



DIPLOMAG

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This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG, bringing hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in playing Postal Diplomacy, the board game produced in the USA by Avalon Hill. Membership dues are \$4.00 per year for members living in the USA and \$5.00 per year for those living elsewhere. Please send all dues and inquiries to the Chairman.

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Sr Committeeman: Ron Brown, 1200 Summerville, Ottawa, Ont. K1Z 8G4
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SIG ELECTION NEWS

The nominating period for office in our SIG has passed. With no contested elections, Fred Davis (elections head) has declared the following persons elected by acclamation:

Chairman: Bruce Poppe
Senior Committeeman: Chip Charnley
Junior Committeeman: Keith Sesler

SIG NEWSLETTER IN NEED OF WRITING CONTRIBUTIONS

Editor -- n. 1. one who edits; one who corrects, compiles, etc.
2. one who selects the contents of a publication.

The Crisis of the Month this month is literary. While I do intend to contribute my own written material from time to time, as an editor, I need written contributions. My supply of material is dangerously low.

Why is this? There are several reasons. While many SIG newsletters contain a wealth of letters and/or articles from the membership on SIG topics, this SIG has had plenty of energy contributed by previous Chairmen and Editors and has prospered without that large volume of member input.

However, the time has come to tap that resource that our SIG has. I'm looking for letters on occasion. I am looking for articles (could be a half a page, maybe). Ron Brown has given a great series of articles on strategy, but maybe you've got other strategy ideas to share.

(continued on p.2)

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If all else fails, immortality can always be assured by spectacular error.
-- John Kenneth Galbraith

DIPLOMAG CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED (cont. from p.1)

I'm also by this article soliciting articles (yes, and letters) relating to the ultimate Diplomacy board, the real world. I know that there is a wide variety of viewpoints of real-world diplomacy held by SIG members, because I've talked to you and have seen what some of you have written. Write your thoughts down and mail them in. (Please note my new address.)

SIG GAME NEWS

Mensa #13 (1980 KY) GM: Chip Charley

Alliances finally "seem" to be firming up with Italy as odd man out. (That's your editor, BP, who's the one out in the cold.) Ron Brown's Germany has formed an apparent pact with Ralph Baty's Austria-Hungary, who has gained one unit to end the Fall of 1907 with nine units. (Germany has seven.) Other totals are Hess's England at seven, Poppe's Italy with four, and Compton's Turkey with five. France is in civil disorder with two units.

Mensa #14 (1981 AQ) GM: Keith Sessler zine: Manifest Destiny

"Russia stabs Italy! Reports of English ruler's death, greatly exaggerated." Reges's England has four, Strand's France has ten, Platt's Germany is down to one, Rick Young's Italy is up to seven, Baty's Russia has nine, and Hager's Turkey is down to four.

Mensa #15 (1981 HR) GM: Ed Bapple zine: Migraine

Last issue I predicted that France (Douglas) and Russia (Brown) might have a race to the finish. Well, instead, they settled for a draw in the very next season, Spring of 1905. Statistical summary:

	'01	'02	'03	'04
A	5	6	3	2
E	4	3	3	0
F	4	7	8	10 Draw
G	4	3	3	4
I	4	4	4	3
R	6	8	9	11 Draw
J	4	3	4	4

GM: Overby through '01, Bapple (Migraine) thereafter

A: McCloud drop F '03, Ralph Baty

E: Warner drop S '03, Scott Hanson out S '04

F: J.R. Douglas (draw)

G: Wilson drop F '03, Keith Sessler

I: H.D. Bassett

R: Ron Brown (draw)

J: Cicotte drop F '04, Richard Benjamin

The offer to print endgame statements in DIPLOMAG still stands.

MORE SIG GAME NEWS

Mensa #16 (1982 I) GM: Ronald James Brown zine: Snafu!

"Germany goes for endrun... crowd homeland.
Lady Podag visits... learning Russian."

Austria (Dodgson), Russia (Lincoln) seem to be successfully... (Mazzer), France (Robert Young), and Germany (W...). What happens after that is anybody's guess. Of course the E, F, and G players would just like to squeak by to try some negotiating....

If you can't figure out which currencies are strong in the attached Bourse (variant), then you haven't read the above paragraph. The latest speculation, in print at least, is whether or not the Italians and Turks will end up shooting it out or not.

Also in the Bourse, a new company has been formed -- la Banque de l'Ordre du Temple, owned by Claude Gautron. I don't understand why he has 500 units each of the E, F, and G currencies, but maybe he knows something I don't.

Mensa #17 (1983 V) GM: Steve Hutton zine: No Fixed Address

Winter, 1901 completed: "French and German shipyards work overtime, English go on strike!" Austria (Ehli) is up to four, England did not send a build order and so will play one short. France (Windblad) did just fine in spite of my previous negative comment and got two builds, along with Germany (Brown), and Turkey (Sesler). Platt's Italy moved up a notch to four and Russia, with Al Hoffman taking over the reins of power, remains at four.

Mensa #18 (1983 AV) GM: Scott Hanson zine: Irsome

This thing seems to be opening up in a conventional fashion, a fact which is likely to give Frauke and Scott Hanson a bad case of nervous indigestion within a game year or two, considering their particular (peculiar?) approach to life and Diplomacy. Oh, but it makes for interesting reading though. The only thing I want to know is when are their players going to engage in Diplomacy?

France and Germany are going at it; Russia and Turkey are aiming at each other; and Austria and Italy are going to put on a show too, maybe. And nobody has even submitted any press! Can somebody write a good article on press releases so we show these folks how it's done?

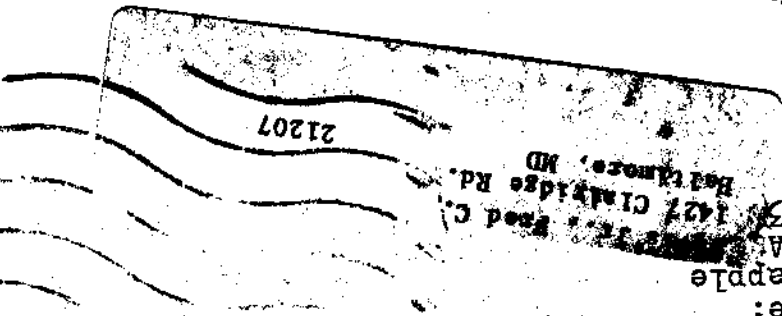
COMING UP NEXT TIME:

Sea Powers, by
Ronald James Brown

SIG Game News

A look at Manifest Destiny,
a zine put out by
Keith Sesler

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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RULE IX, SECTION 7

Dislodgement of a piece participating in a stand-off

"It follows from the above rules (IX. The Support Order) that, where two equally well supported units are ordered to the same space, neither may move, even though one of them has been dislodged by a supported attack on the same move. However, if two units are ordered to the same space, and one of them is dislodged by a unit coming from that space, the other unit may move." (The rule book goes on to give two examples of the application of this rule.)

The time -- a weekend in early March, 1983
The place -- Ottawa, Ontario, at the home of Ronald James Brown
The situation

Italy and Austria-Hungary were using a "Key-Lepanto" opening--- rather than plain old Lepanto with convoy of an Italian army to Syria, the Key-Lepanto is interesting and unusual in that Italy proceeds to march an army right through Austria! So it was that Italy and Turkey were joined in a land battle for Constantinople. Italy (with Austrian aid) managed to dislodge Turkey, and Turkey questioned whether Italy's forces from the rear of the front could advance into Bulgaria, from which he taken Constantinople.

The Turk, having been dislodged from Constantinople, said that since the two units in question (Con and Ser, I think) had equally-well supported orders into Bulgaria, Bulgaria should be a stand-off. The first part of the rule would have kept Bulgaria vacant, but upon referring to the rule book, it was learned that the second sentence modifies this in a manner that seems very sensible (at least to me) and quite specific. The dislodged unit does not keep the other out of the space if it is dislodged by an order coming from that space.

Why Austria-Hungary agreed to let an Italian army march right through was the subject of an earlier article by Ron Brown on the Key-Lepanto opening, and is also a part of the larger subject one could call "friendly persuasion."

The rule book concludes this section with a final sentence after it two examples. "It may be said that a dislodged unit has no effect on the space its attacker came from."

August 7 1983
To All Members of the MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG:

I have been appointed Election Commissioner for our 1983 Election. Neither Chariman Ed Sapple nor Sr. Committeeman Ron Brown is running for re-election. Bruce Poppe of Exton, Pa. (our Editor) has been nominated for Chairman, and Keith Sealer, POB 158, Fraser, MI, has been nominated to serve on the ExComm. Any other nominations should be sent to Me no later than Sept. 1, 1983. You may nominate yourself. If there are no other nominees, I will declare Bruce and Keith elected by acclamation. If a vote is needed, I'll mail you a ballot early in September, and the election deadline will be about Oct. 1st. Our new officers will take over on Nov. 1, 1983.

Sincerely, Fred G. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd.
~~1427 Clairidge Rd. Fraser, MI 48831~~

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