



# 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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## OFFICERS' REPORT

This issue is slightly late, as your Chairman has been away on a trip to Britain. You will also note that both Bruce Poppe and Bill Young have moved since the last issue of DIPLOMAG was printed. Bruce's move, which has only just occurred, can be considered permanent, to the extent that any moves by Diplomacy players are ever "permanent." Bill Young advises that his new address (which ought to qualify him for playing Germany regularly) will not last for more than one year, and probably will be for a shorter time.

I, too, will be moving at the end of December. I'll give you my new address in the next issue. There's no point in giving it to you now, as any mail sent to the new address would utterly confuse the current tenants if they received it, as they have no idea that their home is about to be converted into the base of an international publishing and anarchist syndicate.

I visited England, Scotland and Wales on my trip, and had the pleasure of meeting members of the British Postal hobby on three different occasions. This included two "Hobbymeets" at the Red Lion Pub in Central London, where London area diplomats meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month to down a few pints of bitter and solve the world's problems. If anyone is planning a trip to London, I'll be glad to pass on the exact location of this pub. One could get lost, as there are many pubs in Britain bearing the name of the "Red Lion." I also visited the home of Richard Sharp, author of the world's only hardcover book on Diplomacy, fittingly enough called The Game of Diplomacy. Unfortunately, it's out of print, all 2500 copies having been sold long ago. However, Richard has promised to notify me immediately if a second edition is ever printed, and I will spread the word in America. I will not loan out my copy, but people may make appointments to review it at any Con which I plan to attend.

I was blessed with marvelous weather on my trip. It only rained on one day, with temps mostly in the 65-68° range. Clearly, September is the best month for touring Western Europe if you can so arrange your schedule. A more detailed report may be found in my October BUSHWACKER, available for 50¢ a copy.

NO FIXED ADDRESS FOLDING

I was very unhappy to learn that Steve Hutton is folding NO FIXED ADDRESS, one of Canada's finest zines. NFA finished second on the 1985 North American Zine Poll, and ninth on the 1986 Poll. It was also the best zine produced by a dues-paying Mensan (as distinguished from Mensa caliber people who have not joined the club). The name came from the fact that when Steve was in college, the nature of his course of study required him to move every three months or so. Ironically, now that Steve has graduated, found a steady job, and settled down, he finds the press of his work requires him to cease publication effective with NFA #39, which will come out sometime in October. Issue #38 also saw the end of Ron Brown's subzine, D-DAY, as the last game was completed. D-DAY was rated the #1 subzine on the 1986 Poll. Both publications will be sorely missed.

Steve will continue all his remaining games by Xerox flyers. This includes MENSA #22, which is reported on elsewhere.

ALL-MENSA GAME #24. This is the game we're currently filling for SIG members. MENSA #23 filled shortly after the publication of the last DIPLOMAG. As I write, there are still several openings for #24, but the SIG received many inquiries as a result of being listed in the September BULLETIN, and each of them has been informed of these vacancies. So, I don't expect this game to be unfilled for long. If you want to get into a new Mensa game quickly, don't lose any time in sending me your name. MENSA #24 will be GM'd by SIG member John Barnes in a flyer format.

I still have openings in a variant game called "Balkan Wars III" in my own BUSHWACKER zine. You can sign up for a flat fee of \$8.00 (no continuing sub required), or you can have a sample copy of my zine for 50¢.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We gained six new full SIG members and one associate member in the July-September period. They are:

James R. Bailey, 2220 Homestead Ct., #303, Los Altos, Calif. 94022.  
Robert Cheek, 14341 Franklin Ave., Tustin, Calif. 92680  
Cherie Colston, 105 Kingstown Rd., Trussville, Ala. 35173  
Greg Dodson, P.O. Box 842, Ontario, Oregon 97914  
Benjamin Greaves, P.O. Box 437, Georgetown, CT. 06829  
Gerry Johnson, P.O. Box 1163, Aiea, Hawaii 96701  
Kevin L. Self, 9303 Woodfair, #714, Houston, Texas 77036

→ The following SIG memberships are expiring as of October 31st: Garvin Boyle, Chip Charnley, Kirk Larsen and Sigourney Street. Please send me your \$3.00 renewals ASAP, to keep you on the rolls. The SIG is now up to 47 members, but most of this gain has been due to the arrival of new members.

STANDEY SITUATION

Several people responded to my request to be carried on a new Master SIG Standby Lis' I have the following names on the list: Lincoln Beaumont, John Barnes, Paul Burroughs, Charles Byrne (hopeless positions only), Robert Cheek, Steve Piper and Craig Reges. If anyone else would like to be on this list, please let me know. GM's should take names from this list first, before resorting to outside standbys, when they have NMR's in their games.

HELPFUL HOBBY HINTS

Since there is a constant turnover in SIG membership, it probably doesn't hurt to mention some of the publications and services available to all Postal Players every couple of issues. Among these are:

SUPERNOVA NOVICE PACKAGE. Much useful information for novice players. Writers include Mark Berch, Rod Walker, Konrad Baumeister, Edi Birsan, Fred Davis, Gary Coughlan and Randolph Smyth. Send \$1.00 to: Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., #3, Dalton, Mass. 01226. (Bruce is a SIG member).

MASTERS OF DECEIT. Another novice package. Writers include Kathy Byrne, Tom Hurst, Bob Olsen, Tom Swider. Unfortunately, this publication omits the names and addresses of publishers and services which happen to disagree with the group which prepared it. Send \$1.00 to: Steve Arnawoodian, 602 Hemlock Circle, Lansdale, PA. 19446.

THE BLACK & BLUE BOOK. The 1986 issue is now out. It contains the names & addresses of all known Postal Dip players, both alphabetically and in ZIP Code order, for U.S. and Canada. There's also a list of American Diplomacy zines, and of Diplomacy hobby services. Send \$4.00 to: Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, Calif. 92102.

ZINE REGISTER. Lists all known North American Diplomacy zines, with a description of their prices, size, frequency and types of games carried, plus subscription and sample rates. This appears about once every four months, so it's usually up-to-date. Send \$1.50 for a single issue, or \$3.00 for the next two copies, to: Simon Billenness, 630 Victory Blvd., Apt. 6F, Staten Island, N.Y. 10301.

THE ZINE BANK. Also run by Simon Billenness (address above), this gives you samples of back issues of several Dipzines. Send him \$2.00 and a large (at least 6 x 9) envelope, and he'll send you a batch of different zines.

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

ONCE UPON A DEADLINE. The piece de resistance, a 204 page book on suggestions on how to GM Postal games and print a Diplomacy zine. Useful to anyone whose ever even thought about running a game. Send \$3.00 to: Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., #3, Dalton, Mass. 01226.

DIPLOMACY WORLD. The unofficial flagship zine of the Postal hobby. Carries a great number of feature articles, a Demo game, quizzes, hobby news, and sometimes a variant game, complete with maps. An average of 60 pages/issue. Quarterly. \$12 for 4 issues (US\$14 from Canada), or \$4 for a sample issue. Send to: Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, Calif. 92102-0416. (D.W. was rated 6th on the 1986 Zine Poll).

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LEADERS ON THE NORTH AMERICAN ZINE POLL FOR 1986

If you're looking for other Diplomacy zines to read, or perhaps play in, you can't go wrong on the following, which were rated from #1 to #5 on the most recent Poll (formally called the Runestone Poll) by the vote of 211 Diplomacy players.

1. COSTAGUANA, Conred von Metzke, P.O. Box 17602, San Diego, Calif. 92117-0602.
2. EUROPA EXPRESS, Gary Coughlan, 4614 Martha Cole Ln., Memphis, Tenn. 38118.  
(Now coming out only on a quarterly basis, but games are run by flyer).
3. IT'S A TRAP, Steve Knight, 2732 Grand Ave.S., #302, Minneapolis, Md. 55408. (more)

- 4. PRAXIS, Alan Stewart, 702-25 St. Mary St., Toronto, Ont., CANADA M4Y 1R2
- 5. EXCELSIOR, Bruce McIntyre, 6191 Winch St., Burnaby, B.C., CANADA V5B 2L4. (Now appearing about once every 6 weeks).

All are monthly publications except where otherwise noted. For a sample copy, I'd suggest sending \$1.00 for COSTAGUANA, and the Canadian zines, or 50¢ for the others. The zines will all carry detailed information on the costs of subs and Game Fees.

Within the SIG, some of you may like to request a sample of THE DIPLOMATIC RAG, produced by Kate Robison, 1140 N.W. 59th St., Seattle, Wash. 98107. This has been running a single game of the All Asia variant, but maybe it will start some new games soon. Send 50¢ for a sample.

I can also heartily recommend DIPLOMACY DIGEST, which is a non-game zine, running original and reprint articles on all aspects of the Diplomacy hobby. Usually, each issue will have a single theme, but news items will appear in each copy. D.D. came in 7th on the 1986 Poll. Send \$1.00 to: Mark Berch, 492 Naylor Pl., Alexandria, Va. 22304.

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SIG GAME REPORTS

MENSA #18, 1983AV. GM: Scott Hanson, BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA  
 Russia (Ron Brown) has finally won a Rulebook Victory in Fall 1918. France (Kevin Brown) and Turkey (Mark Keller) fought a long battle to prevent the Russian win. Turkey came back from just 2 Centers in 1905 to become a major force by 1909, and wound up with 13 SC's. A Supply Center chart and summary is herewith furnished. Several of the players, alas, have let their SIG memberships lapse.

B3AV GM: Scott Hanson (Big Hits of Mid-America (Volume 3))

AUSTRIA: Paula Dodge (res S'06), Jeff Ellis (out F'08)  
 ENGLAND: Richard Benjamin (dro S'03), Kevin Tighe (out F'07)  
 FRANCE: Kevin Brown (sur F'18)  
 GERMANY: Craig Reges (out F'11)  
 ITALY: Michael Keller (out F'12)  
 RUSSIA: Keith Sesler (dro F'05), Ron J. Brown (WIN F'18)  
 TURKEY: Loring Windblad (res S'01), Mark Keller (sur F'18)

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
A	4	4	5	5	5	3	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	2	2	2	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	12	11	11	11	14	12	11	9	6	5	3
G	5	7	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I	4	5	5	4	5	4	3	4	4	4	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
R	6	7	8	8	11	11	12	12	12	14	12	14	15	14	17	17	18	WINS
T	4	3	3	3	2	3	5	5	6	6	8	8	8	8	11	11	12	13

This was the longest game in SIG history. I think the record for any Regular U.S. Postal game was one ending in 1927.

MENSA #19, 1984 CJ, GM: Bruce Poppe  
 The two-way Draw proposal between Germany (Bob Addison) and Turkey (H.D. Bassett) failed. However, Germany gained two more SC's, London & Brest, in Fall 1912, to go up to 16 Centers. Her Spring 1913 moves were mostly successful, so as we go to press there is a possibility that she may take her 18th Center in the Fall. If we receive the Fall 1913 report before we mail this, we'll add a note. David Lincoln did return as France, after that one NMR, BUT has fallen to 4. Ralph Baty is running Austria-Hungary from Augsburg, Germany, a bit closer to Vienna, with 3 units left.

MENSA #20, 1985 HK. GM: Bob Addison (by flyer)

All three major powers missed a turn recently, so the only player to gain ground in 1909 was Germany (Linc Beaumont), who now has 3 Supply Centers. He recaptured Munich from Russia (Kirk Larsen), who still leads with 12 SC's. Russia played all of 1909 two units short, so he gets to build one in W 1909, even though he went down one SC. Russia and Germany appear to be working together against France (Craig Reges), who broke even at 8. Turkey (Sean Morgan) held steady at 10 SC's, with border skirmishes against both Russia and France.

MENSA #21, 1985 HW. GM: Bruce Poppe

AUSTRIA (Tony Dousette) is the big gainer here, capturing Bulgaria and Rumania and going to 7 Centers as of Winter 1904. England (Bob Addison) added Sweden to go to 6. Susan Forbes resigned as Turkey. The position was taken over by Scott Shacter, who stayed at 3. Russia (Frank Riley) lost Bul and Rum to Austria, and dropped to 4. Germany (John Barnes) went down one to 5. France and Italy stayed even with 5 and 4 Centers, respectively.

MENSA #22. (Boardman No. not shown). GM: Steve Hutton, NO FIXED ADDRESS

In Fall 1901, Austria (Scott Shacter) and France (Linc Beaumont) were the leaders, each taking two neutral Centers to go to 5. England (Kirk Larsen) NMR'd, so he did not gain any Centers. Ron Brown has taken over Italy from Sean Morgan, but the Spring NMR meant Italy was also unable to gain a SC. (Some GM's would have used neutral orders for a Spring 1901 NMR, but Steve does not do so). Russia (Bob Addison) also had his Spring orders lost in the mail, but recovered sufficiently to gain one Center in Fall '01, as did Germany and Turkey. Five Centers remain neutral, an unusually high number for Winter 1901. After the appearance of NFA #39 in mid-October, this game will be continued by flyer.

MENSA #23 (Boardman No. applied for). GM: Scott Hanson, BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA  
The starting lineup includes mostly newer SIG members, as follows: A - Stephen Shellnut, E - Curtis Kueker, F - David Coufal, G - Steven Wallis, I - Tony Dousette, R - Chris Breiller and T - Paul Burroughs. The first deadline was October 13, 1986.

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After MENSA #24 is filled, we will start taking names for the MENSA #25 game. I have one volunteer to GM MENSA #25. If anyone else would like to have their name listed to run a Regular Diplomacy game, please let me know. If you wish, you may request to be given a new game only when one of your current games ends.

All GM's are reminded that a copy of each Game Report should be sent to the Boardman No. Custodian. This is: Steve Heinowski, 12034 Pyle, Oberlin, Ohio 44074. If it's being run by flyer, you can send two or three sets together to save postage. Recently, the outgoing BNC thought a couple of Mensa games were lost, as he had not heard anything about them for some time. Fortunately, I was able to inform him and the Orphan Game Custodian that the games were alive and well. When each game ends, the BNC also needs a detailed summary, such as the one shown here for MENSA #18, to print in his zine, EVERYTHING, and place in the game archives.

Copies should also be sent to the Zine Archives. The current Archivist is Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, Calif. 92102-0416. It would make things easier for the Archivist if you named your flyer, or at least numbered each issue. You've all been very good about showing the name of each game, and its Boardman No., plus the date of production, on each issue. It isn't necessary to show an exact date, as long as the month and year are shown, but issue numbers would be most helpful.

I, of course, stand ready to accept players for variant games. However, there isn't enough demand for such to warrant setting up an All-Mensa variant game. Twice (more)

in the SIG's past we have had Mensa Variant games, but in those days we had 60 to 70 SIG members, and I was enclosing BUSHWACKER and DIPLOMAG together for our M readers. I found that M's seemed to have a greater interest in and understanding of variants than other players. (When you were a kid, did you like to make up house rules for various games, like me? Many kids are extremely rigid about not changing game rules - some can be traced back unchanged for 300 years - but I could always see a way of improving a game.) If you share this trait, or if you like to study maps, you may be interested in trying out a Diplomacy variant. Copies of the North American Variant Bank Catalog are available from me for \$3.00, if you'd like to see what sort of ~~stuff~~ ~~stuff~~ material is available. Every time period and every continent is covered somewhere in the 700-odd variants people have designed over the past 20 years.

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THE 1986 AMERICAN MENSA MEMBERSHIP LIST has finally been mailed out. It shows our membership as of May 1986. Over 46,000 names are included. Only name, address, phone number, marital status and date of birth are shown. No hobbies or special interests listed. I have entered the relevant information in the SIG records, where shown. For those of you who have joined Mensa since May 1986, I'll still be depending on you to supply it. No price is shown. (I ordered mine at the pre-publication price of \$12.00 last March). If you want a copy, I suggest you write to the Brooklyn office first to check on price and availability.

The saddest entry in the 1986 MEMBERSHIP LIST, if you believe in heredity, is this: "About half of the members are childless." The most interesting: "The largest percent of the members are either the oldest or the only children in their families." The onlies and oldests spent more time with adult companions in those critical first few years, of course. That seems to have a lot to do with our being Mensans. (I keep saying that the fact that I fell on my head at 6 months was purely a coincidence).

Anyway, please notify me when you move.

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Hope you appreciate that I was able to give you 6 pages this time. This is being produced in the second week of October. With luck, I'll try to have the next issue out at the end of November, and to enclose a SIG Membership List therein.

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