



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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Chairman & Editor: Fred G. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Phone: (301) 461-1885
Sr. Committeeman: Bill Young, 507 E. High St., Ebensburg, Pa. 15931.
Phone: (814) 472-4076
Jr. Committeeman: Tony Dousette, 530-A Bruton Bends, Richardson, Texas 75081
Phone: (214) 669-8560.

THE MENSA #32 GAME IS NOW OPEN for players. Stephen Glasgow of Willeughby Hills, Ohio, will be the GM. However, please send all intentions to sign up to me. When I get 7 names, I'll turn them over to Stephen, and he will then inform you of his House Rules and the amount of his Game Fees. Each GM sets his own rules, deadlines and fees.

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DIPCON XXII A SUCCESS

Approximately 55 people participated in the DipCon Tournament, which was held at the Town & Country Hotel in San Diego, July 27-30, 1989. There were separate divisions for such items as Regular Dip, Gunboat, Variant Dip, Computer Dip and a test on your knowledge of the Diplomacy board and hobby. There were 13 games of Individual Regular Dip played (7 on Saturday & 6 on Sunday). The winner was Hohn Che of Berkeley, CA. Seven or eight teams played Regular Dip on Saturday morning. The winning team, called "Cameron's Californians," was led by Asst. DipCon Coordinator Ron Cameron. The scores earned in those game were not added to those earned in the Individual Division. But, when all of the various Division scores were added up, the overall DipCon winner was Old Timer Edi Birsan. "The BirSauron," as he was dubbed, was considered the world's best Diplomacy player back in the 70's. He now lives in California, and came out of semi-retirement to participate in DipCon.

Second Place went to Jeff McKee. Third place to our own John D. Galt, and Fourth Place to Eric Neuhaus. Hohn Che came in 7th. (Some publishers have felt that there should have been more weight given to the Individual Tournament, and Hohn ranked higher, but Larry Peery's concept here was to find the overall "Compleat Diplomat." Don del Grande kept track of the scoring, which was kept secret from the players. A full report on the scores will appear shortly in DIPLOMACY WORLD and other zines.)

P.S. D.W. #55 is already out with the complete scores, etc., including 15 pages of photos. Price for a single copy is \$4.00.

I ran the Variant Division, which consisted of two games of SkinnyDip. We weren't able to fill a third board. In this variant, there are the standard 7 Powers, but the total number of SC's is reduced to 24. Thus, it's easier to complete a game within the time limits of a tournament. Both games did reach logical conclusions without artificial time restraints. SIG member Robert Cheek finished third in Game One. BUSHWACKER player Steve Smith won the second game with a concession victory as Russia, and that gave him the Variant Division championship. Copies of the SkinnyDip II Rules & Map are available from me for 50¢, if you'd like to try this out on a FTF game.

The DipCon Society selected DixieCon, at Chapel Hill, N.C., as the site of the 1990 DipCon. This will also include World DipCon II. Overseas players are invited to join us, and several British players have already announced their intention to come. There is good air service out of nearby Raleigh-Durham Airport, while Easterners will have an easy drive down I-95 and I-85.

The Hobby Awards were also announced. The Don Miller Award for Hobby Services went to Doug Acheson, coordinator of the Canadian Diplomacy Organization. The Red Walker Literary Award was presented to the team led by Rex Martin for the special Diplomacy issue of THE GENERAL in March 1988 (Vol. 24, No. 3). This article brought many new players into the Postal hobby. The John Koning Best Player Award went to Marc Peters, one of the "Mad Lads," for his win at the 1988 CanCon and third place finish at the '88 DipCon.

Ren Cameron displayed a new trophy, to be called the Melinda Holley Award, which will go to the lady player who has performed the most participation in the hobby each year. Melinda could not attend DipCon this year, but it should be noted that she finished second in both the Miller and Koning Award voting this year. The plaques for the winners should be in the mail by the time this is printed. (Hey, I'm the Treasurer for the Hobby Awards Comm. The Treasury is now empty. I'd appreciate any contributions from anyone to help pay for the costs of buying and mailing these plaques, which has been one of my jobs for the past six years.)

Ren Cameron is replacing Larry Peery as Coordinator of the Awards Comm. for next year. Expect to see a lot better publicity for the Hobby Awards in 1990. Somehow, the enthusiasm just wasn't up to par this year.

David Hood will be Chairman of the 1990 DipCon Society Administrative Comm., which will run the event. He will be assisted by Tom Nash of Baltimore and Ken Peel of Washington. Ken is the carry-over member from 1989. It was also announced that David Hood will be the new Associate Editor for DIPLOMACY WORLD.

The new Orphan Game Service Director will be Vince Lutterbie. If you ever find that one of your GM's has gone bye-bye, contact him at: 1021 Stonehaven, Marshall, MO. 65340, for assistance.

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OTHER DIP TOURNAMENT WINNERS:

At AtlantiCon, in Baltimore, Md., July 22-23, 1989: First Place - Frank "Baltimore" Jones. Second - Ken League. Third - Brad Wilson. Fourth - John Caruso.

At DixieCon, in early June, the winner, I'm told, was David McCrumb, publisher of THE APPALACHIAN GENERAL.

Aug. 4-6,

At CanCon, in Toronto, Canada, /Fred Hyatt (THE HOME OFFICE pubber) was the winner.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

No novices, but we regained one old member this month. He is: Richard Young, 1789 Kirkway Ln., Lapeer, Mich. 48446. Rick had been a member from 1980 to 1982, and has now found time to rejoin the Diplomacy hobby.

We rarely gain new members in midsummer. Fortunately, the SIG List will be printed in the September BULLETIN. This always brings in several inquiries. I'll be printing the SIG's Membership List in the next issue. If you're planning to move in the near future, please send me your new address now.

The following peoples' SIG memberships will expire as of October 31, 1989. Please renew ASAP. If you can send me \$6.00 for two year's dues, I'd appreciate that.

Joseph P. Carson, Robert Strunwasser

I THINK ONE REASON for the recent lack of new DipSIG members has been disclosed. It seems that the overall recruiting of new members into National Mensa has dropped off considerably in the past 18 months. Since a large percentage of new members, in this and most other SIGs, have come from brand new M's, based on the SIG Listing they receive when they join, it stands to reason that this drop-off would also affect the SIGS' growth. So, it looks like we're going to have to take the membership recruiting into our own hands. Most of you must know at least one other Dip player who is Mensa-qualified. Why not suggest Mensa membership to that person? Mention the Diplomacy SIG, of course, but also mention there are about 150-odd other SIGs as well. If you want to help us gain new members, you can write to the New York office and request a batch of ten Mensa brochures for no charge. Then, pass a few of these out at games parties or other places where bright people gather. Experience has shown that nearly everybody crazy enough to engage in Postal gaming on a regular basis is also Mensa-eligible. Go get 'em!

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THE RUNESTONE POLL RESULTS are in. The Top Five zines were: 1. FIAT BELLUM, by Don Williams; 2. PERELANDRA, Pete Gaughan; 3. CAROLINA CMD & COM, David Hood; 4. BENZENE, Mark Lew; 5. PENGUIN DIP, Stephen Dorneman. DIPLOMAG received exactly the 10 votes needed to make the main list, and finished 57th out of 72. A slight drop from last year, but we're not trying to win any prizes here. My own BUSHWACKER finished 31st. The one real shocker on the Poll was the low rating given to DIPLOMACY WORLD, which was given a 36th place finish. Since D.W. finished 4th in 1988, this low vote cannot be based on the editorial contents therein. I'm afraid that personalities and hobby politics affect the Runestone votes, especially when this year's total vote was only 174, as compared to the 508 votes cast in 1988. A mere handful of "0" or "1" votes can ruin a zine's standing

The Top GM's were: 1. Russ Rusnak, 2. Francois Currier, 3. Andy Lischett, 4. Jim Benes, 5. Kathy Caruso, and 6. David Hood. I was ranked 12th (down 3 places).

BENZENE does not carry Dip games, nor does HOUSE OF LORDS (finished 8th). Otherwise, I can recommend all but one of the first nine finishers on the '89 Runestone Poll as good places to play Diplomacy. If you need any addresses from me, please ask, but it might be better if you bought a copy of the current ZINE REGISTER from Tom Nash, 5512 Pilgrim Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214, for .75¢, so you'd have a complete list.

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SIG GAMES REPORTS

Mensa #23, 1986 CZ. GM: Ralph Baty (by flyer) (See Pg. 5 for list of longest games)

This is now the fifth longest of all the Mensa games, reaching Fall 1914. England (Linc Beaumont) recaptured London from the French, and kept the latter (John Barnes) from taking the Irish Sea, but a French A has landed in Edi. Italy's 10th build was not reported in Spring 1914, but Italy (Tony Dousette) annihilated an Austrian A in Albania, and invaded Rumania with F Black Sea. Another peace proposal has been defeated. Italy will own 11 SC's (+1) as of Winter 1914, to tie with France (no change). Austria occupied St. Pete, to stand pat with 7. England is down 1 to 6.

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

As of Spring 1908, Turkey (Bruce Filbeck) leads the pack with 13 Centers and 13 units, having finally caught up on his building backlog. The Turk's attempts to take the English Channel and Munich were rebuffed, but he did enter Bohemia. Italy (George Kilmer), with 9 SC's, seems to be working with Turkey, as he again takes Belgium. England (Roger Belfay) has moved to North Sea and Livonia and he continues to struggle for existence with his 7 units. Hopefully, Roger is now back from Australia. Eric Young's Germany still owns 5, but A Bohemia has just been annihilated. A 2-way Italian-Turkish Draw has been proposed.

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

In Fall 1905, France, Italy and Russia each gained one Center, while Austria, England & Germany each lost one. France (Robert Struppeck) is top dog with 10 SC's, having added Holland to his empire. Italy (Ralph Baty) captured Trieste to go up to 6, and second place. Charles Byrne took over the "hopeless position" of England, which still survives with one unit. Austria (Eric Young), which had been tied for 2nd, lost two Centers and seized Munich from Germany to remain at 4. Russia (Bill Port) regained Warsaw from Austria, to hold 3rd place with 5. Winter 1905 was played separately, since there were so many adjustments. The Spring 1906 deadline is September 15th.

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

There was a one-month delay in reporting the Spring 1903 results, as John had been working 60/70 hours per week. Stephen Glasgow's 7-Center France attempted to move to Kiel and Munich, but was rebuffed. Italy (Bill Young) now owns the Med, with F's that could go in either direction (5 SC's). Lisa Shea's 6-Center England is in second place. She has just seized Sweden from John Galt's Russia, and moved into the Channel. I'll have more comments after the Fall '03 moves arrive.

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

David Schultz's France did get its 3 Builds for W 01 after all, so France has 6 units on the board, stretched from Kiel to Spain in Spring 1902. The other 6-SC Power, Russia (Andy Tillett), has invaded Norway & Galicia. England (Kurt Crake), playing 1 short due to his Winter NMR, has been dislodged from Norway. Germany (Tony Dousette) has lost 2/3 of his homeland to foreign invaders, but retains the Low Countries and Denmark. We'll wait for the Fall results before making a further analysis.

Mensa #31. Boardman No. applied for. GM: Craig Reges, AGAINST THE ODDS

Craig has revived his old zine, which had folded in 1980, to run this game. The current assignments are: A-Phil Reynolds; E-Jim Zillmer; F-Eric Young; G-Derek Shirk, I-Tim Shaw, R-Scott Purdy, and T-Scott Shacter. The Spring 1901 moves are out. Most of the moves were the classical ones, with no standoffs anywhere. Burgundy and Black Sea remained empty as A Paris went to Picardy and A Mun-Ruhr. Some interesting Press here.

SEPARATION OF SEASONS REQUESTED. ENGLAND AND FRANCE DROP; SPAIN BUILDS.		<u>Current Strength</u>
ENGLAND (McCrumb):	F Antilles (R) OTB. Remove F's Bahamas and Hispaniola. Nova Scotia named Build Center	7 (-3)
FRANCE (Baty):	Remove F Caribbean	6 (-1)
PORTUGAL (Cheek):	No change (one unit annihilated). Has not designated a Home Build Center.	2 (-1)
RUSSIA (Groaves):	No change	7 (--)
SPAIN (Dousette):	Build A La Plata (Home SC).	5 (+1)

The losses were mainly due to disappearance of an Off-Board SC for each Power. Everyone is now down to a single OBSC.

PRESS:

LONDON (1625): The King is dead! Long live the King! ((James I died in 1625. He was succeeded by Charles I.))

LONDON (Early 1630): "Damn Parliament!" cursed the King. Don't they know anything about foreign policy? We need to appease France some way, and sacrificing McCrumb would be the easiest. They are such round heads!"

"But Charles, as King you can dissolve Parliament and then take care of McCrumb yourself."

"Yes, that's just what Cromwell and his bunch want. If I didn't know better, I might think they were plotting a revolution against me." ((To be continued next month)).

DEADLINE for SPRING 1630 orders will be FRIDAY, October 13, 1989. Phone deadline will be Thursday, Oct. 12th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Portugal is requested to designate a Home SC on the board, even though prospects are not very bright. Orders already on hand for 1630 will be used, unless new ones are received.

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MAGNETIC DIPLOMACY BOARDS FOR SALE

Eric Brosius has designed and built some magnetic sets. These consist of a regular Conference map attached to a metal cookie sheet, with magnetic rubber armies & fleets in seven different colors. He has "cleared" this with Avalon Hill, so it is legal to sell them. Eric sent me a sample set to bring with me to DipCon. I found it a very useful device, whether you used one to keep your pieces in place for a Postal game, or for a travelling game, such as at a picnic or in a moving vehicle. (We were going to use it on the San Diego Trolley and take it to Tijuana, but this didn't happen).

The price is \$8.00, plus \$2.00 for shipping within the U.S. The shipping costs may be higher to Canada. To order write to: Eric Brosius, 41 Hayward St., Milford, Mass. 01757. (Several people at DipCon were impressed, and ordered sets).

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION, the three longest Mensa games were:

1. Mensa #18, 1983AV, which ran to Fall 1918, and ended in a Rulebook victory for Russia, played by Ron Brown.
2. Mensa #14, 1981AQ, which ended in a two-way Draw in Spring 1918, between Russia (Ralph Baty) and Turkey (Ken Hager).

(over)

3. Mensa #7, 1977CI. This ended in Fall 1916 in a 3-way Draw among Austria (Linc Beaumont), Italy (H.D. Bassett) and France (Paul Funkenbush).

The shortest Mensa game ever was Mensa #27, 1987 IS, which ended with a Russian 20-Center Rulebook Victory for Steve St. Clair in Fall 1905!

Three All-Mensa games ended in Fall 1907. Mensa #3, 1975AA, was a Rulebook Victory for Austria (Bill Young). #13, 1980 KI, was a 3-way Draw for A-E-G (Ralph Baty, Dean Hess and Ron Brown). #24, 1987 AZ, ended in a Rulebook Win for Turkey (Steve St. Clair). The average Mensa game seems to have ended in 1910.

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THERE ARE TWO MENSA PUBLICATIONS you may be interested in. One is INTERLOC. This is aimed at all officers of Local Groups and SIGs, plus Proctors and Gifted Children coordinators. It contains some interesting material on American Mensa, including the membership strength of each Local Group, and what's happening at AMC meetings. Any M may receive this at no charge. Just send your subscription request to AMC Hqs., 2626 E. 14th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11235.

The other is SIGNET, a newsletter specifically designed for and about the various SIGs. It's supposed to come out quarterly, but the August 1989 issue was the first one in quite a while. There are discussions of recruiting, feedback, copyright laws, and on various "how to" ideas for running a SIG. I don't know whether people who are neither officers nor coordinators can subscribe. No price is shown, but if you're interested, try writing to: Cindy Moag, SIGnet Editor, 2511 N. Kentucky Ave., #10, Evansville, Ind. 47711, and ask if you can get on the mailing list.

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Having filled the requisite six pages with deathless prose, I will now turn to mailing this out to you ASAP. If you're interested in more history (aka "useless trivia") about the Diplomacy SIG, let me know, and I'll try to dig up some more. You should receive your next issue shortly before Thanksgiving, so you'll have two Turkeys for your holiday.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DIPLOMAG - MENSA VARIANT GAME #4 REPORT

Number 89.1

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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., Eastern
Time, but orders should be mailed in except in emergencies.

CONQUEST OF THE NEW WORLD III - 1988AQ wc03

SPRING 1630

**ENGLISH AND FRENCH SUPPORT EACH OTHER. RUSSIANS GET THE "BOOT" IN TEXAS, FIND
CHILE RECEPTION IN SOUTH AMERICA. SPAIN MOVES SOUTH.**

ENGLAND (McCrumb): A La.-Texas. F Florida (H). F Bermuda (H). 1F Atlantic-Northern
(7) Sea. 2F Atlantic (S) FRENCH F Jamaica-Hisp. A Huron-Saskatchewan.
A Ohio (S) A Huron-Sask.
FRANCE (Baty): F Gulf (S) ENGLISH A La.-Texas. F Panama-Central Pacific. A Jamaica-
(6) Hisp. A Cuba (H). A Cartagena and A Venezuela (S) Standing A Peru.
PORTUGAL (Cheek): F Antilles (H). F Atlantic (S) F Antilles.
(2)
RUSSIA (Greaves): A Sask-Missouri. A Texas (S) A Sask-Mo. /d/, (R) Pueblo (only space
(7) open). F Falklands-La Plata. F Western Pacific-Falklands. F Bo-
livia-Chile. F Central Pac-South Pacific. F North Pac-Central Pac.
SPAIN (Dousette): A Matto Grosso-Bolivia. A La Plata (S) A Matto Grosso-Bolivia.
(5) F Pampas-Chile. F The Nose-Shelf. F Para-The Nose.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS (effective immediately): David McCrumb (England): Route 1, Box 10,
Shovesville, Va. 24162

PRESS:

LONDON (the chamber of Charles I) (Cont. from last month):

"Sir, no. A revolution would be unthinkable," replied the courtier.

"Don't count on it. Now, do you have any ideas on how to sack that bastard, McCrumb.
My father couldn't do it, and now I'm having trouble."

"Well, sire, he enjoys tremendous respect with the peasants, parliament loves him, and
the Royal Navy would do anything he asked, probably even shell the Tower. I recommend
assassination. We could always blame it on the French, or even the Portuguese, since
they stole one of our colonies."

"Great idea. Let it be so."

BUSHACKER, CAPE COD, 1630: The "Pilgrim" enterprise is turning out to be quite
successful. Mr. Fitzgerald reports that booze sales to the dry-er areas are doubling
every year. A Mrs. Smith has made a big business out of making pumpkin pies. Wild
turkeys have been domesticated in such numbers that a Mr. Perdue has been asked to
form an establishment to sell them abroad. And so many people wish to emigrate to
the area that an entire fleet of "Mayflowers" has been built to carry them and their
household goods. This is something to be thankful for.

PORTUGAL has selected a Home SC, but under the circumstances I won't publish it yet.

DEADLINE for FALL 1630 orders will be TUESDAY, November 14, 1989. Telephone deadline
will be Monday, November 13th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Everybody get
their orders in early this time. Thankyou.

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