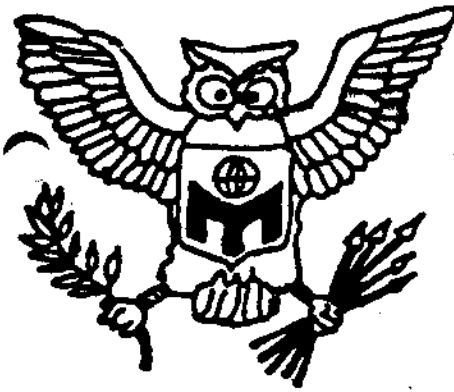


DIPLOMAG



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.

BY-LAWS included w/ this issue

VOL. IV, No. 8

March-April 1987

Whole No. 74

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STATE OF THE SIG

A copy of the amended SIG By-Laws is enclosed with this issue. These reflect the permission now granted to all SIGs to have non-M's on their membership rolls. Most of these will be former Mensa members who have let their National dues lapse. This is spelled out in Secs. 2. b. and 2. c. There are also a few changes in syntax.

I did not have to undergo eye surgery after all. My eyedoctor has decided to postpone any such operation for at least another year. I used some of my extra free time to do some updating of the North American Variant Bank.

There was a delay in the start-up of the Mensa #24 game, being run by John Barnes. One of the original seven players did not respond to the request for Game Fees. Hopefully, it has now started, with players stretching from Hawaii to Venezuela.

We have either four or five people now signed up for the new All-M game, which will be called Mensa #25, depending on whether we had to "borrow from Peter to pay Paul" in Mensa #24. This will be GM'd by Kate Robison, in THE DIPLOMATIC RAG. You can sign up for this game through me. The sooner we get seven players, the sooner we can get started, so let's hear from you!

HOBBY NEWS

The dates for DipCon XX have been changed to June 5-7, 1987. This is the annual big tournament and get-together of the Postal hobby. It rotates around the country, so as to be near some of the diplomats at least once every four years. This year, it will be held on the campus of the U. of Wisconsin, in Madison, Wis. If you want more information on registration, room rents, etc., send a SASE to: Mark Fruch, 4320 Wallace St., St. Louis, Mo. 63116, for a copy of the next flyer. This is your chance to meet some of these people whom you only knew by name.

(more)

ORIGINS '87 will be held in Baltimore's Downtown Convention Center and Hyatt-Regency Hotel, July 2nd thru 5th, 1987. Along with hundreds of other events, there will be a Diplomacy Tournament, run by Robert Sacks, on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There will be an "Open Meeting" of the Diplomacy hobby on the evening of July 4th. (That's when anybody can get up and sound off on anything. This could get very interesting!) On Friday, July 3rd, at 7 p.m., I will be offering to run several games of SkinnyDip, the Lew Pulsipher variant with just 22 Supply Centers. Because of the small size of the board, it ought to be possible to complete a FTF game in less than four hours. This will be in-between rounds of the Regular Dip Tournament. You have to register with ORIGINS to participate, but once you've done so, the entry fee is just \$1.00 for SkinnyDip, and \$2.00 for Diplomacy.

Preliminary figures show that there were at least 90 Boardman Numbers issued for Regular Dip games, and at least 45 Miller Numbers for Variants, in North America in 1986. This is the lowest figure for Regular Postal games since 1970, but an increase for variants. More Regular games started in Britain than in America in 1986.

While there is some concern at this drop-off, there seems to be a consensus that it does not indicate the Postal hobby is dying. The loss of some peripheral players may actually strengthen the environment, as there may be fewer drop-outs or orphaned games.

The new Avalon Hill flyer is out. This should result in an increase of people coming into the Postal hobby, as the new sets reach the store shelves. One side of the flyer gives a strong plug to playing the game by mail. In the meanwhile, we hope that the posting of the Ken Peel flyer in prominent places will pull in some new blood. You did request a couple copies of the flyer, didn't you?

The 1987 Runestone Poll will rate the best Postal Dip zines and subzines in North America, as well as the Best GM's. Many zines will be carrying the complete ballot, which includes an alphabetical list of all the known publications. Our own SIG member Bruce Linsey is running the Poll. I can provide you with a copy if you haven't yet received one from another zine. The deadline for voting is June 27th. Please vote. Everyone who casts a ballot will be eligible to win the "door prize," which will be your choice of a German Diplomacy set or \$30.00 in cash. You can vote for any publication of which you've seen at least two issues since April 1986, and which continued to be published into 1987 (even if it's now folded).

Bruce Linsey is distributing free copies of the Novice Packet, SUPERNOVA, to all new SIG members. Anyone who joined the SIG in the past two years is entitled to a copy. If you've been a member for more than two months and haven't received your copy, please write to Bruce and remind him to send you one. (Obviously, Bruce can't send them out until I notify him that you've become a member). Bruce's address: 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, Mass. 01226. Runestone Poll ballots go to the same address.

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SIG GAME REPORTS

MENSA #21, 1985 HW. GM: Bruce Poppe (by flyer)
Austria (Tony Dousette) is still the leader here in Spring 1907, with 10 Centers. France (Andy Cruickshank) is operating with 8 Centers but only 7 units, as he only had room for 2 Builds last Winter. Germany has just evicted England (Bob Addison) from Norway, leaving England with a lone SC in St. Pete. Germany (John Barnes) had both 8 Centers and 8 units, but is now moving both north and east to add more. The lone Italian F of Bill Port is becalmed in the Tyrr. Sea, and Bill has made his swan song speech to the other players. Russia (Frank Riley) has returned to the wars, albeit reduced to units in Moscow & Warsaw. Scott Shacter has both NMR'd as Turkey and let his SIG membership lapse, so he's rapidly losing fez.

(more)

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

Only Fall 1902 results have been received here, since last issue. England (Jim Robertson) gained Bel & Brest to go up to 5 Centers. Germany (Paul Burroughs) gained Holland to rise to 5. Austria (Shacter) and Russia (Bob Addison) stand pat with 5 each. Everybody else owns 4. The Winter '02 and Spring '03 deadline was February 27th. I may be taking over this game after that report is published, but I can't say any more until I hear from Steve. Nobody broke down my door asking to take over the game, but if anyone has an urge to dip their toe into GM'ing, please let me know. Nor & Swe still neutral!

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

This zine switched to a monthly schedule, which seems to have delayed receipt of the Fall 1902 report. Russia (Chris Brailer) NMR'd in the Spring, and had F Rumania annihilated. Italy (Tony Dousette) has kicked Austria (Bob Cheek) out of Trieste. France (David Coufal) and Germany (Steve Wallis) have been banging away at each other in the usual spaces of Ruhr and Burgundy, without success. Perhaps a pattern will begin to emerge when we see the Fall orders.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We've gained four new members since the last DIPLOMAG was published. As the complete national SIG List is printed in the March BULLETIN, we're expecting another wave of inquiries soon. April and October are our big months in gaining new members. We had an article printed in TURNSHEET, the Games by Mail SIG newsletter, run by Loren Moody, which has gotten us some inquiries recently. Our new members are:

Stephen Hutton, 47 Carol Rd., Westfield, N.J. 07090. (Not to be confused with our Canadian M and publisher, Steve Hutton).

Keith W. Johnson, 6560 W. 132nd St., Apple Valley, MN. 55124

Peter Shannen, 3701 Sharon St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17111

Eric Young, R.R. #2, Stepney Rd., Armstrong, B.C., CANADA V0E 1B0

Alas, there have been lapses, so we're only up one member to 46. The following SIG memberships will lapse as of April 30, 1987. Please send me your \$3.00 Dues renewal ASAP. If I don't hear from you, it costs the SIG 22¢ every time I send out a reminder notice. Let me know if you want to join a new game or be on the standby list. Even if you decide not to renew, a postcard would be appreciated:

→ Chris Brailer, David Coufal, Tony Dousette, Frank Riley, Ronald Shippee, and Steven Wallis. Thankyou very much.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE GAMES BY MAIL SIG, which mainly concerns the professionally run games, send a SASE to: Loren Moody, P.O. Box 8611, Newport Beach, CA. 92658.

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CLASSIFIED SECTION

INTERNATIONAL POSTAL DIPPY GAME. GM, Walter Compton, Apartado 70744, Caracas 1071-A, VENEZUELA. Deadlines about six weeks apart. Winter/Spring and Summer/Fall moves combined unless otherwise requested. Game Fee is only a donation of U.S. \$5.00 to the Postal Diplomacy SIG. List choice of country. If 7 players not signed up by April 15 (Income Tax Day), then no game. ((This is meant to be limited to SIG members, but I think you could invite a few friends to join to fill up the game. Air Mail postage to Venezuela is 39¢ per half-oz. There are some pretty stamps from there.))

(more)

WANTED: Someone who has the DIPLOMACY Computer Game. I would very very interested in learning how the computer version works and what kind of assistance it gives to the player. I'd also like a copy of the manual. Believe it or not, I don't want to pirate it. It won't run on my monochrome IBM PC-XT anyway, so the program won't do me much good. Please send any information to: Kevin Self, 9303 Woodfair, #714, Houston, Texas 77036.

* * * * *

"I want to say thanks for the SUPERNOVA packet. It really is a great help for we novices. I'll send a note to Bruce Linsey one of these days, but as SIG Chairman I thought you should know it's worth the SIG's money.

"Also, I have access to the infamous 'copier at the office' if it would help save a buck sometimes to get things run off. Granted, the SIG is not in a financial crisis, but every bit helps. I'd especially be willing to work on anything else on the caliber of SUPERNOVA designed to aid the struggling novice" - Kevin Self (Address above)

((Thankyou very much, Kevin. I agree that SUPERNOVA can be very helpful, and not just to novices. As for photocopying, let's just say I have a local source. The problem with out-of-town copying is the cost of mailing such productions. The postage eats up much of the money saved, because if you send it "Printed Matter" it may not show up until next month. Perhaps Bruce could use your help in the Runestone Poll work.))

* * * * *

SO, YOU ARE GETTING 6 PAGES this issue, counting the By-Laws. If you request a Runestone Poll ballot, you'll actually get eight pages, since I'll also include the form from Linda Courtemanche outlining her "Diplomacy Alliance Against Cancer" campaign. This asks all voters to pledge a few cents for each vote cast in the Poll, to go to the American Cancer Society. If you pledge 3¢ per vote, for example, and 200 votes are cast, your contribution would be \$6.00. If you don't wish to vote, but still want to contribute, send your check to Linda at: 1021 Penn Cir., Apt. E402, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406. ((I'm sorry I have no room to print this letter here, but the By-Laws have priority, and this arrived here only on the day I had to make up the pages for DIPLOMAG, with most of my material already written)).

The next issue should be out in mid-May.

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