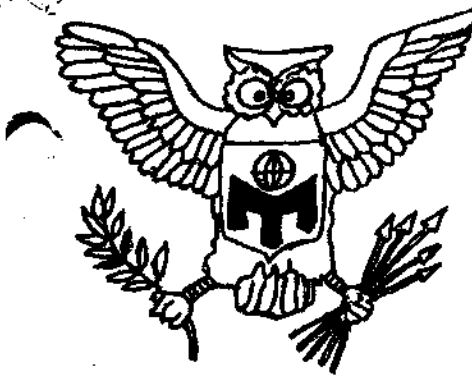


DIPLOMAG

VOL II, No. 7
Oct. 10, 1981



This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG founded in 1973 by Don Horton and Fred Davis. We bring hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in playing the game Diplomacy and its variants by mail. Dues are \$2.00 per year. Send all funds and inquiries to the chairman.

Chairman: Glenn Overby, 23096 Tawas, Hazel Park, Michigan, 48030
Sr Committeeman: Edward Bapple, 4531 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Il. 60630
Jr Committeeman & Publisher: Ronald J Brown, RR#1, Low, Québec, JOX 2C0

SWAN SONG FROM OUTGOING CHAIRMAN by Fred Davis

It was a bit of a close thing. Although the Canadian postal strike ended on August 11th, we could not mail anything to Canada before the 16th. There was a terrific logjam to clear up inside Canada, and it was not until August 26th before the mails began flowing freely. I did not receive Ron Brown's letter of August 28th, advising me that he was caught up and would be able to handle the next DIPLOMAG, until Monday, September 14th! In the meanwhile, I had started compiling some material in case I had to write the October issue....

As I write this, I'm still waiting for the receipt of the semi-annual financial report which goes to the national Mensa Groups Officer. Completion of that form will be the final act of my 7 1/2 years as Chairman (Coordinator) for the Postal Diplomacy SIG. Barring unforeseen circumstances, I plan to bundle up the SIG's books and mail them to Glenn Overby on October 3rd. ((Ed. Note: I understand this has already been done.))

It has certainly been a lot of work, dating back to November 1973, when Don Horton and I sent out our first flyer, hoping against hope that we might get a grand total of 14 M's willing to play Diplomacy by mail. The official birthday of the SIG is March 1, 1974, as that is when the first All-M game, 1974M, began. (Conrad von Metzke, who was then the Boardman No. Custodian, had saved the "M" designation especially for us.)

There has also been a lot of satisfaction. Our membership reached a high of 71. We introduced many Mensans to the fun of Diplomacy, when they might otherwise have never known of the existence of the postal game. A few people in isolated areas found pen pals. Even more important, some of them decided to start zines of their own. We were also able to bring the concept of Mensa membership to several publishers and players who might otherwise have never learned about Mensa. Thus, the SIG has worked both ways. There is no doubt in my mind that fully half of the better players and virtually all of the publishers in the hobby are Mensa-eligible. You have to be crazy to enjoy Postal Dip, but you also have to have a brain. Keep up the good work recruiting both ways.

Thanks again to all of you who contributed to the success of the SIG and the many Mensa zines. A special thanks to Glenn Overby and Ronald Brown, who have been deceived into - uh - who have voluntarily agreed to take over my work. I've had the pleasure of meeting only a few of you in person, but I hope to see more of you at the 1982 DipCon in Baltimore. Whether we've met FTF or only by mail, it's been a pleasure being in contact with you. As I'm staying in the hobby, I hope we have a lot more contacts in the future.

I was going to call this "Goodbye, Fred," but he's not going anywhere. I suppose there may have been a DIP SIG if Fred hadn't started one eight years ago, but it certainly wouldn't have been the same. As I flip through the back issues of DIPLOMAG, I am impressed by Fred's constant friendliness, energy, and good humour and that has been the tone of the SIG since I began my own involvement. I belong to many SIG's and, unfortunately, many are poorly organized, erratic and unpredictable. Fortunately, there are excellent SIG's as well, and the DIP SIG is among the best. Fred made it that way. He's going to be missed, but he's still around, tirelessly answering questions, giving advice, designing variants, publishing BUSHWACKER, organizing next year's DipCon. The entire hobby, not just the SIG, owes a debt of gratitude to Fred Davis.

I don't think you'll find DIPLOMAG much changed. There'll be a few graphics changes, as my wife, Ann, is quite talented in that field. Spelling will look different to Americans, as I am a high school English teacher who has been waging a losing battle against American spelling in the classroom for the past eight years. More important is content. I take it for granted that all of you receive at least one other zine, and so are reasonably informed on hobby news. So, I intend to focus more on news more specific to the SIG. I think Mensan games are the lifeblood of the SIG, so they will get more space, especially those games currently being played outside of zines. I offered the GM's of those games space in future for their endgame statements so winners of SIG games will have a public forum to boast about their triumphs, and losers a place to get out their frustrations.

Personally, I'd like to thank everyone who wrote or phoned to express their confidence in me when I first proposed taking over the editorship of DIPLOMAG. I hope I can live up to your expectations.

For those of you who I haven't yet "met" through the hobby, I am a 35-year-old teacher from Ontario who has lived in Québec since 1967. I've a Bachelor's degree and a years' graduate work in Comparative Religions. I taught a course on the relationship between science and religion at Concordia University in Montréal before going to McGill to get my teacher's training. For eight years I've taught in rural Québec, covering most high school subjects during my career, but only senior English literature during the past few years. I joined Mensa in early 1979 when I joined the SIG and met my wife-to-be through the Canadian M Register. Ann is working as a technical writer in the computer field and we are expecting our first child the end of May.

And now, on to business!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THOSE SIG GAMES

Mensa #10 (1980 AC) GM: Don Horton

	01	02	03	04	05	06	
A	3	2	0				William Smith (Out S 03).
E	5	5	6	7	8	8	Walter Hodgden (Dro S 06); CD.
F	5	5	4	2	1	1	Louis Graham (Dro S 04); Arn Vagts.
G	5	5	7	9	9	8	Cornelius Van Den Handel.
I	4	6	8	7	4	4	Charles Byrne.
R	5	4	2	0			Tim Desmond (Dro W 03); CD (Out W 04).
T	4	6	7	9	12	13	Ron Brown.

Turkey occupies all the Balkans, all Austria, and all Russia except for Warsaw. Next is Germany with Warsaw, the Lowlands, and Scandanavia; however, last report (Fall 06), Van Den Handel NMRed. Italy is in third place with Tunis in addition to its home centres, and France is still active with one centre. England's vast holdings are in civil disorder.

Mensa #11 (1980 II) GM: Ed Bapple

	01	02	03	04	05	
A	5	5	6	4	2	Charles Letcher.
E	3	3	4	3	1	? Koponen (Dro S 01); Vincent Chiachio.
F	3	2	0			John Allensworth (Dro W 02); Garvin Boyle (Out F 03).
G	6	7	7	8	10	Rick Young.
I	4	5	7	7	8	Lanning Myers.
R	7	7	7	7	8	Bruce Poppe.
T	4*	4	3	5	5	Scott Hanson.

Germany is in the lead with the Lowlands, Denmark, Paris, Brest, London, and Sweden. Italy controls Tunis, Marseilles, Eberia, and Triest. Russia, tied with Italy, has Norway, Edinburgh, Rumania, and Budapest. Turkey controls Bulgaria and Greece, followed by Austria which is reduced to two centres, and England holding out in Liverpool.

~~Mensa #12 (1980 IG) GM: Ron Brown zine: SNAFU!~~

As of Spring, 1904, four powers were sharing the lead. Sharon Poppe's Austria, Charles Byrne's England, Rick Young's Germany, and Dan Wilson's Turkey are roughly even. Darryl-Phillips' Italy appears to be in trouble. Both Russia and France have been eliminated.

Mensa #13 (1980 KY) GM: Chip Charnley

Though only 1902 has been reached, every player except Brad Anderson and Walter Compton has been replaced by standbys. Len Johnson has played since Spring 1901, though the position was originally assigned to Mike Mazzer. Walter Compton's Turkey is leading with 6 centres. Dan Wilson (England), Len Johnson (France), Ron Brown (Germany), and Bruce Poppe (Italy) each have 5 centres. Bred Wilson's Russia has 4, although he's lost St. Petersburg and Sevastopol, and Ralph Baty's Austria has three.

Mensa #14 (1981 AQ) GM: Glenn Overby zine: JIHAD!

This game has got to Winter 1901. Michael Whitty's Russia and Mike Casucci's France each have 6 centres. With 5 centres each, we have Errol Platt's Germany and Peter Simpson's Italy. Both Paul Larsen (Turkey) and Pete Gaughan (England) have 4 centres. And Mark Larzelere's Austria has three.

Mensa #15 is just getting underway in Glenn Overby's JIHAD! The Spring 1901 deadline has just passed.

Mensa #16 will be carried in SNAFU! as soon as it fills. Last I heard four people were signed up.

Remember to write to the SIG Chairman when you wish to sign up for a SIG game. Individual GM's cannot set up SIG games. Glenn will assign games to SIG GM's and send them the player list. You then have to meet the conditions of that GM, like paying sub fees and game fees. If interested in GM'ing a SIG game, let Glenn know.

Also, don't overlook sending your change of address to Glenn Overby. He is the one responsible for maintaining the membership lists. I send DIP-LOMAG only to whom he tells me to. It gets pretty complicated keeping track of some of you.

GAME OPENINGS IN SIG MEMBERS' ZINES

BUSHWACKER by Fred Davis, 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207. Game Fee is \$7. Standbys \$4. (The GF includes maps, rules, and sub to end of game.) Deadlines monthly. Latest openings are in "1885," a 9-man game with Spain and Sweden added to the Great Powers. Needs only two more players (as of Sept. 25). "East Indies II" is a game set in, need I say it?, the East Indies. "Woolworth II" is a 10-power game for five players. Each player controls one "public" power and one "secret" one. ("Who IS that who keeps attacking me?") Fred has also mentioned "Atlantica III," "Clue," and "Vacation" lately. I wish a few of you would write Fred asking for "Clue." I'd love to play a postal kid's game! (SIG members subtract \$1.50 from Fred's fees.)

IRKSOME! by Scott Hanson, 701 15th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Subs 10/\$3.50. Has openings in a four week game and a two week game.

JIHAD! by Glenn Overby, 23096 Tawas, Hazel Park, MI 48030. Subs 12/\$9. Has openings in "Bourse" and "Anarchy." The latter is a 34-player game. Each player begins with one supply centre and can build in any centre he owns.

SNAFU! by Ron Brown, RR#1, Low, Québec, JOX 2C0. Subs 12/\$6. Has openings in a regular game with 5 week deadlines, "Conquest of the New World," "Scotice Scripti," (set in ancient Ireland), and "Bourse."

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEXT SUMMER?

Fred Davis is busy preparing for the 1982 DipCon to be held in Baltimore as part of ORIGINS '82. DipCon will be held over the weekend of July 23-25 on the campus of the U. of Maryland. Details, such as the exact hours of the Diplomacy tournament and the cost of dormitory or motel accommodations, will be printed here when they are settled. Meanwhile, Fred is preparing a form letter giving more information and a map of the area, so you can write him if interested in finding out more now. (Be polite and include a SASE (self addressed, stamped envelope) with your request.) We'll keep you updated here as well.

SIG FINANCIAL CRISIS AVERTED?

One thing unaccounted for when I first agreed to take on DIPLOMAG was that Canadian postal rates are due to sky-rocket come January 1st. It will cost 30¢ to mail a one-ounce first-class letter within Canada, and 35¢ to the USA. Seeing as SIG fees work out to 33¢ per issue, it wouldn't take us long to go broke. In addition, I have to pay for photocopying. Doubling SIG fees would almost cover all the costs of my producing and mailing DIPLOMAG from here. However, I spoke with Bruce Poppe who not only has access to free xeroxing, but can mail within the USA thus avoiding Canadian postal rates. He has agreed to print and mail DIPLOMAG beginning with the February issue. I would mail Bruce the master copy and address labels and he would take over from there. It will mean a week's delay, but that is tolerable for a zine with no game reports to get out. If I were to send the copies to our Canadian members, Bruce could use the "self-mailer" format (folded and stapled), as he wouldn't be mailing across a border. So, special thanks to Bruce for being so willing to help out the SIG.

NEW SIG MEMBERS

- Steve Geislinger, 4345 Lamar St., Wheatridge, Colo. 80033
 - Loring A. Windblad, P.O. Drawer F, Bisbee, Arizona 85635
 - Robert Young, 49-16 Annandale Ln., Little Neck, NY 11362
 - Allen K. Wells, 1450 Worcester Rd., Apt. 8106, Farmingham, Mass. 01701
- (Publisher of DOT HAPPY)