

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: Edward Bapple, 4531 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60630
Sr Committeeman & Editor: Ronald J. Brown, RR#1, Low, Québec JOX 2C0
Jr Committeeman: Chip Charnley, 723 Alser Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23462

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Whole Number 47

SIG CHANGES CHAIRMEN

On Friday, April 30, in a conference telephone call to Ed Bapple, Fred Davis, and myself, Glenn Overby resigned as Chairman of the Postal Diplomacy SIG.

I am sure we all appreciate that Glenn looked after SIG business since he assumed the Chair last October, despite many problems and pressures on him. His resignation was for personal reasons.

Ed Bapple will assume the Chairmanship and fill out the remainder of Glenn's term. We all wish him the best of luck in taking on what can be at times a demanding and trying task.

That moves me up to the Senior Committeeman position. To fill the vacant Junior post, Ed and myself, with Fred Davis as former Chairman, have appointed Chip Charnley. Chip has been active in the SIG for some time (before my time, at least) and has been GMing Mensa #13 for the past year and a half. We all wish him the best of luck and thank him for agreeing to take this post.

I regret the confusion caused by the last issue of DIPLOMAG. I had been told that JIHAD! had folded and it was necessary to rehouse the two SIG games—and so I reported that. However, after the copies to Canadian and overseas members had been mailed, I discovered that JIHAD! had an extension. A correction went into the copies sent to US members. JIHAD! was received here shortly after that, reduced in size, with some games rehoused by Glenn himself. However, the two SIG games were adjudicated by Glenn and so it was not necessary to turn them over to Ed Bapple.

I hope that JIHAD!'s problems are all in the past, as the hobby needs first class zines. My heading last month read "HOBBY CRISIS"—as indeed it would be if JIHAD! were to disappear.

Every major change causes turmoil, so we hope members will bear with us. For example, -if you get a letter requesting that you consider renewing your membership, and you already have, just let Ed know. Or, please ensure that Ed and I have your correct address. A few members' names do not appear on the latest list of Mensa members. If you renewed your Mensa membership recently, please send a photocopy of your membership card to Ed. You can remain a member of the SIG for only six months after your Mensa membership lapses. Above all, patience please! It'll all get straightened out.

Thanks, in advance, for your co-operation!

AND THOSE M'S FIGHT ON...Mensa #11 (1980 II) GM: Ed Bapple

Spring, 1908: "Rick Young's Germany failed to obtain victory by concession; however, with 16 centers, he is only two centers away from a rule book victory. The only cloud on his horizon is Lanny Myer's Italy. Italy, with 11 centers, holds the southern half of Europe, as Germany has the north, except he is sharing it with Russia and Turkey. Scott Hanson's Turkey, with four centers, is barricaded in his corner of the map. Bruce Poppe's Russia is down to three centers: Sev., Rum., and Vie. Russia's anemia, due to incessant stabbings, may be terminal. A vote for a German-Italian tie is now under way."

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

Winter, 1907: Only Winter builds and removals have occurred since last issue. The proposed E-G-A-T draw was defeated and there are now two draw proposals: E-G-T and E-A-T. The map is split by two alliance structures. Charles Byrne's England, with 9, has armies in northern Russia and fleets sealing the Straits of Gibraltar and Rick Young's Germany is holding central Europe (with 8 centres). The other side is similarly arrayed. Dan Wilson's Turkey, at 8, has armies in Russia and fleets in the Western Med region. Sharon Poppe's Austria, at 6, is holding the centre aided by Darryl Phillips' 3-army Italy.

Mensa #13 (1980 KY) GM: Chip Charnley

Spring, 1904: England has a new leader, as Dean Hess replaced Dan Wilson. With five units, two of them are isolated: an army trapped in Russia, and a fleet surrounded in the Gulf of Lyon. Brad Anderson's NMR cost Russia two centres: Munich in the west, and Sevastopol in the south. Ralph Baty's Austria got support from Bruce Poppe's Italy to attack Bulgaria, but Walter Compton's Turkey held them off. Len Johnson's France lost Brest to England and Ron Brown's Germany regained Munich. Standbys are still needed. Write Chip at 723 Alser, Virginia Beach, VA 23462. No game fee.

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

After a long delay, this game restarted with Mark Larzelere resigning the Austrian position, which was put into Civil Disorder. I understand that the Winter, 1903 and Spring, 1904 adjudication is under appeal to the Ombudsman, Randolph Smyth, over a player-GM dispute. So perhaps further comment would be inappropriate now.

Mensa #15 (1981 HR) GM: Glenn Overby: JIHAD!

Spring, 1902: saw Austria (Larry McCloud) capture Bulgaria, annihilating a Turkish army while having his army in Galicia annihilated by Ron Brown's Russia. England (Mark Warner) took Holland, while France (J. R. Douglas) ordered a fleet to the English Channel. Meanwhile Dan Wilson's Germany moved into Silesia, driving back an army belonging to H. D. Bassett's Italy, who also appears to be moving against Lynn Cicotte's Turkey. So the opening game is general mayhem and confusion in all sectors.

Mensa #16 (1982 I) GM: Ron Brown: SNAFU!

Winter, 1901: No real update from last issue, as only the Winter builds have occurred—and there weren't many of them. Interesting that the two central powers (Germany and Italy) were the only ones to get two builds. There is a Bourse attached to this game (where spectators speculate on the outcome by buying and selling currencies of the great powers) and the present value of the currencies (from high to low) is: Germany, France and Italy (tied), Austria, Russia, England, and Turkey. One would expect the corner powers to have stronger backing and the central powers less. Though early, this one has the markings of an interesting game.

Mensa #17 GM: Allen Wells: DOT HAPPY

I think there are now five people signed up for this, the next regular SIG game. Would players please confirm their intention by sending a note to the Chairman? Please remember, apply to the Chairman if you want to get into a SIG game—not to the potential GM or to me. If you want to see DOT HAPPY before signing up for #17, send 50¢ to Allen at 1450 Worcester Rd., Apt. 8109, Framingham, MA 01701. Subs are 50¢ an issue. He has no other game openings at present, but you may want to see the zine that won #2 spot in last year's Leader poll.

Mensa Variant #3 ("Gusher," 1980 Mij) GM: Fred Davis: BUSHWACKER

Winter, 1906: Scott Hanson's Germany was knocked out. Leading the pack is Ralph Baty's Austria at 16, followed by Rick Young's Italy at 12. We then have Chip Charnley's England and Ed Bapple's Russia tied at 9 each. Taking up the rear is Dan Wilson's France which fell from 8 to 3 in one year. There is a proposed two-way draw involving Austria and Italy.

OTHER GAME OPENINGS

Ed Bapple would like to set up a game to be run via flyer, as he now does with M#11. If interested in a regular game, let Ed know. He will charge a flat \$5.00 to help cover postage.

If interested in trying your hand at playing a game in French, I have several openings for such a game in SNAFU! The game reports won't look any different as abbreviations are the same in both languages. Headings, notes, and press will be in French though. Seeing as I'm illiterate in French it will be run by a GGM. Write me if interested.

Is there going to be a M winners' game? Most of the winners of SIG games are no longer with us, but there could be enough from the games listed above to set up a game. Send me a note if interested in either playing or GMing it.

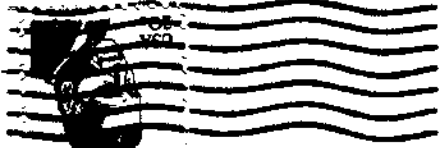
SIG STANDBY POOL?

As some of our games are run via flyer, GMs sometimes find it difficult to find standbys on short notice. Even those of us with zines may not always have SIG members available to take standby positions in SIG games. So the idea of establishing a pool of players willing to standby for any SIG games came up. I imagine the way it would run

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RETURN TO:
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Ralph Bunche

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is that I'd list the available standbys, with addresses, each issue of DIPLOMAG. GMs could then call upon them for SIG games. It might be best to list standbys in order and their names would be scratched off as they are used, rotating to the bottom of the list if not needed or they are willing to standby for another game. There could be a problem of someone being called for two or three games this way, but I'd assume that as the most active SIG members are either GMing or playing in games, they would not be eligible for some games. If you are interested in being part of a SIG standby pool, or have ideas on how it could operate, drop me a line.

BALTIMORE BASH

It's not too late to sign up for DipCon 82 to be held July 24-25. I'm going to be there along with many other SIG members. It's a great chance to get to know the faces behind the letters and zines, as well as eat, drink, and be Mary. (Why would anyone want to do that?) You can even play Diplomacy and win prizes. Write ORIGINS 82, PO Box 15405, Baltimore, MD 21220 for a registration form and information.

MORE RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

The following renewed SIG membership after last issue was prepared. A special thanks to Fred Davis for looking after them.

- ADD → Frank Keneson, 5127 Cerrillos Dr., Woodland Hills, CA 91364
- Leonard Johnson, 4933 E. Sixth Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99504
- Steve Ralston, 222 St. Paul St., Apt. 1905, Baltimore, MD 21202

In addition, the following did not appear in Canadian copies last month, though I was able to get them into U.S. copies.

- Wm Brad Anderson, 1158 Harriet Ave., Campbell, CA 95008
- Robert Stimmel, 2500 "Q" St. #10, Sacramento, CA 95816
- Cornelius Van Den Handel, 1500 Royal Crest, #123, Austin, TX 78741
- Greg Reges, 16 W 761 White Pines Rd., Bensenville, Ill. 60106

NEW TOTAL: (46) + 6 = 52

ANOTHER NEW ADDITION

Christopher William Fothergill-Brown was born May 2, weighing 7 lb., 9 oz. He's a bright alert little fellow with a marked preference for the poetry of Lewis Carroll. Mother, child, and father are fine.