

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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Let's see what we have here. No urgent news this month. The MENSA #29 game has started, and the MENSA #30 game has filled. We will now start to take names for Mensa #31, which will be run by Craig Reges. The "Conquest of the New World III" variant game will begin running here as "Mensa Variant #4." Our Annual Financial Report is also enclosed. Plus some miscellaneous items.

Here is the list of the players for MENSA #30, in alphabetical order: John Boyer, Nancy Calhoun, Tony Dousette, Kate Robison, Robert Strumwasser, Robert Struppeck and Andrew Tillette. John Galt will run this game in a small zine to be called THE SWIFT DAGGER. If anyone would like to sign up as a standby for this game, you can reach John at: 701 Welch Rd., #1119, Palo Alto, CA. 94304.

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MENSA BULLETIN BOARD

Nancy Calhoun, who is also a member of the Computer SIG, sends us the following:

"Commodore computer owners using Geos and Quantum Link ((Networks)): The Mensa Magic Room meets ((electronically)) in "People Connection" every Thursday night at 10 p.m. Eastern Time. Join Mensa Gent, Mensalady and several other regulars for a couple of hours of puns and discussions on all sorts of subjects. M's and interested parties from all over the U.S. and Canada join in."

Nancy wonders whether anyone would be interested in playing Diplomacy on such a net. There is an Electronic Diplomacy group playing on the CompuServe network. (For further information on that, you may contact Ken Hill, 6199 Rockland Dr., Dublin, Ohio 43017). But, there's always room for others. If you want to contact Nancy by mail, her new address is: 10825 Silverton, Corpus Christi, Texas 78410.

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FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1988

Despite the increase in Postal rates in April, the SIG Treasury balance grew by an additional \$32.83 in 1988. This is mainly due to most of our old members renewing for two years, @ \$6.00 each, when they send in their dues. However, this means that not many members' dues will be expiring in '89, so our income will be way down, except for what we receive from new members. But, there is no need for a dues increase for at least another year.

Opening Balance, Jan. 1, 1988: \$125.35

INCOME:

Dues Received	\$154.00	
Sample copy payments	7.50	
Donations	2.00	
	<u>\$163.50</u>	+163.50
		<u>\$288.85</u>

EXPENSES:

Postage for DIPLOMAG (6 issues)	\$81.11	
Postage, Samples & Misc.	7.46	
Postage, material for new members	2.90	
Printing, DIPLOMAG	19.80	
Photocopy charges	2.20	
Supplies	17.20	
	<u>\$130.67</u>	-130.67
		<u>\$158.18</u> (+\$32.83)

Closing Balance, Dec. 31, 1988:

Again, the Sample copy route turned out to be a bust. Only two of the 14 people requesting samples joined the SIG. Almost everyone renewing after March 1988 sent in \$6.00 for a two-year renewal. That program has been very successful, and means a lot less work for your Chairman in the future.

I only wish that members would watch their mailing labels and the Membership Reports more closely, so they would renew on time. Some people have contacted me months later to ask where their DIPLOMAGS were. Your expiration date is always on your label, when you get within six months of expiring. Anyone who runs a Mensa game or serves as an Election Commissioner will receive free membership, of course.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

No new members joined the SIG in the past two months. We're down to 45 members as I write this, although one old member has said he'd be renewing. John Galt has asked me to include his apt. no., "#1119," in his address. I'd inadvertently omitted this last month.

SIG memberships will expire for the following people as of February 28, 1989. Please send me your \$6.00 renewals ASAP:

→ Andy Cruickshank, Charles Byrne, Craig Reges.

Anyone who has lost interest in the SIG and wants a partial refund of his dues may do so by sending me a letter or postcard to that effect.

SPANISH REPLY IN KIND IN BUMPING PORTUGUESE OUT OF PLACE. ENGLISH AND RUSSIANS HEAD INLAND, MEET ACROSS THE WIDE MISSOURI. FRENCH TAKE A LIKING TO THE ISLANDS.

- ENGLAND (McCrumb): A Quebec-Huron. A Virginia-Ohio. F Bermuda-Atlantic Ocean.
 (6) A/F Atlantic Ocean-Bermuda. F St. Lawrence Sea (S) A/F Atlantic Ocean-Bermuda.
- FRANCE (Baty): A/F Cuba disembarks A in Florida (Legal move). F Antilles-Caribbean. A/F Atlantic Ocean-Hispaniola. F Atlantic-Antilles.
 (7)
- PORTUGAL (Cheek): A/F Nose disembarks A Para. A/F Shelf disembarks A in Rio /d/, (R)
 (4) Atlantic Ocean (only space open for an A/F).*
- RUSSIA (Greaves): A California-Missouri. A Hawaii-Pueblo. F North Pacific (C) A Hawaii-Pueblo. F1 Western Pacific-Central Pacific. F2 Western Pacific (S) F Falkland Sea. F Falkland Sea (S) PORTUGUESE F Shelf.
 (6)
- SPAIN (Dousette): F1 Atlantic Ocean-Shelf. F2 Atlantic Ocean (S) F1 Atlantic-Shelf.
 (5) F Rio (S) F Atlantic Ocean-Shelf. A/F South Pacific disembarks A in Bolivia.

*If Portuguese A/F wishes to (R) to LaPlata or Uruguay, it may do so. F would survive, but A will be destroyed. Other players' Fall moves may be contingent on the direction of the Portuguese Retreat. We won't use Just's Right-Hand Rule in this situation.

PRESS:

PORTUGAL to F Spain: They sicken of the calm who know the storm!

PORTUGAL to Russia: How often the fear of one evil leads us into a worse one.

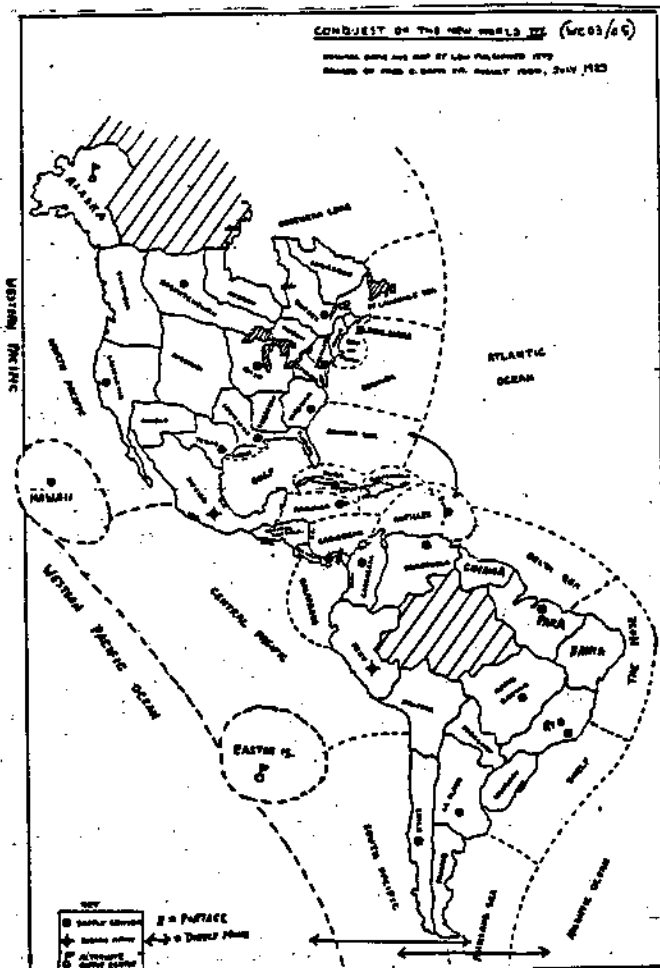
SPAIN to Portugal: You can bet it's melice now!

RUSSIA to England: Hmm.

Hey, is that all the Press you guys can come up with? Here's a map of the board, for the benefit of those not familiar with the game. Hope you can still read the print. The Atlantic and Western Pacific Ocean spaces are boxes, which may contain any number of units. Units may also move and support along the direction of the arrows. There are 24 SC's on the board. Each Power starts w/four units, which are sustained by off-Board SC's, which gradually fade away till only one is left. The Victory Criterion is 13 Centers on the board.

DEADLINE for FALL 1600 will be SATURDAY, Feb. 11, 1989. Telephone deadline is Friday, Feb. 10th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The Fall report will be sent out on a flyer going just to players and standbys. Anyone else who want to follow the game may do so by sending me \$2. to cover postage.

N.B. This game started in 1590. There are 10 year jumps between move periods, representing the slow rate of colonization in the early years. Build periods are 1595, 1605, etc. Thus, "1600" is the second "year" of this game.



SIG GAME REPORTS

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

The big crunch on Austria (Robert Cheek) ended in 1910. Austria held on to its territories and gained Ankara to go up one to 9 Centers. Italy (Tony Dousette) gave up Ankara and has taken over the Black Sea, in what may be some sort of accomodation with Austria, although they had a big battle for control of Trieste. Italy won that one, but went down one SC from 9 to 8. France (John Barnes) captured Holland from England, to rise to 9 Centers. England (Linc Beaumont) had several F movements blocked, and now stands at 8. A four-way Draw has been proposed for what one player called "this forever game." The deadline was Friday the 13th, so we'll know the answer to that shortly.

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

Only Spring 1908 has been played since the last report, due to the long Holiday deadlines. The Russo-Turkish Draw did not pass. Russia (Tony Dousette) and Turkey (Eric Young) are deadlocked at 14 Centers each, so maybe England (Bill Port), with his 4 Centers, will be the key to how the game ends. Ralph Baty's last unit, A Gascony, was dislodged and annihilated this Spring. This knocks Germany out of the game, since the English have simultaneously occupied Brest. The Italian F TYS, in Civil Disorder, was also annihilated. This leaves just three Powers to decide the fate of Europe.

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

1905 was a disasterous year for Austria (Diane Tewsley). She lost five SC's, to go down from 8 to 3. The big gainer was Turkey (Bruce Filbeck), which captured Budapest, Greece, Serbia and Warsaw from Osterreich, to go up 4 to 12. Italy (George Kilmer) took Paris to go up one to 7. The loss of Paris eliminated France (Scott Shacter). Germany (Eric Young) regained Munich from Austria, to rise to 5 SC's. England retook Brest from Turkey, to stand pat with 7.

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

This game ended in Fall 1905 with a Russian Rulebook Victory, as Steve St. Clair went over the top with ownership of 18 SC's. The final report on this game was delayed to include some end-game statements, so I can't give you the Supply Center counts yet. Congretulations to Steve St. Clair for gaining two Rulebook wins in a row (for Mensa #24 as Turkey, and here as Russia) in a period of two months. This gives Steve the second best record of any Mensa SIG player. We'll print the wrap-up here next issue.

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

In Spring 1903 (erroneously reported as "Spring 1902"), the French invaded Liverpool, while the English Fleets abroad captured Denmark from Germany. The English King, Don Samelson, has sent in his resignation from the game due to the press of other matters, but has been requested to submit F O3 orders while a replacement player is found. Germany (Stephen Hutton) had misordered a unit as "F Munich-Baltic." Tony ruled that this also invalidated the separate order for A Munich. The game has been slightly delayed, I gather, while this was resolved. I supported Tony's decision as legally correct by the Rulebook (although I might have been more mushy if this were a BUSHWACKER variant game). Austria (Eric Young) leads the pack with 7 Centers, but has only 5 units. Bob Struppeck's France has 6 Centers and 6 units. Everyone else has 5, 4 or 3 Centers, with Russia (Bill Port) bringing up the rear with 3.

(Cont. at bottom of Page 5)

DIPLOMACY SIG STATISTICS, Part III (Conclusion)

Here is the third and final part of some statistics I compiled concerning our SIG. First, a list of our MEMBERSHIP FIGURES. These were gleaned from the pages of DIPLOMAG and copies of old Membership Lists prepared at certain dates. The SIG uses March 1, 1974, as its official birthday, since that is the day that the first All-Mensa game, 1974M, started. However, we did not send out our first formal Membership List until November 1974. (Only Fred Davis, Robert Stimmel and Bill Young among our current members go back to that first list).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nov. 1974	29	Apr. 1982	46 (Overby resigned, 4/82)
Oct. 1975	36	Nov. 1983	38 (Poppe became Chairman)
Mar. 1976	45	Dec. 1985	38 (Davis ret'd to chair)
May 1977	38 (Now limited to Dues-paying members only)	May 1986	40
Sept 1978	40 (Start of printing of SIG List in BULLETIN)	June 1987	47
Nov. 1979	50	May 1988	48
Sept 1980	69 (Capped at 70)	Jan. 1989	45
Aug. 1981	58 (Davis stepped down, 9/81)		

DIPLOMAG PUBLICATION HISTORY

- Vol. I - 36 issues (counting 4 informal flyers issued when the SIG started).
1974 - July 1980. Name DIPLOMAG adopted with issue #12. (Fred Davis, Editor)
- Vol. II - 14 issues. Oct. 1980 - Dec. 1982. (Davis - 6; Ron Brown - 8)
- Vol. III - 16 issues. Feb. 1983 - Oct. 1985. (Bruce Poppe, Editor)
- Vol. IV - 19 issues to date. Jan. 1986 - on. (Davis - all)

(I figure that 24 issues should be enough for a Volume, so I'll probably start Vol.V next January. Note that we are not only one of the oldest SIGs in American Mensa; but DIPLOMAG is now one of the oldest continuous publications in the Postal hobby.)

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NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANK NEWS

I have made a Second Printing of the 1987-88 NAVB Catalog, as we were literally running out of copies of the First Printing. I had only made 75 copies the first time, but the plug for Diplomacy in AVALON HILL's THE GENERAL magazine resulted in the swift sale of at least 17 more copies than would otherwise have been likely. The only difference in the Second Printing is that I've bound the three UPDATES, the Errata Sheet, and the two new subcategories established in 1988 into the book. The UPDATES are what I issue every 5 months or so, to include newly received designs. If you own the Catalog and need copies of UPDATES #2 and #3, just send me a SASE and 25¢. If you don't own the Catalog and are curious about the crazy world of Dip Variants, the price is still \$4.00.

Variants can be ordered out of the Catalog. The usual price is 10¢ per page, plus a set amount of postage. This is all spelled out in the Catalog.

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MENSA #29, 1988 HP. GM: John Barnes, NO NAME FLYER

Having received one of the last of the 1988 Boardman Nos., and the nickname "Eleriot," this game is now underway, with the first deadline set for Jan. 21, 1989. The players are: England-Lisa Shea, France-Stephen Glasgow, Germany-Peter McCann, Italy-Bill Young, Austria-Ron Welch, Russia-John Galt, and Turkey-Leslie Fife.

ALL OF OUR WESTERN READERS are reminded that DIPCON XXII will be held in San Diego, California on July 28, 29, 30, 1989. This is the annual National Championship Con, which rotates around the continent to be close to Postal players at least once every four years. (Last year it was held in San Antonio, Texas; and in 1990 it will be held somewhere on the East Coast). We don't just get together to play Dip. We also chew the fat with old friends, and hold meetings on various aspects of the hobby. We may also have a FTF Gunboat game, and some Variant games. The DipCon Society will also hold a meeting to select the site of the 1990 DipCon. In addition, DipCon XXII plans to have a "bitch session" or "hobby meeting," at which people can speak out on any topic they please, including what may be bothering them.

For more information contact: Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA. 92102. The Southern California people are going to work hard together to insure the success of this con.

Other upcoming Cons featuring Diplomacy will be DixieCon in Chapel Hill, N.C. on May 27-28; AtlantiCon in Baltimore, Md. on the weekend of either July 15-16, or July 22-23; and GenCon somewhere in the Midwest on Aug. 19-20. For information on DixieCon, write to David Hood, 15-F Estes Park, Carrboro, N.C. 27510. I have no further details on the other Cons yet. I'll print it when I receive it.

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THAT'S ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT. I am striving to keep the high ground and ignore certain comments about myself and some of my friends coming out of New York City. At least, this other party had the courtesy of printing my explanation of the autonomy of Mensa's SIGs in the current issue of his zine. He had apparently tried to get Mer to fire me from my post as DipSIG Coordinator when he phoned the National Office in July 1987. In this he was totally unsuccessful, but he seems to still be rather unhappy about it. (He is not an M). My crime seems to have been opposing his wishes. I don't mind other people sounding off on their opinions. I just wish they would leave the rest of us alone to express our opinions.

Take two aspirins and get a good night's sleep.

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