



DIPLOMAG

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April 1, 1981

DIPLOMAG is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG, bringing hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in playing the game, Diplomacy, and its many variants, by mail. Dues are \$2.00 per year. Send all funds to the Chairman.

We help to set up All-Mensa Postal games, and will also inform the members of other Game Openings from time to time.

Chairman & Publisher: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207
Senior Committeeman: Bill Young, P.O. Box 907, Clearfield, Pa. 16830
Junior Committeeman: Edward C. Bapple, 4531 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60630

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I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE AS SIG CHAIRMAN BEYOND OCTOBER. There are simply too many things calling for my attention. I will serve out the first year of my current two-year term (which is my fourth consecutive term as SIG Chairman). You will be receiving DIPLOMAGS in June, August and October from me. We will call for nominations for both Chairman and one Commissioner slot, and hold an election for two-year terms for both offices this August. I'll also want a volunteer to serve as Election Commissioner. The new Chairman will take over with the December 1981 issue. All funds in the Treasury will be turned over to the new Chairman.

Bill Young has already informed me that he does not wish to stand for re-election as Senior Committeeman. In order to provide some continuity, I will agree to serve as a SIG Committeeman, if the members so wish. I intend to continue publishing BUSHWACKER, and to continue to operate the North American Variant Bank-East. I'm also serving on the Board of the North American Diplomacy Federation (a coalition of the several Custodians in North America). So, it's not as if I were dropping out of the hobby, but how many different things can one person handle?

Incidentally, every single Mensa SIG which I've joined has lost its founder within two years of my joining it. So, burnout is not limited to the producers of Diplomacy zines. I've almost set a record for continuity in an American Mensa SIG by serving as head of our SIG for seven years.

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We are happy to report a recent alliance within the Postal Diplomacy hobby. Bruce Poppe and Sharon Lewis have signed a treaty of mutual support, to have and to hold all of their Supply Centers in joint ownership, till death do them part, with no stabs between them. Congretulations, kids. May all of your troubles be swept away as if they were merely blocks of wood, and may you never have to play Austria again.

MENSA AG WILL BE IN LOUISVILLE

The AG will be held at the Galt House in Downtown Louisville, June 25-28, 1981. I won't be able to be there, but if any SIG member wishes to represent the Diplomacy SIG there, I'll be glad to turn over a special form to him to apply for a (free) meeting room reservation for the SIG, for a Diplomacy game or a demonstration of the game to novices. AG Registration costs \$30.00 if made now, or \$35.00 if made after April 30th. The 4-meal package costs \$53.00. Rooms at the Galt House cost \$37/night single, or \$44 double. Seems that a lot of our Midwestern members may want to attend. Please let me know if you plan to go, and I'll print a list of probable attendees in the next issue. And, if you want to host an FTF game, please let me know ASAP. I attended the 1973 AG in Louisville, when the Galt House had just opened, and I can state that it is a magnificent hotel in which to hold a convention. The steamboat Belle of Louisville docks in front of the hotel, and I'm sure a cruise on her will be part of the agenda.

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MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE "1885" 9-MAN VARIANT GAME, which was designed by me and will be run by Glenn Overby in JIHAD! If you're tired of the same old thing, try playing Spain or Sweden in "1885," or look at the expanded boundaries of the Terrible Turk's Empire of that era. We have room for "a few good men". You may express a country preference. Like all Davis Variants, this one permits you to use Army/Fleets for convoys. Let me hear from you.

MENSA #14 has been filled, and turned over to Glenn Overby to run in his JIHAD! We're now taking reservations for All-Mensa Game #15. Three people are already signed up. This, too, will be run by Glenn. Mensa #16 will be run in Ron Brown's SNAFU (see below). Anyone else interested in giving a future Mensa game? You don't have to establish a zine to run a game, providing you have some way of making about a dozen copies of each season's game report.

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Ronald J. Brown, publisher of SNAFU, is now going to open a Regular game of Diplomacy for everybody. (His two current games are limited to Mensans). Advise your non-M Dip friends. SNAFU is now being printed by offset, and is a very nice job. The sub rate will be \$6.00 for 12 issues. The game fee will be an additional \$4.00, or you can be a stand-by for \$2.00. Every issue contains an article on one or more of the provinces on the Regular board. Send your money directly to Ron at: R.R. 2, Maniwaki, Quebec, CANADA J9E 3A9.

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MARYLAND MENSAN MAKES THE NEWS

The Baltimore Sun Magazine ran an article on DipSIG member Jerry Montgomery in their March 22, 1981 issue. It described the travails of having a high I.Q. and being confined in a State institution. The following excerpt may be of interest to you:

"It was in the early prison years that he joined Mensa, deriving a twofold benefit. Foremost, he gained new friends, people who would visit from time to time, breaking the monotony of deathly same days. ... He also found among Mensans people with whom he could discuss new ideas and models to emulate. Along the way, Fred Davis, a long-time aficionado of Mail (sic) Diplomacy, a strategy game set appropriately in Europe and played by letter, recruited his fellow Mensan as an alternate player."

If you'd like to write, Jerry's address is: #9662, P.O. Box 2000, Rt. 3, Hagerstown, Md. 21740.

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Lynn Cicotte, 26477 Basswood, Palos Verdes, Calif. 90274. (213) 375-5725
J.R. Douglas, 25 Cannon Dr., Elk River, Minn. 55330. (612) 441-1522
Paul Larsen, 4995 Torero Rd., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93111. (805) 964-7265
Michael Mazzer, 1338-B Harvard St., Santa Monica, Calif. 90404 (Renewed)
Sharon Lewis Poppe, 407 Carnarthen Ct., Exton, Pa. 19341. (215) 363-1290 (Renewed)
Craig A. Reges, 16 W761 White Pines Rd., Bensenville, Ill. 60106. (312) 595-0129 (Renewed)
Michael Whitty, 2021 Guadalupe, Austin, Tex. 78705. (512) 477-6581
Steve Hutton, 704 Brant St., London, Ont. CANADA N5Y 3N1. (Renewed and C/A)
James P. McNulty, 600 McClurg Ct., #3704A, Chicago, Ill. 60611. (312) 467-7175 (Biz.)
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ATLANTICON IN BALTIMORE HAS BEEN CANCELLED. Don't blame me. This was Avalon Hill's decision. However, there is going to be another big wargaming convention in the East, called GenCon East. This will be held in Cherry Hill, N.J., July 23-26. This is just off the New Jersey Turnpike's Exit 4 (across the river from Philadelphia). Cherry Hill was one of the first enclosed shopping malls in the East. The Con will be held at a place called the Cherry Hill Inn. I don't know how close to the Mall this may be, as I'm still waiting for my copy of the flyer telling about it. I presume there will be a Diplomacy Tournament. You can get your own copy of the flyer on GenCon East by writing to: Shawn Carroll, P.O. Box 139, Middletown, N.J. 07748. Enclose an 18¢ stamp

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ZINES, ZINES, ZINES (Pronounced "zeens")

At last count, there were a total of 127 full-fledged Diplomacy zines. This includes 58 being published in the United States, 12 in Canada, 47 in the U.K. and Continental Europe, and 10 "service" zines, such as EVERYTHING and DIPLOMACY DIGEST, which carry no games. Apparently, there are no longer any zines being published in Australia, South Africa or other parts of the world. This figure does not include untitled "carbon copy" reports on single games, such as those on our own Mensa #11 and #13.

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MENSA LOCAL GROUPS

INTERLOC reports that there are now 126 Local Groups in American Mensa. The six largest Groups, in order, are New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, San Diego and Washington. "Delaware Valley" (Greater Philadelphia) is 7th. It's interesting to note that 3 of the 6 largest Groups are in California. I guess it's no coincidence that so many of our DipSIG members come from California, too.

I have arbitrarily ^{1d}divided the Groups into Large (over 900 members), Medium (300-899), Small (100-299) and Very Small (under 100). Using this scale, there are 12 Large Groups, ranging from 3,000 M's in New York to 909 in Boston. There are 27 Medium Gps., from #13., Minnesota, with 814, to #39., Hawaii, with 302. (Maryland, #25, is right in the middle with 506). The 51 Small Groups range from #40, Dayton (297) down to #90., Arkansas (100). Finally, there are 37 Very Small Groups, from 97 Mensans in Montana down to 10 in Puerto Rico.

As an example of how far Mensa has come, eight years ago any Group with over 500 members was considered large. We in Maryland thought it was terrific when we went over the 200 mark, and we gazed in awe at Washington because they had 500 M's. (They now have over 1500). There were about 12 SIG's in 1973, compared to about 190 today.

THOSE ALL-MENSA GAMES

I haven't received any report on MENSA #9, 1978W, so I presume that the English-French draw must have been accepted in Fall 1912. If so, this would be a two-way draw between Len Johnson (ENGLAND) and H. D. Bassett (FRANCE). Is this correct, Don?

MENSA #10, 1980AC, is now the last remaining All-M game in the waning CLAW & FANG. I think there will be one more regular issue of C & F, after which the few remaining games will be completed by Xerox copies on a shorter deadline basis. This game is still a tie between GERMANY (Van der Handel) and TURKEY (Brown), with 9 Centers each as of Spring 1905.

MENSA #11, 1980II. Garvin Boyle took over a sinking FRANCE in a desperate effort to keep it afloat, but La Republique died at the hands of England & Italy in Fall 1903. ITALY (Myers) gained two Centers to go up to 7. This is a tie with GERMANY (Rick Young) and RUSSIA (Bruce Poppe), who were unable to make any gains this year. Charles Lettber AUSTRIA took Bulgaria away from TURKEY, to stand at 6 Centers, not bad for Austria in '03.

MENSA #12, 1980IC, in SNAFU, has only reached Spring 1903, so about the only thing that is new is that RUSSIA (Letcher) had an A annihilated, leaving him just 4 on the board. GERMANY (Rick Young again!) is still the leader, with 7 Centers.

MENSA #13, 1980KY, has completed its first game-year under Chip Charnley. Bruce Poppe took Joe Marshall's place as ITALY, after Joe missed his Spring '01 moves. (Neutral orders were used). Everyone except AUSTRIA got one or two builds in 1901. Joe Miller NER'd as Austria in Fall '01, and lost Trieste to Italy, so she stands pat. Chip is out of stand-bys, and could use some right away. To sign up, write to Chip at: USMF, Box 7, FPO New York 09571.

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THERE HAS BEEN A SCREW-UP IN THIRD CLASS MAIL RATES. As a result, the new Third Class rates are identical to First Class for the first four ounces! Accordingly, the rate for sending the combined DIPLOMAG and BUSHWACKER has increased from 15¢ to 35¢ to all members of the Diplomacy SIG. At that price, I can no longer afford to send the "free sample" issues of BUSH to the entire SIG. So, this will be the last "free" issue of BUSH you will receive unless you are a SIG Officer or Publisher or GM of an All-M game, or are a Player (or Stand-by) in a BUSHWACKER game. If you'd like to continue to receive BUSH on a regular basis, M's are eligible for a discount on Stand-by Fees for the three games currently in progress therein. Through April 30, 1981, this discount will get you a stand-by slot for \$1.50. Effective May 1, the discount price will be \$2.50. In both cases, this is a \$1.50 discount. This includes a copy of the rules & map for your game, plus receipt of BUSH for the duration of the game. When we open new games, you will also be entitled to a \$1.50 discount on the \$7.00 Game Fee.

BUSHWACKER does not encourage straight subscriptions because of the nuisance of keeping track of expiration dates. However, if you really want to keep on getting BUSH and don't want to be a stand-by, I'll give you a 12-issue sub for \$2.50 through April 30th. Beginning May 1, 1981, the sub rate to BUSH for M's will be \$3.00 for 12 issues. Both figures are a 50¢ discount over the regular rates.

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THE LATEST BATCH OF DIPLOMACY SIG BIOGRAPHIES will be found on Page 5. If you'd like to submit a biog, or update an old one, feel free to do so.

I voted for the Great White Shark for the Diplomacy Hobby Mascot. It seemed to be the only logical choice, considering the nature of this game.

MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG BIOGRAPHIES - LATEST RECEIPTS

Some of these are now several months old, so we'd better print them now. Here is the KEY to the answers: 2. Address. 3. Date of Birth. 4. Marital Status. 5. Occupation (or School). 6. Year Joined Mensa. 7. Are you active in Local Group? 8. Are you an Isolated M? 9. Year began playing Diplomacy. 10. Year began playing Postal Diplomacy. 11. No. of Postal games you're in. 12. How did you learn about Diplomacy? 13. Other games you like to play. 14. Other major interests. 15. Remarks. Some of these are from the new Third Edition of the form, which is a bit shorter than earlier versions.

BRAD ANDERSON. 2. 1158 Harriet Ave., Campbell, Calif. 95008. 3. Oct. 5, 1949. 4. Married. 5. Attorney & technical legal consultant. 6. 1976. 7. Yes. 8. No. 9. 1980. 10. First try. 11. None. 12. Old line wargamer. 13. D & D, Midway, Bismarck, etc. 14. The law-science interface. Home mini-computer parts, sports, looking for work. 15. A proponent of peace through strength (mine!) and unilateral disarmament (yours!). How about a get-together at PACIFICON, San Mateo, Cal., July '81?

MIKE CASUCCI. 2. 4784 Onondaga Rd., Virginia Beach, Va. 23462. 3. Jan. 4, 1949. 4. Married. 5. Physicians' Assistant (CWO-2, U.S. Navy). 6. 1978. 7. No. 8. No. 9. 1980. 10. Not yet! 11. 0. 12. Thru trial and error. Tried lots of games; made lots of mistakes. 13. Starship Troopers, D & D, Risk, W.W. III. 14. Philately, Politics, Economics, music, good food, technology.

LYNN GICOTTE. 2. 26447 Basswood, Rancho Palos Verdes, Cal. 90274. 3. March 2, 1935. 4. Married. 5. Attorney (second career; was a Physicist). 6. 1967. 7. No. 8. No. 9. 1977. 10. None. 11. n/a. 12. Friend. 13. Chess. 14. Model shipbuilding.

J.R. (Doug) DOUGLAS. 2. 25 Cannon Dr., Elk River, Minn. 55330. 3. Oct. 11, 1938. 4. Married. 5. Consulting Engineer (Computer design). 6. 1961, and again in 1979. 7. No. 8. No. 9. One game in 1976 (Lost), 1 game in 1977 (Won). 10. None. 11. 0. 12. Thru Game Club at work. 13. Chess, Tunnels & Trolls. 14. Photography, Science fiction, Skiing.

LANNING MYERS. 2. 6609 Horseshoe Rd., Clinton, Md. 20735. 3. Sept. 27, 1952. 6. 1980. 7. No. 8. No. 9. 1970. 10. 1980. 11. One. 12. My brother bought the game after playing it with friends. 13. Risk, Stratego, Hearts, table tennis, volleyball. 14. Collecting baseball and other sport & non-sport cards, misc. sports memorabilia (I'll buy yours), Libertarian politics, rock music. 15. If all else fails, attack Switzerland.

RICHARD PURDY. 2. 647 Concord Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02138. 3. August 13, 1958. 4. Not married. 5. Computer Science student, Northeastern Univ. 6. 1978. 7. No. 8. No. 9. Haven't yet. 10. n/a. 11. 0. 12. (Learning now). 13. Chess, Monopoly, any card game. 14. Military history, marine structures, pistol shooting.

PETER C. SIMPSON. 2. 812 Skipper Cir., Sacramento, Calif. 95822. 3. Oct. 30, 1951. 4. Single. 5. Social worker (drug abuse counselling). 6. 1980. 7. No. 8. No. 9. 1981. 10. Now. 11. One (?). 12. SIG List in Mensa BULLETIN. 13. Cards, dice, D & D, various board games. 14. Writing, sports.

ROY SMITH. 2. 17 St. Marks Pl., Apt. 1, New York, N.Y. 10003. 3. April 8, 1959. 4. Single, but trying hard. 5. Electrical engineering/computer science student at Cooper Union. 6. 1977. 7. No. 8. No. 9. 1975. 10. 1976 (Published BREN & REEFER in 1978-79). 11. One. 12. A friend. 13. Bridge, Chess, video games, D & D, wargames. 14. Amateur radio (I'm working on my license), Photography, anti-nuke movement, skiing. 15. Registered Democrat, but becoming disillusioned - leaning toward no permanent political affiliation. Busing - No! Gun Control - Yes! ERA - All for it. Abortion - That's a toughie. Undecided. I'm not sure if men should even decide. (This is shortened from a much longer statement - F.C.D.)

MICHAEL D. WHITTY. 2. 12358 Longworth, Houston, Tex. 77024 (May till 8/15/81). 3. June 22, 1962. 4. Looking, but not ready yet. 5. Univ. of Texas at Austin, Major: International Business. 6. 1977. 7. No. 8. No. 9. 1978. 10. 1981. 11. SIG game my first. 12. Picked up a set while shopping for wargames. 13. SPI wargames, Risk, backgammon, poker. 14. Politics, partying. 15. AHA! Another postal novice to sucker in! "Trust me, I'm only moving through Constantinople this Spring. I'll be in the Aegean by Fall."

It's interesting to note that none of our newer members is an Isolated M. I'd expected to pick up people in the boondocks who were desperate for pen pals. But, I guess people in the boonies don't get to hear about Diplomacy! (Subscribe to the ISOLATED M anyway).

SCIENCE FICTION SIG NEWS (A DIPLOMAG BONUS)

MensFan, the Mensa Science Fiction SIG, has a new Coordinator. She is: Kathleen Woodbury, 5315 Chestnut St., South Charleston, W. Va. 25309. You can join that SIG and get the next six issues of ASTERISKS, their bimonthly newsletter, by sending her \$5.00. I can recommend it.

The SF SIG recently took a poll on the membership's favorite SF authors, novels and films. The top authors, in order of preference, were Asimov, Heinlein, Clarke, Bradbury, Tolkien and Niven. The Foundation Trilogy was voted the best SF novel. Lord of the Rings came in second (but is it science fiction?). My own book preferences were: 1. Foundation. 2. Mission of Gravity (Hal Clement). 3. Childhood's End (Clarke), and 4. The Demolished Man (Alfred Bester). (Childhood tied for 4th place in the poll. Mission finished 19th. Demolished Man was way down the list.)

Star Wars was voted the best SF film. Forbidden Planet was voted second, and 2001 third. It's somewhat amazing that Forbidden Planet would be remembered after 25 years, but it was a real SF film. I would have rated 2001 first and Star Wars third. My old favorite, The Day the Earth Stood Still, came in 4th, which is where I'd rate it. Alien was not in the Top Ten, which surprised me. There was no mention at all of Destination Moon, the 1950 movie that began modern SF films. Included in the Top Ten is that hoary old 1931 version of Frankenstein, which to me is pretty awful. Also, the silent movie, Metropolis. I didn't think anybody even knew about that one any more! (I don't think I'd put it in the Top Ten, but everybody ought to see it at least once).

The Black Hole was voted the Worst SF Movie of All Time. I disagree. Of those which I've seen, it had to be Rocketship XM. (But I didn't see Godzilla).

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That about does it for this issue. See you next month.

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