



DIPLOMAG

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG, founded in 1973. We bring hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in playing postal Diplomacy and its variants. Diplomacy is a board game invented by Allen Calhmer, produced in the USA by Avalon Hill. Mensa is an international organization for those scoring in the top 2% on standard IQ tests. Mensa holds no opinions and everything in this newsletter is the responsibility of its editor. Membership dues are \$3.00 per year, due each January 1st. Please send all dues and enquiries to the Chairman.

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SIG GAMES REHOUSED

Regretably, it became necessary for Ed Bapple to take over GMing the two SIG games which had been carried in JIHAD! This is the first time this has occurred in the SIG, as we have always had a reputation for well-run games. The executive committee is determined that this shall remain to be the case. Good luck to Ed, who is now calling his game reports MIGRAINE (appropriate), thus giving them the status of a mini-zine. Ed is very anxious to pick up some standbys so that play can resume smoothly in Mensa #14 and #15. There is no fee. Please write Ed at his address above.

PRINTING, DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS

In order to get around the high costs of printing and mailing from Canada, Bruce Poppe has been printing and mailing DIPLOMAG, using the photocopier where he worked. This helped avert a major financial crisis, and we are indebted to Bruce for his generosity and time. Unfortunately, Bruce is now unemployed and can no longer help bail us out. (If anyone knows of a position for a chemical engineer with seven years' experience, let Bruce know.)

Fred Davis, bless his heart, agreed to print and distribute this issue. However, this is clearly a one-time only offer. If anyone out there has access to a photocopier with two-side printing capacity and a very cheap rate (like free), please let me know. You'd have to print four pages, about 40 copies, staple them, and stick on the address labels which I'll send you, then bill Ed for postage or any other costs. It took Bruce an evening to do this, once every two months. The best rate I can get now is 5¢ per page, provided I print at least 90. That, coupled with 35¢ per stamp, is too much for the SIG to handle. Please help. Next issue is due out the beginning of October.

NEW RATES

You may have noticed that SIG dues are now \$3.00 per year. This is because of the rise in postage rates over the past few years and our uncertain projected printing costs. It's still cheap.

UPDATES

The idea for a SIG standby pool has met with absolutely no response whatever. I've already taken standby positions in every current SIG game that I'm not GMing, so I guess I can't qualify either. Oh well, it was an idea. Ditto for the idea of a SIG winners' game. We have one player and one offer of a GM. I guess it's an idea ahead of its time.

RICK YOUNG WINS MENSA #11

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
A:	5	5	6	4	2	2	0		
E:	3	3	4	3	1	1	0		
F:	3	2	0						
G:	6	7	7	8	10	11	15	16	20
I:	4	5	7	7	8	8	9	11	8
R:	7	7	7	7	8	7	6	3	2
T:	4	4	3	5	5	5	4	4	4

1980 II

XEROX sheet (MURKING)

GM: Ed Bapple

A: Charles Letcher (Out F'07); E: Robert Koponen (Dro F'01), Vincent Chiachia (Dro S'07), CD; F: John Allensworth (Dro F'02), Garvin Boyle (Out F'03); G: Richard Young (WON); I: Lanning Myers; R: Bruce Poppe; T: Scott Hanson.

VICTORY STATEMENT by Rick Young

I feel fortunate to have won this game. Nevertheless I am savoring the experience since it is my understanding that a rule book victory is a fairly rare thing in postal Diplomacy.

During the early part of the game I was able to make progress against France and England largely because they did not put up a good defense. This put me in a good position to make the move against Russia which ultimately won the game. The following are notes to some of the other players.

To Charles Letcher (Austria): I consider you to have been my best ally even though we did not have an active alliance. Our initial non-aggression pact worked well for both of us and your tenacious hold-out in Budapest and Vienna was very beneficial to me. I believe your refusal to give in prevented an early resolution of differences between Italy, Russia, and Turkey which could have worked against Germany.

To Bruce Poppe (Russia): I intended to honor our alliance until I received what I felt was a very demanding letter from you. At that time you were very much over-extended. I guess the moral is: don't make a lot of demands when you're in a vulnerable position!

To Scott Hanson (Turkey): I frankly don't understand your mode of play. I'm nevertheless thankful for your help at the end of the game. By the way, I am the author of "Ode to Irkmahd."

To Lanning Myers (Italy): I think that you did very well in this game until your NMR in Spring, 1909. I hope you didn't end the game with an NMR in the Fall as well. I consider my success in getting you to leave the MAO as my most important diplomatic accomplishment of the game. Why were you unable to get Russia and/or Turkey to join you against me? They both wrote me before the Spring, 1909 move offering their help against you and each other.

To GM and DIPLOMAG: Winning is somewhat anti-climactic.

DIPLOMAG to Rick: I know, but getting there's a lot of fun. Congratulations Rick. Some excellent players in this game.

PLUG

Konrad Baumeister, Henle Hall, Box 6050, Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20057, has openings in a game in GIVE ME A WEAPON. 10 issues for \$4.50; game fee: \$4.00.

SIG GAMES UPDATE

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

Fall, 1908: The A-I-T alliance structure was shaken this season, when Italy (Darryl Phillips) and Austria (Sharon Poppe) swapped Trieste for Rome. Austria also grabbed Rumania from Dan Wilson's Turkey. Germany (Rick Young) took Marseilles from England (Charles Byrne) to lead the pack with 9 centres. Various draw combinations are still being proposed and defeated.

Mensa #13 (1980 KY) GM: Chip Charnley, xerox

Winter, 1904: Dean Hess (England) grabbed the lead by taking Brest and Marseilles, giving him 7. Ralph Baty's Austria also gained one, Rumania from Turkey, to give him 5. Bruce Poppe's Italy remained even at 5, and Walter Compton's Turkey took Sevastopol to stay even at 5. Brad Anderson's Russia is down to 4, as is Len Johnson's France. Ron Brown's Germany remained at 4 after Russia re-took Munich in the fall.

Mensa #14 (1981 AQ) GM: Ed Bapple, MIGRAINE

The NADF Ombudsman, Randolph Smyth, ordered the replay of Spring, 1903 when one of the players complained that he was given an NMR despite his repeated efforts to get a copy of the game report from Glenn Overby, when a number of copies of JIHAD! were not delivered by the post office last November. There have been two resignations and Ed has not yet heard from Mike Casucci. Standbys are needed if this game is to continue.

Mensa #15 (1981 HR) GM: Ed Bapple, MIGRAINE

Winter, 1902: All the original players are back after a long delay. Leading is Ron Brown's Russia with 8, adding Denmark and Norway to Sweden and Rumania. Next, at 7, is J. R. Douglas' France, having taken London, Belgium, and Portugal to add to Spain. Austria (Larry McCloud) got Bulgaria away from Turkey, but could lose Vienna if H. D. Bassett's Italy chooses to retreat there. Mark Warner's England, Dan Wilson's Germany, and Lynn Cicotte's Turkey are all at three.

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

Winter, 1902: Dave Lincoln's Russia is leading with 7, having added Budapest, Rumania, and Sweden to his home centres. Next is Paula Marie Dodge's Turkey, at 6, with Serbia and Greece to add to Bulgaria. Also with 6 is Keith Sesler's Italy which added Vienna to Tunis and Trieste. Mike Mazzer's England, Robert Young's France, and Windy Windblad's Germany all have five. Walter Compton's Austria was wiped out. The "bettors" on this game now give the lead to England, followed by Italy, Germany, Russia, Turkey, and France, in that order.

Mensa #17

There is some confusion surrounding this game, as our former leader, Glenn Overby, still has not forwarded the SIG records to Ed Bapple. So we have no way of knowing who signed up for this game when Glenn was chairman, nor are the agreements with the potential GM clear. If you applied to Ed, okay, we know who you are, but if you applied to Glenn, and did not confirm with Ed, right now you are not in the line up for this game. I hope to have the GM situation cleared up by next issue.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

IF UNDELIVERABLE, RETURN TO:
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Mensa Variant #3 ("Gusher," 1980 Mjj) GM: Fred Davis, BUSHWACKER

Spring, 1907: Ralph Baty's Austria, at 16, is pressing an attack against Ed Bapple's Russia (at 9), while Rick Young's Italy (at 12) appears to be trying to move north through France and Germany. England (Chip Charnley), with 9, tried some impossible orders to help Russia into the Lowlands. And Darryl Phillips' France is hanging in there with three. In this variant the number of units a supply centre can support varies randomly from 0 to 3, so fortunes can change very quickly.

Mensa Variant #4?

Time to start thinking about the next all-M variant game. Let Ed know if you have any ideas. In the current issue of SNAFU! are the rules of a new variant, called BLOWUP. Played on a regular map, every winter players get to mine or disarm any space on the map in secret. If you don't get SNAFU! I can send you the rules for a SASE.

DIPCON '82

I had a great time in Baltimore in July, getting the meet many SIG members. Both Bill Young and Fred Davis provided accomodations, for which I am grateful, and Steve Hutton kept me company during the drive. Konrad Baumeister won the tournament, and your humble editor placed in the top 25 out of 154 starters. Scott Hanson won a "Best Germany" award. Dan Wilson presented the tournament winner with a beautiful leather Diplomacy map which he had made in prison. Hope to see more of you next year in Detroit.

MEMBERSHIP

We now have 57 members, a remarkable rise since April. The new members and many changes of address are too numerous to list here, but I will try to squeeze in a complete list next issue. Sorry about all the address mix-ups lately, but hope we now have them all straight. I'd like to thank everyone for their show of support for Ed Bapple and express public appreciation both to him, and to Fred Davis, for the tremendous amount of work they've put in to sorting out SIG business over the past few months. And thanks to everyone out there for your patience.