



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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NO ONE ELSE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST in running for office either as SIG Chairman (Coordinator) or Committeeman, so I will declare the nominations closed. In the absence of any contests, Fred Davis is re-elected by acclamation to another two-year term as Chairman effective Nov. 1, 1989, and Tony Dousette is elected by acclamation to be the new Junior member of the Executive Comm. for a two-year term starting on the same date. In addition, with Bruce Poppe stepping down from the ExComm on May 31, Tony has been appointed to fill out the last five months of Bruce's term.

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CHANGES IN POSTAL HOBBY CUSTODIANS/ADDRESSES

The New Boardman No. Custodian, effective July 1, 1989, will be: Don Williams, 1521 West Ave. J-8, #163, Lancaster, Calif. 93534. Don is replacing Steve Heinowski, who has served as BNC since September 1986. The BNC issues a designator for all Regular Postal Dip games, and makes a final decision on whether or not a particular game is "Regular" in case of a dispute. Anyone GM'ing a Postal game must send the BNC a list of the players and their respective country assignments at the start of a game, and the results of the game, including a Supply Center count, at game's end. In addition, many people send copies of their zines to the BNC regularly, as a Trade for EVERYTHING, the BNC's quarterly report on game results and statistics. This has been a hobby tradition for 25 years. In that 25 years, only one North American publisher has ever knowingly refused to apply for Boardman Nos. Fortunately, his players send reports to the BNC, so the games can be recorded. Any games starting or ending in the next 30 days should still be reported to Steve Heinowski.

The new North American Variant Bank Custodian is Lee Kendter, Jr., 264 Spruce Ct., Bensalem, Pa. 19020. The Bank was transferred to him on April 15, 1989. A new 1989 NAVB Catalog of the 900+ variants on file will be ready shortly.

(more)

DIPLMACY WORLD and Larry Peery have a Change of Address. Effective May 1, 1989, the official mailing address both for D.W. and for Larry's personal mail is: P.O. Box 8399, San Diego, CA. 92102-8237. Subs to D.W. remain at \$15.00 for one year (four quarterly issues), or \$4.00 for a single copy. This may seem expensive, but if you're into the Postal hobby, you'll find this very large zine (about 76 pages) a treasure trove of information. The Spring issue (#54) will be out sometime in May, and will contain the Hobby Awards Ballots. The ballots will be reprinted in several zines, including BUSHWACKER, but if you don't receive one, please ask me for a copy.

Larry has also physically moved into a very large house in the San Diego area, so there is a lot more room for the Diplomacy Archives. The house is so large that he's thinking of holding the DipCon Diplomacy Tournament on the site. However, he'd need a bus or taxi service from the motel. Volunteers to be bus or taxi drivers should apply directly to Larry!

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We've reprinted the Membership List. Anyone who wants a copy may have one by sending me a SASE. We goofed and left one member's name off the list, but will manually add it on at the bottom. A couple of people seem to have disappeared. One member's mail came back from the P.O. "unable to forward." Please let us know directly when you move. The P.O. has a peculiar habit of writing "Expired" on envelopes, when all they mean is a forwarding order has expired. I had thought this meant the person was "Deceased" until I was informed otherwise.

Our new members this month are:

Timothy Shaw, 4542 - 18th Ave. NE, #35, Seattle, Wash. 98105
Jim Zillmer, 138 N. Birdsey St., Columbus, Wis. 53925

Four Sample copies of DIPLOMAG went out, but none of the requesters joined the SIG. Short of including photos of dancing girls in the zine, I don't know what else can be done to attract new members. It seems that those people who know Diplomacy is a game join immediately. Those who ask for Sample copies are for the most part merely curious. I'm told this is true with virtually all SIGs.

➔ Only one SIG Membership expiring this time: Steve Glasgow. Steve, please renew for either one or two years (\$3 or \$6) by the end of June.

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THE LIFER AWARDS WINNERS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED.

This Poll is run by Don Del Grande, editor of LIFE OF MONTY. The Best Zine for Hobby News wound up in a tie between DIPLOMACY WORLD and LIFE OF MONTY. My own BUSHWACKER was in a 3-way tie for third place. The Best Letter Column award was won hands down by HIGH INERTIA, by Linda Courtemanche. This is a subzine of Melinda Holley's REBEL. Melinda was voted Biggest Hobby Personality. Both Larry Peery (Editor of D.W.) and Melinda Holley were elected to the True Hobby Masters Society, an exclusive group now consisting of only four members.

There was also a category called True Hobby Genius. Last year's winner was Bob Olsen, editor of MASTERS OF DECEIT Novice Package (and a former member of Mensa). This year, there was a tie vote between Don Del Grande and (blush) myself. "Genius" was defined as someone who would do good on "Jeopardy," not as someone who's any good at playing Diplomacy! 21 people voted in 1989. Next year, if you don't see a ballot in any of the zines you receive, ask me or Don Del Grande for one. We'd both like to see a doubling of the vote in 1990.

FUTURE MENSA GAMES

We now have four people signed up for the Mensa #31 game, which will be run by Craig Reges of Bensenville, Illinois. Some of these folks have been waiting quite some time for the next game to start. We're hoping that some of the players of recently finished Mensa games, or people who have already been eliminated from some of those games, will want to join a new SIG game soon. We realize that many of you have now branched out into the hobby-at-large, and may be seeing several other zines, and perhaps playing in Diplomacy games elsewhere. That's all to the good. We wouldn't want anybody to be confined to just Mensa games and zines.

However, we'd like to ask you to think back to when you were a novice, and entered the Postal hobby via an All-Mensa game. You no doubt corresponded with some experienced players, who may have given you advice, or maybe taught you a lesson! Now, you can do the same for our new novice players, who may be playing in their first Postal game in Mensa #31 or subsequent games. This time, you will be the experienced player, from whom other players may be asking advice. So, how about it? Surely there must be three out of our 45 SIG members who'd like to get into another game soon. Why not get into a Mensa game and help the SIG to help introduce more Mensa novices to the ins and outs of Postal play?

And, when #31 fills, Steve Glasgow has volunteered to GM Mensa #32. Bruce Poppe says he'll be ready to run Mensa #33, as he thinks Mensa #26 will have run its course by then. Then, Eric Young of Armstrong, B.C. offers to take Mensa #34. If anyone else would care to reserve a GM'ing position, please let me know.

STANDBYS

There is always a need for Standbys, since players, especially novice players, sometimes have to drop out due to personal circumstances. Going back to graduate school seems to be one reason for Mensa SIG drop-outs. Loss of interest after a defeat on the board is another. We do hope that most of our SIG players will honor the informal hobby tradition of sticking it out to the end, even if your country is being wiped out. When you sign up for any Postal game, Regular or Variant, Mensan or otherwise, there is an unwritten assumption that you'll play to the end, barring bad health or other unavoidable personal circumstances which may force you to withdraw.

When asked, I always suggest to people that they not start a new game now if you're planning to start grad school in the Fall, or if you know your employer is going to send you to Saudi Arabia for six months. It may not be a good idea to sign up if you're planning to get married in a few months. There are other priorities even higher than Diplomacy in this world, believe it or not. It's not a good idea to be writing Diplomacy orders on your honeymoon.

No matter what, we know that not every starting player will finish his game. So, the SIG has a small Standby List, to take care of some replacements. I'll print the current list at the bottom. If you'd like to add your name to the list, just drop me a line. Obviously, players cannot return to games from which they've been eliminated, and we don't have enough standbys for all circumstances. So, each GM of a Mensa game is asked to have a reserve supply of standbys available from outside the SIG. These could be friends from FTF play or other readers of his zine, or even players from some outside game whom they've gotten to know. As a GM, you may call or write me first to see about Standbys, but feel free to develop your own list to cover emergencies. If a non-M takes a playing position in your game, ask him or her if they'd like to subscribe to DIPLOMAG. I'd be happy to have them subscribe. Who knows, they might wind up joining Mensa!

(over)

The current list of SIG Standbys is as follows:

David Anderson (Non-M), P.O. Box 6092, Pontiac, Mich. 48059
 John Barnes, 444 Lora Ave., Youngstown, Ohio 44504
 Charles Byrne (Hopeless positions only), 3712 Lockwood Ln., Annandale, Va. 22003
 Joe Carson, 6303 Reynolds Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060
 Stephen Glasgow (C/A), 34350 Ridge Rd., Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44094
 Peter McCann, 980 Mosby Rd., Memphis, TN. 38116
 Craig Reges, 16 W 761 White Plains Rd., Bensenville, Ill. 60106

Some of these people may already be involved in Mensa games as replacement players. The only way you can find out whether they can take a slot in your game, if you need a Standby, is by asking them ASAP, and perhaps asking them to phone in their reply. Please let me know if you want on or off this list. I'll try to print the list in DIPLOMAG every 6 or 8 months.

"They also serve who only stand and wait." - Milton, an early Diplomacy player

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SIG GAME REPORTS

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

Italy (Tony Dousette) was the big gainer in 1912, gaining four Centers while losing only Rumania, to rise to 10 SC's. Italy took Trieste while Austria (Robert Cheek) seized Venice, but Austria was driven out of Turkey and Bul by the rampaging Eye-ties, and will drop 3 units to 7, although so many units were annihilated that he still gets to build one. France (John Barnes) still leads the pack with 11 Centers, having captured Kiel & London. England (Linc Beaumont) regained Liverpool, but the loss of two Centers to France brings her down to just six.

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

Turkey (Eric Young) picked up Vienna and Sevastopol in Fall 1909, to gain 18 Centers and a Rulebook victory. The loss of these two Centrs dropped Russia (Tony Dousette) from 16 to 14, for a second place finish. The only other surviving Power was England (Bill Port), who stood pat with two. All three were original players. In fact, there were only two replacement players in the entire two-year course of the game. With the end of 1987 HO, THE DIPLOMATIC RAG has folded. Nice work, Kate.

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

Now that the GM has settled down in California, this game is back in full swing. In Spring 1906, Austria (Diane Tewsley) NMR'd, resulting in the dislodgement of A Vienna by the charging Turks (Bruce Filbeck). Turkey owns 12 SC's, England (Roger Belfay) 7, and Italy (George Kilmer) also has 7. Belfay's move to Australia is only temporary. He'll be back in the States in August. It looks like there may be an Italo-Turkish alliance against the rest of the board, but we'll have to see what the Fall brings.

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

The three-week deadline for Fall 1904 proved disasterous for England and Germany, who were unable to meet the deadline. Nevertheless, Germany (Stephen Hutton) was able to get a build for Denmark and go up to 5. England (Marty Norman) lost London to the French and Den to Germany, so must remove 1 to go down to 3. France (Robert Struppeck) is the leading Power, with ownership of 8 Centers. Austria (Eric Young) and Italy (Ralph Baty) are tied with 5, with their forces stalemating each other in the Balkans. Russia (Bill Port) and Turkey (Charles Ramsey) each have 4.

(more)

CONQUEST OF THE NEW WORLD III - 1988AQ wc03 (Mensa Variant #4)

FALL 1610

RUSSIANS SUPPORT NATIVE AMERICANS. ENGLISH STAB FRENCH FOR CAJUN DINNER. SPAIN & PORTUGAL REMAIN AT LOGGERHEADS. EUROPEAN SUPPORTS DWINDLE, CAUSING FOUR REMOVALS.

- ENGLAND (McCrumb): F Falklands (R) Atlantic Ocean. A Ohio-La. A Huron-Sask. A Delaware-Huron. F Bermuda-Bahama Sea. F St. Lawrence Sea-Bermuda. 1F Atlantic-Antilles. 2F & 3F Atlantic (S) 1F Atlantic-Antilles. (8)
- FRANCE (Baty): A Cuba-Mexico. F Gulf (C) A Cuba-Mexico. A Texas (S) A Cuba-Mexico /d/ (Annihilated). F Antilles-Caribbean. F Hisp.-Antilles. F Panama-Central America(wc). A Delta Sea-Guiana. F Delta Sea disembark A Guiana. A Venezuela (S) A Delta-Guiana. F Cart-Panama. (10)
- PORTUGAL (Cheek): A Para-Matto Grosso. F Shelf-The Nose. F1 Atlantic & F2 Atlantic (S) F Shelf-The Nose. (4)
- RUSSIA (Greaves): A Texas (R) Pueblo (as reported last month). F Falkland Sea-Atlantic. F LaPlata-Falklands. A Pueblo-Texas. A Missouri (S) A Pueblo-Texas. F South Pacific-Chile. F North Pacific (S) Indian A Mexico. F Central Pacific (S) Indian A Peru. F Western Pacific (S) F Central Pac. (8)
- SPAIN (Dousette): F The Nose-Paraguay (IMP.) /d/, (R) Atlantic or OTB. F Pampas-La Plata. A Bolivia-Matto Grosso. F Atlantic (S) RUSSIAN F La Plata-Falklands. F Rio (U) (H). NOTE: In Spring, F Shelf was erroneously reported to have moved to Uruguay, which was impossible. Instead, it was Dislodged, and (R) to the Atlantic. (5)

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT OF ON-BOARD SC's, WINTER 1615: GAINS, ~~LOSSES~~

| | | Total | |
|-----------|--|----------|-------------------------------|
| ENGLAND: | Del., Nova Scotia, Ohio, Que., Va., LA., ANTILLES, SASKATCHEWAN (+ 2 OBSC's) | 10 (+2), | Build 2 |
| FRANCE: | Cartegena, Cuba, Jamaica, Panama, Venez., ANTILLES, LOUISIANA (+2 OBSC's) | 7 (-2), | Remove 2 (1 unit annihilated) |
| PORTUGAL: | Para (+2 OBSC's) | 3 (—), | Remove 1 |
| RUSSIA: | Alaska, Calif., Hawaii, Texas, CHILE, LA PLATA (+ 2 OBSC's) | 7 (—), | Remove 1 |
| SPAIN: | Rio, LA PLATA, CHILE (+ 2 OBSC's) | 4 (—), | Remove 1 |

GM's NOTES: There are now 31 units on the board, of which 21 are supported by on-board SC's. From this point on, it is the on-board Centers which will determine the course of the game. Only 3 Neutrals remain. Players may wish to designate their on-board Home SC's with their next set of orders, although I will not print this until the Fall 1620 report is made.

PRESS:

SPAIN to Matto Grosso: Don't worry. Spain and Portugal are united as brothers in the fight to maintain your independence!

SPAIN to Bushwacker: Of course we're doing it on credit. We're charging all over the continent!

RUSSIA to BUSHWACKER: We are talking to each other, but we speak different languages. Makes a good case for Esperanto, perhaps?

PORTUGAL to Spain: The secret of happiness is renunciation!

DEADLINE for WINTER 1615 Adjustments is TUESDAY, June 13, 1989. You may submit orders for SPRING 1620 as well, if you wish. If everyone submits Spring 1620 orders, and no one objects, we will play both Winter and Spring together. Telephone deadline is Monday, June 12th, at 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

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

In Spring 1902, Germany (Peter McCann) NMR'd, and Kevin Brown has been asked to submit Standby moves. Except for Germany, which remains at 3, all Powers gained either 1 or 2 new SC's in Winter '01. England (Lisa Shea) has now taken Kiel, to go along with Holland and Norway. Both the French (Glasgow) and Italians (Bill Young) continue to move north, leaving both Spain and Tunis still neutral, although it seems that Italian F's will soon occupy the latter. There's a deadlock in the Balkans between Austria (Ron Welch) and Turkey (Les Fife). Russia (John Galt) NMR'd, so he's playing 1902 two units short. The Fall '02 deadline has been delayed to May 27th. Incidentally, Kevin Brown is an M who was formerly a member of our SIG. Welcome back, Kevin.

Mensa #30, 1989 Y. GM: John D. Galt, THE ASSASSIN'S BLADE

While the Spring 1901 Move came off O.K., the French player, Robert Struppeck, has announced he has to resign from the game. Therefore, the Fall moves were delayed to June 2, while a replacement was sought. After a comedy of errors, the position has been given to David Schultz. All Spring '01 moves succeeded, except for the Black Sea stand-off between Russia and Turkey. It's too early to have any other comments on this game.

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A CLARIFICATION ON THE RULEBOOK. Many people have been confused by the question of whether the most recent Avalon Hill Rulebook is the "1982" or "1983" book? What we have here is a typographical error. The Rulebook cover says "1982," but the book was, in fact, printed in February 1983. Accordingly, the '82 and '83 books are one and the same. Those of us in the know usually refer to it as the 1983 Rulebook. As of 1988, this new Rulebook had not yet made its appearance in Britain. Their sets still contain the 1976 Rulebook produced by Avalon Hill when they bought the game from GRI. The 1976 book is identical to the 1971 Rulebook prepared by Allan Calhamer and a committee of hobby leaders, except for one sentence and the Copyright information. Only the "1983" version contains the clarifying material eliminating two Convoy problems, the so-called "Unwanted Convoy" and "Pandin's Paradox."

If you don't have the "1983" Rulebook, you can obtain a copy for \$5.00, plus shipping costs of 50¢, directly from A-H. Canadians must pay \$1.00 shipping charges, but I suppose Waddington's is now using the updated Rulebook in their new sets. Can anyone confirm this?

Next issue in July. Perhaps I'll see some of you at DipCon. Nobody advised me that he was going to the Atlanta AG, so there'll be no SIG meeting there.

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DIPLOMAG - Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG Newsltr.
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

DIPLOMAG - MENSA VARIANT GAME #4 REPORT

Number 87.1

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Published by Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043.
Phone: (301) 461-1885. Calls accepted between 12 Noon and 9:30 p.m., EDT, but orders should be mailed in except in emergencies.

CONQUEST OF THE NEW WORLD III - 1988AQ wc03

WINTER 1615

ENGLAND ADDS MORE FLEETS. OTHER POWERS PRACTICE "WITHERING AWAY." SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR SEPARATE SEASONS.

| | <u>Current Strength</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| ENGLAND (McCrumb): Build F3 Atlantic & F4 Atlantic Ocean | 10 (+2) |
| FRANCE (Baty): Remove F Delta Sea, Remove F Central America | 7 (-3) (1 annihilated) |
| PORTUGAL (Cheek): Remove F1 Atlantic Ocean | 3 (-1) |
| RUSSIA (Greaves): Remove F Falkland Sea | 7 (-1) |
| SPAIN (Dousette): F The Nose (R) Bahia. Remove F Atlantic. | 4 (-1) |

Notes:

Para, a coastal SC, and Paraguay, an inland space, are separate and distinct spaces. In each case, there was one loss of an Off-Board SC included in the +/- figures.

PRESS:

RUSSIA: He who lives by the sword LIVES!

LONDON: King James expressed outrage over his troops occupation of the French ports at Martinique and New Orleans. He profusely apologized to the French monarchy, and promised to withdraw the English troops as soon as possible. The King also recalled Admiral McCrumb from the new world to find out why the French had been attacked.

McCrumb, a long-time friend of the King, is the person responsible for settling the northern areas of the New World, and making these colonies profitable so quickly. He became overall commander of all New World forces after Admiral Nye had been soundly defeated by the Russians in the Battle of the Falklands last year. That battle had marked the first territory lost by the English since their colonization frenzy began 40 years ago. While McCrumb has promised to retake the islands, he has secretly admitted that they are a worthless pile of rocks suitable only for sheep farming.

What punishment awaits McCrumb is unknown. The King has been observed in public to be very upset. It is hoped that this true Scottish hero will not be treated by James as the Tudors treated their heroes, such as Raleigh.

(to be continued next month)

BUSHWACKER: Another small English group is planning to establish a colony on Massachusetts Bay in 1620, if they can arrange proper financing (10% down, and a 30-year mortgage). Calling themselves "Pilgrims," they have no plans to hunt for gold or to plant tobacco. Instead, their idea is to raise crops such as corn and pumpkins, and domesticate the wild turkey. Such an enterprise is almost certain to fail in the cold New England climate, and the group soon forgotten.

DEADLINE for SPRING 1620 orders will be WEDNESDAY, July 12, 1989. Telephone deadline will be Tuesday, July 11th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. I have Tentative orders on hand for 1620 from France, Russia and Spain. These may be amended, of course.

Bruce Peppe will be attending the Atlanta AG. Look him up if you're going.

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