



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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ELECTION NEWS

No one else expressed interest in serving as the Jr. Committeeman of the SIG, so Bill Young is hereby re-elected to another two-year term by acclamation. This will be for the term beginning Nov. 1, 1988. The terms of office for myself, as Chairman, and for Bruce Poppe, as Sr. Committeeman, run through Oct. 31, 1989.

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WE NEED A NEW SIG STANDBY POOL

We haven't updated the SIG Standby Pool since 1986. Since that time, many people on the Pool list have been called upon. Others have since become committed to so many games that they've asked to be dropped, while still others may no longer be interested. Therefore, I'm scrapping the old list, and starting a new one. I'm asking everyone who wants to be in the Standby Pool for Regular games to drop me a postcard or note letting me know you want on. You can specify "for one game" or "hopeless positions only," as some of you have done in the past. This may be a fast way to get into a game, seeing as how we've had so many NMR's lately.

One of our new members, Peter McCann, has just filled in a form asking to be put on the Standby List, so I'll start it off with him. Everyone else must re-enlist. Separate lists are maintained for each Variant game.

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NEWS OF THE WORLD

The Top Three finishers at the 1988 DipCon National Tournament in San Antonio, Texas, were: 1. Dan Sellers, 2. Alan Stewart, 3. Marc Peters.

The 1989 DipCon will be held in San Diego, Calif., in accordance with the plan under which this Con is rotated around North America. It will probably be held in July. In 1990, DipCon will again be hosted by an East Coast group. The bidding to host the 1990 DipCon will be conducted at the San Diego event. (more)

The winners of the national Hobby Awards were announced at DipCon by Larry Peery. The Don Miller Memorial Award for Meritorious Service to the Hobby (in 1987) was jointly awarded to the team of John Caruso and Simon Billenness for their work in running the Peoples Diplomacy Organization Relief Auction (PDORA), which raises funds for hobby projects and services.

The John Koning Memorial Award for Best North American Diplomacy Player in any category was won by David McCrumb, publisher of THE APPALACHIAN GENERAL. Dave is ranked 4th on the Dragon's Teeth rating system, and was a big tournament winner in 1987.

The Rod Walker Literary Award resulted in a tie vote. Sharing this award are Mark Berch, for his series, "You Be the GM," which appeared in DIPLOMACY DIGEST #107-109; and Fred Davis, for preparing the 1987-88 North American Variant Bank Catalog.

THE RUNESTONE POLL RESULTS ARE OUT

The 1988 Runestone Poll rated three categories: Dipzines, Subzines, and GM's. 508 votes were cast. While recognizing that this includes some Overseas votes, this is the largest participation there has even been in any hobby project on either side of the Atlantic. Partial or complete lists are available in several other zines, but I thought you'd like to see the top finishers here, as a potential guide for novices:

Top Five Diplomacy Zines:

1. PRAXIS, Alan Stewart, 702-25 St. Mary St., Toronto, Ont., CANADA M4Y 1R2
2. ZINE REGISTER, Ken Peel, 8708 First Ave., #T-2, Silver Spring, Md. 20910. (This is a listing of all N. American zines, including details on content and sub costs. Send \$1.50 for the next 2 issues. Every player ought to have a copy.)
3. PENGUIN DIP, Stephen Dorneman, 94 Eastern Ave., #1, Malden, Mass. 02148
4. DIPLOMACY WORLD, Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA. 92102. (This is the quasi-official "Hobby Flagship" zine. 4 issues for \$15.00. Quarterly.)
5. PERELANDRA, Pete Gaughan, 3121 E. Park Row, #165, Arlington, Texas 76010

I'd also highly recommend the following zines, based on their editorial content:

COSTAGUANA, Conrad von Metzke, 4374 Donald Ave., San Diego, CA. 92117. (Finished 18th)
NORTHERN FLAME, Cal White, 26 Emerson Ave., Toronto, Ont., CANADA M6H 3S8 (19th)
EXCITEMENT CITY UNLTD., Simon Billenness, 630 Victory Blvd., #6F, Staten Is., N.Y. 10301.
(finished 21st)

Even DIPLOMAG made the main list this year, with 27 votes. This is exactly the number of votes it received last year. This year we finished 55th out of 71 rated zines, with a score of 5.022. In 1987, we finished 49th out of 67, but our score was only 4.998. So, we actually rose a few decimal points from '87. Our thanks to those of you who voted. Since DIPLOMAG is only a newsletter, with no literary pretensions, this isn't bad.

My own BUSHWACKER finished 24th (down 4 places), with a score of 6.971.

The Top Four GM's were: 1. Andy Lischett (no change), 2. Jim Benes (+12), 3. Kathy B. Caruso (+6), and 4. Randolph Smyth (+13). I was ranked 9th (+1). Bruce Poppe was 18th.

A complete listing for all zines, subzines, GM's, and miscellaneous technical data can be obtained from Bruce Linsey (a SIG member), who conducted the Poll. Linsey's new address is: P.O. Box 1334, Albany, N.Y. 12201. A copy of the report, running some 100 pages, costs \$5.00.

REPORT ON WORLD DIPCON IN ENGLAND

I attended the first World Diplomacy Con in Birmingham, England, July 15-18, 1988. I made a lengthy report on this event in the Aug/Sept. BUSH. I'll just say here that the total turnout was very successful. There were 168 people playing in the first round of the Diplomacy Tournament, and there must have been at least another 100 people present for other events. However, I was disappointed in the small number of international participants. There were only three Americans, one Canadian (Claude Gatron, old Chairman of the Canadian Diplomacy Org), two Dutchmen, one Australian, and one Belgian among the Diplomacy people. There were also some expatriate Englishmen, such as Malcolm Smith, who now lives in either Belgium or Norway, depending on which season we're in, and "our own" Simon Billenness.

Allan Calhmer, our Founding Father, was present as the Guest of Honor. He spoke to the group for about 1½ hours on the origin of the game, and its evolution through several Rulebooks. Larry Peery was also there, to display material on DIPLOMACY WORLD, as well as on Superbowl XXII and the America's Cup races. I was disappointed that the expected panels on Variants, or on International cooperation, were not held. I had planned to offer everyone a welcome to attend the Second World DipCon, which will probably be held here on the East Coast in conjunction with the 1990 DipCon.

There was a "Summit Conference" of the various Variant Bank Custodians and Miller No. Custodians, and other key variant buffs present. We probably accomplished more in one hour than we'd accomplished by mail in the preceding year. There is a complete agreement among us that the present classification system for Variants should be continued, with a little bit of fine tuning. We agreed to continue to use the term ARDA Numbers when necessary, since the term "NAVB Catalog Numbers" sounds a bit chauvinistic.

I also attended some shows in London, and visited several museums, such as the Imperial War Museum, the R.A.F. Museum in Collindale, and the Science Museum in South Kensington. If anyone is planning on visiting London soon, I'll be glad to give them information on these places.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT - We have 46 members in the SIG

Here are the names of our newest members, who've joined in July or August:

Peter J. McCann, 980 Mosby Rd., Memphis, TN. 38116
Elizabeth (Lisa) Shea, 117 Church St., N. Attleboro, Mass. 02760

I regret to report that Scott Hanson, former publisher of BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA, has let his membership lapse. Scott is currently working on an advanced degree, and has dropped all connections with the Postal hobby.

The following SIG memberships will be expiring as of October 31, 1988. Please don't wait for Hallowe'en to renew! I hope you will all consider sending in \$6.00 for two year's dues, to save on our paperwork:

→ John Galt, Benjamin Greaves, Geoff Meisner, Preston Pfarner, Don Samelson, Ron Welch, Steve Wilcox and B.J. Wyatt. (Whew!)

* * * * *

BUSHWACKER celebrated its 200th issue last month with a monster-size (for me) double issue. About one-third of you are on the BUSH mailing list and saw it. If any of the rest of you want to see a copy, which includes a 12-page supplement on the German surface navy in W.W. II, please send me \$1.00.

SIG GAMES REPORTS

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

Everybody ganged up on Austria (Robert Cheek) in Fall 1908. With 6 orders blocked, and one A annihilated, Austria stands pat with 12 Centers, but gets to build one to replace A Albania. France (John Barnes) captured Munich from Austria, to go up one SC to 7. England lost Kiel to Osterreich, to go down one SC to 7 (Linc Beaumont), so those two countries are now even. Italy (Tony Dousette) stayed even with 8.

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

Because of John's new job, this game is now running on 6-week deadlines, but this will go back to 5 weeks after Sept. 27th. In Fall 1906, Turkey (Steve St. Clair) remained stymied at 14 Centers. Greg Dodson NMR'd for Austria, but still gained 2 builds, to go up to 9. Kevin Self NMR'd for France, which lost one SC to stand at 3. England (Sig Street) lost St. Pete to go down 1 to 6. The last German F (Andy Cruickshank) slipped into Brest to survive, while Gerry Johnson's lone Russian F survived in Sweden. In Spring 1907, both Dodson and Self returned to the war, so no standby players' orders were needed. It looks like Austria and Turkey have a lock on this game if they continue to work together, as they did on the last move. England has recaptured St. Pete, but there is now a Turkish F in the Norwegian Sea.

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

I have misplaced the Fall 1906 report. Kate, can you send me another copy? As I recall, Tony Dousette's Russia was still out in front, and Turkey (Eric Young) is second. Germany (Ralph Baty) was down to 2 units due to his Spring '06 NMR. Kate has advised me that when this game ends, she is folding the zine, so there are no game openings.

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

In Fall 1904, England (Roger Belfay) took Belgium, Brest & Sweden, while losing St. Pete, to build 2 units for 7. Turkey (Bruce Filbeck) remained top dog with 8 SC's, but gained St. Pete and lost Warsaw to stay even. Austria (Diane Tewsley) also climbed to 8 by capturing Venice & Warsaw, while losing Berlin to Germany (Eric Young, standing pat at 4). France's orders (Scott Shacter) arrived one day too late and could not be used, so France is down to a single A in Paris. (An example of the importance of getting your orders in on time). Italy (George Kilmer) also NMR'd, and so stayed even at 6, gaining Port in the Spring & losing Venice in the Fall. A separate Winter 1904 season has just been played, due to the complexities of the Retreats and Builds, plus the need to call for back-up moves for Italy.

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

The Austro-Russian "steamroller" found great success against Germany and Turkey in 1903. Austria (John Galt) gained Bulgaria, Munich & Smyrna, while trading Con to Russia, to go up 2 SC's to 8. Russia (St. Clair) captured Con, Ankara & Berlin, and gave Bul to Austria, to lead the pack with 10 Centers (+2). Despite the fact that England (Nancy Calhoun) NMR'd in the Fall, she went up 2 Centers for capturing Belgium & Port in the Spring, and now stands at 7. Turkey (Andy Thomas) was wiped out. Germany (Pierre Touchette) lost Berlin, Belgium & Munich to go down 3, and holds but a single SC in Kiel. France (Addison) lost Port to go down to 4. Italy (Ronald Welch) stands pat with 4, but gets one build, as his A Spain was annihilated by the French.

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A second SIG member, Bruce Filbeck, also attended the Montreal AG in July. However, as neither of our Bruces, Filbeck or Poppe, knew what the other looked like, nor that they were coming, they did not meet there. Next year, when the AG will be held in Atlanta, let's make plans in advance for all SIG members to meet in the hospitality room at a specific time.

1986 HM - MENSA #22

FALL 1910

TOTAL STALEMATE RESULTS IN SIGNING OF ARMISTICE. TWO TURKISH UNITS GO TO PARADISE.

AUSTRIA (Shacter): A Piedmont-Mars. F Tuscany-Rome. A Apulia-Naples. A Silesia-Berlin. A Galicia-Sil. A Warsaw (S) A Gal-Sil. A Tyrol-Munich. A Bohemia (S) A Tyrol-Mun.

ENGLAND (Anderson): A Brest-Paris. A Gascony (S) F Mars. F Mars (S) F Spain(sc). F Portugal (S) F Spain(sc). F Spain(sc) (S) F MAO-Western Med. F Irish Sea-MAO. F Eng Channel (S) F Irish-MAO. F MAO-Western Med.

GERMANY (Burroughs): A Prussia-livonia. F Baltic (S) A Pru-liv. A St. Pete (S) A Pru-liv. F GoBothnia (S) A St. Pete. A Kiel-Berlin. A Munich (S) A Kiel-Ber. A Ruhr & A Burg (S) A Munich. A Holland-Kiel.

TURKEY (Chang): A Moscow-St. Pete. A Livonia (S) A Mos-St. Pete /s/, Annihilated. A Ukraine-Mos. F GoLyon (S) AUSTRIAN A Piedmont-Mars. F Tyrr (S) F GOL. F Western Med-Spain(sc) /d/, Annihilated. F Tunis-Western Med. F NAF (S) F Tunis-Western Med.

There was an error on the Spring adjudication. Austrian A Silesia did not take Berlin. German A Berlin took Prussia. Austrian A Prussia was annihilated. Berlin remained vacant due to the standoff with German A Kiel. All players were notified by postcard.

THERE HAS BEEN A UNANIMOUS VOTE IN FAVOR OF A FOUR-WAY DRAW. No Supply Centers changed hands in 1910, so the Count remains as shown with the Fall 1909 report in the July DIPLOMAG. All players, including those who were eliminated, are invited to submit end-game statements. Depending on their length, I will print them either in a special flyer, or include them in the next DIPLOMAG. Please let me hear from you on this no later than October 15, 1988.

GAME SUMMARY - 1986 HM - MENSA #22

ZINE: NO FIXED ADDRESS (to S 03), DIPLOMAG (F 03-on)

GM: Steve Hutton (to S 03), Fred Davis (F 03-on)

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	
AUSTRIA (Scott Shacter)	5	5	5	6	8	8	9	9	9	9	Drew
ENGLAND (Kirk Larsen) ¹	3	5	5	5	6	5	7	7	8	8	Drew
(Jim Robertson) ²											
(David Anderson) ³											
FRANCE (Lincoln Beaumont)	5	4	4	5	4	2	0	-			
GERMANY (Paul Burroughs)	4	5	7	6	7*	8	8	9	9	9	Drew
ITALY (Sean Morgan) ³	3	4	4	3	2	3	2	1	0	-	
(Ron (Can) Brown)											
RUSSIA (Bob Addison)	5	5	4	3	0	-					
TURKEY (Frank Riley) ⁴	4	4	5	6	7	8	8	8	8	8	Drew
(Fred Chang) ³											

- Larsen resigned W 01.
 - Robertson from S 02, resigned F 06.
 - Morgan dropped out F 01. Brown took over F 01.
 - Riley resigned W 02. Chang took over S 03.
- 3 = Not a Mensa member. * = one unit short

GM's COMMENTS: Two M's and two non-M's drew in this game, so "the folks are as good as the people," as the old baseball announcers say. Steve Hutton had recruited Jim Robertson and Fred Chang from his own standby list while still running the game, as there weren't any Mensa standbys available. I recruited David Anderson by a lucky coincidence, when Jim had to move to England. Fred was already playing in a BUSHWACKER game and knew my House Rules, and David had played there previously.

(more)

Scott Shacter and Paul Burroughs are the only starting players to survive. I know almost nothing about the start of the game, except that Italy was left in a precarious position by Morgan's NMR. Ron Brown performed wonders in keeping Italy alive until 1908. Austria and Turkey teamed up to eliminate Russia, while England and Germany did the same to France. After that, all the ironclad alliances could do was to pick off the remaining Italian Centers. Neither side was able to make any significant breakthroughs of the stalemate line, although England's entrance into the Western Med. on the last move could have signaled a turn of events.

I felt this game was stalemated by Winter 1908, but did not want to interfere in the game. A 3-way Draw had been defeated in 1907. The first 4-way draw proposal was also decisively defeated in 1908, but as time went on the players apparently realized that this was the only outcome likely to pass. I began making hints in Fall 1909, and these were picked up by three of the players in Spring 1910. Theoretically, there remained the possibility that one Power might change sides, stab his ally, and go for a 3-Way, but the alliances were too well established for that to pass. So, everybody settled for an honorable solution, quartering Europe into four nearly equal shares.

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MENSA #28, 1988 AI. GM: Tony Dousette, THE CONTINUING CRISIS

We have already had one revolution in Winter 1901. Andy Thomas NMR'd as Russia in the Fall, and when he also failed to submit a removal order for the separate Winter season, Bill Port was given the position. Russia fell to 3 SC's, losing Warsaw. Everyone else gained. France (Robert Struppeck) gained the most, taking Bel, Port & Spain, to go up 3 to 6. Austria, Italy & Turkey all gained 2 SC's. Germany (Stephen Hutton) added Den and Hol, but missed the deadline for getting in his builds, although he informed Tony that he's still in the game. So, Germany will play 2 units short in 1902. England took only Norway, to own 4. Sweden remains neutral.

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WE APPEAR TO BE STUCK ON HOLD in the MENSEA #29 Game. We have gotten up to six starting players, but can't seem to get a seventh. In addition, one of those six is Andy Thomas, who has recently NMR'd out of two Mensa games. Andy, are you still interested in playing in Mensa #29? If I don't get another SIG player by the time my BUSHWACKER zine comes out next week, I'm going to throw the game open to anyone who wants to play, to get things started.

I would think that those of you who have recently been eliminated from a Mensa game, or who participated in a SIG game which has recently ended, would like to get into another game; to get revenge if you finished poorly, or to keep on rolling if you did well.

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ATTACHED TO THIS ISSUE is a compilation of the first 22 completed Diplomacy SIG games. This shows who ran the games, and who won or drew in them. I prepared this two weeks ago, thinking I wouldn't have much to print in the September issue, but then there was a lot of news, including the end of the Mensa #22 game, so there was no way to get this in except by going to 8 pages.

May I suggest that you detach the last two pages, and keep them as a permanent record of SIG history. I've included the other games currently under way, so you can update this record as time passes, if you wish. I've also written a summary of the statistics, which I'll print in November. They're designed to be kept together.

COMPLETE LIST OF MENSA SIG REGULAR GAMES

DIPLOMACY WORLD #51 has printed a complete list of all North American Regular Postal games started between 1980 and 1987, with their outcomes where applicable. I went through our list of SIG games to be sure that they had been properly reported. (They were). I thought you all might be interested in this bit of SIG history.

<u>Game</u>	<u>GM</u>	<u>Zine</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
1. 1974M	Don Horton	CLAW & FANG	3-way Draw, (Season unknown). E-Russ Nekorchuk, G-Gary Burce, T-Steve Hall
2. 1974CV	Don Horton	"	Win by England, Bob Wartenberg, Fall 1911. 18 SC's
3. 1975AA	Scott Hightower	K'DOO (to F '01) CLAW & FANG (Eff. W. 1901)	Win by Austria, Bill Young, Fall 1907. 20 SC's
4. 1975CD	David Reynolds	CLAW & FANG	Win by Germany, Eva Lydick, Fall 1908. 18 SC's
5. 1975HG	Scott Hightower Don Horton (eff. S 1907)	CLAW & FANG	Win by France, Arnold Vagts, Fall 1915. 18 SC's
6. 1976BN	Don Horton	"	Win by Russia, Rollie Stratton, Fall 1908. 18 SC's
7. 1977CY	Don Horton (was longest SIG game for many years)	"	3-way Draw, Fall 1916. A-Linc Beaumont 17, I-H.D. Bassett - 13, F-Paul Funkenbush - 4.
8. 1978AZ	Don Horton	CLAW & FANG	Concession to France, H.D. Bassett, Winter 1909. 12 SC's
9. 1978W	Don Horton	"	2-way Draw, Fall 1912. F-Len Johnson-11, E-H.D. Bassett - 10
10. 1980AC	Don Horton	"	Win by Turkey, Ron Brown, Fall 1908. 18 SC's
11. 1980II	Ed Bapple	MIGRAINE	Win by Germany, Rick Young, Fall 1909. 20 SC's
12. 1980IG	Ron Brown	SNAFU!	2-way Draw, Fall 1909. A-Sharon Popp 6, E-Charles Byrne-9. (Rick Young had 9 as G. He protested outcome, but protest was denied.)
13. 1980KY	Chip Charnley (Started in Iceland, 12/80. Ret'd to Va., F 03 (2/82))	flyer	3-way Draw, Fall 1907. A-Ralph Baty-E-Dean Hess-7, G-Ron Brown-7
14. 1981AQ	Glenn Overby Ed Bapple (F 03) Keith Sesler (W 05) Steve Hutton (S 10)	JIHAD MIGRAINE MANIFEST DESTINY NO FIXED ADDR.	2-way Draw, Spring 1918. R-Ralph Bat 11, T-Ken Hager-9. (F-Dave Lincoln, h 11, but not included in Draw.) (SIG's longest game in real-time - 3 1/2 years)
15. 1981HR	Glenn Overby Ed Bapple (F 01)	JIHAD MIGRAINE	2-way Draw, Fall 1909. F-J.R. Douglas 10, R-Ron Brown-11
16. 1982I	Ron Brown	SNAFU!	Win by Russia, Dave Lincoln, Fall 1909. 19 SC's
17. 1983V	Steve Hutton	NO FIXED ADDR.	Win by Germany, Ron Brown, Fall 1910. 18 SC's
18. 1983AV	Scott Hanson	BIG HITS (orig. IRKSOME)	Win by Russia, Ron Brown, Fall 1918. 18 SC's. (Longest SIG game).
19. 1984CJ	Konrad Baumeister Bruce Poppe (F 10)	GIVE ME A WEAPON flyer	2-way Draw, Fall 1914. G-Bob Addison 16, T-H.D. Bassett-11

(more)

<u>Game</u>	<u>GM</u>	<u>Zine</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
20. 1985HK	Bob Addison	flyer	4-way Draw, Spring 1910. F-Craig Reges-8, R-Kirk Larsen-12. T-Sean Morgan-10, G-Linc Beaumont-3. (1st 4-way Draw).
21. 1985HW	Bruce Poppe	flyer	3-way Draw, Fall 1908. A-Tony Dousette-11, F-Andy Cruickshank-10, G - John Barnes - 11
22. 1986HM	Steve Hutton Fred Davis (F 03)	NO FIXED ADDRESS DIPLOMAG	4-way Draw, Fall 1910. A-Scott Shacter-9, E - Dave Anderson-8, G-Paul Burroughs-9, T-Fred Chang-8
23. 1986CZ	Scott Hanson Ralph Baty (F 07)	BIG HITS flyer	
24. 1987AZ	John Barnes	NO NAME FLYER	
25. 1987HO	Kate Robison	DIPLOMATIC RAG	
26. 1987HY	Bruce Poppe	flyer	
27. 1987IS	Ralph Baty	flyer	
28. 1988AI	Tony Dousette	CONTINUING CRISIS	
29. 1988HP	John Barnes	NO NAME FLYER	

The next issue will appear around mid-November.

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