



# 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 COME UP WITH AN IDEA for improving our Membership status. How about everyone sending in \$6.00 dues for a two-year membership when your renewal comes up? This would save us a lot of work in following up on expiring members. (We hope its only their memberships which are expiring!) Several members are already sending me checks for \$6.00 each time, which is greatly appreciated. We can't really ask novices to invest \$6.00, since they don't yet know how great Diplomacy is, but all of our old members should be aware of the fun of Postal play, and you all know what a marvelous literary gem you're receiving in DIPLOMAG every two months (gag, cough!). So, how about upping the ante to \$6.00 the next time you mail in your dues?

Sorry, we'll have to set a two-year limit on Dues payments. Between the constantly rising costs of postage and printing, and the possibilities of outside factors like earthquakes or senility affecting the production of DIPLOMAG, we don't want to set the \$3.00 per year rate more than two years in advance. If we gave you this rate through 1999, we might get stuck with \$1.00 an oz. postage rates by that time.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE MENSA #28 GAME is nearly ready to go. Six people are signed up. They are: Stephen Hutton, Charles Ramsey, Donald Samuelson, Robert Struppeck, Ralph Baty and Eric Young. All we need is one more person. If any of you want to be that seventh player, just drop me a line. The game will be run by Tony Dousette. He will be in touch with you shortly with details on Game Fees, deadlines, etc.

As soon as this game has filled, we will start filling slots for Mensa #29, which will be GM'd by John Barnes.

Please add B.J. Wyatt and Eric Young to the SIG Standby List. Thankyou, both of you. Anyone else want to be a standby?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SOMETHING FAILED to happen in February 1988. The Mensa BULLETIN did not carry the semi-annual SIG Listings. I had forgotten that in 1987, the listings of the LocSecs, Editors, SIGs, etc. was transferred to the March and September issues. So, since our SIG did not receive its free advertising in the February BULLETIN, my mailbox was not exactly deluged with inquiries. I should point out that new Mensans usually receive a copy of the most recent such Listing with their first membership card, so we do receive inquiries from new M's year-round. However, by far the greater number of inquiries and/or new membership checks (money!) arrive in the four-week period following each national publication of the Listings. As I type this, the March BULLETIN has not yet arrived, but I frequently receive my copy later than many other people. In any event, the inquiries should be starting to arrive right about now.

So, instead of a list of new members, all I can say today is that our current SIG membership is 52 members and holding.

We do have one piece of good news. Member Leslie Fife announces that on January 23, 1988, he married Janice L. Whalen. Congratulations, Les. I hope you're teaching her how to play the game.

➔ DUES ARE DUE: We have a big list this time, since we gained so many new members one year ago. Your memberships expire on 4-30-88, so please send me either \$3 or \$6 to re-up ASAP:

Bob Addison, Nancy Calhoun, Robert Cheek, Dave Coufal, Leslie Fife, Stephen Hutton, Keith Johnson, Steve Longbotham, Bill Maddox, Bernard McDermott, Scott Shacter, and Diane Tewsley. Phew!

\* \* \* \* \*

DIPCON XXI will be held in San Antonio, Texas, July 1-4, 1988. This is the annual National Diplomacy tournament and social event. It rotates around the country on an orderly schedule. It was held in the Northeast in 1986, the Midwest in 1987, and will be hosted somewhere in the Pacific states in 1989. For information on registration and housing, write to either Greg Ellis, 700 Rio Grande, Austin, Texas 78701; or Pete Gaughan, 3121 E. Park Row, #165, Arlington, Texas 76010.

MARYCON '88 will return to Fredericksburg, Va., on the campus of Mary Washington College, on June 3-5, 1988. I plan to offer a SkinnyDip Variant tournament on the first day (Friday). They haven't given me any information yet on costs, but I can assure you that this is one Con where you won't go hungry. The location is just 60 miles south of Washington, convenient for many people in the Middle Atlantic states. For details, write to: Dick Warner, % Dept. of History, Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Va. 22401.

THE RUNESTONE POLL BALLOTS will soon be out. This Poll gives you a chance to rate all the zines and subzines you see on a scale from 0 to 10. Most zines will include a ballot, listing all the known publications (plus extra space for write-ins). If you don't receive a ballot in the next 30 days, drop me a line and a SASE, and I'll send you one. There is also a section for rating any GM's you may be playing under. All necessary instructions for mailing the ballots will be found on the form.

SIG GAMES REPORT

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

Austria (Robt. Cheek) took Berlin to go up to 12 Centers in Fall 1906. That wiped out Germany, as England (Linc Beaumont) took his other three centers in Den, Hol and Kiel, to grow to 8 SC's (+2). Dave Coufal resigned the French position. John Barnes took over, captured Belgium, and went up 1 to 6. Italy (Tony Dousetta) stayed even with 7. Russia (Craig Reges) lost his last Home Center, St. Pete, to England, but his "Flying Dutchman" F made port in Edi to survive. Dousetta is the only original player left in this game, although Cheek has ruled Austria since Fall 01.

MENSA #24, 1987 AZ. GM: John Barnes, NO NAME FLYER \*

The big winner this year (1904) was Turkey (Steve St. Clair), which captured Naples, Mars. & Moscow, to go up 3 to 11 SC's. Austria (Greg Dodson) gained Tunis & Warsaw, by my count, to own 7 (+2). France (Kevin Self), lost Mar., Spain & Tunis, but gained Mun, dropping 2 Centers to 5. England also dropped 1 to 5, losing Moscow (Sig Street). Germany (Andy Thomas) lost Mun & Den, to drop to 4. Italy and Russia are now barely alive, controlling one Center apiece. This game has gone back to 4-week deadlines, which ought to speed things up.

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

In Spring 1904, the game is still dominated by Russia (Tony Dousetta) with 9 Centers, and Turkey (Eric Young) with 8. Bill Port (England) returned to the game to fight on with his two units. I would have had more to report if I could have included the Fall 1904 moves, but I had to go to press before they arrived. I'll just add that Germany (Ralph Baty) is in third place with 7 SC's, but seems to have had an unsuccessful Spring.

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

Russia (Les Fife) took a beating in 1902. Turkey (Bruce Filbeck) took Moscow, to go up to 6 Centers, while England (Roger Belfay) seized St. Pete from the other side, also rising to 6. Russia retains only Warsaw & Sweden (down 2). England and Italy (George Kilmer) both attacked France (Scott Shacter) in Spring '02, but the French were able to beat them off and move into the MAO. However, France NMR'd in the Fall. Austria (Diane Tewsley) marched on Germany and captured Munich, to become the largest power on the board, with 7 SC's. Germany (Bill Maddox) had sent units in both directions in Spring, as if expecting a two-front war, but sent in some incorrect orders in the Fall which left his units stalled. Therefore, Germany dropped to 5 (-1). France and Italy stand pat with 4 each.

MENSA #27, 1987 IS. GM: Ralph Baty (by flyer)

France (Bob Addison) and Germany (Geoff Meissner) clashed in Burgundy in Spring 1901, as frequently happens. Most other moves were successful, but we won't be able to judge how things are going until the Fall results are received.

\*In case you're wondering where the name came from, John Barnes informed the Custodian of the Zine Register that his game was run in a flyer with "No Name." The Register then came out showing that John's publication was called the "NO NAME FLYER." So, you might as well stick with that moniker, John, especially since you're going to be starting a second game in a couple of months. This reminds me of the way the immigration inspectors used to give people names on Ellis Island.

1986 HM - MENSA #22

FALL 1907

AUSTRIANS OWN ALL OF ITALY, BUT STOOD OUT OF PRUSSIA. ONLY TURKS GAIN FROM TRAFFIC JAM IN MED. FRANCE DIES. ITALY LIVES! ENGLISH TAKE TWO, MISS CHANCE FOR THIRD SC.

The proposal for a Three-way Draw between Austria, Germany & Turkey did not pass. In case there was any misunderstanding, I repeat that my House Rules require that any such proposal must be approved unanimously. There was more than one "No" vote. Ergo, the game continues.

AUSTRIA (Shacter): (8) A Warsaw-Prussia. A Silesia (S) A Warsaw-Prussia. A Trieste-Venice. A Rome (S) A Trieste-Venice. A Tyrol (S) A Tri-Venice. A Bohemia (S) A Tyrol. A Galicia (S) A Silesia. F Naples (S) TURKISH F Tyrr. Sea.

ENGLAND (Anderson): (5) F Picardy-Brest. A Paris (S) F Picardy-Brest. F MAO-Western Med. F G of Lyon (S) F MAO-Western Med. F Portugal (H).

FRANCE (Beaumont): (2) (1 unit) A Brest-Paris /d/, could (R) Gascony.

GERMANY (Burroughs): (8) A Norway-St. Pete. F G of Bothnia (S) A Norway-St. Pete. A Kiel-Denmark. A Munich (S) ITALIAN A Pied-Tyrol. A Burgundy & A Ruhr (S) A Munich. F Prussia (H). A Berlin (S) F Prussia.

ITALY (R. Brown): (3) A Piedmont-Tyrol. F Tuscany-Tyrr. F Spain(sc)-Western Med.

TURKEY (Chang): (8) F Western Med-G of Lyon, <sup>/d/ (Prussia)</sup> F Tyrr. (S) F Western Med-GoLyon. F Tunis-N.Africa. F Ionian-Tunis. F Aegean-Ionian. F Greece-Albania. A Moscow-Livonia. A Sev-Moscow.

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, MENSA #22, WINTER 1907: GAINS, ~~Losses~~

AUSTRIA:	3 Home, Naples, Rumania, Serbia, Venice, Warsaw, ROME	(9) (+1), Build 1
ENGLAND:	3 Home, Belgium, Brest, PARIS, PORT.	(7) (+2), Build 2
FRANCE:	<del>PARIS, PORTUGAL</del>	(0) (-2), Remove 1, OUT
GERMANY:	3 Home, Den, Hol, Norway, St. Pete, Sweden	(8) (--), No change
ITALY:	Marseilles, Spain, <del>ROME</del>	(2) (-1), Remove 1
TURKEY:	3 Home, Bulgaria, Greece, Moscow, Sev, Tunis	(8) (--), <del>No change Build 1</del> (1 annihilated)

PRESS:

ITALY to Germany: There, I've done what I can to cut support of attacks on you by your enemies. And with that, I likely die!

ITALY to Turkey & Austria: No hard feelings. I simply didn't have enough to offer.

BERLIN: My hat is off to Linc Beaumont (France) for playing it out to the bitter end. You were a worthy opponent, Linc, and would have made a very capable ally. At the beginning, I made it my personal goal to destroy Russia and France. Russia was very cooperative. He finally committed suicide. But you, Linc, gave it a good fight to the end. Here's an "Atta Boy" to put in your "Atta Boy" file.

GERMANY to World: I have never understood why fellows who have spent so much time on a game of Diplomacy are so willing to call a "draw" before the end has been played out. What a depressing anti-climax. Shame on you. Reach down and grab your sagging self-image and stand erect, and see the game through to the end.

FRENCH GOVT.-in-Exile: Since this is likely to be my last move in this game, I'd like

to commend all of the players on their efforts and thank the GM for another great job. I'll see you in a future game.

ITALY to England: I assume you took Spain. You'd be a fool not to.

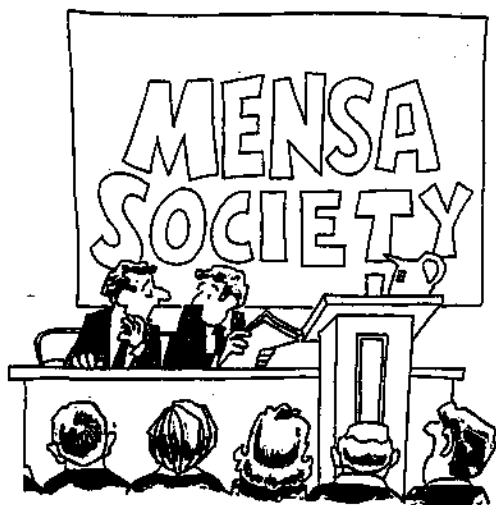
GM's Comments: So, we now have four big Powers, ranging from 7 to 9 units strong, with no one seemingly able to break the game open. One interesting point is that Austria and Germany have their forces lined up in solid formations, while Turkey is fighting a two-front war in Russia and the Med. England's units are also somewhat scattered. It may be that the English and Turkish units, having more freedom of maneuver, may be the key to how the game goes.

To elucidate another point, a player failing to vote on a Draw or Concession must be recorded as voting "Yes" (except for the first vote), because otherwise a single player could prevent the game from ending by the simple expedient of not voting. If a player fails to notice that a vote has been called, it is his fault if he fails to vote "No," and the game thereby ends. There have been discussions of this event in the Diplomacy press for all of the 19 years I've been in the hobby. At least once a year, someone protests, "But, I didn't see the call for a vote," when a game has abruptly ended. To which the answer of 99% of the GM's has been: "T.S. A player is supposed to keep track of votes for Draws or Concessions." It only takes a single vote to stop a Draw or Concession. Most GM's don't publish the vote totals, so as to prevent the other players from garging up on a country which casts the lone "No" vote on a proposal. But, the guy has to make the effort of voting to save the game.

Having made that point, I am going to hold another proposal I've received for one more turn, under the theory that there's no point in whipping a dead horse. If the party who made that proposal advises me that he still wishes to put the motion on the floor, it will be printed with the next report on Mensa #22.

((Some of this material is for the benefit of novices, since this may be the first Postal Diplomacy game report they've read.))

DEADLINE for WINTER 1908 adjustments will be TUESDAY, April 12, 1988, since I will be leaving town for 12 days on April 16th. If everyone also submits orders for Spring 1909, we will also play that season, but it requires only one request to grant a separation of seasons. I do request that any press be kept short next month, since I have to get the report out in a hurry. Telephone deadline will be Monday, April 11th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.



"You're on... Try not to make a fool of yourself."

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Magazine,  
1/17/88

And so, we come to the end of another issue. We thought we were only going to have a four-page issue this month, but wound up with enough material to fill five pages. We have some extra space here, so what shall we say? I could remind you that if you're not going to attend DipCon XXI in Texas, you may be interested in going to the combined American-Canadian Mensa AG being held in Montreal, Quebec, the same weekend (July 1-4). Details are in the National Mensa publications. I won't be there, but there is always a game room at an AG, so if any of you are planning to attend, send me your name and I'll print it in the next issue of DIPLOMAG. Maybe you could get a Diplomacy game going at the AG, and recruit some new SIG members.

Incidentally, the current list of the twelve largest Local Groups in American Mensa is as follows: 1. San Francisco, 2. New York, 3. Los Angeles, 4. Chicago, 5. Washington, D.C. 6. San Diego, 7. Southeast Michigan (Detroit), 8. Delaware Valley (Philadelphia), 9. Gulf Coast (Houston), 10. Orange Co., CA., 11. Boston, and 12. North Texas (Dallas-Ft. Worth). Needless to say, these chapters extend far beyond the city areas shown. The fastest growing large Group was Central Florida, which grew 17.6% between 11/30/86 and 11/30/87, to 487 members. My Maryland Group is ranked 23rd, with 690 M's. If anyone wants exact figures for a group, I'll be glad to provide them, courtesy of the most recent report in INTERLOC.

NEWS FLASH! I've just received a change of address for Bruce Poppe, our Senior Committeeman. His new address is: 7376 Broken Staff, Columbia, Md. 21045. New Phone No. 381-0048.

Next issue will appear sometime around May 16, 1988.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

DIPLOMAG - MENSA #22 GAME REPORT

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1986 HM - MENSA #22

WINTER 1907

ENGLAND BUILDS FLEETS. AUSTRIA AND TURKEY RAISE NEW ARMIES.

		<u>Current Strength</u>
AUSTRIA (Shacter):	Build A Trieste	9 (+1)
ENGLAND (Anderson):	Build F Liverpool, F London	7 (+2)
GERMANY (Burroughs):	No change	8 (-)
ITALY (R. Brown):	Remove F Spain(sc)	2 (-1)
TURKEY (Chang):	Build A Ankara	8 (-) (1 annihilated)

The Turkish F Western Med was annihilated in Fall 07, when the English succeeded in taking that space from MAO. Concerned players were notified by postcard.

No one objected to playing combined seasons, so...

SPRING 1908

TURKISH FLEETS BLAST WAY INTO WESTERN MED. EVERYONE TRIES TO GO TO TYROL. AUSTRIANS INVADE PRUSSIA, PRECIPITATE SILESIAN STANDOFF. ARRIVIDERCI, ITALIA.

AUSTRIA (Shacter): (9) A Rome-Tuscany. A Venice (S) A Rome-Tuscany. A Silesia-Prussia. A Warsaw (S) A Sil-Prussia. A Galicia-Silesia. A Tyrol-Piedmont. A Trieste-Tyrol. A Bohemia (S) A Trieste-Tyrol. F Naples-Rome.

ENGLAND (Anderson): (7) F Brest-MAO. F Portugal (S) F Brest-MAO. F London-North Sea. F Liverpool-Irish Sea. A Paris (H). F Western Med (S) ITALIAN F Tus-Tyrr Sea (NSO) /d/, (R) Spain(sc) (only space open). F Gulf of Lyon (S) F Western Med.

GERMANY (Burroughs): (8) F Prussia-Baltic Sea. A Berlin-Silesia. A St. Pete (H). F Gulf Bothnia (S) A St. Pete. A Munich (S) ITALIAN A Piedmont-Tyrol. A Denmark-Kiel. A Ruhr (S) A Mun. A Burgundy (S) A Munich.

ITALY (R. Brown): (2) A Piedmont-Tyrol. F Tuscany (S) ENGLISH F GofLyons /d/, (Annihilated).

TURKEY (Chang): (8) F Tunis-Western Med. F Naf and F Tyrr Sea (S) F Tunis-W. Med. F Ionian-Tunis. F Albania-Ionian. A Ankara-Armenia. A Livonia (S) AUSTRIAN A Silesia-Prussia. A Moscow (S) A Livonia.

PRESS:

AUSTRIA to Italy: No hard feelings. You have plenty to offer.  
AUSTRIA to Germany: Did not Germany say something similar to the League of Nations in-between wars? Did they not lose their continued war? Need we say more?

I have a proposal for a FOUR-WAY DRAW between Germany, Austria, Turkey and England, or in other words, "a GATE Draw." I had held this proposal over from last month, since, although a GM is not supposed to interfere with the game, I am weary of "whipping a dead horse." Since the proposal was not withdrawn, I have no choice but to present it, and ask you to vote on it with your Fall orders. I find myself in agreement with what the German player said last month.

DEADLINE for FALL 1908 orders is THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1988. Phone deadline will be Wed., May 11th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.