

The Chess Journalist

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CHESS JOURNALISTS OF AMERICA



Clipping about Paul Morphy including info about the First Congress of the American Chess Association and an eight board blindfold simul with all games. Picture taken by Joshua Anderson.

Table of Contents:	Page
Hello From the Editor	3
Binding It All Together by Joshua Anderson	4
Website Update and Interview with Grayson and Chris Rorrer Interviewed by Mark Capron	5
Summer 2023 Chessable Research Award Winners	8
In the Limelight: Jon Crumiller Interviewed by Mark Capron	9
Keres, Keres, Keres ..., review by Pete Tamburro	27
The Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education: Winner Announced	29
Chess in the Schools Announces the New President and CEO	31
Sweet Memories—Gene Salomon and Diane Dahl	31
An Overview and Reflection on my Presentation at the FIDE London Chess Conference by Victoria Winifred	32
Chess for Children by Bette Marshall	33
The Queens' Corner: Interview with Alexey Root—Rachel Schechter	35
<i>United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937-2020</i> by Alexey Root, reviewed by Joshua Anderson	38
Addendum to How to Become World Chess Champion—Bob Basalla	38
Oddities and Peculiarities (and Obscurities)—Mark Capron	39

The Chess Journalists of America:

President: Joshua M. Anderson (joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Todd Winkler (twiy@aol.com)

Secretary-Treasurer: Mark Capron (mcapron243@mchsi.com)

Webmaster: Grayson Rorrer (grandmaster2b@gmail.com)

Editor: Mark Capron (mcapron243@mchsi.com)

Assistant Editor: Rachel Schechter

Proofreaders: Diane Dahl, Rex Gray, Melinda Matthews, Joshua Anderson

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Hello From the Editor

Once again we have some fantastic interviews in this issue. WIM Alexey Root appears in The Queens' Corner; NM Grayson and Chris Rorrer provide info on the website update and some additional information about each of them; and finally we have Jon Crumiller one of the world's foremost Chess Set collectors.

Gene Salomon's book, *Sweet Memories* is out now.

We have the return of Oddities and Peculiarities column and added "Obscurities" to the title.

Bob Basalla sent in a addendum to his humorous article about ways any of us could become World Chess Champion.

You will find two reviews in this issue. One by *American Chess Magazine* senior editor Pete Tamburro on the latest book covering the 75th Anniversary of the 1948 World Championship. And Alexey Root's book on the US Women Chess Champions reviewed by Joshua Anderson.

We have several sections on various awards recently including the Summer Chessable awards, the Andy Lerner Awards for Excellence in Chess Education, Chess in the Schools, and the FIDE Conference in London.

Bette Marshall sent us the preliminary notes used to write the book *Chess for Children* she co-authored with GM William Lombardy.

Thanks to Diane Dahl and Rex Gray for their excellent proofreading and suggestions.

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Please consider sending in an article or idea for next issue, deadline 7/5/23. If you are a junior we want to see your name in print in TCJ.

Please send your comments, suggestions, or even better, send me a story or idea for the next issue: mcapron243@mchsi.com.

—Mark Capron



"If you wait for luck to turn up, life becomes very boring." — Mikhail Tal

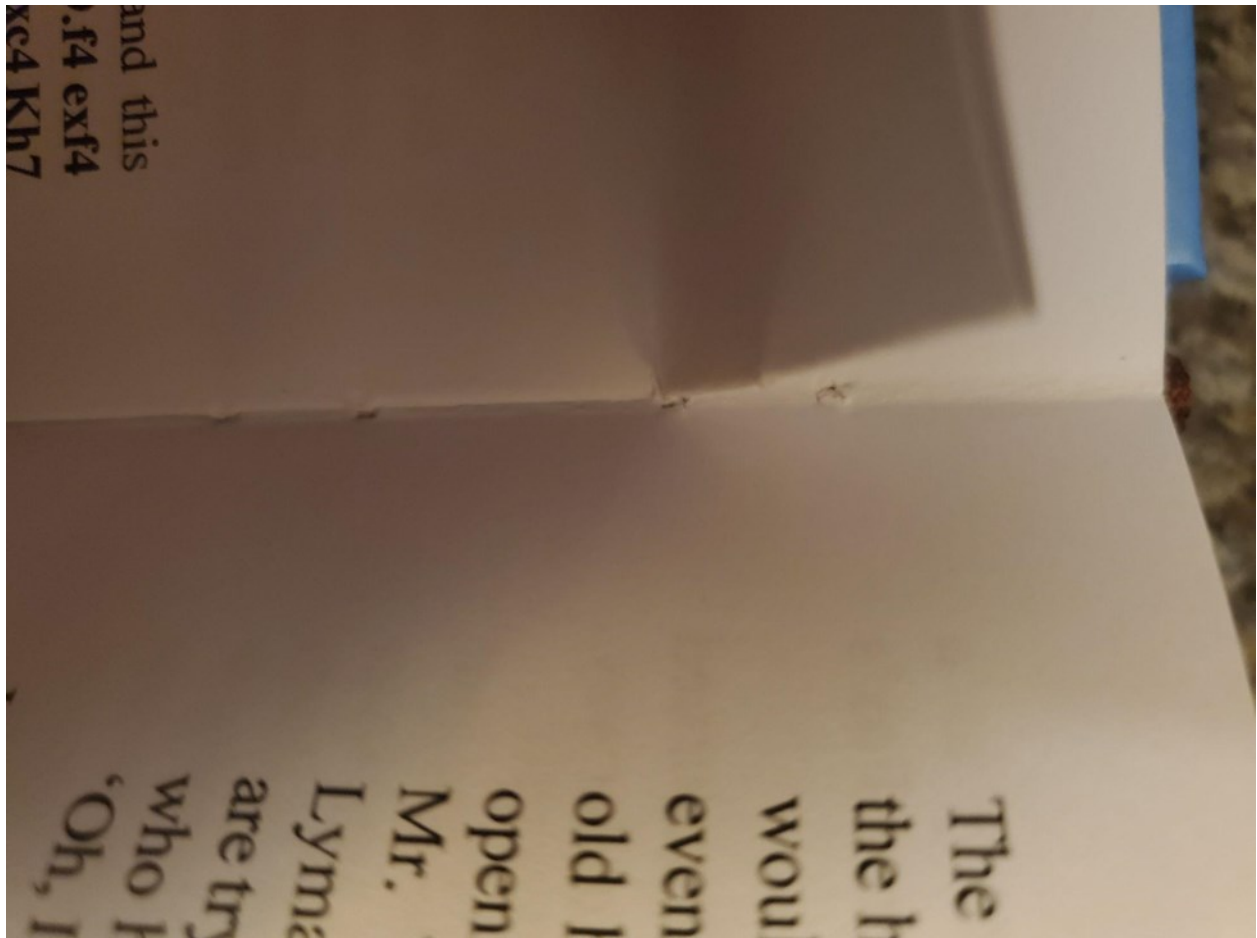
Binding it All Together

By Joshua Anderson

Regular readers of the Journal (thank you all), may recall that I complained about the binding of the book, *Albert W. Fox: A Chess Life On and Off the Board* (and another I owned—*Chess Competitions, 1824—1970*) published by Moravian Chess House. IM Tony Saidy shared my review with a European book dealer, Karel Mokry, who then shared it with Vlastimil Fiala of Moravian Chess House. Fiala sent me a very nice and thoughtful letter explaining his surprise at reading my review, given the binding approach they take. “The vast majority of these publications are hand—sewn and bound.” (correspondence with Mr. Fiala.)

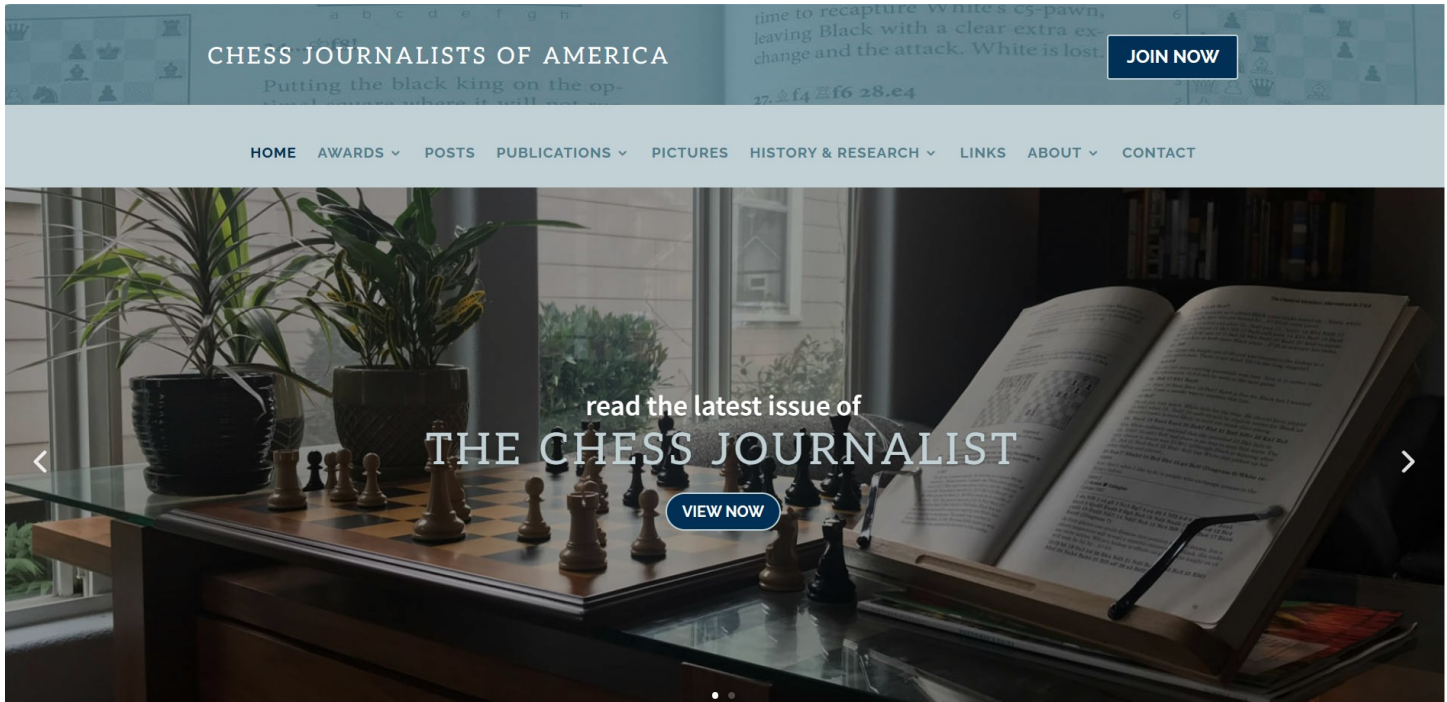
He then asked me to send him scans/pictures of my books bound by Moravian. The one I own (*Chess Competitions*) is buried in a 20 x 10 storage unit that is full of boxes. I may someday find it, but it is certainly not urgent, and would be quite difficult to locate. Luckily, I could easily access and reexamine the other one, the Fox book. During the reexamination, it became clear that the reason that various tops and bottoms of the pages are loose is that the string is missing. In all likelihood the rest of the strings will likely hold the book together quite well since it is sewn, not glued.

So while, I stand by my statements that Hilbert’s most recent work on Albert Fox is a great book and my book is a little weak in the binding due to some missing threading, I would also like to highlight that the hand sewn binding procedure is quite good and should allow these books to stand up well to wear and tear.



Website Update

The Chess Journalist spoke to Webmaster NM Grayson Rorrer and his father Chris Rorrer (graphic designer) about the reconstruction of the website.



Thank you for updating our website. It looks fantastic now and the functions actually work.

Website development isn't something I know much about. I know you (Chris) have made it part of your career and Grayson seems to be learning the process as well. How and when did each of you develop an interest in it?

Chris: In my younger days I actually set out to become a photographer, but somewhere towards the end of my college courses at Savannah College of Art and Design I happened to take a class entitled "The Picture Story." This was in the very early days of desktop publishing, and I absolutely loved the ability to work with both photos and text on the computer. That was my entry into graphic design, and I've worked in that field for more than 25 years now in various capacities. Website design was just sort of a natural extension of that interest.

Grayson: I developed an interest in working on websites when I started putting out content of my own. Considering that I would rather not host my work on another organization's or individual's platform, having at least a basic knowledge of how to get around is absolutely necessary.

Chris, you've been in this type of business for quite a while, and for the last decade or so you moved to owning your own business, NVNG Creative LLC. How did that come about? What advantages has this provided you?

Chris: I've been in and out of the corporate world and have, at times, operated a few different businesses over the years. With NVNG Creative, I work directly with companies, consulting in the area of creative strategy, to help them achieve their sales and

marketing goals.

This can take the form of anything from advertising and branding, catalogs and promotional pieces, to website design, television, and a range of other projects. It's fun work! I think the main advantage of owning a business of any sort is the flexibility it provides. It certainly doesn't mean less work than a nine-to-five (and often means considerably more work), but I generally have a lot of flexibility in how I structure my days and time.

Grayson, you are still in High School. What are your plans post high school?

Grayson: At the time of writing, I have recently "graduated" from 12th grade as a homeschool student, an important milestone. Some ideas have been tossed around, but I can't say I've come across any particular discipline that really grips me in the same way as the game of chess, and I truly do not want to go through life hating my work.

Of course, I've considered the possibility of entering chess work full or part time (e.g., teaching, writing, other outlets of content creation, etc.), and, most importantly, whether I would see myself enjoying that kind of work. I haven't reached a clear decision.

It's all very up in the air at this moment, as I am very fortunate to have an opportunity to focus fully on improving my chess playing strength in the next year, with the goal of achieving the International Master title. I haven't planned ahead past that just yet, but I am certainly keeping the future somewhere in the back of mind in my downtime.

I believe it also worthy of note, I haven't thought much at this

point regarding whether or not I would actually want to make web design a part of my eventual career. I can't say the work is the most riveting part of my days, but I do seem to pick up the different elements relatively swiftly. I can't rule it out entirely. At this moment anything is still possible.

Please tell us a bit about the process of re-inventing the CJA website.

Chris: The whole thing began when Grayson was having some problems with updates that should have been very simple and he came to me for some help. As I looked more closely into the backend of the website, it immediately became pretty clear that the framework the site was built on needed updating.

From there, I sent an email to Joshua voicing my concerns and offering to help. We had a Zoom call soon thereafter with Grayson, Joshua, and I to kick off the conversation and figure out a good course of action.

My main considerations throughout the process have been (1) to put the website on a solid and easily updateable foundation, (2) to help Joshua achieve his goals for the direction of the site moving forward, and (3) to make things function as smoothly as possible and make the annual awards process entry easy and intuitive for members.

There are still lots of areas where we can improve, and I think the site will continue to get better. The thing about websites is that they're **never** done!

Grayson: Before delving into the process in greater detail, I would first like to thank Joshua for giving me the opportunity to take over as CJA webmaster in the first place. My understanding was that the previous person to fill the position was entering college, and as such wouldn't be able to reliably complete the necessary duties. Joshua got in touch after I had entered several pieces of my own for the awards and was receptive to coming onboard as a judge. Presumably he saw my website—which was created using the same site builder as the CJA's, WordPress—and figured I would be a good person for the job.

Speaking in very plain terms, I am a chess player, not a website designer. It goes without saying that I had a **lot** of help in creating my site, and though at this point I knew enough to keep the CJA website running in an exemplary fashion, I recognized that I still had a great deal to learn to properly maintain and build on the existing site.

From the beginning, taking on the role of webmaster was never about plaudits or monetary gain for me. I stepped into the position because I felt that the CJA was in a time of need, and I was eager to offer whatever assistance I could, while also increasing my knowledge of website design at the same time.

For quite a while my tenure was fairly uneventful, but though I was able to keep the site maintained and in relatively good shape, I didn't really have the technical know-how to give the website the thorough cleansing and redesign it really needed. Still, as long as everything was working fine, I was happy to continue along the same course.

As my father mentioned above, there came a day when, going

into the backend of the site for an entirely unrelated reason, I noticed an unusually large number of plugins—presumably installed by past webmasters—that badly needed updating. As I was going through the process, the system attempted to update an outdated plugin that evidently hadn't been properly maintained and wasn't compatible with the site's current theme. This caused the entire website to go offline for a period of several hours.

That was the catalyst for the major changes we have implemented over the previous half year or so. Not having the understanding to figure out what had gone wrong, I turned to my father for assistance. Fortunately, a previous version of the site had been backed up, and we were able to restore the basic shell. Even so, it was clear to both of us that something needed to change, or else—at the very least! — a future webmaster would run into a similar problem in the future and not be able to fix it.

We pitched the idea of a full redesign to Joshua soon thereafter, and he responded positively. A call to discuss the nature of our changes went well, and just like that our monumental task was underway.

Throughout the entire process we were careful not to make any fundamentally significant changes—our mission was to give the site a sleeker, more professional look that better represented the Chess Journalists of America than its previous iteration, while still keeping the same basic outline present in the older website. Also of paramount importance, was to make the website much easier for members to navigate.

Without indulging in self-congratulations, I feel we succeeded in that aim. While the changes are too numerous to list, the most relevant for this year was a brand-new process for the CJA's landmark event—the Chess Journalists of America's annual awards. There will always be more work to do and improvements to be made, both in the entry process and for judges, but nonetheless I believe we did the best possible job in the amount of time allotted and helped the season run much more smoothly both for entrants, the webmaster and Joshua too.

Running with the presumption that I will be reelected to serve as the CJA's webmaster in the year ahead, I look forward to continuing the work we've started!

Do you find any crossovers between chess and the website design work?

Chris: Since I'm not an avid player I may not be equipped to answer. But I would think that the analytic thought processes involved in chess would certainly be helpful to design work.

Grayson: I can't say I find much of a crossover between the two, no. I see thinking ahead in design terms as a much different process than envisioning a deep idea or combination on the chess board—you have to be blessed with real structural savvy, while many chess players, myself included, are often better at crunching the numbers.

Grayson, where did your story with chess begin?

Grayson: My chess odyssey began in January 2016, when I started learning the moves of the game—after having rejected the idea earlier in life, I am sorry to relate :) Perhaps if I had started

playing at the age of five, like many other young prodigies, I would be a Grandmaster by now, but at the same time it's always possible that I may not have taken to the game at all in that period of my life and dropped it altogether.

I'm a big believer in the theory that large picture events usually happen for a reason.

Who taught you to play?

Grayson: I learned together with my father, as we simultaneously worked through a No Stress Chess set.

An anecdote from later in my career that I found rather hilarious pertains to this subject. In conversation with an opponent I had just defeated, my father dropped in a comment to the effect of "I taught him everything I know." My vanquished rival laughingly replied, "In five minutes, no doubt!" Perhaps the effect is slightly exaggerated, but credit where it is due, he did work through the rules of the game with me, after which I had a more or less full understanding of how the pieces move.

In the early days—before learning about tournament chess — we also played countless games, certainly a big aid that can't be underestimated.

Chris, I don't find a USCF rating for you, do you play?

Chris: I do, but quite poorly, I'm embarrassed to admit. I didn't grow up with chess. My introduction to the game came when we got Grayson a chess set for Christmas and learned to play together. My main contributions to chess are most certainly as an enthusiastic and supportive chess parent.

Chris, what has been your greatest business challenge?

Chris: Like many, I'd say my greatest challenge was pivoting during the pandemic of 2020. I lost my biggest client almost overnight and my overall client base has changed dramatically since then, but I'm happy to say that I think I've come out of it with more diversity and hopefully a greater resilience.

Grayson (and Chris) what are some key lessons from chess (or business) that you have applied to your life?

Grayson: In all aspects of my life to date I have always tried my best — we're all human! — to embody the chessic traits of looking as far into the future as possible before making a "move," as well as taking "losses" in stride—there's rarely any point in dwelling on the past.

What types of books do you two read for fun?

Chris: I'm an avid fiction reader and also enjoy philosophy. I'm currently trying to work my way through Michel de Montaigne's Essays.

Grayson: It shouldn't come as any surprise that I am an avid reader — even collector! — of books on just about any topic encompassed within the 64 squares. Similarly, I also enjoy fiction books from just about any genre provided I find the storyline interesting, of course. In the past I have taken a special liking to Dan Brown's historical fiction books and James Patterson's Alex

Cross series, though I have since lost interest in the latter.

Most recently I have been working my way through the hefty English translations of the Three Body Problem trilogy. Food for thought!

Grayson you have a lot of toes in the sand, such as your monthly article in ACM, the CJA website, and I've seen several articles lately in the magazines. How do you keep up with everything?

Grayson: Unfortunately, I haven't been able to combine writing with serious chess work as well as I'd like to lately. I plan to begin writing both for myself and publications such as ACM and TCJ on a more regular basis in the near future, as well as revamp my website with a clearer goal in mind than its past iteration. In the past I have been a little erratic in my writing pursuits — sometimes I can bash out articles left and right for an entire week, while other times I feel a little off-color, and don't write for months. It seems to me that the most important factor in keeping up when writing gets somewhat pushed to the side by other priorities is to set a certain period of time every day—even as little as an hour—and dedicate it solely to writing, come what may.

What inspires or motivates each of you to do what you do?

Grayson: It's hard to put into words what keeps any one person getting up and working hard every day for weeks, months, years, decades on end. Right now, I am fueled by an internal drive and desire to become the strongest chess player I can in the time I have left to dedicate myself to the game with full stocks of vim and vigor. Enjoying most all aspects of my current focus certainly helps!

Do either of you have a favorite quote?

Grayson: At the time of writing, I'm liking the feel of a good old classic by the venerable chess warrior Emanuel Lasker—

"On the chessboard, lies and hypocrisy do not survive long. The creative combination lays bare the presumption of a lie; the merciless fact, culminating in the checkmate, contradicts the hypocrite."

Of course, my games of chess often follow a very different course, meaning I need to forget about the quote any of the numerous times I pull off a successful swindle :)

Do you have any internal life rules you always apply to chess and business?

Chris: I don't have a lot of rules for life (at least not that I've thought about at length) but certainly I believe that life is too short and unpredictable to not be doing things you love, be it in chess or career or anything else. Time is precious.

Grayson: Being a kind person is a cardinal rule of mine, and a lifelong work in progress that I try to improve on every single day. At the same time, I consider myself to be someone who strictly abides by my principles—similar to the iron logician of the chess world Mikhail Botvinnik, who I wrote a series of articles about long ago —, and constantly attempts to refine my subconscious feeling of right and wrong and adjust accordingly.

I have had difficulties dealing with losses in my past chess tournament practice and, as someone with very strong feelings, strive to be as in control of my emotions as possible. On the same note, I do my best to ensure that I wake up every morning in a jovial mood—as much so as is feasible for a lifelong night owl—and looking forward to tackling the day ahead. Life really is too short to waste any precious hours or days feeling unhappy, or carrying out tasks that lead to this feeling.

What's the best thing about being a Web designer?

Chris: Well, I wouldn't call myself a dedicated web designer but the best things about my work are the flexibility it affords me, as well as the interesting people I get to work with.

What will your legacy be?

Chris: Oof ... though I'm getting older, it feels like it's too early to think about that! I'd settle for "always showed up, worked hard, and did his best" though.

Grayson: In my case it really is a little too early just yet to conjecture in very specific terms on what I would like my legacy, or imprint on the world, to be. Tentatively I wish to be known as a humble and kind person, but still one who stands up for what is right, for myself and others around me.

Thank you for agreeing to this interview. Any final parting words for our audience?

Chris: Just want to say what a pleasure it was to be involved in this project—I always enjoy meeting chess players and appreciate their independent thinking, diverse personalities, and keen intellects. It's a sport that attracts a truly unique brand of individual!

Grayson: I'm happy to relate to TCJ readers that I do plan on continuing as the webmaster for CJA in the year ahead. I look forward to helping build on the already solid foundations I feel we have been able to put in place with the revamped website design, and improving on any areas of deficiency we haven't been able to patch up just yet! :)

Summer 2023 [Chessable Research Awards](#) (CRA) winners.

CRA applications are judged blind, with the applicants' universities and the genders of students and faculty research sponsors hidden. Based on descriptions of new or on-going chess research, Chessable chose three graduate students and one undergraduate student as Summer 2023 CRA winners.

University of Queensland (Australia)

Cheating Detection Among Chess Players

Faculty research sponsors (who split \$500): David Smerdon and Vera te Velde

Graduate student winner (\$1,000): **Jordan von Hippel**

McGill University (Canada)

Checkmating Pain: Exploring the Links Between Flow Experience, Chess, and Pain Modulation

Faculty research sponsor (\$500): Mathieu Roy

Graduate student winner (\$1,000): **Jérôme Genzling**

University of Rochester (United States)

A pilot study of a chess-board cognitive training tool for breast cancer patients with cancer-related cognitive impairment

Faculty research sponsor (\$500): Alissa Huston

Graduate student winner (\$1,000): **Jane Zhang**

University of Alaska Fairbanks (United States)

The Effect of Diving on Chess Ability

Faculty research sponsor (\$500): Brenda Konar

Undergraduate student winner (\$500): **Michael Martins**

*In the **Limelight**:* Jon Crumiller

Interviewed by Mark Capron

Please tell us a bit about yourself and your family.

A quick snapshot: I'm 64 years old and I live in Princeton, New Jersey with my wife. Jenny and I were married 43 years ago, and we have three children, ages 41, 40, and 36, and two wonderful grandchildren, ages 10 and 8. Plus two cats. We've been in the Princeton area for the past 40 years, and we also have a lakeside house in Canyon Lake, Texas, which we visit frequently for sun and fun. Although I greatly enjoyed my career as a consultant to top US and international companies, I am now happily retired from business, as of 2½ years ago.

Where did your story with chess begin? Who taught you to play?

My dad taught me the moves when I was seven or eight. At the time it was just another interesting game to learn. My dad and a few of his friends had an informal chess night, perhaps once-per-month, and at some point he let me tag along. So I played against them, and I think their egos might have become a bit deflated, because they disbanded their chess nights soon thereafter!

But I was basically a novice until the Fischer-Spassky match. At that point my interest in the game grew considerably, and I eagerly awaited the daily New York Times recap of each game. I played in my first tournament at age 13, I think, and after that came the true start of my lifelong chess interest.

A few early chess milestones helped fuel my obsession. At age 16 I won the Delaware high school championship, and I'm proud to say that my high school team won every single match during the time I was there. I won the state junior championship several times and then the state championship in 1976, and the University of Delaware championship in both chess and backgammon.

I saw you have a consulting company based in business optimization. Can you tell us a bit about that work? Do you find any crossovers between chess and consulting?

After college, my lifelong friend, Steve Sashihara, called me and asked, "Hey, I want to start up a consulting company. Want to join me?" By lifelong, I mean that Steve and I were in the same pre-kindergarten(!) class, and we've been good friends ever since. Steve was the best man at Jenny's and my wedding and I had the privilege of fulfilling that role at Steve and Jean's wedding. Just last Thursday night I headed over to his house for a glass (or perhaps two) of fine Burgundy! Incidentally, Steve also played on our undefeated high school chess team.

Our company, Princeton Consultants Inc, started up in 1981. Steve is a Princeton grad, so Jenny and I moved to the Princeton area in 1982, and the rest is history: Princeton Consultants Inc. is a world-class management and IT

consulting firm. Our geekiness clearly shows in our web-site address, princeton.com, which we picked when the internet was newly born. Our work encompasses cutting-edge technologies, such as machine learning and optimization models, as well as many other types of projects, such as Board-level and C-level assessments and operational improvement projects. I retired at the end of 2020.

Did any of your children follow in your footsteps from a career or chess standpoint?

My children (now adults, ages 41, 39, and 36) know the rules of the game, and once-in-a-while they'll catch the chess bug, resulting in a frenzy of online with their friends! And for Father's Day we had a family Zoom session, and their present to me was that they allowed me to show them one of my recent tournament games! So I did, and they asked good questions about alternative moves and variations. But while they were growing up, each child explored their own interests. Same with their careers; my daughter Susan is an attorney in Manhattan with her own law firm, aptly named Crumiller P.C. My son Marshall earned his PhD in Neuroscience, and lives and works in Richmond, VA. Our youngest, Evan, lives nearby to us, and is actually interested in pursuing the same career as my wife who, until she retired at the end of 2020, was an elected official here in Princeton, and Evan plans to pursue an elected office at some point in the near future.

What are some key lessons from chess that you have applied to your life outside the game?

Chess has been described as a microcosm of life itself, and many of the lessons-learned are invaluable. Its lessons are also entirely positive: patience, perseverance, objectivity, foresight, how to compete, how to handle winning, how to handle losing, how to handle adversity, time management, pressure management, calculated risk-taking, sportsmanship, and a host of other character-building attributes.

I read that you purchased your first collectable chess set in 2002. What set was it and what drew you to it?

It was purely by accident. On a whim I was searching eBay, and I stumbled across a circa-1870 Jaques chess set. At the time I knew nothing about antique chess sets. And Jaques is considered to be the Rolls-Royce of chess sets. Those two factors proved to be irresistible, so I bid on it, and won!

Soon thereafter, another beautiful antique Jaques set appeared, so I bought it. Then another set... and another...

Here is a picture of the first set:



Since then you have amassed quite a collection of Chess Sets and are one of, if not the World's foremost Chess set collector. I am sure there is a story behind each and every Chess set, but would you elaborate on a few of them.

Over the past 20 years I've acquired approximately 600 antique chess sets. Initially I was drawn to Staunton—pattern sets, first and foremost sets by Jaques of London, then other manufacturers such as British Chess Company and FH Ayres. Soon, I noticed that there were other types of antique playing sets, many of which predated the Staunton pattern, and I was captivated by their history and beauty. Then the world of antique ornamental sets—chess sets that were not made for play, but rather for display—opened up to me, and my collecting career took a major step forward.

Most of the sets shown here are ornamental sets, because their beauty transcends chess, and indeed each set consists of thirty-two artistic sculptures.



Venus Bacchus Set
 Photo © Bruce M. White and the World Chess Hall of Fame

Venus Bacchus Set: This is a French Polychrome and Gilt-Heightened Carved Ivory Figural Set, 4th Quarter of the 19th century. The two sides feature the Roman goddess Venus and her son Cupid versus Bacchus and Bacchante and their cohorts.

From an artistic point of view the Venus Bacchus Set is amazing. I especially like the white bishop.

One of my all-time favorite antique sets. I won it in the famous Christie's Cholet auction, 2007-May-07, in London.
<https://www.christies.com/auction/auction-5320-csk> That auction significantly changed the pricing/valuation benchmarks of antique chess sets.



Spanish Wooden Set Spanish Board
Photo © Jonathan B. Crumiller

Spanish Wooden Set Spanish Board: One of the oldest sets in my collection, this playing set hails from the 17th century (or early 18th), and is displayed on a 17th century Spanish board. Note that the starting position of the Ruy Lopez, a.k.a. the "Spanish Torture," is shown on the board!

Any significant meaning behind the fact that all pieces except the knight have a ball design on the top in the Spanish Wooden Set Spanish Board

Not that I know of, other than they're corroboration for an early dating of the set. There are several chess books from the 1500's and 1600's that have drawings of very similar sets. Those books are from Spain and Italy (I don't have them). A chess collector on Facebook said that there are very similar sets in modern—day Spain, so the attribution to that region is most likely correct.

John Company Set: I've been very fortunate to have acquired six sets made by the East India Company, commonly referred to as the John Company. This set is the smallest of them, but the intricate details are excellent. The set was made in Berhampur India, circa 1840.



Above: John Company Set; Below: Berhampur Green White Set
Photos © Jonathan B. Crumiller



Berhampur Green White Set: Chess sets from 19th century Berhampur were made for the export market, mostly the U.K. This set could be considered a playing set, because the pieces are strong enough to withstand game play, but was more likely displayed for its artistic beauty. This set was featured on the cover of *Chess Life* magazine, September 2013 issue.

What are the pieces made of in the Berhampur Green White Set? Such intricate work.

It's an ivory set. (I avoided the "ivory issue" in my earlier responses so it wouldn't be a possible distraction.) An article I wrote on East India Company ("John Company") sets has some excerpts from the Illustrated London News of April 26, 1851 (pages 4-6), which shows the primitive tools that were used by the master craftsmen. <http://chessreference.com/CCI/EastIndiaCompany/EastIndiaCompany.pdf> The Berhampur green & white set was made with a lathe, but probably along the same lines as the John Company sets: exquisite detail created by artisans with very simple tools.

The Berhampur set was featured on the cover of Chess Life, September 2013 issue: <https://tinyurl.com/rc6zpu9u> (The entire Chess Life article is here, <https://tinyurl.com/2bpnbatr>) The photo and article are © Chess Life 2013.



Bird Set
Photo © Garrick Coleman

Bird Set: The origin of this set is not known for certain, but an expert in Asian antiques has identified the pieces as looking very similar to small artifacts made in Japan in the latter 19th and early 20th centuries.



Above: Dieppe Set and Below: Dieppe Blue And White Set
Photos © Jonathan B. Crumiller



Dieppe Set and Dieppe Blue And White Set: Chess sets such as these were made in Dieppe France for centuries. Note the “fou” (fool) bishops, which were a standard feature of such sets. These two sets are both from the 19th century. I wrote an article about Dieppe chess sets, which can be found [here](#). This is one of fifteen such articles that I wrote for worldchess.com in 2015 and 2016.

Do the King’s and Queen’s faces in the 07_DieppeSet represent specific people?

I don't know, but my guess would be probably not, because the still—existing Dieppe sets don't have the same faces over and over, which one would expect if the pieces were modeled after specific people.

Some sets are clearly modeled after people. Here's an English set I have, and the king so closely resembles King Edward VII that I was able to find the photo that the carved king is based upon! (Not with absolute certainty but take a look.) Here's the set <https://goo.gl/photos/rmABkG4g8ViiRQxo9> and here's the photo <http://chessreference.com/Misc/KingEdwardComparison.jpg> (below). Even the markings on the king's robe are the same!



Islamic Pattern Set Photo © Jonathan B. Crumiller

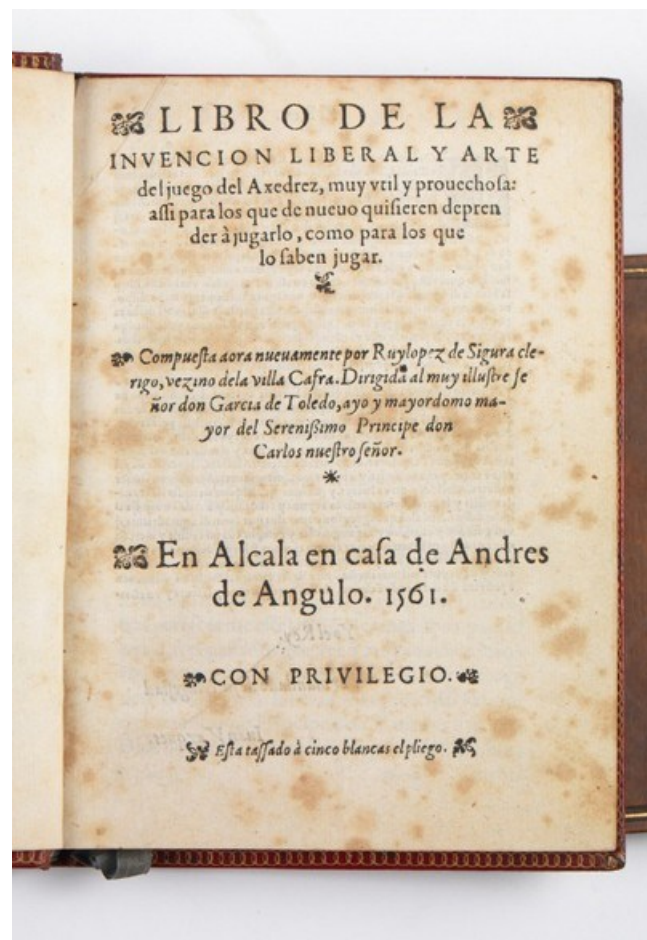
Islamic Pattern Set: This 19th-century playing set shows the so-called Islamic pattern. At first I wasn't as interested in the Islamic pattern sets, but over time I began to appreciate their stunning beauty. Incidentally, according to my back-of-the-envelope calculations, the Islamic pattern is the second-most used chess set pattern in history. What is the first-most-used? Online computer chess icons! Nowadays many millions of chess games are played every single day, and the sum-total of those games exceeds the historical usage of any other pattern.

I also read that you collect antique books. What are a few of your most interesting books?

Most chess collectors focus their collections on one category of items: chess sets, or chess books, or chess stamps, to give the three most common categories. My own collection spans antique chess sets and chessboards as well as antiquarian chess books and other publications, and other chess ephemera, from the 19th and earlier centuries.

There are chess manuscripts and books that are dated to the tenth century, or even earlier, but the early chess books in my collection cover “modern” chess, i.e. in which the queens and bishops have their full present—day powers. The date of transformation from “older” to “modern” chess was circa 1480-1490.

All of the early chess books are historic and extremely rare. Here are a few of them in my collection.



Ruy Lopez

Photo © Bruce M. White and the World Chess Hall of Fame
Libro de la invención liberal y arte del juego del Axedrez, by Ruy López de Segura (1561)

The book analyzes 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5, although the opening first appears in Lucena's chess manual (1497). To put these dates in perspective: unlike the readers of Lucena's book, Ruy López's audience had the benefit of knowing that the earth revolves around the sun, rather than vice versa! Ruy López's book includes practical advice for chess players, such as: "...when playing if it is a clear day, and sunny, have your opponent facing the sun, because it will blind him; and if it were dark and playing by the light of fire, move with your right hand; because it disturbs the view, and the right hand will cast a shadow on the chessboard; so he will not be able to see where to play his pieces."

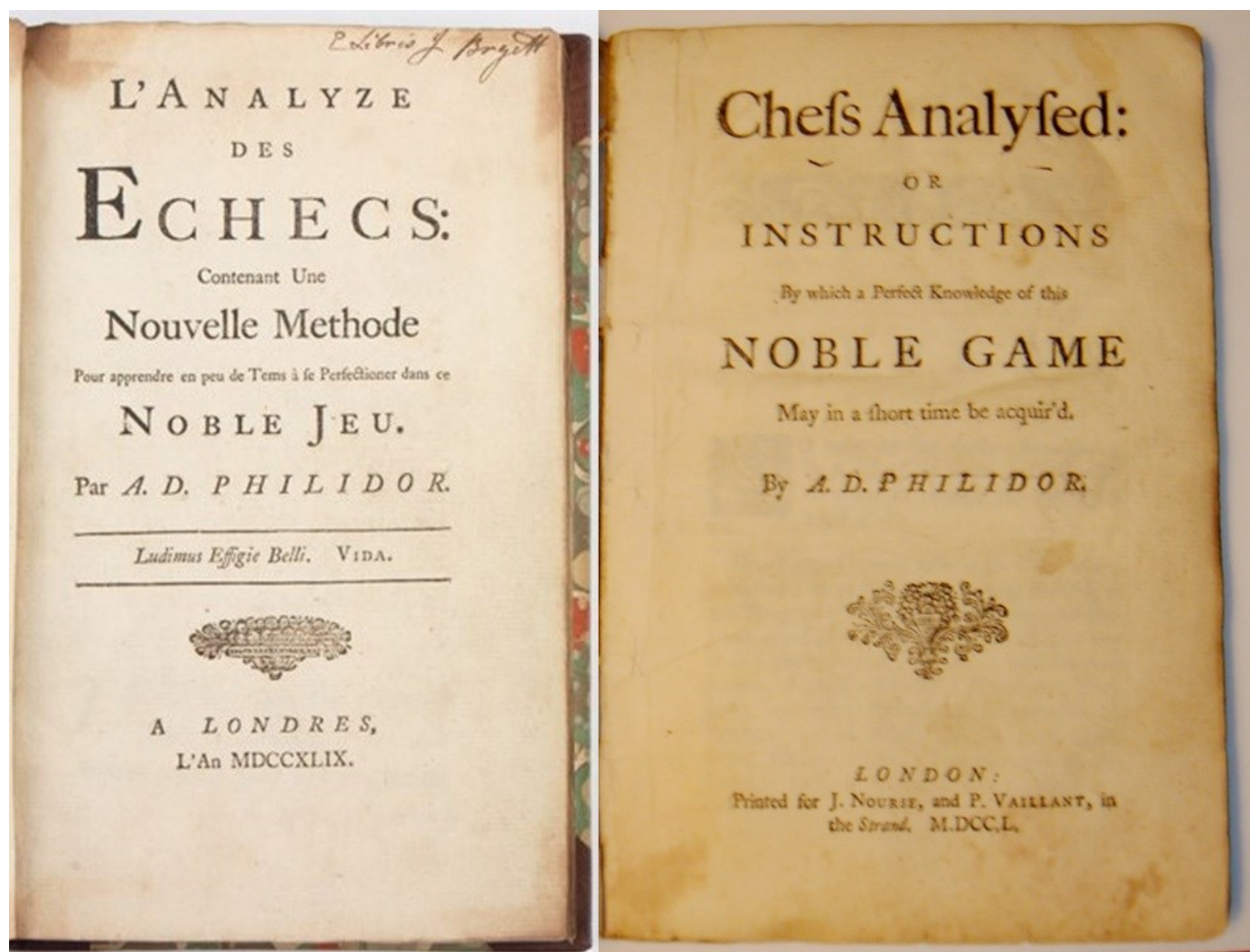


Damiano

Photo © Jonathan B. Crumiller

Damiano's first-edition chess treatise of 1512 was the first manual published in Italy for our “modern” game. In David DeLucia's In Memoriam he describes the first-edition Damiano as “...the rarest of all the Damiano editions and one of the rarest books written on the game of chess.” The first Damiano edition was followed by seven more editions, dating from 1518 to 1564. These subsequent editions help explain the large gap in the timeline between Damiano's first edition and Ruy López's book in 1561. My chess book collection includes Damiano's fourth edition (the first undated edition), circa 1528. The title page shows a woodcut of two

chess players with a game in progress. This edition of Damiano's book, as well as the third edition dated 1524, included the first published set of helpful instructions for playing blindfold chess, with the title, "*Arte de giocare alla mente*" (Art of playing in the mind).



L'analyze des E'checs, 1749
Photo © Jonathan B. Crumiller

Philidor 1749_1750: François-André Danican Philidor's seminal chess work was published in Paris in 1749. It was quickly followed by an English edition in 1750. The above photo shows the two books side-by-side. Interestingly, the 1750 English edition is much rarer than the 1749 French edition. Two pirated, French copies of his book were also published in 1749, and I have them in the collection as well.

The Royall Game of Chesse-Play, 1656 London, England

The Royall Game of Chesse-Play was written by one of the first professional chess players, Gioacchino Greco. Greco is remembered for his bold, attacking, tactical style of play, and in his book he analyzed how these techniques could be used to break down an opponent's position.

**"Fair sport 'twas e'er the best of me; the world hath rook't the rest."
from *The Sonnets of Artemis***



Royall Game Of Chesse—Play
Photo © Bruce M. White and the World Chess Hall of Fame

What is your overall Chess library like?

I've collected approximately 370 antiquarian chess books and magazine series. When it comes to antiquarian chess books, there aren't as many reference guides for collectors as there are for sets and boards. Really, only one: David DeLucia's two-volume *In Memoriam* is outstanding and invaluable.

My collecting focused on finding pre-20th-century books and publications; however, some 20th century publications are important to chess history, so when I was able to find one of them, I acquired it.

The number of books and publications in my collection, dated by century:

Century	#
1400's	1
1500's	10
1600's	12
1700's	49
1800's	246
1900's	51

The majority of my chess library is stored in temperature and humidity controlled cabinets. Here are some of them.



Chess Library
Photo © Jonathan B. Crumiller

What has been your greatest collecting challenge?

A general lack of knowledge within the collecting world about different types of chess sets, their histories, their provenances, their interconnections, etc. This challenge has been made much harder due to misinformation from the past as well as the present. Sets can be wrongly dated, geographically misattributed, and/or a plethora of other errors, sometimes intentionally, sometimes not. The solution to this dilemma has been to perform comprehensive research and to report the results to the worldwide chess-collecting community, so that the historical record can be corrected, slowly but surely.

Is there a specific set or book you are still searching for that would be very fulfilling to acquire?

I've been fortunate to have acquired many of the "classic" chess books of centuries past. There is one chess book for which any collector would climb the highest mountain and swim the deepest ocean: *Libre dels jochs partits dels schacs en nombre de 100* by Francesch Vicent. It is the very first chess book on "modern" chess, circa 1494. There's just one small problem: the last time that the book was ever seen was in 1796, and there are no known copies remaining!

Howard Staunton references the book, and its extreme rarity, in his *Illustrated London News* column of June 17, 1854:

ARRAGON —1. So rare is the work of Vicent (1495), that we never yet met with any person who had seen a copy. It is not improbable that some day a copy may be discovered in one of the old Spanish libraries; and, whenever this happens, the book will fetch a great price.

A gloomier verdict can be found in *The Chess Monthly* Vol. 3 (Sept 1881 - Oct 1882) edited by Hoffer and Zukertort:

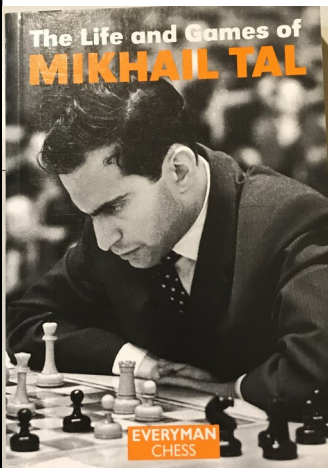
The only known copy belonged to the famous Abbey of Montserrat, near Barcelona; and it has hitherto been believed that it was lost in the Carlist War of 1834, when the conventual library was dispersed. We now learn, from the researches of Dr. Volger upon early Spanish printing, that the book was last seen for certain in 1796, and probably perished when the abbey was sacked by the French under Suchet in 1811.

The links between Vicent's book and the Lucena document(s) are fully explored in Jose A. Garzona's book, *El Regreso de Francesch Vicent (The Return of Francesch Vicent)*, published in 2005. At this point we can only hope that a copy of Vicent's book will someday be found.

Do you have a favorite chess book? If so, what is it?

Ruy Lopez 1561 is the book that comes to mind. It is such a joy to open the book and read chess material from 460 years ago. The book is written in old Spanish, so the spelling, syntax, and grammar differs from modern-day Spanish, which brings added enjoyment to the reading experience.

I also have hundreds of modern chess books, which I don't count as part of my collection, because I use them for study and enjoyment. Of those books, the most enjoyable for me has been *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal*, an autobiography by one of the all-time great, attacking players.

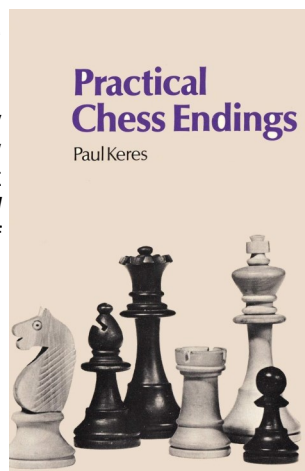


Is there a book that you read and your understanding of the game was greatly improved?

We are currently in a golden age of publication of high-quality chess books. The quality and quantity of truly outstanding, new chess books are at all-time highs. Having said that, the book that has contributed most to my understanding of the game is *Practical Chess Endings* by Paul Keres. A firm grasp of basic endings is of paramount importance to chess improvement!

[*The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal*](#)

[*Practical Chess Endings*](#)



If you read about Chess, what aspect draws you in most?

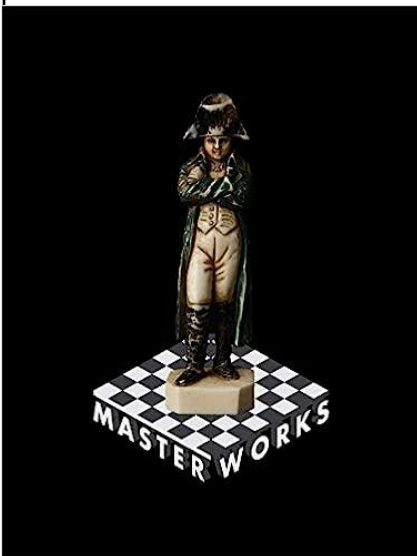
Most of my reading is with current chess events, games, and players. I keep up-to-the-minute with tournaments featuring the world's top players. I'm also interested in the history of the game and its top players.

The artistic and historical aspects of the Chess sets and books you have collected are quite inspirational. Please provide a bit about what you find inspirational or motivating?

Imagine that we are seated with an antique chess set in front of us. How many games have been played on that set? Probably hundreds. How many players have crossed swords using those pieces? If all of those players from the past centuries were present in the room with us, the crowd would fill the entire room, and probably extend well into the street! That's the inspiration I draw from the antique playing sets.

For antique ornamental sets, their artistic appreciation as well as historical appreciation affects me on a personal level. Each piece can stand alone as a unique sculpture, reflecting the artist's talent and creativity.

You co-wrote a coffee table book, *MasterWorks: Rare and Beautiful Chess Sets of the World*. How did you find the process of creating the book to be? Challenges? Fulfilling aspects?



The process was fairly straightforward. Dylan Loeb McClain asked me if I would be interested in writing (or co-writing) a coffee-table book, based on sets in my collection. I said, sure, but the book would be enhanced if some sets from several other collections could be included as well. Ultimately, the book contained photos of antique chess sets and boards from three different collections, most of them from my collection, but a nice number

of them from the other collections, and what sets they are! Spectacular. For the text, I wrote much of it, but partnered with others, and Dylan served admirably as chief editor. There are also several chapters with more modern sets, which were written by experts such as my friend Larry List.

[Masterworks: Rare and Beautiful Chess Sets of the World](#)

Was there a specific process or routine you used to co-write the book?

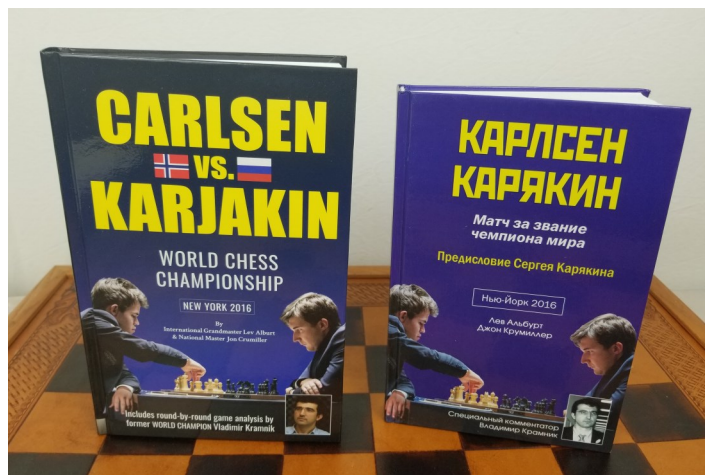
It was a step-by-step process. After gaining the interest of

the other two collectors, the task was to select which antique sets to use. Not an easy task at all! There were literally hundreds of jaw-dropping sets to choose from. We whittled down the list and eventually homed in on the final inventory. Then the professional photographers came to each location: Princeton (for my collection), Florida, and London. Next came the text of each chapter, then everything was put together into the flow of the book. I'd say the main "flow creators" were Dylan and me.

Do you have any future book plans?

Not at the moment. After Lev's and my book on the Carlsen—Karjakin match won accolades including the CJA Instruction Book of the Year, people have asked if we would be interested in co-authoring book(s) on the subsequent World Championship matches, but it's such a time and energy consuming process that we haven't done that. We did write a *Chess Life* feature article on adjournments, quite a fascinating and controversial topic. It was published in the February 2020 issue and won the CJA award as Feature Article of the Year.

Incidentally, the Carlsen—Karjakin book was subsequently published in Russian, and will soon be published in Mandarin by a Chinese publisher! As well as a Chinese edition of the *MasterWorks* book.



[Carlsen vs. Karjakin: World Chess Championship](#)

I enjoyed your article on adjournments. They were such a pain as a Tournament Director when trying to keep everything on schedule, but I do in a way miss them. The comradery with your second trying to solve the problem and find the best courses of action. Interestingly, about a year or so ago I was the TD at an event where the organizer had failed to realize we had to vacate by 10pm on Saturday night. I had to adjourn all the games that were still going.

Thanks. Yes, adjournments have down-sides, but their positives are very much undervalued. To analyze critical positions under the pressure of tournament play gives the players a chess lesson that they can't get any other way. The big question, of course, was whether today's supreme chess engines would render adjournments moot, and Lev

managed to fully convince me that their effect wouldn't be all that significant!

Is the website: [Jon's antique chess collection \(chessantique.com\)](http://chessantique.com) the best place for others to go see some of the chess sets and other treasures your collection houses?

It's a good place to see the depth and breadth of my chess—collecting efforts. My website hasn't been updated for quite a while due to my own recent inactivity, but it's still an informative site. Elsewhere, there are excellent professional photos of some of my sets from two exhibitions held at the World Chess Hall of Fame:

<https://worldchesshof.org/exhibit/prized-and-played-highlights-jon-crumiller-collection>

<https://worldchesshof.org/exhibit/encore-ivory-chess-treasures-jon-crumiller-collection>

and I've loaned chess items for three other WCHOF exhibitions, each of which have professional photos on the WCHOF website: The Staunton Standard (2018), Dare To Know (2020), and Mind, Art, and Experience (2022).

Do you have a favorite opening? Ending?

Lately, I've been updating my opening repertoire in order to get back into serious play. I favor combative openings such as the Sicilian Kan and Leningrad Dutch, and as white I usually open with 1.e4.

Rook endings were somewhat of a mystery to me, so I spent a lot of time learning about them with Lev Alburt, and they have become a favorite of mine.

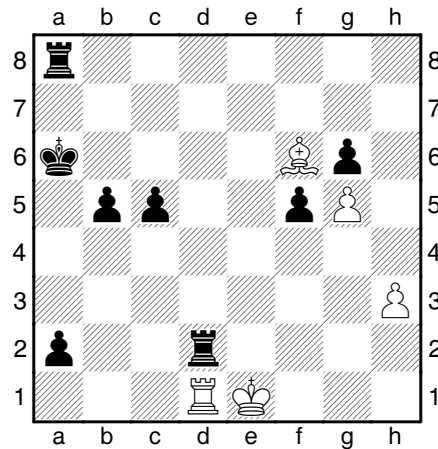
Do you have a favorite game anyone played?

Within World Championship play, my favorite game has to be Spassky—Fischer 1972, game 13. Mikhail Botvinnik proclaimed that game 13 was “the highest creative achievement of Fischer.” David Bronstein was also captivated by it: “When I play through the game, I still cannot grasp the innermost motive behind this or that plan or even individual moves. Like an enigma, it still teases my imagination.” Lev Alburt and I used this game to demonstrate the creative importance of adjournments, which used to be an everyday occurrence in bygone eras.

Spassky, Boris — Fischer, Robert J [B04]

World Championship, game 13, 10.08.1972

1.e4 e6 2.e5 d5 3.d4 d6 4.f3 g6 5.f4 c4 6.f5 b3 7.f6 b2 0-0 8.h3 a5 9.a4 dxe5 10.dxe5 a6 11.0-0 c5 12.f2 e8 13.f4 cxa4 14.fxa4 a4 15.f1 b6 16.f2 a4 17.f5 h6 18.f4 f5 19.g4 e6 20.f4 c4 21.f2 d7 22.fad1 ffe8 23.f4 f5 24.f5 c5 25.f3 e6 26.f2 d7 27.f3 c5 28.f5 b6 29.f6 d6 30.fxd6 fxc3 31.fxc3 f6 32.g5 h5 33.f5 f5 34.f3 f7 35.f5+ fxe5 36.f5 b5 37.f1 f8 38.f6 a3 39.f4 a2 40.c4 fxc4 41.d7 f5 42.f3 f3+ 43.c3 f8 44.f4 e5 45.f7+ f6 46.f7+ f6 47.f5 fxc3+ 48.f2 c2+ 49.f1 fxd7 50.fxd5+ f6 51.f6+ f7 52.f7+ f6 53.f7d2 fxd2



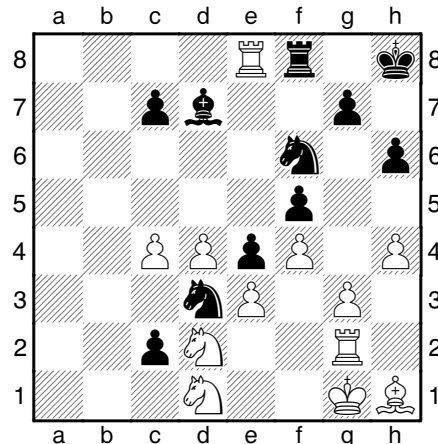
54.fxd2 b4 55.h4 f5 56.h5 c4 57.f3 a1 g4 58.g6 h4 59.g7 h3 60.f7 g8 61.f8 h2 62.f2 c6 63.f1 h1 64.fxh1 b3+ 65.f3 d5 66.f1+ f4 67.f2 f4 68.f1 d3 69.f1+ f2 70.f1 f3 71.f5 f7 72.fxc4 f7 73.f4+ f1 74.f4 f2 0-1

A game that might claim the #1 spot on my all-time list is Bogoljubow—Alekhine, Hastings 1922. After careful maneuvering by both players, Black slowly infiltrates White's position, then sacrifices his queen and rook – not for a quick checkmate, but for an unstoppable queen promotion that soon leads to zugzwang! Then after White is forced to weaken his position, Black sacrifices his second queen to promote yet another queen... and then sacrifices this third queen to reach a winning K+P ending, which Bogo resigned before Alekhine could promote a pawn to his fourth queen of the game! Utterly amazing.

Bogoljubow, Efim — Alekhine, Alexander [A84]

Hastings, 21.09.1922

1.d4 f5 2.c4 f6 3.g3 e6 4.f4 g2 5.f4+ 6.fxd2 7.fxc6 8.0-0 d6 9.f3 h8 10.f3 e5 11.e3 a5 12.b3 e8 13.a3 h5 14.h4 g4 15.f5 f7 16.f3 f6 17.f4 e4 18.f1 h6 19.f3 d5 20.f1 f7 21.a4 c6 22.f2 b4 23.f1 e8 24.f2 dxc4 25.fxc4 fxa4 26.f2 f7 27.f2 b5 28.f1 d3 29.fxa5 b4 30.fxa8 bxc3 31.fxe8 c2



32.f8+ f7 33.f2 c1+ 34.f1 e1 35.f2 fxc4 36.f8 b5 37.fxb5 fxb5 38.g4 f3+ 39.fxf3 exf3 40.gxf5 f2

41.d5 ♖g8 42.h5 ♖h7 43.e4 ♜xe4 44.♜xe4 ♜xe4 45.d6 cxd6 46.f6 gxf6 47.♞d2 ♜e2 48.♞xe2 fxe2 49.♜f2 exf1♜+ 50.♜xf1 ♜g7 51.♜e2 ♜f7 52.♜e3 ♜e6 53.♜e4 d5+ 0-1

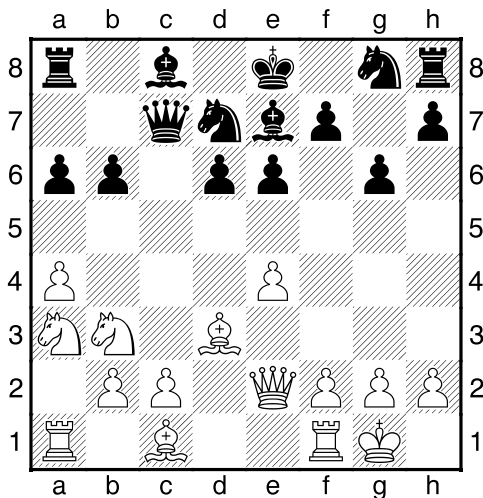
Do you have a favorite game you have played?

One game stands out as the most exciting game I've ever been part of: Nigel Short + Rajko Vujatovic versus Garry Kasparov + Jon Crumiller, at the Staunton Memorial in London, 2010. The partners on each team alternated making moves; no consultation was allowed. A crowd of hundreds surrounded the board, and it was broadcast live over the Internet.

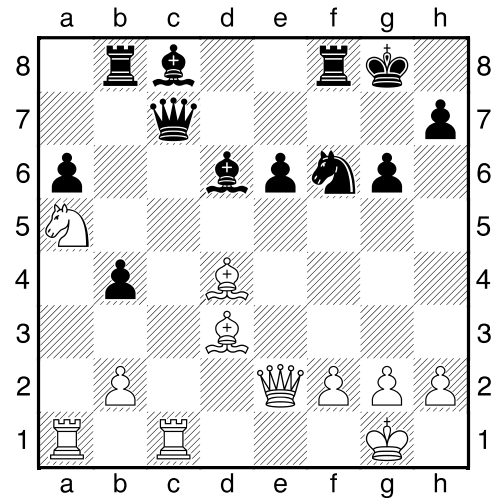
Short+Vujatovic — Kasparov+Crumiller [B42] Staunton Memorial Game London, 08.09.2010

Colours chosen immediately before the game. CJ de Mooi with white pawn and black pawn hidden in his hands. I chose the hand with the black pawn. Rules — 1 hour per side, no increment. No consultation or communication allowed at all. Alternating moves, amateurs moving first for each team. Moves not recorded by the players, but were broadcast live over the Internet by TWIC ([The Week in Chess](#)) Live Games and the Playchess server. Umpire was Adam Raoof, Arbiter was Sir Alan Fersht. Game was played on the oldest known Jaques Staunton set, club—size boxwood & ebony hand—signed #8 set.

1.e4 [Rajko Vujatovic] c5 [Jon Crumiller] 2.♠f3 [Nigel Short] e6 [Garry Kasparov] 3.d4 cxd4 4.♜xd4 a6 5.♜d3 ♜c5 6.♜b3 ♜e7 7.♜g4 g6 8.♜e2 d6 9.0-0 ♜d7 10.a4 b6 11.♜a3 ♜c7



[Contrary to some game scores, I played 11. ...♜c7 (not 11. ...♜b7) and Garry played 12. ...♜b7 (not 11. ...♜c7).] 12.♜c4 ♜b7 13.a5 b5 14.♜b6 ♜xb6 15.axb6 ♜xb6 16.♜a5 ♜c8 17.♜e3 ♜c7 18.c4 b4 19.e5 ♞b8 20.♜d4 f6 21.exf6 ♜xf6 22.c5 0-0 23.cxd6 ♜xd6 24.♞f1



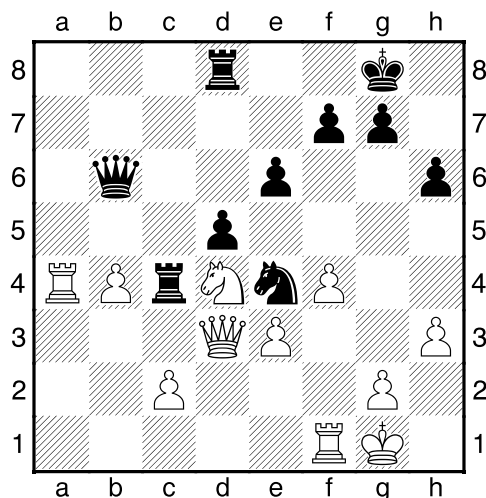
♜xh2+ 25.♜h1 ♜f4 26.♞xc8 ♜xd4 27.♞c4 ♜d6 28.♞d1 ♜h8 29.g3 ♜d5+ 30.♜xh2 ♜xa5 31.♜xe6 ♜h5+ 32.♞h4 ♜xd1 33.♜xg6 ♜g4+ 0-1

And here is a game that hasn't been in the public eye, but there's a neat story behind it. Back at the turn of the 21st century, my daughter Susan was a Tulane undergrad, and while we were visiting her in New Orleans, I decided to see if I could find US Senior Master Jude Acers' chess table in the French Quarter and play him a game. Jude is a very strong player, but I was in good practice at the time, and felt ready for the challenge. The night was foggy, and as I walked through the French Quarter, I began to lose hope of finding him. Then, miraculously, as I walked along, appearing out of the fog was Jude Acers, sitting at his chess table, looking straight at me! I sat down and paid his fee, and we started. No clocks. I'm sure he could quickly determine that I wasn't a novice, and my position slowly improved inch—by—inch. Just then, a group of drunken young men walked past, with one of them getting into a brief shouting match with Jude. My concentration broke, and immediately I made a mistake, losing the exchange. The game continued, but I felt an internal rage at the injustice of it all, and I tried hard to prevent a breakthrough on his part, while focusing my attention on finding something, anything, to turn the tide. That golden moment presented itself, and with an unexpected sacrifice I took the initiative. Jude pulled out a clock and said, "Fifteen minutes for the rest of the game?" I figured he was just playing a wild card to derail my momentum, but I couldn't lose the psychological battle either, so I said, sure. The clocks weren't a factor anyway; my initiative garnered a positional and material advantage, and after some tense moves, I was able to finish the game with a mating attack.

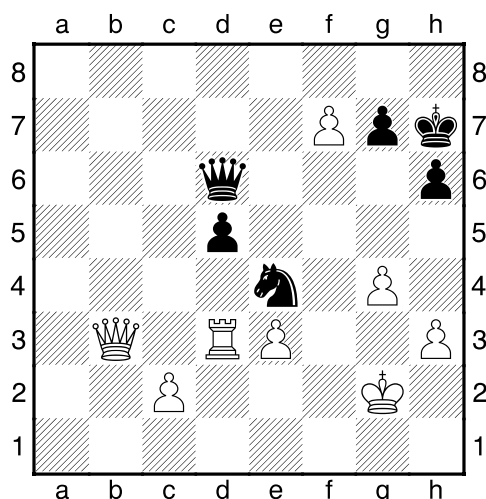
Acers,Jude — Crumiller,Jon [D01]

Casual game - no clocks until move 41, New Orleans
French Quarter, 26.08.2000

1.d4 ♜f6 2.♜c3 d5 3.♜g5 ♜bd7 4.e3 c5 5.dxc5 e6 6.b4 h6 7.♜h4 ♜e7 8.♜b5 0-0 9.♜ge2 a6 10.♜a4 b6 11.♜c6 ♞a7 12.cxb6 ♜xb6 13.♜xd7 ♜xd7 14.a3 ♞c8 15.0-0 ♞ac7 16.♜d3 ♜b5 17.♜xb5 axb5 18.♜d4 ♞c4 19.f4 ♜d8 20.h3 ♜e4 21.♜xd8 ♞xd8 22.a4 bxa4 23.♞xa4



♙xb4? [Someone came up and was loudly hassling with Jude Acers, during which I made this mistake. Correct was 23...♗c3+] 24.♙xb4 ♜xb4 25.♗c6 ♜b6 26.♗xd8 ♜xd8 27.♙d1 ♜h4 28.♜f1 ♗d6 29.♜f3 ♜f6 30.♙d4 ♜d8 31.g4 ♜a5 32.♜d1 ♜c3 33.♙d3 ♜c5 34.♜g2 ♗c4 35.♜e1 ♗d6 36.♜c3 ♜b6 37.♜b3 ♜a6 38.f5 ♗e4 39.fxe6 ♜d6 40.exf7+ ♜h7



41.♜h1 [clocks 15/game] 41...♜f6 42.♙d2? ♗xd2+ 43.♜d3+ ♗e4 44.c4 g6 45.♜c2 ♜xf7 46.cxd5 ♜xd5 47.♜c7+ ♜g8 48.♜b8+ ♜f7 49.♜c7+ ♜g8 50.♜b8+ ♜g7 51.♜c7+ ♜f6 52.♜f4+ ♜e6 53.♜xh6 ♜d1+ 0-1

There have been some special chess events in which you participated. Could you tell us about them?

I've had the amazing good fortune to be able to meet and hang out with many of today's top players. Some have become friends of mine; first and foremost amongst them is my friend and chess teacher, GM Lev Alburt. Nigel Short recently stayed at our Texas house, and he and I analyzed the games from his successful match vs Karpov in 1992. The list of special chess events seems like something out of a dream; I think of myself as the Forrest Gump of the chess world! Over the years I was able to defeat Walter Browne, Arthur Bisguier, and Yuri Averbakh in simul, and held Magnus Carlsen to a draw in a 14-board simul he gave in Manhattan. I've given simul myself, a 25-board simul and 3-board blindfold simul here in Princeton, amongst others. I've played one-on-one games versus Vladimir Kramnik, Magnus Carlsen (at the Marshall Club, NYC, on the table used by Bobby Fischer during his telex tournament!), Susan Polgar, Ray Keene, Lev Alburt, Nigel Short, and other top GMs. I've shared a bottle of vintage, 1827 Madeira with Anatoly Karpov. A two-on-two game with Garry Kasparov (my chess partner in the alternating-move, non-consultation game) in London versus Nigel Short and Rajko Vujatovic; and with Lev versus Mark Dvoretsky and his chess partner. I've had the privilege of attending the Carlsen-Karjakin (NYC) and Carlsen-Caruana (London) World Championship matches, and the 2014 Olympiad in Norway. This past April I was a guest on a TV show, *Most Expensivest*, hosted by American rapper 2 Chainz, as we took a close look at three antique chess sets in my collection. I am proud to be a member of the US Chess Recognition Committee and the FIDE Historical Committee. I've had solo chess lessons with Artur Jussupow, Alex Chernin, Yuri Razuvaev, Mark Dvoretsky, Genna Sosonko, Josef Dorfman, and – believe it or not – a four-hour lesson with Evgeny Sveshnikov, with Lev Alburt as my Russian-to-English translator! A lifetime of amazing chess experiences for me!



Jon Crumiller (R) vs. Magnus Carlsen, Marshall Chess Club

You might find an article I had when I was editor of the *Iowa Chess En Passant* (issue 43-2, 2003) where Jon Quinn tells his tale (quest) of meeting Anatoly Karpov.

I'd love to read it!

I see your last over-the-board tournament was quite some time ago. It coincided with receiving the NM title (congratulations on that achievement). Do you still play regularly in some way?

Thanks. I also have the US Correspondence Master title, earned in the primitive era before computer engines. My last OTB tournament was in 2001, after which 9/11 happened, and the world changed dramatically. I spent the next few years needing to focus on business, to keep everything moving forward with the company. Ditto during the financial crisis in 2008. I had health problems in 2010-2011, which were successfully resolved. Meanwhile, my chess collecting activities, research articles, and two books took precedence. I did play in an annual [not rated] tournament in Yorkshire Dales, England in 2014, 2015, and 2016, which were hard-fought contests, but ultimately, I was able to prevail in those three tournaments.

Now that I have retired, I can feel the flame of competitive chess starting to heat up again, and I will be playing in several rated tournaments in the near future. Very much looking forward to it.

I love quotes as can be seen by the fillers I put in *The Chess Journalist*. Do you have a favorite quote?

Ancient proverb: "After the game, both king and pawn go back into the same box."

From a chess obsessionist trying to make an analogy: "Chess is like... a game of chess."

A classic quote from Garry Kasparov has encouraged me as well as many other players: "You often hear in chess and other sports that 'this player is more talented' but 'that player works harder.' This is a fallacy. **Hard work is a talent.** The ability to keep trying when others quit is a talent."

Do you have any internal life rules you always apply to chess and collecting?

The golden rule of life also applies to chess: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Treat everyone, and every chess collection, with respect and collegiality.

What's the best thing about being a collector?

It would be fitting to refer to the sheer beauty and history of antique sets that I and others have collected, but actually the best thing about being a collector has been cultivating a worldwide network of friends, mentors, and colleagues with whom I can share the joys of collecting.

What's the best thing about Chess?

Chess is an overwhelmingly positive experience that one can learn and enjoy for an entire lifetime: from a very early

age to a very old age, and for every age in between.

What will your chess legacy be?

I strive to contribute positively to chess communities through my chess collecting efforts, books, articles, exhibitions, presentations at CCI meetings, and numerous discussions, emails, and interactions with fellow collectors and chess players.

Thank you for agreeing to this interview. It has been fun to get to know you a bit better. Any final parting words for our audience?

A few words of personal motivation. Over the past decade I had fallen into a chess rut – wishing to avoid the ego-knocking possibility of losing a game, and unwilling to "risk" my rating. Only recently was I able to break out of that self-defeating mentality and regain my swagger, so to speak. I've signed up to play in the World Open, two weeks from now, and I'm studying diligently for it. But in any case, I'll try to do my best and enjoy the experience, regardless of how well I play. I'd encourage those players in the audience who are going through the same "rut" experience to reconsider your mindset, renew your chess spirit, and regain your swagger!

You will have to let us know how the World Open goes for you. You are correct. As many of us get older, we want to hang onto that rating or our ego's get in the way, so we slow down our risk and don't play as much. Remembering why we play in the first place is important. With very few exceptions, most of us don't make our living playing chess and we play for the fun of it. To get away from everything else at least for a few hours by sinking our minds into a game with no other thoughts is refreshing.

(A week or so later –Ed)

It turns out that unfortunately I won't be able to play in the World Open, so instead I'll find one or more tournaments coming up in the near future in order to re-enter the world of competitive chess. I'm currently stuck in Texas due to canceled flights, and the weather in Newark looks iffy for the next few days. Then I'd be home for a few days, then in Philly for six days, then home for one day, then in St. Louis for a CCI Convention, and I'm a speaker, so my attendance to that is mandatory. So, this morning I made the decision to forego the World Open (a very long tournament, 5 days, 9 rounds) and pick a different tournament.

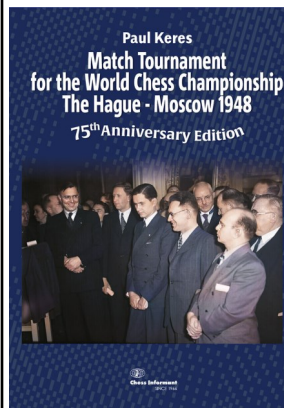
Again, I really appreciate your time. This has been an excellent interview and I appreciate getting to know you a bit through it.

Thanks, your questions were interesting and insightful! It was fun answering them.

Keres, Keres, Keres...

Book Review by Pete Tamburro, Senior Editor, *American Chess Magazine*

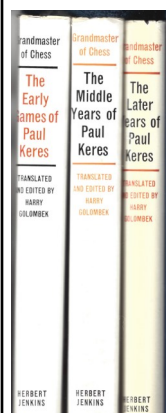
At *American Chess Magazine*, we have an award—winning book review guy in Carsten Hansen, who does ten really concise and helpful reviews every issue, which is a great service to our readers in a world awash with chess books.



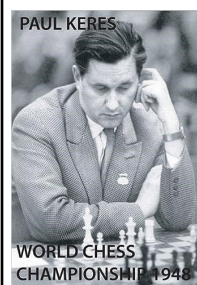
It's been a while since I've written a review. I used to do quite a few for *Chess Life*, some going for four pages. So, when our esteemed *The Chess Journalist* editor asked me if I would do a review of the 75th Anniversary Edition of Paul Keres' [*Match Tournament for the World Chess Championship The Hague—Moscow 1948*](#), the old feelings stirred, especially since it was Keres. I'm a big fan of his play and writings (remember his column in *Chess Life*?).



There was another reason as well. For many years, I had, as did everybody else in the US and UK, relied on Sir Harry Golombek's [*The World Chess Championship 1948*](#) (Bell, London, 1949). It is a magnificent production: pages neatly and tightly laid out with appropriate diagramming, background biographies of all the players and their tournament and match records, insightful personal commentaries by Golombek in both the bios and at the beginning of each round's summaries, the theory of the openings section, the two—page intros to each round, opening index and who v. who index, and some very good photos. It was all you could ask for in a tournament book. Golombek could write so well, and his notes were very good and instructive for the average player.



I knew Keres had written a book on the tournament years ago, but the only annotations on the 1948 tournament I could get were in that [*legendary three volume*](#) translated collection of games of Keres written by Keres himself and published in 1964. It was edited and translated by Golombek, whose command of the English language still makes it a superb presentation of Keres thoughts. Unfortunately, the reader only got a taste of the '48 match-tournament as there were only three games in this set from that event. Back then, you couldn't help but wonder what it would be like to read a book by Keres with all the games annotated by him.



In 2016, Verendel publishers put out [*World Chess Championship 1948*](#). Were they intentionally getting a jump on 2023 and the 75th Anniversary. I don't know and I didn't care. Finally, the whole book in Keres words!

There was background on the tournament, historical tournament and match results, an opening theory section and opening index, a

breakdown of the match-ups and it was in hardcover, as with the Golombek book, but it lacked some of the items mentioned above that Golombek had. Golombek is superior in getting you involved in the human interest in the event.

In 2023, Chess Informant has come out with their version cited above. I dutifully went through it and figured I would compare and contrast it with the prior two. It was at this point that I had to keep muttering, "Keres, Keres, Keres..." to myself to remind this reviewer that Keres' notes are the point of the book. They are so good. You can split hairs on which translation is better, but it is of little importance.

One other great feature of the book is that they came up with previously untranslated Soviet era commentary both before and after the match. It is historically fascinating.

Unfortunately, the Informant book didn't have much of the extra stuff that Golombek had: no real bios, no substantial round by round commentary with its accompanying drama and interpretations, no theory section. Still, the notes: Keres, Keres, Keres. You can't go wrong! With due apologies to Golombek, Keres' notes are terrific.

If you're a chess bibliophile or chess historian, then go look for the Golombek book on vialibri.net. If not, then you will enjoy the Informant book because of "you know who" and you may develop an interest in that period of chess history due to the translations of the Soviet documents. You can't go wrong with the Verendel book either. You get Keres and a little bit more. It's a very handsome book as well.

That brings me to two final points, or curiosities, if you will. The number of pages devoted to notes on the games is about 135. The Informant edition has 214. The Verendel edition has 500 pages! Oh, my how these publishers just love white space! If you're a Rubinstein fan, you will find the same white space presentation in their new book on the great Akiba. There are 14 pages devoted to just the first games' notes vs. 6 pages in the Informant book. I have mixed feelings about this. On the one hand, the white space edition is quite nicely presented while the Informant is a little, but not much, crowded. The Golombek book seemed ideal to me—a bit of a compromise. Also, aren't 500 pages going to cost more? Yup! The Verendel book is \$40, while Informant's book is \$30. That's a significant difference.

My last gripe is with all three of them. It's a small one, but considering my love and study of chess history, they all left one aspect out: Ruben Fine and Miguel Najdorf. The Fine story is especially interesting because if you read old *Chess Reviews* from that era, you'll see his reasons and the substantial commentary about his non—participation. I listened to Fine explain it in the 1970s at the Toms River Chess Club in NJ, and he had changed his story a bit! And poor Miguel—he didn't have the necessary influential support. The American angle gets left out. For completeness, perhaps, it would have dotted the i's and crossed the t's of this historical episode. BUT REMEMBER: Keres, Keres, Keres. Get one. Get them all! Above all enjoy and learn from the notes.

Keres left a lasting legacy in those notes and that is the overriding point of all of this.

Example pages from Golombek's book:

102 THE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP, 1948

ROUND 16, April 22nd

White Black Opening Moves
Keres (61) Dr. Ewe (3) 0 Bay Lopez, Morphy Defence 34
Reshevsky (61) Smyslov (41) Q.G.D., Star Defence 41
Botvinnik the bye

Dr. Ewe's form topped its lowest level in this round. He played his favorite open defense against Keres's Bay Lopez, a variation which he has had much success in the past and one of which, until this tournament, he had been generally regarded as the chief authority. But Keres, instead of following the usual book line springing an innovation on his opponent on the 12th move that was exceedingly strong. Dr. Ewe, as though unsettled by being taken out of normal paths, defended most indifferently, and soon got into a deplorable position. He hastened the end by a sheer blunder that allowed Keres to fork his Queen and Rook with a Knight, but the game was in any case already past saving. Rarely can a great player have sunk to such a nadir of demoralisation as was evidenced by Dr. Ewe's play in this variation.

The other two players produced a game of higher quality. For a brief while it followed their Sixth Round encounter, but then Reshevsky chose a much safer and better line than the dangerous continuation he had tried before. He played the early middle game energetically—over-energetically, in fact—since in an attempt to win a Pawn he prematurely broke open the central position. He did indeed gain a Pawn, but at the cost of a serious weakening of his K-side Pawn formation. Eventually the return of the Pawn was forced, and Smyslov, playing safely with his numerous threats on his opponent's somewhat compromised game, appeared well on the way to victory.

Now Reshevsky's resourcefulness was seen at its best, for by a series of ingenious moves he thwarted all Smyslov's attempts to win and fully equalised the position. After numerous exchanges, a drawn King and Pawn end game resulted.

The manner in which Smyslov conducted this difficult game shows how his play was improving by leaps and bounds throughout the Moscow series. Perhaps the youngest, he had greater reserves of stamina to call upon than the other competitors, with the result that he was never wearing in fresh ideas, whilst his opponents (excepting Botvinnik) were becoming stale and tournament weary.

24 THE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP, 1948

a system of play costs much time, and it is a very rare occasion indeed when one finds him with any time to spare on his clock. He is, however, one of the world's best lightning players, and as a rule is able to find the best move with only seconds to spare.

On the whole, his results in this tournament were a little disappointing. It is true he played some fine games and was the only master ever to appear really dangerous against Botvinnik. But, in view of his potential capabilities, one feels he should have run the World Champion close. Lack of concentration and inadequate preparation were no doubt factors in his comparative lack of success. But the chief reason lies deeper. Normally, self-confidence is his greatest asset. Here, the knowledge that his play was much better than that of his opponents, several times he was visibly disturbed in critical situations, and once he even lost on time.

What, one wonders, would he have achieved with the queen and pawns? Certainly a great deal. And it is a pity that the present writer that he would still not have been able to defeat Botvinnik from winning the Championship. However, he could have been very good second.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Rank	Name	Points	Score
1922	New York	...	...
1924	Detroit	...	...
1927	Kalamazoo	...	...
1931	Tulsa	...	...
1932	Minneapolis	...	...
1933	Pasadena	...	...
1934	Detroit	...	...
1934	Chicago	...	...
1935	St. Louis	...	...
1936	St. Louis	...	...
1937	St. Louis	...	...
1938	St. Louis	...	...
1939	St. Louis	...	...
1940	St. Louis	...	...
1941	St. Louis	...	...
1942	St. Louis	...	...
1943	St. Louis	...	...
1944	St. Louis	...	...
1945	St. Louis	...	...

Percentage, 73.44

30 THE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP, 1948

the weakness on Black's Q.R4. Since 9, Q-K2, at the very least, preserves White's initiative, the reader will realize the importance of this line.

However, the sting comes later. In Game No. 31, Dr. Ewe played 9, ... B-K2, but after 10, B-Q1, Castle (better is 10, ... B-K1, P-B4, KCP-P, 12, BxP, White enjoyed a great advantage. The P-B4 maneuver is the theme of White's strategy in all the games played with this variation. When Black manages to avert this move, or when White omits to play it, Black's position is satisfactory; on the other hand, when White does play it Black's game is practically indefensible.

In Game No. 30 Reshevsky improved on Dr. Ewe's move and played 9, ... Kt-B4, 10, R-Q1, Kt-B1, 11, RPxKt, Q-B1, and now Keres played the subtle, over-cold, 12, B-K3, P-B3, 13, B-B4, B-QB4, 14, Kt-B3, P-K4, when Black has good counter-chances after 15, B-K3, by the Pawn sacrifice, 15, ... Q-K2!

At the time the game was played, I felt that Keres's twelfth move was not convincing, and in the very next round Smyslov showed that White had a better move by the handstand 12, B-B4, QP-P, 13, P-P, B-P, 14, Q-K4, with an irresistible attack (Game No. 38). In Game No. 42 Reshevsky tried 10, ... B-K5 in an attempt to prevent White's P-B4. This is a better line than 10, ... Q-B1, but it is still not sufficient to obtain equality, since after 11, B-K3, Kt-B3, 12, RPxKt, Q-B1, 13, P-B4, QP-P, 14, P-P, P-B3, 15, QK1-Q2, B-K2, 16, Kt-K3, Castles, 17, B-B2, White has a manifest superiority.

The close, or Teichgraber, variation of the Morphy Defence was not illuminating or decisively dead; but there were some interesting refinements on previous theory.

Dr. Ewe introduced an improvement for Black in the 2-3, K2 line (sometimes known as the World Attack) in Game No. 12. After 1, P-K4, P-K4, 2, Kt-K3, P-K4, 3, B-K5, P-QB3, 4, B-K4, Kt-B3, 5, Castles, B-K2, 6, Q-K2, P-QK4, 7, B-K3, Castles, 8, P-B3, P-B3, 9, P-Q4, 10, P-Q4, 11, Kt-K1, Q-K1, 12, B-K3, he played 12, ... Q-Q4.

GAMES AT MOSCOW, GAMES 31-40

GAME No. 31

Bay Lopez, Morphy Defence

White Black
Keres Dr. Ewe

1. P-K4 P-K4
2. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
3. B-K5 B-K5
4. B-B4 Kt-B3
5. Castles
6. P-Q4 P-Q4
7. B-K3 B-K3
8. P-Q2 P-Q2
9. Q-K2 Q-K2
10. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
11. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
12. B-K3 B-K3
13. P-B4 P-B4
14. Q-K2 Q-K2
15. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
16. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
17. B-K3 B-K3
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33. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
34. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
35. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
36. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
37. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
38. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
39. Kt-K3 Kt-K3
40. Kt-K3 Kt-K3

which ultimately proved to be a failure of White, who played a strong right on 4, Q-K2, and 5, B-K5, and 6, P-Q4, and 7, P-Q4, and 8, P-Q4, and 9, P-Q4, and 10, P-Q4, and 11, P-Q4, and 12, P-Q4, and 13, P-Q4, and 14, P-Q4, and 15, P-Q4, and 16, P-Q4, and 17, P-Q4, and 18, P-Q4, and 19, P-Q4, and 20, P-Q4, and 21, P-Q4, and 22, P-Q4, and 23, P-Q4, and 24, P-Q4, and 25, P-Q4, and 26, P-Q4, and 27, P-Q4, and 28, P-Q4, and 29, P-Q4, and 30, P-Q4, and 31, P-Q4, and 32, P-Q4, and 33, P-Q4, and 34, P-Q4, and 35, P-Q4, and 36, P-Q4, and 37, P-Q4, and 38, P-Q4, and 39, P-Q4, and 40, P-Q4, and 41, P-Q4, and 42, P-Q4, and 43, P-Q4, and 44, P-Q4, and 45, P-Q4, and 46, P-Q4, and 47, P-Q4, and 48, P-Q4, and 49, P-Q4, and 50, P-Q4, and 51, P-Q4, and 52, P-Q4, and 53, P-Q4, and 54, P-Q4, and 55, P-Q4, and 56, P-Q4, and 57, P-Q4, and 58, P-Q4, and 59, P-Q4, and 60, P-Q4, and 61, P-Q4, and 62, P-Q4, and 63, P-Q4, and 64, P-Q4, and 65, P-Q4, and 66, P-Q4, and 67, P-Q4, and 68, P-Q4, and 69, P-Q4, and 70, 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The Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education: Winner Announced

May 17, 2023. New York City. Mark Indermaur, the President of the Indermaur Chess Foundation, an independent nonprofit chess club in Raleigh, NC, was announced the winner of the inaugural Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education.

The finalists of the award are:

- **Matthew Morales**, Chess Program Manager, Success Academy Charter School, New York City
- **Jose Garza**, Chess Coach at four public schools in the East Side community, Chicago, IL
- **Carlos Graupera**, Teacher, P.S. 503 School of Discovery, Brooklyn, NY
- **Vaughn Bennett**, Executive Director, DC State Chess Federation chess club, Washington DC



In addition to selecting the winner and the finalists, the Award Committee decided to give the **Lifetime Achievement Award to Vincent Bogert**, a veteran chess coordinator at P.S. 279, a public school in the Bronx.

The winner and the finalists were selected by a panel of judges that included educators and representatives of the wider chess community:

- Pascal Charbonneau, Grandmaster and financial analyst, Member of CIS's Advisory Board
- Kimberly Doo, Co-Chair of USCF Women's Committee, Member of CIS's Advisory Board
- Mike Klein, FIDE Master, the Director of Content and Chief Chess Officer of ChessKid.com
- Andy Lerner, National Master, award founder and namesake, Member of CIS's Board of Directors
- Pamela Price, retired NYC DOE principal, Member of CIS's Advisory Board
- Dmitri Shneider, International Master, Vice President of Global Operations, Chess.com
- Shaun Smith, USCF Expert, CIS Program Director
- Richard Wagner, USCF Expert, Member of CIS's Board of Directors

The winner received a monetary prize of \$10,000 that included a \$5,000 award to the educator and \$5,000 to the affiliated organization. Four finalists each received a \$2,000 award, split between them and their chess programs.

Chess in the Schools announced the Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education in September 2022. The Award is made possible by Andrew Lerner, an esteemed member of the CIS Board of Directors. This nationwide annual award recognizes educators' impact on the chess community and students, through alignment with CIS's mission and values of youth enrichment through chess education. The committee took into account innovation and dynamism in teaching and programming (such as tournaments or other events), and awards, recognition, or other outcomes of the students, clubs, and communities served.

More information about the award is available online at www.chessintheschools.org

Inquiries may be directed to Elena Ryabova, CIS Director of Development: (646) 688-0724, eryabova@chessintheschools.org

Chess in the Schools (CIS) is a New York City based non-profit organization that fosters the intellectual and social development of low-income youth through chess education. Since its inception in 1986, Chess in the Schools has taught chess to more than half a million students. All CIS programs are free of charge to all participants. Through classroom instruction in 40+ New York City public schools, after-school chess clubs, college access services, and weekly scholastic tournaments, CIS reaches annually 10,000+ students helping them develop analytic and social emotional skills, confidence and self-esteem, enabling them to succeed in school and lead productive and fulfilling lives in the future.



Left: All finalists and the winner with the check. From Left to Right: Vaughn Bennet, Mark Indermaur, Vincent Bogert, Jose Garza, and Carlos Graupera

Right: Andy Lerner (L), Award founder & CIS Board Member with Mark Indermaur, Award winner

Below Left: CIS President & CEO Debbie Eastburn with Vincent Bogert, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient

Below Right: CIS President & CEO Debbie Eastburn with Vaughn Bennet, finalist

Far Below Left: Award finalist Jose Garza with family

Far Below Right: Carlos Graupera, finalist, receiving the award



Chess in the Schools Announces the New President and CEO

Chess in the Schools is excited to announce that Dr. Jenny D. Ingber was named the President and Chief Executive Officer of Chess in the Schools. Dr. Ingber takes the leadership over from Ms. Debbie Eastburn who is retiring after having served in this role for seven years.

"I am thrilled to lead Chess in the Schools as there is exceptional potential for the ways in which learning and playing chess can support academic and social growth in children and youth. The life-skills Chess in the Schools offers young people transcend beyond school into home and career. I am looking forward to seeing CIS participants flourish through their participation," – said Dr. Ingber.

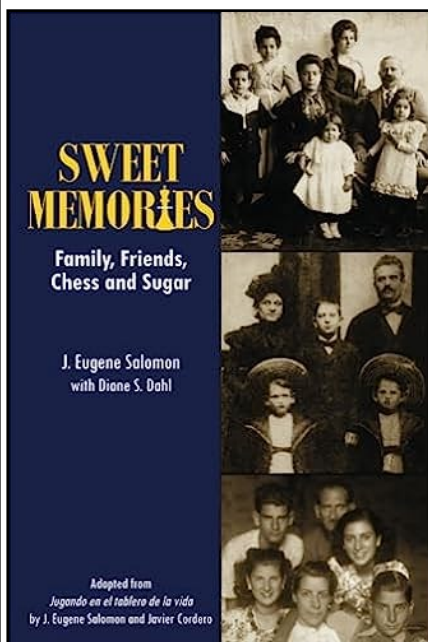
Mark Maher, CIS's Chair of the Board, added:

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, we warmly welcome Jenny to the remarkable Chess in the Schools family! With her wealth of experience and unwavering dedication as an educator, we are privileged to have her on our team. In this moment, we also pause to express our profound gratitude to Debbie for her many years of devoted service. Her unyielding commitment and invaluable contributions have shaped the very essence of our organization. As we embark on this new chapter with Jenny, we eagerly anticipate the infusion of fresh perspectives and the transformative impact that will further fortify Chess in the Schools. Together, let us continue to empower and nurture the future leaders of tomorrow. Welcome, Jenny, and thank you, Debbie, for your extraordinary dedication."

Dr. Ingber comes to Chess in the Schools from the American Museum of Natural History, where she served as Director of the Children and Family Learning Program for more than seven years. Jenny has a Ph.D. in Science Education from Teachers College at Columbia University and an MS in Teaching Chemistry from NYU. She has led a variety of educational programs and developed comprehensive teaching curricula at major nonprofits and colleges, including Bank Street College of Education and the California Science Project at the University of California, Los Angeles. At Chess in the Schools, Dr. Ingber will lead the organization's efforts in providing high-quality scholastic programming to tens of thousands of students across New York City's five boroughs and hopes to expand CIS's offerings using a data-driven approach that is aligned with CIS' mission.



Gene Salomon has written multiple articles for *The Chess Journalist* and his long awaited book is out. –Ed



Discover the extraordinary life of J. Eugene Salomon, a man whose journey through three countries is as captivating as it is inspiring. From the ravages of the Spanish Civil War, which left his once-wealthy family in ruins, to enduring the horror of German planes attacking the streets of his beloved Asturias, Salomon's early years forged in him an unyielding resilience and determination to succeed.

Now, after "94 years of coincidences", as he describes his life, Salomon continues to share his wealth of knowledge as a revered Chess Master and successful businessman, advising companies and shaping their futures. In his profound autobiography, he unveils the secrets behind his remarkable achievements, while also revealing the immeasurable impact of love, family, and friendship on his life.

Join us in celebrating the indomitable spirit of J. Eugene Salomon—a true testament to the triumph of the human spirit and the enduring power of compassion and perseverance.

Available in print and e-book format on Amazon.com

[Sweet Memories](#)

An Overview and Reflection on my Presentation at the FIDE London Chess Conference

by Victoria Winifred

Using Chess to Promote Literacy in Preschoolers

In March of 2023, I had the opportunity to present my research and experiences regarding the value of chess to support literacy in preschooler education at the FIDE London Chess Conference. The conference brought together chess educators, researchers, and enthusiasts from around the world to explore the many benefits of chess for learning and development.

Early Expectations

Even before a child begins school, there are already many expectations concerning prior learning. Here are some worldwide literacy standards presumed to have been already mastered by incoming kindergartners:

Student will be expected to:

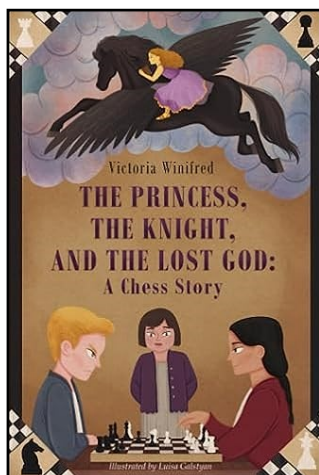
- Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks
- Start to follow rules
- Use verbal skills to solve problems
- Be able to ask and answer questions to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood.
- Identify and print some upper— and lower—case alphabet letters/write numbers
- Student will be able to add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.

Chess to the Rescue

Chess is an ideal activity to support those expectations. My top pointers remain:

- During instruction, familiarize the child with a range of instructional and directional vocabulary by using the chess board with its numbered and lettered ranks and files as a reference.
- Each time, encourage the child to explain back what he or she has learned to strengthen listening and speaking skills.
- Surround children with books about chess—even ones with passages slightly above their reading level. It will inspire them to improve.
- Have the child speak, draw, and/or write about recent chess experiences, putting the events in sequential order. This can be done in the form of a comic strip.

The Inspiration of the Conference



Leading up to 2022, one of the primary inspirations to write my award-winning middle-grade book, [“The Princess, the Knight, and the Lost God: A Chess Story”](#) was my wish to increase the amount of chess fiction in the world of children’s literature.

I was stirred by the passion and dedication of the chess educators and researchers at the conference, and I felt a renewed commitment to promoting the value of chess for literacy in young children. It is no coincidence that my “Cozy Chess Club Mysteries” series for ages 6-9 will start releasing in time for Halloween and Christmas!

You can see my full FIDE presentation at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8368EEM3Jlc>



About the Author:

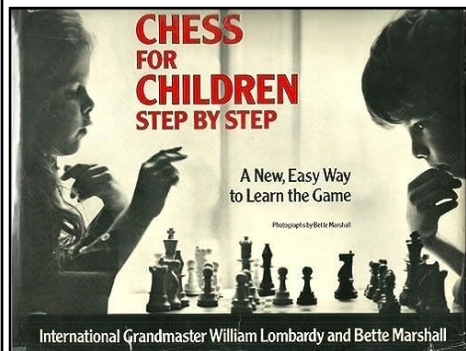
Victoria Winifred was born in Brooklyn and now lives in East Tennessee with her husband. She taught elementary school for 16 years in NYC and East Tennessee. She is an education consultant for [Chess in Education.org](#) and an active member of the Author’s Guild of Tennessee and SCBWI Midsouth.

Visit her at [VictoriaWinifred.com](#)
Follow her on [Twitter](#)

Chess for Children

By Bette Marshall

I wrote this piece when preparing for GM Bill Lombardy and I to write our [Chess for Children](#) book. (Ed – written sometime around 1975)



While the veterans of Reykjavik 1972 are laying odds on the next move of the enfant terrible of chess – will Bobby defend his title? Does Karpov, the young Russian challenger have a chance? The commercial world is gird-

ing itself for the biggest Chess year ever. T.V. deals are in negotiation; Chess sets by the millions will emerge from assembly lines ... and over 40,000,000 Americans will puzzle over the power of the pawn¹.

It is a safe assumption that as the Bobby-mania is rekindled, if your home doesn't already boast a chess set, it soon will. But all too soon, because it seems so COMPLICATED, the shiny new set will be relegated to a position next to the also untouched coffee table Art Books. One day your children may say "Show me how to play Chess" and after half an hour of confusing them with thirty-two forbidding pieces, while doubting your own intellectual superiority, you'll switch to checkers promulgating the myth that chess is ... well, so COMPLICATED. It isn't and it needn't be.

Of course, Chess at its best is like a symphony. A great player is the composer. There is no limit to the intricacies and subtleties conceivable by the genius. But the symphony is the sum of all its parts. It can be reduced to seven notes (disregarding sharps and flats) whose names, A through G can be learned by any four-year-old who watches Sesame Street.

The child who learns to play *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* on the piano may go on to a brilliant career as a musician. On the other hand, he may derive a lifetime of pleasure with his friends if he never progresses beyond an occasional rendition of *Tea for Two*.

Chess can be enjoyed on many levels. When our younger son, then four years old, showed some curiosity about chess, a chess playing friend suggested teaching him to play with just the pawns and the King rather than confronting him with thirty-two pieces all at once, some moving one way, some another. This led to what we call the "games theory", which eliminates the mystery and provides a sense of immediate accomplishment, not only for children but for neophyte adults as well. We have created games for each of the pieces which will teach, by experience, how that piece moves and takes. The basis for all the other games is THE PAWN GAME. After demonstrating how only the PAWN moves and takes, the players will line the pawns up on their home squares. The winner is the first player to get a pawn past his opponents' pawns to the far side of the board. The beginner, after losing a lot of pawns, will soon discover how one pawn can

protect another, the value of a PASSED PAWN (a pawn with no enemy pawn blocking its path), and also, without realizing it, has begun preparation for learning ENDGAMES when one is liable to be left with more pawns than pieces. Without being burdened with chess terminology and strategy the child is developing a chess "sense", while having a whopping good time "racing" you across the board. When the pawn game is mastered, it's an easy step to add one more piece. For example, the Queen game. Teach the Queen's moves. Then add the fact that when a pawn reaches the far side of the board, it can TURN INTO A QUEEN! Now the winner will be the player who has turned a pawn into a Queen and used the Queen to take all his opponents' pawns. There's a game for each of the other pieces, also played as an extension of the Pawn game. Although these games can be played as an end in themselves, they are preparation for assembling the whole "orchestra", a natural, easy step for any child who has a working knowledge of the basics!

If you've taught your sweet six-year-old chess in order to have Someone you can beat and the little darling starts beating you and everyone else in sight.... do you have a Budding Bobby?

To answer this question I will interview Jack Collins, a Chess Master, who has taught, among others, Bobby Fischer, Robert Byrne and William Lombardy. His book *My Seven Chess Prodigies* is coming out any day now and his life has been devoted solely to teaching Chess.

What do you do with a talented child? You're now sorry you ever taught him the game. He (she) wants to spend 24 hours a day doing nothing else! In *Profile of a Prodigy*, author Frank Brady tells of Regina Fischer's phone call to Dr. Ariel Mengarini, a Chess Master and a practicing psychiatrist "asking him what he could suggest to curb Bobby's chess obsession. After telling her of his own fanaticism for the game Mengarini said, 'I told her I could think of a lot worse things than Chess that a person could devote himself to and that she should let him find his own way ...'"

Col. Ed Edmondson, head of the United States Chess Federation will be my source for information on Chess opportunities, local chess clubs, children's tournaments ... and Heaven Help Us... the prospects for a life-long Career in the world of Chess.

At what age can you spot a future Grandmaster? According to Robert Byrne (Grandmaster and N.Y. Times Chess Columnist) you cannot recognize Grandmaster potential at ages six or seven. "It is very exceptional that even at 13 you can spot a great player". One exception, Capablanca, was a full-fledged Master (but not a Grandmaster) when he won the Championship of Cuba at the age of 12.

Bob Byrne will give me the details of his discovery of chess as a child, along with his brother Donald Byrne, another of America's great players.

Bobby Fischer's sister, Joan Targ, brought him his first chess set when she was eleven and Bobby six. They learned the moves

from the set of instructions included in the game. She told me she first realized he was exceptional, when after she lost a game, he would turn the board around and beat her with her own lost position!

“Chess, like music and mathematics (to which it may be distantly akin), are the only creative field known for their child prodigies. Paul Morphy, Samuel Reshevsky, and Jose Raul Capablanca were masters of the board as very young children. Some biographers of Bobby’s (Fischer) early years seem vaguely disappointed that he was not recognized as a wizard from the moment that he first laid his eyes on a chessboard. The most obvious reply to this is that the age at which any prodigy discovers his art (unless he has been deliberately reared and tutored toward this goal) is an accident. And if he happens to discover it before he is fully able to appreciate it or utilize it, the art may have to wait for the necessary maturity. In a child’s development, one or two years can make immense difference. For example, it was easier for Paul Morphy, who was taught the game at ten, to start beating his relatives at age eleven than it was for Bobby to start taking on sophisticated players at seven or eight, and he began defeating his elders ... including players of practiced strength ... by the time he was twelve, which is just about the age Morphy acquired a reputation for doing the same thing”²

An interview with Samuel Reshevsky should be included, since among current American Grandmasters he was the only real prodigy ... having played extraordinarily well as early as the age of five.

Reuben Fine is a psychologist as well as a Grandmaster, and may offer some observations on the psychological aspects of the chess player as a child. Another interesting question ... Why are there no female (pardon the expression) Grandmasters? (Grand

MISTRESS? Grand PERSON?) Col. Edmondson (USCF) says many little girls play, but as they grow up, they have “more important” things to think about ... a statement worth investigating ... and challenging!

No woman has ever qualified to play in the United States Championship, although there is a U.S. Woman’s Championship. One Grandmaster asserts he could play the top 20 women in the U.S.A. in a simultaneous exhibition (all at once) and would beat almost all of them!!!

Is there a Chess version of the “Stage Mother”?

There are parents whose lives revolve around weekend tournaments. It would be interesting to talk to some of the parents and children who are currently involved in serious Chess.

Having worked with “stage children” and watched Chess Children in action, I was struck by a curious difference. All too often, the Stage Child is a robot enacting his parents’ fantasies. At one Chess tournament, I noticed two boys of about eleven, who after finishing several hours of serious play, proceeded to play Blitz (a series of short, rapid games) with an enthusiasm equaled only by a little leaguer hitting a home run.

¹According to the USCF figures, in 1969 3,000,000 Americans made some effort to play Chess. A Harris poll taken during the Fischer – Spassky match in 1972 showed that 18% of the population or approximately 40,000,000 people said they had tried the game or knew the moves.

²PROFILE OF A PRODIGY, *The Life and Games of Bobby Fischer* by Frank Brady, David McKay Company, Inc. New York.

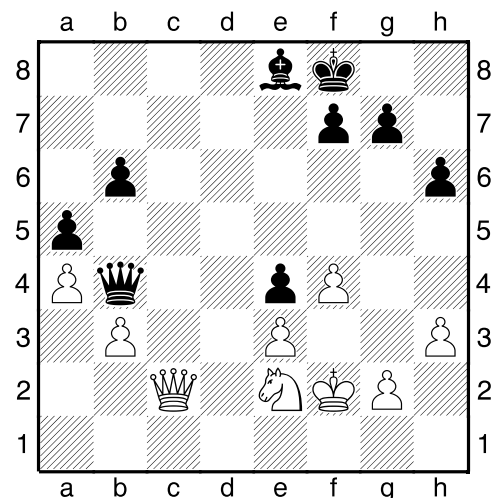
Caruana Wins Super Bet Chess Classic in Romania

Here is Caruana’s win that propelled him to the title.

Caruana, Fabiano (2764) - Nepomniachtchi, Ian (2795)
[D32] Superbet Classic 2023 Bucharest ROU (4.5),
 09.05.2023

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.♘c3 c5 5.e3 ♘c6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.♗b5 cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♗d7 9.0-0 ♗d6 10.♘f3 ♗e6 11.b3 a6 12.♗d3 ♘e5 13.♘xe5 ♗xe5 14.♗b2 ♖c8 15.♖c1 0-0 16.f4 ♗c7 17.♘e2 ♗b6 18.♗d4 ♗xd4 19.♘xd4 ♗a5 20.♗e2 ♖fe8 21.h3 ♗d7 22.♖xc8 ♖xc8 23.♗b2 ♗c5 24.a4 a5 25.♗d2 b6 26.♖b1 ♗a3 27.♗h2 h6 28.♖b2 ♗e7 29.♖c2 ♖c5 30.♘f3 ♖xc2 31.♗xc2 ♗c5 32.♗d3 ♗f8 33.♘d4 ♗g8 34.♗g1 ♗f8 35.♗f2 ♗e7 36.♗b2 ♗f8 37.♘c2 ♘e4+ 38.♗xe4 dxe4 39.♘d4 ♗c6 40.♗e2 ♗c3 41.♗a6 ♗d2+ 42.♘e2 ♗b4 43.♗c8+ ♗e8 44.♗c2 (see diagram) ♗d7 (a slight mistake, from here out Caruana outplays Nepomniachtchi) 45.♘d4 f5 46.♗c7 ♗d2+ 47.♘e2 ♗e6 48.♗xb6 ♗f7 49.♗d4 ♗a2 50.♗a7+ ♗g8 51.♗a8+ ♗h7 52.♗xa5 ♗h8 53.♗d8+ ♗h7 54.♗a5 ♗h8 55.b4 ♗c4 56.♗d8+ ♗h7 57.♗d1 ♗b3 58.♗d7 ♗e6 59.♗b5 ♗h8 60.♗c5 g6 61.♗e1 ♗g8 62.♗d6 ♗f7 63.♗d2 ♗xa4 64.♘d4

♗c4 65.♗f2 h5 66.♗g3 ♗a3 67.b5 ♗d3 68.♗c1 ♗xb5 69.♗c7+ ♗f8 70.♗c5+ 1-0



Position after 44.Qc2.



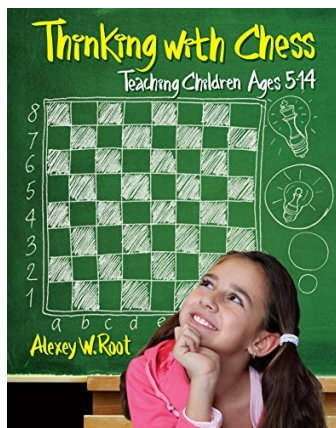
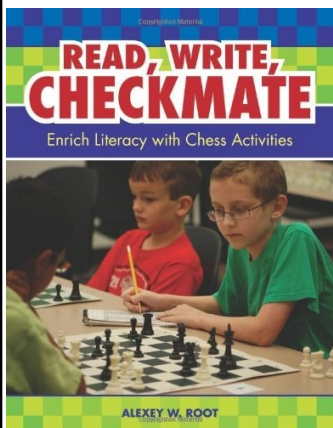
The Queens' Corner

By Rachel Schechter

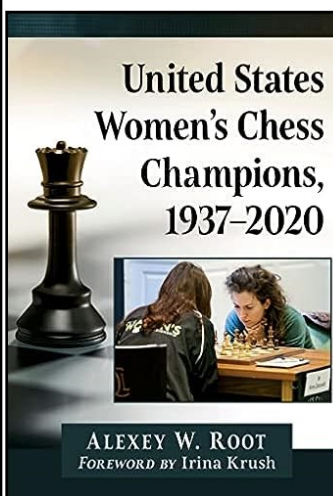


We feature **WIM Alexey W. Root** (Ph.D. in education from UCLA). She was the 1989 U.S. Women's Chess Champion. This achievement qualified her for the "Woman International Master" title awarded by FIDE. Alexey taught social studies and English in secondary schools early in her career. Later she lectured at The University of Texas at Dallas. Currently she teaches online, college—credit, chess curriculum courses. She is also the Chief Science Officer for Chessable. In all Alexey says she has taught chess to over 5000 people!

When I started teaching chess to children about a dozen years ago, two of your books were cited time and again: [Read, Write, Checkmate: Enrich Literacy with Chess Activities](#), and [Thinking with Chess: Teaching Children Ages 5-14](#). I still reference them. Thank you. In your new book, *United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937-2020*, (which I've just begun) you cite your son William's bout with Covid and praise the "real Beth Harmons". Were these your primary motivations? Inspirations? Influences?



First, thanks for reading my books! When my son William Root could not go to work for a couple of weeks due to contracting COVID-19, we had discussed what I might write about for my eighth book. He suggested that I write about the U.S. Women's Chess Champions. His suggestion came at the same time (fall of 2020) that Netflix's *The Queen's Gambit* was a huge hit.



Five-time U.S. Women's Chess Champion Diane Savereide is an inspiration to me. Grandmaster Andy Soltis, who has written books about the U.S. Chess Championships, influenced [United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937-2020](#).

It seems an indispensable compendium. What aspects were most difficult for you? And are you pleased with the result?

Probably the most challenging part of [United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937-2020](#) was finding games and crosstables from some of the

early championships. I am very pleased with my book, and excited that it is competing for Chess Journalists of America's 2022 Best Book of the Year Overall.



Alexey Root, July 16, 2022, photo by Louis A. Reed, Jr.

Your book reveals that 20 of the 29 U.S. Women's Chess Champions were immigrants. Going forward, what does that say about the need for increasing and formalizing chess education in this country, (i.e., "a chessboard in every classroom" and the teaching of chess as curriculum)? As a leader in this field, how would you propose we achieve that goal?

Since my book only goes up to 2020 it leaves out that U.S. – born IM Carissa Yip was the 2021 champion. WGM Jennifer Yu, who won in 2022, was already in the champions' count because she also won in 2019. So, the new count is that, as of 2022, 20 of 30 U.S. Women's Chess Champions were immigrants. The next U.S. Women's Chess Championship will be in October of 2023.

In the United States, states establish their own curricula. Thus, chess cannot be mandated for school curricula nationwide as has been done in other countries, like Armenia. Probably more peer-reviewed research about chess in education could convince state officials of the efficacy of chess.

It is widely documented that you've pioneered Chess Education courses online via The University of Texas at Dallas since 2001. Cognition ignition. How would you evaluate this program's effectiveness? Any plans for future expansion?

In 2001–2002, I was co-principal investigator (PI Dr. Tim Redman) on a \$50,000 grant to offer education courses about chess

via the UT TeleCampus. When the UT TeleCampus disbanded, the [ED 4358 and ED 4359](#) courses began to be offered via UT Dallas eLearning. The courses are available worldwide. There are no plans for expansion in how many courses are offered, however.

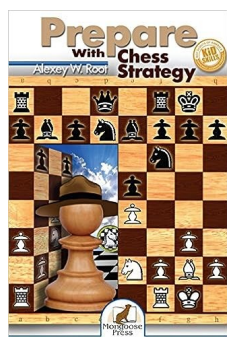
Those who have taken the courses have gone on to important roles in chess, such as starting chess businesses, teaching chess in schools, writing grants for chess programs, and chess research. One of my former students, IM John Bartholomew, co-founded Chessable...a company that ended up offering me a job!

We understand that the position is Chief Science Officer (Chessable—an impressive online repertoire of science-backed chess technology). It sounds exciting. Please elaborate.

I became the Chief Science Officer for Chessable in April of 2022. Chessable is a fun and effective way to improve your chess. Within Chessable, I head the Science Team, which established the Chessable Research Awards. The Chessable Research Awards are offered in three cycles each year. Through the awards, Chessable gives money to university students and their faculty research sponsors conducting new or ongoing chess research. As I mentioned earlier, more peer-reviewed research is important to establish chess in more schools and universities. The Chessable Research Awards encourage peer-reviewed articles about chess. Learn more at this link: https://www.chessable.com/research_awards



Alexey at Pacific Science Center January 7, 2023



Aren't you also involved in Chess merit badges for Boy & Girl Scouts?

My book [Prepare with Chess Strategy](#) was a licensed consumer product by the Boy Scouts of America. I was a [Chess merit badge](#) counselor for the Boy Scouts of America. I also taught the members of one troop of Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas how to play chess.

Switching squares... Where were you born? Is it true your dad taught you to play chess and that you beat him "for real" when you were nine years old?

I was born in Lincoln, NE. My dad taught me chess when I was five years old and let me win. When I was nine, I asked him to play "for real" and defeated him. My dad wasn't a tournament

player and didn't know all the rules of chess. For example, he didn't know *en passant*.

When did you begin tournament play? Can you share with us one or two memorable childhood experiences?

My dad took me to the Lincoln Chess Club, and I started playing in local tournaments soon after my first visit there. One other girl, Angel Niedfeld, also played in those tournaments. I would win the trophy for first overall under age 13 player and Angel won the first girl trophy. The boys were shut out of the trophies for tournament after tournament. When their parents complained, a new prize structure of trophies for first overall, first boy, and first girl became the norm.

Did you meet your husband at a chess tournament?

Yes, I did. IM Jack Peters introduced me to IM Doug Root.

On becoming a WIM... How did you prepare? With whom did you study? And how did achieving the title feel?

I got the WIM title all at once, by winning the 1989 U.S. Women's Chess Championship, because 1989 was a "zonal" year and the U.S. was a "zone." I didn't have to achieve norms for the WIM. I did not have a coach or a second at the 1989 U.S. Women's Chess Championship.

What advice would you offer to young chess queens looking to advance their careers?

Do you mean a career as a professional chess player? [The odds of youth athletes](#), and of youth chess players, turning professional are low. My best advice might be to keep options open for other careers and for higher education.

What can US Chess do to further promote Women in Chess?

Last year (2022) the Delegates passed this motion: **DM22-24/ MMM22-01 (Jim Eade, CA-N) Delegates recommend that the Executive Board establish a U.S. Senior Women's Championship Round Robin. PASSED**

But, as far as I know, nothing has been done to establish a U.S. Senior Women's Championship. Every player in the 2023 U.S. Senior Championship at the Saint Louis Chess Club was a man. All the players in the 2022 John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions were men, too.



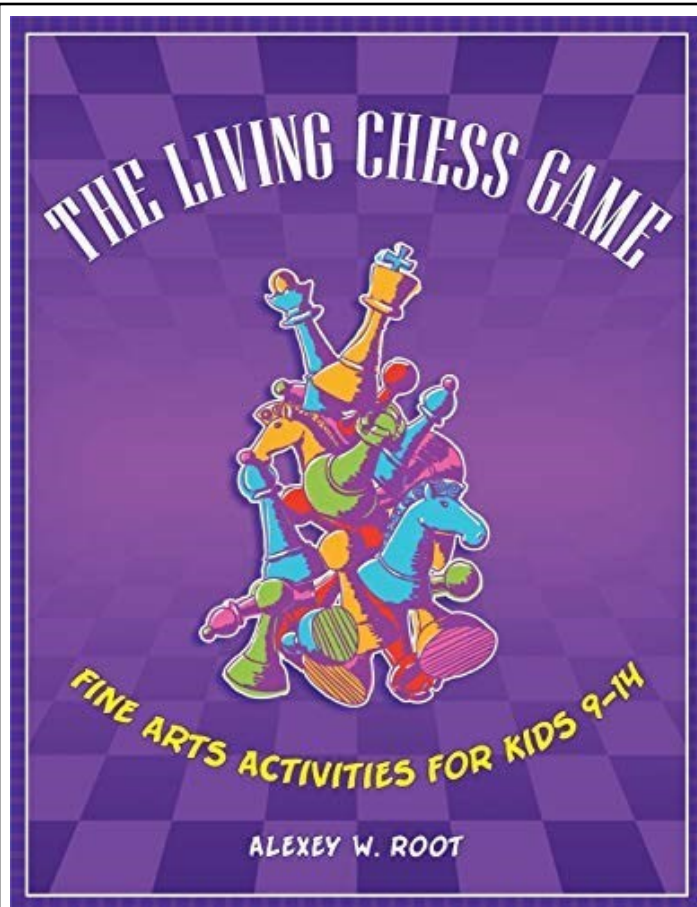
Other Books by Alexey Root

[People, Places, Checkmates: Teaching Social Studies with Chess](#)

[Science, Math, Checkmate: 32 Chess Activities for Inquiry and Problem Solving](#)

[The Living Chess Game: Fine Arts Activities for Kids 9-14](#)

[Children and Chess: A Guide for Educators](#)

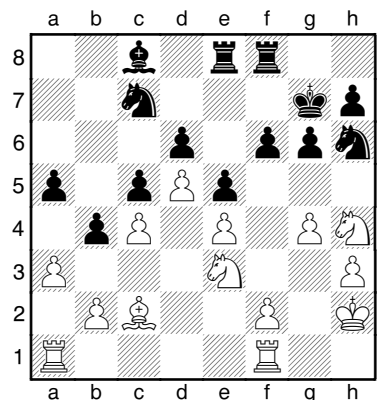


Ed: I have one more follow-up question if you don't mind. While I was looking through all the books you have written I just really liked the cover design for *The Living Chess Game: Fine Arts Activities for Kids 9-14*. Who designed the cover? How much say do you have with the cover designs when writing the books vs. the publisher?

The cover was designed by Thom Zimerle. The cover photo was from Super Chess. (dadanya/iStockphoto). I did not ask for input on my covers until my third book. I have had input on the covers for my books 3 through 8.

Rudolph,Alexey (2175) - Neely,Liz (2152) [E61] U.S.
Women's Championship Spartanburg, S.C. (2),
07.07.1989

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♗f3 g6 3.c4 c5 4.e3 ♠g7 5.♛c3 0-0 6.♗e2 b6 7.0-0 ♗b7 8.d5 d6 9.e4 ♗a6 10.h3 ♛c7 11.♗e3 ♗b8 12.♗d2 a6 13.♗h6 b5 14.♗xg7 ♗xg7 15.♗f4 b4 16.♛d1 e5 17.♗h4 ♛h5 18.g3 ♗xh4 19.♛xh4 ♖f6 20.♗d3 ♗be8 21.♛e3 ♗c8 22.♗h2 ♛g8 23.g4 ♛h6 24.♗c2 f6 25.a3 a5



Black has three minutes to reach time control, which was 40 moves in two hours, clock shows 1:57. White has 43 minutes, clock shows 1:17. 26.axb4 axb4 27.♗a7 ♗e7 28.♗fa1 ♗ff7 29.♗a4 ♛xd5 30.♗xe7 ♛xe7 31.♗d1 ♗b7 32.♗d7 ♗xe4 33.♗e6 ♗f8 34.♗xd6 ♖f7 35.♗d7 g5 36.f3 gxh4 37.fxe4 ♛g6 38.♖f5+ ♗g8 39.♗xf7+ 1-0

Off the board... What's your favorite tea? Your favorite color? Dessert?

Teecino makes a mocha-chicory herbal coffee that I like. My daughter Clarissa assigned favorite colors to every family member when she was little, and my assigned color is yellow. I like a lot of desserts but if I must pick one, then carrot cake.

Finally, existentially, if you could create *The Ninth Rank* where might you start?

It might be fun to make in a rank "9 and ¾" and capture more Harry Potter fan interest in chess.

30th US Women's Championship and Zonal; 1989; July 6-16; Spartanburg, SC

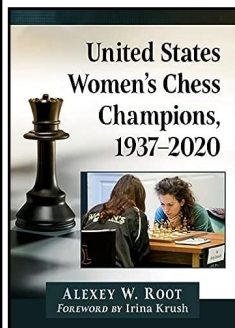
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	W/L/D
1. Alexey Rudolph	2155	x	1	1	1	1	½	½	½	1	½		7 -2	+5-0=4
2. Shernaz Mistry-Kennedy	2090	0	x	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1		6 -3	+6-3=0
3. Sharon Burtman	2090	0	1	x	0	1	0	1	1	1	1		6 -3	+6-3=0
4. Vesna Dimitrijevic	2125	0	0	1	x	½	1	½	1	1	1		6 -3	+5-2=2
5. Liz Neely	2205	0	0	0	½	x	1	1	1	1	1		5½-3½	+5-3=1
6. Natasha Us	1945	½	0	1	0	0	x	1	1	0	½		4 -5	+3-4=2
7. Ruth Donnelly	2080	½	1	0	½	0	0	x	0	1	½		3½-5½	+2-4=3
8. Diana Gherghe	2080	½	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	1	1		3½-5½	+3-5=1
9. Chris Hendrickson	1975	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	x	1		2 -7	+2-7=0
10. Colette McGruder	1975	½	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	x		1½-7½	+0-6=3

United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937-2020

by WIM Alexey Root

Reviewed by Joshua Anderson

WIM Alexey Root's new book, [United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937-2020](#), highlights the 29 women who have been the United States Women's Chess Champions. The twenty who are still alive supplied information and weighed in on their games through correspondence with Root.



Root starts with an introductory chapter that highlights the evolution of the event from its first days at the Marshall Chess Club (two years before the United States Chess Federation was formed), to the present. After years of moving around, it has been hosted annually by the Saint Louis Chess Club, since 2009. She concludes this chapter in about 10 pages, and then dives headlong into the chapters on the players.

The 29 chapters may differ in substance, but are extremely similar in style. Each introduces the player in a couple of paragraphs and then usually highlights a game they won. There is also a comment or two about the Championship(s) the player won, how she did in other years, and a game from the championship event. (There are two exceptions when no game could be found, 1948 and 1974.) Next, Root details a few other games and some comments about the player, especially of championships they participated in, their legacy, or issues that arose related to them. (For example, the lack of African American women in the championship is covered in the chapter on Marilyn Simmons.)

The text is fairly brief, but the games used by Root are quite well annotated by a variety of sources. Some annotations come from students in the University of Texas at Dallas program (where Dr. Root teaches), and others were done by her husband, International Master Doug Root. Since many of the women champions helped pick the games used, sometimes their comments from earlier publications are used. Alexey Root then reviewed each of the games and the comments from the various annotators.

As with most McFarland books, there is a bit of back matter. However, it is presented a little differently than usual—there are only a few additional sections, and Root does not call any of them *appendices*. The first additional section is the result tables for all the championships—over 30 pages—and is approximately one-sixth of the main text of the book (large sections of back matter are not uncommon in McFarland chess books.) Next, there is an excellent bibliography that oddly (but pleasantly) lists not just the magazines used, but each individual article—a rarity in a McFarland chess book. The book also includes the standard list of games by opening, list of games by ECO code, and index. An appendix that highlights each player and what year(s) they played in the championship would be a nice addition.

The book does a fabulous job of highlighting and explaining some great games by the various U. S. Women Champions. The book is an excellent choice if the reader is looking for a light introduction to the many U.S. Women's Champions, and will also serve as a starting point for chess historians. For all of these reasons, this book is highly recommended as a good start to learning about the Women's Champions and the games they played.

ADDENDUM TO “HOW TO BECOME WORLD CHESS CHAMPION”

Compiled and refereed by Bob Basalla

It seems some of the readers of my humor article “How to Become World Chess Champion” run in *The Chess Journalist* in May felt compelled to try their hand at adding more clever schemes to the two dozen or so ways presented. Here are the most viable ones that have been tossed over the transom so far...

Chess Journalist editor Mark Capron suggested gaining the title By Marriage. At first, I thought this idea didn't have independent significance since it would dovetail into the By Inheritance method fleshed out in the article. And no one thinks that Mrs. Petrosian was Co-Champion with Tigran just by being the champ's spouse. But what about as part of a Divorce Settlement? The Champion can have the bank accounts, the summer villa and all the other material accumulations of the marriage in exchange for one little item. You guessed it.

The above led to thoughts about related schemes involving By Debt Cancellation. Couldn't you inveigle the Champion into a bad business deal, then offer him a way out by ceding the title to you know who. Or addict him to gambling with similar financial distress? On a more positive front, one could save the Champion's life (in a carefully orchestrated ruse, of course) and when he asks what he could ever do to repay you, well... I

concede that treating the World Chess Championship as a commodity can only be stretched so far, but considering some of the wild schemes posited in the article, they are arguably admissible.

Wilson of Oregon came up with By Internet, in which you establish a web domain under the rubric World Chess Champion, or perhaps become a famous blogger or podcast host under the World Chess Champion banner. Soon your name and “World Chess Champion” would be so inextricably linked that large swaths of the population would see you as that “World Chess Champion” guy (or gal). Good one.

Bryan of Wisconsin suggested one I'm a little unclear on. He posited By Pro-Am, meaning having a World Consultation Chess competition where you glom onto the best player as your partner, and when he does all the heavy work to win, you automatically claim at least Co-Champion status. Well, maybe. This idea seems to intersect with By Cyber-Melding in the original article where assistance in procuring the title comes from elsewhere, or perhaps By Customization where a World Chess Championship event can be manufactured giving you a personal royal path to victory. I'm still pondering this one.

But do not despair, title aspirants. Most of the alleged 114 ways to gain the World Chess Championship await discovery. Put on your thinking caps and scheme away, care of *The Chess Journalist*. The best ones may even see print in a future issue!

Testimonial to Paul Morphy.

UNIVERSITY HALL, NEW YORK CITY,

Wednesday Evening, May 25th, 1859.

PRESENTATION CEREMONIES.

MUSIC.

ENTRANCE OF THE NEW YORK CHESS CLUB, OFFICERS, INVITED GUESTS, ORATORS,
AND

PAUL MORPHY.

MUSIC—"SEE, THE CONQUERING HERO COMES."

DESCRIPTION OF TESTIMONIALS.

Testimonial furnished by Tiffany & Co.

The Chess-men, which are the conspicuous objects of the "Morphy Testimonial," are of the purest Gold and Silver, and—with the exception of their cornelian pedestals—of those materials alone. In design and execution, as well as in intrinsic value, the set is, so far as we are informed, unequalled—the celebrated establishment in the possession of Queen Victoria, though of similar design, being of inferior proportions. The connoisseur will especially remark the exquisite details of the artist's conception. As Chess is a royal game, the pieces in this superb set are appropriately modeled after a study of one of the grandest historic episodes—the contest between Christianity and Barbarism. "The Reds," or the Gold pieces, are highly finished statuettes, indicating the components of an imperial array in the days when Kings and Queens went forth with their armies, and Bishops, exchanging mitre and crozier for battle-axe and sword, transferred the war of proselytism from the sanctuary to the field. The "Whites," or the Silver pieces, in happy contrast, represent the Northern horde which disputed the domination of Theodosius, or, at a later period, for a while withstood the march of Clovis and Clothilde. That the latter page of history is a favorite theme for German study, may be seen in the romances of Fouqué and others; as well as in many of the finest works in Iron and Bronze, which have distinguished the artists of Berlin and Munich.

In detail, the pieces are as follows: The Gold King is a statuette, four inches in height, and weighing three ounces, royal robes gracefully falling over his armor, the Imperial globe upon his martially defended head, the crown and sceptre at his feet, by his side an elegant shield, and in his right hand the sword of Empire. The Queen, arrayed in character, is of proportions slightly inferior to those of her Lord. The Bishops, in the full panoply of warriors, three and a half inches in height, stand perceptibly inclined forward, grasping drawn swords with blades advanced, and are spirited illustrations of the fierce Prelates who anticipated the Higher Law conflicts of the Pulpit and Press by good cut and thrust argumentation hand-to-hand. The Knights, on both sides, are admirably sculptured chargers, prancing nearly upright, and ruby-eyed. In the Rooks, or Castles, the Artist has adopted the Chinese design, and flanked the rear lines by stately Elephants, each bearing an Eastern hound, upon which an elegantly wrought Eagle is spreading his pinions, as if to pounce upon his prey. The eyes of both bird and beast are brilliant rubies. The finish of this piece is especially admirable, the artist having achieved a manifest triumph in the contrast which his fine *chasing* has effected between the coarse hide of the elephant and the tiger-skin mantle of the hound. This elaborate piece is three and three-quarter inches in height, and weighs eighty gold dollars, or—more appreciably—five ounces.

The Silver King is a happy counterpart to his Golden adversary. As a leader of the Barbarians, his covering is of bull's hide, and only distinguished from that of his followers by the finer dressing it has received. Disputing the Empire with the leader of the opposing host, he, too, wears the Imperial globe upon which rest those emblematic wings with which the Norsemen and the Goths adorned their helmets. The royal emblems lie at his feet, while on his left arm depends a shield inscribed with the defiant motto—*Liberty*—and in his right hand he grasps a warlike brand. His Queen is arrayed in proper character. The Bishops wear winged helmets, and drawn swords considerably longer than the Roman falchions of their Christian adversaries, their panoply otherwise according with that of their posts. In proportion and weight, these pieces correspond with those of the other side.

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