

WAYNE KOMER'S E-MAILS - 10th February, 2020 - 9th September, 2021

Wayne Komer <macwdk@rogers.com>

Mon 10/02/2020 3:27 PM

Dear Bob,

A neighbour gave dozens of copies of Chess Review when I was just thirteen. I started buying Dover chess books a few years later and subscribed to CHESS, BCM and Chess Life as well as Chess Review.

At University I reported a Bobby Fischer simul in 1964. Later studied in Manchester and corresponded with Dale Brandreth. I also wrote to Dr. Niemeijer and on a trip in 1974 to New York City sat with Buschke and Walter Goldwater – and on another trip, Fred Wilson.

I am probably the only person to have asked Dr. Niemeijer if he sometimes (as I did) got sick and tired of collecting chess books.

When I got back from England, I used to meet Dale regularly. There was really no one else with whom I could talk about chess books and their collecting.

I met Ken MacDonald about 2008. I rode over to his apartment on my bike to pick up a copy of The History of Correspondence Chess in Canada. We used to talk and write about chess collecting and still do. However, he was going to retire from collecting and offered his collection to a couple of libraries who could not give him assurance that the collection would not be broken up, so reluctantly, he sold parts of it off, mainly on eBay. One of the books was a bound copy of your Letter to Bert. I have it on my shelf now.

I was shocked to read that 10,000 of Dale's books had been left to the Delaware Chess Association. This coming weekend, John Anderson is going to take some to the Dewey Beach Tournament. Whether he is going to show or sell, I do not know.

Collecting, as you know, is a long, slow process of learning. Having ten thousand books dropped in your lap must be quite shock. Only a seasoned collector could deal with it. I don't think Anderson really knows what he has got.

I have no idea whether the rest of Dale's books will be auctioned off. Surely Dale would have left an indication of friends who could help Alice with their sale. My guess would be David De Lucia and Andy Ansel. I have not offered because I am so far away and walk with two canes due to my arthritis.

I am close to 5000 volumes in my collection. I was able to get Volumes I and II of BCM off eBay a while ago, and copies of Retrograde Analysis and 1414 Fins de Partie, which no one else seemed to want.

My most precious possession is a complete set of The Chess Amateur that I bought from Buschke for about \$60.

I have been looking for a copy of A Chess Miscellany for about ten years. I have copies of few pages from the White Library. I wouldn't think you have any volumes left but I would be willing to buy a .pdf and have it bound for myself alone (if you agree).

We can keep up our correspondence. I post regularly to Chess Talk but usually only the games from the latest tournament. Something to keep my hand in since I don't play anymore.

It is almost 11:30 PM now. I have the Academy Awards on in the background and I must let the dog out for a few minutes so I go reluctantly.

As ever, Wayne

Wayne wrote for that very minor book "A Chess Miscellany" 1979 which I home published with staples and a professional cover. 50 copies only but Norma gathered some of the old pages and

with new photocopies we made up an unbound copy for him and sent it. He wrote great letters with wit and I smiled at his comments about Dr. Niemeijer. I think we all get tired with collecting and we have our surge phases normally but Wayne had one all his life! We sent him that copy gratis as a gift to Canada from Australia. He contacted Tony Peterson first who then contacted me and off we went. Bob Meadley

12th February, 2020

Dear Bob,

That is very kind of you with the copy of A Chess Miscellany. Thank you.

I got my Masters in Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Toronto. While I was there I played chess at the Hart House Chess Club. Hart House was set up especially for male students in 1919 but had become co-educational at the last of the 20th C.

When I was young, soldiers coming back from the war talked of Britain, France and Germany and I conceived the idea of studying in these three places.

After I got my Masters, I went to France, which just had the events of May 1968. I spent a year at the Sorbonne. While in Paris I played a little chess and investigated the shops:

<https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/6690-paris-chess-shop>

I then came home to Toronto and worked a summer job and in the fall of 1979 went to the University of Manchester where I got my doctorate in Inorganic Chemistry again.

I was always very poor and couldn't afford to collect much. I can remember being on vacation and seeing on a shelf in a bookstore Mr. Blackburne's Games at Chess for five pounds and not being able to afford it.

I did see one British Championship at Coventry, went to Hastings, couldn't afford to play Timman speed chess at 10p a game at a Manchester tournament.

Came home in 1973 and found that there was no money left to go and study German in Germany, so just took German at U of T and also computer science in night courses. Finally gave everything up to raise a family.

I seem to remember that Dr. Niemeijer had moments when he wondered about collecting too but I would have to find the letter from him among the hundreds of boxes of books and papers in my garage.

I have one entry in the catalogue of the Haag library:

Shelf mark:

Den Haag, Koninklijke Bibliotheek : 66 C 150 [63]

Title:

Brief van Wayne D. Komer aan Meindert Niemeijer (1902-1987)

Correspondent:

Wayne D. Komer

Addressee:

Meindert Niemeijer (1902-1987)

Date:

1978

Place of sending:

Toronto

Note:

Collection M. Niemeijer

Count:

1 br

My greatest fear is that it is that letter questioning collecting!

For many years I got emails from Bob Long with various offers. I think he was far better at thinking up projects than carrying them through to the end.

With his untimely death, I wrote a small piece about our distant relationship:

<https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/203975-bob-long-thinkers-press>

I believe everyone should have a comprehensive obituary after their death and yet the families of two of my closest friends never published their obituaries in the newspapers at all.

I have been worried about the heat and fires in Australia. Are you in a fire zone?

To cool you off, I submit a photograph from my front porch taken four days ago

As ever,

Wayne K.



Wayne asked for a comprehensive obituary after death and his letters to me over 18 months with some comment are our contribution. BobM

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Dear Bob,

Do you still collect?

I am trying to wind down a bit as I approach 5000. However, when something out of the ordinary comes up, I usually buy it.

Recently in ChessBase, there was an article entitled Revisiting the 8th Olympiad in Buenos Aires by Juan S. Morgado

<https://en.chessbase.com/post/revisiting-the-eighth-olympiad-in-buenos-aires>

In short, he has published three extensive volumes on the event. Now I have Gillam's work and Justin Corfield's (Pawns in a Greater Game: The Buenos Aires Chess Olympiad 1939). I hardly need another.

Out of curiosity, I looked to see if there was an amazon in Argentina and what the books would cause. I was amazed to find that the American had three copies of each volume and I could have each for \$55 US. The flesh was weak and I ordered and amazon has told me that they will arrive February 19 and that they weigh 2.5 pounds each.

This was really more than I bargained for but I don't have buyer's regret...yet!

Dale Brandreth was a chemical engineer so we did not talk about chemistry too much. Also, he had no bad words to say about anyone so I never heard at all about his dispute with David Lawson. We simply would sit in a restaurant for five hours talking about chess books.

It became apparent in his last few years that there was something wrong. It was Parkinson's. Near the end I had a couple of book orders and he said he was looking for them but I never received anything.

Actually, Botvinnik's 100 Selected Games in the Dover edition was my favorite for years. I played over each game and noted when I did. The fact that he composed endgames too was a revelation.

One summer, as a student, I worked in a small hamlet near St. Catharines, ONT called Jordan Station. Women packed peaches into baskets and then put them on a skid and I pushed the skids on a cart into a large refrigerated room and soon after they were sent to market. At lunch hours I played the Botvinnik games over on a peg-in board that I had bought from CHESS, Sutton Coldfield. When I had finished the Botvinnik book, I started in on Reinfeld's Keres' Best Games of Chess – also in Dover.

My hometown, St. Catharines is between Buffalo, New York and Toronto, Ontario. I had an aunt in each that I often stayed with. There were a dozen or so chess books in the St. Catharines library. I was delighted when I could purchase more through Chess Review mail order or as Dover books in the stores.

Now, I have purchased a semi-automatic scanner. You must turn the pages yourself but the program blocks out your fingers. I hope over the course of the next year to copy as .pdfs my favorite magazines and books, so I will have backups for them.

I try to write about chess for at least two hours a day. Usually I post on ChessTalk because nobody bothers me with criticism! After I leave you, I will post a joke on Great Chess Quotes and see if the pairings are in for the Prague Tournament.

I have two iMacs in my kitchen and write on one and view the tournament on the other. Photo enclosed below.

That is about all for now.

As ever, Wayne

He asked if I still collected but he was asking a minnow when he was a mountain. I still bought the odd modern book and very occasionally an antique want and still do. BobM

Fri 21/02/2020 4:27 PM

Dear Bob,

Just noticed your posting in the Collectors Corner and sent an email to Ken MacDonald asking him to read it.

John Anderson has some photos of old chess books he inherited from Dale Brandreth. It sounds like they are all up for sale. He doesn't really know what he has got. Lawson's Paul Morphy is just another book to him:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/206305099539809/?fref=nf>

As ever,

Wayne K.

I had written to Ken MacDonald and we compared collections. His was out of my league and I mentioned it in Bert 2. BobM

Sun 23/02/2020 2:08 PM

Dear Bob,

I was thinking the exact same thing about Moral Victories. I monitor the site but I don't contribute because I don't like Facebook and I don't want to leave myself prey to the people who use it for bad purposes.

I have been looking in from time to time to see what Anderson is doing with his 10,000 books. It is not clear to me whether they are from Dale's personal collection or if they are just the stock he had to sell.

Ken MacDonald read your quotes from him and he sent this to me yesterday:

OMG, I had never seen this "letter" previously. He must have saved every letter he ever sent and received.

What fun it was to read.

Many memories brought back and exactly what I was thinking around that time. I had spent so much time trying to donate the books, I finally gave up as you know.

Thanks so much for that fun read!

Best wishes,

Ken

Ken spends the winter in Sarasota, Florida. We used to get together at a deli and have big sandwiches of Montreal smoked meat, with pickles and then apple pie afterwards! There was one memorable meeting which Ken hosted at The Corned Beef House on Adelaide and Per Skjoldager, Calle Erlandsson and Jurgen Stigter were there, on their way to a meeting at the White Collection in Cleveland. That would have been August 2011.

As luck would have it, I had tinnitus in my left ear and found it very hard to hear what they were saying.

As ever,

Wayne

Yes, I do keep all letters and they are kept in filing cabinets. But these are the Big League players and I am a problemist/historian not a chess player. BobM

Sun 23/02/2020 5:02 PM

Dear Bob,

There are some older emails on that Facebook group where the collectors talk about how cheaply they picked up chess books on a remainder table. However, I've got a few tips on books just appearing that have been valuable. When I went in for just a second, there were half a dozen people who wanted to FRIEND me. Chilling.

The publication of Purdy that I have most wanted was an eight-page "Post-Mortem to Fischer-Spassky 1972" published in 1976. I got a copy from a German bookseller a few years ago. I have most of Bob Long's reprints of Purdy and copies of two CHESS WORLDS 1959 from Purdy to Bruce Hayden.

I was a great fan of D.J. Morgan's BCM column Quotes and Queries. A few years ago, someone offered a copy of duMont's 200 Miniature Games of Chess that had belonged to D.J. Morgan on eBay. I was the only one who was interested in it. Almost every page is interleaved with games pasted in by Morgan and they are covered with his handwriting. In the same way (no one else seeming to care) I got a copy of Retrograde Analysis and Rinck's 1414 Fins de Partie.

My Mac has announced that it is 1 AM, so I must go to bed!

As ever,

Wayne D.

It was good to see Wayne had a lot of Purdy material. I am in contact with Cecil Purdy's daughter who is my age (early 80s) and she has helped with various articles written about 1 Bond Street Sydney, Cecil's base from 1938-1964. BobM

Wed 4/03/2020 2:43 PM

Dear Bob,

Thank you for the book. I hope there is a written dedication! I will have it bound when it gets here. Thank you.

Some Canadians twenty years ago updated D.A. Yanofsky's Chess the Hard Way in an incredibly small edition. It is published by the Chess Federation of Canada/Ottawa (2000), 235 pages. I xeroxed up a library copy but have never seen the volume for sale or auction. What I will do is have your book and this copy bound at the same time!

My address is:

Wayne D Komer

71 Parkway Avenue

Toronto, Ontario

Canada M6R 1T6

I am taking a rest from chess until the Candidates starts. I suppose there is a small possibility that it will be rescheduled due to this coronavirus. I kept my hand in the writing game by doing a little bit on a new book about Marcel Duchamp and Koltanowski in ChessTalk.

I found that The Chess Player published the 1970 British Championship at Coventry. I took a train from Manchester and spent the day there seeing all the players I had read so much about. I believe Bob Wade won it. Anyway, I thought, for old times sake, I would like to play over some of the games. Nobody seemed to have a copy and then I found one bookseller who did and it should be here in about two weeks.

The tournament was held at Warwick University and I remember walking from the station out to the rural campus, seeing the hedges along the roads and wondering if there were hedgehogs under them.

John Anderson is making me positively ill showing Dale's old books on that chess book collectors site. He seems to have no idea how valuable they are. Today he showed bound copies of Skakbladet and said they were Polish (not Danish)

The cold weather has broken here and is fairly mild - rain melted the snow. I heard that your forest fires were quenched by a rain that is still pouring down.

Thank you again.

As ever,
Wayne

*It was an unusual sale of the late Dale Brandreth's books but obviously with family approval.
BobM*

Mon 9/03/2020 2:06 PM

Dear Bob,

We put our clocks ahead one hour today for daylight saving.

I still may have your volume cloth-bound. What colour was the binding? And how big was the edition? I have had a devil of a time even finding one copy.

As ever,
Wayne D.

On March 8, 2020, at 7:38 PM, BobandNorma Meadley <bobandnormameadley@hotmail.com> wrote:

Plastic covers in a 4 ring binder. That is what I have done with most of my e-books that I wanted a hard copy of. They are a bit thick but OK.

I posted the package this morning. To bind it the simplest way would be to use A4 copysafe All the best Bob Meadley

It would be good to know what happened to the binding of "A Chess Miscellany" He had not received it as yet. BobM

Wed 18/03/2020 12:40 PM

Dear Bob,

We are about the same age and so, I am restricting who comes to the house until the end of April. I get post deliveries, some [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca) and my groceries through a firm called Grocery Gateway. It used to be that it took two days for an order to go in and then be delivered, now it is eight days.

People are buying toilet paper like there is no tomorrow. One of the world's biggest manufacturers, Kroger, says that it has three hundred trucks on the road delivering it.

I wasn't worried until this last week. I can't easily get to the nearest supermarket which is called Loblaws. If there are lineups with shopping carts extending out into the parking lot, then I could not stand the hour or two to pay. So, Grocery Gateway is the best for me.

They are cancelling all sports events but the Candidates, so I am following that and reporting on ChessTalk.

I am going to do a small bit on Edward Winter who may leave his web site inactive.

On the chess book collectors facebook, a new actor has appeared - Hayoung Wong. He is of Korean origin, lives in New York state and says he has 10,000 chess books in his collection. I have never heard of him before.

I have been thinking of printing up your contributions to Collectors' Corner and then having them bound in red or purple cloth. Your Chess Miscellany has not come yet but we don't get post every day now and it may well be put on hold until the end of March. When it is safe to do so, I shall contact a bindery and ask if they can send someone to pick up the material I want done.

Right now bars and restaurants are closed as well as movie theatres, libraries and so forth. My son sells Ford cars but he might get sent home because nobody is buying.

I don't know if the situation is comparable in Australia. The news earlier in the year was about the forest fires, then the flooding rains and now it is all about Tom Hanks smearing the Vegemite too thickly on his toast. I hope you and your wife are comfortable and can stay healthy.

I am going to do the daily quiz in The Times, phone a friend to see how she is and then consider what I could write about Edward Winter.

It is good to hear from you again and as soon as the package is delivered, I shall write.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Who could forget the "Great Toilet Roll Heist" during early Covid? It happened here. BobM

Fri 20/03/2020 1:57 PM

Dear Bob,

I am primarily a chess book collector and an admirer of all that goes with the game. I don't think I have played a human opponent in more than 20 years!

Early in my collecting career, I started subscribing to Roycroft's EG. I still find him one of the best writers on chess.

I solved a bunch of positions in the English version of The Moscow News back then. There was an endgame by Capablanca that was one of the toughest things I ever had to solve. The entry was mainly from foreign readers and I won a book about Russian icons and a signed photograph of Tigran Petrosian.

I republished the positions in CHESS and Roycroft wrote to say that he had never seen the Capablanca position before. He did some research on it and found that it had been found in the literature by Ukrainian problemists. He put all this into TestTube Chess.

About the same time I started solving chess problems and doing some correspondence chess. My chemistry studies made me curtail these and I have never really taken them up again but I do have lots of problem books and correspondence books in my collection.

I am self-quarantining myself but today my dog started barking at the postman, so I stuck my hand out the door and took in the mail. I was sure that your package had finally come. But it hadn't. I quickly went in and washed my hands and tried the tracking number you sent on the Australian Post site but it didn't recognize it.

Had some good correspondence with an enthusiast in Winnipeg about my article on Edward Winter and Chess Notes. He had a couple of items of Canadian interest that he will send me.

I think I found the Capablanca position from Lasker's Chess Magazine of 1908. White to move and win:-8/7r/2p3p1/2p2pp1/k5p1/3KN1p1/8/1R6 (3x9) (Key Kc4 but 22 moves deep)

As ever,

Wayne

Wayne must have had a tremendous correspondence, BobM

Thu 26/03/2020 12:47 PM

Dear Bob,

I got an email from someone knowledgeable about the Dale Brandreth situation:

It's a complicated story, but in a nutshell Dale fell ill the last year of his life and did not have the time or energy to set his affairs in order. He had a huge inventory and his family was eager to quickly prepare the second home, where Dale's books were stored, for sale. To that end they threw away a lot of not particularly valuable, hard to sell items, like hundreds of copies of each of the Lachaga tournament booklets. David DeLucia bought many rare items and Andy Ansel preserved a number of one of kind things like a manuscript of Bill Martz's games which he is entered into ChessBase.

What happened serves as a cautionary note to plan in advance.

Hoping you are safe and healthy.

I got a big order of groceries delivered yesterday as I am self-imposed quarantine. My health is good but I probably shouldn't be making any contact with people until this virus thing dies down. Tomorrow I am working with my cousin on her income tax via the internet. I am a bit out of it as concerned chess - just looking in at the Candidates for an hour or two each day.

Sorry if I seem a bit distracted.

Your package has not come yet. Canada Post says that they will knock, drop the package in the letter box without getting a signature and leave - so I don't have to worry about having to get a pickup from the post office.

As ever,

Wayne D.

Wayne was on crutches and supermarkets etc must have been an ordeal. Walking is wonderful in retirement but if one can't walk.... BobM

Fri 3/04/2020 1:51 PM

Dear Bob,

It has been advised that my age group stay indoors until further notice because of Covid-19. Many people aren't taking this seriously but I am - it could be a matter of life and death.

Because of the cold weather and icy sidewalks in February and March, I rarely go out anyway and have food and my prescriptions delivered. A local girl walks my dog Toph each weekday.

However, it appears that the stay-at-home conditions will go on until July. That means no visitors, no dog walkers etc until then. A company called Grocery Gateway drops off my food order on the front porch, my having already paid by credit card. My next order is coming Easter Monday - 27 items, including an Easter ham - one day late! There are the usuals - eggs, bread, milk, cans of soup - to keep up my stock in case grocery delivery should cease.

To while away the time I have been looking at old chess tournaments and just posted the games from the 1970 USSR vs World Math. And it seems that almost everyone else has done the same. It gives me a solid two hours chess work every morning.

I have another tournament in mind and those World Champion compositions which I intend to post in the coming weeks. My chess book buying has stalled because Canada Post has reduced hours and there is talk of curtailing some services. I can wait until the second half of the year to resume.

The good news is that today your parcel arrived in my letter box without fanfare. By that I mean that the postman put it in my mailbox and departed without knocking. The envelope was a little the worse for wear but the contents, impeccable. Thank you for the kind letter.

My plans were to call in a bookbinder and have it bound with other material but with the injunctions on having visitors, I shall have to wait until the middle of the summer.

I should like to see what Andy Ansel wrote to Ray Kuzanek. I think it highly unlikely that I will buy any of the books from Dale's collection if they are offered.

I wonder if you ever read Chess Book Chats by Michael Clapham. He is a collector who writes well and knows his stuff. He used to post about once every two months but I suppose he is shut in as I am and there is a lot of new stuff – one article was on Chess Digest published in Melbourne.

<http://chessbookchats.blogspot.com>

When I look back on this year I will remember when chess tournaments dried up and long days of watching NCIS. I suppose you get that television program where you are. Here they are repeating old shows at the rate of three a day. I have got hooked on them because of the action and all the computer hacking. The lab work is interesting too.

So, on the average day I will do my two hours of chess journalism, have lunch and then watch three hours of NCIS. It would be nice to have a friend over or to take a cab to a restaurant but I shall have to wait for those.

I should like to buy a copy of the Anderssen. Right now I have to do the daily quiz in The Times, the crossword puzzle in the NYT, go through eBay auctions, post something on ChessTalk and watch a bit of NCIS before retiring. I'll have a look at your article tomorrow.

You spent quite a bit on the postage and photo-copying for me, so if there is anything I can do for you, just ask.

As ever,
Wayne

I must say NCIS is wearing these days and Mark Harmon should go into graceful retirement. I enjoy Michael Claphams Chess Book Chats. BobM

Sat 4/04/2020 12:59 PM

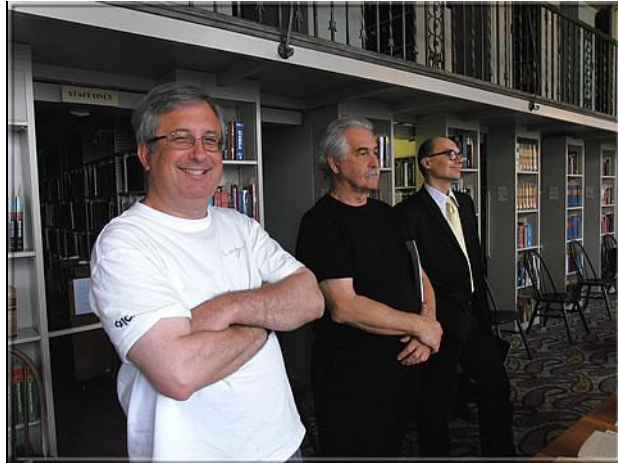
Dear Bob,

You asked what David and Andy look like physically.

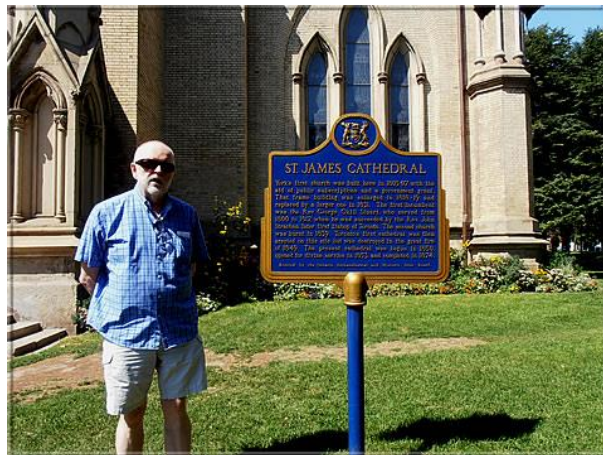
On April 24, 2010 I attended a chess book auction of the estate of Jack O'Keefe. Andy, Ken MacDonald, David, John Donaldson, Dale Brandreth, John Hilbert and myself were there with about half a dozen others. The first photo is the ad in Chess Life, the second Dale and David, the third David, Andy, John Donaldson and John Hilbert, two of Andy Ansel and finally, one of Ken MacDonald at a Cathedral near home in Toronto

As ever,
Wayne D.

All photos at 2010 Jack O'Keefe sale. See Ad below



Andy Ansel on left ? ?



Ken MacDonald at Toronto



Andy Ansel



Dale Brandreth & David de Lucia



David de Lucia, Andy Ansel at front John Donaldson & John Hilbert rear left

The ad referred to by Wayne No.1 was *Chess Book Auction Saturday April 24 2010 @ 10am. 1295 Main Street Buffalo NY 14209. A very large collection from a Michigan Collector! Long runs of many chess periodicals such as Chess Review, Chess Life, American Chess Bulletin, Shatmaty USSR, BCM, Chess, Lasker's Chess Magazine, 400 opening books, 500 Chess Games collections, 100 end-game books, Most of the ACW Problem books, Scarce tourney books such as 6th American Chess Congress, Vienna 1898, NY 1924, Cleveland 1872, Hamburg 1910, wooden boards and hundreds more items! Terms in full at time of auction. Cash/Check, 10% buyers premium. Cash Realty & Auctions. 1.800-424-2274 [www.cash](http://www.cashauctions.com) auctions.com*

Great to have those photos of the fabled American Big Guns BobM

Saturday, April 4, 2020
Dear Bob,

At the book auction, all the books were set out in lots by Dale Brandreth. He must have been there for a couple of weeks before. Did a great job.

At the auction, someone took a photo of the collectors. I wasn't in it because I was not a member of the Ken Whyld Society at that time and the photo was published there but since then has disappeared.

When you asked about David and Andy, I spent three hours looking for this photo and finally found it on my computer.

As ever,

Wayne D.

I am glad Wayne found that photo so all can enjoy. We are all so far apart and rarely meet.
BobM



Layout by Dale Brandreth at the O'Keefe sale 2010

Monday, April 6, 2020

Dear Bob,

The WORD copy opened in DRAFT mode and there were no photos there. But, I switched over to PRINT LAYOUT in VIEW and everything was nice and in order. It is probably better to send such things as pdfs but I got them all right.

Honestly this pandemic thing has got me off my game but I hope writing up the Semmering tournament will be good therapy.

There's a big Russian book auction coming up that I shall bid on.

Actually that Buffalo auction is the only live one I have ever been to. At the time I was not a 5000+ collector and didn't belong to the Whyld Association. I was just there observing. I had talked to Donaldson before as well as Dale and Andy Ansel but had not talked to the rest of them. I have tried to fly below the radar most of my life!

As ever,

Wayne D.

Not sure what Wayne means about Word. It is not the book I sent him. BobM

Monday, April 6, 2020

Dear Bob,

Michael has got me beat all over the place. I checked my purchases of chess books and found these numbers:

2016 151

2017 155

2018 210

2019 141

For an average of 164 per year. When I was a poor student and when raising a family, I could only afford a few dozen a year. I wrote down the titles of those that I wanted to get but could not afford and picked them up in later years.

One of these was as recent as 1996 namely The Elista Diaries, Karpov-Kamsky 1996.

How many books are in your collection now? As ever, Wayne

The 'Michael' is probably Michael Clapham. Again this is a Big League matter. BobM

Thu 18/06/2020 3:56 AM

Dear Robert,

I have been corresponding with Bob Meadley for half a year now on chess book collecting.

He told me good things about your recent book

Adolf Anderssen: Combinative Chess Genius

I should very much like to buy a copy for my collection and also ensure that there is a copy in Canada. I understand it is quite heavy, so you may want to ship it by surface to me. The post is still quite chaotic here - I just received a chess book from Moscow today that was posted the first week in March!

I would like to pay by PayPal or Credit Card if that is possible. What would be the total charges for book + shipping by first class surface?

My address is:

Wayne Komer

71 Parkway Avenue

Toronto, Ontario
Canada M6R 1T6

This letter was to Robert Johnson, author of the Anderson book. BobM

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Dear Bob,

Good to hear from you again. I was afraid you were caught in some Covid-19 trouble. I have been self-isolating since my haircut on March 12 which makes 3 months 5 days without leaving the house or having a visitor.

I have filled the time in by doing two hours of chess a day – usually writing about online tournaments, then meals and NCIS in the afternoon and the quiz game Jeopardy! in the evening. I decided that since I was at home and could get all deliveries, that I would order chess books to fill holes in my collection. There was a big auction of Russian chess books and, though they were sent out the first week of March, only one has arrived – today!

When I last heard from you, you were going through Michael Clapham's articles. Did you ever write him and did he reply? I am curious as to how old he is and the size of his collection. The number of new cases of covid-19 in Ontario is below 200 a day and so it seems we are well over the hump and will be opening up soon. I intend to self-isolate into July and then see where we are. It may be that my son and his family comes out for Father's Day but we will keep at our distance in the backyard.

The girls who regularly used to walk my dog, have been frightened by the pandemic and almost never leave their houses now, poor things. A college student next door has offered to take her out daily, which is great now that the weather is hot and sunny – so she can get some exercise.

I have just written to Robert Johnson about the Anderssen book and I hope I can get a copy using PayPal.

I have 16 bids into an auction at Klittich-Pfankuch which is taking place this weekend. Mainly tournament books and volumes of old German magazines. I have reached my goal of 5000 books but now am going towards 5500. The number is unimportant but having the originals of classics is well-worth it. This will be my best year for collecting and then I hope to let things tail off and enjoy writing about other things.

I can't seem to find the most recent ACF Newsletter online with your review. Do you have a link?

I am glad you are keeping well. We had our toilet paper scares in March. Then I was afraid we would run out of food and had more delivered here than I could use. Now things have stabilized. As ever, Wayne K.

I did get a reply from Michael C and Wayne had made it to 5000. BobM

Thu 18/06/2020 12:25 PM

Dear Bob,

I was afraid that Michael might be reclusive like Edward Winter.

There is a book called The Development of Chess Style by Max Euwe (1968) which I have but never read. There is also some discussion on line about chess style. It seems to be a topic about one could write an essay.

I have watched the Harry Potter movies several times each and was right there getting the books as they came out. I can remember that one was published on a Saturday. I bought it from [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca) and they sent it to me that morning by courier. I think it was The Order of the Phoenix. I wanted to read the story before someone blabbed the ending.

The thing that interested me about the books was the discussion about magic wands. I had not read anything significant about them in my years of fantasy and fairy tale reading as a boy.

I see that there is a run of BCM for sale on the English Chess Forum. Price looks right

Re: BCM Collection 1881-2007

Post by Andrew Martin » Sun Jun 07, 2020 6:41 pm

The collection has yet to be sold. Some interest, but no luck.

As a rough guide the owner is looking for a bid of £7000 plus. The first volumes are all signed by the then editor, John Watkinson, which adds to the rarity and value.

I have photographs of the entire collection to verify the very good condition of the books.

As ever,

Wayne Komer

Good point Wayne raises about photographs of dear chess books in auctions. BobM



Thursday, August 6, 2020

Dear Bob,

I have been waiting for the Anderssen book to arrive to write you again. I have a lot of chess books in the tube and the ones from Russia, purchased in February, have only recently arrived. I just have to be patient; I am hoping it will come in the next few days.

Also, I understand that there is a second wave of coronavirus in the south of Australia and I thought best to just keep a low profile until we are out of this thing.

Ontario's figures are going down (below 100 daily) but who knows what will happen by the end of the summer when school starts.

American news says that the average cost of a covid-19 vaccine will be priced between 30 and 37 American dollars.

I have been restricted to quarters since Spring. It is easy enough with deliveries from amazon and Grocery Gateway. The other day my cousin came up with her husband and three shelves from IKEA to replace a small metal shelf that had collapsed throwing chess books all over my third floor. Three big Billy shelves were installed, properly secured and then filled with my books. My cousin also brought me a mask in case I have to go out in a taxi.

I have a great deal of admiration for Michael Clapham but I will just enjoy his columns without writing him. He appears to be very secretive and one can learn next to nothing about him from his website. His FIDE profile says that he was born in 1951.

Each day, I follow the latest chess online. The air conditioning has been on for most of the past two months. August and September are great for me because Ontario field tomatoes are for sale and one can have some at each meal. My only concern is that the student who walks my dog each day, goes back to university in September and I have to hope that the girls who had that task before covid-19 will want the job back. If they or their parents are frightened at going back to school, then I doubt that they will want to do anything but stay at home, learning remotely.

I have just bought two books in Dutch by Rob Spaans that look interesting but have not started translating the stories from Anekdotengids voor Schaakliefhebbers because I feel somewhat intimidated by the language.
Hope you are well As ever,
Wayne K.

Amazing that Wayne was translating foreign language books. BobM

Saturday night, September 5, 2020
Dear Bob,

The name sounds familiar. It might be that I bought some books from him at one time. With Dale, I answered an advert in BCM and got his lists when I was studying in Manchester and then, when I got back to Toronto, he would occasionally say that he was in town and brought books for me. As I had a one-room bedsitter, I thought it best to meet him at his friend's home or later, at a restaurant.

I corresponded briefly with a guy called Harry Rombach, who was the endgame and studies editor of the Canadian Chess Chat. One gets ideas of what a correspondent looked like and I dropped in on him unannounced, hoping to see a huge chess library. Instead, he had a one-room bedsitter like me and a box with a few chess magazines under the bed.

I told my Aunt Elsie about this and she brought over strawberry tarts and all sorts of goodies to my room and we invited Harry over. He was born in 1899 and so, was in his 70s then. He talked to my aunt about chess and bridge and told me he used to subscribe to The Chess Amateur and compose problems.

Unfortunately, I was just going to be Best Man at my brother's wedding in 1969 and was in St. Catharines, Ontario and just going out the door to the car, when I got a card from Harry saying he was coming by bus to St. Catharines and could I pick him up and room him for a few days? Unable to answer him and going to the wedding in Brantford, I never heard from him again.

I do want to see your ACF Newsletter contributions or copies of them.

I am planning a big spread in ChessTalk about the journal Shakhmaty-in-English this weekend.

As ever,
Wayne D

Poor Harry Rombach. And he was a subscriber to the Chess Amateur. BobM

Wed 23/09/2020 1:25 PM You
Dear Bob,

I saw it posted on Karel's site. At the same time he posted for sale the chess book catalogues of a dozen firms from the 1870s to the start of the Second World War. They were on the Swedish Lund site. I thought how good it would be to get some of these and write about chess catalogues of another era. There were only a few bids in and the average price was about 10 to 15 euros. The auction finished mid-afternoon this past Sunday. I usually watch NFL Football then, the Buffalo Bills who were in Miami. I thought I would look in at the auction at the same time to see how I was doing. Well, first of all, the power went out in Miami, then there was a lightning storm and the game was suspended. Also, a lot of collectors descended on the Lund site. Usually

I give a big money big with seconds to go and get the item. But at the Lund site, it you bid in the last five minutes, five more minutes is added to the end time. So, I had fifteen items and my winning bids were raised in all of them at the same time. I had to forget about the game and keep going from catalogue to catalogue trying to win. It was exciting but I lost my way. In the end I only got half a dozen. The article I was going to write on them will probably not get written. Here are the ones I bid on:

1. Albrecht Buschke: Catalogue no.2, July 1940

The initial bid amount was €30.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €35.00.

Albrecht Buschke Sale catalogue no.2, July 1940 Chess Periodicals 1836-1938 LN 134 Buschke, Albrecht: Periodicals. General - Chess - Medical. Including a century of low priced chess periodicals 1836-1938. Catalogue No. 2. July, 1940. West New Brighton, Buschke, 1940. Softcover. (8) pages. Size 18.5 cm. In English. LN 134. The weight 20 grams.

2. Dr. Meindert Niemeijer: Sale list no.14, Nov. 1935

The initial bid amount was €20.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €25.00.

Dr. Meindert Niemeyer (Niemeijer) Sale list number 14 November 1935 Ca 150 chess books etc. for sale or exchange Niemeyer (Niemeijer), Meindert: No.14. November 1935. Wassenaar, self-edition, 1935. Stapled leaves. Mimeographed typescript, 6 leaves printed on rectos only. Size 33.5 x 21 cm. In Dutch. LN 112. The weight 30 grams. Good or better: small traces of horizontal folding, light crease to the bottom right corner throughout. Text is clean with no writings. An offer of about 150 second-hand chess items for sale.

3. University Place Book Shop, NY: Sale catalogue 6, ca 1936

The initial bid amount was €20.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €25.00.

University Place Book Shop, NY Sale catalogue no. 6 (1936 or 1937) 248 chess entries University Place Book Shop (booksellers): Books on Chess. Catalog No 6. New York, self-edition, no date (1936 or 1937). Softcover. (8) pages. Size 23 cm. In English. LN-. The weight 30 grams. Good or better: pages with light traces of crease, text OK with no writings except a few erasable pencil ticks. Sale catalogue with 248 mostly second-hand chess books and magazines.

4. Veit and Comp., Leipzig: Sale catalogue ca 1884

The initial bid amount was €15.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €20.00.

Veit and Comp., Leipzig: Sale catalogue ca 1884 Veit & Comp. (publisher): Sale catalogue with no title, ca 1884. The first page begins: Schach-Verlag von Veit and Comp. in Leipzig. Leipzig, Veit & Comp., no date (ca 1884). Pamphlet. (8) pages. Size ca 20 cm. In German. LN-. The weight 10 grams. Very good: still an uncut copy, text clean with no writings. Publisher's catalogue with ca 25 chess titles described in detail. The youngest item is Der dritte Kongress.. Nuernberg 1883.

5. Hedewigs Mitteilungen no.29, 1926

The initial bid amount was €10.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €21.00.

Hedewigs Mitteilungen no.29 Leipzig 1926 Sale catalogue, 500+ items Curt Ronniger (publisher, bookseller): Hedewig's Mitteilungen ueber Schachliteratur. Nr.29. Leipzig, Ronniger, 1926. Stapled booklet. 36 pages. Size ca 23 cm. In German. LN 70. The weight 40 grams. Lacks the last leaf with an order form (Bestellzettel), else Good to very good. Sale catalogue with more than 500 titles - new books, second-hand books, chess equipment.

6. Hedewigs Mitteilungen no.32, 1929

The initial bid amount was €15.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €21.00.

(Hedewigs) Mitteilungen no.32 Leipzig 1929 Sale catalogue, 500+ items Curt Ronniger (publisher, bookseller): Mitteilungen ueber Schachliteratur und Schachutensilien. Nr.32. Leipzig, Ronniger, 1929. Stapled booklet. 40 pages. Size ca 23 cm. In German. LN 70. The weight 40 grams. Very good: light signs of use, no flaws. Text is clean with no writings. Sale catalogue with more than 500 titles - new books, second-hand books, chess equipment. In other years the catalogue was published under the name Hedewig's Mitteilungen ueber Schachliteratur, in this issue the word Hedewig's was omitted.

7. E. R. Cordingley: Catalogue no.4, 1936

The initial bid amount was €15.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €18.00.

E. G. R. Cordingley, London Chess catalogue no.4, Feb 1936 316 second-hand books LN 129 Cordingley, E. G. R.: Chess Catalogue No.4. Feb. 1936. London, self-edition, 1936. Stapled leaves. Mimeographed, (1) leaf, 12 pages. Size 26 cm. In English. LN 129. The weight 50 grams. Good: the first and last page somewhat stained at the top. Traces of horizontal centre fold. Some general signs of use, text with no writings. Sale catalogue with 316 second-hand books/magazines.

8. Dr. Meindert Niemeijer: Sale list no.15, Feb. 1936

The initial bid amount was €20.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €23.00.

Dr. Meindert Niemeyer (Niemeijer) Sale list number 15 February 1936 Ca 500 chess books etc. for sale or exchange Niemeyer (Niemeijer), Meindert: No.15. (Februari 1936). Wassenaar, self-edition, 1936. Stapled leaves. Mimeographed typescript, 21 leaves printed on rectos only. Size 33.5 x 21 cm. In Dutch. LN 112. The weight 100 grams. Good: small traces of horizontal folding, light crease to the bottom right corner throughout. 3 leaves a little stained, otherwise text is OK with no writings. An offer of about 500 second-hand chess items for sale.

9. Curt Ronniger, Sale catalogue ca 1927: Emanuel Lasker

The initial bid amount was €10.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €13.00.

Curt Ronniger, Leipzig: Emanuel Lasker in seinem Werken Sale catalogue ca 1927 Curt Ronniger (publisher, bookseller): Emanuel Lasker in seinem Werken. Leipzig, self-edition, no date (ca 1927). Stapled booklet. (8) pages. Size ca 22 cm. In German. LN-. The weight 20 grams. Good: small piece ca 0.5 x 1 cm of the bottom left corner is cut off, otherwise OK, paper normally browned, text with no writings. Sale catalogue, described are 7 titles written by Emanuel Lasker and other authors, of which two Lasker books are described in detail. (code 9150).

10. Veit and Comp., Leipzig: Sale catalogue ca 1895

The initial bid amount was €10.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €12.00.

Veit and Comp., Leipzig: Sale catalogue ca 1895 Veit & Comp. (publisher): Sale catalogue with no title, ca 1895. The first page begins: Schach-Verlag von Veit and Comp. in Leipzig. Leipzig, Veit & Comp., no date (ca 1895). Pamphlet. (8) pages. Size ca 20 cm. In German. LN-. The weight 10 grams. Good: first page a little stained, bottom corners a little creased, text with no writings. Publisher's catalogue with ca 40 chess titles described in detail. The youngest item is Tarrasch: Dreihundert Schachpartien, 1894.

11. Hedewigs Mitteilungen no.10, 1912

The initial bid amount was €26.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €27.00.

Hedewigs Mitteilungen no.10 Leipzig 1912 Sale catalogue, ca 310 items Curt Ronniger (publisher, bookseller): Hedewig's Mitteilungen ueber Schachliteratur. Nr.10. Leipzig, Ronniger, 1912. Stapled booklet. 16 pages. Size ca 23 cm. In German. LN 70. The weight 30 grams. Good or better: light horizontal centre fold, light general signs of use, paper usually browned by age, text clean with no writings. Sale catalogue, described in detail are ca 60 new titles of various publishers and chess equipment. Also 174 second-hand books and the list of desiderata - ca 80 wanted old books

12. Bell and Sons - Sale catalogue ca 1927

The initial bid amount was €12.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €13.00.

Bell and Sons, London Chess book catalogue ca 1927 LN- Bell and Sons: Bell's Chess Books. London, Bell, no date (ca 1927). Stapled booklet with cover. 24 pages. Size 21.5 cm. In English. LN- The weight 90 grams. Good or better: cover a little soiled, staples somewhat rusty. Two pencil notes on cover, internally clean with no writings. The catalogue contains detailed description of 14 new books published by Bell and Sons.

13. Curt Ronniger ca 1933: Interessante Schachliteratur und..

The initial bid amount was €10.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €12.00.

Curt Ronniger, Leipzig: Interessante Schachliteratur fuer alle Schachfreunde. Sale catalogue ca 1933 Curt Ronniger (publisher, bookseller): Interessante Schachliteratur fuer alle Schachfreunde. Leipzig, self-edition, no date (ca 1933). Stapled booklet. 16 pages. Size ca 17 cm. In German.

LN-. The weight 20 grams. Very good: light signs of use, no flaws, text clean with no writings. Sale catalogue, described are ca 70 chess books. The youngest item is Ranneforths Schachkalender 1933 (code 9153).

14. Alois Reichmann, Wien. Katalog 95: Schach, 1928 (235 entries)
The initial bid amount was €20.00.

LSAK chess book auctions will bid incrementally for you up to your maximum bid of €21.00.

Alois Reichmann, Wien Katalog 95: Schach (1928) with 235 second-hand chess entries Alois Reichmann (bookseller): Katalog 95: Schach. Wien, self-edition, 1928. Softcover. 8 pages. Size 24 cm. In German. LN 100. The weight 20 grams. Good: stamp of Wiener Schachzeitung on page 1. Small pen note and signature of Czech composer/collector Ilja Mikan on page 1. One small crayon underlining on p.1, otherwise text OK with no writings. Sale catalogue with 235 mostly second-hand chess books and magazines.

15. Veit and Comp., Leipzig: Sale catalogue ca 1916 Veit & Comp. (publisher): Fuer Schachspieler. Leipzig, Veit & Comp., ca 1916. Stapled booklet. 24 pages. Size 15 x 11 cm. In German. LN-. The weight 20 grams. Very good: light signs of use, no flaws. Text is clean with no writings. Publisher's catalogue with ca 80 chess titles described in detail. €15.00

16. University Place Book Shop, NY Sale catalogue no. 22 (1939 or 1940) with 546 chess entries University Place Book Shop (booksellers): Chess. Catalog No. XXII. New York, self-edition, no date (1939 or 1940). Softcover. 16 pages. Size 23 cm. In English. LN-. The weight 30 grams. Good or better: light general signs of use. Some crayon ticks in the problem section (picture 3), otherwise text is OK. Sale catalogue with 546 mostly second-hand chess books and magazines. €20,00

17. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin Chess book catalogue X / 1928 LN- de Gruyter, Walter (publisher): Schachliteratur (X / 1928). Berlin, de Gruyter, X/1928. Softcover. (8) pages. Size 21 cm. In German. LN-. The weight 20 grams. Good or better: probably disbound from a volume. Text is clean with no writings. Publisher's catalogue, described and priced ca 60 items, mainly new books. €10,00

Potential Cost about \$500 Canadian!

Items Won

1. Hedewigs Mitteilungen no.29 Leipzig 1926 Sale catalogue, 500+ items Curt Ronniger (publisher, bookseller): Hedewig's Mitteilungen ueber Schachliteratur. Nr.29. Leipzig, Ronniger, 1926. Stapled booklet. 36 pages. Size ca 23 cm. In German. LN 70. The weight 40 grams. Lacks the last leaf with an order form (Bestellzettel), else Good to very good.

2. (Hedewigs) Mitteilungen no.32 Leipzig 1929 Sale catalogue, 500+ items Curt Ronniger (publisher, bookseller): Mitteilungen ueber Schachliteratur und Schachutensilien. Nr.32. Leipzig, Ronniger, 1929. Stapled booklet. 40 pages. Size ca 23 cm. In German. LN 70. The weight 40 grams.

3. Veit and Comp., Leipzig: Sale catalogue ca 1916 Veit & Comp. (publisher): Fuer Schachspieler. Leipzig, Veit & Comp., ca 1916. Stapled booklet. 24 pages. Size 15 x 11 cm. In German. LN-. The weight 20 grams. Very good: light signs of use, no flaws. Text is clean with no writings. Publisher's catalogue with ca 80 chess titles described in detail.

4. Alois Reichmann, Wien Katalog 95: Schach (1928) with 235 second-hand chess entries Alois Reichmann (bookseller): Katalog 95: Schach. Wien, self-edition, 1928. Softcover. 8 pages. Size 24 cm. In German. LN 100. The weight 20 grams. Good: stamp of Wiener Schachzeitung on page 1. Small pen note and signature of Czech composer/collector Ilja Mikan on page 1. One small crayon underlining on p.1, otherwise text OK with no writings. Sale catalogue with 235 mostly second-hand chess books and magazines.

5. University Place Book Shop, NY Sale catalogue no. 22 (1939 or 1940) with 546 chess entries University Place Book Shop (booksellers): Chess. Catalog No. XXII. New York, self-edition, no date (1939 or 1940). Softcover. 16 pages. Size 23 cm. In English. LN-. The weight 30 grams. Good or better: light general signs of use. Some crayon ticks in the problem section (picture 3), otherwise text is OK. Sale catalogue with 546 mostly second-hand chess books and magazines.

6. University Place Book Shop, NY Sale catalogue no. 6 (1936 or 1937) 248 chess entries University Place Book Shop (booksellers): Books on Chess. Catalog No 6. New York, self-edition, no date (1936 or 1937). Softcover. (8) pages. Size 23 cm. In English. LN-. The weight 30 grams. Good or better: pages with light traces of crease, text OK with no writings except a few erasable pencil ticks. Sale catalogue with 248 mostly second-hand chess books and magazines.

Costs

1 15 euros; 2 25 euros; 3 48 euros; 4 27 euros; 5 20 euros; 6 24 euros; Total 149 euros

I had been getting Dr. Niemeijer's lists since 1967 and I wanted to see some of them from the 1930s but was beaten out for those.

I sat with Dr. Buschke in New York City on one visit there and also with Walter Goldwater at the University Place Bookstore. When we had finished talking, he said, "I'm going to close up shop and go over to the Marshall Chess Club where they are showing the moves in Karpov-Korchnoi. Do you want to come?"

I think it was the 1974 match but I suppose it could have been 1978. On a subsequent visit I also saw Fred Wilson.

Karel has packaged up my latest purchases and I should receive these catalogues in a couple of weeks.

As ever,

Wayne K.

I wonder how many of Dr. N's catalogues Wayne had? Hopefully they will be listed for sale. Fantastic letter that resulted in a couple of article on Old Book Dealers. It was enlightening also about bidding in different auctions. BobM

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Dear Bob,

I think that Karel bought the chess book collection of an elderly collector and the catalogues were among the books. He put the catalogues up for auction on the Lund site in Sweden but was monitoring it from the Czech Republic when it was on. He thought that the University Place Bookshop catalogues would go for more than they did (they went to me). These were the items I missed:-

Buschke Cat. No. 1 120 euros

Buschke Cat. No. 2 62 euros

Buschke Cat New Books 80 euros

Niemeijer List no. 14 87 euros

Niemeijer List. No. 15 147 euros (27 bids)

Curt Ronniger Emanuel Lasker 47 Euros

Curt Ronniger Interessante Schachliteratur 20.50 euros

Veit and comp. 1874 20 euros

Veit and Comp. 1867 15 euros

Veit and Comp 1916 48 euros

Bell and Sons Sale Catalogue 1927 81 euros (19 bids)wa

E. R. Cordingley: Catalogue no.4, 1936 88.50 euros

Walter de Gruyter, 1928 20.50 euros

I do have the Buschke catalogue No. 1. But I really wanted the two Niemeijer lists and they went for 87 euros and 147 euros with 27 bids on No. 15.

I certainly would like an article about chess catalogues before World War II. The one person who could write it would be Dale Brandreth. His knowledge was encyclopedic.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Amazing old catalog prices. BobM

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Dear Bob,

I had a friend who sold his books piecemeal through eBay. It meant photographing them, pricing them, listing them and, if they were bid on, packaging them up and shipping them.

The big catch is the price. To a non-collector, they could get one of the White Christmas books and have no idea in the world if it were worth \$30 or \$300.

That would mean selling them yourself or pre-pricing them or having a much younger knowledgeable friend do this eventually.

Booksellers are not going to want to buy 1000+ books because many have no resale value.

I intend to give my entire collection to a library that will catalogue and house it. The trick is finding that library and giving money to take care of the collection.

At present I am awaiting some scans from the Cleveland Library. I was promised them by the Anderson Collection but a spokesman said conditions are such that they might not be able to do the work until after November. I sympathize with them.

The Anderssen book still makes me nervous. I know it is in Canada but I don't want to have the same conditions that got the other one sent back.

Well, on to The Times Daily Quiz now.
As ever,
Wayne K.

I wonder what will happen to Wayne's idea of giving to a library? Difficult in my view. BobM

Sat 26/09/2020 10:38 AM
Dear Bob,

Late this afternoon I was on eBay bidding on some bound BCMs to fill gaps in my collection. I was able to snag them and then went up for a nap. Evidently, while I was on the computer, the delivery man put the package with your book into my letter box without knocking. I read about it on an email from Australian Post an hour later.

The book arrived in great condition. I leafed through it and it looks like a very handsome volume. I hope the one that was returned from Canada has reached you so that you are not out of pocket.

Thank you again for all the trouble you have taken, It is well worth it.

As ever,
Wayne Komer

And so after a long voyage and wait Wayne gets "Adolf Anderssen" from Robert Johnson. BobM

Friday, September 25, 2020
Dear Bob,

I was going to surprise you by saying that I would make a complete scan of the catalogues I am to receive from Karel in two weeks and send you a copy. This is for making me a copy of the Miscellany.

In addition, Karel scanned a page each from the two dozen or so catalogues up for auction to let the bidder know what he was getting. If I can get these from the Lund site then it will be more material for your article.

I do not remember, after 45 years what Buschke or Goldman looked like.

Buschke and I sat across his desk and he pulled out a Koltanowski book and said:

"This is a very rare book. It is one of the few that Koltanowski didn't put a written inscription in".

Goldman talked about bringing out a catalogue of all editions of Hoyle. He was also into black music and culture. He had a pile of unsorted books on the floor in the back of the store in which there were books from Fred Reinfeld's estate. In there I picked up two auction catalogues J.W. Rimington-Wilson and R.H. Rimington-Wilson published by B. Quaritch for a couple of dollars each.

When I got back to Toronto I remembered seeing a copy of Capablanca's Verlustpartien by Gorschen and asked if he would send it to me. He replied that he couldn't find it.

On a subsequent visit, I went to the pile, which was still there and got the booklet!

More another time.

As ever,
Wayne

It's a real pity Wayne didn't write his chess book collecting memories. BobM

Mon 12/10/2020 11:35 AM

Dear Bob,

Yesterday, I scanned the old catalogues that I got from Karel.

Then, to process the I bought the latest Adobe Acrobat. I have just spent an hour combining the files for the Alois Reichmann Catalogue. I am sending it to you to see if you can see what I made a pdf of. The other catalogues are all much bigger and I will have to see how to send those - either as WORD documents or by using something like DropBox.

Hope this works out.

As ever,

Wayne K.

It was quite an assignment for Norma to print off all the old cats but she did it. BobM

Monday, October 12, 2020

Dear Bob,

It is Thanksgiving Day here, so a holiday. But, because of a second wave, people are asked to stay home and not invite others over. I have a ham for supper and my son and family are social distancing for a while too. They are about 30 miles away in a suburb of Oakville.

If you are happy with the catalogue pdf I sent you, then that is fine. I put together the Hedewig one yesterday and it is about 69 MB but chock full of stuff about the chess book scene in 1926. I realized while looking at some of it that I have done practically no chess reading in the last 9 months. Because I am in self-isolation, I have been buying books and piling them up. So, there are at least two dozen books and a number of articles I must read when the weather gets colder and chess events online dry up (hopefully!)

I must move on to the Norway tournament now, have lunch and think about supper.

As ever,

Wayne

I was very happy to look at Old cats of yesteryear. But for Wayne I would not have them. BobM

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Dear Bob,

I took the scans I made of the six catalogues and using Adobe made combined pdf documents of them.

Today, I put the files into Dropbox. This allows the files to be on the Cloud and I then clicked SHARE, so that you could view them and download them, even though they are about 100 GB total. I hope this works.

I've been a little under the weather after Thanksgiving so my mind is not too sharp but I hope this works. Please tell me if it does or doesn't and I will try to correct.

As ever,

Wayne K.

He was very switched on tech-wise. I am not. BobM

Sat 17/10/2020 1:50 PM

Dear Bob,

My memory of Vienna is my wife using a public washroom and not knowing to tip the attendant who came running out after her spouting German.

I had hurt my leg but was bound to see Beethoven's flat in Vienna and the climb up the stairs was torture.

Saw the giant ferris wheel in The Third Man and so we went to the Wiener Riesenrad and had a ride in one of the lodges.

Have you been able to open up all the catalogues I sent you via Dropbox? I am amazed at the richness of the one with Alekhine on it.

I still wish I had got all 15 I was bidding on.

Got a Russian book on eBay today and the seller said that I should get it by March.

Best wishes as ever,

Wayne

He was a true collector, he wanted all of them. BobM

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Dear Bob,

I think Dropbox capacity for the free basic service is 2 GB. I have had chess files on it for ages. I hope you download the files I sent and then store them on your computer. Since they are in pdf form, you can just put them on an USB Key, go to your local photocopier and have a booklet printed up with the files.

I still wish I had gotten more auction material. I should have just bid 100 euros for each. The Niemeijer went for more than that so I really wouldn't have got everything.

If Dale was selling those catalogues, he would have made a couple of xerox copies of each for his files.

Had a minor health problem for three days but hopefully I am better now.

As ever,

Wayne

Monday, October 19, 2020

Dear Bob,

I am feeling better today after a few days of medical attention. I spent some time at the computer and looked at the first ads I had seen from Buschke. He put them in Chess Life after they became neighbours. I thought you might those from the first few months.

As ever,

Wayne K.

I used some of Buschke's ads in my article. BobM

Friday, October 23, 2020

Dear Bob,

When I got your last email, I was in bed just checking with my iPhone. It said it was trying to download an attachment entitled "Cat". I thought that I was going to get a funny picture of a cat. I had forgotten about the catalogues.

I rather like the period of German history from the Brothers Grimm until the approaches of World War I. There is Biedermeier in there too. I took a night school course in German literature for a couple of years and especially liked the novels of Theodore Fontane.

All this to say that if we took a time machine back, I would be comfortable living in Germany for a piece with the comfortable middle-class life and values. Of course I would buy as many chess books and magazines as I could afford.

I try not to look at the prices in old catalogues because they are mouth-watering. I think either Dr Divinsky or Dr. Macskasy once published a bill from the British Chess Magazine where he got bound copies of the magazine from 1881 to 1955 for about \$60.

I myself got a complete set of bound Chess Amateur from Buschke for about the same amount of money in the '60s!

I had a rough week last week with a bladder infection causing me to be hospitalized two times in three days until they treated it with an anti-biotic. I seem to be right as rain now.

During that period, my cousin and her husband came and took my dog away to their house for a week. She comes home tomorrow. She especially likes barking at the postman when he brings a packet of chess books!

I think it was some time in the last week that I read your piece on the New Zealand chess book collector.

A couple of days ago, I was sitting at this computer when I got a call from a pharmacy in a mall saying that they had 10 high potency doses of the 'flu vaccine and because I was top of the list, if I came in they would give me the shot. So, into a taxi, get the shot and taxi back.

The second wave of covid is full force now. Even the hospital I was at have five cases in the Operating wing.

I intend not to go out until spring.

How is it affecting you? Have you been in lockdown? Are you able to do a normal shopping?

Got a scare yesterday. My computer said that I had used up almost all the memory of my 2.5T hard disk. I had to spend the day getting rid of old files and downloads so I could use it comfortably. Fortunately, I was able to put a lot of my old files on an external hard disk.

Well, I have written too much. I should send this off.

All the best,

Wayne K.

Small country towns don't have the temptations Wayne had in Toronto. But one still had to be careful. BobM

Saturday, October 24, 2020

Dear Bob,

In the last Klittich Pfankuch auction I picked up all the German Chess Conferences from 1879 to 1925. I wanted to look at German chess in the era we have been discussing and these books were all nicely produced Olms reprints. I have been picking up volumes of the Deutsche Schachblätter from before the Second World War.

A few years ago I opened one volume and there was a page portrait of Adolph Hitler in full Nazi uniform!

I would say that the three main languages of the chess books I have are Russian, English and

German (with Dutch and Serbo-Croat tying for fourth). I took one year of chemical Russian at University and I am not proficient in that language at all but I can play over the game scores and there is a wealth of information in the bibliographies, dictionaries and encyclopedias that they have produced.

It was a warm day today and sunny for the most part but colder and rainy tomorrow. I was going to do a small review of Timman's new book of games. This time away from home in the hospital was worrisome. I forgot to take along a watch and that has led me to think of getting myself an Apple Watch for Christmas.

I am an H.G. Wells fan and I like the detective writers such as Doyle, Crofts, Sayers and Freeman.

My favorite English book for a long time was *Three Men in a Boat* by Jerome K. Jerome. I think it was written in about 1881 and is just the period in European home life I love. Another book I have reread several times is Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*.

Time for bed

As ever,

Wayne K.

Wayne did 1 year of "Chemical Russian" as he called it. BobM

the klittich auction

Mon 26/10/2020 1:24 PM

Dear Bob,

Klittich-Pfankuch has two chess auctions a year, one in June and the other in November. The second is coming up on November 21.

Their website is at:

<http://www.klittich-pfankuch.de/auktion.htm>

They are very conservative and proper. If you bid, you have to sign your bids and vow to pay for items you win. They are sent with an invoice and you needn't pay until you get the goods.

If you get to their page, you will find that they items in other categories up for bid too but in this one, you want numbers 368 to 1500.

If you click on that, you will see the subject categories. The first one of interest is Schachraritäten aus alter Zeit.

They have the text of the bid but also the pictures. You can go down clicking on Bilder and see some fascinating scans of some of the books.

The most usual suggested starting bid is 30 euros.

Often you get more than one item. They often throw similar things together. So, I have bid on one pamphlet and got three.

You have to know your stuff because the descriptions are brief.

K-P issues a catalogue which we receive by mail a couple of weeks before the auction goes.

They have the pictures and the descriptions and I have a set of them going back to 1993. They are considered very valuable for the prices that the books go and have been put into a database by members of the Ken Whyld Society.

Pfannkuch, with two n's means pancake, so this is really the House of Pancakes Auction House. I am working on the items to bid on. In June I bid on 18 items and got 9. One of them was a Dale Brandreth item, Montevideo 1938. It was listed at 30 euros and I got it for 71 euros. That is a lot of money for an obscure tournament. If I recall correctly Alekhine played in it.

I tried for the Life of Paul Morphy in the Vieux Carre of New Orleans by his relative for 81 euros and it went for 90.
I would be shocked if I got everything I bid for and it would cost me hundreds of dollars. Fortunately there are all sorts of collectors against you.
I find out that it is a good way to get very collectible books that you never would find in the ordinary course of things.
They don't notify you after the auction which items you got but they publish a list of prices obtained on the Internet a day or two later and you can figure out what you have won.
Anyway, you can scan through the items up for auction and then see the prices they went for. You might even try bidding!
There is a run on rolls of paper towels in Toronto, sparked by the pandemic. They can hardly be had for love or money.
As ever,
Wayne

Wayne really had the bug and even wanted me to bid! Those days are over for me but not him.
BobM

Monday, Oct. 26 - afternoon

Dear Bob,

I dislike the World Wars and what they entail too. But I do like middle-class life in both Germany and England, excluding those. If you just scan through the images on the Klittich site, I think you will see all sorts of interesting things.

I saw that there has been a flurry of activity on Michael Clapham's site after a couple of months of inactivity. Also, on Dale Brandreth's old site, David DeLucia is touting his collection:

<http://www.chessbookstore.com>

I am not really a big collector - I use collection to learn more about the history of chess.

I have dozens of items won in auctions that I have not really looked at, especially the ones in German and Russian. I hope to use the inactivity of this winter to get things sorted out.

I shall spend the rest of the day at the Klittich site, choosing which books I want to bid on. Then, take the list and see if I can get any of them cheaper and without hassle from online bookstores.

When I have made my choices, I have to fill out the online form, sign it and send a copy to the auction house, at least three days before the proceedings get under way.

Getting colder and greyer here. I am sleeping a lot longer after my two visits to the hospital. You cannot get a good night's sleep in Emergency. Two types of pills solved everything.

In two hours I am bidding on a Capablanca pamphlet.

I hope you are well and that the weather there is better than here. When the snows come, it is pretty but hazardous to walk.

As ever,

Wayne K

Boy, will they miss Wayne in overseas auctions. "Not a big collector?" Hmmm. BobM

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Dear Bob,

I am full agreement with you on this. Recently, the U.S. Chess Federation made scans of Chess Review and Chess Life freely available on their website up to the last few years.

It is too bad for some collectors with copies of the originals but there are just not that many of them. In the same vein, there are two rare runs of Canadian magazines and after over a year, I have finally got the John G. White library to scan the whole 330 pages and will soon get a copy and publish them online.

I am not sure what should be the cutoff date - at least 1960 but why not the year 2000 regardless of deterioration of the paper? I am talking of chess magazines of all countries here.

My library is very large, but I would like to have it all scanned and keep the books on a hard drive which I could take anywhere.

Some youngsters about 20 years ago got pdf copies of the chess columns for the major Canadian newspapers for the past 50 years but I don't know what has happened to them. I would add these to my collection if I could.

My cousin came up on Saturday and she always cleans up when I am not looking. She brought three big reprint volumes of Shakhmatnyy listok 1876-1881 into the kitchen and said to me:

"I suppose these are valuable?"

"Why, yes."

"Then why do you have them piled by your chair in front of the television? I am taking them upstairs and putting them on your desk in the office! and she turned and up she went.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Wayne was lucky to have a "clean-up" cousin. BobM

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Dear Bob,

The material I wanted was at both Cleveland and at the State Library in Victoria. The latter was incomplete and Cleveland wanted a written release from the copyright holder. But twice I wrote to whom I thought held the copyright and they didn't write back and finally, Cleveland said they would do it - some 300 pages at fifty cents a page. That might seem a lot but to get scans that covered Canadian Chess from 1933 to 1943 was well worth it. I paid more for those catalogues we have been talking about.

I have three times had people ask to borrow stuff from my collection and had the greatest difficulty getting it back. I make it a policy not to lend book nor to say I will do research and send people photocopies. It is simply not worth it. It is not the expense, it is the fact that they will keep coming back again and again - my time isn't important to them.

I like the idea of staying at home, publishing what I want and when I want and giving material to whom I want.

On the ChessTalk site, they often quote a composed endgame and I can put the position up and supply analysis. But if I was asked to supply all the positions with double check, I wouldn't do it. Time to sit with the dog and watch NCIS

As ever

Wayne K.

He was dead right about "lending" They don't come back. BobM

Thursday, October 29, 2020

Dear Bob,

What does Norma think of your enthusiasms? Here we go again?!

There is one problem with newspaper columns. Will the newspaper allow you to copy the columns and use them? If one says "no", then it's all over. My proposal would be to have all the magazines, columns and books on a central server which is read only - no downloads - if that satisfies the copyright holders. If they don't care, then downloadable, by all means.

A list has to be drawn up and then a source for each magazine etc. and then start the scanning. Google has machines that can scan a book, page by page and it has OCR (optical character recognition). The copies I have seen of Chess Life, Shakhmaty v SSSR etc are just simply .pdf copies.

I wrote Cleveland yesterday and they sent me a rare compilation 57.7 MB via a company called WeTransfer. There are still about 180 pages to come but I think there was a slight miscommunication.

I was starting to get them from the Victoria Library when I received this in early September. We do not expect to have access to the building and the physical collection until at least the first week of November, and all requests for copies from physical items have been suspended until then. In the meantime, we will keep your email on file. However given the amount of work that will be waiting when we re-open the library, it might be prudent to contact us again at the end of October / early November.

And all apologies for not being able to supply your order at this time.

I never wrote to Lothar Schmid, whom I heard was very unpleasant, practically demanding a book from a collector if he didn't have it in his collection. Bobby Fischer set him quite a dance in 1972.

There is no one as nice as Dale.

As ever,

Wayne

What indeed does Norma think of my collecting? A leading question from Wayne. Rosenblum called wives "chess widows" I am very lucky but then again I have 2000+ on a verandah. BobM

2nd November, 2020

Dear Bob,

I wish I were as confident as you are in the result. A lot of people here fear that Trump will steal it again. There are hours of analysis on television every day and they think it is closer than it would appear.

On Tuesday, I shall spend the time from supper until 2 AM watching as the results come in. Buffalo, to the south of us, is predicting snow showers tonight.

It's a great city, which was at its prime in the first half of the 20th century. But I used to take my son over there for pizza and chicken wings and for buying low cost clothing. When he started dating, he took his girlfriend over there for pizza and chicken wings too!

I mentioned some training in German. Well, a book came up on eBay whose title was Capablanca's samtliga förlustpartier. I thought it was in German but online dictionaries just would not translate the last word. I assumed it meant games for fun. I bought the book thinking they were off-hand games. I examined the cover picture again later and saw that it was Swedish, not German and it really meant his lost games. So much for my language skills.

As ever,
Wayne

We were now getting close to the Trumpster in the Dumpster. BobM

5th November, 2020

Dear Bob,

I watched the results come in last evening and it was too close to forecast. I finally went to bed confused and depressed about two in the morning. I was going to order a pizza at noon today if Biden had won but they are still counting in Pennsylvania and Trump wants to stop the count because he is ahead.

I am also watching Firouzja play Fedoseev at the moment trying to forget the politics and just do chess. More later.

As ever,
Wayne D.

I got a shock too. Sleepy Joe wasn't a shoe-in. BobM

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Dear Bob,

With no sure result in the American Presidential Election, I came down Wednesday morning and at various times watched ballot counting on CNN. The states where they are still counting are Nevada, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Georgia and North Carolina. There are maps of all the 50 states colored red or blue.

One quiz I started a couple of weeks ago was to name all the fifty states in 4 minutes.

So, I study the maps and hope I can do this. My main problem seems to be the column Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arizona and Louisiana and the little ones - Maine, New Hampshire, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island...

Today, I came down to breakfast and they were still counting on television. Periodically, the attorney general of Pennsylvania made comments.

Then, at supper time, Trump came on and talked about what a travesty it all was - he said that they were finding spurious votes and counting them.

Tomorrow, Friday, there will be still more counting with a result probably on Saturday.

No time for chess of course. I am watching the counting.

As ever,
Wayne

Wayne was clearly a political animal as well as a chess animal. BobM

Monday, November 16, 2020

Dear Bob,

Just read through your appreciation of the chess book cover.

I had a preliminary list for the Klittich auction of 16 books and then found that I could get four of them with less trouble from other vendors.

But, with a week to go, I had to send in my list. I checked it again, signed it, then scanned it and then sent it to the auction house by email and they confirmed this morning that they have got it.

If I win all the books I bid on at their top price it will cost a small fortune. Other bidders will usually outbid me on half the books. It is always interesting to see what the Grondijs books go for.

As an old buyer, I got a copy of the catalogue in the mail but I usually look online to see details. Michael Clapham gives some details in his latest column.

The sale takes place next Saturday and the lot numbers and bids received posted the next day with no names given.

Around noon on the Sunday, I usually check the list and see how many I have won. Then, perhaps three weeks to a month after the box of books arrives with the invoice.

A Canadian chess historian contacted me about five positions he is checking in a manuscript. I was able to find four of them in my magazines and send him copies of the discussion. The fifth was much harder because the date given was 1912, a game played in Amsterdam. My friend found after two weeks that it was from Eindhoven in 1942 and in Van Perlo's massive endgame work. I don't own a copy but was able to download a pdf for him of the discussion and then I immediately went online and bought a copy of Van Perlo at a reasonable price.

This amusing bit about Trump's lawyer and organizer Rudy Giuliani:

November 9, 2020 - Rudy Giuliani was to host a press conference today in Philadelphia. He thought at the Four Seasons Hotel. But someone screwed up and they booked Four Seasons Total Landscaping instead. This is 16 kilometres away from the Hotel site.

Where everyone showed up is at the landscaping company parking lot, across the street from a crematorium and right next to an adult bookstore. Trump supporters said it was scheduled for the parking lot all the time. The reporters that came were not too sure about that – it was very chaotic. Giuliani was supposed to reveal some evidence of a fraudulent election in Pennsylvania. Amid all the confusion, someone shouted out that the networks had called Joe Biden as the victor. Photographers took pictures of the adult bookstore signs and the parking lot and left. Giuliani's group kept maintaining that this is the way they planned the meeting!!

The landscaping company is now offering merchandise with slogans on it such as "Make American Rake Again" and "Lawn and Order".

Marina Hyde writing in The Guardian: Perhaps the biggest question to come out of the Four Seasons Total Landscaping press conference is: why did they carry on with it? Some sort of mistake had clearly been made, so why did they persist and pretend it hadn't? Many speculate it was down to fear of not obeying the will of the White House idiot, however lunatic the reality of it may appear. Others simply think that by the time the campaign staff stopped screaming, they felt they were in too deep to turn around.

That is about all for today, Bob. I have to cover the Giri speed chess game online now.

As ever,

Wayne K.

I wonder when Wayne slept? BobM

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Dear Bob,

Had a bit of extra time on my hands the last two days and have avoided news about covid and trump so wrote up about the new Carlsen books and a new Fischer book. See:

<https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/193200-upcoming-chess-books/page5#post210028>

Black ice on the highway north of Toronto this morning - numerous accidents. Cold as anything today. Trying to keep warm.

As ever,
Wayne

That's the way Wayne-avoid news on politics and covid. Life is short enough. BobM

Mon 23/11/2020 3:35 AM

Dear Bob,

There are 7 to 14 cm of snow forecast for today. When I came down this morning, it had already started. I send along a photo of my front porch. Amazon is supposed to plunk down a chess book on that porch sometime today.

The results are in in the Klittich Auction. I bid on 12 items for a total of 1000 euros and I got three small ones. The Grondijs books, highly prized by collectors, went for 460, 200 and 180 euros each. These are items Nos. 1018, 1024 and 1026. Some tournament books, which I have reason to believe are being auction off by Edward Winter, I missed by 5 euros each.

I will watch the chess online at noon while trying to watch the football at the same time.

I am really a very small-time book collector compared to those I am up against. Some have bound runs of magazines like you wouldn't believe - but ones I don't want like the L'Italia Scacchistica and Tidsskrift för Schack.

Time for breakfast and chess.

As ever,
Wayne

Wayne "a very small-time book collector"? BobM

Mon 23/11/2020 9:39 AM

Dear Bob,

Just finished watching the first five rounds of the Skilling Open. The Chinese and Indian players were playing at 3:30 in the morning, their time.

I took another picture out the front door exactly five hours after the first. It is attached below.

The amazon delivery came. It was a big Everyman paperback with three of Capablanca's classics updated for diagram clarity and algebraic notation.

The malls here have been packed all weekend with people trying to beat the lockdown. Of course, that will just make things worse.

When I retired, I would get together with City of Toronto Chief Chemists at least once of year to have lunch. Recently I saw this joke in an English paper about the same thing:

A group of guys, all turning 40, discussed where they should meet for lunch.

Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because the waitresses had big boobs and wore mini-skirts.

Ten years later, at age 50, the friends once again discussed where they should meet for lunch.

Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because the waitresses were attractive. The food and service was good and the beer selection was excellent.

Ten years later, at age 60, the friends again discussed where they should meet for lunch.

Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because there was plenty of parking, they could dine in peace and quiet with no loud music, and it was good value for money.

Ten years later, at age 70, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch.

Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because the restaurant was wheelchair accessible and had a toilet for the disabled.

Ten years later, at age 80, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch.

Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because they had never been there before.

As ever,

Wayne

Still snowing five hours later. You can just make out the amazon guys footprints on the walk.

Good joke Wayne. You don't have to worry about that now. I do. BobM



Wayne's front path

Thursday, November 26, 2020

Dear Bob,

I read the novel in 1983, put it on the shelf in my basement and have not read it since. I have heard good things about the Netflix series but I don't subscribe to the service, so I shall have to wait until I can watch it on the regular channels.

Today is American Thanksgiving and the celebrating spills over into Canada via television.

There was the Macy's parade this morning and then two football games - always from Detroit

and Dallas. The trouble was that I was watching the games from Skilling 2020 and writing them up. Finished at 5 PM.

After a good supper there was a television comedy that I am interested in called B Positive. It is about a guy who needs a kidney and a girl he knew in high school says she will give him one of hers. They have not met again in fifteen years.

I am trying to see the endgame in this. He is slowly dying, so she will have to give her kidney soon. Being on the National Kidney Registry might mean waiting ten years.

If she gives the kidney, then what? No more tension in the plot. How could there be subsequent years in the series?

I read that the average British household has 86 books. I bought that many in the first half of this year! I saw at auction today this: Murder in the Chess Club & other Stories by Roger Leslie Paige, Canada 2011. I have never heard of it and it isn't buyable on [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca).

TCM is running a string of old Alfred Hitchcock movies at the moment - Doris Day and James Stewart in The Man Who Knew Too Much. I remember seeing it when I was boy in 1956. Then The Birds, Psycho, Rope, The Lady Vanishes, Strangers on a Train etc. Fortunately, even living alone, I am sensible enough to go to sleep at a sensible hour.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Wayne has more books than the average Brit and he sleeps well. BobM

Sunday, November 29, 2020

Dear Bob,

Yesterday, Tony Peterson sent me an offer I couldn't refuse on a rare chess book, so I bought it and explained to him why I didn't buy anything from his latest list. That I received it while still in bed and forgot about it when I went to breakfast.

Fortunately, he still had that catalogue of Barrie Ellen and so I got it too.

I am worried that books I have ordered are going to get caught in the Christmas mail rush. There are some from Russia I bought on October 16 and the delivery date is given as November 29 to March 8.

The authorities here say that we all may not get the coronavirus vaccine until September 2021. Life seems to be a long wait for things to happen.

As ever,

Wayne

That's the trouble with Tony P. He's a real tempter. BobM

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Dear Bob,

I think it was back in 2010, Ken McDonald and I had lunch with three of the biggest chess book collectors in the world - Calle Erlandson, Per Skjoldager and Jurgen Stigter.

Edward Winter's name came up and one of them said that strong men shake in their boots when they have to criticize Winter.

I suppose it is because they are then going to be criticized in their turn.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Dear Bob,

Winter is selling his chess book collection via Klittich and a German dealer called Bernd Schneider. The latter sent me a reference to the auction. I have a bit of history with him. About five years ago I was a regular buyer in his auctions and then two shipments around Christmas didn't arrive. I asked him how long I should wait and after a bit he grudgingly refunded my money and said perhaps I shouldn't deal with him anymore. So I haven't.

I am having slv scan some old Canadian material. There has been a hiatus of about 9 months.

The costs at first were something like \$16 for about five pages. This was because each entry was one month in a magazine. I pointed out that the whole project would cost be almost a thousand dollars and was it possible to classify all the pages that I wanted a just one volume, which they did. They were very good about everything. If it wasn't for covid and fires, I would have everything done but they said to wait until the first week in December.

I can think of nothing better than having all the back issues of national magazines reproduced and available. It would be much more difficult to have them reprinted but once it is done - they are there for everyone all time.

I just looked at CHECKMATE, a Canadian magazine published from 1901 to 1904. I have the originals bound. When I tried reading them last week, I found that the pages were ripping. What to do? Then I found that Moravian Chess had the volumes scanned and reprinted and I could get them for under a hundred dollars. So, now I will have the originals, bound with covers and unreadable and probably reprints that I can thumb through and treat harshly. Both sets of volumes will sit side by side on my shelves!

Getting your magazines scanned and put on the Internet would be a marvelous thing. The USCF did that with Chess Review, Chess Life and CL&R. Now everyone throughout the world can access them. I have dozens of times.

I hope before Christmas to make some of my Canadian material available in a series on ChessTalk. These will be excerpts. If I had my own site, I might just put everything up and hope that nobody hacked it, ever.

Fight the good fight, Bob

As ever,

Wayne D.

We were debating scanning and all the copyright pitfalls. We never got anywhere. BobM

Friday evening, Dec. 11, 2020

Dear Bob,

I won't be seeing the series until I can purchase it as DVDs. I am happy there is a world-wide awareness of women's chess and other problems. I am not a strong player at all but I have known

several strong players and have watched how their lives have gone. Some have graduated to finance and others just bum around.

I have recently gone back to an autobiography of William Winter that was published in CHESS in 1963. I have decided to serialize it on ChessTalk because it is well-written and because I cannot take the comments on Biden, Trump and Covid that appear daily. I scanned my bound copy but the scan is not terrific.

I bought a scanner a year ago which is semi-automatic but have never taken it out of the box. You simply set it up and turn the pages and it blots out your hand and makes perfect copy or so the manufacturer says. My old scanner is a flat-bed that causes me increasing trouble.

My original thought was to scan all my magazines and when and if I have to give up my collection, I will have everything I own on a hard disk!

You might look over the claims and see if it is something you would like.

The Fujitsu SCANSNAP SV600

See: https://www.amazon.ca/Fujitsu-PA03641-B305-Documents-Scanner/dp/B01FW17FGI/ref=sr_1_8?dchild=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiAzzsz-BRCCARIsANotFgPYYwcVVxXbTMyzuwJR20fh64zo3FdEb9e1uBpg2ElHdr_EvoM2CSEaArRoEALw_wcB&hvadid=324835887270&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9061009&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=5968293238787189381&hvtargid=kwd-302054886937&hydadcr=23342_10308597&keywords=fujitsu+sv600&qid=1607741064&sr=8-8&tag=googcana-20

As ever,

Wayne K.

He was very keen on William Winter and put together a major article which appeared on Chess Talk. The earlier talk was about "The Queen's Gambit" BobM

Saturday, December 12, 2020

Dear Bob,

The big problem with letting magazines leave your possession is that you may not get them back. I am worried when I send some out for binding and for an indefinite period of scanning is just too much. Three times in my life people have borrowed books or magazines and then made it very difficult for me to get them back. Also, I had a chap here say that if I lent him DeLucia's book on Fischer, he would lend me DeLucia's book on Lasker. This is no joke - the Lasker book was worth \$900. Since I had both books, I told him no and said that no insurance company would sanction this!

12 issues of an old magazine might not have much monetary worth but try replacing them if they are lost!

One of the collectors I met ten years ago was Calle Erlandson and he collects chess periodicals.

Go to: <http://www.chesslund.com/detail.asp?id=22903&n=CALLE-ERLANDSSONs-WANT-LISTS>

There are three pdf files next to his photo. The first is his want list for periodicals and it is completely overwhelming - a lifetime of collecting is there. He wants more magazines than I have books!! If you scan through the list you will find Australia, Canada and the USA near the end.

If one could only contract the scanning to google. They do books automatically and the result is OCR so they can be highlighted and copied to other programs.

Looking at Calle's list overwhelmed me as usual.

As ever,

Wayne K.

If Calle overwhelmed Wayne I shall pass. BobM

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Dear Bob,

About a year and a half ago, I saw some interesting Canadian material in the Cleveland Library and asked for a photocopy or pdf of it. The Special Collections guy said that I had to have the permission of the copyright holder. Since it was published as an annex to Wood's CHESS, I wrote the magazine and asked for permission. After months with no answer, I wrote again and someone wrote back to say that my letter had been forwarded to their Legal department. No one every replied. When I wrote back to Cleveland, they said that they would scan the material and send me a copy. The writer was a Canadian and it was just Canadian news of the 1930s, so I really envisaged no copyright infringement.

It was duly sent and paid for but I didn't publish it in ChessTalk because I needed some additional material and Cleveland said that it was missing from their shelves. The Victoria Library said they would send it if I applied in December when they were back on their feet. With nothing to do, I remembered that William Winter had his memoirs published in CHESS in 1963. It was a fascinating series and I decided to start transcribing it without asking for copyright permission. In fact, someone had brought out a booklet of the memoirs a number of years ago, so I felt I was protected there.

The magazine's print is very small. So, I scanned the articles and then put them up on my computer screen. I ran an optical recognition program and then was able to extract the paragraphs and paste them into WORD.

The problem with this was that my bound magazine would not lie flat and so there are black streaks on some of the pages. This meant having to retype these.

Well, since December 14, I spend two hours a day transcribing and then put the stuff on the ChessTalk site. I should be finished the first week of the New Year.

The material actually is a modern history of chess and communism in Britain and very entertaining. I remember a couple of paragraphs about Victor Buerger.

You can view them at:

<https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/210493-william-winter>

This is why I have not written in a couple of weeks.
I don't know who is running Bob Long's operation now. It was more or less a one-man show. I think because you are archiving Australian material for Australian readers not for profit, is a very strong argument for starting the project. It would be good to have a legal opinion but that might stall everything and tie you up for months the way I was.
Well, I must post another five page section.
All the best to you and Norma for the holidays.
As ever,
Wayne

His article on William Winter was a great job by Wayne. BobM

Monday, January 4, 2021

Dear Bob,

Glad to read a good review. One would like praise for one's hard work.
I spent ten days transcribing William Winter's memoirs and finally the last was done and put online and there are two pages of comments from readers of CHESS, including Hans Kmoch to come. I figure only 25 people read them from the number of total hits.
It was a good education about chess in the first half of the last century.
Restrictions for covid are getting heavier here. I don't expect I shall leave the house until March or April and only then to get vaccinated.
I do the daily quiz in The Times. This question arose last week:
10 Located in Queensland, what is Australia's largest city that is not the capital of a state or territory? I made a weak attempt at this. It turned out to be Gold Coast. I had a vague idea that this was an area like the Lake District.
Hope all is well with you and yours.
As ever,
Wayne K.

Wayne shouldn't have worried. Not many Aussies including myself knew that. BobM

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Dear Bob,

Not really my work, I just dusted off something that hadn't been seen for almost 60 years. I put in two hours a day and had to do some checking but at the end I found it quite fatiguing and I am glad it is over. I've really had no comments on it from anyone.
I first heard of Enigma in a book by Winterbotham called The Ultra Secret in **1977**. (That I believe was the first public mention). People have said that if you go through the inter-county chess matches listed in CHESS during WWII, you will see that Bletchley Park had an extraordinary chess team. Who knew then?
On Stephen Colbert yesterday, he had an interview with [Anya Taylor-Joy](#). They are both great Lord of the Rings fans. She holds a triple citizenship of Britain, the United States and Argentina. They gave her all the clothes from the series but she dared not wear them out on the street, she was too recognizable and then a museum asked for them so they could display them.

I don't intend to do any more chess for a couple of weeks while I get rid of my fatigue. I was watching the Electoral College Results on CNN at 1 this afternoon. It went reasonably well and after an hour I turned it off to do something else. When I turned it on again, I found that a smaller crowd had rushed the Capitol Bldg and taken it over, browsed through offices and the Senate Chamber. I thought this wasn't that bad but then found that they had broken windows to get in, a woman had been shot and a police officer might lose an eye from the skirmish. This is all very bad. I fear that Trump might start a military action with Iran in the two weeks left to his term.

I wish a few more chess masters would come out with a running autobiography like Winter. They would have to be brutally honest though. I found two words/phrases that were unacceptable in their context and had to change them.

I think there were a total of 130 WORD pages in the memoirs. Sorry for the length!

As ever,
Wayne K.

He was right about January 6 2021 in Washington. But sore losers abound. BobM

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Dear Bob,

I have not heard of a chess history by Boris Ivanov. The joke is that a Bulgarian, Borislav Ivanov, was strongly suspected of cheating at OTB chess but it was never proved. I doubted it because he got lots of points in rapid chess and we had a long debate on ChessTalk about him.

<https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/13586-cheating-at-chess>

<https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/16070-borislav-ivanov-arrested-in-bulgaria>

So, I looked to buy a copy of Ivanov's history and found that it does not exist. Then, I looked for new copies of The Tournament by Reilly and found that amazon was charging \$30 or more for them. Finally, on abebooks, was able to get a copy for a few dollars and I will be receiving it in a couple of weeks from England.

I have been a great reader all of my life and have read and re-read all of Trollope, Dickens, John Buchan, Conan Doyle, Jerome K. Jerome &c. I was amazed to meet someone in my first job, said to be a great reader, who told me "I never re-read a book, I get all I want out of it the first time."

I have a problem that now my eyes get tired with small print and I put titles I like on my iPhone and read them that way with good lighting and enlarged print.

Winter's memoirs took a lot out of me and I have written practically nothing since the first week of the New Year. Now, I am doing the Tata Steel Tournament each day. I have a friendly interest in Firouzja. That's about two hours of work each day. I now have the complication of the insurrection in Washington and the change in government there, both of which I find interesting. One just has to flip CNN on the television and have it in the background as one tries to concentrate on chess.

We are in a sort of lockdown for another month. I don't expect that I shall get the vaccine until April or May and maybe not until September. Since I don't go out, it doesn't really matter. It was 5C today but we are warned that the polar vortex is coming.

I have purchased some bound reprints of old magazines from Karel – specifically the American Chess Bulletin from 1946 to 1950 to extend my run of that magazine, American Chess Journal 1879 and American Chess Magazine 1897/98 – all published by Moravian Chess. The prices are good and if something were to happen to Moravian Chess – these titles might disappear for ever – so get them while you can.

That is about all – working away lightly and looking forward to the end of the summer when all should be right again!

As ever,

Wayne K.

Wayne was a keen reader and a good pickup of all those Moravian reprints BobM

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Dear Bob,

I have changed the operating system on my main Mac to one called Big Sur and it has given me nothing but trouble. I have lost passwords, email addresses and several features have slowed right down. One thing is that your last email got ferreted away without my seeing it for a couple of days.

I have several of the chess biographies by minor American players. Hooked on Chess is one of them though the Lord knows where it is. I was very disappointed by the Arthur Bisguier books. I have My Chess Stories by Hort to read and Selected Games by Peter Romanovsky

I got Tony Peterson's latest catalogue yesterday and ordered ten books from it – and got seven. My impression was that when Golombek died, he willed his books to a National Chess Library and they were kept at the University of Brighton in Hastings. When Wade died, his books went there too.

But Brighton didn't seem to be happy with things and after only seven years they gave up the project. I believe the books were being stored but now it seems that Tony has some for sale.

Whether they are extras or what, I do not know.

So, these are some of the items in the new catalogue:

As you will see, several have bookplates from donors:

7. Cox (A.J.) Compiler: A History of the Buckinghamshire County Chess Association 1932-1982. BCCA, 1982. Large p/b, stapled. VG. 20pp. With bookplate of the ECF, Golombek collection. £12.00

24. Macdonnell (G.A.): Chess Life-Pictures, containing Biographical Sketches, Caissana, and Character-Sketches. Kelly & Co. 1883. 1st Edn. Original red cloth, gilt, spine darkened, inner binding broken with some sections loose and old tape marks to blank margins. Portrait sketches of famous players by Wallis Mackay, Frontispiece, pp viii, 243. A desirable work with biographical sketches of the leading players from Morphy and Staunton to Blackburne, many anecdotes and observations. (No games.) LN 2981. A scarce book. With bookplate of ECF, Ravilious Collection. £100.00

29. Taylor (I.O.Howard): Chess Skirmishes. Chiefly Light, Short Parties, Won of or by the Author, through Sacrifices; with a Selection from his Chess Contributions, Critical and Comical, in Prose and Verse; Obituary Notices of Masters... Enigmas, and Mate Positions. Agas H.Goose, Norwich 1889. 1st Edn. Original dark blue cloth, VG. pp (xx), 248. LN 3176. A scarce work. With two bookplates of ECF / BCF, Diggle Collection. £150.00

36. BERNSTEIN (Sidney.): Combat: My 50 Years at the Chessboard. Atlantis Press, NY 1977. 1st Edn. p/b, VG. 118pp., biography, 142 annotated games from 1930 to 1977. Bernstein played for the USA, and in strong US tournaments. With bookplate of the ECF, Croker collection. £18.00

77. PLATZ (Dr.Joseph): Chess Memoirs. The Chess Career of a Physician and Lasker Pupil. Chess Enterprises, US 1979. Large format p/b, slight foxing to page block edge o/w VG. 190pp., photos in text, 278 annotated games, 101 positions, from 1925 to 1977, interspersed with the author's memoirs and anecdotes. He was a USCF Master. (A.) With small label of the ECF, Pollard collection. £25.00

I believe every country should have a national chess library. But to have one and then sell it off is rather extraordinary! I tried for 7 and 24 above but they were already sold.

Nothing new here. I won't be getting a vaccine shot for months. Lots of cold weather coming this weekend as well as the Super Bowl. I have bought frozen chicken wings to eat during the televised game. Impeachment proceedings?

Hope you are well

As ever,

Wayne K.

I have 24, 36 & 77 and I do like "Hooked on Chess" by Bill Hook. The life we all think about but few do it. He was talking about the ECF Library sale of duplicates. BobM

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Dear Bob,

Two days ago, I got a telephone call from FedEx saying that they had a package of books for me and if I paid them \$14.81, they would do the delivery. I gave the lady my credit card number and yesterday the books from Tony Peterson were delivered.

I realize now that the main reason for buying stuff off of Tony's most recent list was to get bookplates saying who had donated the book and it was withdrawn from the ECF library.

When I was a young collector, shipping charges were a big thing. Now, not so much. My big grouse is something called the Pitney Bowes Global Shipping program (GSP). A seller sends the book to Pitney Bowles, who repackages it and send an email to the person who won it in the eBay auction. For this they have an additional charge which is the same as the shipping charge again.

I suppose that you have to pay extra for shipping to Australia.

Finding chess books in the '60s was hard work. As a young man I just bought the Dover editions. Now, I have a fondness for the hardcover editions and have been buying old stuff like Reinfeld and Chernev just to have them on my shelves.

Browsing through chess magazines of that era, I have been a few times struck by seeing an article or a letter that I have written and which I have forgotten.

I have probably told you about winning second prize in a Moscow News competition and getting a signed photograph of Tigran Petrosian, which I have lost.

I am following the Opera Euro Rapid today and in the background on television is the third day of Impeachment hearings against Trump. It is very cold outside. The dog is at the front door ready to bark at the mailman if he brings me any chess books!

As ever,
Wayne

Bert Corneth only bought hardcover books for his collection. Very wise, a long time ago. Of course sometimes there isn't a hardcover edition as he says. Bob M

Saturday, February 13, 2021
Dear Bob,

Almost all the packages and mail that come to my house are carried in by a messenger in a bright green day-glo vest. When my dog sees this through the front door, she barks and scratches and threatens. It is from trying to protect me.

Because I walk on two canes, I cannot take her out for an hour a day, so I hire a student to do that.

I try to get hard cover chess books but more than half are only published in paperback, so what can you do? The resident Canadian chess historian is David Cohen but he hasn't produced anything in ten years. He wrote a little snippet which was entitled "I just read my 300th chess book". And I asked him how much he takes in and he said:

"I read the 300 books cover to cover. Favourites are any book by Irving Chernev and Edmar Mednis. Also, autobiographical best game collections, like Tartakower's 2 volumes."

<https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/197007-i-just-read-my-300th-chess-book>

Myself, I read everything I had in the 1960s and My 60 Memorable Games several times. Then, all of Winter's Chess Notes as they came out.

I have come to realize that while my memory is still good and there is time available to me that I should be writing a memoir of my mother, a family history and start on a book of short stories. So, I do two or three hours of chess each day and plan the others.

When we dropped the \$1 bill, we brought in a yellow coin with a loon on it and it was nicknamed "the loonie". Then a \$2 coin was brought in – silver with a circular insert that bore the design of a polar bear. Well, it was nicknamed the dubloonie or the toonie.

With electronic banking and payments, I haven't used any coinage in something like two years. I don't expect that you will be in North Carolina soon but if you do and you ask anybody on the street what Esse Quam Videri means, the person will tell you since it is the North Carolina state motto.

How do you classify the books in your collection on their shelves? This has troubled me a lot but have a system now. Anyway, what gave me a laugh lately was seeing a clip from The Two Ronnies at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/206305099539809/?fref=nf>

You have to scroll down a few pages till you get to the post by Dave Westwood.

Also, at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYxmPHLU9oA>

Saturday night – snowing out, have to finish my correspondence and then watch a noir alley movie.

As ever,
Wayne

He should have written that family history. I doubt he did. Norma talked me into writing mine and 25 pages later I told her I had had enough. I sent it to family. She has added greatly to it with her stenographic skills. BobM

Friday, February 19, 2021

Dear Bob,

I have a three-storey house. I have shelves in the basement for chess books and others. My collection of Olms reprints is down there.

On the ground floor, my computer is in the kitchen. In the living and dining rooms are where the newly purchased books come and I try to find space for them.

On the second floor is an office where I once intended to do most of my writing. Unfortunately, a friend came down with incurable cancer and I let her have a bedroom, bathroom and this office on the second floor. When she passed away, she left me her dog and her iMac computer.

I have sent three photos from this second floor office.

It has a big walnut desk and the iMac and looks out onto the backyard. To the right of the desk is my collection of BCMs. I have bound and binders of the last fifty years but original copies back to 1881. To the right of these are CHESS (Sutton Coldfield). On the desk and floor are books yet to be sorted. Most are reference books.

The office was supposed to contain all my bound magazines.

But last year with nothing else to do, I bought an unprecedented number of used chess books and so a number have found their way into that office but more are on the other floors. I need some young help as I explain later on.

The third floor is shelved and contains my collections of bound comic books, mystery novels and chess books before 1990 – notably the White Christmas and all of Kasparov's career.

Because I walk with two canes, I cannot easily stand at a shelf and move books around. My hope is to get a student and give him/her a summer job doing this. I will teach them the Cyrillic alphabet if it helps with the Russian books.

My shelves are all IKEA white pine Billy shelves. Seven feet high and no glass doors on them.

I started watching the Two Ronnies from 1971 when I was studying in England. I think they stopped with new shows in 1987.

I have cut down on my chess reporting and weekly emails because I am trying to set down some of my archival material. The fact is that I have the memories and dates and correspondence of our family but the younger members don't seem to be interested in our history. So, I have put out a few booklets of 20 pages of material. I know that no one will search my hard drives when I am gone. I am giving myself a year to do this and then go back to the way I was.

Right now I am trying to recollect what my grandmother's farm was like in 1948. I type the stuff up, file it away and then go back to it when I can think of something new.

Lots of snow on the ground. There is a barbecued chicken place in Toronto called Swiss Chalet. I had a whole chicken delivered this afternoon and so I won't have to prepare meals until Monday.

That is about all for now. As ever,
Wayne



2nd Floor Wayne's home. One photo here other at back.

Monday, February 22, 2021

Dear Bob,

When I was a very young collector in the early 60's, I bought four bound volumes (1878-1881) of the French Chess Magazine *La Stratégie* from a Scots bookseller named Campbell. "This is a very fine magazine", I said, "I must get more of these".

When I was studying in Paris in 1968, there was a shop, *Librairie D'Échecs J. Guisle* at 13 rue St. Jacques. It was filled with chess books, of course. M. Guisle specialized in bound volumes of the magazine *La Stratégie*. He is known for selling the copies of Rinck's 1414 *Fins de Partie* after the composer's death.

I was desperate for money in those days but I scraped up enough to go in to the shop and say to Monsieur Guisle that I wanted to buy one volume. He said, "Non", and turned his back on me. All that I could think of was that these volumes were meant for collectors who wanted to fill gaps in the runs of the magazine. After all, you cannot just walk into a specialized bookstore and buy one volume of the British Chess Magazine, I believe, nobody stocks them. *La Stratégie* was published monthly in 1867-1940.

Back volumes rarely come on to the market but I saw last week that the Lund Auction had some numbers from the estate of Czech problem composer and collector, Ilja Mikan. There were 17 full volumes on the auction block and the starting price for each was 50 euros.

Accordingly, with a few days to go, I bid 95 euros on each of 12 of the 17 to see what type of competition I would get.

Nothing happened for three days and then a couple of collectors bid to see what my upper limit was and the price on those went to 100 euros.

The Lund auction goes through Sweden and you have to know Swedish time for the end. Also, there is a curious rule in that if you bid with less than five minutes to the auction end, the computer gives everyone five more minutes. So, you cannot snipe. With European money, decimals are commas and vice versa.

With bidding stopping about 2:30 PM, it was necessary to make sure I had the top bid on each item, and so I started in on *La Stratégie* 1884. It was at 100 euros but I felt that 140 would be a winning bid. The bids are hidden so no one would know what I had bid, except that I was winning.

I typed in 140.00 in the bid box and the computer wrote back: “You have bid 140,000 euros. Is that correct?” I erased that and bid 140,00 and that was all right.

Now, a few months earlier, I had been bidding on old chess dealer catalogues on the same site, and with ten items and a dozen or so collectors, the bids kept changing so fast that I could not keep up with them. So here, I resolved, to just keep going down the list and bidding up on anything where I didn’t have a winning bid. As far as the last two minutes went – forget about that.

It was hectic because some of the earlier bidders got cold feet because of the prices and new ones stepped in who were experienced. The worst thing that can happen is that you have a man with unlimited amounts of money, who just bids say 800 euros and there is nothing you can do. He just keeps winning because he has an overwhelming bid.

I bid and bid and finally the computer told me that I had won 1884, 1893 and 1896. But a big buyer named KWChair came in with very high bids that I could not match. Also someone called nirvanapursuer. Now, the chairman of the Ken Whyld Society is Robert van de Velde. In any case, there was no way that anyone without large bags of cash was going to win 1932, 1934 and 1935. They all went to KWChair for 435 euros each. That is \$665 Can.

The total that the auction brought in on just those seventeen books was 3937 euros or \$6025 Can.

I got 8 books, KWChair got 4, tchigo got 3 and nirvanapursuer got 2.

None of my early rivals made it to the end.

If Monsieur Guisle had sold me that book way back when, then I probably would not have wanted these so much!

As ever,

Wayne

A great addendum to his Feb 19th letter. Who indeed was Julien Guisle in Paris? BobM

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Dear Bob,

I had a little over a thousand dollars to support me for a year in Paris - food and lodgings and books. I was able to do it. I also had an affectionate aunt who would send me a letter each week with a Canadian \$2 bill tucked into it. I would go to the money changer and get the equivalent in francs and then buy something like a chocolate or other dissipation.

You can imagine that having an old used book store devoted primarily to chess was a great temptation. I saw the store when I arrived in July but it closed down for two months like almost every other shop while the owners went off to the Cote D’Azur.

When I asked Monsieur Guisle about the books, I could not bring up the French words quickly enough to give him any sort of argument.

I associate him with Rinck and Halberstadt and helping them publish their endgame books in France. He died at 99 years old:

Julien Guisle dies at 99

The famous bookseller Julien Guisle died on Wednesday June 9, 2010 in Paris. He would have been 100 years old on November 2, 2010. He was buried Thursday June 17 at 2:30 pm in the Parisian cemetery of Bagneux.

For years Mr. Guisle was the only post-war chess bookseller. 13 of the Rue Saint Jacques was a must for lovers problem: Seneca, Halberstadt and so many ' others. When the small or large French, foreign... or Soviet masters were passing through Paris, the Guisle

bookseller was systematically visited. Small, very long, you could buy old French magazines and the latest Soviet books or magazines. In all the old issues of Europe Echecs or Mat (the ephemeral review aimed at young people) there is an advertising insert for this bookshop.

I have never seen Monsieur Guisle seated. Only at the restaurant. He was always in action in his books or in his bindings. He was inexhaustible on the masters of the past. A puzzle had occupied him for months on end: finding a mate where the black king was alone against all the white pieces: the Rex Solus.

I looked up in the Royal Library in the Hague to see what they had of Guisle and found four works. One appears to be a catalogue of the books on his shelf in 1965, just before the time I visited the shop. I would ask for a copy from the Library but the last time I asked for something, they never replied.

A screen shot below of the Niemeijer Library holdings.

As ever,

Wayne K.

And so Wayne came up trumps on Julian Guisle. There are 123 letters of Guisle's in the SLV BobM

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Dear Bob,

You caught me with that 1884 reference. I said to myself "Howard Staunton?" When I looked it up, of course it was Paul Morphy.

When I was looking up Guisle's accomplishments, I came across the rex solus problem but forgot to leave a note as to where. It has 18 white pieces and just the black king with mate in four. See:

<http://chesscomposers.blogspot.com/2012/11/november-2nd.html>

I shall have to write about this some time.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Perhaps some of his chess memories are now safe once these letters go to the web. BobM

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Dear Bob,

Since I saw him only two or three times in 1968, I can hardly remember anything about him, nor do I have any of the French magazines that might contain his pictures. If I had a copy of that 1965 catalogue I might mention it someplace. But I won't be doing an article on him.

We discussed Paris chess shops in ChessTalk back in 2012. This is the link:

<https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/6690-paris-chess-shop>

Almost all Canadians study French most of their life. I started in Grade 9 (14 years old) and kept it up until first year university.

Karel and I are just making arrangements to send my auction winnings by post and have them properly insured.

As ever,

Wayne K.

It is a big ask to remember a person's face from the 1960's. I was hunting for one of Australia's antique dealers Stanley Lipsombe ca 1958 as I bought a lot of coins off him when I was a teenager. I can still visualize him quite well as he was a personality but I can't draw. BobM

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Dear Bob and Norma,

Your email has been received and noted.

I have my telephone with Bell Canada and my Internet and Cable TV with rogers.com so that I split up the terrible things that can happen to me.

How far is the library from your home? Do you walk or ride in?

Glad the weekend is coming up.

As ever,

Wayne K.

We were off the internet for quite a while when our neighbor went on. The Company said it was nothing to do with that and they sent a new Modem which fixed the problem. Norma walks to her volunteer job at the library. One beauty of a small town. BobM

Monday, March 8, 2021

Dear Bob,

I am glad you are connected to the Internet again. I was thinking it was a little like Trump being disconnected from Twitter and not knowing what to do but you have used your time wisely.

I am not sure what I have written about, so I shall recount again. Sorry to bore.

Bob Jones at Keverel looked under an old anorak in the back seat of his car and found two chess books addressed to me. He had no memory of them nor had I. What we figured out was that he had two books by Dale Brandreth and I asked about them eons ago and he took them to the post office and had them weighed and then threw them in the back and forgot about them.

I told him to send them along and I would pay for them St. Petersburg 1914 and New York 1940. That same day both of us got an email from Alice Brandreth asking for help in a purchase. I realized after reading a second email from her that it was a scam by someone who had downloaded Dale's iPhone list of numbers. I alerted her but nothing more has been heard from the scammer.

I got a phone call from the son of my Ph.D. supervisor at Manchester from 1973. My old boss had died at 85. I dropped everything and wrote out an in memoriam for the two families. Then, his son informed me that I could watch the funeral ceremony on the Internet and he supplied a

pass code and a login. That Friday I watched the ceremony but couldn't identify two of the ladies who spoke. Since then, I have watched the proceedings twice more and have found that one of the ladies was his 12-year old daughter (when I first met her) and the other his 5-year old daughter. Fifty years have intervened. The son is sending me a booklet on a celebration of his life.

The eight volumes of La Strategie were supposed to come last week by UPS and I in fact got two announcements that they would come but I had to sign for them. I was against this because of the covid. I usually ask for contactless delivery. But they didn't come. Some mess up. Then UPS asked for \$107 for import duty and charges. When I paid that, they said the books would arrive today (March 8) and in fact did over my morning coffee. I have unpacked them and will look through them later. The price overall is steep but I suppose not bad for a one-timer.

I found I had a copy of Legentil's Problems but couldn't find a copy number on it. I am wondering if there was a small private printing and also a larger public one?

I read your essay on chess books in the City of Light. Where will you publish it?

Have been working on a checklist of Batsford books. I have several hundred but wonder how many have been published to date.

I have loved the Bourne books ever since I first read them twenty years ago. Like the movies too. When they are on television, I cannot turn them off until the end.

That's about it for the week.

As ever,

Wayne K.

I like the Bourne books and the movies. Pity about the story changes but after Game of Thrones I don't think it matters if the 'new' story is told well. BobM

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Dear Bob,

My recollection is that Bourne's adversary in the books was Carlos the Jackal, so they have changed a lot for the movies and for the better.

Yes, you seem to have got a limited edition of the Legentil's Problemes. I have looked through the La Strategie. The final price of eight volumes was about two thousand dollars. As a one-timer, that is not bad but I may look back and say, "Wayne, what were you thinking of?" Karel sent off another box of books to me this morning. I hope I get it before I am scheduled to get my covid vaccine shot. For that I may have to leave the house for half a day.

I find that if I write up an event or review a book, I learn more about the history of chess and that is a good thing. I remember an interview with Peter Svidler who said that one book that helped him learn English and chess was "How to Beat Bobby Fischer" by Edmar Mednis!

Two-digit weather the next few days. All the snow has gone.

My computer does odd things, like putting together an album of photos from my collection. This morning it made up a program of songs I had downloaded from iTunes. For the past half hour there are protest songs from The Brothers Four. I haven't heard them since the 70s!.

I must get back to my listing of the Batsford books.

As ever,

Wayne D.

I had forgotten completely about the Legentil until Wayne started down his Julien Guisle trek. He is also very right when one writes up the article being studied. Helps the memory. BobM

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Dear Bob,

I was working on a list of all the Batsford books when I saw a book had recently come out where a boy prodigy of 10 analyzed his list of the 25 best chess games of all time. Found it on amazon and it will be delivered tomorrow.

He's Got Moves: 25 Legendary Chess Games (As Analyzed by a Smart Kid)

By Oliver Boydell

I am a great proponent of storing my music collection on computer. I have been collecting my favorites on iTunes for a number of years. The count as of today is 13,192 items taking 38.8 days to listen to and 95.86.

The songs of protest just took me back to the 60s. Actually, I am a great Sinatra fan, Streisand, Ella Fitzgerald and Glenn Miller. I have playlists and when I am writing I can listen to classical or pop on hand-picked playlists.

When I started collecting chess, I did a lot of problems and endgames. Then I hit an endgame composed by Capablanca that made me tear my hair out and I was never quite the same after. Played a bit of correspondence chess but really, I knew that collecting and writing chess was my metier.

This isolation because of covid is starting to wear me down a little. Getting the shot in April and then being able to sit outside on the front porch and talk to neighbours without a mask will be good rehabilitation.

As ever,

Wayne

P.S. The two Brandreth books from Keveler came today safely. The next parcel from Karel contains Moravian Press reprints of Volumes II and III of the American Chess Magazine 1898, 1899. I bought Volume I a few months ago and was amazed how well it was written. I want more of the same.

And now I find out Wayne loves music. We agree on Ella Fitzgerald and Glen Miller. BobM

Tue 30/03/2021 7:28 AM

Dear Bob,

I have been worrying about covid and getting my shot. That is a done thing now.

Sunday, March 28 – I haven't been out of the house effectively in a year. I have to gather together all my stuff in one place for tomorrow – clothes, cards, iPhone, commonplace book with the authorization in it, masks and watch. I can forget about the last one and use my iPhone. I have been meaning to buy myself an iWatch and this is an excellent reason for doing so.

Some people who have had the shot say that they have been feeling muhzy afterwards. So, I have done a couple of Tuesday jobs two days early – writing out a page for my phone interview with my new doctor and getting all the recycle done for Wednesday.

Monday, March 29 – My appointment is for 11:36 and the announcement states Please arrive no earlier than approximately ten (10) minutes before your scheduled appointment. Bring your Ontario Health card.

Dressing is more difficult when you are walking around on two canes but I had assembled all my stuff, got out my walker and was on the front porch at 10:30. It is a 3 km ride from my house to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre where the vaccinations are being held. I have to time things so that I don't stand in line when I get there because I cannot stand in line.

Beck Taxi takes longer than I expected and we start at 10:45 – along Roncesvalles to King and then Bathurst and Front Street, with our arrival there at 11:08. The fare is about \$20. I have dressed in a light jacket and red T-shirt so that the shot can be given to me in my shoulder without my having to take off my shirt as I once did for a 'flu vaccine. But it is 8C and windy.

They have two volunteers in front of the Convention Centre and a lady says they can get me a wheelchair. A young man of about twenty, in a blue Toronto Firefighters uniform says that he will take care of me. He is a very pleasant chap named Jimmy. I answer preliminary questions about allergies and state of health at the entrance and then Jimmy wheels me (pushing my walker ahead of me) into the elevator. We go up to the third floor. Everyone I see wants to see the Ontario Health card. Then I am interviewed about allergies. They also ask if I am on blood thinners and I mention Edoxaban 60 MG, but no one seems to really care.

Jimmy wheels me to the vaccine desk. There are two young ladies there, both in their early twenties, and both registered nurses. I ask for the shot in my upper left arm. There is no pain.

This is the data that was later emailed to me:

Date: 2021-03-29 at 11:42 AM

Agent: COVID-19_RNA

Product Name: PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 mRNA

Diluent Product: PFIZER Diluent 0.9% Sodium Chloride

Lot: ER1742

Dosage: 0.3 m

Route: Intramuscular

Site: Left deltoid

Vaccine Administered by: Jessica L., Registered Practical Nurse

Authorized Organization: Toronto Public Health

Next dose scheduled for: July 19

I then have to sit for 15 minutes for observation.

You might have seen this on television a month or so ago:

World-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma gave an impromptu concert in the waiting area of a Massachusetts vaccination site after receiving his 2nd COVID-19 dose. During the customary 15-minute observation period that follows each dose, Ma performed Franz Schubert's "Ave Maria" and the prelude to Bach's "Cello Suite No. 1" on his cello, which he'd brought with him. This sets the bar rather high for other vaccine recipients. I didn't know what instrument to bring along with me. I finally settled on two – the nose flute and the ocarina. Amazon has both for sale.

But with no practice, I decided to forgo serenading my fellow patients. I wondered if I would see drum sets, guitars, xylophones etc behind the curtain but no one brought anything.

In fact, the other patients were all people 70 to 80, often accompanied and almost all able to walk on their own two feet. With people our age, the line-ups were straggly and no one seemed to be in a hurry.

The third floor of the Convention Centre usually housed displays like automobiles and has a smooth concrete floor, high ceilings and lots and lots of space. Public Health had tables and chair and an impressive host of volunteers to carry this all out.

After fifteen minutes, Jimmy took my wheelchair via the elevator to the front door and to a taxi. He and the driver finally got me inside. The only troubling thing was that one fender was all crushed and partly held on by tape.

I mentioned this on the ride home and the driver, who had a long long Greek last name, told me that he had been sideswiped by another driver, who claimed he was turning just before the red. He had to wait for a tow truck and then go to a MTO Collision Reporting Station. Over the next two days, he was towed five times and each time the bill was \$334. He said that at the end he was out \$5000. And there we were with his fender hanging on to the body by tape.

The tow truck industry in Toronto is corrupt. This from The Star in January:

With eleven arrests, over a million dollars in drugs and over 40 firearms seized, last year's Project Platinum was hailed as a successful operation led by York Region Police who hoped to make a dent into the GTA's ongoing tow truck turf wars.

With over 50 incidents of arson, multiple shootings and four homicides, the battle over turf from rival towing companies with ties to organized crime has been a years-long crime wave, stretching beyond broken down cars on the side of the road to sophisticated operations that have engulfed other businesses like auto body shops and physiotherapy clinics.

Another \$25 and he dropped me off at the house. He was quite kind, helping me get everything together.

It was cold still but sunny. All through this day, I had worn two masks – a plain black underneath and a black with gold maple leaves over. They were actually warming.

My next door neighbour saw that I was home and helped me with the walker onto the front porch. Toph was just inside and wild with joy, so we sat outside for a while and then I went in to have lunch.

Usually, I don't have any reaction to vaccines at all. I shall see if I am muzzy during Jeopardy! or tired tomorrow.

People were so helpful that today just breezed along. I did spend about \$45 on cab fares but to get the vaccine was worth it. From my view, it looked like, all along the way, that developers are getting rid of everything that was there before and building condos.

When I have my booster shot in July, I think I would like Matthew to spend the day with me. We can have a good restaurant meal afterwards and then, perhaps, go rock wall climbing.

I can remember this momentous day also because it was the day that the container ship blocking the Suez Canal was cleared:

Helped by the peak of high tide, a flotilla of tugboats wrenched the bulbous bow of the skyscraper-sized Ever Given from the canal's sandy bank.

As ever,
Wayne

Great letter and very amusing about rock wall climbing. BobM

Monday, March 29, 2021

Dear Bob,

Matthew is my son. He manages a shop. He has a young family but I am hoping to lure him away in July to have a day with me and we go to that immense Convention Centre and get me my final shot.

My dad played 13 instruments. I just played the piano as a teenager and then gave it up forever. I was joking about giving a performance for those under observation after their shots.

I looked up “nose flutes” and found they are for sale on amazon but just how to play them or what the music sounds like I do not know.

I am feeling fine but I am going to get lots of rest, enjoy Easter and relax. I have been worrying about this shot for the past two weeks.

The story about the jammed container ship in the Suez got my attention for a few days. The American news is about the children at the southern border, the coronavirus, the trial about George Floyd’s death and hate crimes. Chess used to be a way of getting away from it all but now there is no chess!

I just bought a book on amazon about Marcel Duchamps and George Koltanowski. I’ll add it to the piles of things to read.

As ever,

Wayne

His father must have been a noisy chap. BobM

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Dear Bob,

I was tired and achy after my vaccine shot and it took a day to feel better. To fill in time I found a collector’s photos of his chess fiction and I transcribed the titles into a list for future reference. There are 126 titles, almost all of them from the past 50 years.

Here is what I posted.

As ever,

Wayne

We had no real problems with Astra Zeneca here. The majority had it and Pfizer. BobM

Friday, April 2, 2021

Dear Bob,

I slept in until 10:30 AM because of the holiday and came down to a sunny day. My neighbour had picked up some croissants and hot cross buns for me at the bakery and so I could look forward to pleasant breakfast. But, there was a large box propped up against the front door. It was labelled Apple Express and I had not ordered anything recently. I was afraid it was a booby-trap but opened it up and found a 660-page spiral bound book. Russian-English Lexicon of Chess Praxis by Leonid M. Gurevich (2004) self-published I expect. He took every possible phrase that

could be expected in a Russian chess book and translated them into English and this was the result. I had ordered it on eBay and completely forgotten it. It is a unique work.

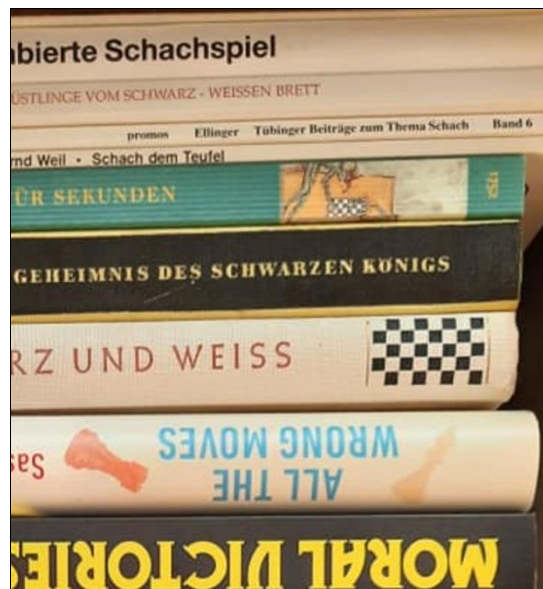
I have a copy of Kester Svensen's work someplace and I am not too worried about finding it. I had hoped to provoke some discussion about chess fiction on the ChessTalk website but nothing yet. I pasted the list from excel onto the site and had two or three disasters before it took. I hope to buy a dozen or so of the books listed there from amazon.

Some writers on chess are notoriously shy. Edward Winter is the most notable. I have to laugh every time I go on Michael Clapham's blog page because it says to see his complete profile and there is nothing there. I have often wondered what Karel and Tony look like, so I wouldn't mind a photo. Although shy as well, I am sending along a selfie I took at the Toronto Convention Centre when I got my vaccine shot. And I have added one of the slides of chess fiction books I had to transcribe.

As ever,
Wayne



Wayne at the Toronto Convention Centre 2021



Slide of the chess fiction books transcribed. Note “Moral Victories” by David Lovejoy of Oz. It must be in another language. The bio of Tartakover.

The “large box” at his front door may have been a booby trap. I am now wondering if these are little Wayne “in-jokes” that I was missing. BobM

Sunday, April 24, 2021

Dear Bob,

Fairly warm and sunny in Toronto today. Very quiet because we have gone into a four-week lockdown again.

With not too much to do except prepare a late supper, I transcribed some more of Horber’s Chess Fiction books. Chess is secondary in these. I read the Nero Wolfe and S.S. Van Dine a very long time ago. The novel that took place during Spassky-Fischer hasn’t been translated into English yet I think.

I have a virtual appointment with a dermatologist tomorrow and have to figure out how to take a good picture of the sole of my foot.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Books where chess is secondary (at best) Jean-Marc Horber"-No-AuthorTitlePublisher---

No.	Author	Title	Publisher
1.	Anderson, Poul.	A Circus of Hells	Signet
2.	Kutner, Henry	Chessboard Planet	Hamlyn
3.	Cotton, Jerry	Damenopfer in Las Vegas	Bastei-Lubbe
4.	Chandler, Raymond	Das hohe Fenster	Diogenes
5.	Debra, Pascal	Der Schachspieler	Books on Demand
6.	Riesco, Nerea	Der Turm der Konige	Scherz Verlag
7.	Canetti Elias	Die Blendung [Auto da Fé]	Jonathan Cape
8.	Neville, Katherine	Die Botschaft des Feuers	Diana Verlag
9.	Zeindler, Peter	Die Meisterpartie	Pendragon
10.	Dahlmann, Paul Tobias	Die Partie der Sterne	neobooks
11.	Carter, Stephen L.	Die schwarze Dame	Ullstein
12.	Chabon, Michael	Die Vereinigung Jiddischen Polizisten	Kiwi
13.	Indridason, Arnaldur	Duel	Lubbe
14.	Camphausen, Wolfgang	Eine kleine Schachmusik	Dittrich
15.	Stout, Rex	Gambit	Viking
16.	Warnsing, Olaf	Gefährliche Rochade	Verlag 3.0
17.	Gunsberg, Alex	Geshichten von Liebe, Krieg und Schach	Tredition Gmbh
18.	Assouline, Pierre	Golem	Gallimard
19.	Whitney, Phyllis	Hunter's Green	Doubleday
20.	Scrimgeour, Anthony	Julie and the Seasons of Life	Book Guild
21.	Hall, Adam	Knight Sinister	Harper
22.	Faulkner, William	Knight's Gambit	Vintage
23.	Van Vogt, A.E.	Kosmischer Schachzug [The Pawns of Null-A]	Heyne
24.	Sweeney, Joseph	Mad Queen's Chess	Writer Publishing
25.	Hammett, Dashiell	Meistererzählungen	Diogenes
26.	Barsch, Frank	Schach	Elfenbein
27.	Borniche, Roger	Schach und Matt	Fischer S. Verlag

28.	Carter, Stephen L.	Schachmatt	List
29.	Valero, Vincente	Schachnovellen	Berenberg
30.	Todorovic, Dana	Sopotin	Klak
31.	Van Dine, S.S.	The Bishop Murder Case	Pocket
32.	Burroughs, Edgar Rice	The Chessmen of Mars	Ballantine
33.	Healy, John	The Grass Arena	Penguin Books
34.	Brunner, John	The Squares of the City	Ballantine
35.	Reilly, Matthew	The Tournament	Gallery Books
36.	Tepper Sheri S.	The True GameNelson	Doubleday
37.	Bosanko, Abigail	Weiß Dame setzt auf Liebe	Luebbe
38.	Westlake, Donald	What's So Funny?	Grand Central Publ.

Norma cleaned up the list which was out of sync. Content is great by busy Wayne. BobM

Monday, April 5, 2021

Dear Bob,

Yes, I got the photos and Tony seems like a very nice and friendly guy. I have always found him so in our correspondence.

I had an online appointment with a dermatologist today which went very well. She asked yesterday for photos of the sole of my foot where I had been having irritation. This proved very difficult to get because of my arthritis but she was able to make a diagnosis and issue a prescription and all is well.

When I was a boy, there were still lightning bugs at night and all sorts of insects. They disappeared in the '50s.

In the past 10 years, in Toronto, I have noticed the number of insects dwindling. I can keep my back door open all day in the summer and nothing flies in. There are very few mosquitos and flies. Honey bees are non-existent. Really just a few butterflies and I suppose ants. I suppose this is due to insecticides.

One gets too used to hearing the chess news online. I really don't read the magazines I get thoroughly now. A number of years ago I contacted New In Chess to say that I hadn't received a magazine lately and wanted to renew my subscription and buy back numbers. They astounded me by telling me my subscription had lapsed almost two years before!

Lately I wrote to CHESS (and Bridge) magazine to say that I hadn't received anything lately and they said that my subscription had lapsed almost two years before and we arranged for renewal and back issues. There is a huge pile of them to be looked at when I can get the time.

Now that my virtual appointment is over, I can enjoy the day.

I wonder what Catherine Glyn and Karel Mokry look like ?

As ever,

Wayne K.

I didn't know Catherine Glyn but got a nice snap from Karel for Wayne. BobM

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Dear Bob,

Karel seems to be a nice and friendly guy. I have been happy to deal with him over the last ten years or so.

I suppose we don't need any more bookseller photos although I have an idea that one of Edward Winter might be interesting.

Today, I came across several books in a pile that I had forgotten getting. It is time for me to stop buying and start reading. The one that first caught my eye was *The Capablanca Opening* (fiction). This is a review from 1977:

One thing very wrong about *THE CAPABLANCA OPENING* by David T. Chantler (St. Martin's. \$8.95) is its title. It is derived from a chess game that a kidnapped American diplomat in Central America plays with one of his captors; but there is no such thing as the Capablanca Opening. At least, it is not listed in the massive book on chess openings by I. A. Horowitz. Otherwise, this is a fast moving book about politics, murder and machinations in a Central American country. Among the ingredients are kidnapping, maneuverings by American, British and Russian intelligence services and the plans of an ambitious schemer hoping to take control of the country. Nothing new here, but Chantler puts everything together in a lively way, and nobody is going to be bored.

Well, I'll put it on the TO READ pile.

Warmer weather predicted here for the next week and also more severe lockdown restrictions.

Are all your books in the room that you sent a photograph of? I have bookshelves on four floors and some perhaps in boxes in the garage. I don't know that I will ever get them all together now.

As ever,

Wayne

Yes Wayne, all the chess books are on that verandah. Go outside that and Norma swoops. With his walking sticks I don't know how he did it. BobM

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Dear Bob,

Two years ago I bought a semi-automatic scanner with a view to scanning most of my books and magazines and therefore always having access to them. When google goes into a library and scans it, they have automatic scanners and can go through thousands of books. Unfortunately, I have not even started scanning and time is running out.

For two years now I have asked the SLV to scan some Canadian material so that I can write about chess here in the ten years before WWII. Then, there were fires, flooding and covid. They were always willing to help and friendly and I am going to approach them again soon and see if I can finally get the scans.

Not sure what is going on with Edward Winter. He has sold most of his books through two booksellers. He occasionally pops up at his Chess History site with good archival material he

wants to put out there because of its importance. I am not really interested in what he looks like. He is aging like the rest of us. I have really enjoyed the work he has done on chess history. I remember having to do some work at York University, which was an hour or so bus ride and reading the latest Winter findings that were mailed out each month.

One day I will have the bookbinder in and give him several months work. Since my next vaccine shot isn't completely effective until two weeks after I get it, that will be roughly the 1st of August!

Goodbye, Mr. Chips has just started on my neighbouring television. I may have a look in.

As ever,

Wayne

I like photos but suspect Wayne did not. Age can't be helped. BobM

Friday, April 9, 2021

Dear Bob,

We have a cable channel here called TCM (for Turner Classic Movies). They show, without commercials, films from the Silent Era to the present in beautifully restored editions. I like the Robert Donat version of Goodbye, Mr. Chips and also like him in The 39 Steps. It is good to see Chaplin, Keaton and Lloyd in the old silents.

Most of their films would have disappeared if it weren't for the people who are actively restoring the old nitrate film to more modern vehicles.

I have spent a couple of days tracking down Firouzja's blitz games for ChessTalk and at present, working on the young grandmaster's games on teams Kramnik and Polgar. I have the feeling that if I don't put them down, some of them are going to be lost forever.

If I remember why I bought the scanner - it is that the camera is on a stand above where the book is placed. The pages of the book are turned by owner and the software makes sure that no hands are in the final shot.

The problem is that I bought this before a friend went down sick and before covid and really haven't even opened up the box which sits in my office. My plan was to have all of BCM, CHESS, New In Chess etc on my computer digitally from the scanner so that I could reference them even if I donated my collection to a library. The next hundred books to scan would start with Fischer's games and then the other World Champions. Actually, I do have several hundred volume scans from other sources and it saves getting up and finding something on my shelves when it is right there on the computer.

I have all the spiral editions of Chess Notes available, all of Winter's books and, of course, access to his present website. But that might not be there forever.

I am at present waiting for McFarland to issue Chess Results 1981-1985 and 1986-1990.

McFarland publishes some very odd titles - like Samuel Lipschutz, Adolf Albin in America, Albert Beauregard Hodges and Julius Finn.

<https://mcfarlandbooks.com/shop/games-hobbies/chess/>

Their books have become very pricey. Thank heavens I have the older ones on my shelves.

Spring-like today, the Forsythia bush is starting to show yellow blossoms.

As ever,

Wayne D.

I have worked out Wayne's problem. He needed longer days. BobM

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Dear Bob,

I don't know how many chess magazines you subscribe to. I get BCM, CHESS, Chess Life, New in Chess and American Chess Magazine. BCM is crap these days but the others aren't bad.

Anyway, the first number of American Chess Magazine, Issue #20 2021 is out. At the end there are a number of book reviews by Carsten Hansen (usually 10) and Johnson's Adolf Anderssen is among them.

I am sending along a photo from my iPhone for you of it. The quoted price is more than twice any other book listed, so, a paperback edition is being requested!!

I have been tied up for a week with online doctors but now am free.

As ever,

Wayne

I don't subscribe to any chess magazines now. Diggle said "chess news was one long traffic jam". And for me tourneys, players etc take second place to history and problems. It saves a lot of drama. BobM

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Dear Bob,

Please send the review from Carsten Hansen to Bob directly. I don't want to be the one to tell him to bring out a cheaper paperback edition for the American market!

I love Q&Q in the old BCM, the World Championships by Golombek and above all the authority it had.

I suffered through the bad copies from about 2011 on and the bastardization of Quotes and Queries. But the last straw was a note that said something like this:

Master X recently died. For full details go to our website.

I wrote to BCM saying that BCM is the ultimate authority. Why would you not print the obituary details in your magazine but instead refer to your website which is impermanent?

I'll try writing slv in a few days and getting those copies.

You can see the cover of the American Chess Magazine at:

<https://acmchess.com>

it has one of the characters from The Queen's Gambit on the cover.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Robert (Bob) Johnson's book on Anderssen was out. Best chess book ever here. BobM

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Dear Bob,

When I was a teenager I wrote to Morgan and he answered some of my questions in his column. A few years ago I saw a listing in eBay for the scrapbook of D.J. Morgan. I got it for \$66. It was a copy of duMont's 200 Miniatures, London 1941 and D.J. had added by hand other miniature games. I think he may have pasted some in. Lord knows what shelf the book is on but if I come across it in the next month I will scan a few pages for you.

I spend so much time each day doing chess online that when the magazines come, I just glance through them. Surprisingly, American Chess Magazine and Chess Life are still interesting.

Undoubtedly you have seen Edward Winter's tribute to Morgan:

<https://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/morgan.html>

I'll have to pull together some of my favorite quotes from his columns.

As ever,

Wayne K.

No argument with me on D.J. Morgan and BCM Q&Q. He was the first and the best. BobM

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Dear Bob,

I forgot to tell you that D.J.Morgan did me a signal service when I was a student living in Paris in 1968. I remembered that the Soviets had paid for a tomb for Alexander Alekhine in Paris and there was a ceremony, I believe in 1956 there.

I wrote to Morgan and asked him for directions to the grave and he said it was in Montparnasse Cemetery with other directions. Curiously, that was just ten minutes walk from where I was living. I went over several times but the lighting was from the wrong direction in the afternoons, to get a good photograph of the inscription. There is a photo of it in a Winter article, very near the end:

<https://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/graves.html>

Watching the Candidates each morning from 7 AM - very tiring. Giri and Caruana are playing well.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Do I envy Wayne's time in Europe? I do. BobM

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Dear Bob,

I told you that we have no insects in Toronto to speak of anymore. I was surprised to hear on my classical music station this morning bees for sale, leaf-cutting bees from Saskatchewan.

Darndest thing I ever heard of:

Leafcutter bees are gentle and non-aggressive solitary bees which stay close to their home.

They are also known as **SUPER POLLINATORS**, carrying dry pollen on their hairy underside and leaving some of this pollen on every flower they visit.

Leafcutter bees are very small and will work in unison with other types of bees. A single female leafcutter bee may visit thousands of blossoms in a day. If there are adequate flowers to forage on, this small bee will stay within 100-200 metres of their nesting habitat so the benefits of their pollination will be seen close at hand.

Jed and Kathy Williams farm in Imperial, Saskatchewan, specializing in [Alfalfa seed](#) and Leafcutter bee production.

Back to chess, another day.

As ever,

Wayne

We have a wild honey bee nest in our WW2 peppercorn tree in our backyard. It's only knee height and they frighten Norma in spring. BobM

Thursday, May 6, 2021

Dear Bob,

Been having a bit of foot trouble lately, so have not written. With this covid nonsense, I can't really go to a doctor, just consult over the Internet. I have to await my second shot and then two weeks after that my life should go back to normal.

I have reviewed all my correspondence with SLV and finally asked them again if they could do the copies for me. They replied that the request form had become more complicated and to fill that out and submit it. So, this morning I spent an hour filling out the form. My total request is for 172 pages from a Canadian Supplement that ran from 1937 to 1943. I have been trying to get it for almost three years.

Did get a reply to say that they would start working on it.

Then I set to work on a census form for the feds. It asked how many people live in my house, sex, ages, languages and that was about all. Since there is just me and the dog, pretty easy.

As ever,

Wayne K.

The State Library of Victoria is good to deal with as Wayne knew. They will miss him BobM

Monday, May 10, 2021

Dear Bob,

I found that I was taking too much time trying to solve Pragg's three move helpmate, so I found an online program to check it out. Then, I could post the thing on the bulletin board for others to

try. So far - none. It appears that the number of problem enthusiasts in Canada has shrunk drastically from when I was young. I shall post the solution this evening.

I spent the morning getting rid of an old recliner that I had for 30 years. The seat was so low that I was having trouble getting out. The new lift recliner came from another company a bit later and now I have a good place to read and to watch television.

I am looking at a self-published Canadian book about a guy whose son is learning chess.

Normally, I would not read this type of thing but I am doing it because it is Canadian. Not a good reason.

On the other hand I also have a book called David LeMoir: Chess Scribe - A 50-year Anthology. It is a 254 page collection of his essays that have been published in CHESS and other periodicals.

Pragg and Firouzja seem to love chess for itself and would be happy playing it 20 hours a day. I respect that. Magnus Carlsen has been doing the same for a number of years. His knowledge of chess history is profound. I suppose the next generation is in good hands.

Now to go out and break in the new recliner.

As ever,

Wayne

It would be good to read a Magnus Carlsen book on Chess History. Perhaps when he's older.
BobM

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Dear Bob,

That helpmate is taking on a life of its own. I posted the solution yesterday. Then, Mr Findlay asked if having two solutions wasn't a bad thing. Then, Mr Malmsten posted a solution that I hadn't thought of. Then, Mr. Perron said it wasn't a solution because Mr. Malmsten moved a white pawn backwards. He also asked what the point was of helpmates, anyway. So, I had to answer those two questions, quoted Loyd's first helpmate and that is it for today!

In a private letter, a chess book collecting friend asked who this Pragg is? He also said that he thought people composed helpmates because they couldn't do proper direct mates.

I think I'll go into hiding.

As ever,

Wayne

The whole thread is at: <https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/213224-pragg's-first-problem>

As ever, Wayne

Readers keen on problems can dig it out. Wayne had some fun anyway. BobM

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Dear Bob,

Just posted this:

Great Chess Quotes

Yoko Ono's White Chess Set

Since it was originally exhibited in Ono's solo presentation at London's Indica Gallery in November 1966, White Chess Set has been displayed in various configurations at venues across the world (including multiple boards set up on a long table, and a large-scale outdoor version, among others). In its elemental form, the work consists of an all-white board with all-white pieces on both sides, rendering both player's pieces visibly indistinguishable from the other's. As a result, players must take care to remember where they place their pieces as the game unfolds across the board, but it becomes increasingly difficult to differentiate sides as the pieces come into closer proximity; ultimately, players lose track of which pieces are theirs and which belong to their opponent.

At this point, outside of Ono's instruction to discontinue play, players can choose whether to continue attempting to follow the standard rules of chess or create a new way to play together. This process of decision making creates opportunities for conversation, collaboration, and creativity in developing a novel strategy. This aspect of the work suggests Ono's anti-war stance—an ideology that permeates much of her oeuvre. The artist's subtle modifications to the game of chess—traditionally considered a war game—fundamentally alter the goals of playing; instead of working against one another as if in battle, players must work together to effect conditions of peace.

https://www.moma.org/explore/inside_...ite-chess-set/

I would pay good money to see Carlsen and Svidler (say) play a game on the all-white set!

As ever,

Wayne D.

White sets won't become popular as they haven't in 55 years. BobM

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Dear Bob,

I just learned of the set today as it was a question in The Times Daily Quiz. The explanation about the peacefulness of the set is due to Yoko Ono.

From a purely practical view point, I am wondering how far I could get playing a normal game with someone. Carlsen and Svidler would probably move the pieces about but be playing blindfold.

If I can get a comment through to Svidler and Gustafsson one day, I shall see what they think. They seem to be up for any odd ball thing.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Why White? Why not a bland colour? BobM

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Dear Bob,

I have been having a bit of foot trouble lately, so I replaced my recliner with a taller one which also gives a bit of a lift when you are leaving it. The feet have been better now that I am using it. The problem is that I cannot stay at the computer for long periods of time because my feet are not elevated, so I am thinking of how to get a computer alongside the new chair.

When I was a graduate student, Expo 67 was on in Montreal. I went out in early October, when the weather was nice. I took along a big thick book – The Wandering Jew by Eugene Sue. It was on a 40s list of great novels.

I stayed at the YMCA in Montreal and went out to the Expo site by train because the subway/transit system was on strike. The weather eventually turned from warm to cold and rainy. The only reading material I had was The Wandering Jew. He must be the same one that you mentioned in your last email – My First Two Thousand Years.

The novel is very strange. The Wandering Jew spreads cholera. The scheming Jesuits play a role and the murderous Thugee – Indian stranglers. The novel induced such a feeling of dread in me that I have never reread it!

The life around the Expo was wonderful – my introduction to quiche and fried chicken and the food of other cultures.

Wish I had taken along warmer clothes for the cold weather in Oct.

I followed Fischer's career from the teenage years to 1992. I still think he is a fantastic player but I would not want to live around him. I am sure I have upwards of two hundred books on his life and games (including the WC of course). I reported his 1964 simul in Toronto.

I am waiting for the June publication in English of his match with Taimanov which I followed with great interest from England.

I have the DeLucia books on Fischer – which show his other sides. Of course I condemn his anti-Semitic ravings. But, I love playing his early games.

We have had lovely spring weather here – 20-24 C each day. The sun is brightly shining now. I shall write a few more emails and then take a sit on the recliner.

As ever,

Wayne D.

Isaac Laquedem was The Wandering Jew in my book called "The First Two Thousand Years". It's a good read. Authors were G.S. Viereck and P. Eldridge. Mine is the June 1948 impression. First edition was February 1929 making it good depression reading. BobM

Dear Bob,

Monday, May 17, 2021

I wouldn't argue with anybody about Bobby Fischer's mental state or legacy. I just enjoyed his trip on the way up. I have great admiration for the work of Steve Jobs and Bobby Fischer but would not have wanted to be anywhere near them!

The good news is that Direct Delivery at the State Library Victoria has asked for preliminary payment before they can send me 136 pages of copy. They asked for 45 AUD, which is quite reasonable but only give the option of bank transfer. I believe I have paid before by credit card so I have asked them for details so that I can accomplish that.

They say that the turnaround time for completing my order may be up to 30 working days - but I am hopeful.

Another lovely day here. Surely summer is on its way.

As ever,

Wayne D.

The SLV was doing the job during Covid. BobM

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Dear Bob,

I told the library it was difficult for me to instruct my bank to transfer funds to theirs. I asked about credit cards or PayPal and got this reply:

The Library is currently unable to receive and retain your credit card details directly from you for security reasons.

In order to facilitate a credit card payment, we ask that you log into your PayPal account and use the following details in the 'Make a Payment' tab:

I also questioned the fact that they were copying 136 pages when last year they said there were 172. Fortunately, the ladies there are very nice and they are looking in to it. I made payment with PayPal.

In the ChessTalk, I just set up the next big tournament, the FTX Crypto Cup 2021. That should be very simple except that one of the sponsors is going to add a \$100,000 bonus to the pot.

This has brought out a couple of people who are in to bitcoins saying that the value of the prize changes daily. This is not something that I know about or care about - just the chess but I expect to hear about nothing but bitcoins now.

I also reported that Anand and Kramnik are going to have a mini-match, classical, in which castling is not legal. This will be at Dortmund in the second week of July. It seems the best way of training for this is to set up your computer not allowing castling and playing your favorite openings.

With these last two, we seem to be straying from the straight and narrow of classical chess. What a year.

I am now going to reinstall the operating system on this computer which might wipe out some data or worse but I need to do something since it has slowed down

As ever,

Wayne

Wayne appears uneasy with the no castling rule in the A v K match. BobM

21 May 2021

Dear Bob,

The installation on my main computer says that there are 1 hr and 22 minutes to go.

While this is happening I have been reading about an old favorite W. H. Cozens in Winter's column. I came across this:

In a discussion about private book collections, following a suggestion (C.N. 102) attributed to Dale Brandreth that there were no more than 1,200 people worldwide who could be termed serious collectors (i.e. those possessing more than 100 tournament books), W.H. Cozens wrote in C.N. 468:

'A "serious collector" is defined as one who possesses more than 100 tournament books. What a very arbitrary criterion. I suppose I just about squeeze into that category, but if I had to part

with those 100 tournament books, I should not be terribly grieved. I should, however, be very upset if I lost my 250 individual game anthologies, or my 40-or-so of that rarer species, the one-nation anthology; or my 400 bound volumes of chess magazines ...

Most of my friends are not chess addicts and when any of them visits me in my library, I realize guiltily how lopsided it has become. To allow one subject – and such a trivial one as chess – to run to over 1,000 volumes, and to spread into over 20 languages, is cause not for pride but for a sense of shame.'

<https://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/cozens.html>

As ever,

Wayne

How many chess book collectors are there? Well, judging by the price of a tiny Purdy book that arrived yesterday(28 Oct) at \$17(no postage on this one from World of Books)1994 ed with the dainty right hand fingering a piece above the board(Penguin) and the next due soon at \$20 which includes \$10 postage another 'Chess Made Easy' 1959 ed (standard cover)collectors are alive and well. There should be a feast in Toronto soon and the late Dale B's estimate is light on in my view. BobM

Fri 21/05/2021 4:42 PM

Dear Bob,

I have been working on updating my system and transferring files for almost twelve hours with breaks for supper, news and a little NCIS. It is 2:36 in the morning now and going to bed. Good hearing from you - more this weekend. We still observe Victoria Day on the 24th or the Monday closest!

As ever,

Wayne

Go Wayne Bob M

Monday, May 24, 2021

Dear Bob,

Today is Victoria Day in Canada. Is it a holiday in Australia?

I have just finished covering the second day of the Bitcoin tournament with Carlsen et al. It takes about four hours to watch and transcribe all the games and is rather tiring

I shall go back to last week. I have two iMac computers side by side in front of me. Mac's have systems with both names and numbers. The last three are Mojave, Catalina and Big Sur. The computer I am writing on had Mojave but troubles. I conceived of the brilliant idea of installing Big Sur on it and getting rid of the troubles. This means a download and two or three hours for the thing to be installed. But, when I started to use it, I found that it took ten minutes to boot, that I had to login my password almost every fifteen minutes and just adding things to the online calendar took three or four minutes for one sentence.

I lived with this for a couple of months and then, last Thursday, I got fed up and phoned Apple Support. A nice Canadian chap helped me for two hours but had to give up and referred me to a lady called Cherese in California. She was relentless and finally at 7:30 PM, I threw in the towel and we said that we would start next day. I had erased everything on the computer but found that it was only 95% backed up. So, I reinstalled Big Sur and then transferred over 2 million files from the second old computer to this one.

But I had to find my old passwords for banking, for chess, for newspapers, for eBay, for Microsoft Office, for Adobe and so forth. That took me several days. Somewhere in the middle of that I emailed you that I was exhausted and would write again when things were right. Some good has come of all that. I have lost a couple of dozen recent files but I have renewed my passwords, trashed a lot of old files that I didn't need and found that Apple would give me 50 GB of space on the iCloud for only \$1.26 a month. That means I can have extra protection with my valuable files.

We were talking about the number of serious chess book collectors in the world. That depends on what a 'collection' is.

We discussed this topic in ChessTalk back in 2011

<https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/4533-chess-book-collection#post61132>

The conclusion was that most players had at least 100 chess books. So, I set 500 as the number for a serious collector saying:

Re: Chess Book Collection

Quantity of chess books can be deceiving. I know several collectors, who have the complete run of The British Chess Magazine for 1881 - 2010, 130 bound volumes. In a catalogue this is usually counted as one listing.

It is said that Lothar Schmid of Germany has 50,000 chess books in his private collection and David DeLucia of New York/Connecticut has 8,000. It is difficult to ascertain if the count contains bound chess magazines as one item or a number of volumes.

As a good starting point for discussion, I would say that a big, varied collection would have 500 titles (counting specific bound magazines as one title) and include at least 100 of a specialty subject such as tournament books, problems, endgame studies, history, correspondence chess etc.

Someone replied: According to GM Mr. Kevin Spraggett, largest private collection of chess books in Canada belongs to Mr. Roman Pelts (Thornhill, Ontario), with estimated number of over 1,000 and keeps growing.

This caused my old collecting friend Ken MacDonald to weigh in:

I am aware of at least three collections that are above the 1,000 book mark in Toronto alone (I am not counting the Pelts' collection). If one counts a year of a magazine as a book, one has > 5,000 books. It's an odd thing, but, there are many collections of which no one is aware!

Collectors do not always make their collections known. I believe there are two complete runs of BCM in Toronto and another almost complete, so there are three collections with > 100 books on BCM alone. Nor am I referring to any library collection.

Neil is correct. I would bet there are many, many collections that exceed 100 books.

When I was checking my files recently and logging in at chess sites, I spent a bit of time at the Ken Whyld Society, now called Chess History & Literature Society. Almost every chess writer and collector that I know is a member – David DeLucia being one exception!

I copied out the membership on an excel sheet for you, so you could look at the numbers. Even if there are collectors with large collections who don't wish to be known to the general public, I wouldn't think there would be more than those who do.

Anyway, that is it for this afternoon. Too much chess.
As ever,
Wayne K

Great letter-one of his best. Victoria Day is not celebrated here. BobM

Wednesday, May 26, 2021
Dear Bob,

Had a load of groceries delivered today, so I am good for two weeks.
I posted two chess quotes. With the crypto-cup being played, one of the prizes is the elusive bit coins, which I believe have no inherent value...
As ever,
Wayne

May 25, 2021
Dear Bob,
Great Chess Quotes

Olimpiu G. Urcan (tweet) - Watching a bit of the #FTXCryptoCup, I wish I could time-travel to the 1920s just to tell those players that the future will involve moving chess pieces they can't really touch, to the delight of thousands of spectators they can't really see, for money they can't really hold.

In the Monty Python sketches there is one called Four Yorkshiremen. In it, four old guys try to one-up each other with what a difficult life they had when young:

FOURTH YORKSHIREMAN:

I was happier then and I had nothin'. We used to live in this tiny old house with great big holes in the roof

SECOND YORKSHIREMAN:

House! You were lucky to live in a house! We used to live in one room, all twenty-six of us, no furniture, 'alf the floor was missing, and we were all 'uddled together in one corner for fear of falling

THIRD YORKSHIREMAN:

Eh, you were lucky to have a room! We used to have to live in t' corridor!

FIRST YORKSHIREMAN:

Oh, we used to dream of livin' in a corridor! Would ha' been a palace to us. We used to live in an old water tank on a rubbish tip. We got woke up every morning by having a load of rotting fish dumped all over us! House? Huh

FOURTH YORKSHIREMAN:

Well, when I say 'house' it was only a hole in the ground covered by a sheet of tarpaulin, but it was a house to us

This morning in the Chat Room of chess24's coverage of the FTX Crypto Cup 2021, there was this chess comment in the way of the four Yorkshiremen:

In my day, we had to walk 5 miles in the snow to en passant, and we liked it.

As ever,
Wayne

Why is it most jokes are about my birth county Yorkshire? BobM

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Dear Bob,

Another painful auction at the Lund site.

Grondijs came out with a rare edition of the First and Last Days of Paul Morphy. There were only 30 copies and I had a chance to get it before if I paid enough and balked at the prospect of spending several hundred dollars.

Today an auction was closing on the same book and I went in and bid bravely. All before five minutes of closing because then the auction gives you five more minutes. Two collectors Rainman and GC67 fought it out after I threw in the towel. It went for 1000 euros which is about \$1470 CAD.

All the proceeds go to Karel Mokry who put it up for bid.

In better news the State Library Victoria came through with its Direct Delivery and I was finally able to download the pages that I had waited two years to get. It came before breakfast and I spent an hour downloading and saving and saving and saving so in case one computer went down, I still had copies. Now I can start writing a history of Canadian chess between 1936 and 1943. An odd period, but there it is.

Reporting on the So-Carlsen match this morning.

I also reported two books on Fischer to appear. One by Timman on the road to Reykjavik and the other, the results of 20 years of brooding and analysis by Taimanov on their match.

I got two reactions – one asking why Fischer is so good anyway and the other saying that he will never ever read anything more about the man.

I said that I understand the reaction – especially since Fischer was “crazy” in the last twenty years of his life. This is one argument I am keeping out of. His anti-semitism is indefensible.

In your last letter when we spoke of going back in history with a time machine, you amazed me by saying that you would go back to the Crucifixion. Would you just keep a silent vigil?

I attach a couple of screen captures from the Lund Auction that I started with.

As ever,

Wayne

I am not keen on these “bid em up” auctions. Wayne seemed to like them by “shutting the gate” with a high bid. BobM

Monday, May 31, 2021

Dear Bob,

When I was studying at Manchester, I often browsed the library and remember a big thick book called Ramanujan. I read the thing through and so got my first glimpse of him in about 1971.

Then I read G.H. Hardy’s A Mathematician’s Apology. I think in there he says that he once saw a subject posted for an essay contest with the title:

Chess problems are the hymn-tunes of mathematics

I still don’t know if I could write one sentence on that!

I bought a copy of The Man Who Knew Infinity more than twenty years ago and conceived the desire to read Ramanujan's Notebooks. I found that Springer-Verlag had copies for sale at some huge price and so just settled for getting pdfs of the three volumes published.

I have just looked at them and came across equations like this:

What could I have been thinking of?

As ever,

Wayne

The movie "The Man who knew Infinity" was good. Poor Ramanujan was born when TB could not be controlled. BobM

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Dear Bob,

Last night my email provider asked me to change my password for security reasons and my email stopped working. I was able to partially restore it this morning but it took a two-hour session with Apple Support to get things going again.

You were right about getting my copies done as fast as possible. I pointed out that they might be missing 36 pages from what I was quoted two years ago and I got an apology and a statement saying they are in lockdown again!!

As ever,

Wayne K.

Interesting and logical that his password change was required. Wayne was a terrific user. BobM

Thursday, June 3, 2021

Dear Bob,

Karel Mokry has said that he will send me the Timman Fischer book and the Taimanov Fischer book in a big package in about two week's time.

By the bye, I asked him how many serious collectors there were in the world and he said this:

I have no idea who is right about how many collectors there are in the world.

I would estimate that there are about 10-15 such people in the Czech Republic.

I shall have to ask Tony Peterson the same question some time.

I would say that there are no more than 5 such collectors in Canada but I can't do an estimate world-wide.

My e-mail is still a bit shaky but at least I can use it.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Based on Karel's estimate of 10-15 in the Czech Republic and there are about 400 countries in the world (Cambridge Fact Finder) so 4000-6000 collectors all up. BobM

Saturday, June 5, 2021

Dear Bob,

I was just looking over new chess books that are going to appear in the next few months and I found the introduction to Nigel Short's Winning. It is full of in-your-face prose but one or two

things gave me a laugh. I quote it below.
As ever,
Wayne

This is my first book, and it has taken a global pandemic for me to write it.

Some of you may be puzzled by this statement. Dozens of tomes have been published about me, and in a few of them, I have even been listed as the author. While it is true that I have composed, with pleasure, many hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, I must confess that all books with my name on the cover – and with profound apologies to those who bought them – were all ghost-written.

All, that is, except an old, theoretical treatise of unexceptional quality called simply: *The French Defence*.

The story of that monograph is quite interesting, as it negatively affected my attitude towards chess publishers for decades afterwards. In the late 1980s, I was approached by the veteran New Zealand International Master, Bob Wade, to write a pamphlet on the French Defence, for a series on opening trends that he was producing with his chum, Hilary Thomas (best known, at the time, as an author of the collected games of Mikhail Tal).

As I was then one of the strongest players in the world, it was undoubtedly a coup for the publisher that I accepted; particularly as the pay was rather modest. I asked Bob how long he thought it would take. He answered, somewhat optimistically, as it would transpire: “About a weekend.”

To my great surprise, I was then handed paper printouts of over 2,000 games, asked to arrange the material and, if possible, add some deep and meaningful comments. If I had not been concerned about the deforestation of the Amazon prior to that moment, I certainly was thereafter. More than a tad suspiciously, I began work on this project, and it was quickly confirmed that I had been totally duped. It was a Sisyphean task, barely distinguishable from slave labour. After a couple of weeks, and more, I was nowhere near finishing the job. Having been so grossly misled, I submitted an incomplete manuscript, albeit with a strange, irrational feeling of guilt, and informed Bob that was all he was going to get.

When *The French Defence* duly appeared in print, it was not a pamphlet of no more than 60 pages, as the contract specified, but a whole book! I generally got on pretty well with Bob, but this was the only time I was really annoyed with him. However, he had such a bumbling affable manner, I was never quite sure how much of the blame for this deception was his, or that of his business partner, and so I forgave him.

Since this incident, I had always harboured suspicions about Hilary Thomas being a somewhat unscrupulous character. This hunch was confirmed in 2017, when Thomas, who by this time had changed his name to Richard Pentreath, was jailed for 35 years for attempting to burn down the house of a woman in revenge for having testified against him in a rape trial. In fact, he had the wrong address, having apparently been led astray – as many of us have, in hopefully different circumstances – by Google Maps. Thankfully, no one was hurt. The innocent victims of this dastardly deed – a single mother and her child who were alone in the house – became aware of the blaze and escaped unscathed.

Absurd and egocentric as it is, I like to think that Hilary Thomas’ lengthy custodial sentence was due to bad karma from the earlier publishing incident, rather than the proximate cause of rape, arson and attempted murder.

The format of *Winning* is highly unusual. Indeed, I believe it is unique in the vast literature of chess. Rather than attempting to squeeze my entire career into a single volume, and failing miserably, or produce an entertaining, but grossly distorted, “best games” selection, in which I

might convince you into believing that I am a brilliant player; I have chosen instead to focus in detail on eight tournaments spanning several decades. Each a case study if you will.

The happy coincidence that I won all these events satisfies the author's vanity, but at the same time I hope the inclusion of each part, in order, will also serve a useful and instructive purpose. For it is only by examining all the games from a tournament that one gets a proper appreciation of how an event unfolded.

The selection is subjective and can by no means be described as the definitive list of my eight greatest tournament victories; although it also includes some of those. These are basically just some events that I am proud of in one way or another. As I have won over 70 tournaments, I could easily have chosen others. With the exception of the Anzali tournament (Chapter 8), which featured the rather rare Scheveningen System format, all the events contained herein were round-robins. This was a deliberate choice, as I am intending (if the book sells) that matches and open tournaments will be covered separately in future editions.

No doubt my editor, the renowned trainer, Jacob Aagaard, would have preferred the structure of this particular tome to be more thematic and didactic, but it is not really how my brain works.

That is probably why I rarely read chess books from beginning to end, preferring to start in the middle, when I have found something of interest, and then constantly hopping backwards and forwards, batrachian-style. If I were organised, I would have become an accountant, but thankfully I am not. If there is any method to this apparent madness, I do not know, but perhaps, as a consequence of this haphazard process, I have become a firm believer in the value of eclecticism. Knowledge can be gleaned from many sources.

The quality of games ranges from the exceptional to the utterly dire. It is a typical human failing that while we all admire our own genius, we tend to brush bad experiences under the carpet. One of the best ways to improve is to examine one's own failings in a dispassionate, objective manner, without resorting to masochism. Self-loathing is rarely good for anything.

Unfortunately, I only acquired proficiency in the art of analysis relatively late (if, indeed, I ever really succeeded at all) and this deficiency has undoubtedly hampered my career.

I hope, first and foremost, that the reader finds this book enjoyable. For a book that spends all of its life on the shelf is, frankly, worthless.

Nigel's book looks the goods for the players. BobM

Thursday, June 10, 2021

Dear Bob,

The next letter to you I was going to ask how you grouped your chess books on shelves or are they all thrown in together like mine? Do you have many Russian books? I can read a bit of Russian but somehow in collecting I must have two to three hundred Russian books.

All of this because I just came across a video at the Sotheby's site about David DeLucia's chess collection

See ChessTalk at <https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/213670-a-tour-of-david-delucia's-chess-collection>

or better <https://www.sothebys.com/en/videos/how-david-delucia-built-a-chess-collection-unlike-any-other>

I finally got to see what the Victoria library sent me. They had to copy 1937 to 1943 but somehow missed 1942 - some 22 pages. Today, the lockdown should be lifted, so I wrote to them to ask for copies again.

I get my second Pfizer shot in two weeks and then, once I am immunized, I have to start going out for tests and dental work, which I have avoided for a year.

Heard you had snow...

As ever,

Wayne K.

The David De Lucia video is amazing at what can be done by an astute wealthy person. As for the way books are shelved, keeping dust out is important and mine (2000ca) is small enough to handle mostly alphabetically but I still lose them. BobM

Friday, June 11, 2021

Dear Bob,

A fellow collector who was in investment at the same time as DeLucia made his money. He estimates that DeLucia is worth more than \$80,000,000 from what he got from Goldman Sachs. I posted a bit more about DeLucia and the collection on the ChessTalk site.

I am not sure if I posted you a description of the collection that was in the German magazine Karl.

Lockdown on patio dining lifted last night in Toronto. Everybody is eating out today.

As ever,

Wayne

The De Lucia video shows what can be done by a professional. The shelving and layout of the rooms was terrific and all things considered it is sad David D L wants to sell but we all reach that age sometime. Wayne had left his run too late. BobM

Saturday, June 12, 2021

Dear Bob,

One of the frequent correspondents on ChessTalk asked if I would like to be invited to see DeLucia's collection.

I replied - I have never seen his collection nor been invited to do so. That is all right because if I see a book I am curious about, I like to sit down and leaf through it.

When I was at the Cleveland Public Library, Special Collections, I expected to sit among the shelves of chess books and read them all day. Instead, I had to fill out request forms and when the books were brought to me, had to wear latex gloves to look through them and no photocopying was allowed. I found the visit very disappointing.

I doubt if a dozen people outside of his family have ever seen his collection. There is always the

danger of theft and I am sure that the insurance company has much to say about how he protects his stuff.

My own view is that he will donate it to Cleveland with money for its upkeep, I don't think he would give it to the Chess Hall of Fame. I suppose The Smithsonian could be on the list.

Another correspondent mentioned that there is a letter on auction in the upcoming Klittch-Pfankuch auction in Germany from Fedor Bohatirchuk, who emigrated to Canada in the 40s.

To prevent any Canadian jumping in for it without consideration I wrote:

The items up for bid are usually gathered in lots of related material.

For example in Tournament Books, Lot 1129 consists of three items:

The Candidates, Holland 1956 by Wood

World Chess Championship 1954 by Golombek

European Team Championships in Hungary 1992

The starting price for the whole lot is 30 euros.

Now, the letter of Dr. Bohatirchuk is dated July 7, 1962 from his address at 500 Driveway, Ottawa 1, Ont. concerning photos which will be sent by Frank Anderson from his address at The Brentwood, Apt. 1112, 25 Lascelles Blvd, Toronto 7, Ontario.

Normally, I would bid on this item alone but it is just one item in Lot 438 which has letters from Fedor Bohatirchuk, Max Euwe, Sonja Graf, Klaus Junge, Paul Keres, Jacques Mieses, Friedrich Sämisch, Richard Teichmann and postcards from Efim Bogoljubow, Klaus Darga, Walter von Holzhausen, Geza Maróczy, Rudolf Spielmann, Wolfgang Uhlmann and signatures of Alexander Aljechin, Juri Averbach, Arthur Bisguier, Isaak Bolewlawski, Michail Botwinnik, David Bronstein, E. Bykova, Esteban Canal, Carl Carls, Erich Eliskases, Ernst Grünfeld, Reuben Fine, Bobby Fischer, Nona Gaprindaschwili, Robert Hübner, Boris Kostitsch, Miguel Najdorf, Bruno Parma, Tigran Petrosjan, Helmut Pfleger, Vasja Pirc, Samuel Reshevsky, Kurt Richter, Adolf Seitz, Lothar Schmid, Wassili Smyslow, Viktor Soultaneieff, Boris Spasski, Paul Schmidt, Leonid Stein, Michail Tal, Wolfgang Unzicker and Milan Vidmar.

The shipping weight is 12 kg and the starting bid is 6000 euros or 8830 Canadian dollars!

Pocket change for David DeLucia perhaps!

Edward Winter is selling off the bulk of his massive collection and he has said in his column that he is doing it through Klittich-Pfankuch at the end of June.

<https://www.chesshistory.com/winter/index.html>

I think the reason we have the DeLucia video is that he has a gigantic ego. I think he is more disciplined than Lothar Schmidt and Jurgen Stigter who just collected everything. I regret that I never saw Dale Brandreth's house full of books. I was invited several times but could not make the trip to Delaware on my vacations.

One week today, my son Matthew takes me in for my second Pfizer shot.

As ever,

Wayne K.

I don't agree with Wayne's assessment of David De Lucia. If we all had the money we would do something similar. He has managed with his wealth to collect a great library and the memorabilia is even greater than the books because mostly it is "one-off" BobM

Saturday, June 12, 2021

Dear Bob,

Dale invited me but Bob never did and am sure he won't. I have bought about a couple of dozen books from him. The most notable are the three or four \$800 books on Fischer, Lasker, Lothar Schmid's Library and his library. They are enormous books on art paper. I saved postage on them because his friend Andy Ansel is also a stockbroker/hedge funder and comes to Toronto two days a month. Andy never stopped to talk about books he was always going out with the other hedge funders for good meals.

I have a big order coming from Karel next week - the Taimanov-Fischer match book, the one by Timman on Fischer's ascent to Reykjavik and Genna Sosonko's memoirs. Then I think I might finally cut down on buying books with the exception of the Klittich auction.

DeLucia has certainly aged in the last ten years judging by the NIC cover photo and the 8-minute tape. I suppose we all have though!

Off to watch a late night movie about atomic spies now.

As ever,

Wayne D.

I think Wayne means David and not Bob in that first sentence. I once met a guy who was invited to inspect Lothar's library and declined. BobM

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Dear Bob,

I've been doing a bit of health business lately. My son took me in to have my second Pfizer shot and yesterday I had my annual checkup for my cardiologist. The latter consisted of a transthoracic echo and putting on a Holter monitor for 48 hrs. It is troublesome because I have to take a taxi to the local hospital and be helped around by staff. A couple of weeks ago the semi-annual Klittich-Pfankuch auction took place. My goal was to pick up some annuals of the Deutsche Schachblatter I didn't have and as much of the Dubuque Chess Journal as I could afford. I have a strong suspicion that the latter were owned by Edward Winter. The auction took place on a Saturday. I bid on 12 items, knowing I would only get a few. The results of the auction appeared online at 3:30 PM German time on Sunday. It seems that I won four bids – two Schachblatters and two Dubuque Chess Journals.

You are not notified of your winnings. The books appear in an express package with an invoice one day. Mine have yet to come.

The Dubuque magazine is basically a problem journal, I understand. The chess problem seems to have died out in Canada.

Since my favorite magazine in the 60s was The Chess Amateur, I absorbed a lot about chess problems. Then, John Roycroft brought out EG and I was hooked on endgame studies. I knew one older gentleman who did both but he was in his 80s.

I helped a chap out last year on references to a chess book that a master had written but not published before his death. I gave some material on analysis and history which will be incorporated. I take it you can get amazon to publish your book and you do the writing, typing, diagrams etc. Lord knows how much this can cost.

I have decided to cut down my purchase of chess material now. I have no more space to shelve it and I have everything I want. I might buy a dozen books a year but no more.

I was looking at the Lund Auction site and they have two volumes of The Australasian Chess Review up for an auction that starts on September 1. Further, they have odd numbers of the same magazine from 1939 to 1943 in an auction that starts in 326 days. I really don't understand that. I have enclosed screen shots in case you are at all interested.

One of my best online references is the Catalogue of the Chess Collection of the Royal Library at the Hague. Rarely does the day go by that I don't check a book title or when it was published there.

The catalogue has disappeared. When I wrote the KB they said had dropped it but would get their web people to put it back and to look again in about a month.

The Victoria Library said that cannot get to the book I want to scan the pages for 1941 and 1942 again, so it looks like that project is stalled for another several months.

That is about all. I am looking forward to again having visitors since almost everyone I know has had two vaccine shots.

Hoping you are well,

As ever,

Wayne K.

Great letter. Wayne could see the future. BobM

Thursday, July 8, 2021

Dear Bob,

I had to send the heart monitor attached to me for two days back to the hospital. I was going to arrange delivery via a taxi but my next-door neighbour said that she didn't mind a brisk walk in the rain and picked up the envelope containing the monitor and took it off to the Cardiology Dept. at St. Joseph's.

Yes, those cover scans are beautiful. I always have my covers bound in if I can. I have two copies of each BCM annual - one machine bound with no covers and one, in a binder with covers.

They are publishing multibiographies now. Evidently youngsters born in the 90s no longer know very much of Tal, Spassky, Bronstein and so forth. I attach a couple of photos from the book Smyslov, Bronstein, Geller, Taimanov and Averbakh - A Chess Multibiography with 220 games by Soltis.

It is enormously heavy in hardcover but I suppose is a good survey of the era from 50s to 70s.

I await the Klittich box with my German magazines. It is still hard for me to believe that Dubuque, Iowa was the centre of chess activity in the 1870s.

As ever,

Wayne

How wise he was to get the covers bound in. I wonder who started the practice of taking them off pre binding? BobM

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Dear Bob,

I have been absorbed in the World Cup games over the past two or three weeks. It is rather tiring getting all the games on the Chess Talk bulletin board.

A week or so ago, a friend told me that the Canadian Chess historian, David Cohen had died after a long bout with cancer. He asked, since I write so much (!) if I would post the death on the bulletin board. It meant sitting down and grinding out four pages in about an hour and posting. Evidently, David had almost every piece of Canadian chess history as pdfs and stored in a basement locker with dozens of boxes. My friend is going to help the widow and transfer as much of the material as he can to the National Archives.

I have been reading off and on about a National Chess Library in England over the past ten years. First it was at Hastings and then nobody consulted it, so it was boxed up and moved and then to the ECF headquarters. But today it found a new home. The blog has photos of all the boxes with the chess stuff and I thought you would like to see them.

I have had both covid vaccine shots and revisited with my son and grandchildren and Monday with two cousins who completely cleaned my house and garden for me.

I am sure there will be a fourth wave.

Hope you are both healthy and happy.

As ever,

Wayne

References The National Chess Library

<https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/214371-the-national-chess-library-britain>

The Collection Arrives

<https://library.dmu.ac.uk/archivesblog/home/New-Chess-Arrival>

David Cohen Canadian Chess Historian

<https://forum.chesstalk.com/forum/chesstalk-canada-s-chess-discussion-board-go-to-www-strategygames-ca-for-your-chess-needs/214253-david-cohen-canada's-chess-historian>

I had some nice contact with the National Chess Library at Leicestershire University about the British Chess Problem Societies proposed sale of their collection. The old story-no volunteers. Will see what happens as the weeks pass. The NCL did not want it. BobM

Saturday, July 31, 2021

Dear Bob,

We wondered when we read that piece about De Lucia if it was a prelude to selling his collection.

Today, I got an announcement from New in Chess about their latest issue. The first two paragraphs are interesting:

How much do you know about **Paul Morphy** (1837-1884), one of the greatest champions of all time? For New In Chess issue 2021#5 our editor-in-chief takes a fresh look at the dazzling career of the American chess player and especially at the Morphy collection of David DeLucia. 'He

really was one of those players that changed the way the game was looked at', says DeLucia. 'And the sad part about it, he only played for like two years.'

By the way: the Morphiana and a lot of other very rare and valuable chess memorabilia (including collections about Fischer and Lasker, Alekhine and Capablanca) are on the market.

As ever,

Wayne K.

Saturday, July 31st

Dear Bob,

I see that the De Lucia collection is up for private sale. Wonder what the price is?

As ever,

Wayne

https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/all-collectibles/_david-delucia-collection-of-chess-histor-58da

Saturday, July 31, 2021

Dear Bob,

You are right, I should have seen this coming when I first looked at the Sotheby's video. My thought was that after spending so much time on the collection, De Lucia would will it to the Smithsonian, or the Chess Hall of Fame but not sell it off to the highest bidder. I sent an email to the auction house asking for particulars but I don't know if they will give me an answer.

A cool, sunny day in Toronto. No chess to follow. I am going to write to a few friends and relax.

As ever,

Wayne

Saturday, July 31, 2021

Dear Bob,

If DeLucia goes to Florida, he will probably live in a gated community or on an estate. I doubt if he will be in a crumbling high-rise!

I have great respect for Harrie Grondijs. What I understand he does is to go each morning to the chess section of the

Royal Library and research the book he is currently working on. He then has about 30 printed up with hard covers on art paper - presumably lodges a copy with that library, keeps one for himself and sells the others as numbered copies to finance his next book! A more perfect situation I cannot think of.

The usual author is worried about sales of his productions and must have them edited, marketed and sent. Harrie doesn't have to do any of that. He is free as a bird, his art untrammelled.

If I were to write a chess book, and I have two in mind, I would do exactly the same thing.

Because the art is so specialized, you needn't make 500 copies for the public.

Ken McDonald once bought two copies of No Rook Unturned and said he never enjoyed a book more. I tried for years to get a copy. Ken sold his copies for near \$1000 each. I eventually bought a copy in the Lund auctions for a near-record price for me.

These are the Grondijses I own:

- 1 About a theoretical ending
- 2 Charged Moves and Progressions Nico Corlevers Endgame Studies
- 3 Chess Craze Bad V. Tome 4
- 4 Chess Craze Bad 1st Tome
- 5 Chess Craze Bad 2nd Tome
- 6 Chess Craze Bad IV. Tome 3
- 7 Chess Craze Bad VI
- 8 Chess Craze VII, Tome 6 This Gentle Disease of Bibliomania
- 9 Chess-Endgames in the match Timman-Salov by Grondijs...
- 10 De Rottendamse School
- 11 Joseph 100 Tourney 1996 Results 2nd Rd
- 12 Le Mat de la Tour et du fou &c par Chapais
- 13 London 1883
- 14 Neverending quest of type C: The study-as-problem
- 15 No Rook Unturned
- 16 Scarcest of Rarities. The Philidorian 1859
- 17 Selman: Springerzauber
- 18 Steinitz with Zukertort Copy 39/75
- 19 STES Journal V.1 Nos. 1-3, V.3 No.1 1995/1997
- 20 Study Story
- 21 The Problem of the Knight's Tour Resolved by Chapais in "Essais analytiques sur les Echecs"
- 22 Within Nalimov's Enclosure

As ever,
Wayne K.

A super letter and one has to admire his acquisitions. He is a worthy member of the 5000 club. I wonder what two books he had in mind to write? BobM

Wednesday, August 4, 2021
Dear Bob,

I planned to get up and watch the 200m race but slept through it and found out later that de Grasse had won. Then spent half an hour scanning all the channels to watch the replay!!
I am amazed that Australia is the fifth highest country in the medal count. Congrats. We are fifteenth. Canada lives for the Winter Olympics.

I enquired about the DeLucia collection and found that they are asking 12 million USD. As you say, a Russian oligarch could buy it or perhaps Sinquefield, who has lots of bucks.

Watching Carlsen play Fedoseev at the moment and just about to have breakfast at 11 AM.

Cheers Wayne

Still thinking about where the De Lucia collection will end up. Would he possibly split it? I am inclining to an American home rather than Russia but the latter is a definite possibility. BobM

Thursday, August 5, 2021

Dear Bob,

Just got New In Chess #5 today and it has an interview with DeLucia on how he got his Morphy material via Dale Brandreth. Here are four pages with the material.

As ever,

Wayne

The download is a bit screwed up. Read in this order: 1 The History of the Collection, 2 Fist Fights, 3 Bring Your Check Book and 4 Collecting Paul Morphy

The article gives David De Lucia's desires for the home of the collection. BobM

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Dear Bob,

The first two times I went to New York City (alone), I stopped by to see three used chess book sellers – Albrecht Buschke, Walter Goldwater and Fred Wilson. I have mentioned these in previous letters.

The third time as a family, we went to the Met, MOMA and the Guggenheim. I don't remember the Egyptian sections at all – just Modigliani, Guernica covering one wall and a Colombian artist with big women who could hardly fit in bathtubs (Fernando Botero). Most of the day was preparing for the Broadway theatres at night – Annie and Sweeney Todd were on at that time.

I have looked over the list of chess books that remain in DeLucia's collection

<http://www.chessbookstore.com/highlights.html>

I admire them but they are not for me. I like good readable modern stuff!

I was proud of Canada at the Olympics and looking forward to the Winter Olympics in February in China. However, Canada is having diplomatic problems with China at the moment and there is a chance we will boycott the Winter games. If China were to invade Taiwan, I don't know what the world would do.

We were vanquishing covid and then relaxed too much and a fourth wave is coming. I did have a visit from my son and grandchildren and from a cousin who did many thoughtful things about the house that I can no longer do.

As I write this I am waiting for my cardiologist to consult with me by telephone. I think my recent tests went well so it will just be a confirmation. He is almost three hours late in calling.

So, I can just sit at the computer and work until the phone rings.

I love museums – got to go almost weekly to the Louvre when I studied in Paris and stopped in at the British Museum when I was in London. Of course, saw the original David in Florence.

When I first went to Stonehenge, you could walk among the stones but the second time, they were roped off and you could not touch them. I saw that someone had painted their name on one and grey paint had been put over the name to efface it.

I have a packet out in the living room from Karel Mokry which I will unpack after the phone call comes from the doctor.

Have a look at the DeLucia highlights mentioned above and try not to write a cheque for 12 million USD to get the collection for your library.

As ever,

Wayne D.

I watched some of the Olympic Games and especially the deserved Canadian win of the Mens 200m sprint by Bolt's off-sider de Grasse. BobM

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Dear Bob,

I have just been reading stories online of medical staffs of hundreds who are refusing to be vaccinated and face termination.

Hospital cases are going up again in Ontario. I have calculated that I will need the booster shot in March of 2022.

Got a copy of Off the Board Chess by Andrew Martin today. Beautiful and self published.

I saw a book called British Chess by Botterill quoted and bought that online only to find that Edward Winter thinks it is worthless. Material from it was incorporated in an article on Gerald Anderson

Remembering Gerald Anderson MBE DFC (24-ii-1898 23-viii-1984)

<https://britishchessnews.com/.../remembering-gerald.../>

I only know him via his book on kriegspiel problems Are There Any? I do have a copy of Adventures of my Chessmen (1914-1923) but I have read neither.

We have had a week of 30C days with humidex more like 40C and I find them tiring. I have been wondering how your work on checkers has been going.

The warm weather means that the field tomatoes are ripening fast and I have some for lunch and supper every day now.

Shall write again when I have more to say about chess and less about tomatoes and the weather.

As ever,

Wayne K.

More about chess and less about tomatos. I wonder does Canada have fruit fly? BobM

Saturday, August 28, 2021

Dear Bob,

Had a look at Richard Torning's book but there is little I can say about it. I used to get request for help about once a year and found that the author was more interested in advertising his book than getting actual help. For example McGowan on Richter.

I have bought a lot of material from a chap in Manitoba who sells off duplicates donated to the Manitoba Chess Hall of Fame. I noticed that he had some Chess World's up for auction on eBay coming due on Monday. I suppose you have them or copies but I attach a picture anyway.

Gone through a heat spell for ten days and today there was rolling thunder and rain. I am watching the rapid chess online - Carlsen is in there and Firouzja.

As ever,

Wayne

Kind of Wayne to step into the Draughts (checkers) arena for me. I have sent an e-book to "The Checker Maven" and hope editor Bob Newell will give it a tick. Good game like chess. BobM

Thursday, September 9, 2021

Dear Bob,

Just a quick note to tell you that those Australasian Chess Review volumes are up for auction today and tomorrow. As you can see from the pdf, there have about ten bids for each and the price is quite reasonable comparatively.

Will write a bit more when the Online Olympiad is over

As ever,

Wayne K.

And so Wayne's letters ended with his death a few days later. He never stopped trying to get me to participate in a chess book auction but I was not interested. Being a year older than Wayne and with no chess family there was little point. His letters show an all-round passion for chess far exceeding mine and I am pleased to bring them to the chess lovers' attention. He was the ultimate collector, far ahead of most of us and doing it with his dear little dog at home that barked at the postman and his son who lived elsewhere with a young family. I think his neighbours were nice also. I don't know how he did it but he did.

His collection started when he was 13 (1954) and he has covered his early years in the above letters. I don't know what started his love of chess but we were similar ages when the Goddess of Chess called us. It was very nice to collect wonderful books and magazines on this game and I was pleased to see his love for the magazine "The Chess Amateur" (1906-30) as it still is my choice as one of the best all round magazines that catered for all. Philip H. Williams was my hero after I was given a few copies by Frank Ravenscroft. I doubt he would be Wayne's hero. Wayne was a lover of chess play. It was such an innovative magazine with all its various columns on every aspect of chess. I particularly liked "Half-Hours" by H. Meek as it dealt with chess history and those who have gone before. It was chiefly a problem magazine but catered for the players. It had the very best of the problemists in its ranks and they bravely went where no chess editor had gone before. The great depression finished them which was sad for those in it from the early days. The giant of them all was Thomas Rayner Dawson and he continued as editor of Fairy Chess until his death in 1951. I would commend those who don't know the magazine to examine it and try to make a set. It won't be easy especially around the WW1 years.

I also remember Dale Brandreth and very much earlier Alain White writing of the joys of collecting monthly issues of magazines and making yearly sets. I noted Wayne plugging some vital BCM gaps very late in the day and he would have paid big money for the first two volumes of BCM.

His e-mails started with collecting chess items and finished with them. Of course it is only a little over 18 months that we corresponded but the enthusiasms were mutual. He wrote and I replied quickly and vice-versa. Readers will have their preferences and I have kept my replies in this article short as this is about Wayne.

Probably his son Matthew will take control, take his time and sell after he has studied the collection. I hope that happens in my case with son John. It is hard not to be overawed by such a large collection and it should be catalogued with buying prices included. He spent countless thousands of dollars on his collection and it needs to be sold professionally.

I doubt he made the grade with any writings on the collection but I could be wrong. He was a very busy man and his work for the ChessTalk Forum is another area I have not covered. There may be another friend who can do that.

I miss his emails and will have to get used to that.

Bob Meadley 28 October 2021



Another photo of Wayne's engine room in his home.

