

The Chess Journalist

Volume XLVII

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CHESS JOURNALISTS OF AMERICA



Photo by Amir Meirom

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Hello From the Editor:

Hello All,

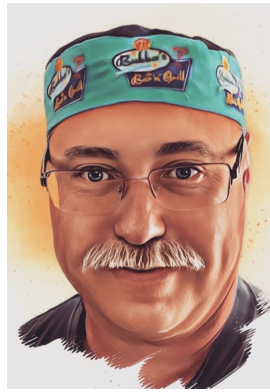
Jon Crumiller sent In a very nice article on some of the oldest chess books. We want to thank Jon and worldchess.com for allowing us to reprint the article.

Gene Salomon had so much fun writing the lead article for the last issue he sent in another. Keep them coming Gene, I love your stories and always learn something.

Assistant Editor Rachel Schechter combined an interview with Jennifer Shahade and a review of Jennifer's new book *Chess Queens*.

The contributor list was a bit shorter than the last two issues: Joshua Anderson, Rachel Schechter, Gene Saloman, Eric Vigil, and Mark Capron. Please consider sending in an article or idea for next issue, deadline 9/5/22.

Photos by Amir Meïrom, Jon Crumiller, Hodder & Stoughton, Daniel Meïrom and Blake Eichenseer, St. Louis Chess Club, Daniel Meyrom, Maria Emelianova, Diane Dahl, and Jennifer Shahade.



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

—Mark Capron



CJA US Open Meeting

Time: Aug 5, 2022 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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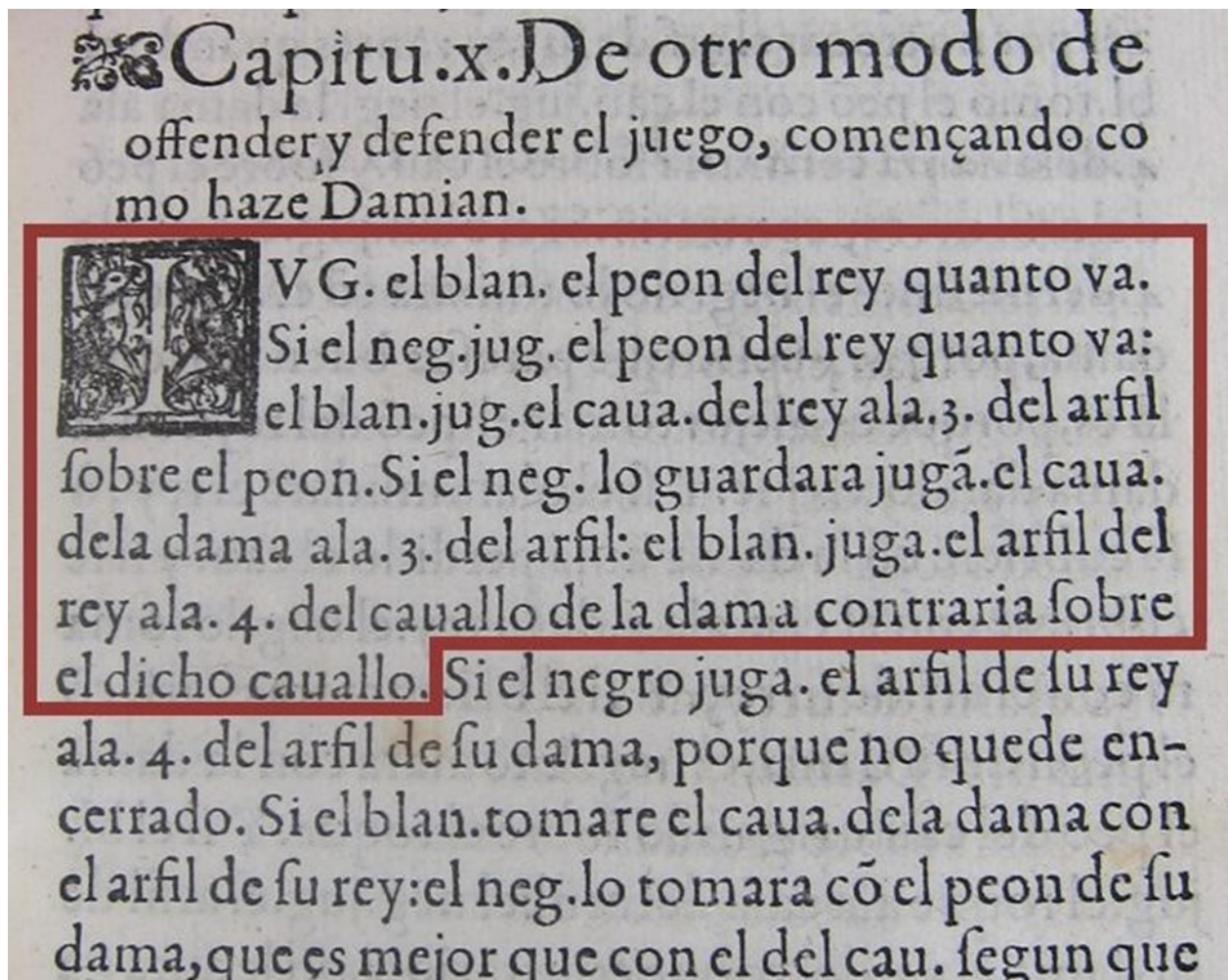
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The Oldest Books on Modern Chess

By Jon Crumiller

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Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition. But when players respond to 1. e4 with 1. ... e5, they can often be subjected to the Spanish Torture. That's a well-known nickname for the Ruy López, one of the oldest and most commonly used openings in chess. The nickname is possibly not a coincidence; the Inquisition was active in Spain in 1561, the same year that the Spanish priest named Ruy López de Segura published his celebrated work, *Libro de la Invencion liberal y Arte del juego del Axedrez*. The book contained the analysis from which the chess opening received its eponymous name.



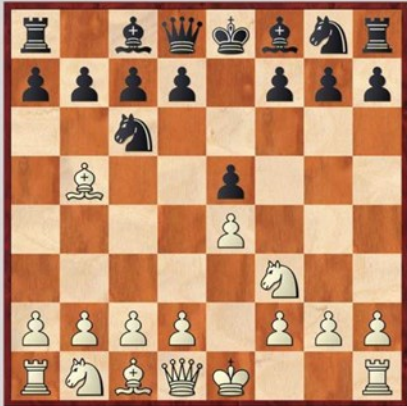
Jonathan Crumiller

The passage highlighted above can roughly be translated:

White king's pawn goes to the fourth. If black plays the king's pawn to the fourth: white plays the king's knight to the king's bishop third, over the pawn. If black plays the queen's

knight to queen's bishop third: white plays the king's bishop to the fourth square of the contrary queen's knight, opposed to that knight.

Or in our modern chess language: 1. e4, e5 2. Nf3, Nc6 3. Bb5.



The Ruy López
on the chessboard
today



The Ruy López
on the chessboard
in Spain, circa 1600

Jonathan Crumiller

On the right is how the Ruy López opening would have looked four centuries ago with a standard chess set and board in Spain. This Spanish chess set is one of my oldest complete sets (along with a companion wooden set of the same era).



Jonathan Crumiller

Here is the Ruy López as seen with that companion set displayed on a Spanish chessboard, also from the 1600's.



Jonathan Crumiller

In addition to its contribution to opening theory, Ruy López's book is historically important for codifying some of the game's rules. For example, the book introduced the fifty-move rule that can determine when a game is drawn.

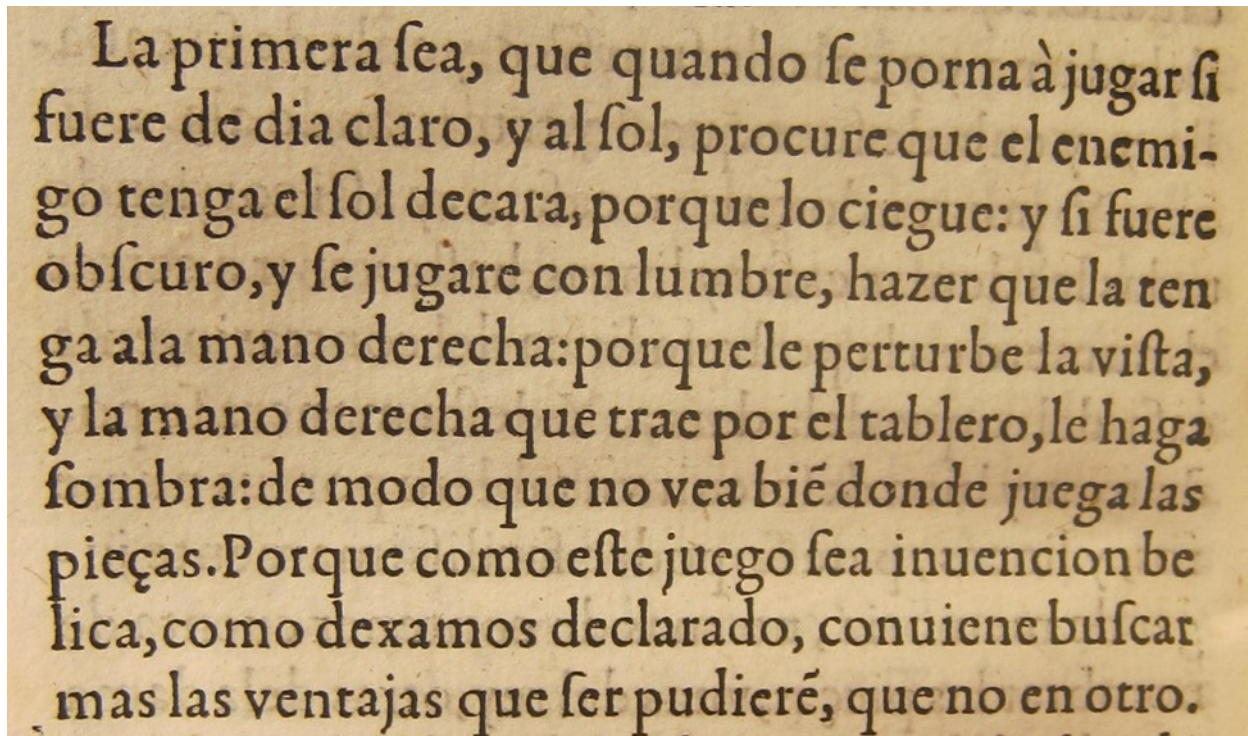
Ruy López also states that the White pieces make the first move. Oddly, this rule did not become standardized until hundreds of years later. Howard Staunton, throughout his tenure as chess columnist for the *Illustrated London News* (1844/5-1874), took a different stance, such as this column from October 15, 1853:

DOCTOR, Boston.—1. If the games we have lately published "have all been begun by White," it is an accidental circumstance. The colour of the pieces has nothing whatever to do with determining the first move. 2. You should procure some good rudimentary work upon the game.

Illustrated London News, 1853-10-15

It appears that the rule that White moves first was not fully accepted until the early twentieth century.

One might assume that a Spanish priest would advocate a strict code of ethics and sportsmanship while playing the game. But here is a sample of the sage advice found in Ruy López's book:

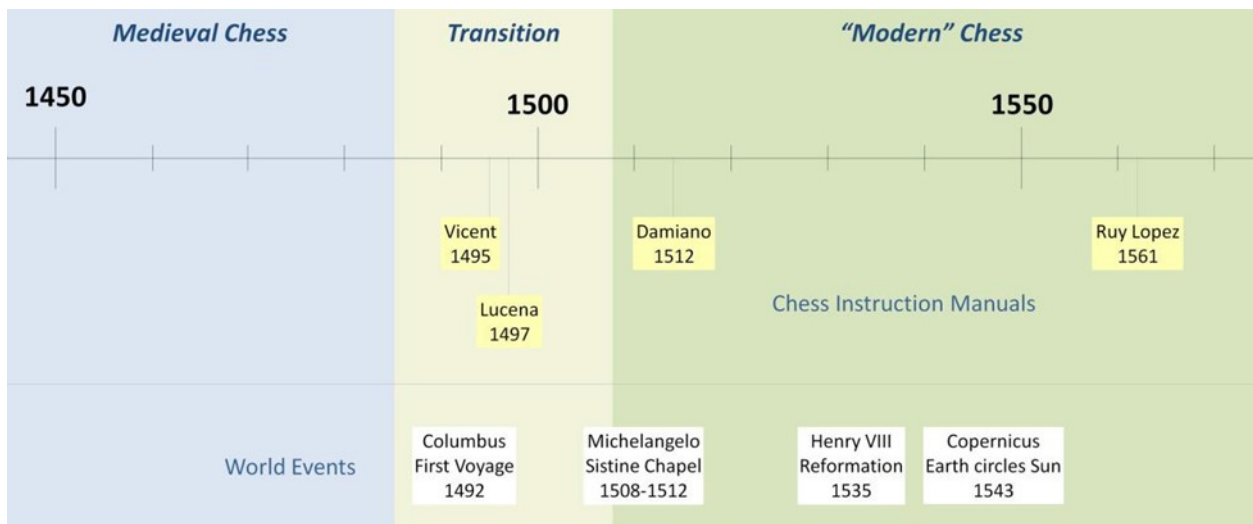


Jonathan Crumiller

"...when playing if it is a clear day, and sunny, is to 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."

The Ruy López book in my collection was formerly owned by J.W. Rimington Wilson (1822-1877), a famous book collector and dealer in London in the mid-19th century. Rimington Wilson personally signed many of the books in his collection. In general I am not a proponent of affixing signatures or bookplates to the antiquarian books in one's collection, but Rimington Wilson's signature from 150 years ago makes it possible to know something about the book's provenance, (though he signed it when the book was already 300 years old!). After Rimington Wilson's death, the book was in the inventory of Bernard Quaritch, of whom The Times wrote, upon his death in 1899, "It would scarcely be rash to say that Quaritch was the greatest bookseller who ever lived."

Ruy Lopez is towards the end of the transition from Medieval chess to modern chess, as shown by the following timeline, which includes the works of other great writers about the game.

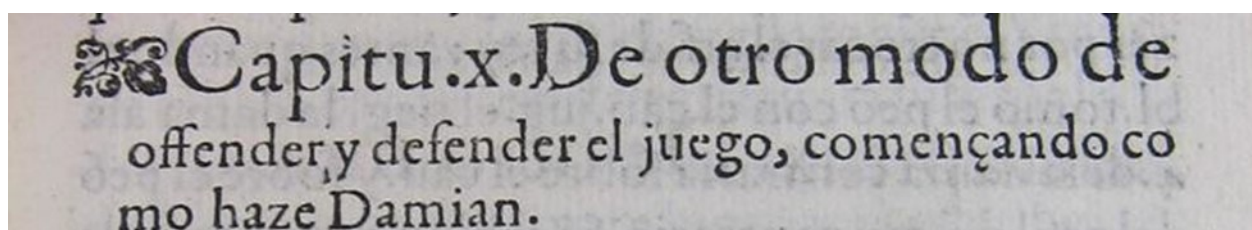


Jonathan Crumiller

To put this timeline into some context, unlike the readers of Lucena and Damiano, the readers of Ruy López's book had the benefit of knowing that the earth revolves around the sun, rather than vice versa!

A few words about the timeline and other chess publications from prior centuries. Some very sophisticated books on the game of shatranj, or chess with the "old rules," were written in medieval times, and even much earlier. A prime example is *Libro de axedrez, dados e tablas* (Book of Chess, Dice, and Tables) commissioned in 1283 by Alfonso X (also called Alfonso el Sabio, or Alfonso the Wise), the King of Castille, Leon, and Galicia. Another ancient work, *Bonus Socius*, a collection of chess problems, was published circa 1250-1275. Older manuscripts, some dating back to pre-1000 A.D., included analysis of highly advanced shatranj (old chess) problems. There are also ancient chess books that use chess as an analogy, or poetic device, for social commentary. These publications include Cessolis (c.1275-1300), Gallensis (c. 1470), Caxton (1474), and Vida's *Scacchia Ludus* poem (1527). All of these publications are beyond the scope of this article, which focuses on the early chess manuals that embraced the modern rules of chess.

The timeline shows that there appears to have been a gap of nearly 50 years between Ruy López's book in 1561 and its predecessor, authored by Damiano and published in Rome in 1512. Ruy López had sought to correct and improve upon Damiano's analysis.



Jonathan Crumiller

Roughly translated, "Another mode of playing attack and defense in the game's opening as played by Damiano." Damiano's book included analysis of various openings, i.e. (what are now known as)

Philidor's Defense, the Giuoco Piano, Petroff's Defense, the Queen's Gambit Accepted, and others. The opening named after Ruy López was not in Damiano's book.

Damiano's first-edition chess treatise of 1512 was the first manual published in Italy for our "modern" game. In David DeLucia's outstanding two-volume book, *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 chessplayers with a game in progress.

LIBRO DA IMPARARE
GIOCARRE A SCACCHI:
Et de belitissimi Partiti: Reuisti, & Re-
corretti. Con somma diligētia emēdati,
da molti famosissimi Giocatori. In
lingua Spagnola, & Taliana.
Nouamente Stampato.



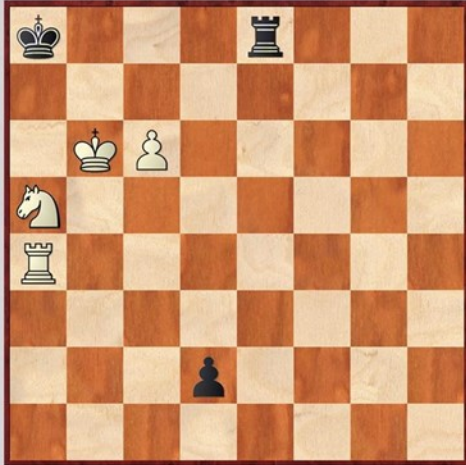
Jonathan Crumiller

Aside from the perspective that makes the chessboard look like a large table, the board has some interesting similarities with a 15th-century Italian chess board-box in my collection, from the Embriachi workshop.

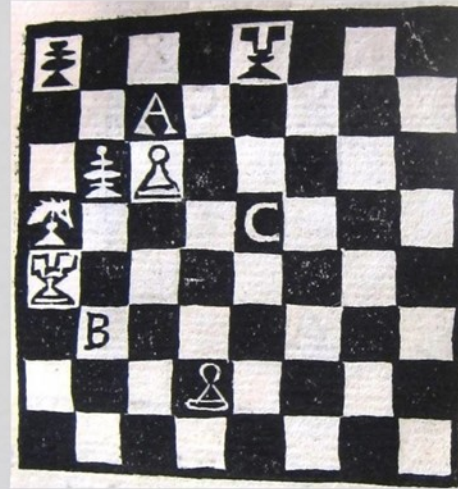


Jonathan Crumiller

Damiano's book has a total of 92 woodcut chess diagrams. Most of the diagrams are for chess problems, such as the following "White to move and mate in two":



Mate in two



matto in duoi tratti

Jonathan Crumiller

This problem is looked upon favorably by The Chess Player's Chronicle, Vol. 5 (1844):

No. 5.

<i>White.</i>	<i>Black.</i>
K. at Q. Kt.'s sixth R. at Q. R.'s fourth Kt. at Q. R.'s fifth P. at Q. B.'s sixth	K. at Q. R.'s square R. at K.'s square P. at Q. Kt.'s seventh

White to move, and mate in two moves. This is a favourable specimen of the simple yet energetic style of our author.

Chess Players Chronicle, Vol. 5, 1844

Damiano provides the solution, in both Italian and Spanish, as follows.

For White to checkmate Black in two moves, not more or less, first White moves the pawn to A [c7] and if Black gives check with the rook, then White covers with the knight and gives mate. If Black plays the rook to C [e5], then White makes a queen and it is mate. If Black makes a queen, then White plays the knight to B [b3] and gives mate with discovered [check] of the rook.

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).



Jonathan Crumiller

The chessboard on this page is the one diagram in the entire Damiano book in which there is not a white square in the lower right-hand corner. Damiano's book was actually the first to publish the rule of having the white square in that corner, so it is ironic that in a chapter about strengthening one's mental sight of the squares, the board is rotated 90 degrees and therefore not displayed correctly!

The vast majority of Damiano's book was not original. He had copied most of the chess material from an earlier work by Luis Ramírez de Lucena, published in Salamanca Spain in 1497, entitled *Repetición de Amores y Arte de Ajedrez con 101 Juegos de Partido* ("Repetition of Love and the Art of Playing Chess with 101 Games"). The mate-in-two chess problem given earlier was one of many that had been copied directly from Lucena. Howard Staunton describes some of Damiano's cherry-picking plagiarism in his *Illustrated London News* (ILN) column of Sept. 12, 1863.

T. R. B.—To say that Damiano took a certain number of problems from Lucena's treatise is not sufficient. The case is this. In Lucena's time the game appears to have been in a transition state, oscillating between the old and the reformed style of play, and, accordingly, some of the problems he introduces are formed upon the principle of the old and some upon that of the new game. In Damiano's day the new game, such as we now play, had nearly superseded the ancient one; and he therefore borrowed from Lucena only those problems which are based upon the modern movements of the pieces. You will find both works in the library of the British Museum.

Illustrated London News, 1863-09-12

Lucena's book is the earliest chess manual that still exists. As mentioned in Staunton's column, Lucena bridged the gap between old and new by combining material from both styles of play: the old traditional style (called 'el viejo' by Lucena) and the new rules (called 'de la dama') which had just taken hold. In the older style of play, queens were limited to moving precisely one square diagonally and bishops moved precisely two squares along a diagonal. The new rules were the ones that are used today and made for a much more exciting game because of the enhanced power for attacking.

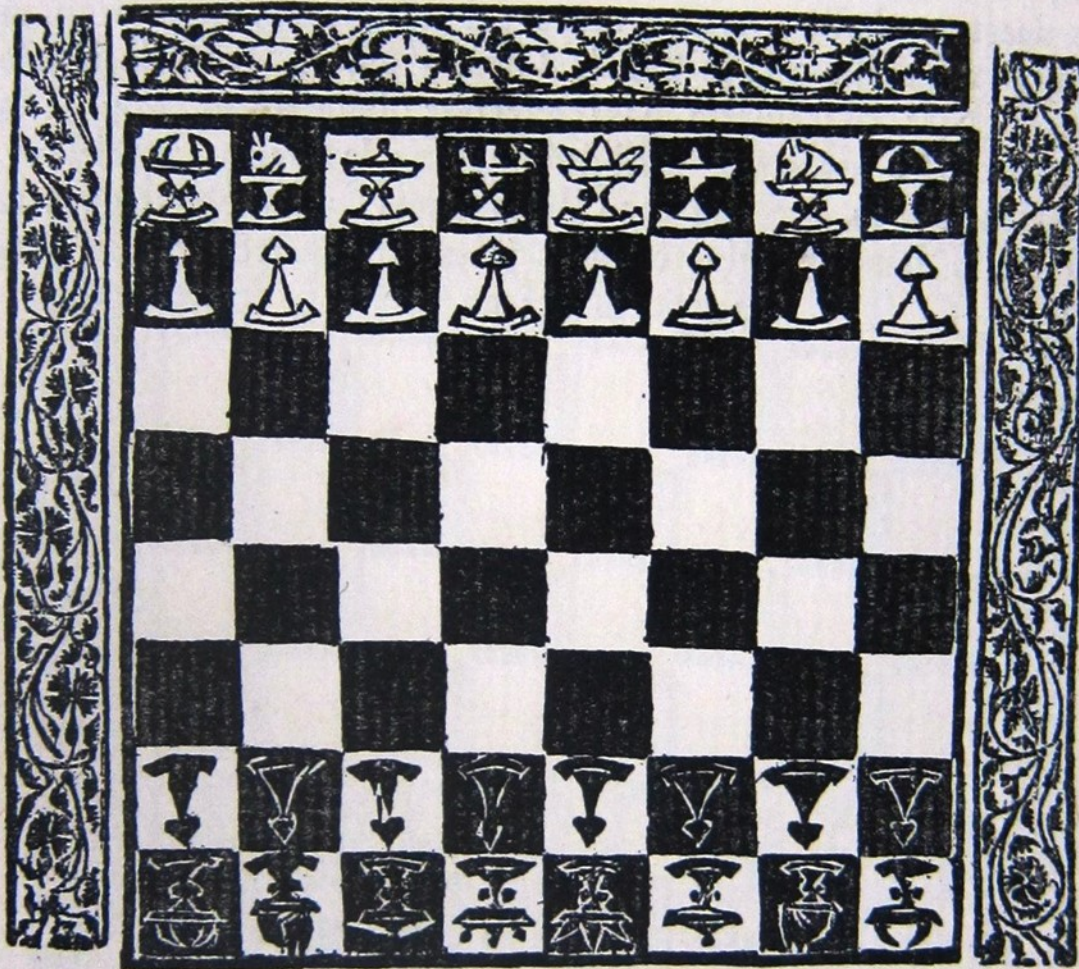
The material in Lucena's book overlaps heavily with the Göttingen manuscript, as well as a handwritten vellum document known as the Paris Manuscript. This latter document is in David DeLucia's world-class collection. All three documents are from the late 15th century, and some experts assert that all three documents were authored by Lucena. The Paris Manuscript does prominently display a Lucena signature, presumably by Lucena himself.



© Copyright David DeLucia

Very few copies of the Lucena book still exist today, and I have not yet been able to acquire an original copy. In my collection is a limited-edition reprint, published in Barcelona in 1953.

A famous rook-and-pawn ending, known as the Lucena position, was actually not from Lucena at all, but rather from a later book, Salvio's *Il Puttino* (1634). Misattributions occur relatively frequently in early chess history; as a further example, Lucena's book does indeed analyze the opening now known as the Ruy López.



La novena regla y las que se siguen son para sí el otro tomare primero la mano. Así que si jugare primero el otro el peón del rey a cuatro casas, jugaréis por lo semejante; y si él jugare del caballo del rey a tres casas del arfil, jugaréis del caballo de vuestra dama a tres casas del arfil; y si él jugare el arfil de su rey sobre vuestro caballo, jugaréis el caballo de vuestro rey a ii casas de vuestro rey; y si tomare el caballo, [le] tomaréis con el vuestro; y si jugare el peón de arfil de la dama a tres casas por entablar mejor su juego, jugaréis el peón de la dama a cuatro casas, porque tengáis tan buen juego como él. Y aquésto porque juguéis de los arfiles: el del rey a tres casas de la dama y el de la dama a tres casas del rey.

It can be roughly translated:

If [White] first plays the king's pawn to the fourth square, play the same; and if he plays king's knight to the third square of the bishop, play the knight of your queen to the third

square of the bishop; and if he plays the king's bishop next to your knight, play your king's knight to the second square of your king; and if he takes the knight, take it with yours; and if he plays the queen's bishop's pawn to the third square to better engage your game, play your queen's pawn to the fourth square, because then you have a better game than him. And also because you play with your bishops: the king's bishop to the queen's third square and the queen's bishop to the king's third square.

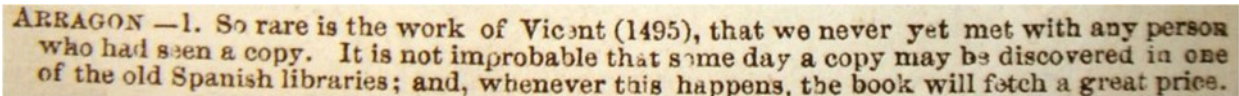
Or in our modern language, 1. e4, e5 2. Nf3, Nc6 3. Bb5, Nge7 4. Bxc6, Nxc6 5. c3, d5.

And although 4. Bxc6 Nxc6 5. c3 would never be seen in a high-level game today, the response 5. ...d5 is the first choice of today's top chess engines!

Lucena's book (and the similar documents) may share an unfortunate attribute of Damiano's book: much of its material may have been copied from an earlier source. Which leads us to the earliest-known chess book with modern rules: *Libre dels jochs partits dels schacs en nombre de 100*, authored by Francesc Vicent and published in Valencia (now an autonomous community in Spain) in 1495. The book

is believed to be the first chess manual with the "modern" moves for the queen and the bishop. Coming full circle, the author was a Valencian who fled to Italy, due to persecution from the Spanish Inquisition!

No copies of Vicent's book are known to exist today. Howard Staunton alluded to its extreme rarity in his ILN 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.

Illustrated London News, 1854-06-17

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 Chess Monthly, Vol. 2 1881-1882

For interested readers, 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.

Photos of Mr. Crumiller's collection are posted at chessantique.com and <https://tinyurl.com/h76xvw6>.

Minor changes in formatting from its original edition in WorldChess.com were used to allow the article to fit and flow in The Chess Journalist –Ed.

Aces Up for *Chess Queens*

Jennifer Shahade Chess Queens InteReview by Rachel A Schechter

Jennifer Shahade's unique compendium of female chess players belongs on every serious bookshelf worldwide

I caught up with WGM *Chess Queens* author Jennifer Shahade (Ambassador for Women in Chess and *Ladies' Knight* host) just after she'd wound up a 2-week professional Poker gig in Monaco. Unpacking from one venture, packing for another.

"How'd you like Monaco?" I ask, turning up my speaker phone.

"It was amazing," Jennifer says.

I smile, ready my tea. Jennifer is a generous soul. I first met her at the 2019 Nationals in Orlando, FL. It was my first Special Delegates Convention, and I was more than nervous. But Jennifer flashed me her dazzling signature smile, topped me a US Chess Women's hat, and invited me to sit with her group. Suddenly I belonged. Laughing, listening, learning. Impressed with how naturally she put people at ease while patiently explaining the Queen's Gambit Accepted opening. I smiled. She was Glam-slam-medley. Over-the-board-deadly. Yet patient and kind. Blue eyes kind.

And now, nearly four years later, we are on the phone talking life, talking PokerStars, Madwoman's Book Club, the US Chess Girls' Club and Jennifer's latest book, *Chess Queens*—an unparalleled anthology of female chess players.



Photo by Hodder & Stoughton

As we speak, Jennifer's at home in Philadelphia playing Legos with her son Fabian; I'm in Champaign-Urbana, IL steeping tea.

"You write that Lithuanian Grandmaster Viktorija Cmilyte-Nielsen thinks each baby a woman has adds 50 points to her rating." P 136. Please tell us a bit about your husband and son. How have marriage and motherhood improved your game?"

"My husband Daniel and son Fabian are my biggest fans," Jennifer says. "They inspire me to be the best version of myself and to fight for every game. I'm happier as a mom—and busier—which can be logistically tough. But I'm stronger and wiser too."

I nod, impressed. Logistically tough? Somehow, this dynamic young woman makes it all work. *Chess Queens* is logistically smooth.

It's an historical tour-de-force that opens with the heroic portraits of pioneer chess champions Vera Menchik and Sonja Graf, who fled their respective homelands to escape political persecution: Menchik, the Russian Revolution; Graf, the Nazis—then transports the reader— via an intriguing, intimate journey, chronologically and internationally—through the fascinating world of female chess: the Georgian sovereignty, the Polgar phenomena, the European divas, the Asian ascendancy, the engaging Americas—and culminates with Jennifer winning her 2nd. Women's World Chess Championship In 2004.

I honey my tea.

"That all female chess players should read Chess Queens is a given. But why should men read it?" I ask. I can hear Legos snapping into place.

"Why? To play better chess, of course. Everyone who reads Chess Queens is more likely to win more. And why not? Viewing the chess world from so many and varied perspectives is bound to deepen everyone's understanding of chess and life."

It's true. Having read the book three times, I can honestly say even my chess puzzle rating has improved. But more importantly, I have rediscovered the beauty of the game, enjoying "the freedom and pleasures that come with losing oneself in

chess.” P330

“What’s up next for you?” I ask.

“Uh, Marshall Club for a book signing, then Vegas for the World Series of Poker.”

Damn. What energy. Jennifer Shahade *embodies her novel*. She’s a risk-taker, an adventuress, a trailblazer—a passionate young woman who has shattered more than her fair share of glass ceilings—paying homage to the chess queens who precede her and those who will surely follow and flourish.

I enjoyed her zany-artsy aspects: her fascination with artist Marcel Duchamp, who abandoned the NYC art world in 1918 and became chess-obsessed—playing, painting, filming—nothing but chess for the next 25 years. Shahade drew on Duchamp’s talents at the Max Euwe 2011 tournament in Amsterdam with her creation of *Naked Chess*, a simul in which she plays 3 nude artists’ models. Great creative fun to balance the painstakingly sober side of the game. She and filmmaker husband Daniel Meiom’s works are featured in the Dali Museum, the Francis Naumann Art Gallery and the World Chess Hall of Fame.



Photo by Daniel Meiom and Blake Eichenseer

But Shahade is also formidable, precise, disciplined, stoic. And compassionate.

When she bleeds across the page, we bleed with her: Vera Menchik and family members blown to bits when Nazi bombs demolished their London basement...the beautiful and talented Diana Lanni, falling into drugs, stripping and tricking, (yet win-

ning and winning) then jailed in California for bookmaking. (Now, fortunately, Diana Lanni teaches chess to children.)

Yet Shahade’s indomitable, never-quit spirit permeates the book and inspires her readers to use chess to ‘reach beyond their grasp’, to weather life’s pitfalls, to rise to impossible challenges, to balance the madness, as she well reminds us: “the logic of chess is an alternate system to the chaos of life.” p284



Photo by St. Louis Chess Club

Subhead: Chess Queens vs Chess Bitch

How does the 2021 *Chess Queens* compare to Shahade’s 2005 *Chess Bitch*? If *Chess Bitch* was the brash adolescent, *Chess Queens* is the polished adult. Chapters have been updated and revised and new queens been added to the ranks: Holocaust survivor Isabelle Choko, rescued from Bergen-Belsen, weighing just 55 lbs. recovering to become the French Women’s Champion; WWII heroine Lyudmila Rudenko; Indian star Koneru Humpy, youngest female ever to earn the GM title; Ugandan chess great Phiona ‘Queen of Katwe’ Mutesi...

What’s more, Shahade has continued to travel the globe chessing with and photographing most of the queens she profiles. So, it’s up close and personal.

“I hope to use my position as Women’s World Champion to help less fortunate people in my country...” said Zhu Chen during a 2001 dinner in Shanghai with Shahade. P175 From the adventurous, free-spirited GM Antoaneta Stefanova, who smokes Cartiers and drinks Bacardi: “I’d rather do feminist things than talk about feminism”. P208 And she did—becoming a member of the Bulgarian Parliament in 2021. There’s GM Susan Polgar’s unprecedented achievements as chess coach at Webster University; Nadya Ortiz, rising from poverty, to become Columbia’s first Women’s Grandmaster; Zambia’s Linda Nangwale who after battling overt sexism won the 2002 Zambian Women’s Championship; and, Georgian World Champ Nana

Alexandria's unforgettable line (while on the phone with Jen in 2003): "Can't talk now, there's a revolution going on outside." P82

Subhead: Substance, Style, The Queen's Gambit & Poker

How's the writing? First rate. Well-paced, well-researched. Style meets substance. Clear game analyses, exciting tournament recounts, a select assortment of annotated games dating from 1929—all interspersed with Shehade's poignant spot-on insights: "*The Queen's Gambit* showcased something I'd been trying to convey via my work with children and writing for many years. Chess is not just a game, it's a culture and a lifestyle. For the top players in the world, it's not just studying the Sicilian, it's grabbing a drink in Paris with a good friend...it's a world that moves from city to city...and now online, connecting people of all genders, backgrounds and ages." p146

Chess Queens also addresses key contemporary issues i.e., racism, LGBTQ, and of course, the sexism all women face on this traditionally male board.

And while *most* of *the* book celebrates the grand dames who actually *play(ed)* the royal game, Shahade acknowledges the scores of indispensable supporters who create and advance female chess venues: organizers, directors, federations, clubs, schools, the social media makers, the publicists, the vendors, the journalists, the thousands of behind-the-scenes chess queens (and kings) who recognize that: "Women hold up half the sky". *Chinese Proverb* p165

Then there's Poker.

How does Poker relate to Chess, I wonder? Shahade explains:

"Like many of my friends I fell in love with poker—with its math and psychology. I could see how poker could be a prism to analyze important issues of class and gender, much like chess is. Women aren't nurtured to take risks the same ways men are. *Poker made me realize that taking no risks is the biggest risk of all.* P 321-2 Same with chess. Playing chess scared to blunder is the intellectual equivalent of walking around with a perpetual fear of falling." p 323

Fear of falling, fear of failing, yes. I ginger my tea.

"You've interviewed scores of past and present chess queens, I ask. "Which 3 have influenced you most?"

Jennifer pauses for a moment, more Legos snap into place, then:

"Judit Polgar, Antoaneta Stefanova, and Irina Krush. Judit—because I played through her games when I was a kid and even modeled my openings after hers. Antoaneta—because she was such a strong player yet always seemed to be having the most fun. Irina? We're good friends. She inspired me to study harder, work harder, made me realize that if I wanted to become the US Women's Champion, I'd have to push it beyond the max. I truly believe I wouldn't have won those two titles if not for Irina."

I am reminded of Sir Isaac Newton's "standing on the shoulders of giants".



Photo by Daniel Meyrom

How we learn, how we advance. I smile, sip my tea. How many will stand on Shahade's? No doubt thousands. And Goryachkina, Yip, Paikidze, Lagno, Kosteniuk, Zhongyl, Tingjie, and the extraordinary Ukrainian sisters, Maria and Anna Muzychuk. Thousands more. I clear my throat:

"Chess education is mandatory in Russia, Armenia, Georgia, and most recently, in parts of India. While this is the ultimate goal of American Chess Education, what can we do now to interest more girls in chess and inspire more future chess queens?"

"Show the games, Jennifer says decisively, "tell the stories of chess queens throughout history, and strive to reach diverse audiences. US Women's Chess has a program called The Girls' Club. We play in person and online. Players find a support group, friendship, and learn how to compete. Also, it's the best of both worlds since there are some live mixed events."

It's getting late. I could hear Daniel telling Fabian (in the background) "time to put the Legos aside... bath time, bedtime..." I laugh, listening to Daniel's "5 more minutes" and think of my grandchildren—but I reheat my tea—I had one more question:

"Jennifer, please tell us about your next book..."



Photo by Maria Emelianova

“My next book, *Thinking Sideways*, is about using chess to become the best version of yourself. How to actually do it. Crafting decision trees, improving your memory, and deepening your understanding of yourself and the world around you through the royal game.”

And what a game it is. And what an exemplar par excellence is Jennifer Shahade. And her remarkable achievement, *Chess Queens*. A Royal Flush.

From beginning to beginning.



Schedule for 2022 U.S. Open Workshops & Committee Meetings									
WORKSHOP SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT:									
https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2022_workshops-schedule_final_for-website.pdf									
Time	9AM	10AM	11AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	
WEDNESDAY August 3	Rules		Communications	LUNCH	US Open		Scholastic Committee		
		National Invitationals			Fair Play				
THURSDAY August 4	Executive Board CLOSED	Executive Board OPEN			Senior Committee	FIDE Events			
					Women's Committee	Development	Nominating Committee	Chess Trust	
FRIDAY August 5		Bylaws			College Chess	CJA	Staff Forum/ General Membership Meeting	Awards Reception	
			Clubs		Finance / LMA Trust				
SATURDAY August 6	Delegates Meeting				Delegates Meeting				
SUNDAY August 7	Delegates Meeting					Executive Board CLOSED			
<p>Committees with Online Only Workshops: Accessibility & Special Circumstances, Tournament Director Certification, States and Affiliates Watch for more information about when these events will be held here: https://new.uschess.org/delegates THURSDAY, August 4, Chess Trust Meeting 4:00-6pm FRIDAY, August 5, Awards Reception Open to All 4:00pm SUNDAY, August 7 Executive Board Meeting (CLOSED) 2pm and Executive Board Meeting (OPEN) 6pm ** Workshop Schedule Subject to Change – For updates, please visit: https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2022_workshops-schedule_final_for-website.pdf</p>									
Oasis 1			Oasis 3			Oasis 4			

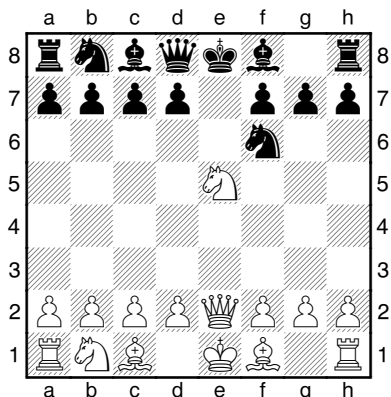
Discovered Check Lesson

By Joshua Anderson

Andersen, Joshua - Spiffy [C42]

This was a G/10 game played online on March 31, 2003. My opponent was Spiffy, though as many of my students have joked over the years - his play wasn't. What is a discovered check? The answer you are looking for is that a discovered check is when you move one piece and the piece behind it gives check. An example of what a discovered check is as follows.

1.e4 e5 2.d3 f6 3.dxe5 exd4 4.Ke2 f6



Where is the best place to put the knight? Don't forget that when the knight moves, the queen will be giving check. A popular suggestion is dxf7, but it fails to Ke7. Remember that since the king will be in check, even if we move the knight where it can be taken, black won't have the opportunity as he must get out of check. dxc6 which attacks the queen will soon be found. If Ke7, the knight on c6 will attack e7 as easily as it does d8.

It takes a few moves, but we will see a wide variety of discovered checks.

1.e4 c5 [This move may look very unusual to new students, however, the move does help control the center by attacking d4. It opens a path for the queen and doesn't block any other piece.]

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 [Nxd4 was possible. After Qxd4, however, it is difficult for Black to take advantage of White's queen in the center and she exerts a lot of pressure.]

5.Nc3 Bg7 [How many pieces attack the knight on d4? We now need to find a way to develop a piece and protect the knight at the same time.]

6.Be3 d6 7.f3 e5 [Now that there are 3 attackers, do we want to defend the knight again or move it? When comparing static piece values, obviously, the knight is worth 3 and the pawn is worth only one. We should move the knight.]

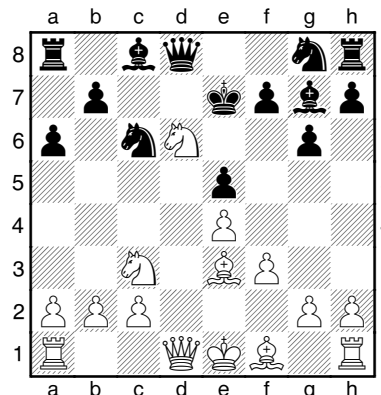
8.Ndb5 [It is always good to re-evaluate the position after a big change. Which two pawns are attacked twice? Which of those pawns is defended twice and which is defended only once? The a7 pawn is defended by the rook and knight, but the d6 pawn is only defended by the queen. Black must find a way to defend

d6.]

8...a6 [Oops! Wrong choice.]

9.Nxd6+ [Here starts the excitement. From this point until the end of the game, all moves but one will be a check and many are a discovered check.]

9...Ke7 [This move stops a discovered check. Kd7 loses blacks queen to Nxb7+ or Nxf7+ with the discovered check coming from the queen on d1.]



10.Bc5 [Bc5 is often a difficult to find. What makes this move tougher to find is that it sets up the discovered check, but isn't in fact one.]

10...Ke6 [Black tries to avoid the vicious Nxb7+ or Nxf7+ when the knight attacks the queen and the bishop attacks the king. What is the last piece that white needs to develop before he castles? The queen is in the way on the queenside and the bishop is in the way on the kingside. Moving the queen this early may allow Black counterattacks. Best to keep the pressure on and move the bishop.]

11.Bc4+ Kf6 12.Nd5+ Ke6 [How does Black end up if Kg5? is played? Nxf7 is a triple or royal fork, with the king, queen, and rook all attacked!]

13.Nb6+ Ke7 [Here we begin a series of discovered checks. This one looks like it wins the rook and though it does, white always has better moves, and I never took the rook. My next move and those to move 20 are part of a "windmill combination." It is called a "windmill combination" because it is a tactic where, through a combination of discovered checks and regular checks, one can win material.]

14.Nxb7+ Ke8 15.Nd6+ Ke7 [The black queen could have been taken with the knight instead of moving back to d6, but the black king, will have to move to either e7 or f8 and the position can be repeated.]

16.Ndxc8+ [double check! The king must move.]

16...Ke8 17.Nd6+ Ke7 18.Nxf7+ Ke8 19.Nd6+ Ke7 20.Nf5+ [White sets up a little trick. If Black goes King to e8, then White will be able to checkmate using all four "minor pieces." Culminating in Nxf7#.]

20...Kf6 21.Nd7+ Kg5 [Can you see the mate in 2?]

22.Qd2+ Kh5 23.g4#

LESSONS FROM MY GAMES

(Dedicated to Miguel Angel Nepomuceno)

By J. Eugene Salomon

In my first article in the April 2022 issue, there were some of my best games, played after age 65. Today, at age 93, I will focus on lessons from my games, starting with a few examples from my teenage years and continuing with my talking points from when I was a volunteer coach at schools and lecturer at chess clubs.

I will also highlight how, after retiring from competitive chess, I have remained connected to chess by writing about it.

My first serious tournaments were in Spain: 1946-1947 the Castile (Madrid) Individual and Team tournaments, and the Gijon 1947 - IV International Tournament. Those were followed by a memorable Havana, Cuba, 1952 Invitational Tournament to select the National Team for the Finland World Chess Olympiad. I ended up 6th of 14 players, qualifying for the team. When I decided not to participate, IM Rogelio Ortega, who had finished 7th, took my place. I didn't play chess again for 16 years.

After that long period of retirement, the memory of my father (deceased a few months earlier), inspired me to play at the 1968 New Jersey State Open Chess Championship . Playing for the first time in the U.S, I started as an "unrated player." I was a finalist and ended up with a "provisional master rating" over 2200. A few years later, I started teaching chess to my children, as well as to many other youngsters as a volunteer coach. Most notably, I helped the high school team of Christian Brothers Academy (where my sons attended), become N.J. State Champions in 1979-80.

Two of my last memorable tournaments were the Linares Open (1998) in Spain, and the World Open (also in 1998) in Philadelphia. After that, I retired from the grueling world of competitive chess. That enabled me to become more active as a lecturer and volunteer coach in schools.

About 15 years later, I began another phase of my connection with chess- writing about it. It all started in 2014. Steve Pozarek (past New Jersey State Open Chess Champion), Wayne Conover (FIDE Master and I.M in Correspondence Chess) and I wrote an e-Book reflecting our real-life story, called *40 Years of Friendship-100 Games of Chess*. The book covers our beautiful experience as key members of the Westfield Chess Club team, assembled by our unforgettable leader, Dennis Barry, in the early 1970's. The prologue, written by Steve, explains how we became friends, and lived together through some exciting years of New Jersey

chess history. Early in 2014, a team was being assembled that included old members of the Westfield Club and was essentially a Westfield Chess Club reunion. Steve was slated to play third board, and Wayne and I immediately decided to visit the tournament, to renew old acquaintances with the members of our team, and with other old friends who gather at this annual event. We also wanted to get a picture with our team to add to the book- here are Wayne, Steve and I with our friends from the great Westfield Chess Club of the 1970's, 40+ years later. . .



From left to right: Joe Graves, Wayne Conover, GM John Fedorowicz, FM Mark Pinto, Gene Salomon, and Steve Pozarek.

The new technology of computer interactive chess books was just starting, and we had the privilege of being one of the first 40 e-books published using the Forward Chess program.

<https://forwardchess.com/product/40-years-of-friendship-100-games-of-chess>

In that book, there is a chapter with the title *Lessons from our Games- Gene Salomon*. For this article I will only use 5-6 examples of my games.

Below are a few points that I used to recommend to the many youngsters I trained- including my three sons!

1. When you start studying chess, make sure to give top priority to studying the games of the great masters. Think: Capablanca, Alekhine, and Botvinnik; or Fischer, Kasparov, and Anand... preferably all of them!
2. From those games, you will soon learn that chess is not a game of "moves," it is a game of plans and ideas. You have

to think ahead. Decide what you want to accomplish and then look for the practical moves to achieve the positions that you wish to reach.

3. Even at the end of the opening and then throughout the middlegame, you should keep an eye on possible “transitions” into the endgame. If you have a material advantage, it is generally advisable to simplify the game by exchanging pieces.
4. From the games of the masters and from your own practice, you will soon find that space and time are essential elements of the chess struggle.
5. Make sure you develop your pieces as quickly as possible. In general, you should not move a piece twice. You should also avoid getting your queen out too soon, since it will allow your opponent to gain tempo by attacking it.
6. Make sure that your pieces are well-placed. (A knight in the center attacks 8 squares, while the same knight at the edge of the board attacks only 4 squares or even less.)
7. Fast development of your pieces, obtaining the initiative, and maintaining constant pressure is a sure way to good results. Your opponent, under pressure, is prone to make weaker moves or to blunder.
8. Whenever your opponent makes a move, ask yourself: “Why did he move there? What is the threat?” If your opponent threatens a piece, before thinking about retreat or defense, ask yourself: “Can I disregard his threat by attacking something more valuable?”
9. Don’t become discouraged, even if you are in an inferior position. Sometimes you may lose a pawn in the opening and your opponent may become overconfident, or with dynamic play, you may even win the game.
10. Having a plan of action for your game, a clear analysis of the position (the weak and strong points) is essential, but you should never forget about the tactics, the beautiful opportunities that can decide games all of a sudden.
11. There are many “themes” for combinations: from the existence of undefended pieces, to the opportunity for a discovered check or a double check, to double attacks, the possibilities are fascinating. As a starting point you should become familiar with checkmate patterns. You should read some good books about “the art of combinations.”
12. Never assume that your opponent has to make the obvious move. “I’ll attack his queen, my opponent will have to move it;” or “I take his rook, he’ll take mine” is the type of dangerous thinking that is at the root of many combinations.
13. Frequently, young players become too involved in memorizing variations in the openings. I suggest that your progress in chess will be faster and more meaningful if you dedicate at least 80% of your study time to endings and combinations rather than the openings.
14. You will never become a true master unless you have a deep knowledge of the endgame – start practicing with pawn endings and move on to rook-and-pawn endings, which are the most frequent.
15. The value of the pieces is quite relative, depending on the position. A pawn on the seventh rank can be more valuable than a rook!
16. It is also important to coordinate the pieces. For example, a queen and knight are often superior to a queen and bishop, because they can coordinate beautifully for attack. Queen and knight can attack all squares (light and dark) while the bishop can only attack either the light or the dark squares.
17. A rook and a bishop are, in general, superior to a rook and a knight.
18. Bishops are superior to knights when there are pawns on both sides of the board. A knight’s value is greater when there are pawns only on one side. These are the natural consequences of the mobility of each piece.
19. Finally, analyze your own games thoroughly, especially the losses. The best way to improve is to understand the real reasons why you lost. For example: What caused you to choose a certain move that was an error? What did your opponent see or understand that you did not? These and many other questions can be answered through objectivity and by being self-critical about the reasons behind a defeat. By doing this type of analysis, you will go a long way towards preventing that same kind of error from occurring in future games.

The book *40 Years of Friendship: 100 Games of Chess* also contains 10 games selected by each of the three authors to illustrate the lessons. For this article, I will select only 5-6 of my games from my teenage years in Spain.

GAME # 1 : CRITICAL POSITION, after 9...Qc7

I was 16 years old. Routinely, every time my opponent moved, I asked myself: What's the reason and/or the threat of this move? If the threat had a refutation, by all means let him do it!

That was exactly what happened in this game: after Black move 9. ...♘c7 my opponent thought that he would win material should white proceed with 10. b4, with 10...♗xd4; 11. ♘c3 attacking my rook, Knight and Bishop at the same time...I just looked a move further down to see that with ♘c2 I would refute his plan...

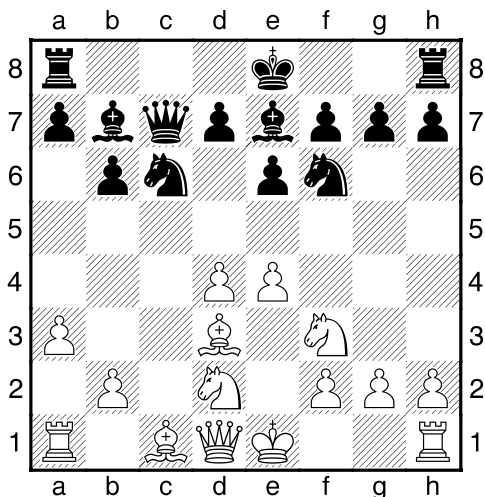
A valuable tool for combinations is when you can find that your opponent's threat has no merit and will backfire, by all means, play like you have not seen his threat!!

J. Eugene Salomon – Jose Bugeda [A47]

Maudes Club Championship, Madrid, Spain, February 1945

Perhaps because it was at the start of my chess career in Madrid, this game brings happy memories. José Bugeda, a strong club player, was a journalist and radio program host. After this game, I was invited to appear on his show for an interview about chess.

1. d4 ♗f6 2. ♗f3 e6 3. e3 b6 4. ♖d3 ♖b7 5. ♗bd2 c5 6. c3 ♗c6 7. a3 ♖e7 8. e4 cxd4 9. cxd4 ♘c7



10. b4! 10. ♗xd4 11. ♗xd4 ♘c3 12. ♘c2! ♘xd4 13. ♖b2 ♘d6 14. e5 ♘d5 15. exf6 ♘xg2 16. ♖e4 ♖xe4 17. ♘xe4 ♘xe4+ 18. ♗xe4 gxf6 19. ♗xf6+ ♖xf6 20. ♖xf6 ♖g8 21. ♘e2 ♖c8 22. ♖ac1 ♖c6? 23. ♖xc6 dxc6 24. ♖d1 1-0

GAME # 2 : CRITICAL POSITION, after 12. Qc2

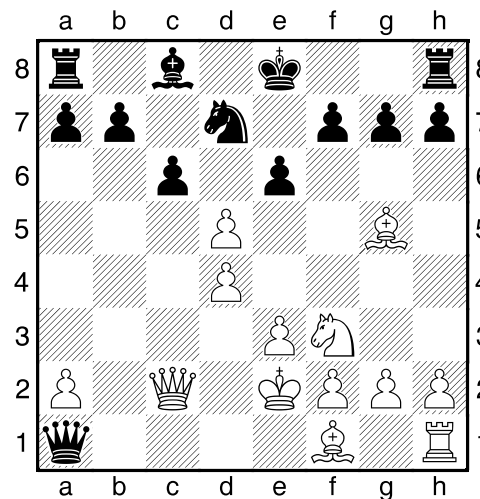
Future International Master and Spanish Champion Román Torán was an avid chess player at the age of 14-15. I was his senior by about two years, and we played frequent training matches during the summers of 1945 and 1946 in Gijon, Spain. I'm sure that no one can equal the favorable score that I have against my old friend!

Torán had prepared this surprise variation against the Cambridge Springs Defense that I was using against him. It was from the game Bogoljubow – V.D. Bush, Bad Nauheim 1936, and the claim was that the black queen was trapped after White's move 12. ♘c2!! (a novelty then, to refute 8. ...♖b4). With 12. ♘c2, White threatens 13. ♗d2 and 14. ♗b3, and if 13. ...a7-a5, then 14. g2-g3! V.D. Bush played 12...b6 and lost... I think that I found, over the board, the refutation to Bogoljubow's trap with 12...♗b6! I was as surprised as my friend Román was, and the post-mortem analysis formed the basis for an article I wrote for the magazine *Ajedrez Español* in January 1946.

Román Torán – J. Eugene Salomon [D52]

Training Match, Gijón, Spain, June 28, 1945

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. ♗c3 ♗f6 4. ♖g5 ♗bd7 5. e3 c6 6. ♗f3 ♘a5 7. ♘c2 ♗e4 8. cxd5 ♖b4 9. ♘xe4 ♖xc3+ 10. bxc3 ♘xc3+ 11. ♘e2 ♘xa1 12. ♘c2



♗b6 13. g4 ♗xd5 14. ♘d2 ♗b4 15. ♘c5 ♘xa2+ 16. ♘e1 ♗d5 17. e4 ♘b1+ 0-1

GAME # 3: CRITICAL POSITION, after 14...Nxd5.

Obviously white has been outplayed in the opening and has a positional disaster in his hands. Instead of "centralizing" his Queen with 15. ♘d4 it seems like he had to go to 15. ♘g3 ... to avoid losing the Queen...

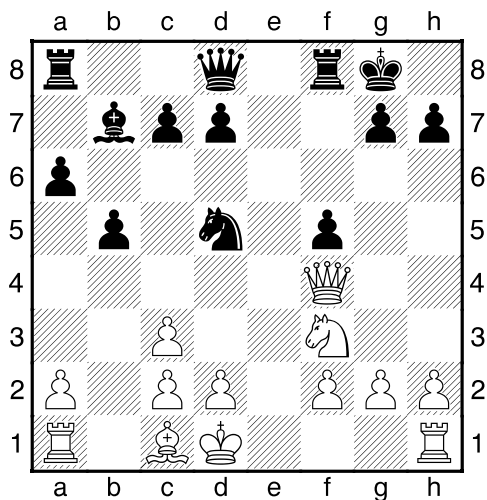
Juan Manuel Fuentes – J. Eugene Salmon [C77]
 Maudes Club Championship, Madrid, Spain, November 1946

Juan Manuel Fuentes was one of the strongest players in Spain at the time. He had been experimenting with this variation of the Ruy Lopez Opening...which he abandoned right after this game. His move **9. ♖e4** goes clearly against the principle of not moving the same piece twice as you will lose a tempo...Probably best would have been **9. d4** (see diagram).

After that, White's position becomes clearly inferior.

The position after **15. ♖d4**, deserves another diagram: the innocent looking **15. ... d6!** results in a pretty Knight sacrifice winning his Queen!

1. e4 e5 2. ♟f3 ♟c6 3. ♟b5 a6 4. ♟a4 ♟f6 5. ♖e2 b5 6. ♟b3 ♟e7 7. ♟d5?! ♟x d5 8. exd5 ♟b4 9. ♖e4 ♟b7 10. ♟c3 0-0 11. ♖d1 f5 12. ♖xe5 ♟f6 13. ♖f4 ♟xc3 14. bxc3 ♟xd5



15. ♖d4 d6 16. ♟e1 c5 17. ♖h4 ♟xc3+! 0-1

GAME # 4 : CRITICAL POSITION after 29...Rh7.

Threatening **30... ♟xh2** and **31... ♟f3+**

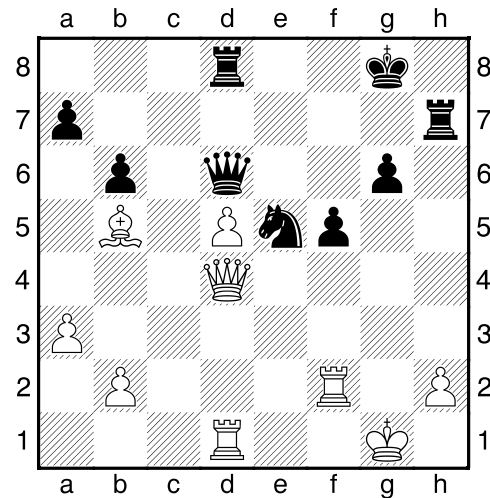
A good example of the Queen-Knight teamwork in combinations!

Francisco José Pérez – J. Eugene Salomon [B03]
 Training Match, Madrid, Spain, June 1947

Francisco José Pérez (Champion of Castile in 1947 and of Spain in 1948) was one of the strongest players in the country in the 1940s. We played for the same club (Hogar de Maudes) and occasionally played training matches. Here is my favorite game against him.

1. e4 ♟f6 2. e5 ♟d5 3. d4 d6 4. c4 ♟b6 5. f4 dxe5 6. fx e5 ♟c6 7. ♟e3 ♟f5 8. ♟c3 e6 9. ♟f3 ♟b4 10. ♟c1 c5 11. a3 cxd4 12. ♟xd4 ♟c6 13. ♟xf5 exf5 14. ♟d5 ♟e7

15. ♟e2 0-0 16. 0-0 g6 17. g4 ♟xd5 18. cxd5 ♟xe5 19. gx f5 ♟g5 20. ♖d2 ♟xe3+ 21. ♖xe3 f6 22. fxg6 hxg6 23. ♖c5 b6 24. ♖d4 ♖d6 25. ♟g4 ♟ad8 26. ♟cd1 f5 27. ♟e2 ♟f7 28. ♟f2 ♟fd7 29. ♟b5 ♟h7



30. ♟e2 ♟c8 31. ♖h1 ♟c2! 32. ♖a4 ♟g4 33. ♖e8+ ♖g7 34. ♟f4 ♟xh2+ 0-1

A month later we faced each other again at the Fourth Gijón International Tournament, where he was co-winner, tied with L. Prins. The game was again an Alekhine Defense Advance Variation, full of excitement and ending in a draw.

GAME # 5 : CRITICAL POSITION after 26...Nd7.

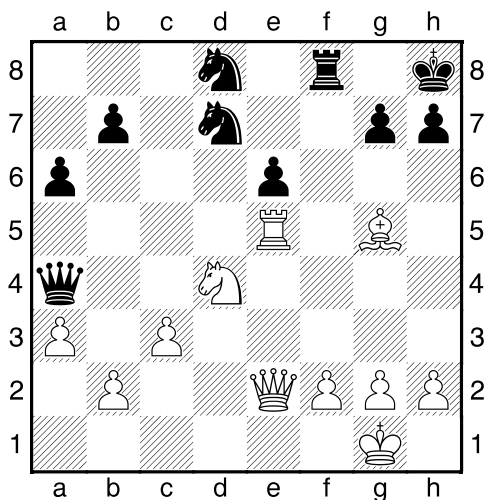
This position is a clear illustration of what I always insisted with the youngsters I trained : "If the opponent attacks your Bishop or your rook, before you retreat, think if you can attack something of more value... In this case I.M Medina was attacking my rook, so as a matter of routine I asked myself : "what happens if I attack his Queen?"... to my great surprise I realized that if I should move **27.b3**, his Queen only had a square to go: **27... ♖xa3...WOW!** What about if I play **27. ♟e7** attacking his rook but in effect protecting a3?... My instinct or my psychological reasoning told me that my opponent, seeing clearly that I was attacking his rook, would never suspect that in effect, I was not interested in his rook but his Queen!!... I still remember today the internal happiness of that win!

Salomon, J. Eugene – Medina García, Antonio [B53]
 Fourth Gijón International, Gijón, Spain, July, 1947

Antonio Medina was then Champion of Spain. A few comments about this encounter: (1) I played **5. ♖xd4?!** in an effort to get out of "book lines" as soon as possible. Medina was a Sicilian expert, and I was not! (2) After Black's move **12... ♖e8**, I thought that if I succeeded in eliminating Black's e7-bishop, I should get a superior position. The following 4-5 moves are the logical path.

1. e4 c5 2. ♟f3 d6 3. d4 ♟f6 4. ♟c3 cxd4 5. ♖xd4 ♟c6 6. ♟b5 e5 7. ♖d3 a6 8. ♟c4 ♟e6 9. ♟xe6 fx e6 10. ♟g5 ♟e7 11. 0-0 0-0 12. ♟ad1 ♖e8 13. ♟e2 ♖g6 14. ♟g3

♖ac8 15. ♗b3! ♘d8 16. ♘f5! ♚c7 17. ♘×e7+ ♜×e7 18. ♜×d6 ♗×e4 19. ♜e1 ♗g6 20. ♜×e5 ♖h8 21. ♗d3 ♗e8 22. ♗e2 ♗a4 23. a3 ♚c7 24. c3 ♚c4 25. ♚d4 ♜×d4 26. ♘×d4 ♘d7



27. ♘e7 ♜e8 28. b3! ♗×d4 29. c×d4 ♘×e5 30. ♘×d8 ♜×d8 31. ♗×e5 1-0

There is one last game that I played at age 91 which best illustrates my lessons, especially the one about not losing hope. It is a game I played in the 50th World Amateur Team - US Team East Tournament. I organized, and was the team captain of, "The Oldest Team in Town", one of several teams representing the Toms River Chess Club. (See picture below)



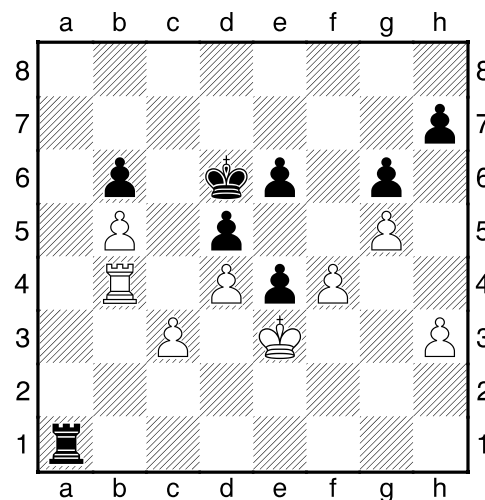
The Toms River Chess Club

I am third from left, kneeling; Steve Doyle (the historic organizer and one of the original members of the club) is in blue in the back row, and Steve Shoshin (most recent president of the club), is kneeling, third from right. The Toms River Chess Club just received the honor of being named "the best club in the United States" for 2021 by the USCF.

The game was analyzed by the magazine, Chess, of London in their article of April 2020. http://www.historiadelajedrezspanol.es/articulos/salomon/Chess_04_2020.pdf (The original article can be found in the

April 2020 issue of the British magazine, Chess, on the website <http://www.chess.co.uk/>. I felt honored to appear in such a prestigious magazine founded by the legendary W.H. Wood, whom I met when I played against him at the Gijon IV International Tournament, in 1947.)

"The oldest participant was a certain Eugene Salomon. We know that many of you enjoyed Gene's article 'Chess for Life' in our January pages and we were delighted to see him in one of the Toms Rivers teams in Parsippany. As team captain Gene played just one of the two rounds each day, managing two draws and a win"...(Gene)"reached the following tricky rook endgame in Parsippany against a young man like one of the many that Gene trained in his High School Coaching years."



E.Salomon-I.Giesshir
U.S. Amateur Teams East 2020

49. c4!? Trying to obtain some counterplay. 49...♜a3+ 50. ♖e2 ♜×h3? Falling into White's plans. Now it's only a draw. 51. c5+! ♖c7 51...bxc5? 52. dxc5+ ♖×c5 53. b6! 52. ♜a4 ♜b3 53. ♜a7+ ♖b8 54. c×b6 ♜×b5 55. ♜×h7 ♜×b6 56. ♜h6 ♜b2+ 57. ♖e3 ♜b3+ 58. ♖e2 ♖c7 59. ♜×g6 ♖d7 60. ♜g7+ ♖e8 61. ♜a7 ♜f3 62. g6 ♜×f4?? Black has certainly pushed the boat out in his quest to win and by now needed to find 62...♖f8 just to hold. 63. ♜a8+ 1-0 "

This game is a perfect illustration of my lesson number 9 (above) about not becoming discouraged, even in an inferior position ("with dynamic play, you may even win the game"). Technically, the best case scenario for me in this position was a draw, so I decided to look for complications and hope for the best. Towards the end, my young opponent made a mistake (which will certainly be a lesson for his future success in chess), and I surprisingly won this game. Aside from warming the heart of a nonagenarian, this game reaffirmed my lesson about never giving up.

Leaving lessons aside, in this new world of instant communication, internet and social media, as soon as our e-Book was published, I became portrayed in Spain as a "famous player from the 1940's". This is, I guess, one of the rare cases where old age

works to your advantage. I had started to play at a young age, at a time when chess was not played by children, and seldom by teenagers. Few players from my generation are still alive, and certainly none who have played against Alekhine, Arturito Pomar, J.M. Fuentes, A. Medina, F.J. Perez and Roman Toran in the Spain of the 1940's- with a much better than even score!!!

As I have mentioned before, in recent years I became quite active as a writer. My articles can be found on the web site of the Spanish chess historian and writer, Javier Cordero, who honored me with a page for my writings:

http://www.historiadelaajedrezspanol.es/articulos/salomon_eng.htm

Three recent articles in English are:

1. **"Celebrating Chess: Clubs, Teams and Organizers"**, article published in the annual New Jersey State Chess Federation Magazine "Atlantic Chess News" February 2020

<https://njscf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ACN-2019-DONE1.pdf>

2. **"Chess for Life"** article published in the British magazine, *Chess*, January 2020.

http://www.historiadelaajedrezspanol.es/articulos/salomon/Articulo_Chess.pdf

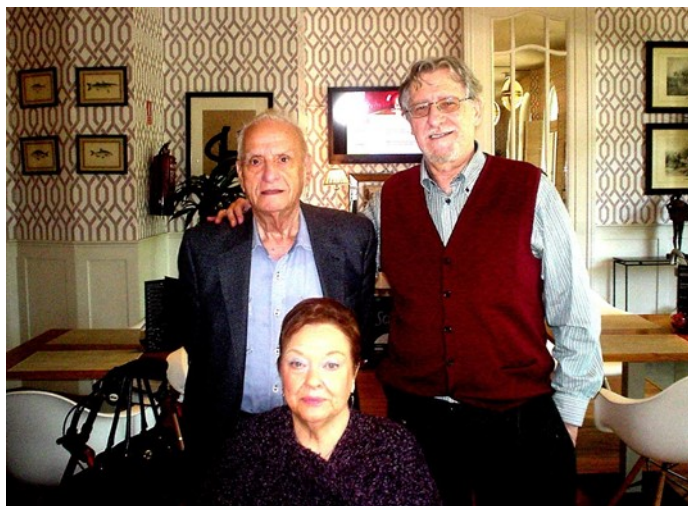
3. **"Alekhine's Life Lesson and Chess After 65"** article published in "The Chess Journalist", April 2022" (pgs. 14-27)

[April 2022 issue of The Chess Journalist](#)

Finally, my dear reader, to add a little bit of a suspenseful ending to this article, I would like to announce that a leading Spanish chess book publisher, Chessy, has just published my book, *Jugando en el Tablero de la Vida (Playing on the Chessboard of Life)* written with Javier Cordero. I'm quite hopeful that the English version of the book about life intertwined with my 80 years of passion for chess will be available before the next issue of this magazine is published. I hope you'll enjoy reading these articles and the book as much as I have enjoyed writing them.

IN MEMORIAM- Miguel Angel Nepomuceno

As this article was being readied for submission, I received the sad news about the passing of my dear friend, Miguel Ángel Nepomuceno. Miguel Angel was many things- an International Master in chess, a superb chess historian, famous author, journalist, a cherished friend, and my inspiration to begin writing. He honored me with a series of biographical articles in his column in Zenda in 2017 and was so fascinated by the story of my family that he insisted we were going to write it together- our masterpiece. Sadly, we never got the opportunity, but his confidence in me and the value of my stories is what motivates me to continue writing. To Miguel Angel- my *amigo para siempre*, my forever friend- I dedicate this article to you, and when I finally write the family story (and I will), I know you will be with me every step of the way. *Vaya con Dios, y descanse en paz.*



Myself, Miguel Angel, and my wife, Beatriz, in Madrid (2017)

Chess Keys:
The Promotional Queen
by Rachel A Schechter

“Hey, Miss Rachel!”

I look up and smile. Taylor Kang. Advanced middle school chess class. Super smart kid: how many quarks can fit on C6? Rated around 1250.

“Hey Taylor, how’s it going?”

Taylor shakes off his jacket and boots. “It’s a monsoon outside. Freezing rain—in April. Where’s Spring?” He sets up the computer, the smart board. “Where’s the demo?”

“In the closet. The music class needed this space so—”

“I’ll get it.” In and out of the closet. “Hey, there are 2 demos.”

I nod, counting pawns.

“Yes, I’m thinking... one for position, one for analysis...”

“Cool, I’ll configure them...”

Taylor configures the demo boards, bounds over to me, extends his hand.

“Congratulations,” he says.

I look up from a board, smile and shake hands.

“Thanks. For what?”

“We heard you’ll be writing monthly chess articles.”

I blush, clumsy, scatter half a dozen pieces across the floor.

“Oh, maybe...”

“About what?” Taylor says, “Tournaments? Game Analysis? Software reviews? Will you be traveling?”

I scramble for the scattered pieces, eyeballing the rain, wondering if my car can travel three miles across town to my next chess class. “There are writers better suited for that. I would write about building chess boards or raising money for a community chess center. Maybe chess history or book reviews. I really like chess reality fiction too...”

“Chess reality fiction? You mean like *“The Adventures of Sherlock Chess?”*”

I laugh. Last semester three students chanced upon original episodes of Basil Rathbone’s *Sherlock Holmes*, loved them, and so created Sherlock Chess and his brilliant sidekick Vishy-Anand Soise—chess cops who scour the globe solving chess mysteries

while searching for game winning recipes.

“My chess stories,” I continue, “would contain elements of chessic reality but still be *fictive*.”

Taylor Kang considers this.

“Real situations but different names, dates, and stuff?”

“Yes. Circumstances that chess players, coaches, parents, etc. can relate to—share, compare...”

“Then why not just use *real names and events*?”

I flip through a sheaf of positions:

“Oh, for broader appeal. For safety. For legality. For the same reasons books and films have ‘disclaimers’. Sometimes it’s preferable—for all concerned—that real names be withheld.”

Taylor quiets, knits his brows, distracted.

I count the boards, the pieces and sigh. We are missing 2 more promo queens. That would make 7 queens lost in the past month. What was this about?

“What’s going on with the promotional queens?” I say, “They’re disappearing. Should we consult with Sherlock Chess?”

Taylor breathes sharply, knuckles the back of a chair, eyes wide, white. I lay down the pieces, touch his shoulder:

“Taylor, what’s wrong?” I say softly.

“Oh, nothing—”

“Taylor—please, tell me.”

He slams the chair on the floor:

“Eddie Lopez took the promotional queens. He pocketed them. He’s stealing gym equipment, art supplies, and books. What’s *wrong* with him? He’s even stealing *lunch money*—and he’s not *poor*. Last week he punched out Brian Patel, his best friend. What *happened* to him?”

I sigh, look through the window into the storm; the field is under water; and I am flooded with sadness for Eddie Lopez. Eddie Lopez... Smart, funny, popular. Just six months earlier, he was driving back with his family from Chicago O’Hare Airport, from an extended Thanksgiving weekend—they hit a patch of black ice. Mom killed, sister crippled, dad hospitalized with a nervous breakdown. Eddie emerged unscathed, so said the reports. Tears edge my eyes, my heart. Eddie Lopez. Stealing. Sudden-

ly so poor. Unscathed? Happy Thanksgiving.

I study the rain. Eddie had dropped in on our chess class a few times since returning to school but played little, said less, then disappeared.

"Maybe Eddie feels as if *he's* been robbed," I say quietly.

"Who would *steal* from him?" says Taylor. "*Everybody* likes him. *Everybody*—oh—you mean the accident...his...his...family... I, I'm sorry, I forgot about that, I...I'm so sorry..."

I pat his shoulder.

"We're all sorry. And you didn't forget, Taylor. You're remembering. Such a tragedy is very painful. Life 'steals' from all of us at times."

Eddie winces.

"His mom was *so* nice.... When we were young, she brought in the best chocolate chip cupcakes for his birthday—"

Tears down his cheeks.

When we were young... I clear my throat, step into the breach:

"You'll be okay, Taylor—"

"I know *I'll* be okay," he cries, "But what about *Eddie*? His life will *never* be the same. His sister's getting better. But he'll *never* be okay. It's your *mom*—how can you *recover*?"

I shift gears, slide a board between us.

"You're right," I say calmly, "It'll never be the same. But somehow, people recover." I start moving pieces. "White opens e4. Black's feeling a little frisky and decides to play the Scandinavian, d5. E4xd5, black foregoes Ng6 favoring the more traditional Qxd5. He's playing the line well—but—white aligns bishop, queen and g-knight and 6 moves later...traps the black queen on h5..."

Taylor sniffs back his tears, visibly relieved, studies the board, assumes white's position. I play black, narrate:

"Now we both know Black can resign at this point—losing his queen during the opening—and who would blame him? But that's *not* how we play this royal game, is it? "

"No," says Taylor decisively, "We don't give up. We regroup, reconsider, counterattack—"

We're both moving pieces.

"White's over-confident," I say, "and has dropped his guard, eager to mate. He underestimates his opponent...."

"Oops, I missed that—" says Taylor.

"Black is patient, cool, keeps his wits about him and now plays a variation of the Sicilian. ***This combination keys his success.***"

We trade kings' knights, queens' rooks.

"White tries to recoup but can't stave off the pawn storm—and 10, no, 12 moves later black promotes to queen on b1 and goes on to mate." I clear my throat. "It's a new game, a family restructured, lives rebuilt..."

Taylor looks deep into the pieces then into my eyes.

"You mean Eddie's dad will remarry?"

"It's possible," I say, adjusting the promotional queen. "86% of widowers between the ages of 25-45 remarry within 2 years."

Hope lights his clear young eyes.

"What about Eddie?" he asks, "What about *now*?"

"Well, Eddie's here at school so he's clearly not ready to resign," I say, "but he's angry, he's grieving, he needs help restructuring his game. Maybe he can't *ask* for help—so he acts out, starts stealing, fighting—"

"So, is this kind of stealing acceptable?"

I shake my head:

"No. Stealing is never acceptable. Understandable but not acceptable. The tragedy *explains* his behavior but *doesn't excuse* it. Fortunately, our educational community can intervene before matters get worse."

Taylor nods, studies the tips of his sneakers, shifts his weight, twists a bishop, still distraught.

"What's worrying you, son?"

"It's just that—well, are you going to tell Principal Matthews?"

I nod.

"Yes, I am. Today. I think Eddie needs immediate counseling. It will *help* him. And I think Principal Matthews will agree. *Teamwork is the key to resolving this.* It's the responsible move. Is that a problem?"

"No, no, it's the right thing to do, it's just, just—"

"Just what?"

Taylor spins around, pained:

"JUST DON'T USE MY NAME—THAT'S ALL!"

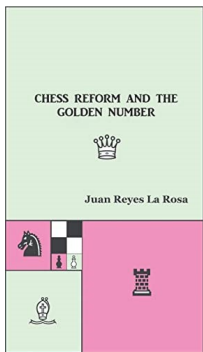
<p>“Taylor, take it easy—“</p> <p>“I mean—<i>tell Principal Matthews the truth, but please don’t say it was me. I’ll be the one who ‘told on Eddie Lopez’, the other kids will think I’m a wimp, a troublemaker, can’t be trusted, no one will sit with me at lunch, I’ll be the one who—“</i></p> <p>“—who spoke up and saved his life? Years from now you’ll—“</p> <p>“—it’ll be on Facebook, Twitter, my parents will want to ‘discuss it’. I have a <i>major</i> chemistry exam tomorrow—I <i>can’t worry about years from now!</i>”</p> <p><i>Years from now. Only yesterday.</i> I look through the window—the rain has yielded to a new sun, to a new spring—then look back to this sensitive young man. Why should any 12-year-old have to <i>worry</i> about ‘years from now’? Or a patch of black ice that shatters his life? Eddie Lopez’s face rises before me. Our community will support him. I smile at Taylor Kang, drape an arm about his shoulders. Quarks on C3.</p> <p>“Don’t worry, Taylor. You did the right thing talking with me. I’ll take it from here.”</p> <p>“What will you tell Principal Matthews?”</p> <p>“That since his family tragedy, Eddie Lopez is having issues we need to address. <i>That I saw him</i> stealing chess pieces on numerous occasions, that other faculty are likely noticing similar behavior, that we need to work together to bring Eddie ‘back on board’.</p> <p>Taylor gulps:</p>	<p>“<i>You</i> saw him?”</p> <p>“Yes. Are we clear on this point Mr. Kang?”</p> <p>Taylor sighs, grins, relieved:</p> <p>“Yes, we are, Miss Rachel. Thank you, I—“</p> <p>“Now will you please reset the board? Class convenes in 3 minutes.”</p> <p>Taylor resets the board, then:</p> <p>“Hey, Miss Rachel, I just realized... This could be a piece of your reality chess fiction—and I helped you write it.”</p> <p>I smile, toss him a promotional queen.</p> <p>“Thanks, Quarkman.”</p> <p>“Quarkman? I like that. Uh, and since <i>it is fiction</i>, could you make me taller, with cooler hair? Megan Phillips’ steady boyfriend? Youngest person ever to win the Nobel Prize for Physics...?”</p> <p>I laugh, toss him another promotional queen.</p> <p>“It’s reality <i>fiction</i>, Quarkman. <i>Fiction not fantasy...</i>”</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Rachel A Schechter Names changed to protect our youth, our future.</p>
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CHESS REFORM AND THE GOLDEN NUMBER

by Juan Reyes La Rosa
Reviewed by Mark Capron

This book was sent to me by the author and is available from Amazon. Published on April 17, 2022 in English. It is 32 pages of a discussion on how the mobility of the pieces can be related back to the Golden Number. The reform in chess happened during the 13th century where the moves of the pieces transitioned to what



we essentially use today. Many theories as to why the moves were updated exist. The subject of this book attempts to convince the audience that a mathematical reason was behind it all.

The golden number is a number of great fascination dating way back to 300 BC and perhaps further. It is 1.61803399 and is represented by the Greek letter *Phi*. It is the solution to a quadratic equation. It comes up in many real life applications from the pyramids to music, to facial features. Many

may have heard of this from the book or movie “The Da Vinci Code.”

The author represents the moves of the pieces with a number and if lined up in order of piece strength the resulting sequence simplifies to the Fibonacci sequence, 0,1,1,3,5,8,13,21, ... The next number is simply the sum of the two previous numbers.

“Taking as premises that the total mobility value of the rook is the sum of the mobility values of its preceding pieces in importance, the bishop and the knight; and, that the mobility of the queen is the sum of the mobility values of its preceding pieces, the rook and the bishop; I propose the hypothesis that the mobility value of the pieces in chess corresponds to a pattern of the Fibonacci series, since the values of this series are obtained by the sum of its two preceding ones.

I believe the book is very interesting. You will have to decide if you agree with the author’s perspective.

Oddities and Peculiarities

How to Get 8 Parents to Spit Into a Cup at a Chess Tournament

By Eric Vigil

Well, it started off as a regular Iowa Scholastic Championship event. We had gotten the support from a local chess club through Iowa Chess Legend Ben Munson, to use a school in West Des Moines Iowa. James Hodina (Associate National TD, FIDE NA), William Broich (National TD, FIDE IA) and I, Eric Vigil (Senior TD, FIDE NA), arrived early, to set up the tables with the chess boards. The players started to file in, about 100 for the Iowa Individual Play Team Championship. This is one of the most enjoyable events we have as schools from across the state send teams. Players play only students from other schools and the top four players scores are added together to get the team score. We were excited as some new teams were coming from the Des Moines Area.

I was assigned as Pairings Chief, and William and James were on the floor. Of course, there were last minute entries and I had to re-pair the first and second rounds. I mean it wouldn't be a scholastic chess tournament if you didn't have to re-pair a round is a saying we have.

Halfway into the second round, James came to me and said he was going to take over the pairings. He was our scholastic chair. I had asked specifically to do the pairings this tournament because I wanted to learn the WinTD pairing software. When I declined to move, he gave me a look and said I needed to go NOW because a child had been injured! And he would take over the pairings. I am a pediatric nurse when not running chess tournaments and served a tour of duty in Iraq in a battalion aide station. I sighed and figured I was indeed the most qualified to handle the child's boo boo.

I walked to the tournament hall. When I arrived, I found the boo boo was a large pool of blood and a child crying next to it. Later it was said that it was the largest pool of blood people had

ever seen. I had to agree it was epic. "Eddie" had been running playing tag with some friends and slipped and face planted on the concrete floor. He was missing three teeth. I went into combat medic mode and quickly took charge of the situation. Eddie was crying loudly, this was a good sign, a concussion would have left him limp, dazed and confused. I looked at the pool of blood and found the three teeth and the roots looked intact. Eddie also had a cut on his lower jaw where a tooth had pierced through his cheek. Facial wounds bleed more than others because of the high vascularity of the face. He already had a clean rag and was applying pressure.

The three teeth were placed into a cup and I went to find some milk. Teeth that have been knocked out can be reattached if kept in a conducive environment. Milk is one of those. But there was no milk to be found. I yelled out to the parents that I needed volunteers to spit into the cup with the teeth. Many parents came forward to help and I had them arranged in a circle passing the cup to the next parent. When I stood back, I had to contain myself from laughing at the sight of all these people passing a cup and spitting into it. I was proud of the parents for jumping right in to assist and doing this silly looking task, even though it turned out later was not necessary.

Eddie's mother was not present, so I took him to the local ER and left Jim and Bill to run the tournament. They took Eddie for x-rays and attended to the puncture wound to his cheek. Eddie and I tried to play some blindfold chess, while we waited for Eddie's mother to arrive, but we only made it to the 6th or 7th move. A couple hours later they were reunited with the good news of only baby teeth being lost. And that is how I got 8 parents to spit in a cup at a chess tournament.