



DIPLOMAG

MAILED
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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.

Volume IV, No. 1

/January-February, 1986/

Whole No. 67

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Senior Committeeman: Chip Charnley, 615 Woodlawn, Clearwater, Fla. 33516
Junior Committeeman: Bruce Poppe, 1204 Heartwood Court, Arnold, Md. 21012

HERE WE GO AGAIN

After a little more than four years, I am once again your chairman. As the DIPLOMAG had been running late, my first decision was to title the next issue "January-February" and extend everyone's membership for an additional two months. If your dues were to run out in February 1986, for example, they now expire in April. I have entered your new Expiration date on your mailing label, if it expires in 1986. I also decided to start a new Volume of our newsletter, coinciding with my new term.

It took me a while to go through the SIG's records and bring my information up-to-date. I then sent out Membership Renewal notices to several people whose dues had lapsed in the past year. I then decided it was time to issue a new Membership List to everyone in the SIG, so you could check to see if any of your fellow members live near you, or at least to know who's on board. This List was printed in advance, when I had the opportunity to do so at no cost to the SIG, so it is not entirely accurate. A few people were dropped as of Dec. 31st for non-renewal of their membership. I'll try to remember to list any new members on an inside page just before I go to press. Anyway, your copy of the Membership List is enclosed, if you're a member.

I have not yet decided on the printing format for DIPLOMAG. The first two pages will be done by photocopy/offset, of course, so we can continue to use the masthead with Ellie's Owl on it. I have recently rehabilitated my Roneo mimeograph machine, to use for printing the game reports in my BUSHWACKER zine. Since there are no time deadlines for DIPLOMAG, I may mimeograph the remaining pages at home to save money, doing so at my leisure when the opportunity arises. This would enable me to occasionally put out a 5 or 6-page issue, if we had a lot of news.

Speaking of BUSHWACKER, my personal Dipzine, I recently published the 171st consecutive issue, and it will mark its 13th birthday in March. BUSH features Variant games, some of which are of my own design, and others are taken from the best of other non-complex designs. I'll send a sample copy to any SIG member who sends me a 22¢ stamp or 25¢ in coin. I can always use starting and standby players in BUSH. Mensa DipSIG members receive a \$1.00 discount on subs and Game Fees.

(more)

In November, I took over the operation of the North American Variant Bank. Since it arrived almost simultaneously with the DipSIG records, I had to put it on the back burner until I could get the SIG functioning properly. In December, I finally had time to inspect the NAVB files. I will be preparing a new Catalog of the games which are available for sale from the Bank. However, this will take some time, as it will be a big job. First, I have to go through every file folder to see what's on hand, and upgrade the folders so they're instantly readable. Some were titled in pencil or were otherwise virtually illegible. When I'm finished, I should be able to put my finger on any game in stock within seconds. In the meanwhile, I still have some copies of the old 1983 NAVB Catalog on hand. This contains about 90% of what's now in file. You may have one for \$1.00 while they last. Just send \$1 (it's not worth writing a check for that amount, unless you're including a dues payment with it), and ask for a copy of "ARDA #10".

Incidentally, if any of you have used your Mensa gifts to design a Diplomacy variant or two, please send me clear copies for the NAVB. We try to stock copies of all known Diplomacy variants on hand, especially any which have actually been played, either FTF or postally. If you are into variant designing, remember it's always best to run a FTF game before making your final version, as play sometimes brings out bugs in the design.

If you have something in mind for a new variant, you might want to order a Catalog first, to see if someone else may have already come up with the same idea. You know the old joke about reinventing the wheel. Every year, at least one person presents a spanking new variant design which is a repeat of something somebody else did several years ago.

I have left my position with the Social Security Administration. After 30 years of servitude, the Warden gave me a new suit and said, "Go, and sin no more!" This does not mean that I am falling into decrepitude, but I will have more time for the Diplomacy hobby from now on. I wish to thank Bruce Poppe for holding the fort for the past two years. Bruce took the post in 1983 with the clear understanding that he would serve only one term, and I would relieve him in November 1985, after my retirement became effective.

This does not mean that I have unlimited time for the hobby. I'm working two days a month as a Red Cross Blood Bank volunteer, and I have several other irons in the fire. However, I ought to be able to respond to inquiries within a reasonable period of time. If you don't get an immediate reply, this probably means that I'm off on a trip somewhere. I'll get back to you ASAP.

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DIPCON TO BE HELD AT MARYCON

Every year, there are several FTF Diplomacy tournaments held in North America. Some of these are held on a regular basis in places like New York, San Diego and Madison, Wis. For the past three years, a favorite East Coast tournament has been "MaryCon," held on the beautiful campus of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va. In 1986, MaryCon will host DIPCON, which is THE big Diplomacy event of the year. DIPCON is held in a different part of the country, on a rotating basis, each year. It was held in Dallas, Texas in 1984, and in Seattle, Wash. in '85. Neither of those locations was exactly in the heart of the Postal Diplomacy hobby areas, but many people were willing to travel up to thousands of miles to be there. Now, the 1986 DIPCON XIX will be held close to home for diplomats living in the Baltimore/Washington and Philadelphia areas.

MaryCon will be held over the weekend of May 30-June 1, 1986. Fredericksburg is only about 40 miles south of Washington on I-95. If you fly into Dulles or National Airports,

bus service is available from Downtown Washington to Fredericksburg, or you may wish to rent a car or arrange a car pool. Fredericksburg is where the South really begins. If you are a Civil War buff, several battlefields are located in the area. Nearly everyone attending MaryCon stays in the rather nice dorms located near the cafeteria and the gaming area. Most are two-man rooms. If you're bringing a spouse, you may wish to use one of the nearby motels on U.S. 1. Meal packages are offered. The food is plentiful, albeit somewhat on the carbohydrate side. You'll be advised to bring a light blanket, as it can get quite chilly at night.

This will be strictly a Diplomacy and Diplomacy Variant tournament, plus the annual business meeting of the DipCon Society, which selects the site of the 1987 DipCon. You won't be shoved aside by Dungeons & Dragons fans. Consider coming.

I'm sorry I don't have the rates available yet. For full information, please send a SASE to: Pete Gaughan, 3121 E. Park Row, #171-A, Arlington, Texas 76010.

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Under new rules adopted by American Mensa, it is no longer necessary for all SIG members to be dues-paying members of Mensa. So, you may keep your SIG membership even if your national membership has lapsed. However, I would appreciate your informing me if you let your national membership (American or Canadian) lapse.

SIG membership has lapsed for the following people: H.D. Bassett, David Lincoln. This will be the last issue you will receive, gentlemen, unless I hear from you.

The following SIG memberships will elapse in February 1986. Please renew your memberships now. Remember, you can continue playing in your current All-M games if you lapse, but you can't join any new ones: Al Autovino, Lincoln Beaumont, Charles Byrne, Charles Cottle, Andy Cruickshank, John O'Connor and Steve Piper. (If your membership expires in 1986, you'll find the expiration date on your mailing label).

Any Mensan publishing a zine or running an All-Mensa game is excused from paying dues, providing he sends me a copy of his zine or game report. Others should make out all checks or M.O.'s to "Fred G. Davis, Jr." in amounts of \$3.00. Canadians should send Postal M.O.'s made out in U.S. funds, as my Bank charges a \$3 service fee on all Canadian cheques, even if made out in U.S. funds.

Please make the following changes on your Membership List:

Add: Scott Shacter, 5651 N. Paseo Niquel, Tucson, Arizona 85718. (Renewed)
Correct: "William Sanow-Port" to "William S. Port." (File under "pw")

I deeply regret having to report that SIG member Len Johnson of Anchorage, Alaska, passed away in August 1985. The P.O. did not furnish the address of any next-of-kin.

Telephone numbers are shown only for officers and publishers on the List. If you'd like your phone no. printed on the next List, please advise.

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WE HAVE A LITTLE LIST

Two Lists, as a matter of fact. First, the following people are signed up as starting players for MENSA #22, the next Regular game. Paul Burroughs, Erik Hake, Sean Morgan, Frank Riley and Scott Shacter.

If a few more players will sign up, we can get this game started soon. (more)

The question is, WHO wants to run this game? Will one of the current GM's volunteer to run it? Or, would someone not now GM'ing a game like to dip his toe into the water and see how it feels to be a Postal GM? This would be your chance to start slowly with a single game. Anyone wanting to run MENSA #22 (and I mean anyone), please contact me! We are an equal opportunity employer. Bruce Poppe and I will be glad to send you copies of our respective House Rules.

The Second List is of people who've asked to be Standbys in Mensa games. The new names are: John Barnes, Sean Morgan, Charles Byrne ("hopeless positions only"), Bill Port and Scott Shacter.

And the following people have already taken one Standby position, but (apparently) stand ready to take another if the need arises: Lincoln Beaumont, Kevin Brown, Steve Piper and Craig Reges. If any of you gentlemen wish to have your names removed from this list, just drop me a postcard.

GM's of Mensa games should probably contact the first group of Standbys first for replacement players, since many of the people in the second group may already be in your games. You may write or phone them directly, but please let me know if and when one of them takes over a position in your game. GM's may wish to keep this list with their game files.

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SIG GAME NEWS

MENSA #17, 1983 V, ended in a Rulebook Victory for Ron Brown (Germany) in Fall 1910. Paul Milewski (Turkey) finished second, with 13 Centers. Other survivors were France (John Ellis) with 2, and Russia (Dave Lincoln) with 1. Ron's end-game statement was printed here last month. Since we're short of space, I'll omit the statistics. This game was run by Steve Hutton in NO FLXED ADDRESS to W '08; and then completed by Bruce McIntyre in EXCELSIOR while Steve was on a trip to Europe. Thanks again, Bruce.

MENSA #18, 1983 AV. GM: Scott Hanson, BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA
This game is down to three players; France (Kevin Brown) with 11 SC's, Russia (Ron Brown) 15, and Turkey (Mark Keller) 8. A proposed Russo-Turkish draw failed, in 1914.

MENSA #19, 1984 CJ. GM: Konrad Baumeister, GIVE ME A WEAPON
As of Fall 1908, this game had four survivors: Austria (Ralph Baty) has 3 SC's (n.c.), France (Dave Lincoln) 11 (+1), Germany (Bob Addison) 10 (-1), and Turkey (H.D. Bassett) 10 (+1). The last Italian SC had fallen to Turkey. There is a proposed 3-way draw between F, G & T. The deadline was Dec. 21, 1985, but I haven't received the results yet. Hey, Konrad, don't forget me!

1985HK

MENSA #20 (Boardman No. applied for). GM: Bob Addison
After the Spring 1904 moves, Al Autovino resigned the German position. Linc Beaumont has been asked to take over. Also, Kevin Brown has taken over as England. Kirk Larsen's Russia is leading the field with 10 Centers. Germany & Turkey (Sean Morgan) are tied with 6 - although Turkey appears to have only 5 units on the board. France (Craig Reges) owns 5. England and Italy (Scott Shacter) retain only their 3 Home Centers. Austria (Andy Cruickshank) is reduced to holding just the Serbian SC. The game seems to have been delayed with the recent changes in commands.

MENSA #21, (Boardman No. applied for). GM: Bruce Poppe
The first year has just been completed here. Four Powers succeeded in capturing two Centers each, and the other three all took one each (leaving Spain as the sole surviving neutral). Austria, England, Germany and Russia have just built two new units apiece. It's too early to say who's ahead.

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MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG MEMBERSHIP LIST - as of DECEMBER, 1985

CHAIRMAN: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207.
(301) 747-7248. Publisher of BUSHWACKER

SENIOR COMMITTEEMAN: Chip Charnley, 615 Woodlawn, Clearwater, Fla. 33516.

JUNIOR COMMITTEEMAN: Bruce Poppe, 1204 Heartwood Ct., Arnold, Md. 21012.
(301) 544-5117

Bob Addison, P.O.Box 7393, Silver Spring, Md. 20907

Al Autovino, 6340 Kelly Rd., Sodus, N.Y. 14551

John Barnes, 444 Lore Ave., Youngstown, Ohio 44504

H. D. Bassett, Rt. 3, Lake Rd., Newtown, CT. 06470

Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Ln., Hales Corners, Wis. 53130. (414) 425-4631.
Publisher of GIVE ME A WEAPON

Lincoln Beaumont, 13436 Polk St., Omaha, Neb. 68137

Garvin Boyle, P.O. Box 1149, Richmond, Ont. CANADA K0A 2Z0

Kevin Brown, 100 Patton Dr., Warner-Robbins, Ga. 31093

Ronald J. Brown, 70F Chesterton Dr., Nepean, Ont., CANADA K2E 5S9. Publisher, D-DAY

Paul Burroughs, 8319 Hastings Dr., San Antonio, Texas 78239

Charles A. Byrne, 3712 Lockwood Ln., Annandale, Va. 22003

Charles Cottle, 301 Tyler St., East Haven, CT. 06512

Andy Cruickshank, 1561 Pensacola St., #2502, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Tony Dousette, 2509 Johnston St., #13-4, LaFayette, La. 70503

V. S. Forbes, 899 S. Lemon, #A, Anaheim, Calif. 92805

Eric Hake, 136S N. Grand Ave., STE 120, W. Covina, Calif. 91791

Scott Hanson, 3804 Fourth Ave., S., Minneapolis, MN. 55408. (612) 823-6142.
Publisher of BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA

Steve Hutton, 1175 Broadview Ave., #711, Toronto, Ont., CANADA M4K 2S9

Publisher of NO FIXED ADDRESS

Mark Keller, 2 Seaside Ct., Sacramento, Cal. 95831. Publisher of HAI JIKAI

Kirk Larsen, 15014 Cordell Ave., Dale City, Va. 22193

David Lincoln, 25 Sun Valley Dr., Cumberland, R.I. 02864

Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., #3, Dalton, Mass. 01226. Produces Novice Package

Sean C. Morgan, 1223 Seventh Ave., S., Lethbridge, Alberta, CANADA T1T 1K6

John O'Connor, 1905 Fairland Ave., Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

Steve Piper, 11319 W. 73rd St., Shawnee, Kans. 66203

Sharon Poppe, 1204 Heartwood Ct., Arnold, Md. 21012

Craig A. Reges, 16 W 761 White Pines Rd., Bensenville, Ill. 60106

Frank Riley, P.O. Box 16602, S. Lake Tahoe, Cal. 95702

William Sanow-Port, 3506 Camp St., New Orleans, La. 70105

Robert Stimmel, 2500 Q St., #10, Sacramento, Cal. 95816

Signourney Street, 6751 Brigadoon Dr., Bethesda, Md. 20817

Sherwood S. Tucker, DDS, 130 Grandview Ave., Honesdale, Pa. 18431

Robert L. White, P.O. Box 1757, Pittsfield, Mass. 01202

Loring "Windy" Windblad, P.O. Box B-43816, Florence, Ariz. 85231

Bill Young, P.O. Box 15675, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15244

Total Membership: 38. 34 in USA, 4 in Canada

Please send all changes and corrections to Fred Davis

FINANCIAL REPORT for 1985:

This is a combination of transactions by Bruce Poppe in Jan-Oct., and by Fred Davis in Nov-Dec.

Opening Balance, Jan. 1, 1985: \$47.52

INCOME:

Dues received (26)	\$78.00	
Contributions (3)*	38.50	
Sample copy pmts. (13)	<u>6.50</u>	
	\$123.00	+123.00
		<u>\$170.52</u>

EXPENSES:

Printing DIPLOMAG (5 issues)	\$70.69	
Postage for DIPLOMAG (5 issues)	35.76	
Postage, misc.	6.60	
SUPERNOVAS & postage (9 copies)	9.86	
Photocopy charges	2.53	
Mimeograph paper, 1 ream	4.87	
Misc.	<u>3.81</u>	
	\$133.92	-133.92
Closing Balance, Dec. 31, 1985:		<u>\$ 36.60</u>

*Special contributions were received from 3 people. All such contributions gratefully appreciated.

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If anyone wants to comment on whether the Game Reports are too long or too short here, I'd like to hear from you. Originally, I began running Game Reports only as space fillers, and was surprised to learn that they were one of the most popular items .

This issue was prepared in early January 1986. See you again in about two months.

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