



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

Members are reminded that we would like to have you pay \$6.00 for two years' dues when you renew. This will save us a lot of work in record-keeping and follow-ups. Your expiration date will be shown on your mailing labels for the last two issues before you run out, and currently expiring memberships are always shown somewhere in the newsletter, usually with an arrow pointing to the names. We're going to assume that anyone currently playing in a Mensa game will want to retain active SIG membership.

Anyone running a Mensa postal game or serving as a SIG officer is excused from paying dues. You just have to send me a copy of each game report, so I can write up something on it for DIPLOMAG.

BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA has folded. Scott Hanson turned most of his Regular games over to the Orphan Games Custodian, Rod Walker, for rehousing. He kept the International game. He adjudicated the Spring 1907 move for Mensa #23, and then asked me to find it a new home. Ralph Baty has agreed to take Mensa #23 under his wing, seeing as how it's past the midway point. All of the players have been informed. Thanks again, Ralph.

HAS SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED IN MENSA? We have received NO new SIG members in the past four months. We received only three inquiries about the DipSIG when the SIG Listings were published in the March BULLETIN, whereas we usually get at least a dozen. Several people did not renew their memberships. Several Diplomacy zines have folded in both America and Britain. Perhaps it's related to the Stock Market Crash, or are peoples' interests turning elsewhere? Anyone out there have a theory? It can't be video games. They've been around for years, and, indeed, seem to have passed their peak in sales. Are we all tightening our belts in expectation of another Great Depression? I can only hope that the great plug which Diplomacy received in the April 1988 issue of THE GENERAL will reverse this trend (see next article).

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DIPLMACY MAKES THE BIG TIME

The current issue of THE GENERAL (Vol. 24, #3) is a special issue devoted mainly to Diplomacy. It's well worth seeing, even if you don't normally read the magazine. (I believe individual copies can be ordered from Avalon Hill for \$3.00 ea. The sub rate is \$12.00/year for six issues.)

The Diplomacy issue was written in December, and was supposed to go to press in January. However, logistical problems delayed its publication to March, with most of us not receiving our copies until April. This caused one minor problem. The cost of the North American Variant Bank Catalog is shown as \$3.00. I had raised the price to \$4.00 as of 12/22/87, too late for A-H to catch. As a result, I'm receiving many orders for copies of the Catalog with enclosed checks for \$3.00. I'm filling most of these, with a request for an extra dollar. However, I do want to emphasize that the current price is \$4.00. With the April postal rate increase, I'm losing money on the operation even at \$4.00, but I can afford to do that. (It's only a hobby, right!).

There are plugs for DIPLOMACY WORLD, for Ken Peel's ZINE REGISTER and Game Openings list, and the NAVB in THE GENERAL. I understand that the response for copies of D.W. has been tremendous. I had eight requests for copies of the Catalog sitting on my desk when I returned home. So, we may be getting a lot of new blood in the Postal hobby soon.

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MENSA HAS PUBLISHED A WORLD SIG LIST

This List shows all of the known SIGS operating outside of the United States. There are only five SIGs shown for Canada, but the Canadians receive a complete copy of the American Mensa SIGs at least once a year in MC², I'm told. The largest listing is for Britain, but there are also listings for 13 other countries. You may obtain a copy by sending a request and a business-size SASA to our own Groups Officer, Roland J. Roley, P.O. Box 4355, Oceanside, CA. 92054.

I was amazed to see a listing for a DIPLOMACY SIG for Malaysia! Malaysian Mensa is one of the more successful of the small country National Groups. I have already sent off a letter and Sample copies of DIPLOMAG to its Coordinator, with an offer to trade publications. As soon as I receive a reply, I'll let you know. If you'd like to write directly, the Malaysia Coordinator is: Arul Inthirajah, 5 Lorong Damai 13 Kin, 55000 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA.

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NOW I KNOW WHY THEY DON'T PLAY POSTAL DIP IN MEXICO. When I was in Mexico City, I wrote and mailed several postcards from my hotel, including one to home. All bore the correct postage. None have yet shown up. I know there was an airline strike in Mexico, but even a mule could have gotten the mail delivered by now. So, if you go to Mexico on business or vacation for any length of time, better turn your games over to someone else while you're gone, or you'll surely be NMR'd.

ANYONE interested in reading my 3½ page report on my trip, which appeared in BUSHWACKER, just send me a business-size SASE, and I'll mail you a copy.

SIG GAMES REPORTS

MENSA #23, 1986 CZ. GM (thru S 1907): Scott Hanson, BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA

England (Linc Beaumont) has 8 Centers, but is playing 1 unit short due to lack of room in which to build. He has defended Kiel against Austrian attack in the Spring, but has lost St. Pete to an Austrian A coming from Livonia. Austria (Robt. Cheek) is No. One here, with 12 SC's, and moving for more. Italy (Tony Dousette) has 7, and France (John Barnes) 6. The last Russian F (Craig Reges) was last seen steaming into the mists of the North Sea. Ralph Baty now takes over as GM, with the next set of orders due at his home on June 3rd.

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

In Fall 1905, Turkey (Steve St. Clair) picked up Tunis, Warsaw and Spain, to go up 3 to 14. Italy is gone, and Germany (Andy Thomas) clings to life with a single Center in Holland. England (Sig Street) gained Belgium and Sweden to rise to 7. Everyone else stayed even, with Austria (Greg Dodson) the largest, with 7 Centers. Oh, France (Kevin Self) lost Belgium and Munich, but gained Kiel, and had one unit annihilated, so he didn't have to make a removal to stay at 4. John's flyer is growing into a small zine. He will be running the Mensa #29 game when it fills.

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

In Fall 1904, Russia (Tony Dousette) was still on top with 9 Centers, followed by Turkey (Eric Young) with 8. Neither picked up any SC's in '04, and the proposed concession to Russia failed. Turkey Convoyed an A from Greece to Venice in Spring 05, which must have surprised Italy (Steve Longbotham), who owns 6. Germany (Ralph Baty) lost two Centers in 1904, to go down to 5, and has just had A Berlin dislodged by a Russian attack in S 05. Come back of the year award must go to Bill Port, who has built a third unit for England in Edi after being virtually wiped out. France (B.J. Wyatt) also built a new F in Brest, to go up to 3 SC's.

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

Bill Maddox (Germany) NMR'd in Spring and Fall 1903, and is now out of the game. Austria (Diane Tewsley) and Turkey (Bruce Filbeck) continued their march on Eastern and Central European provinces, occupying Berlin, Warsaw and points east. Russian Tsar Les Fife and his bride appeared doomed as they retreated from Warsaw with the remnants of their last army. Scott Shacter (France) returned to battle, but had units in Mars., MAO & Spain dislodged, to drop to 3 SC's. Italy (George Kilmer) gained Mars. and Spain to rise to 6. Turkey is the Big Bird, with 8 SC's as of Winter '03.

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

In Winter 1901, five powers, Austria, England, France, Germany & Russia, got to build two new units each. The only surprise was Germany (Pierre Touchette) taking Belgium, leaving Holland for England (Nancy Calhoun). Italy and Turkey got their traditional single builds for Tunis and Bulgaria. Pierre took over for Germany when Geoff Meissner had to resign. A very even game so far.

MENSA #28. GM: Tony Dousette, THE CONTINUING CRISIS (Cont.)

The seven players are going to be: Ralph Baty, Stephen Hutton, Charles Ramsey, Don Samuelson, Robert Struppeck, Andy Thomas and Eric Young. The first deadline will be at the end of May.

Two people already signed up for Mensa #29.

DUES ARE DUE as of now for the following members. Please send me a check for either \$3 or \$6 at your earliest convenience. You can continue to play in your present Mensa games if you don't renew, but you can't join any new ones:

George Kilmer, Charles Ramsey and Steve Wallis.

I'VE RETYPED THE MEMBERSHIP LIST. If anybody wants an updated copy, just send me a SASE. We have 48 members now. 44 live in the U.S., 3 in Canada, and 1 in Venezuela. Of our U.S. members, 7 reside in California, 4 ea. in Texas and Virginia, and 3 ea. in Maryland and Washington State.

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I am enclosing copies of the RUNESTONE POLL Ballots for those of you who do not receive BUSHWACKER or the Mensa #22 flyer. This annual poll rates the hobby's zines on a scale from 0 to 10. I believe 441 people voted last year. You may rate any zine of which you have seen at least two issues since July 1987. Last year, DIPLOMAG made the main list for the first time, earning a rating of 4.98. Considering that this is simply a newsletter, which is not aiming for literary merit, that was a respectable score. (My personal zine, BUSHWACKER, was ranked 20th, with a rating of 7.05). First place in 1987 went to COSTAGUINA, published by Conrad von Metzke. DIPLOMACY WORLD finished fifth. PRAXIS, by Alan Stewart, was rated third last year, and is considered by some to be the favorite to finish first in '88. The zines finishing second, fourth, ninth and tenth in 1987 have all folded. Such is the ephemeral life of postal zines.

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UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

ATLANTICON '88. July 1-3, 1988, at the Baltimore Convention Center. This will include a two-round Diplomacy tournament, along with many other games. Registration Fee is \$14 until May 31st, and \$18 thereafter. There is a \$3.00 fee to enter the Dip Tournament. A Room Matching Service will provide you with a shared room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel for \$38 per night. The regular Convention rates are much higher. All details are in their flyer. You can obtain a copy by writing to: Atlanticon 88, P.O. Box 15405, Baltimore, Md. 21220.

Since MaryCon has been cancelled, this will be the major convention in the Baltimore-Washington area for 1988.

CAN CON '88. August 12-14, 1988, in Toronto, Canada. Registration Fee - \$15.00. Accomodations available at the Hilliard Residence for Friday and Saturday nights. Single rooms are \$25.00/night. A Double room is \$18.00/night per person. You may list the name of the person you plan to share your room with, if you wish. These rates are in Canadian dollars. The prices will be less in U.S. funds.

For more information, contact Doug Acheson, 95 Dundonald St., Barrie, Ont., CANADA L4M 3T4. Or call him at (705) 726-9362. There will be four gaming sessions in the Dip Tournament, but I think you only have to play in three rounds to be eligible for the awards.

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IF ANY SIG members are going to attend the combined American-Canadian AG in Montreal in July, please drop me a line. That's going to be July 1-4, 1988. I'll send everyone who's going a list of fellow SIG attendees, so you can plan to meet there. As of right now, I only know that Bruce Poppe is planning to go. I can't make it, since I'm going to England a few days later.

ENGLISH STAY IN SPAIN. GERMANS INVADE BELGIUM. MULTIPLE STANDOFFS ELSEWHERE, AS ONLY TWO SUPPLY CENTERS CHANGE HANDS.

AUSTRIA (Shacter): A Bohemia-Silesia. A Galicia and A Warsaw (S) A Boh-Silesia. (9) A Prussia (S) A Boh-Sil /d/ (Annihilated). A Tuscany-Piedmont. A Venice (S) A Tus-Piedmont. F Rome-Tuscany. A Trieste-Vienna. A Tyrol-Munich.

ENGLAND (Anderson): F MAO-Western Med. F GofLyon (S) F MAO-West Med. F Spain(sc) (7) (S) F MAO-West Med. F Irish Sea-MAO. F Portugal (S) F Irish-MAO. A Paris (H). F NorthSea reads BUSHWACKER (H).

GERMANY (Burroughs): A St. Pete (H). F GofBothnia (S) A St. Pete. A Munich (H). (8) A Kiel (S) A Mun. A Ruhr-Belgium. A Burgundy (S) A Ruhr-Belgium. F Baltic-Prussia. A Berlin (S) F Baltic-Prussia.

ITALY (R. Brown): A Piedmont-Tyrol /d/, (R) Marseille (only space open). (2) (1 unit)

TURKEY (Chang): A Livonia-St. Pete. A Moscow (S) A Liv-St. Pete. A Armenia-Sev. (8) F Tyrr-GofLyon. F Western Med (S) F Tyrr-GofLyon. F N.Africa (S) F West Med. F Tunis (S) F West Med. F Ion-Tyrr.

PRESS:

TURKEY to World: Who will get Marseilles?

ITALY: This is when I'm supposed to say something devastatingly witty. Let's see: "Rumours of my death are not exaggerated." Hope I can do better when it counts.

The GATE Proposal to end the game in a 4-way Draw did not pass. It was not even close. The war continues.

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, 1986 HM, WINTER 1908. GAINS, ~~Losses~~

AUSTRIA:	3 Home, Naples, Rome, Rumania, Serbia, Venice, Warsaw	(9) (--), Build 1 (1 annihilated)
ENGLAND:	3 Home, Brest, Paris, Port., SPAIN, BELGIUM	(7) (—), No change
GERMANY:	3 Home, Den, Hol, Norway, St. Pete, Sweden, BELGIUM	(9) (+1), Build 1 (But No room to build)
ITALY:	Marseilles, SPAIN	(1) (-1), No change (1 annihilated)
TURKEY:	3 Home, Bulgaria, Greece, Moscow, Sev, Tunis	(8) (—), No change

GM's Comments: It appears that we could be approaching a stalemate. However, anything could happen to change the pattern. The units on the outside of the board still have a lot of room to move around. Since there can only be one build, by Austria, in Winter 1908, there is no need for a separate season. The Austrian build cannot attack anyone else in Spring 1909.

So, the DEADLINE for WINTER 1908 and SPRING 1909 will be FRIDAY, June 10, 1988. Telephone deadline will be Thursday, June 9th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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We expect to have news about the proposed Mensa Variant game next month. This would be the "Conquest of the New World" variant. Everyone who expressed interest will be contacted by me sometime in June.

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There is going to be a problem with the July 1988 issue of DIPLMAG. I will be leaving for England to attend the World DipCon on Tuesday, July 12th. I have the choice of producing a short issue before I go, or of sending you a larger issue around August 1. I haven't yet decided which to do. So, don't be worried if you don't receive a DIPLMAG in July. The deadline for the Mensa #22 game will be coordinated with whatever schedule I establish.

Have a good summer.

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FLASH! The country assignments have been made in Mensa #28. The Spring 1901 deadline will be June 10th.

DIPLMAG - Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

DIPLOMAG - MENSA #22 GAME REPORT

Number 81.1

June 11, 1988

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

1986 HM - MENSA #22

WINTER 1908

AUSTRIA Builds A Budapest (1 was annihilated).
GERMANY owns 9 SC's, but had no room to build. Will play one short.

We forgot to report Turkish order "F Ionian-Tyrr" in Fall 08.

SPRING 1909

ARRIVIRDERCI ITALIA. AUSTRIANS ENTER PRUSSIA AS GERMAN FORCES INVEST FRANCE.

AUSTRIA (Shacter): A Silesia-Prussia. A Galicia-Silesia. A Warsaw (S) A Gal-Sil.
(9) A Budapest-Galicia. A Vienna-Bohemia. A Tyrol (S) A Vienna-
Boh. A Piedmont-Marseilles. A Venice-Rome. F Tuscany (S) ~
TURKISH F Tyrr-GofLyon.
ENGLAND (Anderson): F North Sea-Eng Channel. F Irish Sea-MAO. F Portugal (S) F
(7) Irish Sea-MAO. F GofLyon-Marseille. F Spain(sc) (S) F GofLyon-
Marseilles. F MAO-N.Africa. A Paris-Gascony.
GERMANY (Burroughs): A Belgium-Picardy. A Burgundy (S) ENGLISH F GofLyon-Marseilles.
(9)(8 units) A St. Pete (H). F GofBoth (S) A St. Pete. A Munich (H). A
Berlin (S) A Munich. A Kiel-Ruhr. F Livonia-Baltic (NSU).
F Prussia (U) /d/, (R) Baltic (only space open).
ITALY (R. Brown): A Marseilles-Piedmont /d/, (Annihilated).
(1)
TURKEY (Chang): A Livonia (S) AUSTRIAN A Silesia-Prussia. A Moscow-St. Pete.
(8) A Sev-Ukraine. F Tyrr-GofLyon. F Western Med (S) F Tyrr-Gof
Lyon. F N.Africa (S) F Western Med. F Tunis (S) F West Med.
F Ionian-Tyrr.

PRESS:

ENGLAND to Germany: I'll be back for Belgium in Spring 1910. Thanks for the hand.

ENGLAND to Italy: I've come to put your misery to an end.

ENGLAND to Turkey: Can you say stalemate? I knew you could!

GM's Comments: And so, we are down to the Final Four. Austria is trying to make an
end run in the north, while Turkey seems to be trying to do the same in the south.
Several things could still happen to upset the applecart, so I don't quite see this
as a stalemate yet.

I may only run the game results in July, and postpone the DIPLOMAG to August.

In any case, the DEADLINE for the FALL 1909 orders is SATURDAY, July 9, 1988. The
phone deadline will be Friday, July 8th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. This deadline
almost got away from me. I was extremely busy on Thursday & Friday, and only realized
around 9 p.m. Friday night that that was the deadline, not Saturday. One tends to
lose track of dates when you're retired and senility sets in.

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