



# 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

Bruce Peppe and I have been re-elected by acclamation to the posts of Senior Committeeman and Chairman (Coordinator), respectively, of the SIG. Our new two-year terms of office will begin on November 1, 1987.

The Mensa #26 game has filled, and will be run by Bruce Peppe. If I receive the first report before mailing DIPLOMAG, I'll include the country assignments inside. We are now taking applications for Mensa #27. As I type this, we have three players signed up. This game will be run on a flyer basis by Ralph Baty of San Diego, CA.

This is the month when we usually receive the highest number of inquiries about SIG membership (between 15 September and 15 October). This is because the National SIG Listing appears in the September BULLETIN. So, with a bit of luck, we will gain several new members, and fill the Mensa #27 game quickly. The Mensa #28 game will be assigned to Tony Dousette of Richardson, Texas.

DIPLOMAG made the main list in the Runestone Zine Poll for the first time in 1987. It finished 49th, with a score of 4.98. Considering that little effort is being made to provide literary gems, this wasn't too bad a finish. We are, after all, just a newsletter, to introduce novices to the hobby, and to provide a common meeting point for all M's who like to play Diplomacy. DIPLOMAG received 27 votes (10 were required to make the main list), and most of these were 6's, 7's & 8's. Thanks, people. I see from the preference matrix that 17 of you see BUSHWACKER, and 9 read DIPLOMACY WORLD, from among those who voted. I strongly recommend D.W. to the rest of you. I'll show more of the scores inside.

We'll also reprint some hobby information and throw in some plugs. I've been reminded that with the constant influx of new members, some of this reference material should be printed regularly.

I plan on being in San Diego, California from 21 October to 28 October. Perhaps I'll be seeing some of the Southern California members at that time.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We're awaiting the outcome of several inquiries which have arrived in the past 30 days. Meanwhile, our newest members are:

Robert Belfay, 8086 Ginger Rd., Liverpool, N.Y. 13090  
Pierre Touchette, 1 Rue Georges, Masson, Quebec, CANADA JOX 2H0

I plan to include a complete Membership List with the next DIPLOMAG. Meanwhile, why not try to recruit a fellow member of your Local Group for the SIG?

Several memberships will be expiring on October 31st. I would appreciate having the following the following people sending in their \$3.00 dues renewal as soon as possible: James Bailey, Cherie Colston, Greg Dodson, Benjamin Greaves, Kevin Self and Signourney Street.

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WINNERS OF THE 1987 HOBBY AWARDS

There are three major awards voted upon by anyone in the hobby wishing to cast a vote. The first is the Don Miller Memorial Award for Meritorious Service. This is presented to the person who is determined to have performed the best service or services to the Postal hobby in the preceding year. The 1987 Award was given to SIG member Bruce Linsey, for highhandling of the 1986 Runestone Poll, and for his editing of the publishers' handbook, called Once Upon a Deadline.

The Red Walker Literary Award was established by the Avalon Hill Co. in Walker's name, to go to the person whom the hobby determines presented the best written material in any form on the subject of Diplomacy in the past year. In 1987, in an unusual twist, the Award went to J. R. Baker for his Dippy Doodles cartoons in the pages of DIPLOMACY WORLD and elsewhere. There have been some expressions of surprise at the outcome, but the rules do not say that the award has to be made only for straight writing. Besides, the vote was not even close, although there were seven nominees in this category. At least, this shows that our hobby members are not hidebound!

The newest hobby award, established only in 1986, is the John Kening Memorial Award for Best Player of the year. It is named for the late John Kening of Youngstown, Ohio, one of the greatest players of the Golden Age, and founder of DipCon. This year, the award went to Randolph Smyth, who has more Postal wins than almost anyone else still active in the hobby, including at least one game playing each Power.

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THE ZINE REGISTER is the publication listing all known North American zines, plus a selection of Overseas publications, giving names and addresses, game fees, and types of games offered, where known. Each publisher is allowed up to 100 words to describe his own zine. Where he does not provide his own description, the Z.R. Editor furnishes a capsule review. This is one of the better ways to get acquainted with a broader spectrum of the Postal hobby. Most zines will send you a sample copy for a prescribed sum. Z.R. appears quarterly, with the next issue probably coming out before the end of September. A single copy costs \$1.50, but I suggest that you send at least \$3.00 for a couple of issues. The new Editor is: Ken Peel, 8708 First Ave., Apt. T2, Silver Spring, Md. 20910.

GAMES OPENINGS. The most complete list of openings for both Regular and Variant Dip games is provided by Scott Hanson, 3508 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN. 55408. I believe there are separate lists for the two types of openings, so specify whether you want one or the other, or both. Send at least \$1.00. Send more if you want to receive copies regularly.

COMMENTS ON RETREATS, by Andy Cruickshank

I suggest that you always allow players to order their own retreats (in BUSHWACKER and Mensa games), and that retreats always be combined with the following season (unless you separate seasons). Obviously, units retreated per the Right-Hand Rule is not the preferable method. Units retreated by orders submitted before the season is resolved are essentially a guessing game. There are a million different things which can happen during a season. Even if you allowed these prior retreats to be based on contingencies, the possibilities are astronomical.

Contrast this with allowing all retreats to be done with the following season. Here, all retreats are ordered based on definite information, and the contingencies that other players must write into their orders is small in number and easily perceivable. If you have the time could you think about my suggestion and ask some other players what they think?

Another suggestion - you might try offering a variant as a future Mensa game. I suspect it may rekindle some interest and be well-received. Perhaps one of the better-known variants. You seem to have a good sense of what plays well.

((One point I wish to emphasize is that I have employed the Right-Hand Rule only following the Spring season, and then only where a player has not included prospective retreat orders with his Spring orders. Under my House Rules, players always submit their Retreat orders following the Fall season with their Winter orders. This is one reason why I like to run separate Winter seasons.

((The problem with allowing players to write their Spring Retreat orders with their Fall orders is that several neighboring players then have to write batches of contingent orders covering the various Retreat possibilities. Believe me, it's much more of a headache for a GM to have to read through paragraphs of contingent orders than to read a few potential Retreat orders with the Spring moves. There are usually only a few units in real danger of being dislodged. The only other solution is to have the players with dislodged units submit their retreats by phone or postcard, so the GM could notify the other players before they write their orders. And that would be expensive and time-consuming. - F.C.D.))

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THE LEADERS ON THE RUNESTONE ZINE POLL WERE:

1. COSTAGUANA, Conrad von Metzke, 4374 Donald Ave., San Diego, CA. 92117.
2. BLUNT INSTRUMENTS, Bruce Geryk, 5528 S. Everett Ave., #3D, Chicago, Ill. 60637
3. PRAXIS, Alan Stewart, 702-25 St. Mary St., Toronto, Ont., CANADA M4Y 1R2
4. EUROPA EXPRESS, Gary Coughlan (folded)
5. DIPLOMACY WORLD, Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA. 92102-8237

All of the above are highly recommended. I'd also like to recommend the zine which finished 8th, CANADIAN DIPLOMAT, Bob Acheson, P.O.B. 4622, Sta. SE, Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA T6E 2A0. Another delightful Canadian zine is EXCELSIOR, published by Bruce McIntyre, 6191 Winch St., Burnaby, B.C. V5B 2L4. That zine finished 9th in 1986, dropped to 21st in 1987, but is now again on the way up. I'll also recommend the 10th place finisher, OVER THERE, Hugh Christie, 43 E. Houston Ave., Montgomery, Pa. 17752; and CATHY'S RAMBLINGS, Cathy Ozeg, P.O. Box 5225, Munds Park, Ariz. 86017, which finished 14th. It has both a British and a ladies' touch to it.

My own BUSHWACKER finished 20th in the Poll. Sample copies are available for 50¢.

SIG GAMES REPORTS

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

In Fall 1904 Austria (Bob Cheek) took Cen and Sev away from Turkey to go up two Centers to 8. Turkey (Burroughs) fell to just 2 SC's. Russia (Reges) is desperately trying to beat off the Austrian invaders with just two armies in Moscow & Warsaw. Everyone else remained even with 5 SC's each. It looks to me like Italy (Dousette) took Smyrna after conveying an army to Syria in a Lepante move, but the GM says no. Please review this, Scott. A Syria moved with two supports, incl. AUS F Aegean.

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

The players have decided to go to five-week deadlines, to allow for correspondence with the Italian player (Walter Compton), who is located in Venezuela. So, the next deadline won't be until October 10th. Austria (Dodson) NMR'd in the combined Winter 1901/Spring 1902 moves, so she played one unit short in all of 1902. Greg returned to the fray in Fall, so the standby orders weren't needed. Germany (Andy Thomas) took the last neutral, Sweden, and went up to 6, tying France (Kevin Self), who stayed even at 6. Turkey (Steve St. Clair) took Rumania to go to 5. Russia (Gerry Johnson) lost St. Pete & Rum to go down to 3. A proposal has been made to concede the game to Italy, but as Italy has only 4 SC's I guess this is a joke.

MENSA #25, Awaiting Beardmen No. GM: Kate Robison, THE DIPLOMATIC RAG

The Spring 1901 moves went off without a hitch, with standoffs in Galicia and the Black Sea. Kate had then asked the players to submit both Fall and Winter orders together (with prophetic builds), in the British fashion. The players chose not to adopt that procedure, holding out for the American system of combining Winter adjustments with the Spring moves, if combined seasons were used. I suggested to Kate in a phone call that Winter 1901 should always be played separately, because there are usually more builds in that season than at any other time in the game. Following that, it is my suggestion that Winter & Spring may be combined in a Regular game, except when the following occurs: 1. When at least two players request a separation of seasons. 2. When any player with more than 2 SC's NMR's in Fall, so you're not sure of who will be playing that country. 3. When any very complex situation arises which the GM deems requires a separate Winter season.

By the next issue, we should have some idea as to who's ahead in this game.

MENSA #26, to be GM'd by Bruce Peppe in a flyer

August 31st was the deadline for players to pay their game fees. However, an extension had to be given for a replacement player to submit his payment. The seven starting players will be: Robert Belfay, Leslie Fife, Bruce Filbeck, George Kilmer, Bill Maddox, Scott Schacter and Diane Tewsley. This will be the first Postal game for most of these players. Bruce is a very experienced GM, having run both Mensa #17 and Mensa #21.

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THE POSTAL CIVILIZATION SIG has gotten off the ground. They have established a newsletter called THE MALTHUSIAN. Dues are \$5.00 per year in either Canadian or U.S. funds (the difference will cover the extra postage costs for mailing the newsletter to the U.S.). Send inquiries or dues to: Andrew Cheng, 45 Carlton St., Apt. 804, Toronto, Ont., CANADA M5B 2H9.

FTF Civilization games are planned for Mensa HQ's being held in Toledo, Ohio, on Sept. 26th, Chicago, Ill. on October 31st, and Cincinnati, Ohio on December 5th. A Postal game is also being considered.

SUN SETS FOR RUSSIA. AUSTRO-TURK OFFENSIVE GIVES ITALY THE BOOT. ENGLISH FORCES FALL ON FRANCE. GERMANY CONSOLIDATES ITS POSITION.

AUSTRIA (Shacter): A Tyrol-Venice. A Trieste (S) A Tyrol-Venice. A Bohemia-Tyrol. (6) A Ukraine-Rumania. A Warsaw (H). F Apulia (S) TURKISH F Ionian Naples.

ENGLAND (Robertson): F Picardy-Brest. F Eng Channel (S) F Picardy-Brest. F MAO-Gascony. F Norway-North Sea. A Belgium-Burgundy. (5)

FRANCE (Beaumont): F Spain(sc)-Portugal. A Marseilles-Spain. A Burgundy-Picardy. (5) A Brest (H) /d/, (R) to Paris (only space open) or OTB. A Gascony (S) A Brest.

GERMANY (Burroughs): A St. Pete (H). F Finland (S) A St. Pete. F Sweden (H). A (6) Den-Kiel. A Ruhr-Munich. A Berlin (S) A Ruhr-Munich.

ITALY (R. Brown): F Tunis (H). F Tyrr. Sea (S) F Tunis. A Venice-Tyrol /d/, may (3) (R) to Rome, Pied, Tus of OTB.

RUSSIA (Addison): ((F Sweden (R) to Gulf of Bothnia in Summer '05)). (3) (2 units) F G of Bothnia-St. Pete(sc). A Silesia (S) AUSTRIAN A Bohemia-Munich (NSO).

TURKEY (Chang): A Moscow (S) RUSS F CoB-St. Pete(sc). A Sev (S) A Moscow. F N. (6) Africa-Tunis. F Ionian-Naples. F Aegean-Ionian. F Con-Aegean.

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, MENSA #22, WINTER 1905: GAINS, ~~Losses~~

AUSTRIA: 3 Home, Greece, Rumania, Serbia, (8) (+2), Build 2  
VENICE, WARSAW

ENGLAND: 3 Home, Belgium, Holland, BREST (6) (+1), Build 1

FRANCE: Paris, Mars, Port, Spain, ~~W/ST~~ (4) (-1), Remove 1

GERMANY: 3 Home, Den, Hol, St. Pete, SWEDEN (7) (+1), Build 1, No room to build

ITALY: Rome, TUNIS, ~~NAPLES, VENICE~~ (2) (-1), Remove 1

RUSSIA: ~~MOSCOW, WARSAW, SWEDEN~~ (0) (-3), Remove 2, OUT (1 annihilated)

TURKEY: 3 Home, Bul, Sev, MOSCOW, NAPLES, (7) (+1), Build 1  
~~TUNIS~~

PRESS:

RUSSIA to Austria: Amended Report: Germany has now been supported by other players six times, and has never returned the favor. Think Robertson is listening?

RUSSIA to France: Go get 'em, Linc!

ROME to Berlin: Despite our earlier mixup with its devastating consequences, I'm still on your side. In any case, no one seems to be on my side....

ROME to World: Please note the tone of desperation in the above message and in my moves. If you want a loyal give-the-opposition-hell puppet, all it will take is one kind move and I'm yours for the rest of the game.

RADIO FREE EUROPE (operating atop Salisbury Hill in LONDON): As the Fall draws to a close and Winter sets in, the Devil only knows what thoughts must be running through the minds of the crew on Russia's last fleet, stranded somewhere under the armpit of Sweden. Some have, no doubt, attempted to make it to the Swedish coast so they might taste the pleasures of a Stockholm night for the last time.

But, what of the orphans they have left behind - in the Warsaw ghettos, in the Ukraina steppes, in the Sevastopol waterfront? How will those poor suffering orphans last under the unyielding yoke of the godless Turks and those Internationally Renowned Serbians fronting for tax-heavy Vienna? God help them.

((More Press saved for Winter '05))

(over)

OUR MAN IN OTTAWA advises that there may be a strike by the Canadian Inside Postal workers any time on or after 20 September. Hopefully, this issue will reach everyone before that date. If the strike occurs, we will see what can be done by phone.

DEADLINE for WINTER 1905 and SPRING 1906 will be Wed., October 14, 1987. One player has already requested a separation of seasons. If a second player so requests, the separation will be granted. Everyone is urged to submit tentative orders for Spring '06 in any case. Telephone deadline will be Tuesday, Oct. 13th, at 9 p.m. Eastern Time.

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THE BOARDMAN NO. CUSTODIAN issues identifying numbers for each Regular game of Postal Diplomacy. He also publishes EVERYTHING on a quarterly basis. EVERYTHING lists every game start and every game ending, including the names of all the players and how each Power did on a year-by-year basis. Assistant BNC's issue designators for the British Isles, Continental Europe, and Australia. The current BNC is: Steve Heinowski, 51500 Portman Rd., R.D. 2, Amherst, Ohio 44001.

THE MILLER NO. CUSTODIAN performs the same services for Variant Diplomacy games. His newsletter, ALPHA & OMEGA, lists the starts and finishes of the Variant games. He has an Asst. MNC for the British Isles. The Custodian of the North American Variant Bank is also classified as an Asst. MNC. The current MNC is: Fred G. Hyatt, 60 Grandview Pl., Montclair, N.J. 07043.

THE NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANK is a file of about 750 known variants of the Regular Diplomacy game, dating from about 1965 to the present. Many of these games are available for sale. Copies of the NAVB Catalog may be ordered for \$3.00. The current NAVB Custodian is me, Fred C. Davis.

While there is no charge for issuing a Boardman or Miller No., a GM should as a matter of courtesy include at least a SASE. Many GM's make a voluntary contribution of \$1.00 when they request game designators from either Custodian.

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A SIG Membership List.

NEXT MONTH: Notes on SIG History./ Info. on the largest Local Groups. The next issue will be published in mid-November.

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

DIPLOMAG - MENSA #22 GAME REPORT

Number 77.1

October 15, 1987

Published by Fred G. 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

WINTER 1905

FOUR COUNTRIES REQUEST SEPARATION OF SEASONS

		<u>Current Strength</u>
AUSTRIA (Shacter):	Build A Vienna, A Budapest	8 (+2)
ENGLAND (Robertson):	Build F Liverpool	6 (+1)
FRANCE (Beaumont):	Remove A Paris	4 (-1)
GERMANY (Burroughs):	No room to build	7 (+1) (Will play 1 short)
ITALY (R. Brown):	Remove F Tuhis. A Venice (R) Piedmont.	2 (-1)
RUSSIA (Addison):	Remove A Silesia, F G of Both.	0 (-3) <b>OUT</b>
TURKEY (Chang):	Build F Con	7 (+1)

PRESS:

**RADIO FREE EUROPE (broadcasting from LONDON):** Internationally known spy Sven Ingardson, last heard from in the Spring of 1903, was spotted in Munich's railway station. When he attempted to board the Vienna express, an alert railway employee called the authorities. However, Ingardson eluded the police. All avenues out of Munich are closed, and police are conducting a massive door-to-door search.

And now, a word from our sponsors...

**GM to World:** And now, a one-minute pause to mark the passing of Tsar Robert. Did anyone notice that the two Non-Mensans in this game are among the leaders? Of course, the two Wicked Witches (England & Turkey) often do well in the Regular game, but it's particularly interesting to see their progress in Mensa #22.

**DEADLINE** for SPRING 1906 orders is SATURDAY, November 14, 1987. Telephone deadline will be Friday, Nov. 13th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. When mailing your orders, please take into consideration that there will be no mail delivery on November 11th.

I already have tentative orders on hand for Spring 06 from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Turkey. These may be amended, based on the Winter Builds & Removals.

Whaddayaknow, nobody in the game moved this month! However, our Junior Committeeman, Bill Young, is moving on October 19th to: 200 E. Schuykill Rd., #I-6, Pottstown, Pa. 19464.

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