



DIPLOMAG

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.

VOL. IV, No. 2

/March-April 1986/

Whole No. 68

Chairman & Publisher: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207
 Senior Committeeman: Chip Charnley, 615 Woodlawn, Clearwater, Fla. 33516
 Junior Committeeman: Bruce Poppe, 1204 Heartwood Court, Arnold, Md. 21012

There are several MENSA and Diplomacy hobby news items to note, so I think the best thing to do would be to get right at them.

THE MENSA AG will be held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York July 3 - 6, 1986. We expect to be there. A Convention usually has too much going on to permit people to take the time to play a Diplomacy game. However, it is sometimes possible to get permission to put a Diplomacy board and copies of the SIG newsletter on display. This generates some inquiries, although very few members have joined the SIG through that route. It's difficult to explain to people in two minutes that Diplomacy is not "just another board game," but an entire hobby, and an outlet for frustrated literary ambitions. IF you plan to attend the New York AG, please let me know. Perhaps we can have a social meeting on some occasion, just to talk about the various aspects of Dipdom. Leave your knives at home.

The AG Registration fee is \$30 through March 31st. Double rooms are \$41 per person; Triples \$29 per person; Quads \$26 per person. Contact: Rosemarie Dowling, P.O. Box 21271, Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421.

DIPCON. THE ANNUAL BIG DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT and Get-Together, will be held at Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Va., from Friday, May 30, thru Sunday, June 1st. This will be for Diplomacy and Dip Variant players only. No interference from 57 other varieties of gamers. Friday will be devoted to the play of Variants, and a seminar conducted by Allan Calhmer, the inventor of the game. The first round of the Regular Diplomacy Tournament will also begin on Friday evening. You must play in at least two rounds to qualify for a Tournament prize. There will be games starting all day on Saturday, and the last round will begin early Sunday morning. The site of the 1987 DipCon will be selected on Saturday night. According to the By-laws, it could be held either in the East or the Midwest. Only those people who show up in person are allowed to cast votes for the various candidates.

The price package includes the cost of meals and lodging. Those people attending for all three days pay \$87. If you can arrive Friday night in time for dinner, you may select "Option #1" and pay just \$77. If you can't get there until Saturday morning, selected "Option #2" and pay \$52. The meals are ample. Sheets and pillow cases are provided. Bring your own blankets. Make check payable to "MaryCon," and mail it to: MaryCon '86, 1309 Hanover St., Fredericksburg, Va. 22401.

PUBLICATIONS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE:

ZINE REGISTER, published by Simon Billenness, 61A Park Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12202. A listing of almost all the North American Diplomacy zines, with a description of their prices, frequency, and types of games carried. It also lists some British and Continental zines. This used to come out annually, but under its new management, it will appear once every four months. Send \$1.50 for a single copy, or \$3.00 for the next two issues.

THE ZINE BANK. Also run by Simon Billenness (address above), this gives you a sample of back issues of several Dipzines. Send him \$2.00 and a self-addressed large envelope (I recommend a 6 x 9), and he'll send you a batch of different zines. All publishers are requested to send Simon some of your surplus copies at the end of each month, instead of throwing them out, to give him a supply for the Zine Bank.

THE BLACK & BLUE BOOK. This is the present-day version of the Diplomacy Census. It lists all known Postal Dip players, plus some FTF ones, both alphabetically and in ZIP Code order. You can use this to find nearby players for a FTF game, or to see which aspects of the hobby many players are interested in. There's also a list of North American Diplomacy zines. Issued annually. There may still be copies of the 1985 edition available @ \$4.00 a copy. The 1986 edition is supposed to be ready about May 30th. If you want to wait for the '86 issue, specify that in your order. I presume the price will still be \$4.00. Order the BBB from: Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, Calif. 92102.

SUPERNOVA NOVICE PACKAGE. Many of you received a copy of this when you joined this SIG. Contains a lot of useful information. To get a copy, send \$1.50 to: Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashulot St., #3, Dalton, Mass. 01226. Recently reprinted.

MASTERS OF DECEIT. Another novice package, available from Bob Olsen, 6818 Winterberry Cir., Wichita, Kansas 67226. There is some good writing in here. Unfortunately, there are some serious omissions of publishers and services who happened to disagree with the group who prepared it. (The N. American Variant Bank is not listed, for example). If you order this booklet, also order either the ZINE REGISTER or the BBB to get "The Rest of the Story." No price shown on the cover, so send \$2 to be sure.

U.S. ORPHAN SERVICE. If your zine suddenly stops appearing, you may need help getting a game transferred to a new zine. Contact Jim Burgess, 100 Holden St., Providence, R.I. 02908, to help you find a new home for your game. (The SIG handles Mensa games).

GAME OPENINGS. For other than SIG games. There are two sources offering lists of openings. PONTEVEDRIA is resuming quarterly publication after a lapse of about one year. For a copy, send a SASE to: Larry Peery, POB 8416, San Diego, Calif. 92102. There is also a monthly publication, KNOWN GAMES OPENINGS, produced by Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway, #5-V, New York, N.Y. 10034. Single copies available for a SASE.

* * * * *

THE RUNESTONE POLL to rate the best Zines, Subzines, and GM's for the 1985-86 period is beginning. Many zines will be publishing the complete ballots and instructions. If you want to participate and don't receive a ballot, you may obtain one from me. You may vote for any zine or subzine of which you have seen at least two issues since April 1985; or for any GM who has handled a game you've been in since that time. All entries are rated from 0 (lowest) to 10.

Ballots are to be mailed to either Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashulot St., #3, Dalton, Mass. 01226, or Nelson Heintzman, P.O.B. 203, Bowmansville, N.Y. 14026, by June 21, 1986.

Welcome to new member Jamie Grubbs, 4167 Mallard Dr., Safety Harbor, Fla. 33572. Ralph Baty has also renewed his membership. Ralph is currently on a prolonged tour of temporary duty for his employer in Maryland and West Germany, so I'll omit his address for now, until things settle down.

SIG memberships for the following Diplomats will lapse in April 1986. We know you can't live without DIPLOMAG and the Mensa games, so please send in your \$3.00 dues renewals now, either by cash or check: Kevin Brown, Frank Riley.

* * * * *

MENSA #22 has filled. Steve Hutton has volunteered to run this game in his excellent zine, NO FIXED ADDRESS. If you want to follow this game, contact Steve at: 1175 Broadview Ave., #711, Toronto, Ont., CANADA M4K 2S9, for sub rates. All players have been notified by Steve, I hope.

We are now taking applications for the MENSA #23 game. I already have at least one person signed up. I also think we already have a publisher for this game, but I won't name him until the next issue.

* * * * *

DIPLOMACY WORLD ARTICLES NEEDED. Would anyone in the SIG like to write a short piece on some inter-relationship between Mensa and Diplomacy? Like, how you got into Postal Dip through Mensa; or got into Mensa thru Postal Dip. (We recruit both ways). Or, a comparison of the level of play between All-Mensa games and other games you've been in. Has the SIG helped you to get into the Postal mainstream? Should other groups or clubs do the same thing? (An Elks or Mafia Diplomacy club, for instance?). The piece could be humorous or serious, but I don't think it should be too heavy.

If you're inspired to write something, please contact me first, so I can let Larry Peery know whether he could plan on a set of such articles for a future issue of DIPLOMACY WORLD. He tells me that the Mensa Diplomacy SIG is now the only such organization in the North American hobby. Other national clubs and publishers' associations have all died (except for CDO, which handles certain Canadian affairs, but doesn't do much recruiting). If you wish, you may enclose a double-spaced draft of your article, but that isn't required. Any final decision on what to print in D.W. remains up to Larry Peery, of course.

BYLAWS AVAILABLE

* * * * *

If any of our members wish to have a copy of the SIG's By-Laws, we have a good supply of extra copies. Just send me a business-size SASE. The By-Laws provide for the elections of the SIG Chairman and members of the Executive Committee for two-year terms, on a staggered basis. (This July, for example, we will call for nominations for the Committeeman's seat for the two-year term beginning Nov. 1, 1986). They also provide authorization for the levying of dues and the expenditure of SIG funds.

There is one clause in the By-Laws which has become obsolete. This clause, in Article 2, states: "Membership in the SIG will expire six months after a person's Membership has elapsed..." The AMC has ruled that a SIG may include some members who are not duespaying members of a national Mensa group. I have not seen any figures on a specific quota for non-M's, but I would presume that up to 10% could be in that category, providing they pay SIG dues.

I don't believe there is any need to go to the expense of holding a vote to amend our By-Laws on this matter right now, especially when we have a large supply of old copies on hand. I wouldn't want to have to reprint the first page just to make that change. If there are no objections, we'll continue to use our current By-Laws until the supply runs low. At that point, I, or whoever is Chairman, will request permission to delete the above phrase from a new edition.

SIG GAME REPORTS

MENSA #18, 1983 AV. GM: Scott Hanson, BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA
Turkey (Mark Keller) gained 3 SC's (Tunis, Serbia & Venice) in 1915, to go up to 11. France (Kevin Brown) fell to 9. Russia (Ron Brown) went down 1 to 14. A Russo-Turkish draw was again defeated. That seems to be becoming a habit. Two proposals are up for a vote in Sp 1916. One is a concession to Russia. The other is for the R/T draw.

MENSA #19, 1984 CJ. GM: Konrad Baumeister, GIVE ME A WEAPON
That draw proposed in Spring 1909 failed. As of Fall 1909, Turkey (H.D. Bassett) had added Rome and Vienna to his ever-growing total of 12 SC's. France (David Lincoln) lost those Centers and dropped to 9. Germany (Bob Addison) remained even at 10, as did Ralph Baty (Austria) with 3. Konrad printed the Spring 1910 moves at the end of February, and then turned the game over to Bruce Peppe. G.M.A.W. is down to about three games, and he will cease publishing when they end. The next deadline will be on March 31st, to coincide with Bruce's deadline.

MENSA #20, 1985 HK. GM: Bob Addison
Austria (Andy Cruickshank) and Italy (Scott Shacter) were eliminated in Fall 1905. Russia (Kirk Larsen) gained 1 SC to stay in the lead with 11, but Turkey (Sean Morgan) gained three for a total of 10. France (Craig Reges) has 7 (+1), and Germany (Linc Beaumont) 4 (-1). In Spring 1906, England (Kevin Brown) NMR'd for a second consecutive time. I think this 2-Center Power has now gone into Civil Disorder. There is now a proposal on the floor for a Russian-Turkish draw. (Have you noticed how Turkey seems to do well in Mensa games?).

MENSA #21, 1985 HW. GM: Bruce Peppe
As this game reaches Fall 1902, Austria (Tony Dousette) and England (Bob Addison) are in the lead with 6 Centers each. Russia (Frank Riley) lost St. Pete to England, and dropped to 5. Windy Windblad resigned as the German ruler, to be replaced by John Barnes, who remained even at 5. Kevin Brown NMR'd out of the game as Italy, and was replaced by Bill Port, but not before Austria took Venice, to reduce Italy to 3 Centers. France (Cruickshank) went up 1 to 5 SC's, and Turkey (V.S. Forbes) stayed even at 4. There's a lot of press with this game!

* * * * *

Whew! We got it all on 4 pages. The next issue should be out in May. Hope to see some of you at DipCon in May or the AG in July.

#

DIPLOMAG - Mensa Diplomacy SIG Newsltr.
c/o Fred C. Davis, Jr.
1427 Clairidge Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21207
U.S.A.

FIRST CLASS MAIL