



DIPLOMAG

VOL III, No.10
Sep-Oct, 1984

Read Oct. 7

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the Postal Diplomacy SIG of American Mensa, bringing hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in postal Diplomacy. The SIG arranges postal Diplomacy games for its members; for SIG game openings, make inquiries to the Chairman. Membership dues are \$3.00 per year. Diplomacy is a copyrighted board game produced in the USA by Avalon Hill Game Co., Baltimore, MD. Any opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of American Mensa, Limited.

Chairman: Bruce Poppe, 1204 Heartwood Court, Arnold, MD 21012
Sr Committeeman: Chip Charnley, 4065 Concordia Way, VA Beach, VA 23456
Jr Committeeman: Fred C. Davis, Jr, 1427 Clairidge Rd, Baltimore, MD 21207

TIME MARCHES ON...

Snafu has been seen for the last time as Ron Brown has put out what he has announced to be his last issue. There are five games remaining under his care, although none of them are games belonging to the SIG. Look for Ron to become even tougher in the games where he is a player as his free time becomes greater. I'm sure his family will take up a chunk of that free time, but expect him to be a tough customer when it comes to Diplomacy.

Irksome is no more, but Scott Hanson has re-incarnated it as "Big Hits of Mid-America" and has even started a new game. It's become somewhat of a warehouse, mostly games, that is, but that doesn't upset me. If you want to read about rock music, then you'll have to go to Konrad Baumeister's "Give Me a Weapon" for it now. Unfortunately, Scott has informed me of his decision to drop Mensa membership, saying it was his only M activity. His game will continue to be reviewed here and have SIG sponsorship for as long as it goes on. Don't they have local meetings up there in Minnesota?

UPDATE OF SIG STAND-BY LIST

The following is a listing of those persons whom I have listed for the SIG Stand-by Pool. Anyone wanting to add his/her name to the list should drop me a line. Anyone wishing to get taken off the list should do the same and then will receive a blindfold and one last cigarette, before...

Michelle Brandt
Craig Reges
Kevin Brown
Jim Cook
Bruce Poppe

Dave Lincoln
Lincoln Beaumont
Steve Piper
Sharon Poppe

GM's needing Stand-by orders are requested to work with the Chairman. The best way to approach this thing is to have a SIG member lined up from the pool for when the need arises. I've got their addresses, just drop me a line.

SIG GAME NEWS

Mensa #14 (1981 AQ) GM: Steve Hutton zine: No Fixed Address

Well, it looks like I get to retype this section. I haven't figured out how Steve Hutton manages to get No Fixed Address to arrive at my mailbox consistently between when I start an issue and when I take it to the printer for reproduction.

The news on this game is turning sour again. At least 10 units were left stranded when their owners didn't get their orders in. What's a mother to do? I mean, I know that Steve has a slightly warped sense of humor, but I can hardly imagine that a good Dip player would abandon a position just to avoid Steve's taste in humor.

Now the box scores on this one: Reges' England 8 (up 1), Lincoln's France 10 (down 1), Dodge?/Acheson?'s Italy 3 (unchanged), Baty?/Touchette?'s Russia 7 (unchanged), Hager's Turkey 6 (unchanged), Dow Jones Industrials 1232.67 (up 4.52). Won't somebody hurry up and put this game out of its misery?

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

This game had a draw proposal put in for vote for the last season, which failed by a vote of 3 to 3, with one NMR. While personally, I would have counted that NMR as a yes (consistent with hobby practice of counting non-voters as yes votes on all votes after the first one), the GM was probably within his rights in holding this out of the record-books for a little while longer. This time, they get to vote on a concession to Ron Brown's Germany (with 8), while Milewshki has jumped into the stand-by situation and now has Turkey at 8. The rest of the crew still has two-four each, still.

Mensa #18 (1983 AV) GM: Scott Hanson zine: Big Hits of Mid-America

Irksome has been reincarnated as Big Hits of Mid-America. Instead of folding, he is continuing his games in this "flyer" (sic), and in fact has just started up a new one with more to come. Last issue I predicted this game was turning into a horserace between France and Russia. Right again, Bruce! Kevin Brown's France now has 12 (up 1), and Ron Brown's Russia is still at 11. Three others lost one each (England was eliminated) and the spoiler trying to nail me is Mark Keller's Turkey, who picked Bulgaria and Greece to get to 5 units.

Mensa #19 (1984 CJ) GM: Konrad Baumeister zine: Give Me a Weapon

This game has progressed to Winter, '01, with the biggest gainer being Bob Addison's Germany who grabbed Denmark, Holland, and Belgium. Three players picked up two, including Dave Lincoln's France, Bill Brandt's Italy (who got Budapest), and H. D. Bassett's Turkey. Baty's Austria and Piper's England each managed one build. Givins' Russia was pushed back from Rumania, depriving him of a build.

Here are my thoughts on the way this one is starting out: Addison has scored an early hit on Lincoln's France. Since Dave is one the best tactical players I know, Bob's Germany has two alternatives as I see it. The first is to make a quick peace, bargaining for the right to hold on to both Hol and Bel. The other one is to come out swinging, with the intention of keeping him on the ropes...however neither England nor Italy is well situated to help out on either side. (CONT.)

MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG BIOGRAPHY

New and used members can send this form to the chairman:
 Bruce Poppe, 1204 Heartwood Court, Arnclد, MD 21012 (USA)
 Please indicate if it (wholly or partially) is not intended for
 publication in Diplomag.

Biographical data:

1. Name: Michelle Brandt
2. Telephone: (314) 645-6734
3. Address: 7167 Lyndon Apt F, St. Louis
4. Date of Birth: 10/11/63
5. Marital Status: married
6. Occupation (or school if a student): student at Washington University
7. Year joined Mensa: 1984
8. Are you active in your local group? yes
9. Are you an Isolated M.? no
10. Year you began playing Diplomacy: ~~1982~~ 1983
11. Year you began playing Postal Diplomacy: 1984
12. How many games are you currently in? 0
13. How did you learn about Diplomacy? friends
14. Other games you like to play: D+D, chess, pette, backgammon, Kensington, scrabble.
15. Other major interests: outdoor sports, animals, books (sci-fi especially)

Remarks, comments, and all that stuff:

have one 3 month old son

Would you be interested in attending a meeting of the Postal Diplomacy SIG in connection with a Mensa Annual Gathering or Regional Gathering or in connection with a Diplomacy tournament?

Yes No Maybe Other _____

Are you planning to attend an upcoming Annual Gathering?

'84 (Washington, DC) no

'85 (Milwaukee, WI) 2

'86 (location=?) 2

Others? (such as Canadian AG's, Regional Gatherings, &c.)

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More space for comments

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SIG GAME NEWS CONT.

(Mensa #19) Russia (Givins) has his hands full. Turkey is on the attack in the South, and England has occupied Norway. It was unfortunate not to be able to get into Sweden for that build in the first season, but that's what happened to me in one of my earlier games, too, so all is not lost.

Austria will have problems with Italy, who moved into Budapest, but the two of them would best be advised to untangle themselves from each other and go after their real enemies. I have always been of the school of thought that says since these two countries have relatively exposed positions, they should fight against their mutual enemies. In this case, it may take a move or two to discover who those mutual enemies may be, but I'll bet they come calling on this pair eventually. (Actually, these two may be lucky that the rest of the world is ignoring them for the time being.)

England (Piper) and Turkey (Bassett) have good solid openings and look to be strong in the next couple of seasons, barring unforeseen mistakes.

Piper and Brandt should advise me if there is any problem in correcting their addresses to the new ones shown in CMAW.

Mensa #20

Still no change in this one's status. About 5 people signed up for it, and as of this time, no GM yet selected/appointed. Yours truly may take it, but it would be reluctantly, as I have lots else to do at the moment as well as a bad taste in my mouth about the SIG Chairman appointing himself to run a SIG game after bad experiences a couple of years ago.

MARYCON REVISITED

Last month I wrote of my experiences at the MaryCon Diplomacy tournament, including the fact that my board had not yet been replaced by the organizers. I am happy to report that I have received the replacement board in the mail as of this time.

HURRAY! DOONESBURY'S BACK!!