

# DIPLOMAG

VOL. II, No. 5

June 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 make arrangements to set up All-Mensan Postal games in various publications run by M's. We will also notify 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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## GOOD NEWS REGARDING CONTINUATION OF THE SIG

We have received strong support from Ronald Brown, Glenn Overby and Bill Young. Glenn has accepted a nomination to serve as SIG Chairman (Coordinator), providing DIPLOMAG is edited by another person. Ron Brown has agreed to serve as Editor of DIPLOMAG. Bill Young has agreed to serve as Election Commissioner. Bill has nominated Glenn for Chairman, and me to succeed him as a Committeeman. However, since I believe it is important that the Editor be a member of the Executive Committee, I am declining the nomination and, instead, am nominating Ron Brown for the Committeeman's seat.

There has been a discussion as to whether the number of Committeemen should be increased in order to provide more continuity. However, if the By-laws were amended to provide for an additional seat just for me, this would result in an even number of members of the Executive Committee, which is a bad idea for any organization. Also, we do not see a justification to increase Committee membership to five, considering the size of our SIG. So, I feel that I can best serve the SIG by remaining a Gray Eminence in the background, rendering what support I can based on prior experience. I will, of course, turn over the SIG records to the new Chairman and Editor.

Glenn Overby expects to have the 1981 Diplomacy Census back from the printer in time for the opening of MICHIGON on June 12th. His work on that project will be essentially completed by that time, except for continued sale of the Census as long as copies last. (Send \$1.00 to Glenn at 23096 Tawas, Hazel Park, Mich. 48030, for your copy). Glenn has assured me that neither the Census job nor the production of his zine, JIHAD, will interfere with his ability to devote plenty of time to Diplomacy SIG business.

This is not meant to imply that the forthcoming election is a closed book. If anyone else wishes to serve as DIPLOMAG Editor, he should contact Glenn Overby and me about this immediately, and submit his name in nomination to run for the post of Jr. Committeeman. For the foreseeable future it seems most probable that one of the Committeemen will also be the Editor. "It goes with the territory."

(over)

Accordingly, we are going to accelerate the NOMINATIONS for office. We are setting a DEADLINE of July 15, 1981, for any further nominations for Chairman or Committeeman. (The By-Laws require that a person must have been a member of the SIG for at least six months to run for Chairman). Send all nominations to Bill Young (address at top of Page 1). If no further nominations are received, Bill will declare the current nominees elected by acclamation, and the results will be printed in the August DIPLOMAG. If an election is needed, it will be conducted in August, so the outcome will be known to all Officers and candidates by September.

With Bill Young stepping down, Ed Bapple becomes the Senior Committeeman (by virtue of seniority), so the post for which Ron Brown is standing is that of Junior Committeeman. It is not necessary to alter the By-Laws to specify that he will be DIPLOMAG Editor, since Section 4, clause d. of the By-Laws states that a Committeeman will take care of "Any other duties as assigned." Both Glenn and Ron agree to this arrangement.

There will have to be a By-Laws amendment, to establish that the Chairman, and not the Editor, will be responsible for the Treasury. When the By-laws were written it was not foreseen that the posts of Chairman and Editor would ever be split. We're using this opportunity to clarify the authority of the Executive Committee to authorize expenditures for other than newsletters costs under exceptional circumstances. If the necessary six signatures (10% of our current membership of 57) are received in time, we'll include a copy of the proposed amendment to Section 5 of the By-Laws with this issue. In any case, you'll receive a ballot on this during the Election process. If anyone needs a new copy of the present By-Laws, please send me a SASE.

All SIG funds will remain in U.S. dollars. Ron will total his expenses (probably quarterly) in Canadian funds, and then apply the current exchange rate when requesting reimbursement from the Chairman.

#### RON BROWN'S STATEMENT ON PUBLISHING DIPLOMAG

I would be willing to take over publishing DIPLOMAG. If I were to do so, I would shrink it to a 2-4 page newsletter published every two months. The purpose of the newsletter would be to keep SIG members in touch with what is going on in the hobby.

The contents would be:

1. A list of SIG members and addresses (one or two times a year).
2. Biographies of SIG members.
3. SIG news and issues.
4. Reports on progress of SIG games, reporting in more detail on games not carried in a zine, and providing a forum for end-of-game statements for those games.
5. Provide a list of game openings.
6. Report on SIG members' progress in non-SIG games.

It would not: 1. Run games.

2. Get involved in any controversies outside of the SIG.

/s/ Ronald J. Brown, R.R. #1, Brennan's Hill, Low, Quebec, CANADA J0X 2C0  
(New address effective 15 June 1981)

WHAT THOSE FIGHTING M'S ARE DOING

Here's the latest update on the All-Mensa games, now scattered all over the place from Iceland to Quebec to Sacramento. Don Horton's CLAW & FANG has gone to that big Diplomacy game in the sky, but MENSA #10, 1980AC, continues to be reported in Xerox form. TURKEY (Ron Brown) picked up 3 Centers in 1905, and has 12 units as of Winter '05. This includes all of Austria and half of Russia. GERMANY (Van der Handel) was stymied, and remains at 9 Centers, including the other half of Russia. ENGLAND (Hodgdon) picked up Brest to go up to 8, as FRANCE (Vagts) NMR'd. ITALY (Byrne) met disaster, losing 3 Centers to drop to 4. (All lost to Turkey).

MENSA #11, 1980II, is GM'd by Ed Bapple out of Chicago. As of Spring 1904, this is a 3-way tie between GERMANY (Rick Young), ITALY (Lan Myers) and RUSSIA (Bruce Poppe), all of whom control 7 Centers. Russia & TURKEY (Hanson) have just taken Greece and Bulgaria away from AUSTRIA (Letcher)(6), which has had an A annihilated. Germany has taken the North Sea away from ENGLAND (Chiachio)(4).

MENSA #12, 1980IC, runs in Ronald Brown's SNAFU. Ron's igloo is located some 70 miles north of Ottawa (that's an inside joke based on his press releases in "Small World.") GERMANY (Rick Young) still leads, having added the Brest SC to the Reich, to go up to 8 as of Winter 1903. AUSTRIA (Sharon Poppe), ITALY (Phillips) and TURKEY (Wilson) are tied with 6 apiece. RUSSIA (Letcher) lost Warsaw to Austria and Rumania to Turkey, to drop to 3 Centers. (Dan Wilson has nominated Sharon Lewis for Hobby Queen). ENGLAND (Byrne) lost Brest to go down one to 5.

MENSA #13, 1980KY comes out of Iceland via Chip Charnley. As Chip was detailed to the States for two weeks in April, the Winter 1901 builds have only just been published. Everyone but Austria and England has 5 Centers; England has 4. Ralph Baty has replaced Joe Miller as AUSTRIA, which did not make any gains in 1901, due to an NMR.

MENSA #14 kicked off with mostly traditional moves in Spring 1901 in Glenn Overby's JIHAD. Russia and Turkey played the usual "Black Sea Bumper Pool." The game was graced (?) with a tremendous volume of press. This may be the "Press War" game of the Diplomacy SIG. This zine comes to you out of a suburb of Detroit.

Five people signed up for MENSA #15, which will also be run in JIHAD. If just two more of you ex-CLAW & FANG readers will sign up, we can get going.

PLACES ARE STILL OPEN IN "1885", the 9-man variant adding Spain and Sweden and A/F convoys to the usual scenario. Let me hear from you. This is not one of those super-complex variants. Even a novice player would have no trouble playing.

(1980Mjj)

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, we have GUSHER, Mensa Variant #3, running in my BUSHWACKER. This has reached Winter 1902. With a bit of luck, ITALY (Rick Young) owns 10 Sources (+4), but had room to build only two units. AUSTRIA (Baty) is second, with a strength of 8. As there are both Double & Triple Centers, these figures do not necessarily coincide with the number of Centers owned. ENGLAND (Charnley) had the misfortune to lose a Triple Center (Belgium) to GERMANY, dropping to a strength of 4, while Germany (Hanson) rose to 7. FRANCE (Wilson) has 7 Supply Sources, but no room to build his 7th unit. Steve Greenberg took over TURKEY from Joe Marshall, but remains stymied in his corner, as Joe forgot to build any Fleets. It appears that both Wicked Witches are in trouble, while both of the Weak Sisters are doing well. I told you that Gusher would contain some surprises.

P.S. MENSA #9 (1978W) ended in a draw between ENGLAND (Len Johnson) and FRANCE (H.D. Bassett), who had 11 and 10 Centers, respectively. Russia and Turkey survived with 5 Centers apiece, but neither has been a SIG member since 1979, so they will not be named here. The remaining 3 Centers were owned by a Germany in Civil Disorder.

NEW SIG MEMBER IS ALSO A PUBLISHER

(our only new member this month)

Mark A. Warner, 5 Northwest Dr., Somers, Conn. 06071, is publisher of JABBERWOCK, and operator of Jabberwock Enterprises, Inc. This is a profit-making enterprise, not an amateur zine. Accordingly, his game fees are high, but satisfaction on good GM'ing and not being left with an orphan game is virtually guaranteed.

I'm not sure whether Mark is offering any Diplomacy games just now. I have received his flyer which announces openings in two new games. One, CRATER WAR, is a 16-man game based on a mineral-rich asteroid, which you attempt to dominate with various types of units, such as Tanks and Tactical Nuclear Weapons. The second, WAR of the WIZARDS, is a 10-player game, in which the goal is to be proclaimed Exalted High Wizard. The initial Enrollment Cost is \$11.00 for one game. This includes a \$4.00 drop-out Deposit (returned at game's end if you don't drop), the Rules, and two pre-paid turns (plus the zine itself). Thereafter, you must pay \$3.00 for each turn thru turn 10, \$3.50/turn for turns 11-20, and \$4.00/turn thereafter. (Not for the impoverished student). You can order just the Rules for either of these games for \$2.00. A simple sub to JABBERWOCK is \$6.00 for six issues. Checks should be made out to Jabberwock Enterprises, Inc., and sent to P.O. Box 158, Somers, CT. 06071.

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WORLDWIDE MENSA REPORT (A Continuation of our Report from last issue)

A recent report in INTERLOC (April 1981) shows that the four largest National groups in Mensa are:

	Current Members	Population (millions)	Members per Million	(Worldwide Mensa membership totalled about 56,000 as of March 1981)
Australia	783	14.42	54.3	
British Isles	4,900	59.20	82.8	
Canada	1,548	23.68	65.4	
U.S.A.	45,242	226.0	200.2	

Percentagewise, two other National Groups have done a remarkable job. They are:

Channel Is.	98	0.13	753.8!
New Zealand	375	3.15	119.0

Among the larger nations, only Britain and the U.S. have exceeded the minimum expectations of having at least 75 members per Million population. Perhaps some Canadian member can explain to us why Mensa Canada has not followed the USA's lead of the past four years in having an exploding membership. Even allowing for time lag, one would expect Canadian membership to have reached at least 2,000 by now.

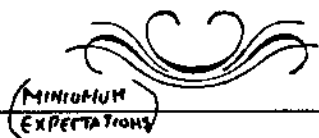
British Mensa lost many members around 1975/76, when their dues were raised. They formerly had two levels of dues, with those M's living within a certain distance of London being charged a double rate because of accessibility to their London club facility. Those living more than about a 40 or 50-mile radius from London paid only half the amount. I'm not sure whether all dues were doubled, or just those of the non-Londoners. In any event, a lot of people, including the Chairman of the British Diplomacy SIG (who lived in Yorkshire), let their memberships lapse. Apparently, British Mensa is only just now recovering from this event.

The Channel Islands (English Channel, that is) are reportedly a retirement haven for upper-class people seeking relief from the U.K.'s taxation policies. Accordingly, it is not surprising that such an enclave would have a large collection of M's, many of whom probably joined while living in England.

Tiny Austria has 450 members, while West Germany has but 52. This is due to the tremendous job of organization done by the Austrians officers, past and present, and the temporary collapse of Mensa Germany for reasons unknown to me. It is my understanding that Mensa Germany is being reorganized as a Formal Group in the very near future, after which Teutonic efficiency should result in a large membership increase. Today, the Austrians have 58 members per million population; the Germans only 0.8.

(over)

**INTERNATIONAL MENSA  
MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP PENETRATION**



**I. FULLY ORGANIZED GROUPS:**

VOTES  
So close  
①  
②  
③  
④  
⑤  
\* ①  
ABT. ⑤

Country	Population In millions	Current Members	Members Per Million	Members Required For 75 Members Per Million	Members Required For 100 Members Per Million
① Australia	14.42	783	54.3	1,082	1,442
① Austria	7.65	450	58.8	574	765
Belgium	9.89	42	4.2	742	989
② British Isles	59.20	4,900	82.8*	4,440	5,920
② Canada	23.68	1,548	65.4	1,776	2,368
Channel Island	0.13	98	753.8*	10	13
Finland	4.76	242	50.8	357	476
④ France	53.80	550	10.2	4,035	5,380
India	650.98	90	0.1	48,824	65,098
Ivory Coast	7.92	10	1.3	594	792
Japan	116.12	242	2.1	8,709	11,612
Netherlands	14.03	330	23.5	1,052	1,403
* ① New Zealand	3.15	* 375	119.0*	236	315
Norway	4.07	100	24.6	306	407
Switzerland	6.55	70	10.7	491	655
⑤ U.S.A.	226.00	<u>45,242</u>	200.2*	16,950	22,600
		55,072			

**II. INFORMAL GROUPS**

Germany (West)	62.30	52	0.8	4,673	6,230
Greece	9.18	20	2.2	689	918
Hong Kong	4.60	30	6.5	345	460
Malaysia	12.60	41	3.3	945	1,260
Singapore	2.31	40	17.3	173	231
South Africa	26.13	200	7.7	1,960	2,613
Sweden	8.27	45	5.4	620	827

HENRY SCHOFIELD NOBLE, TREASURER

2940 Rogers Ave., Ellicott City, MD 21043 \* = EXCEED MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS

**PLANNING TO CHANGE YOUR LOCAL GROUP'S NAME?**

TRON S

Local groups that are thinking of changing the group's name can obtain ideas and avoid pitfalls by reading the AMC guidelines on that subject. Write to our national office for a copy of the "Report by the AMC Subcommittee for Local Group Names," dated March 10, 1979.

--Hans G. Frommer, Second Vice-Chairman

\* 11/80/20 75/100/125/150/200/250/300/350/400/450/500/550/600/650/700/750/800/850/900/950/1000

Another Group which has suffered reverses is Mensa Belgium, which even lost title to the name "Mensa" to a splinter group under a Belgian court decision, and is now operating under the name "Rotunda". The official Belgian group numbers but 42 (4.2 members per million). How many belong to the maverick group is unknown. Official Mensa membership will surely grow in this country shortly.

Mensa France appears to be stagnating with 550 M's (10.2/million), but Finland has soared to 242 (50/million). Among the Informal Groups, South Africa has the largest number of M's, 200 (7.7/million), while Singapore (another enclave of high I.Q.'s) has the largest percentage growth, having 40 members (17.3/million).

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IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE, we've just learned that the Amendments to the International Constitution proposed by the AMC were rejected by the IGC, which has, instead, proposed its own document, which would take away most of the powers and privileges enjoyed by the various National Groups. National Treasurer Henry Noble pointed out in the Minutes of the Feb. 1981 AMC Meeting that American Mensa contributes 85% of the members and 85% of the funds of International Mensa, so we feel that we have a right to make a few suggestions on how Mensa should be run. National Chairman Gabe Werba is recommending a "No" vote on the proposed new Constitution. The AMC will present its version of a new Constitution at the Louisville AG later this month. The AMC version would grant weighted representation to the larger National Groups. At the present time, it's One Group, One Vote. Carried out to its most ridiculous extreme, this gives the Ivory Coast Group, with just 10 members, the same voting weight as American Mensa. Surely, something has to be done to change this. (On the basis of 10 members, Marvin Grosswirth stated that he could form a National Mensa in his N.Y. apartment building!)

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HOBBY NEWS: GEN CON EAST will be held at the Cherry Hill Inn, Cherry Hill, N.J., from Thursday, July 23, thru Sunday, July 26. Preregistration weekend tickets are available @ \$12.00, but must be ordered before July 1st. Weekend tickets at the door will cost \$15.00. There will be a Diplomacy Tournament. Entry fee is \$3.00. The first round will be held at 5:00 p.m. Saturday; the second round at 12:30 p.m. Sunday. To get your Registration form and Con flyer, write to: GenCon East, P.O. Box 139, Middletown, N.J. 07748. Rooms must be reserved on a separate form (in the flyer), which goes direct to the Inn. Room rates are \$34 Single, \$40 Double, \$50 Triple and \$60 Quadruple, per day! You can also reserve half a room for \$20, 1/3 for \$17, or 1/4 for \$15, and take a chance on who your roommate(s) will be. There will also be a non-related Youngstown Variant game hosted by Glenn Taylor at 6:00 p.m. Friday, for Variant buffs, for a \$3.00 fee.







DIPCON, the annual official Postal Diplomacy hobby get-together, will be held in connection with ORIGINS and PACIFICON, in San Mateo, California, from July 3rd thru 5th. San Mateo is just south of the San Francisco International Airport, so it would be just a short taxi or bus ride to the hotel. The winner of the Diplomacy Tournament is considered the National Champion for that year. Another important event is the meeting of the DipCon Society, which selects the meeting place for the 1982 DipCon. Under the provisions of the DipCon Charter (as approved by the entire Postal hobby a few years back), the DipCon site must be rotated among the several regions of North America, so as not to be in any one region more than once every three years. In 1980, DipCon was held in Michigan. It is the understanding of the DipCon Society Executive Comm., of which I am a member, that a bid for 1982 will be forthcoming from the ORIGINS people, who plan to hold ORIGINS in Baltimore in '82. Naturally, I have some selfish interest in seeing their bid approved. I can't offer any bribes, but I hope any of you Californians who attend DipCon will remember that it was through the insistence of myself and Herb Barents that DipCon is being held in your State this year, so any reciprocation will be appreciated. Unfortunately, I won't be able to make it to DipCon this year.

I have not yet received the ORIGINS/PACIFICON flyer, so I can't quote you rates or starting times. I believe you can get a flyer by writing to: Jim Bumpas, 948 Lorraine Ave., Los Altos, Calif. 94022.

ISOLATED M PLUG (Hip, hip, Harper Fowley)

We hope that most of you are subscribing to THE ISOLATED M. Circulation is now over 6,000. If any of you are depriving yourselves of this delightful publication, do not suffer any further deprivation. The Trivia questions, puzzles and feghoots alone are worth the price. The letter columns, however, are the real gems. Some are absolutely hilarious. Some shed interesting light on what it's like to be an expatriate living in some forgotten corner of the world. There is always an international section in the back, complete with addresses of the correspondents. If you don't have enough letters to write, you could pick up a few pen pals. (I have had some interesting and worthwhile correspondence with an M in Bermuda, learning the exact location and name of the hotel where my parents went on their honeymoon, complete with photograph).

We have been saving our copies for the past year, intending to show you a few examples of the Rebus puzzles, but every month we either ran out of time or space and couldn't include them. As we're getting near the end of our term as Editor, we've decided that it's now or never in including them. So, here they are:

<p><b>I.</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">1. IC</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">2.  Damn!</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">3.  a g o</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">4.  way rail road</td> </tr> </table>	1. IC	2.  Damn!	3.  a g o	4.  way rail road	<p><b>II.</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">1. W&amp;L MD</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">2. RIGHT TIME</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">3. haoclee</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">4. </td> </tr> </table>	1. W&L MD	2. RIGHT TIME	3. haoclee	4. 
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(ISOLATED M, various 1980 issues)

Answers next issue. If you can't wait, send me a SASE. While you're writing, send Harper a check for your subscription. The sub rate is \$4.00 per year for Americans, and \$6.00 (U.S.) for M's in Canada and abroad. (12 issues). Send all payments to: ISOLATED M, c/o Rose L. Crutcher, 4111 Sunrise Way, Louisville, Ky. 40220.

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Next issue out about July 25th, if there's going to be an election; or about Aug. 5th if no election is required.

DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS  
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