



# 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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## SIG BUSINESS

Bruce Poppe will be moving to California shortly. Perhaps he'll get to meet some of our L.A. and San Diego players FTF. If I get his c/a notice before we go to press I'll include it in this issue. Since Bruce will be very busy getting established in a new job and a new home, he has decided not to run for re-election as one of our ExComm Commissioners. He has also volunteered to step down from his post a few months early, to enable his successor to get a running start.

Tony Dousette has agreed to be a candidate for the next full two-year Commissioner's term beginning November 1, 1989. Accordingly, I am accepting Bruce's resignation effective May 31st, and am appointing Tony Dousette to fill out the last five months of his unexpired term.

I also plan to run for another two-year term as SIG Chairman (Coordinator). So, Tony Dousette and I will both be candidates for office this summer. If any other SIG members would like to run for either office (Chairman or Committeeman), please let me know by May 1st. If we need to have a formal election, I will appoint someone as Election Commissioner to run it.

\* \* \* \* \*

## NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANK TO BE TRANSFERRED

I will be transferring the NAVB to the custodianship of Lee Kendter, Jr., on April 15, 1989. Lee's address is: 264 Spruce Ct., Bensalem, PA. 19020. This is a suburb of Philadelphia. Since this is so close, I will simply load the file boxes into my car and drive them to his place on that date. I will continue to process any orders for Diplomacy variants or for the Catalog received by April 1st. There will then be a brief hiatus. Lee will produce a "1989 NAVB Catalog" shortly after he takes over, and then the Bank will be back in business. (The Catalog price is still \$4.00).

(more)

I am keeping a back-up file, as I did before I took over the NAVB from Rod Walker some 3½ years ago. This is a collection of about 200 games, as compared to the 900+ titles in the main Bank, but it includes most of the key and/or more popular designs. My collection was dubbed the "NAVB-East" when the main Bank was in California, and it seems it's stuck with that title, at least for now. Another collection is maintained by Doug Acheson of Barrie, Ontario, for the Canadian Variant Bank, and various individuals also have private collections. This is important, to enable the hobby to reconstruct any games which might be damaged or lost due to flood, fire, or disappearance of the custodian. The more backup files existing the better.

\* \* \* \* \*

### NOMINATIONS ARE NOW IN ORDER FOR...

what are collectively called the Hobby Awards. These are annual awards voted upon by the entire Postal hobby for hobby services, for best player, and for literary effort. The Don Miller Memorial Award is presented to the person who is deemed to have performed the best services for the hobby in 1988. The John Koning Award goes to the person voted the "Best Player" of 1988. And the literary award, in whatever shape or form that is decided by the hobby, is called the Rod Walker Award.

If you wish to nominate anyone for any of these Awards, send your entries to: Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA. 92102. Any literary nomination ought to be accompanied by a photocopy of the nominated article, story, etc. if it doesn't exceed, say, 4 pages. If you're nominating a book or a series of articles, please include enough information to identify it. Deadline for nominations is March 31st.

Nominating committees will review the nominations, and select about 5 or 6 names in the Miller and Koning Award categories, to go on the final ballot. There may be a larger number of nominees on the Literary Award ballots. The ballot will be included in the pages of many Diplomacy zines, beginning around the end of April. If you do not see any Dipzines except DIPLOMAG, you may ask me for a ballot, but I probably won't print it here automatically.

The winners will be announced at DipCon in San Diego in July. Winners will be presented with some very nice plaques. I know they're nice, because I order them from the dealer!

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE MARCO POLL

This is one of the low-key polls, which you don't need a degree in math or statistics to understand. You simply write down in order of preference your five favorite North American Diplomacy zines. Mail the list to: Pete Gaughen, 3105 E. Park Row, #132, Arlington, Texas 76010. Pete will then print a list of about the 25 zines receiving the highest no. of votes.

This is a revival of a poll formerly run by Mark Lazalere, hence, the name "Marco." The nice thing about this poll, besides its simplicity, is that there are no negative or hate votes. Only positive votes for your five favorites. I think the deadline is at the end of March, so get your letters and postcards in quickly.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Bill Port, who has been an active player in several Mensa games, finally rejoined the SIG in January, with a hefty check to keep him current for some time to come. Glad to have you back, Bill. Also, Charles Byrne, in renewing his membership, volunteered to again have his name put on the SIG Standby List, but "for hopeless positions only." We also picked up two brand new members and seem to have lost one. I have a head count of 45 SIG members now.

John Barnes has also asked to be put on the Standby list, for games he's not GM'ing or playing in. Thanks, John.

Our New and rejoining members are:

Kurt Crake, 13 Hyspot Rd., Greenfield Cntr., N.Y. 12833  
William S. Port, 3506 Camp St., New Orleans, La. 70115 (Rejoined)  
R. Scott Purdy, 3327 Deermoss, Katy, Texas 77449

SIG memberships will expire for the following people on April 30, 1989. Please send me your \$6.00 or \$3.00 renewals ASAP:

→ Robert Cheek, Leslie Fife

\* \* \* \* \*

SIG GAME REPORTS

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

The 4-way Draw proposal was defeated, so the war continued thru Spring & Fall, 1911. Austria (Robert Cheek) regained Trieste and took Con and Bulgaria, while losing Smyrna to Italy, to go up to 10 Centers. France (John Barnes) also climbed to 10 SC's as he put an Army into Liverpool and recaptured Berlin from the English. England (Linc Beaumont) kept the French out of Edi and saved Kiel, but dropped to 7. Italy (Tony Dousette) also dropped to 7 in the see-saw battle with Austria, but dislodged the Austrian A in Rumania with the aid of its Black Sea fleet. The SIG's oldest game.

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

After Fall 1908, Russia (Tony Dousette) and Turkey (Eric Young) remained deadlocked with 16 Centers each. England (Bill Port) lost Edi and Holland, to drop from 4 to 2. Turkey had picked up the last Italian SC in Port and Budapest from Russia. In Spring 1909, Russia NMR'd for reasons beyond his control, giving Turkey a slight edge. The two-way Russo-Turkish draw having failed, a new proposal for a 3-way draw has been made by England. Assuming that Russia returns to the lists for the Fall season, this may be the only way to break the deadlock. Tune in next month and see.

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

The GM delayed the deadline to mid-February, and then played only the Winter 1906 season, due to his upcoming move. The next deadline is March 31st, by which time Bruce may be living in California. Turkey (Bruce Filbeck) is the leader here, with 12 Centers. He built 3 units, to go up to 10, and is still two units short. Second place (7 Centers) is shared by England (Roger Belfay) and Italy (George Kilmer). Belfay is also moving, all the way to Australia. G'day, mate!

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

As mentioned last issue, this game ended very quickly with a Russian victory in Fall 1905. Here are the final Supply Center figures:

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	
AUSTRIA (John Galt):	5	6	8	4	2	
ENGLAND (Nancy Galhoun):	5	5	7	7	9	Second Place
FRANCE (Bob Addison):	5	5	4	3	1	
GERMANY (Geof Meissner) <sup>1.</sup> :	5	4	1	1	0	
(Pierre Touchette):						
ITALY (Ronald Welch):	4	4	4	2	2	
RUSSIA (Steve St.Clair):	6	8	10	15*	20	Rulebook Win
TURKEY (Andy Thomas):	4	2	0	-		

1. Meissner resigned, F '01. Touchett took over, W '01.

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

Don Samelson had resigned the English position in Spring 1903, but was requested to submit orders for Fall '03 while a replacement player was found. Since he did not do so, his F North Sea was dislodged and all other units held. The new English player is Marty Norman.\* France (Robt. Struppeck) gained Liverpool to lead the pack with 7 Centers. Austria (Eric Young) went down one SC to 6, losing Greece. Austria played 1903 two units short, and had no room to build in Winter '03, as all his Home Centers are occupied. Italy (Ralph Baty) gained Greece to go up from 4 to 5, while Russia (Bill Port) recovered Sev, to return Russia to its initial strength of 4. Germany & Turkey each had to remove a unit, to drop to 4 and 3, respectively. Two players had requested a separation of seasons, so Winter 1903 was played separately. To make up for this, players have been given a three-week deadline for their Spring 1904 moves.  
\* England stands pat with 5 SC's.

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

In Spring 1901, Leslie Fife's Turkish orders arrived one day late, so neutral orders were used to insure a Turkish move. Players made the usual opening moves, with the only clash coming on an Austro-Russian bounce in Galicia. In Fall '01, England, France, Italy & Russia gained two Centers each, while Austria and Turkey both gained one. The German orders from Peter McCann arrived late, so German units were forced to hold, thus depriving him of any gains. Germany did take Denmark, but the Italian A came over the Alps and seized Munich. Austria attempted to take Bulgaria with Russian support, but the Turkish forces held on.

Lisa Shea, Queen of England, reports the birth of Prince James Tiberias Shea at 3:19 am. on January 3, 1989. She says she regrets the lack of any English press for this season, but she has been "very busy with the munchkin." Congratulations, Lisa. I'm sure you'll enroll him in his first postal game in a couple of years.

THE MENSA #30 Game will be run by John D. Galt in a zine to be called THE ASSASSIN'S BLADE. One of the seven initial starting players did not respond to the request for country preferences and payment of game fees, so a new player had to be furnished. Hopefully, the Spring 1901 deadline will be announced soon.

REMEMBER, we're now signing up players for MENSA #31, which will be run by Craig Reges. Three people were signed up when this was written. This is a chance to get into a new Mensa game quickly. All we need are four more people.

**NAVIGATORS RAISE NEW FLEETS TO RESUME EXPLORATION OF NEW WORLD.**

		<u>Current Strength</u>
ENGLAND (McGrumb):	Build F1 Atlantic Ocean, F2 Atlantic Ocean	8 (+2)
FRANCE (Baty):	Build A/F Atlantic, Build F Atlantic Ocean	10 (+3)
PORTUGAL (Cheek):	F Nose (R) Atlantic Ocean. F La Plata (R) Uruguay. Build F Atlantic Ocean.	4 (--) (1 annihilated)
RUSSIA (Greaves):	Build F1 Pacific Ocean, F2 Pacific Ocean	8 (+2)
SPAIN (Dousette):	No change	5 (--)

In each case, three of the listed SC's represent Off-board Centers, which do not count toward the Victory Criterion of 13 Centers on the board. Every Power will lose another OBSC in 1615.

PRESS:

RUSSIA to Portugal: I told you so.  
RUSSIA to France: Just call me Santa Claus.

PORTUGAL to Spain: Was that you in that miniseries? ((Which miniseries? - FCD))

FRANCE to BUSHWACKER: Thankyou for the history lesson. I was not aware of some of those events you mentioned. In my recent readings on Peter the Great of Russia, I was aware of a visionary who tried to pull Russia into the modern world. He loved to build boats, a new technology to him, and used them to scare Sweden and the Turks, but not the poor Portuguese in LaPlata.

RUSSIA to England: Hey! How did I get elected Recreation Director?

DEADLINE for SPRING 1610 will be WEDNESDAY, April 12, 1989. Telephone deadline will be Tuesday, April 11th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Results will be sent by flyer.

\* \* \* \* \*

DIXIECON III. Saturday & Sunday, May 27-28, 1989. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Three round Diplomacy Tournament. Team and/or Individual Competition. Diplomacy Variant Game event (perhaps Balkan Wars III or IV). Housing - \$10 per night. Entry Fee - \$10 per person, or \$50 for a seven-person team. Put together a team and get the discount rate! (This is a British idea which DixieCon is adopting for the first time in America. Each member of the team will play on a different board. You play for your team as well as yourself.)

For further information, or to register, write to: David Hood, 15-F Estes Park, Carrboro, N.C. 27510.

\* \* \* \* \*

ATLANTICON '89. This is a big gaming con, held Fri, Sat & Sun, July 21-23, in the Baltimore Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Baltimore. Within this giant hall, there will be a Diplomacy Tournament, run by Robert Sacks. There will also be something called "The Diplomacy Hobby Meeting" on Saturday evening. This will NOT be the only Diplomacy Hobby meeting of the year, despite pretensions to the contrary. DIPLOMAG tries to remain neutral, so I'll just say that your life will not be blighted should you miss this meeting. However, all fans of Alice-in-Wonderland will probably enjoy it.

To register for AtlantiCon, and in turn for the Dip Tournament, contact them at: 37 Woods End Rd., Middleton, N.J. 07748. There are usually some good Dip games. There are usually about three Baltimore area non-Postal players present who will give you a real battle for your money. (Not me! If I show up it will just be to observe.)

THE ZINE REGISTER #14 will be out shortly - maybe even before this goes into the mail. This Register contains a listing of all known North American Dipzines, plus a sampling of Overseas ones. Game openings, sub rates, types of games offered, and a brief review of each zine are included. There's also a list of hobby services, and reports on some special projects. Copies are 75¢ each, or four issues for \$3.00. An issue appears every four months. Send your request to: Kenneth Peel, 8708 First Ave., #T-2, Silver Spring, Md. 20910. Highly recommended. The ZINE REGISTER finished second in the 1988 Runestone Poll, a high rating indeed for a publication that doesn't carry any games.

\* \* \* \* \*

I'VE JUST RECEIVED Bruce Poppe's new address. It is:

28703 Trailriders Dr., Rancho Pallos Verdes, CA. 90274.

Wouldn't you know it! An address that won't properly fit on a mailing label.

\* \* \* \* \*

We initially had only five pages of material, and were going to run a blank back page. Fortunately, some late material came in, including the new report on Mensa #29, which enabled me to run some bits over to Page 6. If anyone would care to make a small contribution to the newsletter, we'd appreciate it.

Also, if any SIG members are planning to attend the 1989 AG in Atlanta, please send me your names, and I'll publish a list of those who are going. The SIGs will have the usual table in the Hospitality Room on which to display copies of their newsletters, and I'd like to have someone take about ten copies with him.

See you in May.

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DIPLOMAG - Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG Newsltr.  
c/o Fred C. Davis, "r."  
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U.S.A.

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

DIPLOMAG - MENSA VARIANT GAME #4 REPORT

Number 86.1

April 13, 1989

Published by Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043.  
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CONQUEST OF THE NEW WORLD III - 1988AQ wc03

SPRING 1610

SHELF BECOMES MOST POPULAR SPOT. SPANISH FLEET SLIPS THRU THE SMOKE INTO URUGUAY, WHILE ANOTHER F ROUNDS THE HORN INTO PAMPAS. RUSS AND ENGLISH REMAIN DEADLOCKED IN MIDWEST MAULING. FRENCH DEEP IN HEART OF TEXAS, STOOD OFF IN GALAPAGOS.

ENGLAND (McCrumb): (8) A Ohio-Missouri. A Huron-Ohio. A Delaware-Huron. F Nova Scotia-St. Lawrence Sea. F Bermuda (S) F Nova Scot-St. Lawrence Sea. F1 Atlantic Ocean-Shelf. F2 Atlantic (S) F1 Atlantic-Shelf. F Falklands (S) F1 Atlantic-Shelf /d/, may (R) Atlantic or OTB.  
FRANCE (Baty): (10) A Louisiana-Texas. F Gulf (S) A La.-Texas. A Jamaica-Cuba. F Hisp. (C) A Jamaica-Cuba. F Panama-Galapagos. F Cartagena(nc)-Panama. A/F Atlantic Ocean-Delta Sea. F Atlantic Ocean-Antilles. A Venezuela (H).  
PORTUGAL (Cheek): (4) F Uruguay-Shelf. F1 Atlantic Ocean & F2 Atlantic Ocean (S) F Uruguay-Shelf. A Para-Matto Grosso.  
RUSSIA (Greaves): (8) F Alaska-North Pacific. A Missouri-Ohio. A Texas-Mo. /d/, (R) Pueblo (only space open). F Central Pacific-Galapagos. F1 Western Pacific-Central Pac. F2 Western Pacific-Falkland Sea. F South Pacific & F LaPlata (S) F2 Western Pac-Falklands.  
SPAIN (Dousette): (5) F Shelf-Uruguay. F The Nose (H). F Rio (S) F The Nose. F Chile-Pampas. A Bolivia-Matto Grosso.

PRESS:

SPAIN to Portugal: I have starred in many miniseries. Why? Are you going to start a fan club?

PORTUGAL to Russia: What goes around comes around!

PORTUGAL to F.C.D.: Which miniseries? "Christopher Columbus." What else?

BUSHWACKER: As I recall the story, Columbus didn't know where he was going, didn't know where he was when he got there, and did it all on borrowed money. Are you implying that the Spaniards are still following the same course?

SPAIN to Portugal: You are indeed a man of your word - a virtue pretty diminished by the fact that you have so little to say.

BUSHWACKER: Judging from all the traffic jams, it would appear that nobody in this game has had very much to say to his fellows.

DEADLINE for FALL 1610 will be FRIDAY, May 12, 1989. Telephone deadline will be at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, May 11th.

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