



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 copy-righted 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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Chairman & Editor: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Phone: (301) 461-1885
Sr. Committeeman: Bruce Poppe, 9717-102 Clocktower Lane, Columbia, Md. 21046
Phone: (301) 776-4032
Jr. Committeeman: Bill Young, 200 E. Schuylkill Rd., #1-6, Pottstown, Pa. 19464

PERSONAL GOOD NEWS. I had my annual eye examination on January 5th. I will not have to have cataract surgery this year. I may not need it for another two years. My condition is limited to just my right eye. They now rarely do cataract surgery unless both eyes are involved, and my left eye is completely normal. So, I won't have to take any time out from the Postal hobby for a convalescent period. You're going to have to put up with me for some time to come.

NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANK CATALOG IS READY

I had hoped to announce this in the last issue, but the 1987-88 Catalog did not come from the printer until November 24th, and DIPLOMAG had gone to press on the 14th. If you're interested in knowing more about Diplomacy variants, you may wish to order a copy of the Catalog from me. It contains 36 laser-printed 8 1/2 x 11 pages, plus cardboard covers. There are about 890 different games listed in both alphabetical order and by the sundry classifications Red Walker and I have devised. The games are classified by geography, time periods, number of players and types of rule changes. Introductory material explains how to use the Catalog, and how to order copies of most of these games from the NAVB.

The Catalog sells for \$4.00 in North America, and \$4.50 Overseas. From time to time, I will add Updates to include new material. Everyone is reminded that if you have a completed variant design, I'd like to have a copy for the NAVB files.

SIG GAME NEWS

We finally got Mensa #27 under way, under the aegis of Ralph Baty, by pulling one name from the Mensa #28 list to fill the seventh slot. The deadline for Spring 1901 will be February 12, 1988.

We now have four people signed up for Mensa #28. I'd appreciate it if Stephen Hutten and Preston Pfarner would both confirm their interest in playing with me, as there seems to have been some failure in communication. We may need only a couple of more names to get this game started under Tony Deusette. It's your move.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1987:

Our Treasury continued to grow, thanks to an influx of new members and the renewals of many older members. While there may be an increase in printing costs in 1988, we can continue to hold our dues rate at \$3.00 per year for the foreseeable future.

Opening Balance, Jan. 1, 1987: \$99.44

INCOME:

Dues Received	\$129.00		
Sample copy payments	9.50		
Donations	4.00		
	\$142.50		+142.50
			\$241.94

EXPENSES:

Postage for DIPLOMAG (6 issues)	\$72.83		
Postage, material for new members	7.19		
Postage, Samples & Misc.	6.40		
Printing, DIPLOMAG	13.40		
Photocopy charges	11.10		
Supplies	5.67		
	\$116.59		-116.59
Closing Balance, Dec. 31, 1987:			\$125.35 (+\$25.91)

Some people paid two years' dues at once, and one party pays higher dues because he lives Overseas. If anyone wishes to pay their dues in advance, we will accept a maximum of two years' dues at a time.

Please watch your address labels more closely for information on Expiration dates. For the most part, I've stopped sending out form letters when someone lapses, since it was not very cost effective. Instead, I've been sending a copy of the next issue of DIPLOMAG to those members who are active in at least one SIG game, with a personal note enclosed. This usually results in a renewal. But, it's time consuming.

We have found that requests for Sample copies rarely lead to SIG memberships. This is true of all SIGs, as reported in SIGNET, the newsletter for SIG Coordinators. Someone who wants to join a SIG will usually send in full membership dues. A person who requests a Sample is often only mildly curious. Only three of the 19 people who requested DIPLOMAG samples in 1987 have joined the SIG. Some M's send out mass mailings to many SIGs. SIGNET has advised the coordinators not to expend too much energy on responding to such requests. I would make an exception, of course, for anyone who was already active in the Postal Diplomacy hobby.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Things slow down around the holidays. We gained only two new members this period:

Robert Struppeck, 1438 Pleasant St., New Orleans, La. 70115
 B. J. Wyatt, P.O. Box 5331, Tacoma, Wash. 98405

→ The following members' dues will expire on 2-29-88. Please renew your \$3.00 dues ASAP:

Paul Burroughs, Charles Byrne, Charles Cottle, Peter Shannon, and Eric Young.

THE PEOPLES DIPLOMACY ORGANIZATION is holding an auction, to raise money for the various hobby services. The name is based on a joke. Originally, the PDO did nothing. Now, and for about the past two years, it sponsors the annual Auction. Those of you who receive BUSHWACKER had copies of the Catalog enclosed with the January issue. I was not sent enough copies to include any with DIPLOMAG, but you can obtain one by writing to: John Caruso, 29-10 164th St., Flushing, N.Y. 11358. The items up for auction range from games and books to some of the nuttiest things you can imagine. Something for nearly everybody. Enclose a SASE if you write. The deadline for your bids is Feb.12, 1988, so please hurry.

PLUGS

REBEL, edited by Melinda Ann Holley, P.O. Box 2793, Huntington, W. Va. 25727. This is really two zines. The games are run in REBEL, while articles, letters, and other "chat" appear in HIGH INTERTIA, a subzine written by Linda and Steve C urtemanche. Subs are 50¢ per issue, sent in multiples of \$1 to the Huntington address. If you're interested in Gunboat (anonymous) games, Melinda is running some, and is also working on a rating system for this common variant.

NORTHERN FLAME, a new zine by Cal White, 63 Oakwood Ave., Toronto, Ont., CANADA M6H 2V7. Cal was formerly the publisher of ELECTRA GLIDE BLUE, and served as Boardman No. Custodian in the mid-1970's. He returns to the hobby after an absence of about 8 or 9 years. He quotes Game Fees of \$5.00, and subs at 3 issues for \$2.00. While these are in Canadian dollars, the much higher postal rates from Canada to the U.S. probably warrant payment in identical numbers from U.S. funds. Cal plans to run only three Regular games and two variants. The variants will be GM'd by his associate, Frank Easton, 73 Keele St., #2, Toronto, Ont. CANADA M6P 2J8. All funds are to be sent to Frank Easton, who is the zine's Treasurer.

OLD-FASHIONED DIPLOMACY SETS ARE BACK. If you want a traditional set, with WOODEN BLOCKS According to Calhaver, you can order one by mail for \$23.40 (\$26. Canadian), from GAMES BY MAIL, P.O. Box 98, Sta. "D", Toronto, Ont., CANADA M6P 3J5. These sets use the original one-piece Hammond map. They had been "off the shelf" for about six months, but returned just in time for Christmas. You can't buy these sets in a store in the States, but there's no law to prevent House of Games from mailing you one. Personal checks are accepted. Tell them Fred Davis sent you.

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THE ORPHAN GAMES CUSTODIAN is Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA. 92024. Should you be in a game where the zine seems to have disappeared, or become extremely irregular in appearance, you can contact the Orphan Game Custodian to see whether the game needs to be transferred. Many people wait too long to check up on a missing zine. As a rule of thumb, it's been found that if a game goes dormant for over six months, there's far less likelihood of it being revived, as many of the original players will have drifted away. Always write or phone your GM first, since there might be only a temporary problem due to illness, new job, final exams, etc. But, if you don't get any satisfaction from that source, contact Rod Walker. He is one of the most respected of the hobby Old-Timers, and has contacts to rehouse your game, if necessary.

Of course, we try to rehouse any SIG games among ourselves first, before having to turn to the Orphan service. Fortunately, all of our current Mensa games seem to be proceeding smoothly.

SIG GAMES REPORT

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

In Winter 05, Austria (Rebt. Cheek) got three builds, and leads the pack with 11 SC's. Italy (Tony Dousette) built 1 for 7. Turkey is gone, and Russia (Craig Reges) is down to a lone F in the NWG Sea. France stands pat with 5, while England (Linc Beaumont) took Sweden and builds 1 for 6. Donald Samuelson has been asked to take over the 4-Center Germany, which lost Munich to go down one.

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

In Fall 1903, Turkey (Steve St. Clair) captured Rome and Sev, to go up to 8 SC's. France (Kevin Self) gained Tunis, and also has 2 builds coming due to the retreat of one unit OTB. The French Fall moves were one day late arriving, but this was not classified as an NMR. England (Sig Street) captured Moscow, to go up 1 to 6. Austria (Greg Dodson) gained Venice, rising from 4 to 5. There is a new Italian player (Frank Suchar), as Walter Compton could not communicate fast enough from Venezuela. Unfortunately, Italy's NMR leaves her with a single Center, down from 4. Russia (Gerry Johnson) lost two, and now owns only Warsaw. All votes to end the game were defeated in Spring 04.

MENSA #25, 1987 HO. GM: Kate Robison, THE DIPLOMATIC RAG

Keith Johnson NMR'd out of the Austrian position in Spring 1903. Austria's last SC in Vienna fell to Russia in Fall 03. Tony Dousette's Russia went up 2 Centers, but I can't tell from the report which was the other SC he gained. (Hey, Kate, please print a list of who owns what each Fall). Anyway, Russia is the leading Power with 9 SC's. Turkey (Eric Young) captured Serbia, Tunis and Trieste to rise to 8 SC's. Germany (Ralph Baty) had a unit in Burgundy annihilated, but picked up Edi, so he got two builds in W 03, to stand at 7. Italy (Steve Longbotham) gained (I think) Portugal and Spain, but lost Trieste, to gain 1 for 6. France (B.J. Wyatt) had A's annihilated in Spain & Mars, losing both SC's, to drop to 2. ENGLAND (Bill Port) NMR'd in both Spring & Fall, leaving just 2 units on the board. Is this ^{power} in C.D.?

MENSA #26, 1987 HY. GM: Bruce Poppe (by flyer)

The Winter 1901 report gives us our first glimpse of the fortunes of this new game. Germany (Bill Maddox) was the most successful, gaining Belgium, Holland and Denmark, to go up 3 to 6. Austria, England and Turkey all gained two Centers (England seizing Brest & Turkey taking Sev), to rise to 5 apiece. France (Scott Shacter), despite the loss of Brest, managed to gain one build by occupying Spain and Port. Russia (Leslie Fife) gained Sweden and had F Rumania annihilated, so she gets a build anyway, to stay at 4. Italy (George Kilmer) also owns 4 Centers, having picked up Tunis.

As mentioned elsewhere, the Spring 1901 orders for Mensa #27 will be due on Feb. 12, 1988. Ralph Baty is using the German shorthand abbreviation "ZAT" for deadline. This was picked up from the German-language Diplomacy press. (Ralph has been in Germany on two occasions for lengthy periods). I mention this only in case there is any confusion over the appearance and origin of this word, which is not too commonly used on this side of the Ocean.

The current report on our oldest SIG game, Mensa #22 (1986 HM) will be found here in DIPLOMAG. I picked this up when Steve Hutton's zine, NO FIXED ADDRESS, folded, and will run it to conclusion as a demonstration game. Normally, DIPLOMAG does not run any games on its own, preferring to "farm" them out to other Mensan GM's.

SEPARATION OF SEASONS REQUESTED. GERMANS RAISE ARMIES. OTHERS BUILD FLEETS.

		<u>Current Strength</u>
AUSTRIA (Shacter):	No change	8 (--)
ENGLAND (Anderson):	Remove F Picardy	5 (-1)
FRANCE (Beaumont):	No change (2 annihilated)	2 (-2)
GERMANY (Burroughs):	Build A Berlin, A Kiel	8 (+1) (was 1 short)
ITALY (R. Brown):	Build F Rome	3 (+1)
TURKEY (Chang):	Build F Con	8 (+1)

NO PRESS. I have tentative orders on hand for SPRING 1907 from all Powers. These may be amended, based on the above adjustments and your subsequent negotiations. Be sure to mention that they are Revised orders if you submit new ones, and date them. Perhaps somebody would care to write some Press!

THERE IS A PROPOSAL for a six-way Draw including all current players. This is what is called a "DIAS" - Draw Includes All Survivors. So, I will need at least a post-card from each of you on this proposal. Since this is the first vote we're taking on a game-ending proposal, anyone who fails to vote will be counted as voting "No". However, even if you plan to vote No, please drop me a note, and I prefer to see these proposals settled by active participation.

Players are reminded to please not write orders on the backs of your envelopes. I usually throw the envelopes away as I adjudicate the games, so anything placed there could get lost. Everything on your order sheet, please.

DEADLINE for SPRING 1907 and Votes will be SATURDAY, Feb. 13th, as there will be no mail delivery on Monday, Feb. 15th (Washington's Birthday). Telephone deadline is Friday, Feb. 12th, at 9:00 p.m.

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TOP UNIVERSITIES/ INSTANT MENSANS

Most of you probably saw the listing in the December BULLETIN of some 34 American universities which have an SAT entrance requirement of 1250 or higher, meaning that all of their students are potential Mensans. This includes some which have given several Diplomacy players to the world, including Cal Tech, Harvey Mudd, Johns Hopkins and the U. of Chicago. (I was a bit surprised to see Notre Dame and the Naval Academy on the list. Amnapolis had a poor academic rating until about 1973, and we knew that exceptions are made for these on athletic scholarships).

You may have overlooked the parallel article in PARADE Magazine for Jan. 3, 1988, in which 110 University presidents rated the top ten U.S. colleges, based on a combination of faculty, students, philosophy, tradition and other factors. It was interesting to see that the Top Four, Stanford, Harvard, Yale and Princeton, were also on the "Instant Mensans" list. Other schools making both lists were Duke (7th), U. of Chicago (8), Brown (10), MIT (11-tie), Rice, Virginia, Johns Hopkins, Columbia, U. of Pa. and Cal Tech. Both colleges which I attended, Northwestern and the U. of Illinois, made the Top Twenty on the Presidents' list.

A combination of the two lists is obviously a "hunting ground" for new M's. And new Diplomacy players as well, while we're about it. Anybody wanting a photocopy of the complete list of the Top 25 on the Presidents' list may have one for a SASE. FYI, the 5th & 6th schools on the List were U. of Calif., Berkeley and Dartmouth, both of which are not exactly unknown in the ranks of the Postal hobby.

DIPLOMACY WORLD. This is the unofficial flagship zine of the Diplomacy hobby. It carries a number of feature articles, hobby news, a Deme game, quizzes, and often a variant game. This quarterly zine contains an average of 60 pages in each issue. The new sub rate is \$15 per year (4 issues) in both the U.S. and Canada, which includes delivery by First Class Mail. You can obtain a sample copy for \$4.00. D.W. also offers you the chance to pick up anthologies (reprints) of some of the better articles from backissues. Vol. I offers a potpourri from issues #1-39; and Vol. III is a collection of every variant published from issues #1-40. Each anthology volume costs \$15.00. If you sub before April 1st, you'll receive an additional issue of DIPLOMACY WORLD free, i.e., a 5-issue sub.

To subscribe or order a sample copy, send your check to: Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA. 92102-0416. D.W. was rated 5th on the 1987 Runestone Poll. Since only one of the four zines rated above it in '87 is currently publishing, it appears that its rating will be even higher in the 1988 Poll.

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VARIANT GAMES. Five SIG members and one non-member replied to my form expressing interest in a variant game, to be run either here in DIPLOMAG, or in my private zine, BUSHWACKER. While there was no overwhelming leader, a total of four people expressed an interest in playing either Atlantica III or Conquest of the New World III as their first or second choices. Conquest is a 5-player game, and a fifth person did give that as his third choice.

With the clear understanding that no new game will start until either Mensa #22 or a BUSH game ends first, if John Galt, George Kilmer, Bill Maddox and Don Samuelson will let me know by postcard ASAP that that game is fine with them, I'll set things up. Any other interested M's should also let me know if they want to participate in the Conquest variant. I have one non-M who has a priority for being in this game, but I can always use more standbys, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Don't send any money yet.

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Our next issue will be out in mid-March. If anyone would like to be a standby for the Mensa #22 game, just send me \$1.00 for a copy of my House Rules. Thankyou.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DIPLOMAG - MENSA #22 GAME REPORT

Number 79.1

February 15, 1988

Published by Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043.
Phone: (301) 461-1885. Call only between 12 Noon and 9:30 p.m., Eastern Time.

1986 HM - MENSA #22

SPRING 1907

FRENCH TOASTED BY ANGLO-GERMAN ALLIANCE. AUSTRIAN HEADLONG DRIVE INTO REICH HALTED,
BUT ROME REGAINED. TURK FLEETS COVER MARE NOSTRUM. ST. PETE EMPTY OF ALL BUT SNOW.

AUSTRIA (Schacter): A Silesia-Munich. A Bohemia (S) A Sil-Munich. A Tyrol (S) A
(8) Sil-Munich. A Venice-Rome. F Naples (S) A Venice-Rome. A
Vienna-Trieste. A Galicia-Silesia. A Warsaw-Prussia.
ENGLAND (Anderson): A Gascony-Paris. F MAO-Portugal. F Brest-MAO. F Eng Chamel-
(5) Picardy. F Western Med-G of Lyon.
FRANCE (Beaumont): A Paris (H) /d/, (R) Brest (only space open). F Portugal (H)
(2) /d/, Amihilated.
GERMANY (Burroughs): F Livonia-Prussia. A Berlin (S) F Liv-Prussia. F St. Pete-
(8) GofBothnia. A Norway-St. Pete. A Burgundy (S) ENGLISH A Ges-
Paris. A Munich (S) A Burgundy. A Ruhr & A Kiel (S) A Munich.
ITALY (R. Brown): A Marseille-Piedmont. F Rome-Tuscany. F Spain(sc) (S) ENGLISH
(3) F MAO-Portugal.
TURKEY (Chang): F N.Africa-Western Med. F Ionian-Tyrr. F Tunis (S) F Ionian-
(8) Tyrr. F Aegean-Ionian. F Greece (S) F Aeg-Ionian. F Con-Aegean.
A Moscow-St. Pete. A Sev-Moscow.

The Six-way Draw proposal was defeated substantially.

There is a new proposal for a Three-way Draw between Austria, Germany and Turkey.
Plesse include your votes with your FALL 07 orders. Since this is the second set
of votes for this game, anyone failing to vote will be counted as voting "Yes," so
don't forget to go to the polls and vote.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS for David Anderson (ENGLAND) to: P.O. Box 6092, Pontiac, Mich.
48059. This is only a change of Box No.

NO Press this month.

DEADLINE for FALL 1907 and Votes will be SATURDAY, March 12, 1988. Had to push this
up a little bit, since the April deadline must be April 12th, due to travel plans.
The telephone deadline will be Friday, March 11th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Note
that while our normal phone deadline is 9:30 p.m., it's usually 9:00 on deadline nights.
This is because I often try to start an early adjudication of my games at that time.

P.S. We have two new Standbys for this game. They are Benjamin Greaves and John D.
Galt, both SIG members. I thank both of you gentlemen for joining us.

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