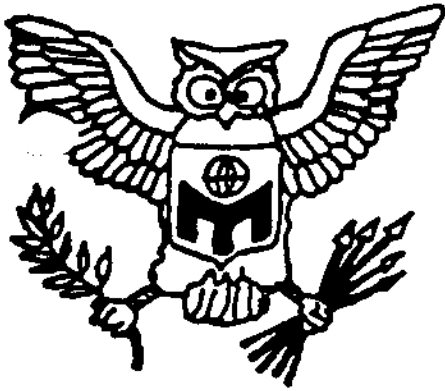


Mailed 7-15-87



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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July-August 1987

Whole No. 76

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Senior Committeeman: Bruce Poppe, 9717-102 Clocktower Lane, Columbia, Md. 21046. Phone: (301) 776-4032
Junior Committeeman: Bill Young, 959 Penn Cir., #C-411-R, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406. (Not a move. He just gave up his POB in Audubon).

STATE OF THE SIG

We did not have anyone volunteer to serve as Election Commissioner. So, here's what we'll do. Bruce Poppe and I have both agreed to serve another two-year term as Sr. Committeeman and Chairman, respectively. If anyone else is interested in running for office, please let me know, and I'll turn the matter over to Bill Young. If no one else wants to run, then Bill will declare us re-elected by acclamation. The deadline for hearing from you is August 3, 1987. The terms in question begin November 1, 1987.

Several people have volunteered to run future Mensa games. Bruce Poppe says he'd be ready to run another game starting in August. Ralph Baty would be ready to run one in September. And Tony Dousette could GM one after September. Thankyou very much, guys. The assignments will depend on how fast future games fill.

The Mensa #24 and #25 games have gotten under way. Their reports will be found inside. As I type this, we're still waiting for another player for Game #26. I hope we can fill this one shortly.

Readers are reminded that if you want to follow the Mensa #22 game, now being run here in DIPLOMAG, either as a spectator or a standby, please send me \$2.00, and I'll send you copies of the "in-between" game reports for those months when this newsltr. does not appear. If you do so, please advise me whether you just want to follow the game, or wish to be a Standby.

I did not attend the AG in Dallas over the July 9th weekend. If any of our SIG members attended and would care to submit a report, we'll be glad to print one. We do intend to be at the joint U.S.-Canadian AG in Montreal in 1988. I attended DipCon in Madison, Wis., and will have a short report inside.

At the Mid-Year point (June 30th), we had taken in \$66.50, and spent \$55.68 this year. Adding that \$10.82 increase to the \$99.44 on hand in the Treasury gives us a balance of \$110.26 as of 6/30/87.

DIPLMAG, July-August 1987

DIPCON XX HELD IN MADISON

About 50 Diplomats gathered on the campus of the University of Wisconsin in downtown Madison to participate in the 1987 DipCon, over the weekend of June 5-7. While most of the participants came from Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, there was a scattering of players from other areas. The only other SIG members present were Scott Hanson, from Minneapolis, and Bruce Linsey, from Mass.

There were five rounds of FTF Diplomacy. Everyone had to play in at least two games in order to be eligible for awards. Most people played in only two or three, as Saturday's rounds overlapped. The starting times were 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. Sunday. With no time limits, some of the evening games were carried over to the hotel when the Student Union closed at 1 a.m., and the battles fought out to "the dawn's early light." The Sunday game did have a 3:10 p.m. time limit, since the Awards Ceremony was scheduled for half an hour later.

The scores of the two, three or four games played were averaged. If one did poorly early on, there was nothing to lose to get into more games. However, if you did excellent in any early game, there'd be no point in playing more than twice and risking losing it all with an annihilation.

The Tournament winner was David Hood of N.C., with an average score of 5.36. He had the only Rulebook Victory with an 18-Center Turkey. Second place went to Greg Ellis of Texas, with 4.6. Mark Frush was third (4.05) and Scott Drane 4th (4.00).

A complete list of all scores will be published in several zines. Don't look for my name. I got a big fat zero. Scott Hanson won the Best Austria Award with an 11-Center finish, which is very tough to do in Tournament play.

DipCon XXI will be held in San Antonio, Texas, from July 1-4, 1988. Western SIG members may wish to try to make that one. Of course, in 1989 the DipCon is scheduled to rotate to the West Coast, which may be even more convenient for many of you.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

In May 1986, long before we knew we were going to move, I wrote a free ad for the Diplomacy SIG and forwarded it to INTERLOC. INTERLOC provides 2½" x 1½" ads for all SIG Coordinators, and agrees to forward them on to the Editors of the many American Mensa Local Group newsletters. However, due to some problem, that set of ads did not get sent out until April of 1987. Apparently, several newsletters have printed it, since we've received several inquiries in the past six weeks, which had been sent to our old address. I know they must be from the ad, as the SIG plug in the February BULLETIN showed our new address. (INTERLOC is the "business" newsletter which the AMC sends to all Mensa officers, editors and coordinators free).

So, perhaps we'll be picking up some more new members soon. As of today, all we can report are the following additions:

Bruce Filbeck, 4240 Kilgore Rd., Crosswell, Mich. 48422
George Kilmer, 718 N. California, Hastings, Nebr. 68901
Steven E. Wallis, 852 Western Ave., Petaluma, CA. 94952 (Rejoined)

Our membership stands at 47, as we lost a few. We have a good chance of making a gain now, as only one person's membership expires over the summer.

→ This is Gerry Johnson, who's dues expire on Aug. 31, 1987. Please send me your \$3.00 renewal, Gerry.

SIG GAMES REPORTS

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

Scott had to prepare a corrected Fall 1903 adjudication, since the orders for France (Dave Coufal) were accepted late, due to no fault of his own. This enabled France to remain even with 5 SC's. Italy (Tony Dousette) stayed at 5 instead of going to 7. Also, Austria (Bob Cheek) went up 1 to 6, to lead the pack. The next deadline was July 14th, so we have to go to press without the results.

MENSA #24, 1987AZ. GM: John Barnes (by flyer)

In Spring 1901, many of the usual moves were made, including standoffs in Galicia and the Black Sea. Unfortunately, Walter Compton was unable to get in his Italian moves from Venezuela on time. John used the "traditional" Italian neutral orders, as prescribed by Edi Birsan, to avoid a Spring 1901 NMR. This is something almost every GM will do, since a Sp '01 NMR can virtually ruin a country's position.

Walter was able to get back into the game in Fall 1901, so Mensa #24 has a full crew aboard. France (Kevin Self) had the most successful first year, picking up 3 SC's to go up to 6. Germany (Andy Thomas) and Turkey (Steve St. Clair) both gained two Centers, to control 5 each. Russia (Gerry Johnson) also has 5 Centers, although he gained only Rumania. England, Italy and Austria all own four Centers. Sweden remains neutral following a Russo-German standoff. There were several good press releases.

MENSA #25, Boardman No. requested. GM: Kate Robison, THE DIPLOMATIC RAG

This game has finally gotten underway. The starting positions are: Austria - Keith Johnson; England - Bill Port; France - Stephen Hurton; Germany - Ralph Baty; Italy - Steve Longbotham; Russia - Tony Dousette; Turkey - Eric Young. The first deadline for Spring 1901 is July 15, 1987, so we can't wait for it.

MENSA #21, 1985 HW. Final word, by Bruce Poppe, GM:

It is with fond memories that I will remember this game. My first gamesmastering effort. It certainly saw me through a lot in my personal life. ...

One of the most enjoyable aspects of this game for me has been the teaching aspect of it. There is a part of me which could be happy as a teacher, and answering novice-type questions has been an important part of my enjoyment of this game. In that regard, the SIG's games are an especially nice venue in which to GM, because they tend to have a few more novices in them than the rest of the Postal Diplomacy hobby.

Another great aspect of this particular game has been the nice volume and nice content of the press. Frankly, the press in this game has been a joy to read. I've been in the uniquely privileged spot of being intimately involved in this game, and yet a neutral party to all that's gone on. Great!

My comments wouldn't be complete without commenting on an aspect of it that I found both curious and interesting and yet troubling in its own way. Are you guys really that serious about not wanting to break any alliances? Jesus! What I wouldn't give for a little enlightened treachery. Remember, it is supposed to be just a game.

I'm looking forward to running into you at future gatherings. I'm going to be at the A.G. in Dallas in July. And after that, who knows... I'm sure I'll be around. Or look me up if you get to the Baltimore-Washington area.

MENSA #26: We have just received the name of the seventh player as we were going to press. The seven will be: Nancy Calhoun, Leslie Fife, Bruce Filbeck, George Kilmer, Bill Maddox, Scott Shacter and Diane Tewsley. It has not yet been decided who will run this game.

* * * * *

ORIGINS '87 HELD IN BALTIMORE

There were both a Regular Diplomacy Tournament and a small SkinnyDip Variant Tourney at ORIGINS, over the weekend of July 3-5, 1987. Other SIG members attending included Bob Addison, Bill Port and Bill Young. If I missed seeing others, my apologies.

The Regular Tournament was a two-round affair, starting at 9 a.m. on both Saturday & Sunday. There was a sweep of all top three places by Marylanders. First place went to Jim Yerkey of Baltimore, who had a Rulebook Victory as Italy. Second was Bill Thompson, and third place went to our own Bob Addison of Silver Spring, Md. Jim does not play postally; otherwise, he would have a national reputation as a top player. Many of the Tournament leaders were MaryCon regulars from the past four years. Since there was no MaryCon in 1987, they came to Baltimore instead.

Incidentally, Dick Warner came up from Fredericksburg, Va., to announce that there would be a MaryCon over the weekend of June 3-5, 1988. Put that on your calendar now, if you live anywhere within 350 miles of Washington, as MaryCon is one of the better East Coast events. It is also an all-Diplomacy con, which makes for a nice in-group, with no interference from role-players or other gamers.

I ran the SkinnyDip Tournament on Friday night, with Bill Young's help. We had expected to run three boards, as 25 tickets had been sold, but had to settle for two when only 16 players showed up at starting time. SkinnyDip features a scaled-down board, where most Powers have only 2 Home Centers, and there are a total of only 22 SC's. It had been hoped that the small size would enable the games to come to early conclusions. However, a combination of an 11 p.m. curfew and the fact that most of the players were seeing the board for the first time resulted in four-way draws on both boards. One game ended in 1904, and one in 1905. Had we been able to play two more game years, I'm sure there would have been some two- or three-way draws, and further country eliminations. This game has great possibilities for a convention, or any other time when time is short. However, we decided that a few adjustments need to be made, such as not allowing Russia to get an automatic build for Moscow in W 1901. Perhaps we'll try this again at MaryCon in '88. Come and see!

SkinnyDip ended in a two-way tie between Maurice Page (Russia #1) and Bill Stapel (England #2), who both finished with 6 Supply Centers.

There was also a Diplomacy Seminar, and a "Hobby Official Meeting," both hosted by Robert Sacks. The issue of Sacks' creation of a duplicate and conflicting Miller No. Custodian for recording Variant Postal games was discussed with some heat. It appears that some novice publishers were confused by the publication of the announcement of the name of another party as "MNC Under the Covenant." For the record, let it be clear that the Miller No. Custodian for North America is: Fred G. Hyatt, 60 Grandview Pl., Montclair, N.J. 07043. He is recognized as such not only by my own North American Variant Bank, but by all of the other Variant Bank Custodians around the world, and virtually all other Postal Diplomacy hobby leaders.

See copies of my forthcoming August BUSHWACKER for further details. I feel that I've said all that is proper to say in the SIG's newsletter.

* * * * *

FALL 1904 REVISITED: There were a couple of errors in last month's game report. Brest is owned by France, not England. Austria succeeded in taking Rumania from Turkey. And the last English F is in Picardy, not Norwegian Sea. A corrected game report was sent to all of the players.

PLAYERS ELECT TO PLAY ONLY WINTER SEASON

		<u>Current Strength</u>
AUSTRIA (Shacter):	Build A Vienna	6 (+1)
ENGLAND (Robertson):	No change	5 (—)
FRANCE (Beaumont):	Build A Paris	5 (+1)
GERMANY (Burroughs):	Dislodged A Marseille (R) OTB	6 (-1) (R) satisfies Removal
ITALY (R. Brown):	Remove A Naples	3 (-1)
RUSSIA (Addison):	Remove A Warsaw	3 (-1)
TURKEY (Chang):	Build F Smyrna	6 (+1)

Jim Robertson assures me that he is back in the game for good. His NMR was only "an unfortunate accident." He will have a CHANGE OF ADDRESS, effective 8/15/87, to: GA 26-4-8, Ithaca College, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

Our thanks to Keith Johnson for standing by for this move. If anyone else would like to be a standby for this game, just send me \$2.00 to get on the mailing list for the "in-between" reports, which go out by flyer to the players and standbys.

The majority of players have submitted orders for SPRING 1905. These people may let their orders stand, or they may submit amended orders. If you do submit new orders, please date them, and indicate that they are "Revised" or "Amended."

PRESS:

ROME to World: "Don't Be Cruel..."

RUSSIA to Austria: Sure was friendly of you to stay out of Munich. Before you get carried away, please note that Germany has been supported by other players four times and has yet to return the favor.

MUNICH: Two successive three-week moves have taken the Diplomacy out of the game for Italy and Germany, and the Postal out of the game for England. Slow down before we all have to surrender to the GM.

((It wasn't really three weeks, it only seemed that short thanks to the vagaries of the Canadian Post Office. Anyway, now you've got plenty of time to catch your breath. -- F.C.D.))

DEADLINE for SPRING 1905 orders is FRIDAY, August 14, 1987. Please submit all orders by mail, but if there's an emergency, you may phone me no later than 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13th.

* * * * *

I received a nice letter from Harry Turtledove, currently one of ANALOG's top science fiction authors, confirming that he is the same Harry Turtledove who once belonged to our SIG, and played Russia in an early Variant game (Swiss Dip) I was GM'ing. Harry says his Mensa membership has lapsed, but he is still active in playing Dip FTF. He is also into APBA Baseball leagues. He is the third Postal Dip player to achieve fame in the SF field, the others being Jack Chalker and Jerry Pournelle. Pick up ANALOG to see his most interesting material.

DIPLOMAG, Page 6

The Canadian Postal Strike may get worse around mid-August, when the Inside workers will be allowed to strike. Better write your Canadian friends quickly.

I was hoping to have the results of the Runestone Zine and GI Polls, and of the Miller, Walker and Koning Awards for you here, but none of the announcements of the winners' names have arrived yet. Nor do I have any more info. on the status of the Civilization SIG. If I hear anything more from Andrew Chong, I'll let you know.

That brings us to the end of another issue. I seem to have run out of space-fillers. The next issue should be produced around September 16th. We're trying to stick to middle of the month deadlines for the Mensa #22 game, which should also serve to keep DIPLOMAG on a fairly even course. Be sure to let me know if you're changing your address in September.

#

DIPLOMAG - Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG Newsltr.
c/o Fred C. Davis, Jr.
3210-K Wheaton Way
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
U.S.A.

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DIPLOMAG - MENSA #22 GAME REPORT

Number 76.1

August 15, 1987

Published by Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043.
Phone: (301) 461-1885. Call only between 12 Noon and 9 p.m., Eastern Time.

1986 HM - MENSA #22

SPRING 1905

GERMANS HAVE (SNOW)BALL IN NORTH COUNTRY, AT RUSSIA'S EXPENSE. AUSTRIA ALSO MOVES NORTH. FRENCH FREE FIFTH HOME PROVINCE. ENGLISH ORDERS ARE STAR-CROSSED. TURKS TAKE MOSCOW AND IONIAN BUT TOSSED FROM TUNIS.

AUSTRIA (Shacter): A Trieste-Tyrol. A Albania-Trieste. A Vienna-Bohemia. A Galicia-Warsaw, F Ionian-Apulia. A Rumania-Ukraine.
(6)
ENGLAND (Robertson): F MAO-Portugal. F Picardy-Brest. A Belg. (S) GERMAN A Burgundy
(5) in place (NSO). F Norway (S) GERMAN A Denmark-Sweden (NSO).
F North Sea-Eng. Channel.
FRANCE (Beaumont): A Paris-Burgundy. A Marseille (S) A Paris-Burgundy. A Brest (H).
(5) A Gascony (S) A Brest. F Spain(sc)-Portugal.
GERMANY (Burroughs): F G of Bothnia-Finland. A St. Pete (S) F G of Bothnia-Finland.
(6) F Baltic-Sweden. A Denmark (S) F Baltic-Sweden. A Berlin-Munich.
A Burgundy-Munich /d/, (R) to Ruhr (only space open).
ITALY (R. Brown): F Western Med-Tunis. F Tyrr (S) F Western Med-Tunis.
(3) A Venice (H).
RUSSIA (Addison): A Finland (S) F Sweden /d/, (Annihilated). F Sweden (S) A Finland
(3) /d/, (R) Gulf of Bothnia (only space open). A Silesia-Berlin.
TURKEY (Chang): F Black Sea-Con. A Ukraine-Moscow. A Sev (S) A Ukraine-Moscow.
(6) F Aegean-Ionian. F Tunis (S) F Aegean-Ionian /d/, (R) to North
Africa (o.s.o.). F Smyrna-Aegean.

PRESS:

AUSTRIA to Russia: Friendliness was only part of my reason for staying out. I have no intention of getting carried away. Furthermore, I believe that Germany's policy of not supporting those who help him will soon end.

GM: I wonder if that last sentence should have ended with an "or else." Hey, you guys, let's have some more Press for the next issue, for DIPLOMAG.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Jim Robertson (ENGLAND), GA 26-4-8, Ithaca College, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. (Effective Aug. 15, 1987).

Scott Shacter (AUSTRIA), Platt Campus Center, Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA. 91711. (Effective Aug. 31, 1987).

DEADLINE for FALL 1905 orders is MONDAY, September 14, 1987. Telephone deadline will be Sunday, Sept. 13th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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