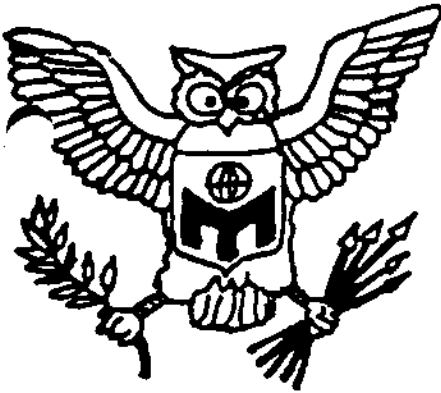


# DIPLOMAG



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. 6

November-December 1986

Whole No. 72

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## STATE OF THE SIG

As you see above, your Chairman will be moving right after Christmas. Ellicott City is a Baltimore suburb, about 6 miles west of where we currently live. This will be some 8 miles from Columbia, so Bruce Poppe and I will living closer to each other, making FTF contact easier than when he lived near Annapolis. There will be a time during and after the move when I will be too busy to respond to inquiries, so please bear with me. I've set a BUSHWACKER deadline of January 10, 1987, and then expect to produce a Jan/Feb issue of DIPLOMAG shortly thereafter.

This month I'll enclose a new Membership List. In the next issue I'll provide a Financial Report for the year 1986. The preliminary figures show that we are losing money despite a considerable cut in printing costs. We will continue to set the dues at \$3.00 a year for the next six months, but we will have to consider raising them to \$4.00 on July 1, 1987, if there is no improvement. We lose money on first-year members, since we mail them a lot of extra material, and then recoup our losses with dues renewals. Perhaps we should consider charging \$4.00 for first-year memberships, and then \$3.00 a year for renewals. The SIG would also be happy to receive donations to the Treasury. (One member is now donating in kind).

We're still unable to fill the Mensa #24 game. As I type this, we have four players and one standby signed up. Here's a chance to get into a new game quickly if any of your games have just ended or show signs of running down.

We're now at the point where the By-Laws need to be reprinted, as our inherited supply is running low. So, it is time to make a needed revision to show the new American Mensa policy of permitting a limited number of people who do not pay National Group dues to become and remain members of this SIG. This will consist mainly of people who have let their National dues lapse, but could also include non-M replacement players in SIG games, if they're interested in joining. The proposed revisions of Sections 2 and 8 are on the next page.

Proposed By-Laws Amendments:

Article 2. Membership

a. Membership in the SIG is open to all members of Mensa, plus all persons who are in the act of joining Mensa. This will include members of Mensa Canada and other recognized Mensa national groups. It is understood that it may be necessary to fill some postal games with people who are not Mensans, but any such players will not have a vote within the SIG.

(New)

b. The American Mensa Committee has ruled that SIG membership may be offered on a limited basis to non-Mensans, including SIG members whose National membership has expired. Accordingly, up to ten per cent of the SIG membership may consist of persons who are not currently duespaying members of their National Mensa groups, providing they continue to pay their SIG dues. This SIG membership will make them eligible to participate in All-Mensa games as players or Gamesmasters.

(Slightly Revised)

{ In addition, all players in an All-Mensa game will have the normal rights of players in all postal games, even if their National or Diplomacy SIG membership has elapsed.

(New)

c. SIG members are requested to inform the Chairman of their intent to remain a member of the Diplomacy SIG if their National membership status has expired. This should be done within 90 days of the expiration of their National membership, but in any case must be done at the time SIG membership dues are renewed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Article 8. Membership Eligibility Clarifications:

(Slightly Revised)

a. It is understood that a person can be a member of the Diplomacy SIG without being an active player, standby player or publisher/GM of a Mensa SIG game. It is only necessary for a person to indicate to the Chairman an interest in belonging to the SIG and to pay the required SIG Dues to maintain membership.

(New)

b. The Dues requirement will be waived for SIG officers, for persons Gamesmastering All-Mensa games (providing a copy of each game report is sent to the Chairman), for all Mensa publishers who send a copy of their zine to the Chairman, and for all persons accepting special responsibilities within the SIG, such as serving as Election Commissioner or Novice Officer. Waivers of dues in the last category shall be at the discretion of the Chairman.

(Revised)  
(Old "b")

c. The Chairman may request any person not listed as a duespaying member of American Mensa, Ltd. in the most recent issue of the National Membership List or Register to confirm his membership by mailing him either the mailing label from his national Mensa publication or a photocopy of his current Mensa membership card. However, in accordance with the provisions of Article 2, sections b and c, a current or prospective SIG member may request SIG membership as an expired or non-Mensa member.

(New)

\* \* \* \* \*

(more)

The Current By-Laws read as follows:

\*2. Membership in the SIG is open to all members of Mensa, plus all persons who are in the act of joining Mensa. It is understood that it may be necessary to fill some postal games with people who are not Mensans, but these other players will not have a vote within the SIG. Membership in the SIG will expire six months after a person's Mensa membership has elapsed, effective December 31, 1974. However, all players in an All-Mensa game will have the normal rights of players in all postal games, even if their membership has lapsed.

\*8. Membership Eligibility Clarifications:

- a. It is understood that a Mensan can be a member of the SIG without being an active player, stand-by player or publisher of a Mensa SIG game. It is only necessary for a Mensan to indicate to the Chairman an interest in belonging to the SIG, and that some sign that the person maintains an active interest in the Postal Diplomacy hobby exists, such as publishing a Diplomacy zine, playing in some other postal Diplomacy game, or paying SIG dues.
- b. Any person not listed as a dues-paying member of American Mensa, Ltd. in the current issue of the National Membership List or Register must satisfactorily prove his Mensa membership to the Chairman by mailing him either the mailing label from his national Mensa publication or a photocopy of his current Mensa Membership card."

The third sentence in Section 2 has been made obsolete by the recent (1984?) AMC ruling on non-M's belonging to SIGs. Also, this new ruling needs to be mentioned in the By-Laws, which is the reason for the new subsections "b" and "c".

The peculiar wording in <sup>old</sup> Sec. 8. a. dates back to the founding days of our SIG, when no dues were charged. We only had about 14 members, so DIPLOMAG and its predecessor were simply added as a subzine to a publication called K'DOO. It was only after K'DOO folded and DIPLOMAG became a regular bimonthly newsletter going out to about 35 members that we decided it was necessary to collect dues. At first, we tried to keep track of whether a person was "active" by seeing whether he was playing Dip anywhere. This was not a satisfactory situation. Nowadays, there are just two ways to maintain SIG membership. Either you serve as an Officer, GM, Trading Publisher, Election Commissioner, etc.; or you pay dues. Made things much easier. So, the other verbiage can be deleted.

I want to leave in the part allowing the Chairman to request proof of Mensa membership if circumstances arise where this could be needed, such as when a person runs for office. Many years ago, we were burned by a party who claimed Mensa membership when in fact he had never been a member. Such things can happen.

So, I would appreciate all of you detaching the ballot at the bottom of this page and voting on these Amendments. We need a two-thirds vote of approval among those actually voting for this to pass.

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BY-LAWS AMENDMENT BALLOT: Please return to Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207, by December 13, 1986.

Proposed Revision of Secs. 2 and 8.  Approve  Disapprove

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Prov/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SIG GAME REPORTS

MENSA #19, 1984 GJ. GM: Bruce Poppe (by flyer)

Germany (Bob Addison) was blocked in Fall 1913, and failed to add any territory to his 16-Center Reich. In fact, not a single Center changed hands in 1913, although French F Irish Sea was annihilated. The 1914 statistics show Turkey (Bassett) with 11 SC's, France (Lincoln) with 4 SC's but only 3 units, and Austria still at 3. The question remains, will 1914 be the big year for Germany?

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

The game has ended in a 4-way Draw between France, Germany, Russia and Turkey. The draw was approved by all players following a strange Spring 1910 season in which both Russia and Turkey NMR'd, leading to a headline in the game report: "Anybody Still Wanna Play?"

AUSTRIA: Andy Cruickshank (out F '05)

ENGLAND: James Cook (drop F '04), Kevin Brown (drop F '06), C.D. to end

FRANCE: Karen Schoch (res. S '03), Craig Reges (drew, S '10)

GERMANY: Al Autovino (res. W '04), Lincoln Besumont (drew S '10)

ITALY: Scott Shacter (out F '05)

RUSSIA: Kirk Larsen (drew S '10)

TURKEY: Sean Morgan (drew S '10)

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

(For the benefit of our novice readers, the chart at the left is called the Supply Center Chart. One is always published at the end of each game. A copy is sent to the Boardman No. Custodian for publication in EVERYTHING, the official hobby record of Regular Postal games.)

Endgame Summary by Bob Addison, GM:

This was the first and only game I've GM'd. It was a very interesting experience, but the workload was heavier than I expected. There were three corrections issued due to GM error. The only other problem with this game was the large number of NMR's, a total of 14 in 9½ game years.

The game started with a solid Russia-Turkey alliance. Russia got off to a quick start against Austria and England, and then turned against Germany. He probably would have won the game if he hadn't started missing turns. (Larsen).

France became the dominant power in the west. Turkey conquered Italy, and then got no further than border skirmishes with both Russian and French neighbors. Germany was nearly eliminated, but came back in alliance with Russia, in what may have been another bid for a Russian bid. I think the draw passed out of disinterest. Everybody grew tired of the game.

Editor here: Kirk Larsen has dropped out of the SIG, and apparently out of the hobby as well. Too bad, after such a good start. I will publish any short end-game statements I receive from the players. Those which are typed will receive preference. Some of you may wish to now sign up for the Mensa #24 game.

MENSA #21, 1985 HW. GM: Bruce Poppe (by flyer). Fall 1905 status.

Austria (Tony Dousette) is the big leader here, taking Naples, Venice & Sev, while losing Vienna to Russia, to go up to 9 Centers, a gain of two. Germany (John Barnes) added Edi to rise one to 6. Everybody else either broke even or lost Centers, with England (Bob Addison) suffering the worst with a loss of two. Italy (Bill Port) is down to a single Home Center in Rome, but managed to seize Brest to keep 3 units on the board (down one). Some good press releases here! (Cont. bottom of Pg. 5)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It's only been about six weeks since the last issue, so not much has happened here. The wave of inquiries following the publication of the SIG list in the September BULLETIN has died down. Two new members are welcomed aboard. They are:

Benjamin Greaves, P.O. Box 437, Georgetown, CT. 06829  
Walter Compton (Renewed old membership), Apartado 70774, Caracas 1071-A, VENEZUELA  
(Walter runs a Wargaming SIG in Mensa, in case you're interested. I believe the Air Mail postage to Venezuela is 39¢/half oz.)

The following SIG memberships are expiring as of December 31st: Sean Morgan, Bill Port, Craig Reges, Scott Shacter, Sherwood Tucker, Robert White. I would appreciate having your \$3.00 dues renewals soon, before I have to pack everything up for the move. Thankyou. You can use this opportunity to tell me if you're interested in being in a game or serving as a standby.

We supposedly have 46 SIG members now, but Curtis Kueker has disappeared, leaving us with just 45. Anyone knowing of Curtis' whereabouts is asked to please let me know.

Hey, we have not received a single new SIG membership inquiry from Canada in about 18 months. Will some Canadian member please advise me whether the complete list of American SIGs is still published in MC<sup>2</sup>, the national newsletter of Mensa Canada? If not, can we get a plug into MC<sup>2</sup>?

\* \* \* \* \*

THE MEMBERSHIP LIST appears on a separate sheet, due to our brilliant planning. (We hadn't expected the Mensa #20 game to end so suddenly). A check of the List shows that we have 9 members in California, which is usually the leader in most aspects of the Postal hobby. (All of the early Postal Dip founders and leaders came from the San Diego area, except John Boardman). We have 3 members each in Maryland, Texas and Canada, and two each in Conn., Fla., Hawaii, Mass., Pa. and Va. The rest are scattered all over the continent, plus one member in Venezuela.

If you should move, please notify me as well as your GM. Thanks.

\* \* \* \* \*

STANDBY POOL CHANGES:

Linc Beaumont asks to be dropped from the Pool, as he's been called up in a couple of games recently, and has reached his limit.

Bill Young has volunteered to go on the list. His current address is on the masthead and Membership list, but this is subject to change.

Andy Cruickshank has offered to be a standby, but only for Games #24 and after.

If anyone wishes to be added only for future Mensa games, this may be done.

\* \* \* \* \*

SIG GAME REPORTS (Cont. from Pg. 4)

MENSA #22, 1986??. GM: Steve Hutton, NO FIXED ADDRESS

Winter 1901 was played separately, as is almost universally the case, so there's little to report here, except that Kirk Larsen resigned. He has been replaced as England by Jim Robertson. The leaders are Austria (Scott Shacter) and France (Linc Beaumont), with five Centers each.

(more)

MENSA #23, (Boardman No. applied for). GM: Scott Hansen, BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA. Spring 1901 was played on October 13th. We were hoping to receive the Fall '01 results before press time, but didn't. Too early to say anything. Neutral moves were made for Austria (Steve Shellnut) and England (Curtis Kueker) when they NMR'd. Linc Beaumont has replaced Kueker, who has moved without leaving a forwarding address.

\* \* \* \* \*

AMERICAN MENSA MEMBERSHIP GROWS

Most Mensa Local Groups showed a continued growth in 1986. As of September, the San Francisco Group had gained 9.4% in membership over its 9/85 figure, to pass up New York as the largest single group. S.F. now has 2,858 members, as compared to 2,757 for Greater New York. The other largest Groups are:

- |                        |                         |                           |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3. Los Angeles - 2,596 | 7. Philadelphia - 1,297 | 10. Orange County - 1,153 |
| 4. Chicago - 1,941     | 8. Detroit - 1,262      | 11. North Texas - 1,047   |
| 5. Washington - 1,855  | 9. Houston - 1,166      | 12. Boston - 1,040        |
| 6. San Diego - 1,368   |                         |                           |

Four of the twelve largest Local Groups are now in California. All groups showed a gain in the 9/85-9/86 period except New York, which virtually stood pat, and San Diego, which dropped by 10 members. Orange Co., Calif. gained 10.6%. Minnesota showed a 31% increase in membership, to become the 13th largest Group.

\* \* \* \* \*

There is no longer a Postal Dip flyer in the Avalon Hill game box, although there is one, written by our own Ron Brown, in the Diplomacy sets being sold in Canada.

There will soon be a concerted effort by some non-M's to set up a Postal Dip Recruiting campaign along different lines. I hope to be able to bring you information on this project in the next issue. When this is ready to fly, all players will be asked to volunteer one or two hours of your time to make the effort successful in every metropolitan area. I can't say more now, except to assure you that there will be no financial costs to the volunteers. Please watch this space for further news.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all!

# # # # #

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