



DIPLOMAG

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

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SORRY WE'RE A BIT LATE, BUT...

I had been stalling putting this issue together, as I was waiting for a few items to arrive. However, I have the day off work thanks to the weather, so I decided to take advantage of that as I can't count on another day soon. Since Christmas, I have had 4 1/2 days off due to cold or snow. So now you know how I find the time for all my hobby activities.

I have good news to report about one of our members. Dan Wilson just telephoned to say he'd been released on parole. I'm sure those of you who have gotten to know Dan through the hobby will share with me in wishing Dan our best in getting reestablished. Players and pubbers will want Dan's new address, so it's: PO Box 18826, San Antonio, TX 78218. I don't think he'd mind a few phone calls. 512: 657-3837. Dan sent me copies of M N PEN, the Friends of M SIG Newsletter which he edited, from time to time. I, for one, was surprised to discover how many Ms there are in the prison system. Another SIG member, "Windy" Windblad, has just begun a term in Arizona for a marijuana offense. From what I have heard of the case, he probably would have got an unconditional discharge, or perhaps a fine, if he had committed the same offense in Canada, so I can hardly regard him as a "criminal." I don't know who will be editing M N PEN after Dan's release, but will let you know when I find out so you can give these guys some support. (I was going to plug it this issue, but news of Dan's release overshadowed that.)

Let's see: St. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and the first day of spring will arrive before the next issue. So, best wishes for those days. See? Winter never lasts forever!

MEMBERSHIP

At this date I do not know who has renewed his membership, so this issue will be mailed to the same people as last issue. If you have not renewed, send \$2.00 to Glenn ASAP, as this will be your last issue if you don't.

SIG GAME STANDINGS

Mensa #10 (1980 AC) GM: Don Horton

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	
AUS	3	2	0						William Smith (Dro S 03), CD (Out F 03).
ENG	5	5	6	7	8	8	8	7	Walt Hodgdon (Dro S 06), CD.
FRA	5	5	4	2	1	1	2	3	Louis Braham (Dro S 04), Arn Vagts.
GER	5	5	7	9	9	9	6	1	Cork Van Der Handel (Dro F 06), CD.
ITA	4	6	8	7	4	4	4	5	Charles Byrne
RUS	5	4	2	0					Tim Desmond (Dro S 04), CD (Out F 04).
TUR	4	6	7	9	12	12	14	18	Ron Brown (Wins F 08).

This game marks the end of an era in the SIG, as it was Don Horton's last game as a GM. Everyone in the SIG owes Don a vote of thanks, not only for his fine zine, CLAW & FANG, but for his important role in founding the SIG and helping it grow and develop for several years.

It's also important to me, as it's my first outright win in a postal game. I began my involvement in the hobby by playing in CLAW & FANG and feel honoured to have finished off the zine this way. Everyone involved in the game is invited to send end-of-game statements. Here's mine:

As you can see by the stats, I never had any serious opposition all game. I began with an all-out attack on a poorly defended Russia while Italy (Charles Byrne) did in Austria very efficiently. Charles then withdrew from Austria to attack England and France while I pretended to mobilize against Germany. Actually, Germany (Van Der Handel) knew of my little scheme and promised to invade Italy. He didn't, but I stole Austria from Italy anyway in a few moves. Throughout 1905 it was apparent a world-wide coalition was being formed against me, so I got into a defensive pose — waiting for the onslaught. However, England (Walt Hodgdon) NMRed out before he could get an army convoyed into northern Russia, and then Germany (Van Der Handel) followed suit. All that was left then was to pick up enough undefended centres for the win. It was quite an eerie feeling to have Turkish armies attacking Germany through Scandinavia. Thanks to Charles, Arn, and Don. 1905-06 was really fun.

Mensa #11 (1980 II) GM: Ed Bapple

No change since last issue, as only one deadline has passed and I haven't seen its results yet.

Mensa #12 (1980 IC) GM: Ron Brown. zine: SNAFU!

As of Winter, 1906, Sharon Poppe's Austria lost Warsaw to Germany, leaving her with 5 centres. Both Charles Byrne's England and Rick Young's Germany are even at 8 and 9 respectively. Darryl Phillips' Italy is even at 3 and Dan Wilson's Turkey gained Munich to give him 9 centres.

Mensa #13 (1980 KY) GM: Chip Charnley

As of Winter, 1903, Ralph Baty's Austria gained Greece to make it 4. Dan Wilson's England gained Moscow, but lost St. Petersburg to stay even at 5. Len Johnson's France gained Belgium from Ron Brown's Germany to give them 6 and 4 respectively. Bruce Poppe's Italy lost Rumania and gained Serbia to stay at 5. Brad Anderson's Russia is up one after gaining St. Petersburg and Sevastopol, but losing Moscow, to give him 5. Walter Compton's Turkey is down one to 5, losing Sevastopol and Serbia while gaining Rumania.

Chip has a new address: 723 Alser Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23462 and expects to run the game on regular deadlines from now on. (Players are currently voting on how long the deadlines should be.) He needs stand-bys for this game--at no charge.

Mensa #14 (1981 AQ) and Mensa #15 (1981 HR) GM: Glenn Overby. JIHAD!

I cannot report on these games, as all copies of JIHAD! mailed to Canada in November were lost by the post office. Glenn's next issue was delayed for a month when his furnace broke down and he had to move out for a few weeks. I spoke with Glenn in late January and he assured me that everyone should have received JIHAD! before you receive this.

Mensa #16 GM: Ron Brown zine: SNAFU!

The following are the starting positions for this game: AUS: Walter Compton; ENG: Steve Geislinger; FRA: Robert Young; GER: "Windy" Windblad; ITA: Keith Sesler; RUS: Dave Lincoln; TUR: Paula Marie Dodge.
The Spring, 1901 deadline is 20 February.

Mensa #17

Allen Wells has offered to GM this game and run it by flyer insert in his zine DOT HAPPY. However, if you wish to play in a SIG game, please apply to the chairman, Glenn Overby, NOT to the potential GM, though you may wish to take out a sub before the game starts. Allen's address is: 550 Memorial Drive, #2E3, Cambridge, MA 02139. Subs \$0.50/issue. GF: \$5.00, with \$5.00 refundable NMR fee (NOT \$500. as I reported last issue).

M-Variant #4???

Write Glenn Overby with your ideas for an all-M variant game. I suggested MACHIAVELLI, though I'm not sure there'd be enough interested to fill a game.

M-WINNERS' GAME?

Bill Young mentioned in a letter to me last fall that he had won one of the first SIG games. Unfortunately, I mis-placed that letter and my records go back to only Mensa #4. But, the idea of forming a game for winners of SIG games has been kicked around. Who would GM it and who would be involved is not yet settled, but I compiled a list of the SIG winners from the records I have. Some are no longer members of the SIG and may not be involved in postal Diplomacy now, but either or both of Mensa #11 and #12 may be over by next fall. We could also include winners of M-Variant games, though I don't know who they are. Also, 1981 W, which I am GMing has only SIG members in it, though it is not an official SIG game, and I am sure there are, or have been, similar games. So, it might be possible to find seven such winners by next fall.

Anyhow, here's the list of SIG winners. (All were GMed by Don Horton):

- #3 ^{Bill Young, Austria, Fall, '07.} 1975 CD. Eva Lydick, Germany, Fall, 08.
- #5, 1975 HG. Arnold Vagts, France, 1915.
- #6, 1976 BN. Rollie Straton, Russia, Fall, 08.
- #7, 1977 CY. 3-way draw, Fall, 1916: Linc Beaumont (Aus., 17), H. D. Bassett (Ita., 13), Paul Funkenbusch (Fra., 4).
- #8, 1978 AZ. H. D. Bassett, Fall, 09 (concession with 12 centres).
- #9, 1978 W. 2-way draw, Fall, 1912: Len Johnson (Eng.), H. D. Bassett (Fra.)
- #10, 1980 AC. Ron Brown, Turkey, Fall, 08.

Plus, Bill Young won one of the earlier games with Austria. Frank Kenesson won M-Variant #2 (Swiss Dip II).

SIG MEMBERS ZINES

(Scott Hanson) has scored something of a coup in IRKSOME which began as a subzine of Michalski's BRUTUS BULLETIN. Now Michalski is writing a subzine in IRKSOME! So, those of you who miss the writings of the exacerbating John Michalski can tune in by writing Scott at 701 - 15th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Subs: 10/\$4.50.

Congrats to Fred Davis for reaching his tenth year of publishing BUSHWACKER. Fred runs only variant games, many either invented by, or revised by, him. He has no game openings now, but could use standbys for Woolworth II (a 10-power, 5-player game) and 1885 (a 9-man game). His address is: 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207. For \$4.00 standbys get a sub for the length of the game. (SIG members get \$1.50 deduction.)

RAMBLINGS TO FILL THE REST OF THE SPACE

The bottom third of this page is for Bruce Poppe to stick address labels on for copies going to US members. Thanks Bruce. We're saving 15¢ per copy by having Bruce look after the American mailings, not to mention the cost of photocopying. (How I envy people with free photocopying! Well, maybe Santa will give me a word processor some year? I don't ask for much, do I?)

For next month I have a bio of Fred Davis. I didn't run it this month as I was waiting for a photo to arrive. Don't know if it'll work, so don't hold your collective breaths. It would be nice to get short bios of other members as well. (That's a broad hint!) I haven't the list of new members yet, so will run that next issue, probably with a complete list of members who have renewed. (Another hint!)

Other than items from Fred and Glenn, I have gotten virtually no feedback from our members on what they'd like to see in this newsletter. Thanks to Bruce, we could go to 5 2/3 pages if necessary. So space is available!

For example, Fred sent the latest stats for America: Mensa. Total: 43,528. 32.50% are between 30 and 39 years of age. 19.34% are between 40 and 49. Two are over 90. 17.17% have an MA or equivalent. 16.59% are college grads. 34.67% are in their first marriage. 30.60% have never married. 2.73% don't want to tell. 65.73% are male and 33.43% are female. 0.84% aren't sure. No comment!

By the way, I have just been acclaimed to the post of co-ordinator of the Canadian Diplomacy Organization. That just means I have to write a few more letters every month. If I ever quit teaching and get a real job I'm going to be in trouble.

And did you know there are exactly 43,000,000,000,000,000,000 possible moves on Rubik's Cube--and that your esteemed editor has already solved it a few times? Guess that's what it means to be an M! Ciao!

IF UNDELIVERABLE, RETURN TO:

Glenn Overby,
23096 Tawas
Hazel Park, MI 48030

Fred C. Davis, Jr
1427 Clairidge Rd
Baltimore, Md 21207
U. S. A.

FIRST CLASS MAIL