



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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THIS ISSUE WILL CONTAIN a copy of our most recent Membership List, labelled "November 1989." However, it was printed about two weeks ago, and since that time we've added two new members, to bring our SIG membership total up to 48. The two new members are:

Kevin Brown (a former member rejoining), Rt. 4, Box 63, Florence, S.C. 29504
W. Andrew York, 2125 U.C. Blvd., #1407, Universal City, Texas 78148

Also, before the List was printed, we picked up David Hambley of Merced, CA., and Jai Michael of Douglas, Arizona. Welcome aboard, to all of you. Jai lives so close to the Mexican border that if a strong wind comes along, we may have our first member from Senora!

We seem to have lost Lisa Shea from the SIG. I guess "The Munchkin" kept her too busy. Only one membership expiring this month. Would Steve St. Clair please send me your dues renewal by December 24th, so we can close our books for this year.

NEXT ISSUE, I'll enclose a copy of our Annual FINANCIAL REPORT.

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IT'S ALSO TIME for our Annual Report on Hobby Services

ZINE REGISTER. Lists all known North American Diplomacy zines, with a description of their prices, size, frequency, and types of games carried. The cost of a Sample copy is usually listed. A single copy costs \$1.50, or you can order two or three issues in multiples of that figure. ZR appears about once every 5 months, so it's usually quite up to date. (Rated 11th best publication on the Runestone Poll). Send your order to: Tom Nash, 5512 Pilgrim Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214.

THE ZINE BANK. This is also run by Tom Nash, address above. This gives you samples of back-issues of several zines. Just send him \$3.00 or more and a large envelope (9 x 12) and he'll send you a batch of different zines. (more)

U.S. ORPHAN SERVICE DIRECTOR. Vince Lutterbie, 1021 Stonehaven, Marshall, Mo. 65340. Phone: (816) 886-7354. While the Diplomacy SIG will always attempt to rehouse any of its own lost games, the Orphan Service is prepared to find a new home for any Postal Dip game where the GM has to step down. Should any zine in which you're playing stop coming, you should try to contact your GM first, to try to find out what's wrong. If you receive no satisfaction, then contact Vince Lutterbie.

For games run in Canadian zines, the party to contact is: Daug W. Acheson, 95 Dundonald St., Barrie, Ontario, CANADA L4M 3T4.

DIPLOMACY WORLD. The unofficial flagship of the Postal hobby. The one zine, besides those you're playing in, which every active hobbyist should get. It carries feature articles, hobby news, a Demo game, quizzes, and, sometimes, a new variant game. At least 64 pages per issue. Quarterly. Subs are \$15 per year from both U.S. and Canada. \$4.00 for a sample copy. Contact: Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8399, San Diego, CA. 92102.

NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANK. Maintains a Catalog of what's available from among the 900+ games in the Bank's files. The 1989 Catalog is available from: Lee Kendter, Jr., 264 Spruce Ct., Bensalem, Pa. 19020, for \$5.00. The Catalog explains how to order copies of the rules/maps for these games, and the prices thereon.

ONCE UPON A DEADLINE. For anyone planning to publish a zine, or simply GM one game, this 204-page book is invaluable. It covers everything. For a copy, send \$3.00 to SIG member Bruce Linsey, P.O. Box 1334, Albany, N.Y. 12201.

BOARDMAN NO. CUSTODIAN. The person who assigns designators to every Regular Postal Dip game started in North America. Anyone starting a game should send him a list of your starting lineup. When the game ends, you send him a year-by-year Supply Center count and the status of each player, including drop-outs and replacement players (e.g. Won, 2-way Draw, Survived, eliminated, etc.). The new BNC is: Don Williams, 44016 Fourth St., E., Lancaster, CA. 93535.

MILLER NO. CUSTODIAN. Does the same for all Variant Dip games. A special code indicates the type of variant being played. This is based on the NAVB Catalog No. He is: Randy Grigsby, 93 St. Vincent St., R.R. #3, Barrie, Ontario, CANADA L4M 4S5.

INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION EXCHANGE. This is a way to order Overseas zines from the U.K. or Australia without having to go to the trouble of getting an International M.O. from a bank. You simply send a check or cash in your own currency to your ISE Rep., and he contacts his opposite number Overseas. The USA Custodian is: Paul Gardner, 20 Spruce St., Brattleboro, Vt. 05371. The Canadian Rep. is: Randy Grigsby, address shown above under MNC.

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HERE IS THE CURRENT LIST OF SIG STANDBYS (GM's, please save this List)

A Standby Player is one who fills in when someone resigns or drops out of a SIG game.

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
Stephen Glasgow, 34350 Ridge Rd., Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44094
Craig Reges, % AT&T, 5 Woodhollow Rd., Rm. 2-R-20, Parsippany, N.J. 07054
Scott Shacter, Storyhouse, Claremont-McKenna College, Claremont, CA. 91711
W. Andrew York, 2125 U.C. Blvd., #1407, Universal City, Texas 78148

Some of these people may already be involved in all the games they wish to be in. GM's will have to contact them ASAP, and asking them to phone in their reply as to whether they can play. Please let me know if you want on or off this list.

THE 1989 AMERICAN MENSA REGISTER IS OUT

We were surprised when our copy of the Register arrived so quickly on October 20th. This is a valuable source of information. It's not just a Membership List. For the first time since 1983, this is a real Register, showing up to six Interests for each M. There are both alphabetical and ZIP Code lists. The Alpha list shows information on education, marital status and languages spoken, as well as the aforementioned six interests. The ZIP list will let you locate other M's in your immediate area.

In the back of the book, each Special Interest lists the code number for every M who checked that interest. Code "K53" is "Diplomacy." 60+ people checked that code no. I've gone through the list. Many of these M's are not members of the Diplomacy SIG. A few are former members. Surprisingly, over half of our current SIG members did not check "K53" on their forms. (I think we all have so many different interests that it's hard to narrow it down to just six. We noted that Science Fiction was one of the largest categories checked ("P68").)

Anyway, a special letter is being sent to all M's checking "K53" who are not SIG members nor have ever been one, inviting them to try the Postal Diplomacy field. A Sample copy of DIPLOMAG will accompany this. We knew that many owners of Diplomacy sets are unaware of the existence of the Postal hobby. Hopefully, some will join us. The last time we did this, in 1983, we gained about half a dozen members. One fellow wrote to inform me that "there is already a Postal Diplomacy hobby out there." "Yes, I know," I replied. I've been playing in it since 1968."

It was interesting to note that a very high proportion of people checking "K53" are also listed under Religion as Agnostic, Atheist, Humanist, Unitarian and similar categories. We are not people who "Bow down to wood and stone." Two centuries ago, a lot of us would have been in trouble. But, then, we're all good diplomats, right?

The post-publication price of the 1989 Register has gone up to \$22.50, including \$2.50 postage. It's an investment well worth making if you're interested in looking up fellow M's with similar interests. If you join a SIG, of course, you'll receive a membership list for that SIG, but this is one way to check out those with similar interests beforehand, or to see how many M's may live in a particular town or area. The Register is updated to July 15, 1989. All Local Groups and SIGs are listed in the front. To order, send a check for \$22.50 to American Mensa, Ltd., 2626 E. 14th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11235. You must show your membership no. and indicate that this is for a copy of the Register. There is a coupon on the back page of the October BULLETIN.

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DIPCON XXIII will be held in Chapel Hill, N.C., June 22-24, 1990. This is very close to Raleigh, N.C., just off of I-85. Good air transportation is available to the Raleigh-Durham Airport for those of you coming from further away. From the Northeast, you just take I-95 south to Petersburg, Va., and follow I-85 from there. Details on getting to the U. of North Carolina campus will follow.

Con registration will be \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Air-conditioned housing will be available on campus at \$15/night Double or \$30/night Single. A list of nearby hotels will be published for those travelling with spouses. (Sorry, only one spouse per registrant). You'll be on your own for meals, but there will probably be a special dinner on Saturday night. (I hope it will include a Roast, as happened at the '89 DipCon).

They haven't asked for any money yet, but the address to send it to will be: David Hood, 15-F Estes Park, Carrboro, N.C. 27510.

SIG GAMES REPORTS

GM: Ralph Baty.

MENSA #23, 1986 CZ. In Winter 1914, Italy (Tony Dousette) built A Rome & F Naples, to rise to 11 units. France (John Barnes) added F Mars., and also has 11. Austria (Robt. Cheek) had 2 builds coming, but could only build in Budapest; hence he's playing 1915 with just 6 units, one short. England (Linc Besumont) is down to 5 Centers. In Spring, France has captured London & Liv from the English, while Italy has occupied Serbia and Trieste, both belonging to Austria.

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

This game has ended in Fall 1908, in a two-way Draw between Italy (George Kilmer) and Turkey (Bruce Filbeck). Turkey had 14 SC's and Italy 10. A 6-Center England (Roger Belfay) and a 4-Center Germany (Eric Young) survived. Both had lost a Center to the Italo-Turkish alliance on the last turn, which probably had some effect on their agreement to an armistice. Bruce Filbeck wrote an excellent end-game statement for Turkey. Bruce Poppe wrapped things up nicely, and concluded the report with an announcement that he's getting married in November. Congratulations to the winners, Bruce and George, and congratulations to Bruce Poppe, too!

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

France (Robert Struppeck) remains king of the hill here, with 10 Centers, in 1906. However, his attempt to crush Austria (Eric Young-4) by taking Munich has been blocked. He did move into Ruhr, though. The 4-SC Germany has recaptured Holland. The second largest Power is Ralph Baty's Italy, with 6 Centers, but his A Trieste has been annihilated by the Austrians. The 5-Center Russia (Bill Port) has captured the Black Sea. *Steve F on

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

In Fall 1903, Steve Glasgow's 8-Center France stayed on top, taking Munich from Bill Young's Italy. Italy, in turn, took Berlin from Germany (Kevin Brown), to go down only one Center to 4. Second place now belongs to Austria (Ron Welch), who seized Ven from Italy and Bulgaria from Turkey (Lealie Fife, down to 3). England NMR'd, and stood pat with 6 SC's. Craig Reges has been asked to take over here from Lisa Shea. There is a 6-week deadline to Spring 1904, on Nov. 18th. John Galt's Russia retock St. Pete from England to remain at 5.

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

Fortunately, John mailed his last issue on October 10th, one week before the quake. John lives near the fault line in Santa Clara Co. Not sure whether his next deadline will be delayed, but the Fall 1902 results showed that Russia (Andy Tillett) is now top dog, with 8 Centers, gaining Budapest and Norway. Turkey (Kate Robison) also got two builds, for Greece & Serbia, to go up to 6. France (Kurt Crake) gained Belgium & Kiel, but lost Munich, to get one build and stand at 7. They're the Big 3 here. Tony Dousette's Germany is fighting for its life, losing Kiel & Belgium, but gaining Holland and retaking Munich, to continue at 4 Centers. Italy (Robt. Strumwasser) failed to submit Retreat orders for its 2 dislodged units, so the GM retreated them for him.

MENSA #31, Boardman No.? GM: Craig Reges, AGAINST THE ODDS

Craig has just moved from Illinois to New Jersey, so things are somewhat hectic. The Fall 1901 moves gave two Neutral Centers each to ^{Austria} Austria, France, Germany & Russia, and one Center each to England, Italy & Turkey. Belgium remains neutral, thanks to a stand-off between English and French forces. I believe Winter 1901 is to be played separately.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE TEAM UP TO WHACK INDIANS, PORTUGUESE. CHILE HEATS UP. INCA EMPIRE FALLS TO FLEUR-DE-LYS, BUT AZTECS HOLD THEIR OWN. RUSSIA GETS REVENGE.

- ENGLAND (McCrumb): F Fla.-Louisiana. A Texas (S) FRENCH F GofMexico-Mexico /d/,
(7) (Annihilated). A Ohio-Mo. A Saskatch. (S) A Ohio-Mo. F Bermuda-Bahamas. F Northern Seas-Atlantic. F1 Atlantic Ocean (S) FRENCH F Hisp.-Antilles.
- FRANCE (Baty): F GofMexico-Mexico(ec). F Hisp.-Antilles. F Panama-Central Pacific.
(6) A Cartagena-Peru. A Venezuela (S) A Cartagena-Peru. A Cuba (H).
- PORTUGAL (Cheek): F Antilles (S) ENGLISH F1 Atlantic Ocean-Hisp. (NSO). F Atlantic
(2) (S) F Antilles.
- RUSSIA (Greaves): A Missouri-Texas. A Pueblo (S) A Mo.-Texas. F North Pacific-Columbia.
(7) F Bolivia-Chile. F South Pacific (S) F Bolivia-Chile. F Falkland Sea-Atlantic. F Western Pacific-Falkland Sea.
- SPAIN (Dousette): A Matto Grosso-Bolivia. A La Plata-Chile. F Pampas-Falkland Sea.
(5) F Shelf (S) F Pampas-Falklands. F The Nose-Atlantic.

PRESS:

PARIS to Charles I: Rumors have reached us that a possible assassination attempt is being planned for Commander McCrumb in the New World. We bid you to find the culprits and stay the rumored plot. We like McCrumb in command of your New World forces. We know what he will do next (most anything!).

[1712]

PARIS to Moscow: ((They won't move to St. Petersburg until about 1710)). We gave specific orders to our forces in the New World to protect the free people of Peru and Mexico. I can assure you that the method chosen by the French Forces to do so was not of our choosing. Our apologies if you have been inconvenienced in any way. We intend to see that the Aztecs and Incas are protected by the full might of the French Forces.

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, ON-BOARD SC's, WINTER 1635: GAINS, ~~10388~~

	<u>Total</u>	
ENGLAND: Del., La., Nova Scotia, Ohio, Que., Va., SASKATCHEWAN (+ 1 OBSC)	8 (+1),	Build 2 (1 annihilated)
FRANCE: Cartagena, Cuba, Jamaica, Panama, Venez., PERU (+1 OBSC)	7 (+1),	Build 1
PORTUGAL: Antilles (+1 OBSC)	2 (-),	No change
RUSSIA: Alaska, Calif., Chile, Hawaii, Texas, SASKATCHEWAN (+ 1 OBSC)	6 (-1),	Remove 1
SPAIN: La Plata, Rio, Matto Grosso, Para (+1 OBSC)	5 (-),	No change

I think we could play both WINTER 1635 and SPRING 1640 together, if no one objects. If any one player objects, we'll just do the Winter adjustments.

In either case, the DEADLINE will be TUESDAY, December 12, 1989. The Telephone deadline will be Monday, Dec. 11th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. However, there is a possibility that I may not be available that night, so please submit your orders in writing.

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Update on MENSA #32 Game. We have six SIG members signed up for this game. In an effort to fill it, I've plugged it in my zine, BUSHWACKER, and offered to let one non-M in to fill the game, but so far no one has "bitten." Perhaps someone from a game which is ending will want to sign up and fill it. Mensa #33 will be run by Eric Young of Armstrong, B.C. I believe Ralph Baty will want to GM Mensa #34. Right, Ralph?

NEWS FLASH! MENSA #23 has ended in Fall 1915 in a Two-way Draw between France and Italy. Italy (Tony Dousette) picked up four Centers in the last game-year, including Vienna, Budapest and Trieste, to finish with 15. France (John Barnes) gained Norway, London & Liverpool, while losing Edi to England, for a final total of 13. England (Linc Beaumont) and Austria (Robert Cheek) each survived with 3 SC's. This was the fourth-longest Mensa game in the SIG's history. Congratulations to Tony Dousette and John Barnes for their joint win here; and thanks to Ralph Baty for picking up 1986 CZ from Scott Hanson in Fall 1907, after Scott folded his zine, BIG HITS, and turning it to its conclusion. I note I stated in a flyer to the players on May 2, 1988, that "the Mensa #23 game has doubtlessly passed the halfway mark." So much for trying to predict the course of a game!

GAME SUMMARY

		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Cheek	A	4	5	5	8	11	12	12	12	8	9*	10*	7	7	7*	3	
Beaumont	E	4	5	5	5	6	8*	8	7	9	8	7	6	6	5	3	
Barnes '06	F	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	11	11	13	WIN!
Wallis	G	5	5	5	5	4	0										Build 2
Dousette	I	4	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	8	7	10*	10	11	15	WIN!
Reges '02	R	6	4	4	4	1	1	0									Build 3
Burroughs	T	4	5	4	1	0											

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The final report on the 1989 Runestone Poll of zines, subzines and GM's, is now available for \$5.00 from: Bruce Linsey, P.O. Box 1334, Albany, N.Y. 12201. This includes tables showing how each zine did against all other zines, and a history of how the zines have done over the past 10 years. The new Runestone Poll Custodian will be Eric Brosius of Milford, Mass. Eric will start working on the 1990 Poll in the early Spring. Anyone getting two or more Dipzines is encouraged to vote.

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The next issue of DIPLOMAG will start Volume V, and will be out around mid-January. Meanwhile, we wish a Happy Holiday Season to all of you.

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DIPLOMAG - Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG Newsltr.
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DIPLOMAG - MENSA VARIANT GAME #4 REPORT

Number 90.1

December 13, 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., Eastern Time, but orders should be mailed except in emergencies. This is an addendum to DIPLOMAG, the bimonthly newsletter of the Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG.

CONQUEST OF THE NEW WORLD III - 1988AQ wc03

WINTER 1635

ENGLISH AND FRENCH RAISE NEW FLEETS. RUSSIAN ARMY FREEZES TO DEATH.

	<u>Current Strength</u>
ENGLAND (McCrumb): Build 3F Atlantic, 4F Atlantic	8 (+1) (1 annih.)
FRANCE (Baty): Build F Atlantic Ocean	7 (+1)
PORTUGAL (Cheek): No change	2 (-)
RUSSIA (Greaves): Remove A Chile	6 (-1)
SPAIN (Dousette): No change	5 (-)

SPRING 1640

THREE ANGLO-FRENCH FLEETS KNOCK PORTUGUESE OUT OF ANTILLES. SPANISH SLIP INTO CHILE, BUT HAVE ICEBERG TROUBLE OFF NEWFOUNDLAND. RUSSIANS ROLL INTO MISSOURI, WITH UNEXPECTED SIDE EFFECT. ENGLISH FLEET GALLOPS INTO TEXAS. OTHERS APPROACH AMAZON DELTA.

ENGLAND (McCrumb): 1F Atlantic-St. Lawrence Sea. 2F Atlantic (S) FRENCH F Atlantic-Antilles. 3F Atlantic-Delta Sea. 4F Atlantic-The Nose. F La.-Texas. A Missouri-Pueblo /d/, (R) ~~California~~ (per Just's Right-La. ~~Head Role~~) A Sask-Missouri. # Bahama^s-Bermuda. (per orders)

FRANCE (Baty): F Atlantic-Antilles. F Hisp (S) F Atlantic-Antilles. F Gulf (S) ENGLISH F La.-Texas. A Venezuela-Cartagena. A Peru (S) SPANISH A Bolivia (NSO). A Cuba (H). F CenPacific (S) A Mexico /d/, (R) Panama*

PORTUGAL (Cheek): F Atlantic (S) F Antilles. F Antilles (S) ENGLISH F Atlantic-Hisp. (NSO) /d/, (R) Guiana (Per R.H.R.).

RUSSIA (Greaves): A Texas-Missouri. A Pueblo (S) A Texas-Mo. F Columbia (H). F South Pacific-Central Pacific. F Western Pacific (S) F South Pacific-Central Pacific. F Atlantic Ocean-Bahamas.

SPAIN (Dousette): A Bolivia-Chile. A LaPlata (S) A Bolivia-Chile. F Falkland Sea-Western Pacific. F Atlantic-St. Lawrence Sea. F Shelf-Atlantic (becomes 2F Atlantic).

*per orders.

PRESS:

MOSCOW to Paris: A plebiscite of the peoples of the Antilles has been held under Russian supervision. The results were unanimous; occupation by the penny-pinching slavedriving Portuguese is preferred to French oppression. A quick glance at the map reveals that Haiti has chosen to slink away rather than enjoy the fruits of French "protection."

BUSHWACKER: I dunno. That French Fleet in Hispaniola looks like it's still controlling both sides of the island. Or, is that Voedoo Economics?

PORTUGAL to England: I hope you got it right this time! ((Right on the beezer!))

MADRID: Our Northern Fleet has no interest in aggression against our English friend, but wishes only to establish a Northern Post Office, so that the Mighty McCrumb can correspond with his Latin neighbors. Spain can only hope that, with our coasts naked to our enemies, we are worth corresponding with!

(over)

BUSHWACKER: Looks Like they had Post Office problems back in the 17th century, too!

LONDON (overheard in the back halls of Windsor Castle):

"I hear the French have threatened the King, and he is in a snit. What about it?"
"Somebody told the French about Charles' plot to have McCrumb assassinated and blame it on the Portuguese. He is furious. Threatened to hang every last one of his advisors, with a rope, even!"

(Footnote: Royal prisoners were always beheaded unless the charge was murder, in which case they were usually hung with a gold chain).

"A rope! That would be the last straw! Parliament would be down on him like a pack of hungry wolves!"

"Agreed. Charles sent a message to the French telling them it must have been a Spanish or Russian plot, because his spies had not informed him of it."

"He certainly can lie, can't he!"

"With the best. He also sent two new fleets to the New World, supposedly to help McCrumb, but really only to sabotage his flagship and make sure he never does battle again."

"He'd better be careful. That could backfire right into his face. If the plot fails, he won't be able to contain Parliament any more."

BUSHWACKER: Would you say that King Charles was treating the Roundheads in a Cavalier manner?

Too bad this Press is only going to the players. Maybe we should reprint these pages in the next DIPLOMAG for the benefit of the rest of the membership.

DEADLINE for FALL 1640 will be FRIDAY, January 12, 1990. Telephone deadline will be Thursday, January 11th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Remember that in Winter 1645, every Power can build new units in either ocean, if they wish. And the English Civil War will have begun with the King's entry into the House of Commons in 1642.

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