



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 and related events. The SIG arranges postal games for its members, including first games for novices. For SIG game openings, contact the Chairman. Membership dues are \$3.00 per year. Diplomacy is a copyrighted board game produced in the U.S.A. by The Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Maryland. Any opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of American Mensa, Ltd.

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STATE OF THE SIG

We have had a rush of new members, plus people signing up for the Mensa games. Mensa #25 was filled on April 6th. This list of players was sent to Kate Robison, and she has contacted them to see about game fees, country assignments, and house rules. So, this game should be starting shortly. In addition, we have also received at least five more applications to be in the Mensa #26 game

We have a problem. We need more GM's to run new games. Steve Hutton folded NO FIXED ADDRESS and turned Mensa #22 over to me. Bob Addison's Mensa #20 game ended, and he's not in the market to run another one. I would like to get at least two volunteers to run future games. Obviously, without GM's, we can have no All-Mensa games. If necessary, I'll contact some non-M publishers to see if they're willing to run one of our SIG games, but I'm sure we'd all prefer having our games run within the SIG. Please let me hear from you, even if it's only to volunteer to GM a game at a future date.

We now need a volunteer to serve as Election Commissioner. Said person does not have to pay dues for the year in which he serves. Both the terms of your Chairman and of the Senior Commissioner will expire on October 31st. As soon as we have an Election Commissioner, anyone wishing to run for either office may contact him. Incidentally, I do plan to volunteer to serve another two-year term as Chairman.

We have decided to run alternate reports on Mensa #22 here in DIPLOMAG, as a guide for our novice players and readers, as to how Postal Dip games are reported. In alternate months, when DIPLOMAG does not appear, we'll send flyers with the reports to the players. If anyone else desires to follow the game in those months, please send me \$2.00 to cover the postage. Accordingly, we will try to get DIPLOMAG onto a regular mid-month schedule as soon as possible. This issue is being held up for a few days in order to give a proper deadline to the Mensa #22 players.

CONVENTION NEWS

It's almost too late to get to DipCon, the official National Convention, being held in Madison, Wis., on June 5-7, 1987. To register, write to Mark Frueh, 420 Wallace St., St. Louis, Mo. 63116, and enclose a check for \$10.00. Rooms are available at \$33.00 per night single, or \$16.50/night if you're willing to share with someone. Send a separate check for either \$33.00 or \$66.00, made out to "Lowell Hall," and let them know if you're willing to share a room.

If you can't get to Wisconsin, perhaps you'll be able to come to ORIGINS '87 here in Baltimore, on July 3-4-5-. To obtain a copy of the ORIGINS Catalog and Registration form, write to: Origins, P.O. Box 15405, Baltimore, Md. 21220. Advance registration costs \$20. Registration for the Diplomacy Tournament is just \$2. Information on hotels is in the Catalog. It is suggested that you get your mail registration in by May 31st. The cost goes up to \$25. in June.

If any SIG members are attending, please let me know. Perhaps we can all meet for a root beer (as Snoopy would say), sometime during the weekend. You'll find me running the "SkinnyDip" variant tournament at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 3rd. I'll be the one screaming for help.

West Coast people may wish to attend PeeriCon VII in San Diego. There will be two sessions. Part A will be held over the weekend of June 20-21 (the originally announced dates for DipCon), and Part B on August 1-2, 1987. Registration will be \$15. for each separate part of PeeriCon, or \$25. for both. To get a registration form, write to: PeeriCon, Box 8416, San Diego, CA. 92102. Make checks payable to "PeeriCon."

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1987 HOBBY AWARDS

The ballots are now out for the 1987 Awards. These are the Don Miller Memorial Award for outstanding service to the Diplomacy hobby in 1986, the Rod Walker Award for the best literary contribution, and the John Koning Award, which will go to the person selected as the Best Diplomacy player of 1986. Many zines will be publishing the ballots. I will be glad to send one to anyone who has not received one. Ballots must be returned to: Awards, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA. 92102. While the deadline is July 6, 1987, please try to get your vote in by July 1st. Please vote. I'm holding the beautiful plaques which will be awarded to the winners. You can see them if you attend either DipCon or Origins. The more people who vote, the more meaningful these awards will be.

Also, anyone who has not received a ballot for the Runestone Poll for rating zines, subzines and GM's may obtain one from me, for a SASE.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

April is always a good month for gaining new members, following publication of the SIG Listings in the BULLETIN. Our newest members are:

- Nancy Calhoun, 85 Tamarind Dr., Key West, Fla. 33040
- Steve Longbotham, 2038 Norfolk, Houston, Texas 77098
- Bill Maddox, 345 Plumas, Ventura, Calif. 93004
- Diane Tewsky, 28201 Sorrento, #117, Laguna Niguel, Calif. 92677

(more)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Cont.)

The SIG memberships for the following people expire on June 30, 1987:

Charles Ramsey, Stephen Shellnut, George Scherer

I would appreciate it if all of you would send me your \$3.00 dues renewals ASAP. Charles, I also need a correct forwarding address for you.

We've prepared an updated Membership List. If you want a copy, just send me an SASE. We have either 47 or 48 members, depending on what one person decides to do.

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SIG GAME REPORTS

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

A report received on May 8th (V-E Day) informs us the game ended in a 3-way draw for Austria (Tony Dousette), France (Andy Cruickshank) and Germany (John Barnes), as of Fall 1908. Russia had been wiped out in 1907, Turkey went into Civil Disorder in Spring 1908, and Bob Addison's England was eliminated in Fall '08. That left Bill Port's lone Italian unit as the sole active piece outside the alliance. A very even finish, France finishing with 10 Centers, and Austria and Germany having 11 each.

1985 HW GAME STATISTICS

	<u>01</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	
AUSTRIA	5	6	5	7	9	10	10	11	Draw
ENGLAND	5	6	5	6	4	2	1	-	
FRANCE	4	5	5	5	5	8	8	10	Draw
GERMANY	5	5	6	5	6	8	11	11	Draw
ITALY	4	3	4	4	3	1	1	1	
RUSSIA	6	5	6	4	4	2	-	-	
TURKEY	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	1	

GM: BRUCE POPPE

A: TONY DOUSETTE (DREW, F08)

E: BOB ADDISON (OUT F08)

F: ANDY CRUICKSHANK (DREW, F08)

G: LORING WINDBLAD (RESIGNED, S02), JOHN BARNES (DREW, F08)

I: KEVIN BROWN (DROP, F02), BILL PORT

R: FRANK RILEY (OUT, F07)

T: SUSAN FORBES (RESIGNED, S04), SCOTT SHACTER (DROP, S08), CIVIL DISORDER

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

Craig Reges took over Russia in Fall 1902. Russia went down two SC's to 4 that Winter, thanks to the Spring NMR by the previous owner, but everyone else either gained one or stayed even to own 5 Centers as of W '02. An amazingly even game. In Spring 1903, Austria (Bob Cheek) and Italy (Tony Dousette) seemed to be teaming up against Turkey (Paul Burroughs). This continued in the Fall, as Bulgaria fell to Italy. The Russian Navy sailed into Norway in the Spring, but England (Linc Beaumont) kicked him back out in Fall. Both France (Dave Coufal) and Turkey NMR'd in Fall 1903. This enabled Germany (Steve Wallis) and Italy to give France a one-two punch, with both Burgundy and Marseille falling to the invaders. Italy inched ahead with 7 SC's, while France & Turkey each dropped to 4. Everyone else stood pat. We hope the requested standbys won't be needed.

MENSA #24, Boardman No. applied for. GM: John Barnes (by flyer)

The starting positions for this game have been announced. They are: Austria - Greg Dodson; England - Sigourney Street; France - Kevin Self; Germany - Andy Thomas; Italy - Walter Compton; Russia - Gerry Johnson; Turkey - Steve St. Clair. The deadline for Spring 1901 has been set for May 31, 1987.

MENSA #22, 1986 HM. New GM: Fred Davis. (see below for game report)

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Hey, is there anybody out there who signed up for a Mensa game whom we may have overlooked? If anyone asked to be put into a new SIG game any time between October 1986 and last March, and hasn't heard anything about their status, please drop me a line. We'd be happy to put you down for a game. Also, if anyone would like to be listed as a Standby, please let me know.

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OF MENSA AND DROP-OUTS

Drop-Outs are not limited to Diplomacy. Mensa, itself, has had to live with a drop-out rate of around 31% per year. Every club experiences this problem. Any organization which has only a 10% drop-out rate per annum is considered extraordinary. In some groups, it reaches 50%. Mensa seems to fall between the two extremes.

A recent Mensa committee, headed by First Vice-Chairman Ralph Rudolph, studied the Personal Data Questionnaire to see if there were trends inside the overall figures. They found the following pertinent facts:

The longer you have been a Mensan, the less likely you are to lapse. The greatest number of M's drop out after their second year of membership. (Sounds familiar, doesn't it?). People^{who} have belonged to Mensa for 10+ years have the lowest lapse rate - only 4.5%.

The older you are, the less likely you are to lapse. Members in their 20's have the highest drop-out rate. Beyond age 40, members are much less likely to leave.

High school and college students have the highest drop-out rates by occupation. Just too many other things to do.

The higher your income, the less the likelihood that you'll drop out. Naturally, this goes along with age and membership duration. The 10+ year members are heavily represented in the over-\$40,000 per year category, while drop-outs had the lowest income (which could be one reason they left).

Singles are more likely to drop than marrieds. Again, this ties in with age.

Being an only child strongly correlated with long-term membership. (Loneliness factor?)

Deja vue? Certainly the first three categories also apply to the Postal Diplomacy hobby, and the fourth one (income) probably does as well. Marital status does not appear to be a factor, but I believe many of us are also only or oldest children. In any case, if the drop-outs are so high even for Mensans in the cases of students and those under 30, there should be no surprise at the Postal hobby drop-out rate.

MEMSA #22 - 1986HM

		<u>Current Strength</u>	
AUSTRIA (Shacter):	No change	5 (—)	
ENGLAND (Robertson):	No Change	5 (—)	
FRANCE (Beaumont):	No change	4 (—)	
GERMANY (Burroughs):	Build A Berlin, A Kiel	7 (+2)	A Ruhr stayed put in
ITALY (R. Brown):	No change	4 (—)	F '03
RUSSIA (Addison):	F Sweden (R) Skag. F Rumania (R) OTB for Removal	4 (-1)	
TURKEY (Chang):	Build F Con.	5 (+1)	

SPRING 1904

GERMAN FORCES DRIVE EAST, TURKS MARCH NORTH, TOWARD EMPTY RUSSIAN CITIES. ITALIANS AND GERMANS PERFORM ALPHONSE & GASTON ACT IN SPAIN, SO FRENCH WIN. AUSTRIANS GO WEST.

AUSTRIA (Shacter):	F Greece-Ionian. A Serbia-Greece. A Budapest-Serbia. (5) A Galicia-Bohemia. A Vienna-Tyrol.
ENGLAND (Robertson):	F Norwegian Sea-North Sea. F Norway (S) F NWG. Sea-North Sea. (5) A Belgium (S) F Picardy. F Picardy (H). F MAO-Gascony.
FRANCE (Beaumont):	F Spain(sc)-Mars. A Gascony (S) F Spain(sc)-Mars. A Paris- (4) Burgundy. A Brest (H).
GERMANY (Burroughs):	A Kiel-Denmark. A Ruhr-Kiel. A Berlin-Livonia. F Baltic (C) (7) A Berlin-Livonia. F Sweden-GoBothnia. A Munich (H). A Mars (S) ITALIAN F Western Med-Spain(sc) (NSO).
ITALY (R. Brown):	F Naples-Tyrr. Sea. A Apulia-Neples. F Western Med (S) GERMAN (4) A Mars-Spain (NSO). A Piedmont-Mars.
RUSSIA (Addison):	F Skag-Sweden. A Finland (S) F Skag-Sweden. A Ukraine-Warsaw. (4) A Silesia-Munich.
TURKEY (Chang):	F Con-Aegean. F Ionian-Turis. A Armenia-Sev. F Black Sea & (5) A Rumania (S) A Armenia-Sev.

PRESS:

ST. PETERSBURG: Russia wishes to make a trust fund of the cities of Moscow, Warsaw, Sevastopol and St. Petersburg. The custodians of this fund are to be Prime Minister Robertson and Sultan Chang. The proceeds are to go toward the destruction of Germany and Austria, who never tried to work with the Tsar. Any remaining proceeds go toward the prosecution of the postmaster who lost my Spring '01 orders.

PARIS to England & Italy: I hope Germany is properly appreciative of all the help you've been to him, in light of all the gains you've received thus far in return.
FRANCE to Russia: Do you ever get the feeling that you can't trust anyone?

GM's Notes:

Scott Shacter is once again a SIG member. Thankyou, Scott.

NOVICES will see here one way of reporting the Builds, Removals and Retreats for a Winter season, plus the separate reporting of the following Spring moves. Some GM's combine the Winter & Spring reports into one set, but I find that somewhat confusing. Most GM's use many more abbreviations of the provinces than used here. I use few abbreviations, partly because most of my games are variants, which may contain some strange spaces; and partly because spelling out the names makes it easier for novices to follow the action. I use the system of underlining failed moves. Some GM's use CAPITALS to indicate the current positions of pieces, but I feel that that does not put enough emphasis on indicating failed moves. Note that I show the number of SC's
(more)

owned by each Power in the Spring report, under each country's name. Should a player be short 1 or 2 units, I also indicate this fact here.

Russia's problems in this game stem from his NMR in Spring 1901. In this case, the NMR was probably a genuine Post Office error, since Bob Addison has continued to play the position. The original Italian player also NMR'd in Spring '01, but that was a real drop-out, as he was replaced by Ron Brown in the Fall. A Spring '01 NMR can be devastating to any Power, and tends to help his neighbors. Many GM's will not permit an NMR in Spring 1901. Some have established standing Neutral Orders to be used in Regular games where a country is unordered. Some hold up the start of the game until a new player is found. And some contact a neutral party (sometimes called "The Mysterious Doctor X") to write orders for that country. Personally, I would not have started this game with two NMR's, but that's water over the dam.

When a player NMR's later in the game, the GM always calls for a standby to submit back-up orders for the next season. However, the GM almost always hopes that the original player will continue, since a game loses something whenever a starting player drops.

DEADLINE for FALL 1904 orders will be MONDAY, June 15, 1987. The Telephone deadline will be 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 14th. The phone deadline will usually be on the night before the mail deadline. If you'd like to specifically volunteer to be a standby for this game, please send me \$2.00 for the in-between month's flyers. Anyone who wants to see the interim game reports for any reason is welcome to receive them for the same \$2.00 price. I'll try to run a brief summary of what's going on in this game in the months when it appears in DIPLOMAG.

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A MENSA "Civilization" SIG is being founded by; Andrew Chong, 45 Carlton St., #804, Toronto, Ont., CANADA M5B 2H9. Don't know whether there will be any Postal games, but you might want to look into this.

I've just talked with Bruce Poppe. He advises me that he is also planning to stand for re-election as our Senior Committeeman. He'll also GM a new game after July. One more volunteer still needed. The next DIPLOMAG should be out around July 16th. Have a nice summer, and be sure to report any changes of address to me.

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DIPLOMAG - Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG Newsltr.
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DIPLOMAG - MENSA #22 GAME REPORT

June 15, 1987

Number 75.1

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Phone: (301) 461-1885.

FALL 1904

1986 HM - MENSA #22

FRENCH PLAY MARSEILLE. GERMANS COLLECT INHERITANCE IN ST. PETE. TURKS PRACTICE SELF-STANDOFF IN BULGARIA, FAIL TO COLLECT IN MOSCOW. AUSTRIANS DECLINE TO ANNEX MUNICH. ENGLISH OFF ON HOLIDAY.

- AUSTRIA (Shacter): A Bohemia-Galicia. A Greece-Albania. F Ionian (S) TURKISH (5) F Tunis. A Serbia-Rumania. A Tyrol-Trieste. ^{Picardy}
- ENGLAND (Robertson): NMR! A Belgium (H). F's MAO, North Sea, ~~Norwegian Sea~~ and (5) Norway all (H).
- FRANCE (Beaumont): A Burgundy-Marseille. F Spain(sc) (S) A Burgundy-Marseille. (4) A Gascony (S) A Burg-Mars. A Brest (H).
- GERMANY (Burroughs): A Livonia-St. Pete. F Gulf of Bothnia (S) A Liv-St. Pete. (7) A Denmark-Sweden. F Baltic (S) A Denmark-Sweden. A Kiel-Berlin. A Munich-Burgundy. A Marseille-Gascony /d/, may (R) Piedmont or OTB.
- ITALY (R. Brown): F Western Med-Tunis. F Tyrr (S) F WestMed-Tunis. (4) A Piedmont-Venice. A Naples (H).
- RUSSIA (Addison): A Warsaw-Moscow. A Silesia (S) AUSTRIAN A Bohemia-Munich (NSO). (4) F Sweden (H). A Finland (S) F Sweden.
- TURKEY (Chang): F Aegean-Bulgaria(sc). F Black Sea-Bulg.(ec). A Sev-Moscow. (5) A Rumania-Ukraine. F Tunis (S) AUSTRIAN F Ionian.

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, MENSA #22, WINTER 1904: GAINS, ~~LOSSES~~

- AUSTRIA: 3 Home, Greece, Serbia, RUMANIA (6) (+1), Build 1
- ENGLAND: Belg., Norway, 3 Home (5) (-1), No change
- FRANCE: Paris, Port., Spain, MARS., BREST (5) (+1), Build 1
- GERMANY: 3 Home, Den, Hol, ST.PETE, (6) (-1), Remove 1 (+ (R) order for A MARS., SWEDEN Mars.)
- ITALY: 3 Home, TUNIS (3) (-1), Remove 1
- RUSSIA: Moscow, War, SWEDEN, ST. PETE, SEV. (3) (-1), Remove 1
- TURKEY: 3 Home, Bul, ~~RUMANIA~~, SEV, TUNIS (6) (+1), Build 1

PRESS:

VIENNA: The IRS (Internationally Renowned Serbians, aka the International Revenue Service) has declared tht the inheritance tax on Trust funds is 75%. In accordance with this, they kindly request that Czar Addison hand Moscow, Warsaw and St. Petersburg to their representative, Emperor Shacter.

ROME: You win some, you lose some, you lose some, you lose some...

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: (Temp., thru August 31st): Scott Shacter (AUSTRIA), 5651 N. Paseo Niquel, Tucson, Ariz. 85718.

STANDBY REQUEST: Keith Johnson, 6560 W. 132nd St., Apple Valley, MN. 55124, who is already receiving these "in-between" reports, is requested to submit back-up orders for ENGLAND.

DEADLINE for WINTER 1904 adjustments is TUESDAY, July 14, 1987. I suggest that you also submit orders for SPRING 1905. If everyone does so, an no one objects, we'll also play that season. However, if the original English player drops out, we'll play only the Winter season, to allow his replacement more time to negotiate.

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