life, and all complaints of the gifted are groundless. You must have had a beautiful childhood in order to make that claim, but I believe for the majority of us it was not so. It is not wonderful to be different, so different, in a world that expects conformity. From what I have seen, most of their problems come from people fearing them, with the fear increasing proportionally to the abilities. ...people wrongly assume that gifted children are happy to be always the best in their classes, and that they can achieve to the best of their abilities without extra help; this has been proven wrong in studies. Gifted children are not an elite corps of super-minds; they are only children, and they need a special sort of education in order to develop into the type of people who can help this world."

-Subscriptions to THE OWLET are available @ \$3.00/year (6 issues) from Deborah Gunther, Coordinator, 2233A Eden Pl., Milwaukee, Wis. 53207.

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Don't forget there will be a special room for SIG's at the San Francisco AG. Look for the men in the white coats. They'll be following me.

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DIPLOMAG - Mensa Diplomacy SIG News
c/o Fred C. Davis, Jr.
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DIPLOMAG - SWISS VARIANT II GAME REPORT

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Published by Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207. Phone: (301) 747-7248. Calls accepted 7 to 10 p.m. weekdays, and 12 Noon to 10 p.m. weekends, Eastern Time. This is the in-between Game Report, going only to players in this All-Mensa game and SIG officers.

SWISS VARIANT II

WINTER 1906

ENGLISH RAISE REGIMENTS INSTEAD OF BUILDING BATTLESHIPS. SWISS FAIL TO SOUND REGALL. AUSTRIA REMAINS ONE SHORT, AS USUAL.

		<u>Current Strength</u>
AUSTRIA (Baumeister):	Build A Vienna	7 (+1) Will be 1 unit short
ENGLAND (Kenesson):	Build A Edinburgh, A London	13 (+1) Was 1 unit short
ITALY (Montgomery):	Build A Venice, F Naples	8 (+2)
RUSSIA (Schaller):	No change	4 (n.c.)
SWITZ. (Funkenbusch):	NRR. GM Removes A Geneva (Dislodged), A/F Tyrr. Sea	5 (-3)
TURKEY (Bapple):	No change	2 (-1) (1 annihilated)

In a NMR situation, a dislodged unit gets first choice for removal. Thereafter, in this game, the GM is supposed to remove the units which will least affect the game, or be the least likely to result in the gift of a S.C. to another Power. In my opinion, A/F Tyrr. Sea met this criterion best. All other Swiss units are either in a S.C., in the Homeland, or in a space immediately adjacent to the Homeland.

PRESS: ST. PETERSBURG: Russia seeks peace with his Austrian and Italian neighbors.

DEADLINE for SPRING 1907 orders will be SATURDAY, May 17, 1980. Telephone deadline will be Friday, May 16th, at 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

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WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED ONE OFFER from a member of the SIG to GM an All-Mensa Regular game. This came from Ronald Brown, who lives in Quebec, Canada. Ron has offered to start a game in September, after he has returned from his honeymoon, and settled down to another year of teaching school. I have thanked Ron, but advised him that since mail service is so bad between Eastern Canada and the Western U.S. (and vice-versa), I would want to give him only the names of Canadian and Eastern U.S. M's (only those living east of the Mississippi, or in Minnesota.) We are going to need at least one more volunteer, preferably in the Western U.S., to run Regular Dip games.

The reason for this need is that CLAW & FANG will not start any more games, ever. Don Horton is going to complete all of his current games, and then fold C & F. We have had more than seven years of first class publishing from Don, but nothing lasts forever. This means that we must replace CLAW & FANG with new publishers able to run at least one or two Mensa games apiece, or there is no point in going on with the SIG. So, let me know if you get the publishing bug. Don and I would send you copies of our House Rules, to help you get started.

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THERE WILL BE A PHOTOCOPY of another article of interest attached to this copy. See you next month.

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