



# DIPLOMAG

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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

## SIG OFFICERS DETERMINED

With a shortage of nominations for the upcoming contest for SIG offices, things have become a little easier to administer. Because there is only one candidate for each of the two offices coming up for election, I will hereby declare them elected by acclamation, unless someone steps forward to contest the Junior Committeeman post, as I will describe shortly.

The new Chairman of the SIG will be Fred Davis. Some of the members who have been with us for a while will recognize his name as having been SIG Chairman previously. As Fred will now have some spare time available, I'm 110% confident that the SIG will grow and prosper under his energetic leadership. Since he is unopposed for the position of SIG Chairman, I declare him elected. His term starts on November 1st.

In the last issue, I said that I would serve as the elections committee. Since that time, Fred has convinced me that it would be of some benefit to him in running the group if I would serve as Junior Committeeman. Since there is a technical difficulty in serving as the election committee as well as being a candidate, I am calling for anyone who objects to my serving as Junior Committeeman to please indicate that objection at this time, either to myself or to Fred Davis. Speak now or forever hold your peace (or at least for two more years).

## MENSA #21 GAME FILLS

Thank goodness that the Mensa #21 game did not suffer the same fate as #20. That game went through a dry spell before it filled that went for a lot longer than I want to remember. Now after only a period of a few months, it has filled, and will be starting up shortly. The waiting list for #22 has been opened up. More on this game on p.2

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"Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps." (David Lloyd George)

SIG GAME NEWS

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

No news here. Steve is vacationing in Europe at this point in time, with Bruce McIntyre (out in British Columbia) filling in. Unfortunately, he hasn't filled me in on what's been happening. Guess we'll have to get caught up in a couple of months.

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

Ouch! Another zine caught in the summer doldrums! I don't have any information on this game either. This is getting to be a pain to type this again. What do I have to do, run these games myself? (That's a joke, son. See elsewhere in this issue, regarding my starting up Mensa #21 myself.)

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

Now we've got a game report coming through on this one. The biggest item here is that the game is finally down to 5 players, with the elimination of Steve Piper's England. (Sorry about that, Steve!) But it is appreciated when a player hangs in there and plays out his position--thank you.

Ralph Bat's Austria is stalled at 4 units. Germany annihilated one in Bohemia, but Ralph will be able to rebuild in Vienna, which is where that unit was going anyway.

Brandt's Italy lost a supply center and will have to pick out one unit to disband. Which won't necessarily be an easy choice, considering the four units are A Ser, and Fleets in Adr, Ion, & Gre.

H.D. Bassett's Turkey held steady at 7 units. He seems to be going at it against Italy in the area around the Aegean Sea, while holding steady across the northern frontier.

Now as for Dave Lincoln's France (9 units) and Bob Addison's Germany (11 units)--both of whom picked up a supply center--well, I'm not sure who's going to do what to whom. Germany is fighting it out with Austria on their border, but doesn't seem hostile to France or even to Turkey, at least yet. France, on the other hand, is moving a lot of firepower down into the Mediterranean Sea, and is apparently hostile to the Austrian-Turkish group. Maybe this game is going to be a 3 against 2 crunch (F-G-I vs A-T). What happens after that? Maybe a France-Germany draw, or maybe either F-I vs G or G-I vs F.

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MENSA #21 GAME TO START

Very recently, the #21 game sign-up list filled. Yours truly will operate the game as GM, starting out by flier. If all goes well, I may expand it at a later time. This is made possible by Fred Davis's reassurances that he will take over the SIG as of November 1st as scheduled. (Leaving me with only one more issue of Diplomag to do.) So after the September-October issue, I'll be free to concentrate on operating the game.

\*\*Players in this game: Find the insert enclosed.

SIG GAME NEWS (CONT.)

Mensa #20 GM: Bob Addison

After 1902, the clear leader is Kirk Larsen's Russia with 9 units. In a highly successful year, he captured Vienna, Budapest, and Norway. With an apparent Turkish ally and no other strong powers emerging, he may be the player to watch for quite some time.

In second place is "Big Al" Autovino's Germany with the same 6 centers he had last year. France survived potshots from England and Italy to hold 5 units. James Cook's England, still reeling from an early NMR' has yet to make a capture. This western group has been rather congested this year, with few units moving. Maybe the addition of a new French player (Craig Reges) will liven things up a bit.

Sean Morgan's Turkey captured Greece, giving him 5 units. Andy Cruickshank's Austria is being battered from all sides, but managed to pick up Venice. Both Austria and Scott Shacter's Italy are down to 3 units.

## MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG BIOGRAPHY

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

## Biographical data:

1. Name: Sigourney Street 2. Telephone: (617) 524-3110  
 3. Address: P. O. Box 1506 GMF  
Boston, MA 02205-1506  
 4. Date of Birth: March 14, 1952 5. Marital Status: Single  
 6. Occupation (or school if student): Computer Programmer/Analyst  
 7. Year joined Mensa: 1983  
 8. Are you active in your local group: No  
 9. Are you an Isolated M? No  
 10. Year you began playing Diplomacy: 1984 (?)  
 11. Year you began playing Postal Diplomacy: 1984 (?)  
 12. How many games are you currently in? Zero  
 13. How did you learn about Diplomacy? I found it stashed away in a closet.

14. Other games you like to play: Chess, Backgammon  
 15. Other major interests: Reading, music, economics, architecture, etc.

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HEADING NORTH, or my trip to the Canadian AG, continued

As you may recall, at this time last issue, I was setting up camp in upper New York state, when along came a strange collection of folks in a van. With about 8 or 10 identical tents.

Deciding that this was worth some investigation, I proceeded to strike up some conversation. These folks turned out to be foreign nationals, from a variety of places, who had paid their money to go on organized camping trips covering the greater portion of the continental United States. Called Trek America, these people hailed from places like England, Australia, Germany, Israel, and South Africa. With the exception of the Aussies, they had started out from New York city a couple of weeks before, traveling the southern route to Atlanta, New Orleans, and Houston.

In Los Angeles, they had picked up the Australians, and then headed back via the northern route, including Chicago and Niagara Falls. This was to be their last night, with tomorrow the end of the trip in New York city again.

For anyone who is interested, there is an equivalent group for Europe called Trek Europa. I believe I was told there is an office for Trek Europa in New York city.

And then it was Thursday morning. Instant oatmeal and washing dishes, then fold up the tent and head out. Rather than head back to the Interstate highway right away, I decided on the spur of the moment to travel straight north between two of the finger lakes, then pick up the NY Thruway back to I-81. It was beautiful scenery, with great overlooks over Lake Cayuga. After I hit I-81 at about noon, I turned north toward Ontario, then stopped to eat a couple of sandwiches for lunch at a rest area.

Still fighting a strong headwind that had been around all day the previous day, I stopped for diesel fuel (I drive a VW) after another twenty minutes. Returning to the exit, I discovered that I couldn't get back on the expressway.

Why not?.....Watch this space next month.