

RAMBLING WAY

Issue #3

January 1991

Howdy from the San Antonio area, and best wishes for the New Year's. First off, there are three individuals I had forgotten to add to my mailing list:

Stephen Glasgow; 34350 Ridge Rd. #D19; Willoughby, OH 44094
Earl Whiskeyman; 27 Mark St.; Milford, CT 06460
Curt Milbourn; 1006 Scott Lane; San Angelo, TX 76905

They have been added, and will be on the next list I print. Also, please note Samuel Polak's new address (well, fourth new address since the last issue). If you do write Sam, be sure and congratulate him on his acceptance to Cornell (one of the two universities I strongly considered; though, I ended up at Michigan State University). Add my best wishes to the rest, Sam!!!!

I must acknowledge the other publishers who receive this, and who have been instrumental in my involvement in the Diplomacy hobby. Earl Whiskeyman publishes the first Dip 'zine I ever saw -- The Gamer's 'Zine. It has a long standing reputation, and he has religiously produced it for years on end -- without fail. He currently runs regular Dip games, the Gunboat variant, and is trying to start a Machiavelli game. Also included is a long standing game of En Garde! and a recently started game of the Sport of Kings; also, there is an ongoing Categories and Trivia competitions. In the past, a variety of other games have been offered, including an interesting Source of the Nile game.

Bob Hartwig recently rejuvenated his "The Podunk News" 'zine of the early '70s in a new version "Orphan Son of The Podunk News". Currently, running a regular and Gunboat version of the game. I plan on starting a subzine there, if enough interest is expressed. I met him through a game in Earl's "The Gamers' 'Zine", and we've been friends since.

Fred Davis, as most of you know, is the long time publisher of Bushwacker (now in the final stages of existence as a warehouse 'zine) and DiploMag (the 'zine of Mensa's Diplomacy SIG). This game is run under Mensa's Diplomacy Sig graces, and is number 35 in the series of authorized games.

Stephen Glasgow runs a flyer by the title of "War Fair". In that flyer, Mensa game #32 is adjudicated.

The rest of the players in the game are members of Mensa's Diplomacy Sig; with the exception of Stora Harris. He recently transferred his membership to the San Antonio Mensa Local Group, and expressed an interest in Diplomacy. He should be joining the Sig shortly.

Well, to fill in something about the rest of the crowd receiving this, I'll introduce some friends:

Christopher Mackesy I met through some of my PBMinig. He wasn't too involved in boardgaming, and had never seen Diplomacy, a situation quickly rectified. We went together to a regional gaming convention, DallasCon, last summer. He showed an astounding ability to grasp a new game, and play competitively (he asked about a game early Saturday, and after learning the game, performed VERY well in the competition later that evening). He has expressed an interest in learning more about the Diplomacy hobby, and in GDW/GRD's Europa Series (he doesn't know what he's getting into).

Mark Simonitch is a long-time friend, and pbm opponent. I knew him before he was married, and before he had his child (Andrew James, who is six or seven now -- right Mark?). We started out playing Anzio, then moved to a game of Western Desert. Currently, we are playing Victory Game's "Civil War". He also is designing a new North African game called "The Legend Begins". I've seen it, and it looks top-notch.

Curt Milbourn, who graciously provided the orders for Austria-Hungary, is another long-time friend. We met back in elementary school, and have been good friends ever since. He's been a wargamer since the early seventies, and currently plays a number of games by PBM. He is married, with three children. Like me, after he joined the USAF, he was transplanted to Texas from Michigan.

The balance of the recipients, I only know through this game; or are established members of the Diplomacy subHobby. Don Williams oversees the Boardman Numbers (he has a new address, for those of you who keep an address book). Larry Peery maintains the Diplomacy Archives.

Now, as promised in the last issue, a bit about me -- your GM. To get the usuals out of the way, I'm a 30 year old, white, male. Still unmarried; but, looking.

Currently, I work as a warrant officer for a small, local, police department (the person who looks for people who don't pay their traffic tickets, or follow the court's dictates). I also monitor the departmental computers, oversee quite a bit of the administrative functions and whatever else they throw at me. I also get on the road, occasionally, when circumstances dictate.

I've had a number of jobs over the years, including being a security policeman in the USAF (most of the time in charge of the base armory), an EMT for two different ambulance services, a cook in a hospital, an Athletic Trainer for a school system, and a library aide, and others. I've also taught a few classes in the military, and held seminars or assisted in teaching classes at the high school and junior college level.

My education is quite varied. After high school, I attended Michigan State University for two years. I dabbled in a number of fields, including education, history, computer science, religion and mathematics. I then spent two years at Lansing Community College in the Emergency Medicine and Law Enforcement career fields.

My gaming background goes back quite a few years. I started gaming in 1968 with Blitzkreig (AH) and now have a collection nearing 1000 titles. I've attended a number of regional/local conventions, as well as a number of Origins and GenCons. I'm currently playing 30-40 games

by mail (including those run professionally by companies, and those run by individuals and regular board games). My favorite games are Diplomacy, Anzio, the Europa series and Out Time Days. I'm also involved in a playtest of "SeaHawks", a game due out this spring by Avalon Hill.

I'm an avid reader, keeping quite a collection of books (last count over 2000). I enjoy just about anything except romances. I particularly enjoy science, science fiction, and history/historical fiction. I also subscribe to over 60 magazines, fanzines and newsletters.

In Mensa, I'm quite active. Locally, I'm the groups' historian, write regularly for MenSA (the newsletter) and was registrar for our December RG. Nationally, I'm on the Vision Committee, and a member of a dozen (or so) Sigs. I write regular columns for three of the 'zines, and enjoy reading/contributing for them.

I guess that's enough for about me (anyone awake out there?). If anyone wants to drop a few lines about themselves, their interests or whatnot -- feel free to.

The only other thing I have before we delve into the turn is a game opening. Presently, I have five people signed up for a GunBoat version of Diplomacy. The first two players who express an interest will be added to the list. Maybe we can have the country preferences out by next issue.

I guess that's it for now. Please, as per my previous requests, send in preliminary orders for your country upon receipt of this issue of "Rambling Way".

If anyone is interested in writing a short piece, or contributing to the 'zine, let me know. I know I'd get bored reading only my writing!!

Diplomacy

Mensa #35

"Thistle and Shamrock"

SPRING 1901 ORDERS

Turkey: A con-BUL, A smy-CON, F ank-BLA

Russia: A war-GAL, A mos-UKR, F stp-BOT, F sev-RUM

Italy: A VEN holds, A rom-APU, F nap-ION

England: F lon-NTH, F edi-NRG, A liv-EDI

France: A par-PIC, A mar-SPA, F bre-MAO

Germany: F kie-DEN, A ber-KIE, A mun-RUH

A/H: A VIE holds, A bud-SER, F tri-ALB

NO PRESS SUBMITTED

DUE DATE FOR FALL 1901

February 22, 1991, 12:00 (ctd)

NOTES:

- 1) Location in caps is where the unit ends the turn.
- 2) Curt Milbourn provided moves for Austria-Hungary this time, as no moves were submitted by Stora Harris. Due to the extreme disadvantage a country would have if its units did not move in Spring 1901, one-time orders were obtained. Would Michael Morris submit orders for Fall 1901 for A/H? If Stora NMRs a second time, Michael will take over immediately.
- 3) In keeping with tradition, a name has been given to this game. It is "Thistle and Shamrock", the title of a show on National Public Radio focusing on Celtic music. Future games will be titled after other NPR shows. If anyone wants more information on NPR, just let me know.
- 4) A Boardman Number has been applied for, and will be announced as soon as it is received.