



# 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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## SHORT TAKES

As a result of the plug in THE GENERAL (Avalon Hill's magazine), requests have been coming in for the Diplomacy SIG as well as for the North American Bank Catalog and my own zine, BUSHWACKER. Sales of the Catalog have been booming. Hopefully, some of this will spill over to the SIG.

Copies of the NAVB 1987-88 Catalog are available from me @ \$4.00. This now includes a second UPDATE (just printed on 1 July), as well as an Errata sheet and UPDATE #1, from February. The UPDATES include the very newest designs received in the Bank. Over 900 Dip variants have now been recorded and assigned a Catalog No. This same Catalog No. is then used by the Miller No. Custodians in America and Britain as part of the designator assigned to each Postal game. This system is universal throughout the English-speaking world, except for two East Coast publishers who follow the call of a different drum.

I will be going Overseas, to attend the First World Diplomacy Con, to be held on the campus of the U. of Birmingham, England, from 15 to 18 July. I expect to be back on July 27th, so I'll be out of touch with you for a little while. I'm trying to get this issue in the mail before I go, so it may be a short issue. I'm looking forward to meeting some of my opposite numbers in Britain. I met some of them two years ago, but hobby turnover is so rapid that new people are always coming along.

I attended the AtlantiCon Diplomacy event, held in the Baltimore Convention Hall, on the weekend of July 2nd. A lengthy report was printed in the July BUSHWACKER. A copy may be had for a business-size SASE. There is a possibility of a new Dip-and-variants only Con being formed in the Middle Atlantic region to replace the late MaryCon, beginning in 1989. This would be located somewhere between New Jersey and metropolitan Washington. I'll keep you informed if this comes about.

The top finishers in the AtlantiCon Tournament were: First - Frank "Baltimore" Jones, French Rulebook win; 2-way Draw as Austria. Second - David Hood, German Win; 2-way Draw as Turkey. Third - Bill Thompson, French 2-way Draw; Austrian survival. Only

(over)

David is a Postal player. He publishes CAROLINA COMMAND, and helps to run the "DixieCon" Tournament held in Chapel Hill, N.C. every Spring. The other two gentlemen are Marylanders, who have always done well in FTF area tournaments.

I was hoping to have the names of the winners of the DipCon Tournament in San Antonio, Texas for you this month, as well as the winners of the three Hobby Awards (Service, Literary and Best Player); however, this information has not arrived as I type this. The deadline for the Runestone Polls on Diplomacy zines and GM's was extended to about July 25th, so that won't become available for about another month.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We welcome a new SIG member aboard this month. He is:

Steve Glasgow, 151 Shelter Rock Rd., #18, Danbury, CT. 06810

My copy of the 1988 American Mensa Membership List has finally arrived. I went through it and noticed that a few of our SIG members have let their National memberships expire. In a couple of cases, they've also let their SIG memberships expire, so in their cases it doesn't matter. Also, since we're allowed to have a small percentage of non-active members on our rolls, we can live with the few inactive M's on the list. But, I'd sure like to suggest that if you've let your National membership expire, you consider rejoining. Otherwise, you're cut off from all the other Mensa activities.

The following SIG memberships will be expiring as of August 31, 1988. May I suggest that you renew for two years for \$6.00. Most of the people who've renewed in the past four months have renewed for two years. This will save us a lot of paperwork.

→ Bruce Filbeck, Scott Hanson, Pierre Touchette

A six-month audit shows that between 1/1/88 and 6/30/88 we took in \$87.00 and spent \$70.02, giving us a "profit" of \$16.98, and a total of \$212.35 in the bank. Most of this increase was due to the payment of \$6.00 in dues by renewing members. This looks good for 1988, but it means our 1989 income will be down somewhat. So, we'd better keep on recruiting new members.

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BRUCE POPPE was the only SIG member to make it to the Montreal AG. The SIG Room was poorly located and not very well attended, he reports, but it was a great AG. He's started to report on the AG in the current issue of his Mensa #26 game flyer. You can get a copy by sending him a SASE (Address on masthead).

Bruce also visited SIG member Ron (Canada) Brown, and former SIG member Steve Hutton while he was in Canada. He was going to buy a Canadian Diplomacy set, with honest-to-God wooden blocks and the one-piece board, but didn't get around to it.

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MENSA #29 will be our next Regular SIG game. It will be run by John Barnes. Only three people have signed up as of today. Some of you folks who have been eliminated from other SIG games, or who are down to your last unit or two, might think about signing up for this one to keep your oar in. You sign up through me, not John. We were successful in filling the Variant games. (Details on bottom of Pg. 5).

Mensan Dan Wilson's article on NMR's is reprinted from the July BUSHWACKER on Pg. 3.

"NMR" - BURNOUT OR FAKEOUT!!  
by Dan R. Wilson

Courtesy seems to be a concept in direct opposition to the NMR in the world of Diplomacy-by-mail. Courtesy dictates that a player in a DBM game notify the Gamemaster in advance that they do not intend to continue the game they are in. The NMR is a rude notification of that same fact, a slap in the face to all of the players in that game, not to mention the GM.

Some will argue that burnout in Diplomacy is total and the affected person just doesn't feel that his continued participation is beneficial to him or his lifestyle. This may be true, but it is a self-centered self-serving cop-out. Even though the decision may have been made to not continue in a certain game, the player dropping out should look beyond his or her own interests and try to understand that there are six other persons involved in the game (seven, including the GM), and by NMRing, a total disregard is shown for the other players feelings.

The game of Diplomacy is premised on the assumption that there will be communication between players in the game, and that all players will communicate every turn with the GM. An NMR by one player disrupts the contiguous flow of the game, and mars the pleasure derived from the game by the other players. It is a statement that says to the other six players and the GM "I don't care what you think or how you feel, I'm picking up my marbles and going home". Read that statement carefully and you will see the basic childish content. An NMR is a childish act, not the function of a mature adult.

When we undertake to play a game of Diplomacy-by-mail, we make no promises of keeping our word in negotiation or treaties; in fact, that is a basic of the game--treachery! But it is treachery in good fun and spirit of the game. An NMR is simply a rudeness.

An argument can be made that a single NMR is a strategic maneuver in the game, planned for and executed with skill. That is true, and the turmoil created by an NMR can change the complexion of the game and create doubts about the validity of an alliance, while the alliance might, in fact, be as strong as ever. The credibility of a player is harmed by the NMR, or so they would want you to believe in the case of a strategic NMR. The offending player can even be attacked in Press to confuse the other players. Of course, an NMR of this nature is not a true NMR. It should be done only after notification is given to the GM that such a move is afoot, and it should not be done for more than one move. Such is the difference between a strategic NMR and a burnout NMR.

A person who NMR's out of a game (or games) should not be allowed to re-enter a game, in any zine, unless their re-entry is accompanied by a sincere apology to the hobby as a whole and the players in the game individually. This action should be taken hobby-wide by every zine publisher and GM, and supported by every player. I offer a rather harsh outlook on NMR's and treatment thereof, but I do so from experience. I have been guilty of the worst type of NMR, that of a zine publisher and game player. I offer my heartfelt and sincere apologies for my NMR's at the time of my burnout, and swear to the hobby that I shall not do so again. Simple courtesy is so inexpensive, yet can reap such large rewards.

# # #

SIG GAMES REPORTS

MENSA #23, 1986 CZ. GM: Ralph Baty (by flyer)

Austria (Robert Cheek) took St. Pete and lost Greece in 1907, to stand pat with 12 Centers at year's end. England (Linc Beaumont) recaptured Edinburgh but lost St. Pete, to stay at 8, but since he was playing 1 short, he gets to build one. Tony Doucette's Italy gained Greece to go up 1 to 8, while John Barnes' France remained stymied at 6. The last Russian F (Craig Reges) perished, leaving but four players in this game, which will celebrate its second birthday on September 13th.

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

The Spring 1906 report was slightly late, as John has started a new full-time job, but the new format looks very nice. There is now a column showing who owns which SC's with each Season's report. Steve St. Clair's 14-Center Turkey seems to be continuing to expand. France (Kevin Self) has taken Germany's last SC, Holland, so the last German unit, F Picardy, seems doomed. Austria (Greg Dodson) took Marseille, with Turkish support. (John, if you'd specify nationalities in Support orders, it would make it easier to see who's working with who). England (Sig Street) holds St. Pete against Turkish attack. Gerry Johnson's lone Russian F has moved into Sweden.

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

Russia (Tony Doucette) has grown to 11 Centers as of Spring 1906, adding Berlin and Munich to its empire. Eric Young's Turkey is still second, with 8, but F Ionian has just been dislodged by an Italian naval attack, and had to Retreat to Greece. Italy (Steve Longbotham) is fighting fiercely to defend the country from the Turkish invaders in Venice and Tuscany, standing at 6. Germany (Ralph Baty) had 5 Centers but only 4 units. Two were dislodged in Spring when Ralph's orders failed to arrive on time, and were therefore removed by the GM. France (B.J. Wyatt) is down to a single unit, but that A has just taken Belgium from Germany. England (Bill Port) moved into Kiel, and may go up to 4 or 5 in the Fall. Kate announced a 7-week deadline of August 17th for Fall '06, due to the press of summertime activities. Hey, her other game has ended. Let her know if you'd like to play in a new game there.

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

The Spring 1904 orders, hot off the press, shows that Turkey (Bruce Filbeck) continues to advance. Bulgaria & Warsaw were added to the Ottoman Empire in 1903, for a total of 8 SC's. His Austrian ally (Diane Tewsley) was blocked in an attempt to take Kiel, and stands pat with 7. Germany is now being run by Eric Young. He has 4 units to defend what's left of the Reich. Italy (George Kilmer) has taken Portugal from France (has 6 units). England (Roger Belfay) has just occupied the last Russian SC in Sweden, while the last Russ A in Livonia has been annihilated. Alas, farewell to Tsar Fife. France (Scott Shacter) has just lost Brest and Portugal, and may be down to one unit.

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

Fall 1902 saw Russia (Steve St. Clair) capturing Bulgaria & Denmark to go up to 8. Austria (John Galt) took Con from Turkey, and gets to build 1 for 6. Andy Thomas' Turkey had one unit annihilated and had to remove 1, as he fell to 2 SC's. Germany (Pierre Touchette) also dropped one after losing Denmark, to stand at 4. Everyone else had "no change." Bob Addison has let his SIG membership lapse, so he won't get to see this issue of DIPLOMAG unless one of you sends him a photocopy. Anyone want to try to get him back? His France still has 5 Centers.

(more on Pg. 6)

NOBODY GOES ANYWHERE AS STALEMATE CONTINUES. REIGN IN SPAIN REMAINS ENGLAND'S GAIN.

- AUSTRIA (Shacter): (9) A Silesia-Berlin. A Prussia (S) A Sil-Berlin. A Bohemia-Munich.  
 A Tyrol (S) A Boh-Munich. A Galicia-Sil. A Rome-Venice. A War-  
 saw (S) TURKISH A Livonia. F Tuscany (S) TURKISH F GofLyon.  
A Piedmont-Marseille.
- ENGLAND (Anderson): (7) F Eng Channel (H). F Irish Sea (S) F MAO. F Spain(sc) (S) F  
Marseille. F MAO (S) F Spain(sc). F Portugal (S) F Spain(sc).  
F Mars (S) F Spain(sc). A Gascony (S) F Marseille.
- GERMANY (Burroughs): (9) (8 units) A St. Pete (H). F GofBothnia (S) A St. Pete. A Berlin (H).  
 F Baltic (S) A Berlin. A Munich (H). A Ruhr and A Burgundy (S)  
 A Munich. A Picardy-Belgium.
- ITALY (R. Brown): (1) (No units left).
- TURKEY (Chang): (8) A Moscow-St. Pete. A Livonia (S) A Moscow-St. Pete. A Ukraine-  
Moscow. F NAP-MAO. F Western Med-Spain(sc). F G ofLyon (S) F  
Western Med-Spain(sc). F Tyrr Sea-Western Med. F Tunis (S) F  
Tyrr-GofLyon (IMP).

NO PRESS

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, 1986 HM, WINTER 1909: GAINS, ~~105225~~

- AUSTRIA: 3 Home, Naples, Rome, Rumania, (9) (—), No change  
 Serbia, Venice, Warsaw
- ENGLAND: 3 Home, Brest, Paris, Port., Spain, (8) (+1), Build 1  
 MARSEILLES
- GERMANY: 3 Home, Belgium, Den, Hol, Norway, (9) (—), Build 1 (was 1 short)  
 St. Pete, Sweden
- ITALY: ~~MARSEILLES~~ (0) (-1) (1 annihilated), OUT
- TURKEY: 3 Home, Bulgaria, Greece, Moscow, (8) (—), No change  
 Sev, Tunis

GM's Comments: We seem to be approaching a deadlock, unless somebody starts doing something different. Stab, anyone? Since this game is getting a bit long in the tooth, and there are only 2 builds, we'll play Winter 1909 and Spring 1910 together. I have the German build order on hand already. Any proposals, anyone?

DEADLINE for WINTER 1909 and SPRING 1910 will be THURSDAY, August 18, 1988. The telephone deadline will be Wed., August 17th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. I will be away from July 13th to 26th, inclusive, so you won't be able to reach me during that time.

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MENSA VARIANT GAMES

Both the "Conquest of the New World" and "Atlantica III" variants have been filled. However, since the SIG members expressed different preferences for one game over the other, and several other people also wanted to participate, neither will be a 100% All-Mensa game. "Conquest" will start in BUSHWACKER shortly. The starting lineup has just been published in the July issue. More Standbys can be used in both games. When Mensa #22 ends, we may move "Conquest" into the pages of DIPLOMAG, to give our readers an example of a Variant game.

There are now two David Andersons in the Postal hobby. "Our" David Anderson lives in Pontiac, Michigan. The other David lives in Ft. Knox, Ky.

MENSA #28, Nov 1988 AI. GM: Tony Doucette, THE CONTINUING CRISIS (Cont.)

A very nice official first issue to report the Spring 1901 moves. All the initial moves succeeded. No standoff in Burgundy as German A Munch went to Ruhr instead. Only unusual move I noted was Russian F St. Pete-Finland instead of Bothnia. Tony has some interesting comments on why he prefers Postal games to those run by computer services. However, Gunboat games may run better on a BBS, he says. (Some Postal Gunboat games do permit players to mention specific units or orders in the Press, Tony. And some GM's prohibit black press. A few run games with no press at all. A lot of this depends on just who is running the game.) Anyway, Tony's material is too good to be seen by only 9 people. I think a lot of you, especially if you GM, would enjoy seeing THE CONTINUING CRISIS. Why not send him a copy of your flyer or zine and ask about Trading with him? If you're not a publisher, send a SASE, as no sub rate is quoted. Tony's address: 530-A Bruton Bends, Richardson, Texas 75081.

\* \* \* \* \*

ELECTIONS. Bill Young has announced he's ready to serve another two-year term as Jri Committeeman on the Executive Committee. If anyone else wishes to run for the office, please let me know ASAP. The next term is from Nov. 1, 1988, to Oct. 31, 1990. If there are no other candidates, Bill will be re-elected by acclamation. If we have another nominee, I'll appoint an Election Commissioner to handle the ballots. The deadline for nominations will be Friday, August 5, 1988.

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Note from Lincoln Beaumont: I'm happy to enclose \$6.00 for two year's membership. I agree it makes a lot more sense this way. While I'm "here" I'd like to tell you how much I enjoy and value our SIG. I've been a member of other Mensa SIGs over the years, but this is the only one I've ever gotten anything out of. This is a tribute to you and to all the other members. In fact, it was the existence of this SIG which was one of the factors in my even joining Mensa in the first place, back in '78. And while I've not always been as active in the SIG as I might have liked, I've enjoyed it immensely and will continue to do so!

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See you in September.

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DIPLONAG - Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG Newsltr.  
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DIPLOMAG - MENSA #22 GAME REPORT

Number 82.1

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Phone: (301) 461-1885. Calls accepted between 12 Noon and 9:30 p.m., E.T.

1986 HM - MENSA #22

WINTER 1909

		<u>Current Strength</u>
AUSTRIA (Shacter):	No change	9 (--)
ENGLAND (Anderson):	Build A London	8 (+1)
GERMANY (Burroughs):	Build A Kiel	9 (--) (was 1 short)
TURKEY (Chang):	No change	8 (--)

SPRING 1910

FUNERAL IN BERLIN AS AUSTRIANS PENETRATE BRANDENBERG GATE. SECOND BRITISH ARMY LANDS IN FRANCE. STALEMATE ELSEWHERE.

- (d/l, (Amih))*
- AUSTRIA (Shacter): A Silesia-Berlin. A Prussia (S) A Sil-Berlin. A Galicia-Silesia.  
(9) A Tyrol-Munich. A Bohemia (S) A Tyrol-Munich. A Piedmont-Mars.
- ENGLAND (Anderson): F Tuscany-Piedmont. A Venice-Apulia. A Warsaw (S) TURKISH A Liv.  
(8) A London-Brest. F Eng Channel (C) A Lon-Brest. A Gascony (S) F  
Mars. F Marseilles (S) F Spain(sc). F Spain(sc) (S) F Mars.  
F Portugal and F MAO (S) F Spain(sc). F Irish Sea (S) F MAO.
- GERMANY (Burroughs): A St. Pete (H). F GoBothnia (S) A St. Pete. A Munich (H). A  
(9) Burgundy & A Ruhr (S) A Munich. A Belgium-Holland. A Berlin-  
Prussia. F Baltic (S) A Ber-Prussia.
- TURKEY (Chang): A Kiel-Berlin.  
(8) A Moscow-St. Pete. A Livonia (S) A Mos-St. Pete. A Ukraine-Mos.  
F Western Med-Spain(sc). F NAF-MAO. F Tunis-Western Med. F  
Tyrr (S) F Tunis-W.Med. F GoLyon (S) AUSTRIAN A Piedmont-Mars.

PRESS:

LONDON: As Trench warfare settles down in Europe, we propose a draw. We first proposed it two game years ago. Maybe now?

GM's NOTE: We have received proposals for a Four-Way Draw from three of this game's players simultaneously. It would seem that many minds are running in the same channel. Under our House Rules, a Concession or Draw vote conducted with a Fall season will result in the inclusion of the Fall results, even if the game ends. So, be sure to include a full set of Fall orders with your votes.

DEADLINE for orders and votes for FALL 1909 will be THURSDAY, September 15, 1988. The phone deadline will be Wed., Sept. 14th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. This is not quite four weeks, but we have to get the next issue of DIPLOMAG out around Sept. 16th. I don't think you need to do all that much diploming anyway.

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PLAYERS and others are reminded that we now have five people signed up for the next Mensa game, Mensa #29. Also, we need more players for our SIG Standby Pool. While these notices will be included in the next DIPLOMAG, I'm sending the word out now to everyone in Mensa #22, plus a few other people who have been or are about to be eliminated from their games, to see if you want to sign up for Mensa #29 or add your name to an updated Standby Pool. Please let me hear from you for either of these actions. Thanks.

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