



DIPLOMAG

MAILCO 5-9-86

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.

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Chairman & Publisher: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207
Senior Committeeman: Chip Charnley, 615 Woodlawn, Clearwater, Fla. 33516
(until June 30, 1986)
Junior Committeeman: Bruce Poppe, P.O. Box 391, Arnold, Md. 21012. (C/A).
New Phone No. (301) 437-5138.

NEW APPOINTMENT: Chip Charnley seems to be extremely busy in his own business. His term would have expired in October anyway. I had already asked Bill Young to take his place on the Executive Committee at that time. Bill is retiring on July 1, 1986. Accordingly, I asked Chip to step down early so I could appoint Bill to take up the slack. So, effective July 1, 1986, Bill Young will be our new Junior Committeeman, with Bruce Poppe stepping up to the Senior post. "Junior" and "Senior" refer to seniority on the ExComm, in the same manner as is used for U.S. Senators. Bill's temporary address is: P.O. Box 676, Carnegie, Pa. 15106. This will change in July.

My Telephone No. is (301) 747-7248. It would be appreciated if anyone wishing to contact me by phone would do so only between 7 and 10 p.m. Eastern Time weekdays, or 12 Noon to 10 p.m. on weekends or holidays.

ADVANCE ELECTION NOTICE: As mentioned above, the two-year term for the new Junior Committeeman will end on October 31st. Bill Young has already advised me that he will stand for re-election to a two-year term in his own right. Is anyone else interested in running for that office? If so, please advise me. (You may nominate yourself). If there are any other candidates, I will appoint an Election Commissioner to handle the election. If you would like to serve as the Election Commissioner (assuming there is going to be an election), please let me know.

The terms of office for Bruce Poppe and me won't expire until October 1987.

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NEXT ALL-MENSA GAME: We now have about four people signed up for the next Regular game, which will be called "Mensa #23" within the SIG records. If any of you who have recently finished a SIG game, or are in a game which may end soon, would like to sign up, perhaps we can get Mensa #23 "on the road" in another two months.

Scott Hanson, publisher of BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA, will GM this game in his zine. I wish to thank Scott for offering his services. Anyone interested in playing in a Variant game is requested to contact me. Send me a SASE or a 22¢ stamp, and I'll send you a sample copy of my all-variant zine, BUSHWACKER. Standbys are always needed, and new game openings are announced.

DIPLOMACY HOBBY NEWS

- Kathy Byrne has resigned as Editor of DIPLOMACY WORLD with the release of issue #42. Larry Peery will now wear both hats as Editor and Publisher of D.W. If you are not already getting D.W., we highly recommend it, as the most important Diplomacy publication produced in North America. The price for this quarterly is \$12 for four issues in the U.S., or \$16 in Canada. That may seem expensive, but you receive a wealth of material, including special pull-outs like ballots for all of the hobby's various polls and awards, and Variant maps. Make your checks out to "Diplomacy World" and send them to: Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA. 92102.

As a sample of what's in the current issue of D.W. (#42), it includes the results of a survey to which 72 Diplomats responded, listing their five favorite zines, the top five people in Diplomacy fandom, the five most skilled players, and many other items of interest. The Top-rated zines, by the way, were: 1. Diplomacy World, 2. Europa Express (Gary Coughlan), 3. Excelsior (Bruce McIntyre), 4. Diplomacy Digest (Mark Berch) and 5. No Fixed Address (Steve Hutton, an M). My own Bushwacker came in tied for 7th place with The Diplomat.

- The Dipzines have all contained ballots for voting on several Awards. The Don Miller Memorial Award selects one person for outstanding service to the hobby in 1985. The Rod Walker Award is for a piece of outstanding Diplomacy-related literature in '85. And, this year, a new award has been established in memory of the late John Koning, one of the best players of the 60's and 70's (and also the founder of DipCon), for the most outstanding Diplomacy play of the year. This can be either in a Postal, FTF, or Tournament game. Unfortunately, the deadline for voting was May 17th. I hope you received a ballot in another zine and were able to participate. The results will be announced at DipCon. I have the plaques in my possession. To be completed, they only need to have the winners' names engraved on them.

You, too, can have a Diplomacy Award named after you. All you have to do is to develop a good hobby reputation, and then croak. Oh, Rod Walker insists he is still alive! Lie down, Rod, everyone knows we're calling these Memorial Awards!

- Lee Kendter is stepping down as Miller No. Custodian on June 1, 1986. The MNC is the person who issues designators to Postal sections of Variant games. The new MNC will be Fred G. Hyatt, 60 Grandview Pl., Montclair, N.J. 07043.
- I know I've already mentioned to you that I wear yet another hat in the hobby as the Custodian of the North American Variant Bank. This consists of three file boxes packed full of copies of the rules & maps of some 700 Dip variants. I had hoped to have the 1986 edition of the NAVB Catalog available about May 15th. However, while the work is done, the party who was to put this onto a computer disk for me has run into difficulties. Looks like it will be mid-June before I can get the printouts back and organize them into a nice Catalog. Meanwhile, if any of you are curious about just what sort of weird things we have in the Bank, you can send me either \$1 for a copy of the 1983 Catalog, or \$3 for a photocopy of the rough draft of the '86 one.
- If you can't get to DIPCON in Fredericksburg, Va. on May 31st, perhaps you can get to ORIGINS, being held in Los Angeles July 3-6. For info, write to: Strategicon, P.O. Box 8399, Long Beach, CA. 90808. And PEERICON VI will be held in San Diego August 1-3. (Same address as that shown above for DIPLOMACY WORLD for info.). I plan to attend PEERICON, so you California people can come and find out for yourself what I (shudder) look like. (How old is he, anyway?)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We gained 5 new members and lost one in the last two months. We now have 40 members in the SIG. Our new members are:

Chris Brailer, P.O. Box 2292, Robins AFB, Ga. 31098
David E. Coufal, 1085 Wagon Wheel Ave., Colo. Springs, CO. 80915
Kate M. Robison, 1140 - 59th St., N.W., Seattle, Wash. 98107
Ronald W. Shippee, 317 Liddon Pl., Lynn Haven, Fla. 32444
Steven E. Wallis, 408 Cleveland Ln., Petaluma, Calif. 94952

Hum, all from the South or West. I wonder if all the M's in the East and Midwest are busy playing Dip FTF?

Kate Robison is already producing her own Postal games, including one variant called "Asian Diplomacy." In fact, she was doing this before she even knew there was a main-stream of Postal Dip publishers! Welcome to the river, Kate. If any of you would like to play in Asian Dip., or see a copy of the Map & Rules, send her two 22¢ stamps and ask for the Rules and a copy of her zine, The Diplomatic Slant.

One membership is expiring in June 1986. This is V.S. Forbes. Please send me your \$3.00 now, V.S., to renew your membership, so you won't be deprived of DIPLOMAG.

I'll be producing an updated Membership List after DipCon. All new members receive a copy when you join. Old members will receive a new list about once a year. If you want a copy of the updated list this June, please send me a business-size SASE.

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SIG DATA (Courtesy of SIGNET, the newltr. for all SIG Coordinators):

The largest American SIG is "The Isolated M," with 1600 members. ((This classed as a SIG for technical purposes, since all subscribers to that wonderful publication are automatically SIG members.)) The smallest is the "Over 80" SIG, with 4 members. I think I read somewhere that the largest traditional SIG is "Back to the Land,"

The average SIG has about 75-80 members, but that figure is skewed by the very large and very small ones. The average dues for a SIG are \$6/year, so you're getting a bargain on that point. However, the average SIG newltr. is 16 pages. Sorry about that!

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SIG GAME REPORTS

MENSA #18, 1983 AV. GM: Scott Hanson, BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA

Russia (Ron Brown) captured all of Britain in 1916 to gain 3 SC's, and rise to 17 Centers. These were at the expense of France (Kevin Brown), which dropped to 6. Turkey (Mark Keller) stayed even with 10. There is a proposal for a Russo-Turkish draw up again. One way or another, it looks like this game will end soon!

MENSA #20, 1985 HK. GM: Bob Addison

After five years of friendly relations, a draw was proposed between Russia and Turkey in Fall 1906. On that same turn, war broke out between these two countries. The draw vote failed. Turkey (Sean Morgan) captured Trieste and Sevastopol from Russia, giving him 12 Centers and the lead. Russia (Kirk Larsen) recouped his losses by taking Denmark and Edinburgh, breaking even at 11. France (Craig Reges) took Holland and built 1 for 8 Centers. Germany (Linc Beaumont) lost one Center and dropped to 3. England is in civil disorder with 1 lone Army in Liverpool. In Spring 1907, a 3-way (more)

draw between Turkey, Russia and France has been proposed. The outcome of that proposal will be known shortly after May 15th.

MENSA #19, 1984 GJ. Now being edited by Bruce Poppe
In 1910, Germany (Bob Addison) took Belgium & Holland away from France (Dave Lincoln). Germany went up 2 to 12; France down 1 to 8. Turkey (H.D. Bassett) lost Tunis to France and went down one to 11. Austria (Ralph Baty) stayed even with 3. A 3-way draw between France, Germany and Turkey was proposed. We understand it didn't pass.

MENSA #21, 1985 HM. Ed: Bruce Poppe (No name for his publication)
The displacing of a revised set of English orders caused a readjudication of the Spring 1903 season, and a delay in the Fall '03 deadline to May 31st. The leaders remain Austria (Tony Dousette) and England (Bob Addison), with 6 Centers each.

MENSA #22 will be run by Steve Hutton in NO FIXED ADDRESS. I have not yet received the Spring 1901 results.

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Bob Addison furnished the Ratings of the seven countries under the Dragon's Tooth Rating System in a recent game report. I felt this interesting article deserved a wider circulation than the 8 or 9 people who received the game report, so here's part of it.

The Ratings for the 7 Great Powers is as follows: 1. England (11.39), 2. France (11.22) 3. Turkey (9.57), 4. Russia (9.50), 5. Germany (8.28), 6. Italy (6.65) and Austria, 7th (5.98). Job comments:

"This rating system places a high emphasis on draws and survivals. Other systems tend to show France or Russia first and Italy last. I do think England is a little over-rated, and with the Franco-German alliance becoming more popular these days, she will probably be dropping soon. I also think Italy is underrated. Italy is difficult for the novice to play, which accounts for her poor showing. Many people think Austria is underrated, but I don't agree."

OLD-FASHIONED DIPLOMACY SETS, with wooden blocks instead of stars and anchors, are available from Canada. The only way to play! The Postpaid price for Americans is U.S. \$23.40. Canadians pay C \$26.00. Send your check to Andrew Webber, Games by Mail, P.O. Box 98, Sta. "D", Toronto, Ont., CANADA M6P 3J5, and tell him you want to order your "Old-fashioned Diplomacy set." Allow 6 weeks for delivery.

Next issue should be out in mid-July.

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