



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.

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AG REPORT

We had a good time at the New York AG. Two other SIG members were present, Bruce Poppe and Sigourney Street. We did not set up a Diplomacy board, but we did get to talk with several people who were curious about the game. The SIG Room was rather isolated from the rest of the AG. We laid out several copies of DIPLOMAG on the table reserved for SIG newsletters. Subsequent checks showed they were being picked up, although we won't know for some time whether this will result in any new members.

They had a nice game room set up, well-stocked with many different games. The various Trivia and Word games seemed to be the most popular. There were also some computers available for both gaming and serious purposes. The Grand Hyatt is a very superior (and expensive) hotel. We were amazed to find that the employees all spoke English! We stayed in its air-conditioned comfort and watched the fireworks show on a large-screen TV set up in the Ballroom. Some people who went down to The Battery to see the show in person required several hours to get home again, as subway service was inadequate and no private cars were permitted south of Chambers St.

There were several good speakers, including some helpful ones on psychological problems, sex therapy and AIDS. Al Greengold gave two terrific talks on "Myths in the Old Testament" (from a humanist viewpoint) and "Sherlock Holmes." The keynote speaker was our own Isaac Asimov, who spoke on science as only he can.

Next year's AG will be held in Dallas, Texas. Hopefully, those of you living in the Southwest will be able to attend. In 1988, there will be a joint meeting of U.S. and Canadian Mensa in Montreal. Maybe everyone can make long range plans to try to be there. We certainly intend to do so.

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ELECTION NOTICE

Nobody expressed an interest in being a candidate for the Jr. Commissioner's post besides Bill Young. Accordingly, I hereby declare that Bill Young will be elected by acclamation to the two-year term beginning November 1, 1986.

ALL-MENSA GAME #23: Six people are now signed up for this game, which will be run in Scott Hanson's BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA. In order of joining, they are: Tony Dousette, Steven Wallis, Chris Breiler, David Coufal, Curtis Kueker and Stephen Shelnutt. We need just one more to get this game started. The Game Fee will be \$5.00, plus a sub to Scott's zine. How about it, someone?

Anyone interested in being a player or standby in a Variant game is invited to send me a 22¢ stamp, and I'll send you a sample copy of my own zine, BUSHWACKER, which runs only variants. Mensa SIG members receive a \$1.00 discount on both Game and Standby Fees. This means a starting slot is just \$8, and a standby slot is \$4. There are no additional subscription charges in BUSHWACKER. The next game will be "Balkan Wars III." Standbys are needed in "Turnabout" and "Vacation Dip." If you'd just like to subscribe, you can have 12 issues for \$5.50.

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LARGEST MENSA GROUPS/ LARGEST POSTAL DIP PLAYER CLUSTERS

This comparison of the largest Mensa Local Groups with the largest clusters of Postal players may be of interest to you. I'm also including the number of SIG members we have in these groups, where that can be determined. The National and SIG membership figures are as of 3-31-86. The Dip Census figures are from 1985.

<u>Local Group</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>No. of Postal Dippers (Rank)</u>	<u>SIG Members</u>
1. Greater New York	2,972	43 (4)	1
2. San Francisco Region	2,960	56 (3)	1
3. Greater Los Angeles	2,772	71 (1)	1
4. Chicago Area	2,041	39 (5)	1
5. Metro. Washington	2,014	66 (2)	4
6. San Diego	1,506	23 (7)	1
7. Philadelphia Area	1,379	8 (*)	-
8. S.E. Mich. (Detroit)	1,349	12 (11T)	-
9. Gulf Coast (Houston)	1,261	19 (9)	-
10. Orange Co. (Calif.)	1,185	21 (8)	1
11. N. Texas (Dall/Ft.Worth)	1,099	36 (6)	1
12. Boston	1,091	14 (10)	1

* There is an indication that the Philadelphia area was undercounted in 1985.

There is a tie for 11th place for largest no. of Postal Dip players, with the Baltimore area also having 12 people on the list, although Md. Mensa ranks only 22nd by size. The 16th largest chapter, Northern New Jersey, may have as many as 22 Postal players, but I'm not sure of the boundaries of their area.

As for SIG members, we also have 3 members each in Georgia Mensa (14th largest Mensa Group) and the Sacramento area (26th), and 4 in Maryland's area (which does not include the Washington, D.C. suburbs). The rest of our members seem to be scattered around the medium-sized and smaller Groups. Four SIG members reside in Canada, three in Ontario, but apparently not near each other.

While there is no relationship between the number of Mensans in these chapters and the number of Diplomats in their service areas, I have found over the years that most good players and nearly all publishers could qualify for Mensa. As I've said before, while being crazy may help you to play Dip by mail, being smart is even more of a help.

(Since this was written, I've updated the SIG membership figures to 6-30-86.

WRITE? RIGHT!

Hey there, do you want to make any comments about Diplomacy in general or the DIPSIG in particular? In case there have been any misunderstandings, there is nothing in our By-Laws which says the Chairman has to write everything in the newsletter. Your contributions are welcome. I reserve the right to edit them to fit available space, but if I accept an article that runs at least one-third of a page, I'll extend your subscription by one issue.

REMINDER: Anyone who GM's an All-Mensa game, whether in a formal zine or as a single game going out by xerox or carbon copy, receives free SIG membership for the length of that game and an additional four months. Of course, you have to sign an oath in blood not to die or otherwise drop out of the Postal hobby until your game ends. Likewise, all M publishers receive free membership just by trading a copy of your zine with DIPLOMAG + BUSHWACKER. So, let us know if you develop an uncontrollable urge to become a Gamesmaster.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We gained four new members in May and June. They are:

Curtis Kueker, 923 St. Paul St., #6-2, Baltimore, Md. 21202
Charles Ramsey, 15050 N. 59th St., #202, Glendale, Ariz. 85306
George Scherer, 209 Upper Ferry Rd., Trenton, N.J. 08628
Stephen Shehnutt, 3825 N. 36th Rd., Arlington, Va. 22207

No memberships are expiring August 31st. However, as the next issue of DIPLOMAG won't appear until October, we'll let you know now that the following people's dues run out in October: Garvin Boyle, Chip Charnley, Kirk Larsen and Sigourney Street. If you'd like to renew early, I'd be pleased to receive your payments now. Otherwise, I'd suggest that you not mail your checks or MO's to me before Sept. 27th, as I'll be out of town for three weeks in September. John Barnes, whose membership would have expired on 10-31, has already renewed. Thankyou, John.

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STANDBYS NEEDED

Hey, we need Standbys badly for some of our Mensa games. If we don't get some new Standbys soon, some of our GM's are going to have to fill the vacancies with - shudder- Non-M's! The alternative would be to leave the positions in Civil Disorder.

I'm keeping a Master Standby List were at Headquarters. How about having everybody who's agreeable to serving as a standby in a Regular game sending me your name and phone number today? Even if you've previously agreed to be a standby. Then, we can start over with a fresh list, to aid our harrassed GM's. GM's who publish full zines usually have other standbys available, but those who are running just one or two games on their own are depending upon our Master List.

If you have a temporary problem which may keep you from submitting orders for a month or two, you're invited to nominate a substitute to take over your position for that period. Alternately, you could submit advance orders, as any orders are better than none. In any case, please let your GM know if you have a problem. I believe most GM's would rather have you continue to run your country, even if a sabbatical is necessary, rather than place your country in Civil Disorder. Since we are all M's,

we should be able to come up with some solutions for temporary problems. Just don't leave your poor GM holding the bag.

And, if you must drop out of your game, it's only common courtesy to formally resign, preferably with a last set of orders for your Power. That's going in class.

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SIG GAME REPORTS

MENSA #18, 1983AV. GM: Scott Hanson, BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA
Russia (Ron Brown) was held at 17 Centers in 1917 by the efforts of Turkey (Mark Keller) and France (Kevin Brown). The Russo-Turkish draw proposal was again defeated. Turkey rose to 12 Centers and France dropped to 5, as only two SC's changed hands. There are now new proposals on the table for a concession to Russia and for the Russo-Turkish 2-way draw, to be voted on with the Winter 1917 adjustments.

MENSA #19, 1984 CJ. GM: Bruce Poppe
A concession to a 14-Center Germany (Bob Addison) failed in Spring 1912. In 1911, Germany gained two Centers and France lost two. Turkey (H.D. Bassett) and Austria (Ralph Baty) remained even, with 11 and 3 Centers, respectfully. In Spring '12 there was a big battle for control of the Ukraine, which Russia won, but France (Dave Lincoln) NMR'd. Scott Schacter was asked to submit back-up orders for France. There is also a proposal for a 2-way draw between Germany and Turkey on the floor.

MENSA #20, 1985 HK. GM: Bob Addison
Not a single Supply Center changed hands in 1907. We'd like to say there was more "life" in 1908, but with two key players NMR'ing in the Fall, we're not so sure.

Russia (Kirk Larsen) regained the lead by capturing London and Sevastopol for a total of 13 Centers. Turkey (Sean Morgan) slipped to 10 by losing Sev and Tunis. France (Craig Reges) lost London and gained Tunis, to break even with 8. Germany (Linc Beaumont) held on with 2 Centers but only one unit. The proposed Russian-French draw failed. As France and Turkey both NMR'd in Fall 1908, standby orders are being requested from John Barnes and Bill Port.

MENSA #21, 1985 HW. GM: Bruce Poppe
This game has thundered into Fall 1903, which required an amended adjudication. The leaders seem to be Germany (John Barnes) and Russia (Frank Riley), with 6 Centers each. Together with Italy (Bill Port), they went up one Center each, while France (Andy Cruickshank) held even at 5. Austria (Tony Dousette) and England (Bob Addison) dropped one each to 5, while Turkey (Susan Forbes) went down one to 3 Centers.

MENSA #22 (Boardman No. not yet rec'd). GM: Steve Hutton, NO FIXED ADDRESS
This game went out by flyer. I'm grateful to Bob Addison for receiving a copy. Hey, Steve, don't forget to include me when you send the results on a flyer! Spring 1901 saw NMR's for Italy and Russia, although Bob (Russia) advised me he knows he mailed his orders in. This appears to be the usual problem with a delay in mail going to Canada. All moves succeeded except for Germany's attempt to occupy Burgundy. Too early yet to say who's ahead. Standbys have been requested for Italy and Russia, but, hopefully, won't be needed.

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO DROP OUT of the Diplomacy SIG if you let your National Dues expire. You cannot vote on SIG business, but you can still enter new SIG games as long as you pay your annual \$3.00 SIG Dues. I would appreciate your informing me if you're no longer a National member, but there's no need to feel guilty about it.

Here are some autobiographies. Some of these are a bit old, so the information may no longer be current:

LINC BEAUMONT, 13436 Polk St., Omaha, Nebraska 68137. Born: 5-15-38. Divorced.
Occupation: Retired Air Force officer, "exploring" second career possibilities.
Joined Mensa in 1978. Began playing Diplomacy in 1960. ((That's not a typo. Linc had one of the earliest sets ever produced. Do you still own it, Linc?))
Began playing Postal Dip in 1978, in the SIG.
Other favorite games: Various other board games, Trivial Pursuit, bridge, sports simulations, etc.
Other major interests: Reading, classical music, writing/editing Mensa newaletter. ((Linc is/was(?) editor of his Local Group newaltr.))

FRED C. DAVIS, JR., address on masthead. Born: 6-1-30. Married.
Occupation: Recently retired Disability Claims Examiner, Social Security Admin.
Escaped after 33 years of confinement.
Joined Mensa in 1965. Began playing Dip in 1968. Played in several Postal games before I ever played FTF.
Other favorite games: Clue, Monopoly, Scrabble, Trivial Pursuit
Other major interests: Railroads & Mass Transit, Astronomy, Science Fiction, Travel, Reading (non-fiction except for SF).

JOHN BARNES, 444 Lora Ave., Youngstown, Ohio 44504. Born: 12-2-51. Divorced.
Occupation: Houseparent for the mentally retarded.
Joined Mensa in 1985. Began playing Dip in 1975.
Postal Dip: One game in approx. '79, never concluded. Now in SIG games.
Other favorite games: Scrabble, Chess, Rail Baron
Other interests: Science fiction, Golf

CHARLES A. BYRNE, III, 3712 Lockwood La., Annandale, Va. 22001. Born: 9-7-46. Married.
Occupation: Economist.
Joined Mensa in 1970(?). Began playing Dip in 1977. Postal Dip about 1979.
Other favorite games: Avalon Hill games, Bridge, all non-word games.
Other major interests: Softball, backpacking, science fiction

CRAIG A. REGES, 16 W 761 White Pines Rd., Bensenville, Ill. 60106. Born: 8-1-56. Married.
Occupation: AT&T Information Systems Rep.
Joined Mensa in 1976. Began playing Dip in 1976. Postal Dip the same year.
Other favorite games: Bridge, Backgammon, all card games.
Other major interests: Golf, Financial markets and investments.

FRANK RILEY, P.O. Box 16602, S. Lake Tahoe, CA. 95702. Born: 11-14-50. Single.
Occupation: Casino Games Dealer.
Joined Mensa in 1982. Started playing Diplomacy in 1968. Postal Dip in 1985.
Other favorite games: Poker, Backgammon, Clue, Risk, Cribbage, Craps, Mystery Role-playing games, Chess, et. al.
Other major interests: Acting, Psychology, Racquetball, Parapsychology, Writing, Reading, Hiking, Cycling, Jogging, Improvisation, Trivia

KIRK LARSEN, 15014 Cordell Ave., Dale City, Va. 22193. Born: 5-30-69. Single.
Occupation: Student. ((College freshman, I believe))
Joined Mensa in 1984. Began playing Dip in 1979. Began playing by Mail: 1984.
Other favorite games: Go, Chess, Civilization, Illuminati, Europe
Other major interests: Fencing, Oboc playing, devious activities

If you'd like to submit an autobiography covering the above points, please do so!

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD:

The DipCon Tournament at MaryCon was won by Malcolm Smith, an English player who crossed the Atlantic just to participate and meet some American hobby members. 62 people participated in the DipCon tournament, May 30-June 1, 1986. 80 were present.

The AtlantiCon Diplomacy Tournament winner was Ian Campbell. 35 players took part in that tournament on June 21-22, in Trenton, N.J.

The Don Miller Memorial Award for Service to the Postal hobby was won by Bill Quinn, the outgoing Boardman No. Custodian. Effective August 31, 1986, the new BNC will be: Steve Heinowski, 12034 Pyle, Oberlin, Ohio 44474.

The Rod Walker Literary Award for the best article to appear in the Diplomacy press in 1985 went to Daf Langley of Sacramento, Calif., for her piece, "Making of a Major Con," which appeared in DIPLOMACY WORLD #39. The John Koning Memorial Award for the Best Diplomacy player of 1985 was given to Dan Stafford, who currently tops the Dragon's Tooth Rating System for active Postal players.

Next year's DipCon will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, over the weekend of June 19-21. This will be a Dip-only affair. Make your plans now to attend.

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They told us three things we should do at the SIG Coordinators meeting at the AG. 1. Try to get other people to write something for the newsltr. 2. Try to mention as many members' names as possible in each issue. 3. Make your newsltrs. as large as you can. Well, we tried to follow all of those points this month. The Treasury can afford the 6 pages, but the question is whether I will have either the time or the material to give you 6 pages on a regular basis.

Anyway, that wraps things up for this issue. You can expect the next issue of DIPLOMAG sometime in the second week of October.

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