



# 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.

VOL. IV, No. 18

November-December 1988

Whole No. 84

Chairman & Editor: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043  
Phone: (301) 461-1885  
Sr. Committeeman: Bruce Poppe, 7376 Broken Staff, Columbia, Md. 21043.  
Phone: (301) 381-0048  
Jr. Committeeman: Bill Young, P.O. Box 222, Ebensburg, Pa. 15931. (814) 472-4076

THE MENSA #29 GAME has filled. I forwarded nine names to John Barnes, who is going to run this game in his NO NAME FLYER. One of these names was very doubtful. Anyone left over after #29 is filled will be entered into the Mensa #30 game. We have already started taking names for Mensa #30. Not counting the "spillover" from #29, I have 3 or 4 people signed up as I write this. #30 will be run by John Galt.

Craig Reges has requested the Mensa #31 game. Craig formerly published a Diplomacy zine called AGAINST THE ODDS. Steve Glasgow wants to GM Mensa #32.

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## HOBBY NEWS:

Fred Hyatt stepped down as Miller No. Custodian on October 31st. Effective Nov. 1, 1988, the new MNC is: Randy Grigsby, R.R. #2, 571 Sunnisdale Rd., Barrie, Ontario, CANADA L4M 4S4. The MNC issues designators for Postal Variant Diplomacy games. The hobby has always kept separate records of variant games, since there is no way of comparing them with Regular games. This is the second time the MNC has been a Canadian. All North American Postal games are recorded by a single Boardman or Miller No. Custodian. There are also separate Custodians to keep track of games running in the British Isles, Continental Europe, and Australia/New Zealand.

On the same theme, Steve Heinowski, the Boardman No. Custodian, has announced that he is looking for a successor. Steve has been BNC since September 1986. Because of the great amount of work required in the post, the average BNC has served for slightly over two years before passing the torch to someone else. Steve has done a great job as BNC. For the time being, any Gamestart notices and any End Game reports, complete with Supply Center counts on an annual basis, should still be sent to him at: 860 Colorado Ave., #2A, Lersin, Ohio 44052.

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HELPFUL HOBBY HINTS

Because there is such a rapid turnover in SIG Membership, we repeat this column from time to time, to mention some hobby services available.

ZINE REGISTER. Lists all known North American Diplomacy zines, with a description of their prices, size, frequency and types of games carried, plus sample copy rates. This appears once every four months, so it's fairly up-to-date. Single issues are now just 75¢, while a three-issue sub costs \$2.25. Produced by: Ken Peel, 8708 First Ave., #T-2, Silver Spring, Md. 20910.

THE ZINE BANK. Also operated by Ken Peel, at the address shown above. This gives you samples of back-issues of several zines. Send him at least \$2.00 and a large envelope (6 x 9 or bigger), and he'll send you a batch of different zines. If you publish, send Ken a couple leftover copies for the Bank. It may gain you a new reader or two.

U.S. ORPHAN SERVICE. If your zine suddenly stops coming, and you don't hear from your GM, you may need help in getting your game rehoused in a new zine. Contact Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA. 92024, for help. (The SIG handles all Mensa games, and the Canadian Dip Org will rehouse any games running in Canadian zines).

LOOKING FOR GAME OPENINGS? There are two sources here to help you find a Postal game: PONTEVEDRIA, produced by Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA. 92024. This is updated monthly. Just send Rod a business-size SASE for a copy. Includes both Regular and Variant games, plus some other postal games. KNOWN GAMES OPENINGS, by Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway, #5-V, New York, N.Y. 10034. Monthly. Sample copy may be had for an SASE. Includes Regular & Variant Dip, and other Postal games. Caution: You will find some rather weird political statements here, denouncing certain people and making certain proclamations. Most of this can be safely ignored as totally irrelevant to the real hobby.

DIPLOMACY WORLD. The unofficial flagship zine of the Postal hobby. Carries a great number of feature articles, a Demo game, hobby news, quizzes, and sometimes a new variant game or two. At least 64 pages per issue. Quarterly. \$15. per year from both the U.S. and Canada. \$4.00 for a sample copy. Write: Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA. 92102. (D.W. was rated 4th on the 1988 Runestone Poll).

ONCE UPON A DEADLINE. If you're planning to publish a zine, or simply GM one game, you'll find this 204-page book invaluable. Send \$3.00 to SIG member Bruce Linsey, P.O. Box 1334, Albany, N.Y. 12201.

NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANK. Oh, that's me. A Catalog of what's available among the 900-odd games in the Bank's files is available from me for \$4.00. The Catalog tells you how to order any of these items, some of which now go back over 20 years in age. Basically, the price for games is 10¢ per page, plus mailing & handling.

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FOLLOW-UP ON MALAYSIAN DIPLOMACY SIG. I heard from the Coordinator of the Malaysian SIG in September. There is a very small group, which does not have a newsletter. I gave them the names and addresses of some publishers to contact, in Australia, Britain, and America. Some of their members may be interested in playing in International games, where the deadlines are usually 6 to 8 weeks apart. If you wish to pass on any information about International games, you may write to: Mr. Arul Inthirajah, 5 Lorong Damai 13 Kiri, 55000 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We're including a copy of the SIG Membership List with this issue, in accordance with our custom of doing this with the last issue of every year. We now have 47 members. This includes Dan Wilson, to whom we cannot mail DIPLOMAG at the present time. The Powers-that-be have determined that we are not a bona-fide publication within the meaning of their guidelines, because we do not have an ISSN. So, Dan's copies remain in limbo for the time being. You're allowed to write to him, however.

Our other new members are John C. Boyer, Joseph Carson, Mike Massing/and Andrew B. Tillett. Since a Membership List is enclosed, you'll find their addresses there. John should not be confused with the other John Boyer, who was a prominent publisher in the hobby in the 1970's. That John Boyer lived in Carlisle, Pa., but our new member is from Framingham, Mass.

If anyone else wants their phone number published on the List, please let me know. Since phone nos. are rather private matters, they're only printed here if you're an officer, or you specifically request it.

The following SIG memberships will expire on Dec. 31, 1988. Please renew ASAP, so we can keep our records up to date. I hope you'll all consider sending in \$6.00 for two year's dues, as this cuts down on record-keeping chores.

→ Judd Giezentanner, Kevin Self, Robert Stimmel, Sig Street and Robert Struppeck.

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Our Annual Financial Report will appear in the January 1989 DIPLOMAG

NEW SIG STANDBY POOL

The following members volunteered or reaffirmed their wish to be in the Standby Pool. All Mensa game GM's may draw upon this list for replacement players. Just be sure the person has never been connected with the game in question.

David Anderson (Non-M), P.O. Box 6092, Pontiac, Mich. 48059  
Joe Carson, 6303 Reynolds Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060  
Stephen Glasgow, 151 Shelter Rock Rd., #18, Danbury, CT. 06810  
Peter McCann, 980 Mosby Rd., Memphis, TN. 38116  
Craig Reges, 16 W 761 White Pines Rd., Bensenville, Ill. 60106

Anybody else receiving DIPLOMAG may also volunteer. Some parties formerly on the list have now become GM's, so I presume that's why they haven't renewed. Two people on the 1986 list have left the SIG. GM's are advised that if they're unable to obtain a standby in any other way, they may take someone else from their own mailing list or circle to fill a position, rather than delay a game.

This Pool applies only to Regular games. Each Variant game will have its own separate list of standbys.

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FOR SALE. Demisen's 4-page Carbon Set Address labels. These are no longer available in most stores in the familiar ten-set boxes, so I had to order a larger number of sets. I will sell you ten 4-page sets for \$5.80 postpaid. That's a total of 1320 labels (33 to a page). The retail price of a ten-set box, if you could find one, is now \$9.00. (Item No. 37-724). You save \$3.20 buying from me. Limit of 20 sets to any one person. A heck of a lot easier than addressing your zines by hand. You cover four issues with one typing.

Only two players sent in Endgame statements, so I did not print a special between-issues flyer for the game report.

There were a couple of errors in when the replacement players came into the game. Kirk Larsen resigned the English position in Winter 1901. Jim Robertson took over with the Spring 1902 moves. Sean Morgan was never effectively in the game. He NMR'd twice in a row as Italy in 1901, so was dropped as of F 01. Fortunately, Ron Brown had submitted standby orders for Fall 1901, and took over with that season. Also, Fred Chang took over Turkey in Spring 1903, not Fall. I did not become the GM until Fall 03, so some of these events were not immediately at hand when I wrote up the Game Summary and SC Counts in the last issue.

DAVID ANDERSON (ENGLAND) (Draw):

I would like to thank Ron Brown for letting me eliminate him, as it helped the E-G position, to get the draw. When I entered the game ((in Spring 1907)), the alliances were firm, although I was tempted at one time to stab Germany. However, I saw it would do no good. It would have handed the game to A/T, so I'm glad that I didn't. I got no correspondence from Austria, and very little from Mr. Chang (Turkey). He was just interested in keeping me out of the Med, which I rejected. From then on, the game progressed ((or stalemated)), until I proposed the 4-way Draw. Why no one else wanted it the first time around was beyond my comprehension.

ENDGAME STATEMENT: ITALY (Ron Brown) (Eliminated F 09)

Italy must get off to a good start if it is even to survive, and, in this case, with a 1901 NMR and alliances already forming, it appeared hopeless when Steve asked me to take over. I tried to set up Italy as a minor power supporting what appeared to be a strong team in England-Germany, hoping that I could scrounge a draw out of it. However, Paul Burroughs and I got our support orders crossed at a critical time and I was doomed.

I tried to puppet to the Turkish-Austrian team, but they weren't really interested. There was nothing I could offer them that they couldn't take for themselves. So, I wound up hassling the forces closing in on me, stretching things out as long as possible.

No hard feelings. I was given a bad situation. Congratulations to all the winners.

GM here: The first 4-way draw proposal, made by Anderson in Spring 1908, was defeated by a vote of 2 for and 3 against in Fall 08. However, when the stalemate continued into 1910, everyone agreed to the Draw.

So, unless I hear anything startling from another player, that is the last we'll hear of Mensa #22.

In two months, we may transfer the "Conquest of the New World" Variant game, which contains mostly M players, into Diplomag, to run as a demonstration game.

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SIG GAME STATISTICS (through Mensa #24) (Cont. from last issue)

<u>By Countries</u>	<u>Draws</u>			<u>By Games:</u>
	<u>Wins</u>	<u>2-Way</u>	<u>3-Way</u>	
Austria	1	1	3	Wins - 12
England	1	2	2	2-Way Draws - 5 (10 players)
France	2	2	2	3-Way Draws - 4
Germany	3	1	3	4-Way Draws - 2
Italy	0	0	1	
Russia	3	2	0	23 completed games
Turkey	2	2	1	
	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	

By Players:

<u>Wins (Rulebook &amp; Concession) (12)</u>		<u>Two-Way Draws (5)</u>	
H.D. Bassett	- 1 (F)	Bob Addison	- 1 (G)
Ron Brown	- 3 (G, R, T)	H.D. Bassett	- 2 (E, T)
Dave Lincoln	- 1 (R)	Ralph Baty	- 1 (R)
Eva Lydick	- 1 (G)	Ron Brown	- 1 (R)
Rollie Stratton	- 1 (R)	Charles Byrne	- 1 (E)
Arnold Vagts	- 1 (F)	J.R. Douglas	- 1 (F)
Bob Wartenberg	- 1 (E)	Ken Hager	- 1 (T)
Bill Young	- 1 (A)	Len Johnson	- 1 (F)
Rick Young	- 1 (G)	Sharon Peppe	- 1 (A)
Steve St.Clair	- 1 (T)		

Comments

While Germany and Russia have the best records in Mensa SIG games, France has also done quite well. The "Wicked Witches," England and Turkey, have not been as successful here as in the average collection of games. It may be significant that both the Austrian and English wins came early in the history of the SIG. In recent years, there have been more Draws and fewer solo Wins, with Germany and Russia getting most of the more recent Rulebook Victories. Since Mensa #3, Austria has participated in only one two-way Draw, and that occurred on a fluke (Mensa #12). Italy has the worst record, which is not too different from general hobby statistics, where she is usually rated either 6th or 7th.

It would appear that Russia either wins or doesn't get to participate in a good draw. (I consider anything less than a 3-way Draw as an unsatisfactory ending). Note that there were more Rulebook or Concession wins in the "Olden Days," whereas the modern trend is to more draws. We continue to have some pretty long games, whereas in the hobby as a whole games have been ending earlier than they did years ago. Maybe M's are more stubborn than other players.

We have had some pretty good players in the SIG over the years. Unfortunately, many of them have left the hobby. Others, like H.D. Bassett and Dave Lincoln, still play, but have let their SIG memberships lapse. Of the top players shown here, only Ralph Baty, Ron Brown, Charles Byrne and Bill Young are still in the SIG. The DIPLOMACY WORLD #51 article shows the last year in which each player gained a Win or part of a Draw in a final game report. This does not necessarily indicate when a player retired, since it's possible to go years without a Draw, but where the last date shown is more than 5 years ago, he is probably gone. (However, in my own case, I've played only in Variant games since 1976).

You may wish to keep this report for your permanent files. I don't know about you, but it brought back some memories for me.

MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG MEMBERSHIP LIST - as of NOVEMBER 1988

Chairman: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043.  
(301) 461-1885. Publisher of BUSHWACKER.

Senior Committeeman: Bruce Peppe, 7376 Broken Staff, Columbia, Md. 21045.  
(301) 381-0048. GM for Mensa game #26.

Junior Committeeman: Bill Young, P.O. Box 222, Ebensburg, Pa. 15931. (814) 472-4076

- John Barnes, 444 Lora Ave., Youngstown, Ohio 44504. Pubber of NO NAME FLYER.  
 Ralph Baty, 4551 Pauling Ave., San Diego, CA. 92122. GM for Mensa game #27.  
 Lincoln S. Beaumont, 13436 Polk St., Omaha, Nebr. 68137  
 Roger L. Belfay, 8256 Beehive Cir., Liverpool, N.Y. 13090  
 John C. Boyer, 135 Western Ave., Framingham, Mass. 01701  
 Ronald J. Brown, 44 Carmichael Ct., Kanata, Ont., CANADA K2K 1K2  
 Paul W. Burroughs, 8319 Hastings Dr., San Antonio, Texas 78239  
 Charles A. Byrne, 3712 Lockwood Ln., Arrandale, Va. 22003  
 Nancy Calhoun, P.O. Box 197, Rockport, Texas 78382  
 Joseph P. Carson, 6303 Reynolds Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060  
 Robert Cheek, 14341 Franklin Ave., Tustin, CA. 92680  
 Walter Compton, Apartado 70774, Caracas 1071-A, VENEZUELA  
 Charles Cottle, 301 Tyler St., East Haven, CT. 06512  
 Andy Cruickshank, 98-402 Koaaka LP #907, Aiea, Hawaii 96701  
 Tony Dousette, 530-A Bruton Bends, Richardson, Texas 75081. GM for Mensa game #28.  
 Leslie D. Fife, P.O. Box 2206, Norman, OK. 73070  
 Bruce Filbeck, 4240 Kilgore Rd., Crosswell, Mich. 48422  
 John D. Galt, 701 Welch Rd., Palo Alto, CA. 94304. GM for Mensa game #30.  
 (408) 241-6022.  
 Judd Giezentanner, 12111 Park Shore Ct., Woodbridge, Va. 22192  
 Stephen K. Glasgow, 151 Shelter Rock Rd., #18, Danbury, CT. 06810  
 Benjamin Greaves, P.O.Box 437, Georgetown, CT. 06829  
 Stephen Hutton, 146 Westfield Ave., Clark, N.J. 07066  
 George K. Kilmer, 718 N. California, Hastings, Nebr. 68901  
 Bruce Linsey, P.O. Box 1334, Albany, N.Y. 12201. Producer of SUPERNOVA Novice Pkg.  
 (automatically sent to all new members) and ONCE UPON A DEADLINE Pubber's Handbook.  
 Steve Longbotham, P.O. Box 980722, Houston, Texas 77098  
 Peter J. McCann, 980 Mosby Rd., Memphis, TN. 38116  
 Mike Massing, 300 Vista Dr., Wilmette, Ill. 60091  
 Craig A. Reges, 16 W 761 White Pines Rd., Bensenville, Ill. 60106  
 Kate Robison, 26513 - 233rd St., S.E., Maple Valley, Wash. 98038. Pubber of THE  
 DIPLOMATIC RAG - Mensa #25 game.  
 Donald P. Samelson, 2802 Newton Ct., Blacksburg, Va. 24060  
 Kevin L. Self, 9303 Woodfair, #714, Houston, Texas 77036  
 Scott Shacter, Platt Campus Cntr., Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA. 91711  
 Elizabeth Shea, 117 Church St., N. Attleboro, Mass. 02760  
 Stephen F. St. Clair, 9201 Glenbrook Rd., Fairfax, Va. 22031  
 Robert Stimmel, 2500 "Q" St., #10, Sacramento, CA. 95816  
 Sigourney Street, P.O. Box 1506, GMF, Boston, Mass. 02205-1506  
 Robert Struppeck, 1442 Pleasant St., New Orleans, La. 70115  
 Diane Tewsley, 28201 Sorrento, #117, Laguna Niguel, CA. 92677  
 Andy Thomas, 4317 Burke Ave., N., Seattle, Wash. 98103  
 Andrew B. Tillett, 17 Florence St., Fairhaven, Mass. 02719  
 Pierre Touchette, 1 Rue Georges, Masson, Quebec, CANADA JOX 2H0  
 Ronald F. Welch, Jr., 35 Elm St., P.O. Box 425, Eldred, Pa. 16731  
 Dan R. Wilson, 451115, Beto, Rt. 2, Box 2250, Palestine, Texas 75801  
 Eric Young, R.R. #2, Stepney Rd., Armstrong, B.C., CANADA VOE 1B0  
 Robert Strumwasser, 2056 Parkdale Ave., Glenside, Pa. 19038

Calif. - 6  
 Texas - 6  
 Mass. - 4  
 Va. - 4  
 Conn. - 3

Total Membership 48. 44 in USA, 3 in Canada

SIG GAMES REPORTS

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

In Fall 1907, Turkey (Steve St. Clair), captured five Supply Centers while losing one, to go up from 14 to 18 Centers, and thereby gain a Rulebook Victory. The Turk would have only 17 units, but under the 1973 Rulebook it's Centers, not units, which determine a win. England (Sig Street) made a rise to 7 to finish in Second place. Austria completely collapsed, as Greg Dodson again missed out. He fell from 9 to 4 Centers in one game year. France (Kevin Self) also finished with 4, a gain of one. Russia (Gerry Johnson) was wiped out, while Andy Cruickshank's lone German F survived.

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

Austria (Robert Cheek) continues to bleed, as the other three Powers feast off of his territories. Austria gained only Smyrna from Italy, while losing 5 Centers, including Trieste in the Homeland, to drop four SC's from 12 to 8. The biggest gainer was England (Linc Beaumont), who picked up Kiel and St. Pete to rise to 9 Centers. Italy (Tony Dousette) is his co-leader, also climbing to 9 Centers with the addition of Bulgaria & Trieste, while losing Smyrna. France (John Barnes) was able to seize Berlin, to rise to 8, as of Fall 1909. The next deadline was set for November 11th, but there was no mail delivery that day, so this is going out without the Spring 1910 report.

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

Russia (Steve St. Clair) found 1904 to be "a very good year," as he gained 5 Centers. Four of these were taken from his erstwhile partner, Austria (John Galt), in what can only be described as the "Stab of the year" in the Diplomacy SIG. So, Russia goes up to 15 Centers (14 units), while Austria drops from 8 to 6. Oh, yes, the Austrian was able to stay at 6, as he meanwhile was liberating Venice and Naples from a dying Italy (Ron Welch). Two Italian units survive, in Rome and Tunis. England (Nancy Calhoun) stood pat with 7. She may be the one Power left to rally the board against Russia. France (Addison) lost Paris to go down to 3. Meanwhile, there is a German "Flying Dutchman" on the board in the shape of a lone A, which moved from Burgundy to Paris and settled in for the winter (Pierre Touchette).

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

We've now reached Fall 1907 here. Tony Dousette's Russia, which stood at 13 in 1907, has now added Paris to its list, to go up to 14 SC's. However, Turkey (Eric Young) also made great progress in 1906 & '07, and now stands at 14 Centers, too. Naples, Spain and Tunis were among the gains. England (Bill Port) stayed even with 4. Italy was the big loser, having NMR'd twice and gone into Civil Disorder, with only a lone F in the TYS. Germany (Ralph Baty) lost Belgium to England, and owns only Brest. France (B.J. Wyatt) had been eliminated back in F '06. The proposed Russian/Turkish draw did not pass, but is again being proposed. The world anxiously waits for word as to whether there will be an armistice, or an effort to gain a Rulebook victory.

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

In Spring 1905, Turkey (Bruce Filbeck) remains on top, with 8 Centers, with his forces reaching such far-flung points as Brest and Warsaw. Austria (Diane Tewsley) started the year with 8 units, but she has just had units in Greece, Munich and Warsaw dislodged. England (Roger Belfay) has lost Brest, but penetrated the Baltic Sea. George Kilmer returned to the war as Italy, which has 6 Centers, and is invading France. The lone French unit (Scott Shacter) in Paris supported the Turks into Brest. Germany (Eric Young) has 4 Centers, but has just recaptured Munich. I had not received the Fall 1905 results by press time.

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

In Fall 1902, Austria (Eric Young) added Bulgaria & Trieste to its empire, to rise from 5 to 7 Centers. However, all Home Centers are occupied, so he will have to play two units short in 1903. Second place France (Bob Struppeck) stands pat with 6 Centers, but one of his armies has just invaded Wales. Germany (Stephen Hutton) played all of '02 two units short, but as nobody attacked him, he now gets to build those two units, to stay at 5. The new Russian player, Bill Port, lost Sev to Turkey, but took Rumania from him, to stay at 3 Centers. Turkey (Charles Ramsey) had operated with 4 units and had another one annihilated in Bulgaria in Fall, so, even though he lost Bul & Rum to drop to 4, he gets to build a new unit anyway (for Sev). England (Don Samelson) picked up Sweden, the last neutral, to go from 4 to 5, but can one new unit save off the Frog invasion of his homeland? Italy (Ralph Baty) lost Trieste to drop to 4.

MENSA #29, John Barnes, NO NAME FLYER

Six of the nine people whose names were sent to John as potential players for this game had paid their game fees by November 4th. As soon as the 7th person gets his or her money in, the game will start. Some names came in right after the last DIPLMAG went into the mail. Any of you who don't make the Mensa #29 game are reminded that you may contact me and get into Mensa #30 instead. That, too, is almost ready to go.

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THAT WRAPS IT UP for this issue. Another 8-page issue, to get the Membership List and Part II of the report on Mensa Games History into it. I put them back-to-back so you can save them together. Since Mensa #24 finished between issues, I took the opportunity to include its statistics. I have one more set of miscellaneous SIG statistics to present in the next issue, and we will probably have the "Conquest of the New World III" variant game here as a demonstration game. Chances are, we will be back to the usual six pages.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS. See you in January.

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

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