



# 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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THE MENSA #31 GAME has filled, and will be run by Craig Reges. More details are shown under the Game Reports. If anyone had planned to get into the #31 game, let me hear from you. Should anything happen to any of the "Starting Seven," we would take the next person on the list to fill that game.

In any case, we will now start taking names for the Mensa #32 Regular Dip game, which will be GM'd by Stephen Glasgow of Willoughby Hills, Ohio. I hope that some players who have been eliminated from some of the earlier Mensa games would want to sign up for another shot at your fellow M's. If any of you are interested in variant games, contact me for information about possible openings in BUSHWACKER or certain other zines, including that published by Phil Reynolds, our 7th player in Mensa #31.

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## DIPCON XXII BULLETIN

We've just learned that the site for this year's DipCon will be the Town & Country Hotel, 500 Hotel Circle N., San Diego, CA. 92108. The reason for the lingering uncertainty was that Larry Peery could have hosted the Con in his ~~palace~~ home if no more than 49 people had signed up. We're happy to report that a lot more than 49 people have already registered, requiring a move of the diploming site to the hotel. A brochure shows that this is truly a First Class hotel, with 1,000 rooms, four restaurants, a coffee shop, deli, and at least two swimming pools. There are also a slew of meeting rooms which will be at our disposal for stabbing or gabbing purposes.

The Registration Fee has now gone up to \$30.00 for DipCon. Send your Registration Fee to Larry Peery at: P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA. 92102. Phone: (619) 582-2904.

It's now too late to ask Larry to make your hotel reservation for you. You should contact the Town & Country yourself, and state that you are with DIPCON and want a GARDEN ROOM. That's your guarantee of getting the reduced Convention rate. Their local

phone no. is (619) 291-7131. Have your credit card handy if you phone in your reservation. For calls from outside of California, call (800) 854-2608. From Canada, call (800) 854-6742. Two, three or even four people can share the same room to save money.

All DipCon events, except the banquet, will be held in the Convention Center's North Wing, on the upper level. You'll receive a map so you can find your way around. We will have exclusive use of this area, so other guest won't be offended by the flowing blood. Banquet tickets, which will include the Awards Ceremony, cost \$22.00 per person.

Since DipCon XXII will be held over the weekend of July 28-30, 1989, there isn't much time left if you want to make a reservation. Don't put it off any longer.

For those of you living in the Northeast or Midwest, or in Ontario, you may be interested in attending CanCon in Toronto instead. CanCon will be held over the weekend of August 4-6, on the University of Toronto's Scarborough's campus. Preregistration was \$20 for the entire weekend, but you can also pay at the door at the rate of \$8. per day. Rooms on campus were available @ \$27.00/night per person, but I can't promise that they're still available.

To register or get information, contact: Douglas Acheson, 95 Dundonald St., Barrie, Ont. L4M 3T4, CANADA. Make all checks out in Doug's name. Note these prices are in Canadian dollars. You might have a slight refund coming if you pay in U.S. Dollars.

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#### PDO RELIEF AUCTION - A FUND-RAISING PROJECT

Each year, the "Peoples Diplomacy Organization" conducts an auction of Diplomacy-related items. The funds are then used to support most of the hobby services. (The PDO began as a joke organization; then, about 5 years ago, concentrated on this worthwhile cause). For the past several years, it has been run by John Caruso, assisted by Simon Billenness. This year's Catalog of donated items can be obtained from John at his new address: 636 Astor St., Norristown, Pa. 19401.

The deadline for bidding on the 40-odd items in the Catalog is August 18, 1989. Send no money. High bidders will be notified on their luck. Then, when they pay their bids to John, he will have the donors mail you the item(s) you've won. There are some very amusing and interesting items on the list, including subs to some zines and some free game openings. You can also bid to have a space on the Diplomacy board named after you, or to obtain an unspecified "Hobby Office." Send John a SASE for a copy of the Catalog, but hurry, time is running out.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT - We have 45 members, not counting one fellow who's disappeared.

Just one new member this month. He is:

Derek Shirk, 207 S. Oak, Iola, Kansas 66749

Anybody needing a copy of the SIG address list, for Diplomacy or other purposes, may have one by sending me a SASE. Normally, I only print the Mailing List in DIPLOMAG once a year, in the Nov/Dec. issue, but extra copies may be had at any time.

→ Two memberships are expiring in August. Will the following people please send me either \$3.00, for one year, or \$6.00 for two year's membership, at your earliest convenience. Thankyou.

Peter J. McCann, Elizabeth (Lisa) Shea

SIG GAMES REPORTS

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

Ralph has presented a new format for this longest-running Mensa game, thanks to the recent purchase of a Macintosh II computer. This beautiful printing job makes it easy for my tired old eyes to follow the game. Italy (Tony Dousette) had to play 1913 one short, as he had room for only two builds in Winter 1912. He and Austria (Robert Cheek) traded Home SC's this year, Italy regaining Venice and Austria retaking Trieste. They also traded Serbia for Sev, to both stand pat with 10 and 7 Centers, respectively. But Italy now has room to build its 10th unit. France (John Barnes) has taken control of the North Sea from England (Linc Beaumont), and now has four fleets threatening Britain and Norway. France remains in first place with 11 Centers, but did not gain any new ones in 1913.

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

Austria went into Civil Disorder in Fall 1906, and then had all of her remaining units annihilated, so only four Powers are left. Turkey (Bruce Filbeck) gained Trieste and Vienna to go up to 13 Centers, but has to play one unit short in 1907 due to lack of enough building spaces at home. Turkish units are now as far north as Finland, but one of his fleets crashed into the Italian Navy in the Tyrrhenian. Italy (George Kilmer) gained two SC's in 1906, to go up to 9, but is also playing one short in '07. He has moved into the empty English SC of Belgium. Is this England's Waterloo? England's ruler, Roger Belfay, is still in Australia, but fighting desperately to save his 7 SC's, including St. Pete, which he took from Belgium in a 3-space convoy in Fall '06. Germany (Eric Young) stood pat with 5 in W. '06, and is now investing strategic positions in Bohemia and Burgundy.

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

Germany (Stephen Hutton) has returned to the lists, after a brief trip to (the real) England. He built a new A, as Germany went up one to 5, despite the Fall '04 NMR. France (Robert Struppeck) is the largest Power here, having gained London and Edi and built two new F's. England fell into Civil Disorder. There were two surviving units, but the one in North Sea has been dislodged by the French in Spring 1905, so I presume it's to be annihilated. Italy (Ralph Baty) has 5 SC's, but has just blasted his way into Trieste from Tyrol in the Spring. Austria (Eric Young) also has 5, but is being invaded by the Italians. Meanwhile, the 4-Center Powers Russia (Bill Port) and Turkey (Charles Ramsey) are conducting their own private war in the Balkans, in Rum and Bul.

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

France (David Glasgow) gained Holland and Portugal in 1902, to go up 2 units to 7. Kevin Brown has taken over Germany, but it was too late to keep the Reich from dropping to two Centers. England (Lisa Shea) gained Denmark and St. Pete, and lost Hol., to go up 1 to 6 SC's. John Galt returned as Russia. Although he's lost St. Pete, he still gets a build in W '02, as he was playing 2 units short. Italy (Bill Young) stays at 5, as he still hasn't taken Tunis, but he did try to take Kiel! Austria (Ron Welch) gained Greece, so he's also up to 5. Turkey (Les Fife) remains at 4, as he adjusted his position.

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

France (David Schultz) stabbed Germany to take Munich in Fall 1901. He got 3 builds, but then NMR'd, and must play 1902 3 units short. England (Kurt Crake) also failed to build, and will play one short, having taken Norway. So, the big cheese on the  
(cont. on Pg. 5)

ENGLISH SEIZE FLORIDA, HISPANIOLA. SPAIN GIVES A PARA "THE CHUTE." LOW KEY MOVES ELSEWHERE. USUAL MATTO GROSSO LOGGERHEADS.

- ENGLAND (McCrumb): F Bahama Sea-Florida. A Louisiana (S) F Bahamas-Florida. A Sask-Ohio. A Huron (H). 1F Atlantic-Hispaniola. 2F Atlantic (S) 1F Atlantic-Hisp. F Antilles (S) 1F Atlantic-Hisp. 3F Atlantic-Bahama Sea. F Bermuda (S) 3F Atlantic-Bahamas. 4F Atlantic (S) F Antilles.
- FRANCE (Baty): A Venezuela-Cartagena. A Guiana (S) SPANISH F Bahia-Para. F Hisp-Antilles /d/, (R) Jamaica (only space open). F Caribbean (S) F Hisp-Antilles. A Cuba (H). F Panama (H). F Gulf of Mexico (S) RUSSIAN A Texas-La. (NSO).
- PORTUGAL (Cheek): F The Nose-Delta Sea. F Atlantic Ocean (S) F The Nose-Delta Sea. A Para-Matto Grosso /d/, (Annihilated).
- RUSSIA (Greaves): F North Pacific-Columbia. A Missouri (MS) A Texas. F Chile-South Pacific. F Central Pacific (S) F Chile-So. Pacific. F Atlantic-Falkland Sea. F Western Pacific (S) F Atlantic-Falklands.
- SPAIN (Dousette): A Bolivia-Matto Grosso. F Bahia-Para. F Rio-The Nose. F La Plata (H).

RUSSIA has designated CALIFORNIA as his on-board Home Supply Center. The rest of you should designate your Home SC's, where applicable, with your FALL 1620 orders.

PRESS:

THE KING'S CHAMBERS, BUCKINGHAM CASTLE, ENGLAND (Continued from last month):

"You're sure they were fooled?" asked King James.

"Yes, my king. Those bloody French are convinced that McCrumb hatched this plot all by himself to humiliate you and take the crown himself."

"Good. Truly, I couldn't believe how well it did work. Who convinced the Russians to help? You were in Paris, so it couldn't have been you."

"It was Lord Nye, sir. It seems the Battle of the Falkland Islands was really a figment of everyone's imagination. They pulled off a terrific deception. The French were so convinced that Havana was captured with scarcely a shot fired. And our armies marched into New Orleans unopposed. The French troops retreated into the bayous. All their artillery and cavalry sank into the mud until it couldn't be seen. We can't find the troops, but they won't be able to attack."

"Such news," exclaimed the King. "Now, the big problem. What to do with McCrumb? I hate to execute him, especially since he was obeying my orders."

"My king, in six months it won't matter. We won't have to worry about appeasing the French. The Russians, yes, but they can be bought off with Saskatchewan and South America. Let McCrumb live. In fact, leave him in command. After these daring attacks, there is no telling what he can do."

BUSHWACKER, CAPE COD, 1620: The group calling itself the "Pilgrims" has landed in this dreary land, where even Indians don't live. (There used to be Indians here, but the noble white man gave them syphilis and plague, which resulted in their extermination). Capt. Miles Standish is in charge of their defenses. An Irishman named Fitzgerald has suggested that making and selling a liquid substance called "booze" would be more profitable than corn and pumpkins. He has staked out a compound on the Cape to begin production. Each bottle will be labelled "Just off the boat" to increase sales. Capt. Standish told Gov. Bradford that he doubted this enterprise would be legal, but he was afraid to ask. "Why don't you speak for yourself, Miles?" the Governor replied, as he filled a glass with amber fluid.

(more)

((For the benefit of our non-players, I should advise you that both Dave McCrumb and I started a series of "Golden Age" press - on totally different subjects - with the WINTER 1615 report. This was printed in the "between issues" flyer which goes out to just the players, and perhaps to some officers. If anyone wants to get in on these alternate issues, just send me \$2.00. As for my Press series, I hope most of you know who was the biggest bootlegger in Massachusetts in the 1920's, and realize that we are liberally mixing up events from the 1620's, the 1890's, and the 1920's in an anachronistic stew. Perhaps, if the game lasts long enough, "the compound" may turn into Hyannisport, and we may get expeditions to "Cuber" and "Afriker."))

DEADLINE for FALL 1620 is MONDAY, August 14, 1989, after I get back from DipCon. Phone deadline will be Sunday, August 13th, at 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

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(Mensa Game Reports, cont.) (Mensa #30)

board right now is Russia (Andy Tillett), which picked up Sweden and Rum, to go up to 6. Germany (Tony Dousette) took Belgium & Denmark, but the loss of Munich left him with a net gain of only 1. Italy and Austria stood each other off, and remain at 3. Turkey (Kate Robison) took Bulgaria and got one build.

Mensa #31. GM: Craig Reges (by flyer?)

After a great deal of trial and tribulation, this game has filled. We have six SIG members and one non-member. The latter is Phil Reynolds, publisher of a new zine called DIPADEEDOODAH. Phil is Mensa-qualified, by the way. We had to take one outside person to fill the game, since we'd been stuck on "Hold" for so long. So, this game will be a mixture of novices and experienced people. We'll have more information on the gamestart next issue, including who's playing which country.

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TWO ZINE LISTINGS NOW AVAILABLE

If you're interested in seeing thumbnail reviews of the sundry North American Diplomacy zines, you now have a choice of two such listings.

THE ZINE REGISTER is the granddaddy of such publications, going back many years. The last six issues were edited by Ken Peel, our Man in Washington. With issue #14, which appeared in May 1989, he has turned the post over to Tom Nash. Issue #14 covers nearly all known N. American zines, plus a sprinkle of Overseas ones, and has a complete list of Hobby Custodians. It costs only 75¢. Tom will have to double that price to \$1.50, due to higher printing costs, but you could obtain both a copy of #14 and #15 by sending Tom a check for \$2.25. His address is: 5512 Pilgrim Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214. That's the same ZIP as Avalon Hill's, by the way, but Tom has no connection with them. Tom produces his own zine, BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, which you might want to see a Sample copy of, by adding another 50¢ to your order.

The second publication is called the KGO ZINE DIRECTORY. Initially, it was produced by Robert Sacks, and could not be recommended by me. One issue was edited by Bruce Geryk around Spring 1988. That was perhaps the vilest thing ever produced in our Postal hobby, being full of four-letter words and attacks on various innocent people. Sacks took it back and produced issue #7 in December 1988, which was slightly better (nothing could have been worse than "Bad Boy" Geryk's issue #6), and then appointed Michael Hopcroft and Brad Wilson as co-editors for issue #8. Hopcroft was supposed to write the current issue. However, halfway through, he turned the post over to Chris Carrier, and it is Chris who prepared the bulk of #8. Only 41 zines are reviewed (and

three of them have apparently folded), but it's interesting to compare the opinions of Carrier, Hopcroft and Sacks. There are several disagreements, sort of like Siskel and Ebert on movie reviews. No price is shown, but previous issues were 45¢. No issue number is shown either, but it has to be #8, since the last one was #7. Whether it will continue to bear Sacks' imprimatur I don't know. THE ZINE REGISTER is a kinder, gentler publication, but if you want to see something quite different, send Chris Carrier 50¢ for this one. His address: 1215 P St., #12, Sacramento, CA. 95814.

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**FORGOT TO MENTION**, Tom Nash is also now in charge of the ZINE BANK. This is a stack of older zines donated by the publishers. To get a batch of sample zines, send Tom, address shown above, about 65¢ (3 oz.) or 85¢ (4 oz.) in stamps, and ask for some.

I'VE BEEN ROASTED in **EXTREMISM #6**, a subzine of Brad Wilson's **VERTIGO #95**. All in fun, of course (growl, foam). Some of the information therein is even mildly factual. But, I've never owned a pet named "Hindenburg." However, I may be the only living member of the hobby to have seen the Zeppelin Hindenburg with my own eyes, when it flew over South Brooklyn one July night in 1936. (The most beautiful flying machine I've ever seen). If you feel you must see this ~~garbage~~ essay, send 50¢ to Brad at: P.O. Box 126, Wayne, Pa. 19087. Be sure to ask for issue #95.

**YOU MAY BE RECEIVING** this issue a bit early. I had to get it done quickly, as we're leaving town for Ocean City, Md. on Tuesday, July 18th, and will be gone one week. Then, I'll be flying out to San Diego for DipCon on Thursday, July 27th, and won't be back until the night of August 8th. So, please don't try to phone me in the interim, and don't expect any replies to correspondence until around mid-August. I'll be looking forward to seeing a few of you at DipCon. Have a nice summer.

Next issue will be out around mid-September.

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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.

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

DIPLOMACY - MENSA VARIANT GAME #4 REPORT

Number 88.1

August 15, 1989

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

FALL 1620

MATTO GROSSO AND SASKATCHEWAN FINALLY FALL. PORTUGAL SAILS INTO ANTILLES TO STAY ALIVE. ENGLAND AND FRANCE EXCHANGE CENTERS, ALMOST, BUT ENGLISH DISLODGED INSTEAD.

- ENGLAND (McCrumb): A Ohio (S) A La. A La. (S) F Fla. A Huron (S) A Ohio. F Hisp.-Cuba. F Bahamas & F Fla. (S) F Hisp-Cuba. F Antilles-Cartagena /d/.\*  
(10) IF Atlantic-Antilles. 2F Atlantic-Hisp. F Bermuda (H).
- FRANCE (Baty): Dislodged F Hisp (R) Jamaica in "Summer". A Cuba (H). F Gulf and F Jamaica (S) A Cuba. F Caribbean (H). F Panama (S) F Caribbean. A Guiana-Venezuela. A Cartagena (S) A Guiana-Venezuela.  
(7)
- PORTUGAL (Cheek): F Delta Sea-Antilles. F Atlantic Ocean (S) F Delta Sea-Antilles.  
(3)
- RUSSIA (Greaves): A Missouri-Sask. F Columbia-North Pacific. F South Pacific-Bolivia. F Central Pacific (S) F S. Pacific-Bolivia. A Texas (S) Indian A Mexico. F Western Pacific (S) F Central Pacific. F Falklands (H).  
(7)
- SPAIN (Dousette): A Bolivia-Matte Grosse. F Para (H). F The Nose (S) F Para. F La Plata-Pampas.  
(4)

\*English F Antilles may (R) to Guiana or OTB.

HOME SUPPLY CENTERS SELECTED BY SOME POWERS:

- England - None selected. Must choose either Nova Scotia or Virginia.
- France - Antilles. (Current under enemy occupation).
- Portugal - None selected. Must choose either Rio or Para. (Both occupied).
- RUSSIA - California.
- Spain - La Plata.

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, ON-BOARD SC'S, WINTER 1625: GAINS, ~~LOSSES~~

	<u>Total</u>
ENGLAND: Del., La., Nova Scotia, Ohio, Que, Va., <del>ANTILLES, SASK.</del> (+ 1 OBSC).	7 (-2), Remove 3
FRANCE: Cartagena, Cuba, Jamaica, Panama, Venez. (+ 1 OBSC)	6 (-), Remove 1
PORTUGAL: ANTILLES, <del>Para</del> (+1 OBSC)	2 (-1), No change (1 annihil)
RUSSIA: Alaska, Calif., Chile, Hawaii, Texas, SASKATCHEWAN (+1 OBSC)	7 (-), No change
SPAIN: La Plata, Rio, MATTO GROSSO, PARA (+1 OBSC)	5 (+1), Build 1
Neutral: Mexico, Para	

Only one Off-Board SC remains for each Power, so everyone is more or less on their own. No Press received. A couple people played things pretty close to the edge in their mail and phone orders. Again, I urge you not to wait till the last moment to mail in your orders. If my regular mailman is off that day, the substitute will only take whatever he feels like, and your orders might not make it.

DEADLINE for WINTER 1625 will be TUESDAY, September 12, 1989. If you want to include your SPRING 1630 orders, fine. If everyone agrees so, and no one objects, we'll play both seasons. Phone Deadline: Mon, Sept. 11, at 9:00 PM. EDT

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