



DIPLOMAG

VOL III, No. 7
Feb.-Mar. 1984
Rec'd Mar 27

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG, bringing hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in postal Diplomacy, the board game produced in the USA by Avalon Hill. For SIG game openings, make inquiries to the Chairman. Membership dues for 1984 will be \$3.00 (US) for all members. If joining in mid-year, please pro-rate dues payments.

Chairman: Bruce Poppe, 1204 Heartwood Court, Arnold, MD 21012
Sr Committeeman: Chip Charnley, 4065 Concordia Way, VA Beach, VA 23456
Jr Committeeman: Keith Sesler, P.O. Box 158, Fraser, MI 48026
Printing/Distribution: Roy Smith, 64 Addicks Road, Westwood, NJ 07675

SIG STAND-BY POOL IN THE NEWS AGAIN

The information regarding the SIG Stand-by Pool is that it has gone to the place where those savings bonds I had a few years ago took off to. And where my map of Washington, DC, including the Metro rail system is. I can't find anything on it. Assuming Ed Bapple sent the stuff to me, it has found its way into the great foggy bottom--no, no, not the State Department, I just mean it's lost. So the thing to do when you send in your dues checks (You are going to renew your SIG membership aren't you???) is to sign up for the SIG Stand-by Pool. Please? Thank you.

THE LATEST INFO ON MENSA #19, THE NEXT SIG GAME

As of now, there are four players signed up for the next SIG game, which will be a regular game of Diplomacy. There seems for the moment to be a lack of interest in the idea of having a Mensa variant, so we'll go ahead with regular Diplomacy. The GM for this one is scheduled to be Keith "Manifest Destiny" Sesler. Of course this game will also need a stand-by before it gets starts, but in the future, I would like to get to the point where we can just use the SIG Stand-by Pool to serve that function.

Go to Page 2!!!

Continuation of SIG Game News from Page 4:

Mensa #18 Continued:

Anyhow, aside from Kevin Brown (France), the dominant force seems to be Keith Sesler (Russia). They have 5 and 9 units respectively.

Michael Keller (Italy) and Mark Keller (Turkey) seem to be just holding on, about 3 units each. Dodge and Reges (Austria w/ 5 and Germany w/ 4 units) each managed a strategic NMR. Bringing up the rear is Tighe (England) with two units, still hanging in there.

What is the plural of Mongoose?

SIG GAME NEWS

Mensa #13 revisited

This appears to be a month for apologies. Not only did I lose Ralph Baty's change of address, but this also meant that his end-game statement had the same problem. Sorry about that. Do the rest of you know what it's like to forward mail from Germany to southern California? Berlin, no less. Better late than never; here it is:

Austria--Ralph Baty--Mensa #13

My entry into this game in Spring '02 was filled with negative emotion. I had been asked to supply default orders for all powers in Spring '01. I had done so, I believe they were in fact used for Italy for the Spring '01 move. In Spring '02 Italy was sitting in Trieste and Tyrolia, Turkey was unfriendly and Austrian hopes were dismal. Russia made a concerted diplomatic effort at conciliation with Italy and I went along because I had no choice. With Italian help, we were to remove the Turkish threat. This was moving along steadily, I was given my home supply centers back and Turkey was being pushed backwards. Russia then went into a series of NMR's and Italy withdrew to help France with an overextended English fleet in the Western Med. Austria was left holding the bag. The Balkans had to be cleaned up quickly, so I did. Turkey had implied non-aggression and perhaps co-operation, apparently playing both sides of all the fences in his neighborhood. My intention in taking out the Italian forces in the Balkans were basically honorable, I had really intended to give them back as soon as he came back to help against Turkey. But when the dust cleared, I realized I held more supply centers than anyone else and Italy had stopped writing, I decided to keep my newfound gains, and look for more than just survival.

Initially Germany was guaranteed neutral because of Italian, Russian, and French designs for Germany. As the German's Munich problem cleared up, Austria's only choices were to support the German draw proposals which included Austria or get English co-operation in a division of German strength. I do not recall receiving any letter from any of the English players in Mensa 13. The only option left was the draw, though I believe Turkey's vote was never received and would have probably been negative.

Editor's note: I was the Italian sucker. Again, my apologies for the delay.

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

STANDOFF IN TYROLIA! BRITS LAND IN ST.PETE NO SC'S CHANGE HANDS!

In the Fall of '09, Reges has sent another army onto Russian territory. In the Spring, he had one annihilated in St. Pete, but he's stepped right back into it with a convoy that France did the bulk of the work for.

Strand's France survived an NMR to come out apparently unscathed. He still has 11 units. (England has 6.)

Russia is probably fuming...his order of "A Pru, A Mos S F St.p-Lvn" was declared an "illegal format." Guess this is one of those cases where the GM would have to use his own judgement, but I would not

SIG GAME NEWS CONTINUES

Mensa #14 continued. Keith does go on to comment that it wouldn't have made any difference in this case. He also says (which I emphatically agree with) "Players will find that writing out your orders is the best way to make sure the GM can understand them." I think that a whole page could be written on that subject. (Hint, hint: anybody out there want to write that article for your poor editor? Doesn't even have to be typed!)

Russia still stands at seven, with Hager (Turkey) still at 6, and Rick Young's (Italy) holding pattern still holding at 4.

Incredible though it seems, in the last couple of seasons, these guys seem to have set a new record of lack of press releases. Hey Keith, what do we have to do, offer them sub discounts?

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

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS EMBRACES ALL EUROPE IN ITS DESPERATE HOURS. FRANCE, ITALY, TURKEY HAVE A VERY LARGE BEAR BY THE TAIL.

DIPLOMACY HOBBY OVERCOME WITH GRIEF AT THE ANNOUNCED FOLD OF ONE OF ITS MOST HIGHLY RATED ZINES.

Dave Lincoln's Russia appears to be on a roll with 16 units on the board and a whole pile of places to pick up a couple more.

The rest of the board lines up as follows:

Robert Young's France--5
Germany (civil disorder)--1
Bob Olsen's Italy--2
Paula Dodge's Turkey--8

End game statements will not be accepted until the game is officially declared over. As Casey Stengel once said, no I take that back, it was Yogi Berra, I think, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

Worst of all is the announced fold of Snafu! We should have known it was coming, since Ron took a "real" job and started running short of time to devote to publishing. True to form, he has handled it with the class that has made Snafu! one of the top-rated in the postal Dip hobby. I knew without even having to read it that all of his games will be completed. He commented on the demands of his family also--his wife is pregnant with their second. So with reluctant understanding, we wish him well, also our best to Ann, who of course is the one who's carrying around the baggage.

Now, mind you, his announced closing down of S! is not scheduled until issue number 50. (The latest one received was #40) Ann is starting up her travel series again...hey, maybe I can get her to continue as a sub-zine to Diplomag. Ann?

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NEW YORK, NY
MAR 26 1984
PM



Arnold, MD 21012
1204 Heartwood Court
Bruce Poppe

If undeliverable, return to

DIPLOMAG, page 4

SIG GAME NEWS CONTINUED AGAIN

Mensa #17 (1983 V) GM: Steve Hutton

EVEN THE KAISER'S ELOQUENT PRESS DOESN'T KEEP PEOPLE FROM NMRING!
SIG CHAIRMAN STOPS COMPLAINING (AT LEAST ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE
TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

No action since last report (honest!), only retreats and builds/re-
movals. Head count is as follows:

- A--Ehli--3
- E--Husk--5
- F--?--4
- G--Ron Brown--7
- I--?--4
- R--Lincoln--3
- T--Sesler--7

Oh, know I get it, the question marks in the thing are for no-order-
received positions, with stand-bys called for. Guess I better
report that the owner of record in these two cases are Platt and
Ellis--not in that order. One of these days I'll get the hang of
this reporting. If anybody out there wants to get in on stand-by
positions, it looks like Steve could use some help. If things
keep going like they are in this game, who know's but what a stand-by
could make a good showing. (Write him at 269 State St., Waterloo,
Ontario, N2L 3N7, Canada.) ((I would like to direct some nasty
comments to the Canadian civil servant who dreamed up their postal
codes--easy for a computer, but awful for us regular typists, with
all the shifting up and down.))

Almost forgot, Steve's zine is called "No Fixed Address"--use the
address I've shown, as it's official as of about a week ago, but
it promises to be good for another couple of months. About par
for the course for them thar college hippies, I guess.

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

Sorry about that! Ron Brown is not playing in Mensa #18, at least
not yet. KEVIN Brown is the player who's handling the French position
so well. This game is fighting NMR's also. See elsewhere in this
issue on the SIG Stand-by List. Continued in that same elsewhere.