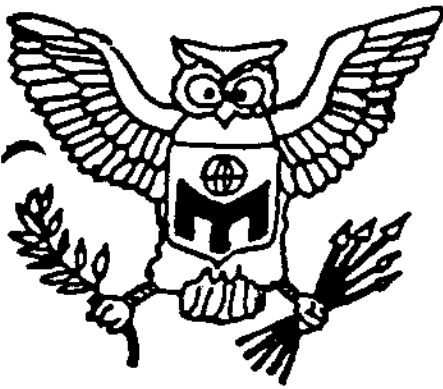


DIPLOMAG



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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STATE OF THE SIG

You'll find the annual Financial Statement for 1986 inside. We're happy to report that we now have \$99.44 in the Treasury, and we won't have to raise the Dues in 1987. Generous donations and a recalculation of the figures are the causes of this good news.

Mensa #24 has filled. It will be GM'd by John Barnes, 444 Lora Ave., Youngstown, Ohio 44504. This will be run by a flyer, which will normally go only to its players and standbys, to the Archives, and to me. If you want to follow the game, contact John about a sub.

We will now start filling the Mensa #25 game. This will be run by Kate Robison, in her zine, THE DIPLOMATIC RAG. All requests for getting into this game should be sent to me, so I can keep track of who's in. Now that some other Mensa games have finished, perhaps some of you will want to sign up for a new go-round.

Mensa #19, 1984CJ, has finished in a two-way draw between Germany and Turkey. Details inside.

The By-Laws Amendments passed unanimously, by those of you who voted. We plan to reprint the By-Laws shortly. Hopefully, copies will be included with the next issue.

Three new members joined. Three dropped out. We stay at 45 members. Names inside.

We are now nearly settled down in our new abode in Ellicott City. All of the SIG records showed up intact, so we're back in business.

SIG GAME REPORTS

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

Mensa's oldest game has ended in a two-way draw between Germany (Bob Addison) and Turkey (H.D. Bassett) in Fall 1914. No Centers had changed hands for three years, so it appears that the stalemate was very effective. Here are the statistics:

AUSTRIA: Ralph Baty (survived)
 ENGLAND: Steve Piper (out F '06)
 FRANCE: Dave Lincoln (survived)
 GERMANY: Bob Addison (Drew, F '14)
 ITALY: Bill Brandt (dropped F '07), Civil Disorder (out F '08)
 RUSSIA: John Givins (out F '03)
 TURKEY: H.D. Bassett (Drew, F '14)

GM's: Konrad Baumeister, GIVE ME A WEAPON, to Spring 1910
 Bruce Poppe (flyer), Fall 1910 to end

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
AUSTRIA	4	5	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
ENGLAND	4	4	3	3	1	-								
FRANCE	5	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	9	8	6	4	4	4
GERMANY	6	7	8	8	10	11	11	10	10	12	14	16	16	16 (Drew)
ITALY	5	4	4	5	4	3	1	-						
RUSSIA	4	1	-											
TURKEY	5	6	6	7	7	7	9	10	12	11	11	11	11	11 (Drew)

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

France (Andy Cruickshank) was the big gainer in 1906, taking Brest, Sweden and Venice to go up to 8 Centers. Austria (Tony Dousette) is still the leader, taking Vienna & Rome, while losing Venice, to rise to 10. John Barnes' Germany took Liverpool and London, and now also stands at 8. England (Bob Addison) is now down to 2 expatriate units, while Bill Port's Italy owns only Tunis. Russia (Frank Riley) NMR'd, and is down to 2 Centers. Turkey (Scott Shacter) stayed even with three.

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

This is the game where five Centers remained neutral after 1901. In Spring 1902, Austria, France and Russia each put 5 units in the field, but it looks like Sweden may continue to stay neutral. The Fall deadline was Jan. 16th, but I felt I couldn't hold up the zine to wait for that report. Steve has asked for someone else to take over this game, as his zine has folded. I have offered to do so myself, running reports alternately in DIPLOMAG and BUSHWACKER, if Steve will hang on for one more set of moves, as I have some eye surgery coming up in February. However, if anyone else would like to take over Mensa #22 and enjoy free SIG dues, please let me know at once, and I'll pass the word on to Steve.

MENSA #23, 1986 CZ. GM: Scott Hanson, BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA

Robert Cheek replaced Steve Shellnut as Austria in Fall '01. France (David Coufal), Germany (Steve Wallis) and Russia (Chris Brailer) all captured two SC's in 1901. Each now has 5 units on the board, as Russia could only build a Mos in Winter. Everyone else built one new unit to stand at 4. Next deadline is Jan. 21st.

MENSA #24. I don't have the starting lineup yet for this game, as the 7th player just signed up around Dec. 31st. We'll have the initial report next issue.

FINANCIAL REPORT for 1986:

We were lucky to have some anonymous donations at year's end. This, together with a recalculation of the figures, shows that we are now prosperous enough not to have to consider a dues increase in 1987. (We had overlooked an Income item in our preliminary figures).

Opening Balance, Jan. 1, 1986: \$ 36.60

INCOME:

Dues Received (37)	\$124.00	
Sample copy payments (11)	5.50	
Donations (3)	27.00	
	<u>\$156.50</u>	
		+156.50
		<u>\$193.10</u>

EXPENSES:

Postage for DIPLOMAG (6 issues)	\$59.96	
Postage, material for new members	5.39	
Postage, misc.	4.98	
Printing DIPLOMAG	4.54	
SUPERNOVAS & postage (9 copies)	9.44	
Photocopy charges	9.35	
	<u>93.66</u>	
		- 93.66
		<u>\$99.44</u>

Closing Balance, Dec. 31, 1986:

Printing costs were low this year because for five of our six issues we were able to obtain a free printing of the first two pages, and the mimeograph paper and stencils used to print the remainder were purchased in 1985. There is no guarantee that the free printing services will continue to be available, and we will have to buy more mimeograph supplies in '87. (I donate the stencils). I'm glad we're money ahead, to cover these expenses. I want to especially thank the three people who made donations to the SIG Treasury.

Some people paid two years' dues at once, and one party pays higher dues for being Overseas, so the Dues Rec'd column does not round out to an even figure. If anyone wishes to pay dues in advance, we will accept a maximum of two years' dues at a time. More importantly, we would appreciate people paying dues when their mailing labels and DIPLOMAG notices indicate they are due, to save me the expense of sending out follow-up notices. If you decide not to renew, please drop me a postcard to that effect.

We have reduced expenses by arranging for Bruce Linsey to send copies of SUPERNOVA to new novice SIG members at his own expense from now on, in exchange for his SIG membership. (This may not occur until two or three months after you join).

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our three new members are:

Vincent Offenback, % Newbury Software Assoc., P.O. Box 441122, Somerville, Mass. 02144
Stephen St. Clair, 9201 Glenbrook Rd., Fairfax, Va. 22031
Andy Thomas, 4317 Burke Ave., N., Seattle, Wash. 98103

The following SIG memberships will expire as of 2-28-87. Please send me your \$3.00 Dues renewals ASAP: Paul Burroughs, Charles Byrne, Jamie Grubbs, Eric Hake and Steve Piper. Let me know if you want to be a player or standby in a new game.

MORE NEWS ON DIPLOMACY FLYERS

First, I'm happy to report that Avalnn Hill has agreed to again put the PBM flyer in the Diplomacy game box sold in the U.S. This new flyer will use the same P.O.B. address as that of DIPLOMACY WORLD, the quasi-official flagship zine of the Postal hobby, in San Diego. Larry Peery, D.W. Editor, will respond to the inquiries with samples and referrals. This should start bringing a lot of new people into our hobby in a few months, when the new sets reach the store shelves.

Second, a different flyer has been created for posting in game and hobby stores, or in other places where such notices may be posted. This could include bulletin boards on college campuses and at gaming events. It could even include postings at Mensa Gatherings. This flyer has been designed by Ken Peel, Editor of POLITESSE, and Simon Billenness, Editor of the ZINE REGISTER. The main part of the flyer refers readers to the two Novice Packages available in America today, to wit, SUPERNOVA, by our own Bruce Linsey; and MASTERS OF DECEIT, by Bob Olson and sold by Woody Arnawoodian. Each sells for \$1.00. Revised editions of both Packages have been produced, so both are updated and practically complete in covering all aspects of the Postal Dip hobby.

There is room at the bottom for the person doing the posting to include his own name and address, if he wishes, to provide a local contact. You could also include your own phone number, but this may not be advisable in many cities, as you could get some pretty wierd phone calls at 1 a.m.

I'd like to suggest that you send Ken Peel a SASE, and ask him to send you two copies of this flyer. You can then amend one to suit yourself, and make photocopies from it. Then, check around some of the independent quality game and hobby shops in your area, to see if they'll let you post a copy. And leave some around on bulletin boards, and at Mensa meetings. This way, everyone can help the Postal hobby to grow.

Ken's address: 8708 First Ave., #T-2, Silver Spring, Md. 20910.

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This is a comparatively short issue, as I now have to retype the By-Laws. I expect to prepare the next issue of DIPLOMAG around the middle of March, assuming I have no postoperative difficulties after my cataract is removed. Since 99% of the people are now fully recovered two weeks after their surgery, I'm not expecting any trouble.

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