

BERT 2

Introduction

I hope there are items of interest in this addendum. Bert has continued on from strength to strength and it was time I brought him up to date.

Research is still very enjoyable and whilst there has been a massive drop in correspondence and contact, that happens when one is internet slow. Sad to see the snail mail gone. We are 500km north west of Sydney.

The great articles from 'New in Chess' on Jean Mennerat & Jurgen Stigter's libraries are highlights. I add that Jean's collection is accessible as in the recent email below:-

I confirm that we keep Mennerat's library in Belfort. The legacy dates from 2007. The collection is kept in places that are not directly accessible to the public. It is possible to make an appointment at the Belfort municipal library to consult the books in the collection.

Jean-Baptiste GRANGE <jbgrange@mairie-belfort.fr>

My friendship with Ray Kuzanek is great and we try to research matters related to Paul Morphy. Paris and the 1858/9 newspapers are one goal. Why, you may ask? There is a big unknown here that we may never solve. And we overcame that 'lost' tube/cylinder. Make sure everything you hold dear is insured and registered when you send it. My son John has had some problems too when he sends 'old wares' and got over them by insurance.

The great success for chess problems was the 2009 face to face meeting organized by Dennis Hale and resulting in Peter Wong's website ozproblems.com. Nigel Nettheim's Junior solving title held every year has played its part too.

I am definitely a hybrid chess lover with research into our game's history and chess problems and the problemists and players no longer with us. And not so much a collector now. I hope this encourages others to take up a chess project and benefit us all. The world has really moved on over the two decades since 1999.

Happy reading

Bob Meadley 12th March, 2019

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GATHERING IN THE OVERBROOKS

There are 8 Overbrook Press Chess Problem books:

1. A Century of Two Movers April 1941 (Bought 1975 from Fred Wilson for \$15) 350 copies
2. Fred Gamage-An Artist in chess problems November, 1941 (Fred Wilson 1975 \$20) 250 copies
3. A Sketchbook of American chess problematists September, 1942 (John Rather 1998 \$474) 250 copies
4. Gilbert Dobbs-A Chess Silhouette December,1942 (Edgar Holladay Estate 2006 \$160) 150 copies
5. The two move problem in the Soviet Union 1923-1943 August, 1943 (Fred Wilson 1976 \$20) 300 copies
6. Variation Play 1943 n.m. 1943 (Dale Brandreth 1974 \$37.50) - 225 copies
7. Adventures in Composition 1944 (Fred Wilson 1974 \$17.50) - 400 copies
8. To Alain White 3rd March, 1945 + A Note of Thanks (BCPS \$7.00 1979 C.E. Kemp copy). 300 copies.

Who was Frank Altschul (FA) the Overbrook Press owner? Alain White gave a detail in the first volume that FA had offered to reprint the 60 problems originally published in the New York Chess Review plus another 40 making 'A Century.' The composition years were 1840-1940 making another century. The selection was made by F.Gamage 50, C. Mansfield 25 and A. White 25 of which ONLY 4 of the 100 were selected by the three judges. There **may** be other Overbrook chess books. FA had the above printed at his home in Stamford Connecticut.

But back to FA. He was a past President of the American Institute of Graphic Arts with a chief interest in fine printing and chess. He liked chess as a schoolboy and played in interschool matches as well as composing 'modest two movers.' He was a strong player and Manhattan Chess Club member for 11 years (1941-52) and the Marshall Chess club. The Overbrook Press was to properly represent the chess problem typographically.

He had a long life (21st April, 1887 - 29th May, 1981) and was born in San Francisco moved to New York in 1901, went to Yale in 1908 and then joined his father's financial firm Lazard Freres. He served in France in WW1 as an army captain. He was still at the firm in 1943 and had established Overbrook Press in 1934. It specialized in illustrated limited edition books for collectors. He later worked for General American Investing Company until his retirement. He married Helen Goodhart and there were 3 children, 2 girls and a boy. He was a large philanthropist and most of his papers were placed in Columbia University Archives (225,000 items). His life long interest outside work was public affairs and he knew many of America's leaders. During the peak years (1934-1959) Overbrook Press produced 'about' 270 items or 'about' 12/year.

In July, 2017 a full set of the Overbrook chess problem books was sold by the Lund Chess Academy Sweden for E2500. There are some excellent photos of the books on that website.

The BEST of the Overbrooks? No. 3 without doubt. It consists of two volumes and MUCH composer family history. Sad to say I covered 6 & 7 with plastic using 'SELLOTAPE.' The marks are very obvious on the pages. And now to a description of each item.

1. A CENTURY OF TWO-MOVERS (4 ¾" x 6 ¾" x 14/16th" wide) (11.75cm x 17cm x 2.25cm)

Hard back in red cloth, gold leaf on top edge; 215 pages plus end papers, light brown paper. There is a loose 4 page tip - in dealing with A.Mari's No.34 which was cooked.

The book was compiled by Alain White, Comins Mansfield, Frederick Gamage and Vincent Eaton.

The Chapters are:- Introduction - 43 pages; A Century of Two-Movers -101 pages; The Solution - 5 pages; The Index of Composers - 7 pages; The Index of Selections - 3 pages; Glossary - 44 pages. The Title pages takes up 2 pages making 215 pages in all.

The Introduction by White indicated he liked the plan of selecting 60 problems from the 1880-1940 period. This was expanded to 100 problems taking in the earlier period.

He wrote and explained the FIVE periods of the problem:- 1842-1875; 1875-1900; 1901-1915; 1915-1930; 1930-1940. A comparison of the number of problems selected for each composer (60 of) showed that the modern composers had far more problems selected:-Mansfield 8; Gamage 7; Schiffman 7; Ellerman 5; Mari 5 were ahead of the rest. One might well wonder why only 60 composers were selected and why not a trifecta of 100 composers to match the years and the problems? To see Wurzburg and Shinkman with 1 each and the great Loyd with 3 is very off putting and B.G. Laws did not get 1. Nor did Conrad Bayer who defeated Loyd in two tourneys.

Breaking the problem numbers down into the Five periods yields:-

1842-1875-3; 1875-1900-10; 1901-1915-8; 1915-1930-36; 1930-1940-43. The problems are in chronological order so there are 13 problems for the first 58 years! This includes the era of 'American Chess Nuts' (1868) when 2406 problems were published and the earlier 1846 book by Alexandre when 2020 problems appeared. Alexandre had 94 - 2-ers, The Nuts had 370-2-ers.

Was the selection really a survey of 100 years when the first 60 years nets 13 problems and the last 40 years the remaining 87? White explains the selection process:- Mansfield chose as a tourney judge; Gamage as a composer and White as a solver. Some personal taste is OK but the early years have been poorly served. These were the foundation years and the later composers built on the 'shoulders of 13 giants' Meaning the problems not the composers.

There was a time and distance problem and White's descriptions of the problems is good and whilst written in wartime one has to return to why the book was so beautifully printed and bound when the content is not a survey of the 100 years. Perhaps FA read White's article in Chess Life & Review January, 1941 which lauded Loyd and his 100th birth anniversary? A terrific article with much new early material on Loyd's family going back to 1681 and his Welsh descent. 18 of Loyd's problems were included and 5 x 2-ers from the 1858-68 period on which Loyd's fame rests. Yet only 3 made it into 'A Century' from the early days. He was the greatest of the American composers.

White was wrong-footed by the change from 1880 to 1840. The earlier years were a period White believed the two-mover's main purpose was for gambling. Henri Weenink in his earlier book 'The Chess Problem' 1926 wrote of "the increasing nervousness of modern life" as one reason why shorter problems were more popular. White too wrote of the "increasingly complex life.....Their trains of thought no longer travel arduously in the old fashioned coaches on a single track....but in streamlined ease on a perfect four-track road bed".

White would get a shock today by the road system and the move to all sorts of chess problems. In fact one of Australia's best Peter Wong wrote me recently that he doesn't compose direct mate problems any more.

Weenink's 'Transition School' takes in 1845 - 1862 and 1 x 2-er (p.40 Weenink) by Walter Grimshaw should have been in 'A Century.' White had produced Weenink's book as one of the top items in the Christmas Series and may not have wanted to duplicate. Grimshaw had none in 'A Century.'

The guillotine has been used on the very early composers and their problems. White wrote that "many equally fine problems which have been omitted from this Century" could be sought out.

The 100 problems look great and with those selectors must be good choices. **It would be useful to computer check them all for flaws.** The old school has been left out in the haste to get ready for publication. I can imagine FA talking of deadlines and requiring them to be met as the next book was due in 6 months. The modern 2-ers are shown off at one per page and they look proud. Why not? This is one of the great chess problem books. The designer and compositor was Mrs. Margaret B. Allen who had been employed by the Overbrook Press and its precursor, Ashlar Press. Two of her printed drawings are there:- a very unusual Chess Knight in a semi-circular surround on the title page and at the rear a very ornate 'O & P' married together inside a square wall. John McNamara was pressman.

Lovely to own and pristine for its 78 years of life. Not a mark. Unusual for me.

Research:- There is a good letter from Alain White to Fred Gamage dated October 19th, 1942 on The Book Collector Fort Worth website. The letter was for sale at \$25 in 2010. The extract below is relevant:-

“...I have tackled the Russian book in earnest the past week, and it is 60% done tonight. I will have it ready for Mr. Altschul by the middle of next week, if there are not too many interruptions. There will still be revisions, but printing should begin after January first. I say should begin, but there are still three other titles to get out of the way first. I think this Russian volume will be the best thing I have done, with exception of ‘Variation Play’. Nothing like being pleased with one’s efforts.....”

The Russian book is the No. 5 Overbrook. Before it was ‘Sketchbook’ & ‘Dobbs’ plus another I can’t guess at. The Book Collector also had the letters of White to Gamage from January, 1941 – September, 1944 for sale at \$30,000. Later it was \$18,500 from Biblio.com. There were 364 letters + 28 incomplete ones. Extracts were given and include:--18th January, 1941 - Discussing publication, problems, night letter of Margaret Evens re checking names of composers and the 100 grand (i.e. the problems).

12th February, 1941:- discussing a Gamage 100 for Mr. Altschul.

4th December, 1941 - Wire from Mr Altschul to AW.

It is clear that these letters give details on the Overbrook Press information chain. Biographical detail on Gamage not found yet. BM November 15th, 2018 BCM 1941 – p. 322 ‘A Century of Two Movers’ was for sale at \$7.50.

2. F. GAMAGE Artist in Chess Problems (As No. 1:- 11¾ cm x 17cmx 2¼cm wide)

229 pages + end papers Light brown paper. A loose 4 page tip-in to repair the dedicatory problem to FA is included. Hard Back brown cloth, gold leaf top edge.

The Chapters are:- Introduction 7 pages; Problems & Notes 208 pages; The Solutions 8 pages; Title & Rear 6 pages. The Author is Alain White.

The Introduction by White contains biographical detail on Gamage who was born 21st November, 1882 in Massachusetts (and died there 24th December, 1956). (Gauge)

White considered Gamage one of the best despite his spells away and his compositions date from 1901-1914 and then 1937 to 1956. He was a solvers composer and liked surprising keys and constructive beauty. White wrote that he was privileged to see many of FG’s problems evolve.

The comments by White on all of the 100 problems stand next to the diagrams on the adjoining page to enable the solver to try the problem before going to the back of the book for the solution. He certainly was good and his No. 70 that got 3rd prize in the Keeble Memorial Tourney would have been appreciated by John Keeble who is one of my heroes. Likewise No. 86 & 96 which Loyd would have loved. The rich correspondence between White and FG showed how the Overbrook Series were created and kept time as FG helped ACW up to the mark both in discussion and deadlines for publication.

A very beautiful book. One comment on the book production was that the top edge was trimmed and gold leafed but the other two edges were untrimmed making one's thumb work harder to locate the right page.

The Gamage ancestry included involvement in shipping and there is today a Gamage shipyard industry at Maine. Related? Not sure. Mike Prcic's book "Frederick Gamage" 2004 would have all those details.

There is a letter from Gamage to Gilbert Dobbs dated 5th December, 1942. It's sale price from Caissa Editions Bookstore is \$175US. Likewise the prices asked for Overbrooks is breathtaking. To Alain White \$600; A Century of Two Movers \$350; A Sketchbook of American Problematists (is there such a word?) \$525; Two Move Problems in the Soviet Union \$350; A Chess Silhouette \$300; Adventures in Composition \$124; F. Gamage. Artist in Chess Problems \$385 and \$750 for Variation Play. Another interesting problem book was American Chess Nuts (ACN) for which 500 copies were printed. There is some very interesting Bibliographical details on ACN on this website.

Review in BCM April, 1942 p. 94 by T.R. Dawson:- *"A new work by A.C.W. is a memorable matter, and when it discourses in his smooth, informative style, with penetrating insight, into the magnificent work of a very great 2-move composer, nothing more need be said. The 100 problems and the accompanying "notes"- quite long ones – are a joyful feast of pleasure. A word or two may be added, however, on the publisher, since this book is the second of a series (the first was mentioned in 1941, p.322) printed on the private press of Mr. Frank Altschul, a New York banker, in limited editions. The printing and binding are as beautifully done as the subject-matter, and it is a rare vision and fine courage which persists in such a creative artistry in these war-torn times. One cannot but wish every success to such enterprise."*

Review in The Problemist March, 1942, p. 17:-

"This is a collection of one hundred problems, mostly 2-movers, beautifully printed with large diagrams and published by the Overbrook Press, Connecticut.

Mr. F. Gamage was born in 1882, composed his first problem in 1901, and withdrew from active chess in 1914. He has now staged a wonderful comeback, taking up composition again in 1937.

Mr. A.C. White has written the introduction and careful criticisms of all the problems but these do not interfere with the solving of the problems since they can be read after the solver has done his part.

The edition is limited to 250 copies.

The problems seem for the most part strikingly original with pointed themes and excellent construction. A number of the problems are original to this volume and the Problem World will delight that this fine composer has returned to composition after such a long period of time... ”

Possibly by the Secretary of the British Chess Problem Society, A.W. Daniel.

And so we come to the ‘Best of the Best’ The two volume in slipcase (12x17x1 3/4cms), Vol. 1 is slightly smaller. No.3 ‘A Sketchbook of American Chess Problematists’ September, 1942 - A Hardback in light brown cloth (One of the 50 books of the 1942 year selected by The American Institute of Graphic Art.)

Vol. 1 - 138 pages **Vol. 2**, 165 pages. Compiled by Alain White, Edgar W. Allen & Burney Marshall

The chapters are Early Composers 42 pages; The Revival 38 pages; The Middle Period 38 pages; Index of Composers 6 pages; Index of Solutions 9 pages; Title Page and endpapers 5 pages.

There are 37 composers in Volume 1 and the biographical detail must have taken some work. They are:- Agnel, H.R.; Babson, J.N.; Bettman, E.; Bettman, H.W.; Bettman, J.; Boardman, H.; Brock, D.T.; Brown, T.M.; Carpenter, G.E.; Cheney, G.N.; Cook, E.B.; Densmore, D.J.; Dobbs, G.; Gilberg, C.A.; Graves, J.A.; Hamilton, C.D.P.; Jokisch, L.H.; Joseph, S.M.; Kennard, W.I.; Knous, I.; La Mothe, B.W.; Loyd, S.; Loyd, T.; Marache, N.; Martindale, F.W.; Meredith, W.; Nix, J.G.; Potter, G.A.; Robbins, A.H.; Shinkman, H.N.; Shinkmann, W.A.; Teed, F.M.; Tracy, J.F.; Wainwright, J.C.J.; Wash, B.S.; Wheeler, H.; Wurzburg O.

It is the Classic Title Page with the Frontispiece 2-er:- Sam Loyd’s ‘American Indian.’ There are 29 problems by the early composers and 14 composers feature. Naturally Sam Loyd got the most with 10. Cook got 3 as did Brown and Cheney.

The Revival saw Shinkman get his name over 8 sometimes in joints with Wurzburg, his nephew and Loyd); Kennard got 3 as did Meredith and Carpenter (1 with Shinkman) and the others made up the 27 problems.

The Middle Period from Problem No. 57 to 86 saw Babson get 3, Wainwright 4, the Bettmans 6, Densmore 3, Wurzburg 6 and Dobbs 3.

The Volume is chock full of historical material which I love and a pity the book is so hard to buy as it is a wonderful American chess problem history. Perhaps a reprint?

Volume 2. The Contents are:-

Section 4 Good Companions 36 pages; Section 5 - Our Contemporaries 64 pages; Epilogue Introduction 3 pages; Alain White 42 pages; Index of Composers 6 pages; Index of Solutions 10 pages. There are 48 composers with biographies.

James F. Magee, Jr. established the Good Companions Chess Problem Club (GCCPC) which attracted Australians to be members as well as Americans and Europeans. Two-move problems were the main and the monthly magazine 'Our Folder' was voracious in subjects discussed. Even non problemists like Morphy and Philidor feature in major articles as well as music and composer biographies. It was a first-rate magazine and eventually there were 600 members worldwide. Magee, a non problemist was a born organizer and with the GCCPC surviving WW1 it went from strength to strength. Some issues were just top class and the non problem chess world wanted Our Folder. Magee was good at collaboration as was the President Rev. Benjamin Neill and it was Neill's death in 1922 that brought an end to the GCCPC. He only composed 30 problems so the Club was guided by two men who were not fully fledged composers. There are excellent biographies in this section: 27 problems feature here with composers Gamage 5, Rice 4, Fink 3, Marble 3 the leaders.

Section 5 Our Contemporaries - 51 problems were diagrammed here and more great composer biographies as in Section 4. Research to gather this material can only have been done by mail and a deadline. Eaton 4, Kish 3, Mott-Smith 3, Cheney 4, Jacobs 3 and Howard 4 led this Section.

The Epilogue is a sketch of the Life and Activities of Alain White plus 12 of his problems. Compiled by Vincent Eaton from White's Ms the point was made that White was modest and that this would be rectified here! For instance we now know White was tall and had a likable smile and quick keen eyes that took in everything. He was a 'Young 61' and loved to carry out tasks in all fields to the end. He loved people, drawing them out to find their loves and thus a way to help them. What a gift. We know of the Christmas Series and his problems, what we may not know is his Harvard BA magna cum laude, his post grad at Columbia on Dante and his life activities at Litchfield where he lived and developed land for conservation and charitable organisations through the White Memorial Foundation with his sister MWW. A name we know well as he dedicated his Christmas series books to her. The gift of 5,000 acres to the State for a Park in Connecticut was one highlight. ACW was Secretary Treasurer and Trustee of the Foundation and President of many Litchfield Associations. In 1920 he published an extensive history of Litchfield. He was fascinated by botany and planted varieties of plants including succulents on Trust land. He then moved to Summerville South Carolina to the woodlands he loved and where he worked and enjoyed nature.

Eaton had scattered 12 of White's problems throughout this article including an amazing 3-er (p.143) which won First Prize in the 1941 Chess Review. Sadly he only got another 10 years. We shall never see his like again. (Born 3rd March, 1880 in Cannes France, died 24th April, 1951 Summerville, SC.) (Gauge)

The Index of Composers and Solutions completed this Volume and the two volumes were published September, 1942.

Research:- In a Columbia University Chess File of Frank Altschul is a 1943 letter (125) from Mr. Wagner of the Illinois State Chess Association requesting the right to copy 'A Sketchbook...' FA kindly agreed to the copying of large parts of 'A Sketchbook...' Not sure if that went ahead.

Review:- BCM February, 1943, p. 44 by T.R. Dawson:-

"In April last year, I told inadequately of the private press of Mr. Frank Altschul, a New York banker, and his beautiful work on 'A Century of Two-Movers' and the 'F.Gamage' book. Now he has added an even more fascinating work to his remarkable series. The authors have done excellent work in giving sketches of some eighty-odd American composers, illustrated with 180 diagrams, mainly direct mates in 2 and 3 moves. There is not a dull page in the volumes; on the contrary interesting facts, delightful anecdotes, quaint reading, surprises abound, and of course the problems are selected for quality. Even if I have a personal regret that Babson, Cook, Gilberg, Loyd, Reichelm, Shinkman. And Wainwright – taking just a few of the giants – are not represented by even one of their hundreds of Fairy Chess masterpieces, this is only to say that the sketches do not tend in that direction, but cover admirably the orthodox field. A very high point in the collection is V.L. Eaton's "epilogue" on A. C. White himself. This is pre-eminently a book to open at random and read not once but a score of times."

4. A Chess Silhouette-One Hundred Chess Problems by Reverend Gilbert Dobbs . Edited by Richard Cheney, Vincent Eaton, Otto Wurzburg and Alain White. December, 1942, 135 pages Light brown cloth hardback (12cm x 17cm x 1¾ cm) Light Brown paper. 150 copies (the lowest).

The Chapters are The Introduction and Biography by Otto Wurzburg 13 pages; One Hundred Chess Problems 103 pages; Solutions 11 pages; Title Pages and End Page 5 pages.

There is a Chess Knight in surrounds on the Title page. Wurzburg was a good choice for the biography as he and Dobbs corresponded for nearly 40 years. Gilbert Dobbs was born in Richmond Kentucky 6th December, 1867 and died in Atlanta Georgia 14th February, 1941. He was educated at Bethel College Virginia and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville Kentucky and began his ministry at age 19 serving in New Orleans, Brownsville, Commerce and Memphis. He had a 'brilliant intellect and a gift for leadership'.

His first problem appeared June, 1900 and his last in March, 1940. 3,300 problems in total! He was friendly with Murray Marble and William Shinkman as well as Wurzburg. He loved Pospisil's book 'Ceske Melodie' best and it trained him.

There were some great anecdotes such as "The 3-er that beat Pillsbury" and he was convinced that "Mental inactivity is perhaps the surest route to senility..." He later corresponded with the genius Harry Boardman who had 55 years away from problems and came back as good as ever. Dobbs was 33 when he composed his first problem and his cosmopolitan tastes. It is a wonderful 'silhouette' by Wurzburg.

The problems and comments are on a single page and the diagrams are much smaller than in 1 & 2.5½ cm compared to 7 cm. His No.1 was an entry in the Sydney Morning Herald (Australia) Tourney, 1902. It was a nice waiting 2-er that gained him a HM but his 100th has to be seen to be believed. Alain White enjoyed it.

It was interesting to see the decline in published book numbers:- 350 for 1; 250 for 2; 250 for 3 and 150 for 4 The Dobbs. I believe John Rather informed me of an 'army' edition of this book when I bought No. 3 from him. I will find that.

Review BCM May, 1943 p.116/7 T.R.Dawson:-

“This volume, fourth in Mr. Frank Altschul’s series of beautiful private publications, deals with an old friend of the British Chess Magazine, and a chess friend of the famous problemists of his time. There is a charming introduction (by O.W.) dealing with Dr. Dobbs’ personality and quoting several characteristic passages from his letters. Then come the problems - 52 two-movers, 47 three movers, 1 four mover – each with comments by one or other editor. The collection ranges from 1902 to a final and welcome original 2 - mover, and the only criticism I have to offer is that an evening spent on remembering many lovely things in this collection brought back the grievous sense of loss I had in 1941 at his passing. As this great Altschul collection grows, sitting back to take a wide view of the whole, one gets a fine sense of the dignity being conferred on the American chess problem world and indirectly on all the chess problem world. T.R.D.” (See end of Overbrook article for the Dobbs reprint).

5. The Two-Move Chess Problem in the Soviet Union 1923-1943 (13¾ cm x 22cm x 1.1cm)

Hardback in red cloth and gold lettering with a gold line crossways in the centre of the covers. The paper is a yellow colour. Compiled by Albrecht Buschke, Richard Cheney and Alain White. The title page decoration of a mediaeval knight on horse with long spear is by Vera Bock.

A 9 page introduction including the Title Page leads into a 62 page chapter on Russian Two-Movers and 9 pages of composers names, publication dates and solutions making 80 pages with end papers. There is a very tiny erratum glued in to the first page of the index about the solution to No.13 by A.Koryepin. The solution is Bg7 not Ba1.

This book is a marked departure from the 4 previous volumes. My copy is “somewhat water damaged” as Fred Wilson pencilled in. 300 copies August, 1943. The volume is more like a regular book.

The chapter on Russian Two-Movers is broken up into the following section but the subsections are not included here:-

1. The Beginnings of Two-Move composition in Russia. Problems 1 – 6
2. Virtual Play-Dual Avoidance. Barulin Theme 7-23 Contingent Threats 24 - 42.

3. White Line Themes - The Two Simple Themes 43-61; The Complex or Dual Avoidance Themes 62-73; Some Derivatives of the Basic Themes 73-79

4. Miscellaneous Groups of Themes- Avoidance of Double Check Mates 80-87; Avoidance of Mate by a White Interference Unpin 88-96; Critical & Anti Critical Moves 97-102; Task Problems 103-116; Changed Mates 117-120.

White's Introduction starts with the war and the Russian people, their armies, the defences of Moscow, Leningrad and Stalingrad and Russia's great winter offensive. America understood the greatness of the Soviet people BUT what are the chess problems of the Soviet Union? He unfolded the story of the Russian Two-Movers and their composers whilst wondering about their lives. He extended America's hands in comradeship. It is a very fine moving introduction in terrible times. The date was June 22nd, 1943.

There are 120 problems from 39 composers. The majority are by M.M.Barulin (27) with some joints. Here are the names:-

A.W. Galitzky, N. Maksimov, N.K. Malakov, V.I. Schiff, M.M. Barulin, L.I. Kubbel, L.A. Isayev, A.P. Gulyaev, A.Koryepin, M.I. Adabashev, U.E. Brenev, E.I. Umnov, S.P. Shabunno. L.N. Gugel, L.I. Loshinsky, V. & S. Pimenov, S.P. Kryuchkov, R.M. Koffman, A. A. Baturin, V.A. Bron, S.S. Levman, I.A. Aleshin, I. Mokhov, E.N. Somov, V. Protopopov, L. Faivuzhinsky, A.S. Bernstein, L.I. Sokolo, P.S. Mussuri, G.P. Golubev, L. Fagoreika, A.N. Lebeden, I.D. Katzenellenbogen, F.L. Simkhovich, G. Bayel, G. Gaidorov, Z.M. Birnov, V.N. Ovchinnikov, R. Ponomarev.

The most remarkable problem is No.102 dedicated to L.A. Isayev by 6 composers-Barulin, Golubev, Gulyaev, Loshinski, Umnov and Schiff. How did they collaborate? Mail?

This is a very different book to the previous Overbrooks but nice.

Review of 'The Two-Move Problem in the Soviet Union' The Problemist May, 1944 p.123

"This is a further work published by the Overbrook Press, which is owned by Mr. Altschul, and the problem world owes a great debt to this gentleman. As regards the printing and set-up, we cannot do better than quote from Mr. Howard's review in American Chess Bulletin. "The paper is Linweave Text, buff, plate finish, and after printing, the sheets were dampened to remove the gloss, the resulting effect being very pleasing." It is specially pleasing in view of the way we have to do printing over here at the present time!

There are two problems to a page and some 60 pages. The editors give full explanations of the problems just below but not in a way to affect one's enjoyment if one wishes to solve them.

While we agree with Mr. Howard's remarks on the method of printing we do not altogether agree with his opinion that American two-move composition is lagging far behind Russian. Possibly in respect to actual number of composers. The problems shown in the book deal largely with White line themes, and virtual play. As regards the latter we have always preferred what actually does take place to what does not and indeed the objection is voiced that the solver may not see what does not occur.

It is unfortunate that the editors keep alluding to a number of ideas by theme names of composers. One remark is particularly illuminating. "This theme had been shown by Kipping in three variations of a problem published in 1914, but no stress had been laid on it until Barulin published...." I should certainly never wish my name to be associated with one particular idea whether it was old or new, but this seems rather to imply that unless you blow your own trumpet or get a friend to blow it for you some particular theme will not be called after you!"

**6. Variation Play (17¾ x 25½ x 1.5cm) By Walter Jacobs and Alain White 1943 (no month)
A study in the Mechanisms and Relationships of Black Moves in the Two-Move Chess problem.**

Hardback, red cloth spine with circular ringed cloth covers. Very unusual and modern. This book is a major departure from the previous in size and appearance. My copy was owned by Clarence and Katherine Southerland of 1900 Woodlawn Avenue Wilmington Delaware. He was a Supreme Court Judge of Delaware and a very good collector of chess problem books and solver. His distinctive circle with the letter 'S' inside was in many of his books bought in 1974 from Dale Brandreth.

Southerland's lovely bookplate is inside the front cover.

A very decorative knight inside two chess boards at 45° adorns the Title page followed by a dedication "To I.O.J - In memory of M.W.W." Clearly from the authors. Then a note thanking Kenneth S. Howard, Carl Weberg and Edgar W. Allen for help in preparing this book .

The Contents are:-

1. Introduction 1-24
 - A. The Black Move, its formula and factors.
 - B. Positive and Negative Elements.
 - C. Removal and Arrival Elements.
 - D. Formulas for Black Moves.
 - E. Variation Play.
2. Waiting Move or Initial Threat 25-26
 - A. The Initial Threat.
3. The Three Types of Simple Factors 27-40
 - A. The Removal Threat.

- B. The Arrival Threat.
- C. The Mixed Variation.
- 4. Simple Offset Factors 41-52
 - A. Offsets to a Removal Threat.
 - B. Offsets to an Arrival Threat.
- 5. Consecutive Offset Factors 53-122
 - A. Interplay of Removal and Arrival Threats.
 - B. An Experiment in Offsets and Triple Consecutive Threats.

An Index of Composers (78) and Solutions (131) ends with the final page and the ornate ‘OP’ complete the book.

The Introduction by the authors defines the difference between a chess problem and a game of chess. They state a problem has a predetermined outcome whereas the game has both sides trying to win. In a problem Black contributes to a White mate by what is called ‘Positive Elements’ while seemingly thwarting it by negative elements. “In reality every chess problem requires Black’s help for the solution to work outright.”

FA generously invited the writers to continue a series of similar treatises in subsequent years including White play and more movers on which some work had been done.

The authors reviewed what composers in other countries had done in explaining Black moves in two-move problems. A study of the book would increase understanding and enjoyment “of the modern complex two-move problem.”

Definitely for the serious young chess problem student. The great T.R. Dawson gave it the ‘thumbs-up’ in his review in BCM June, 1944, p.119/120:-

“This book takes as its basis of reasoning that:-

- (a) Direct mates are really help mates. White and Black conspiring to evolve geometric themes;*
- (b) The “significant effects” of a Black move may positively advance towards mate and/or negatively recede from it both by (i) removal from the standing square, and (ii) arrival at the occupied square, four combinations in all, as is now well known.*
- (c) Hence we have removal and arrival “threats” as positive elements, and removal and arrival “offsets” as negative elements.*
- (d) With these postulates a complete systematic analysis is given of the relatively few simple effects and their cumulation into complex aggregates of effects, in causing variations in 2-movers. A clear, if rather difficult to learn, notation and a formidable vocabulary of new jargon are inevitable in such an enquiry, and make the reading rather heavy-going*

until mastered. Probably more problemists would find the book very dull reading indeed, and to limited perceptions fundamental work of this kind always is dull. One is reminded of similar analyses in the theory of numbers, in the bases of geometry, in the roots of the calculus-all hard going, nothing at all exciting, a jungle of new words and symbols - nevertheless these works tower over the literature, stupendous monuments to human insight. Perhaps this chess work, really a "comparative anatomy of Black play," does not reach quite that standard because its subject is a small one, but unquestionably it is in the same realm of thought and elaborated with the same finality and thoroughness. There is nothing in this book for beginners or dilettante connoisseurs; it is all clean, dry, gleaming white bones for scientists, exact, final, immeasurably beautiful with the austere rigour of mathematics.

(e) When Mr. Altschul has given us the promised sequels, extending the analysis to White moves and to effects more than one move deep, he will indeed have made his great series immortal, for here we have imperishable truth stripped clean of all human emotion. - T.R.Dawson."

The Problemist May, 1944 p.123 - A Review of Variation Play:-

"Another beautiful publication of Mr. Altschul's, this time a larger volume of over a hundred pages. These editions are restricted to some three hundred copies or so and are really artistic productions.

The present volume deals with the analysis of Black moves but we confess that we cannot agree that quite so much terminology and analysis is in the best interests of the Problem Art. For example, on P.13, "Splitting a Black move into its removal component and its arrival component leads one to imagine the presence of a time interval between two components of the move. Instead of considering the move as a unit we feel an illusion that the player holds his man suspended a moment in mid-air as he makes his move." This appears merely confusing. Black is not really a player and it is atavistic to go back to that kind of argument just in the same way as all this talk of "correction." If Black were a real player he would be merely irritating if he kept the piece suspended in mid-air. The talk about "removal and arrival threats" may go the same way as such terms as "ad-decoy and ex-deploy." Surely the Problem Science is sufficiently developed that individuals do not alter nomenclature at will.

There are also rather a number of cross-references so that problems are in the most part described on different pages from those on which they are printed. Some problemists, may enjoy pseudo-mathematical treatment but we have been catering for beginners for so many years that we think it is a mistake to make things quite needlessly complicated. (Probably by C.S. Kipping. The Problemist editor)"

In the BCM June issue p.145 TRD replied to The Problemist article above:-

“Dicta” *In most fields of intellectual activity, the leaders of thought attempt as seriously as they can to argue out their philosophy. The chess problem world very rarely does this, but suffers instead from arbitrary, individualistic, and pontifical pronouncements. Here are a few recently put before me. How do they agree with you, or disagree?*

- (1) *“Seeing merit in dual separation is seeing merit in defects”.*
- (2) *“As regards (virtual play) we have always preferred what actually does take place to what does not.”*
- (3) *“Some problemists may enjoy pseudo-mathematical treatment but we have been catering for beginners for so many years that we think it a mistake to make things more needlessly complicated.”*
- (4) *“Chess problems are not for pseudo-scientists but for connoisseurs.”*
Curiously enough, I do not recall any dictum which refers to “pseudo-artists.” I wonder why the difference in politeness between two schools of thought. The particular “pseudo-mathematician” referred to under (3) is W. Jacobs, who took first-class honours in mathematics. I have been author of many pronouncements myself in the last thirty-five years, and to provoke argument, I add another:-
- (5) *Unless the chess problem steadily evolves, by the extension and addition of ideas, it is irretrievably dead- secondary play, virtual play, mathematical conceptions, applications of scientific method, are living additions to the chess problem domain.”*

In the July issue of BCM a Mr. T.M. Stott asked for Overbrook Press books and TRD said to inquire from Dr. A. Buschke 15 West 56th Street, New York who advertised a few for sale from \$2 to \$5 but a permit would be needed to send money and permits for these type books were not given at present!

TRD published 6 problems sent by Fred Gamage in the November, 1944 BCM p.272 with this:-

“We are honoured this month with a beautiful collection of new two-movers by the great American genius, F.Gamage. It will not need me to tell you that F.G. in his current, second, epoch of composition has carried the artistic two-mover to greater heights than any composer of any age and has undoubtedly done more to popularize the idea of secondary chess motives than anyone except Brian Harley. Any solver, unaware of these developments will have a magnificent introduction to the field this month – the composer himself says he has sent us some of his very best.”

7. Adventures in Composition by Comins Mansfield March, 1944 400 copies

(18cm x 25¼ x 2¼) 150 copies were on rag paper and 250 copies on Flemish book paper which is my copy. 218 pages Hardback with dark green cloth spine and gold lettering. The

covers are light green cloth with the title in gold lettering in a dark green square. Very imposing book.

There has been at least one reprint of this very popular book and the copy I have is B.H.Wood's reprint in a 1948 hardback by Daily Post Printers of Liverpool, England. This was to cater for the large number of problem enthusiasts worldwide. I won this in Quiz 59, ca November, 1962 John Kellner's Sunday Mirror chess column.

I note URSUS books has it for sale for \$375US yet from the William Reese Company one could buy the 1944 edition for \$150. This first edition was printed on Centaur and Lutetia types with handset diagrams. There were 3 used copies of 1944 on Amazon at £60 each. Download on Vaclav Kotesovec's website (pdf) 6 of the Overbrooks are on pdf. The only one's not on are Variation Play and A Chess Silhouette (updated 11th June, 2018)

The Title Page features the trademark 'OP' and then a Dedicatory 2-er to FA from CM. The Editor's Note tells of FA's wish for a book on composition and so CM agreed to bring the book out. His history and views on problems are what make the book, and emphasise the 3 virtues of Originality, Economy and Artistry.

The Contents are:-

1. Foreword
2. Introduction Pages 3-14
3. The Composition of Single Problems pages 17-60
 - A. The Composer's Aim Centred in the play.
 - B. The Composer's Aim Centred in the Key Move. 61- 106
4. The Composition of Related Problems 107-148
5. Modern Trends in Composition 148-196
6. Glossary and The Solutions and end paper 197-217

The Foreword in nice large print on light yellow paper asks why one wants to compose problems. And that is a good question. To a minor composer like myself, CM makes points that one needs "the faculty inborn of appreciating themes, choice between opportunities and the essence of strategy, economy and beauty hidden in these blocks of wood." Nicely put not that I ever thought the pieces had secrets humans were required to find. I just didn't have it. One needed skill and ideas as well as adventure and there were too many bi-ways to get lost in such as chess history and collecting.

The collaboration between White and Mansfield ensured a very good book. Composers love competing with rivals in tourneys. A lifelong pastime.

And then the 109 problems take over with problem conventions firstly explained. The 5 pages on 'A First Step in Composition' showed how to build an idea into a nice end but as CM said "We have been fortunate." How true. It would be good if a prominent composer today told readers how much the book helped developed skill from the start. Cecil Purdy used to say Fred Hawes dropped the pieces from a foot above the board and made a problem. Amusing but did he?

CM wrote of his tourney failings that sometimes ended in victory. A lovely book that must have helped many a keen student and the reprint by Baruch Wood 4 years later indicated the need.

A Review in *The Problemist* March, 1945, p.166

"This is another very fine volume published by the Overbrook Press, owned by Mr. Frank Altschul. This gentleman suggested to Mr. A.C.White that a volume on composition would be of interest and here we have the splendid result.

The book is divided into various sections. Firstly, the composition of single problems subdivided according to whether the interest is in the key or the play. Secondly, the composition of related problems, and lastly, modern trends in composition.

It is beautifully printed although we confess the larger diagrams would have been easier to see.

The methods right from the initial idea to the finished product are clearly explained with numerous diagrams. Mr. Mansfield has perhaps more confidence in his powers of construction than is the case with most composers. Personally, we block in the Black King very early in order to see whether our supply of pieces is going to run short!.

Since Mr. Mansfield is universally recognized as one of the finest 2-move composers the world has ever seen, his description of how he arrives at the polished article will be of great interest and service.

Mr. A.C.White acts as editor and the thanks of the Problem World will go out to the three experts who, in their different ways, have produced this magnificent book. It is to be hoped that foreign experts, will note the way in which Mr. Mansfield refrains from indulging in all these absurd coinings of composers' names to describe familiar themes." (The third expert seems to be Frank Altschul, BM)

8. To Alain White Edited by Edgar W. Allen and Eric M. Hassberg 3rd March, 1945 - 300 copies (19.5 x 25³/₄ x 1 3/8cm)

Hardbound in Light Brown cloth with gold lettering on spine. 78 pages.

My copy has the book plate of C.E. Kemp ('In the Beginning was the Word') and 'A Note of Thanks' by ACW is glued on the front end paper with a self-mate in 2 by ACW dedicated to FA, EWA and EMH and all the friends for their 65th birthday wishes to him.

The Photo opposite the Title Page and protected by tissue paper is of a reflective ACW and one of his best photos. The Title contains a decorative woodcut of a smiling White King on a Black square looking at a wary Black Knight on a White square.

The Preface by Allen and Hassberg thanked all the contributing problemists and those who were unable by war to send their efforts. Especial thanks went to the President of the British Chess Problem Society F.F.L. Alexander who had assisted the book with his notification to European members of the books appearance. His home had just been destroyed by the enemy. Time beat C.E.Kemp, A.J. Head, J.G. Ingram, W. Langstaff and SW. Wood due to the war.

One interesting thank you was to Clarence A. Southerland, the Delaware Judge who had helped with problem checking along with Charles Barasch, Philip Rothenberg and Carl Weberg. FA was thanked and responded in a Printer's Note about the start of the Series over 5 years ago and ACW's help in getting the 8 books underway. He considered it a privilege towards the end of the Series to be associated with ACW and his friends for the testimonial volume.

The First Part of the book contains a note by EWA and 20 of ACW's problems:-

1 - 4-er, 4-3-ers and 1 Self-Mate in 2 + 14-2-ers. He had known ACW since 1903 and felt the highlight of their friendship was compiling 'A Sketchbook...' which took 6 years. EWA thought ACW a very great composer who always deferred to others. No. 19 being typical.

Part Two contained 'The Others' problems - 128 of them. EMH had 5 in, Gamage 4, Mott-Smith 4, Dawson 3, De Blaisio 3, Hawes 3, Rothenberg B, Sheppard 3, Wurzburg 4 - 87 composers in all. A wonderful tribute in wartime. Their names are given at the end.

As for ACW he had started composing at age 11 and we found out many 'secret' stories behind the 20 problems in Part 1. Some of the Problemists were funny such as those of Brian Harley and then others were in praise like TRD. ACW must have valued that one. Geoffrey Mott-Smith's were revealing on how good ACW was. Gamage even said one famous composer preferred criticism from ACW rather than prizes!

The Part 3 problems were mostly composed for this book with more comments and descriptions of the themes.

In The Appendix on p. 66 by F.F.L. Alexander, the British problemists wished ACW a hearty 65th birthday and thanked him for the wonderful problem books he had been involved in. They were "an imperishable monument to his memory".

That holds true today where the Christmas and Overbrook Series' are much sought after.

The Index of Composers was next and here they are:-

Alexander, F.F.L.; Anderson, G.F.; Andrade, B.J. de C.; Arguelles, A.F.
Bampton, S.W.; Barry, H.W.; Benjamin, S.J.; Benko, F.; Bernard, H. D'O.; Bonavia -
Hunt, N.; Boros, S.;
Bowater, P.; Buchwald, J.; Bunting, J.
Caine, W.E.; Chandler, G.W.; Charosh, M.; Cheney, R.; Clark, C.H.D.; Colle, B; Cook,
E,B.; Costikyan, S.
Darvall, R.J.; Dawson, T.R.; De Blasio, F.J.C.; Deiss, E.L.; DuBeau, C.
Eddy, E.J.; Ellerman,A.
Fenner, A.J.; Fink, A.J.; Fothergill, P.G.L..
Gabor, N.; Galbraith, C.A.; Gamage, F.; Guttman,N.
Hargreaves, G.W.; Harley,B; Hassberg, E.M.; Hassberg, H.A.; Hawes, F.T.; Heathcote,
G.; Heinemen, S.; Holladay, E.; Howard, A.D.; Howard, K.S.; Hume, G.
Jacobs, C.S.; Jacobs, W.
Keeney, P.G.; Kipping, C.S.
Lane, H.F.W.; Lawton, H.; Lundberg, T.
Mansfield C.; Marble, M.; Marshall, B.M.; McClure, R.; Mott-Smith, G.; Mowry, H.C.;
Myers,S.S.
Neale, H.R.; Neuhaus, E.; Nield, J.
O'Keefe, J.J.
Page, G.
Rice, W.B.; Rothenberg, P.L.; Rubens, N.
Schroeder, F.; Shaw, E.H.; Sheppard, C.W.; Sim, M.; Spencer, G.B.; Stephens, W.;
Stewart, J.;
Stott, T.M.; Swords, W.J.
Thomson, R.G.; Tump,R.
Warton, J.; Warton, T.; Watson, F.W.; White, Alain.; White, J.W.; Wurzburg, O.
Youngs, J. (87 in all)

The book finished with 7 pages of Solutions and the final page giving details of the printing numbers and date. i.e 300 copies for ACW's 65th birthday on 3rd March, 1945.

It was all over. It had taken me 32 years to gather them in. (1974-2006). Pretty slow!

Review in The Problemist January, 1946 p. 202:-

"To Alain White- This beautiful book edited by E.W. Allen and E.M. Hassberg is published by the Overbrook Press and is a further example of the wonderful publications which Mr. Frank Altschul has to his credit.

The book is a tribute to our great benefactor A.C. White who founded the White-Hume problem collection and for years published and presented as Christmas presents to numerous problemists his magnificent Christmas series.

Some hundred composers, most of them American and English, contribute problems and tributes. Altogether there are some 150 problems of which the first 20 are selections from A.C. White's own compositions.

Had the International situation allowed it might have been possible to have got contributions from more composers in other countries but it is a fine collection as it is.

This book, limited to three hundred copies, marks the 65th birthday of Mr. White and we cordially join with all our American friends in wishing him long life and prosperity.

The diagrams are especially clear and the paper and binding such that any who are fortunate to possess a copy will give it the best situation in their libraries."

WHERE WAS OVERBROOK PRESS?

It appears to have been at 356 Riverbank Road, Overbrook Farm, Stamford, Connecticut. This is on the western edge of Philadelphia bounded by City Avenue, 58th Street, Woodbine Avenue and 66th Street at Morris Park. There is a beautiful home on 356 Riverbank Road, now the Ellen Ward Antique website and on a plan is the 'Altschul Pond.' A lovely part of the world.

A nice article by Gregory Gallagher called "For My Own Pleasure" was sent me by Penn State Uni. Library from which some material is extracted:-

FA was given a toy press by his mother one Christmas when he was a child. A brave act by Mum which she paid for dearly with ink all over the house. She returned it. There can't be too many kids let loose with a toy press as Frank was. After marriage to Helen Goodhart a small press was bought for their New York apartment soon to be moved on as the family grew. Many years later FA found out why he liked it as no less than 10 of his Bohemian ancestors had been printers! If FA was around today he would certainly have sussed them and their DNA out.

So, it's all in the genes and there is nothing that can be done. Once a printer, etc.

The next hint he got was from Margaret B. Evans who had been at Ashlar Press which was closing. She 'helped' FA make up his mind although he was enthusiastic. And so the old pig pen on their country estate Overbrook Farm fitted the bill. It was converted into a print shop. A second hand Colts Armory press was purchased with a variety of type and lots of paper much from before WW1.

She became designer and compositor from 1934-1944 when John Logan succeeded her. She had brought her master pressman John McNamara with her and he stayed until his death in 1955.

Frederick Warns took his place. The staff were skilled and devoted employees who ran the press and did most of the design work. Some noted artists were hired for special work. FA decided what to print and where to distribute it. The books were seldom sold and most went to

family, friends and acquaintances also clubs, schools and libraries.

FA loved printing and its art and he sent much to others relating to chess, politics and literature. Greeting cards, bookplates, invitations programs, memorial booklets all were turned out here. FA's sister was married to the Governor Herbert H. Lehman and he authored many books. Yale University, FA's alma mater was supported and two good staff were Anna Simons to design woodcut initials and Valento Angelo to draw book borders.

FA was a Marshall and Manhattan Chess Club member and told chess lover and Yale scholar W. K. Wimsatt of his interest in chess problems from schooldays and had made some 'modest' 2-ers. He played interscholastic tourneys but he felt chessbooks were "abominably printed" which resulted in the Overbrook Series of chess problem books.

There were humorous books such as 'One Hundred Per Cent American' 1939 and an essay by Quentin Reynolds had a printer's device by Valento Angelo showing three pigs looking over a fence. It bore the imprint "Pig Pen Press" which referred back to the very early days of the press building. One other 'In Praise of Polygamy' saw the first edition of 1,000 copies gone and numerous reprintings were needed of this spoof work.

During the war speeches were printed stressing the connection between Great Britain and the United States. Post war he presented a book on her father to Queen Elizabeth.

Overbrook Press printed well over one third of its output on political tracts.

He was close to the policy makers and was a powerful publisher with his essays, speeches and articles for distribution to state and federal lawmakers. The attractive packaging perhaps influencing the recipients. He sent books etc to the 'who's who' of the period. You name them, he sent them material.

The books that seem to hold value on the various selling websites are the 'belles lettres,' and this was where Overbrook Press' reputation was made. Many noted book designers and illustrators contributed to the success.

Two were Rudolph Ruzicka with his wood engravings and decorations for 5 titles. One was Wilde's 'The Happy Prince' (1936). The most famous was Thomas Maitland Cleland and FA and he had 20 years together. The most important work was its masterpiece "L'Abbe Prevost's Histoire du Chevalier des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut."

It was to be a unique example of the art and craft of bookmaking. It started in 1952 and took 6 years with FA paying Cleland \$1000/month. He was a perfectionist and he was 78 when he finished after a mild stroke. The detail as given by Gregory Gallagher make one appreciate the art. The 42 illustrations in Manon Lescaut required colours made and applied by Cleland using silk screen and were printed separately with as many as ten different workings for each picture. Cleland formulated the colours and made all the equipment for application. It was a handsome large quarto handset in Caslon Old Face type. \$1000US will buy it today. Very interesting story of two lovers who end up in 18th century New Orleans having fled Paris and bad debts.

The late Ken Whyld in 'Chess Reader' Vol.2 No.1 (Spring, 1956) had a 3 page article on the 8 Overbrook Books. (See page 73 in the kwa 2004 edition by Moravian Press.)

It described the paper used, the type face, the covers and gave a view that 'Adventure in Composition' (No.7) was the most pleasing as seen by chess bibliophiles. A very good article on areas I have not covered as I don't have the knowledge.

(Part letter John Rather-11th February, 1998:-

"The reprint of 'A chess silhouette' was apparently done by Altschul himself for distribution to 'the armed services.' I have had two copies in the last seven years. The reprint gives neither the date of the reprint nor the number of copies. Given the specialized and sophisticated nature of the book and the size of the original printing (150 copies), it seems quixotic to have produced additional copies to be passed out blind in a situation that was statistically unlikely to allow many (if any) proper matches. Except for the 'Chess' edition of the Mansfield book, I am unaware of other reprints.)

DEALERS, COLLECTORS, PLACES, CHESS BOOK COMMENTS

(From my 2012 incomplete catalogue.)

1. Bob McWilliam was, in the 1980's/90's the British Chess Problem Society bookdealer and lived with wife Lil on the Isle of White. They had a lovely Corgi dog Ben when we visited in 1990. Bob was very proud to have got 25 years with Lil who had been married to her first husband for 25 years. A rare double. Bob was a Convoy Signaller during WW2 and in 1988 sent me the Confidential Report of the sinking of my father's merchant ship the 'St. Margaret' in February, 1943. Attached to the Report was a brief paragraph from German archives post war. He was a very fine problemist and on that visit I bought some books.

2. Peter Parr was a mighty chess supporter and ran his chess centre and shop in Campbell Street Central Sydney for 24 years closing it in October, 2011. It was a very large basement shop that catered for tournaments as well as a wonderful range of computers and new and second hand books for sale. It was always exciting rummaging through the shelves which were chock full and spilling over. Many treasures were there for those wishing to dig. One visit I found on the floor where people walked a copy of the Australian Chess Magazine 1919/20 with a classic boot mark on the cover. I rescued it and brought it home where it still is. It was quite moving to see him in the final days sitting in his empty shop at his computer with the dross and remnants of 24 years of selling in large cardboard boxes. I bought a few and pulled down a very fine but common photo of Howard Staunton from a high wall. He gave it to me with the books I'd bought. It was a rare visit to Sydney and I was lucky. We shook hands for the last time. Peter passed away in August, 2013. The shop became a nightclub.

3. Michael MacDonald Ross was a prominent UK dealer in the 80's who wrote great replies to my letters sometimes with his catalogues. The letters always included some rare acquisition that he'd made roaming around the bookshops of London. I remember one was a biography of Henry Buckle. Very rare. It was his suggestion that I include prices and dealers in my catalogue as a guide.

4. Mike Sheehan was a London dealer who attended many of the great chess auctions of the 80's. Businesslike dealer and I bought many books from him. One trade he must have enjoyed was a purchase of most, if not all, of the Philidor editions.

5. Rosemary Shiel took over Cecil Purdy's chess shop and ran it in Pitt Street Sydney for many years. Cecil's many shops in Sydney would make a nice article and I was a very keen visitor to most of them. I gave her a copy of 'Among These Mates' after I had bought it cheaply in one of Dr. Niemeijer's auctions, and repaired it. She was very generous in her response. She closed the shop in 1984 which was a sad time. One purchase from her was the very rare years of the Australasian Chess Review 1929-32. Purdy's famous magazine. They had belonged to Les Spinks a Victorian CC player. And the photo of the 1924 Australian Chess Championship in six pieces was given me. I repaired it and it appeared in Cathy Chua's 1998 'Australian Chess at the Top' and was then preserved for all time. The late John van Manen's son Frank did one of the first computer 'repairs' of the splits in that photo and did a very good job. Rosemary died 20th September, 1998 (See Sydney Morning Herald for obit. 21st September, 1998)

6. Barrie Ellen was a London dealer from Southend-on-Sea. A very fine correspondent who sold me many fine books at fair prices. In 1990 when we were in London I resisted the temptation of calling at his shop after telling him I would. He was disappointed but we survived it. His death was a real loss to the family and chess book lovers.

7. Ross Burnet of Burnet's Books Uralla (near Armidale NSW) is one of the premier antiquarian dealers in Australia. He has a nice shop in the main street which now includes a café. He knows how to move with the times and built all his shelves some years ago and added a small lounge with wood heater where people could sit and browse in the cold winters of this mountain town. I have bought off him for two decades and was still buying in April, 2015.

8. Neville Ledger was the Tasmanian chess enthusiast and strong player who had edited all the volumes of Tasmanian Chess Records in recent years and earlier the Tasmanian Chess Magazine I have bought from Neville since the 1980's. A good letter writer and lover of Australian chess history. He and wife Nell live in Burnie Tasmania.

9. Tony Peterson is the only overseas dealer I still buy from. He put out hard copy catalogues until very recently. A friendly man who started off replying to my wife who is a volunteer in the Local History room at Narromine Library, and she brought them home to Luddite Bob. I have since 'graduated' to join the modern world a little. His shop was at Southend on Sea and close to Barrie Ellen's shop but that was closed before Tony started. He has a new rural address now familiar to all web chess book buyers. He sometimes orders items for me from various hard to order places.

10. Dale Brandreth was the leading US dealer and I bought most of my collection from him in the 70's and 80's. He is still active and I noticed replies from him at Caissa Limited Editions. A good letter writer, his catalogues always contained some amazing treasure that he'd found and one was the fine problem collection of the Delaware Judge Clarence Southerland. I was very pleased that the late UK dealer Alex Sharpe gave me his address in 1974. Dale holds the late David Lawson's Morphy Collection.

11. Fred Wilson was a prominent New York dealer in the 70's and 80's and I bought many treasures from him. He was a successful chess author with his fine 'A Picture History of Chess.' An athlete when younger, his efforts to give up smoking were always prominent in his letters and I hope he succeeded. The Grolier Exhibition of the late 70's was another of his good efforts. Great correspondent and the Carrera I bought belonged to Jim Gates who sold his collection to Fred. It had come from the late Lothar Schmid.

12. Dorothy Quin had a wonderful two storey terrace in the Blue Mountains town of Mount Victoria in the 80's and 90's and we usually called on the drive down to Sydney to see my Mum or on the way back. A lovely lady who remembered my wife's visit there in the 80's when she bought a rare chess book on spec and gave it to me when she returned from one of her family history seminars:- MacKenzie's 'Chess, Its Poetry and Prose'. I was delighted. Dorothy was an older woman, well versed in all the book areas and it was great to have a talk with her, ramble around, go up the tight steps, a slight veer to the right and the chess books (if any) were there at eye level. Once, many volumes of Christmas Series were there that had belonged to Fred Hawes, the chess problem editor of Purdy's magazine and others. He died in 1963 and 30+ years later some of his books resurfaced. His home was at Lithgow not far from Dorothy's shop. She trusted me when she had a few hundred dollars on those books and I didn't have enough. I sent her a cheque on my return home. Age gradually caught up with her and she sold to a leather jacketed motorbike riding Alan Stanford who we visited on occasion. He sold me Holbrook Jackson's 'The Book about Books'. The shop today has no books and a new owner. Sad but life.

13. Jas Duke was the meteor or comet that crossed my way in 1990 and gone by 1992. The best analytical chess historian of the 19th century I ever came across who was able to think outside the square on the 'Morphy' mystery and wrote long letters on many chess subjects. He never kept copies and so some years after his death I digitized his letters and sent a CD to various people in the chess world. Strong CC tournament player and fine poet. He won the Victorian State Premier's Poetry Prize one year. After his death, his friend PiO produced an epitaph book. I was coming back from Trangie one bleak afternoon and caught 'Late Night Live' with Phillip Adams and PiO discussing Jas' work. He had lived in a Melbourne city flat and Melbourne was his life. The flat was full of books some of which were donated by the family to the State Library of Victoria. It's 27 years since he died and I still think of this remarkable man. His letters to John van Manen were entirely different to mine. A big man, with a big voice and a big beard. He often read at poetry evenings and being a sewerage engineer his 'Shit Poem' was one of my favourites. I was a Health Inspector and often had work problems with sewerage and septic tanks.

14. Jean Mennerat lived at Amancie with his wife just at the foot of the French Alps. He was a retired Doctor and former De Gaulle partisan and had a truly massive chess book collection of over 25,000 items. I believe it is now in the Belfort Library. His best chess friend was Harald Ballo, a doctor and chess book enthusiast, writer and collector.

15. Alex Dunne's book 2005 book 'Great Chess Books of the Twentieth Century' was a really sad book. Alex was talked into playing in a distant chess tournament and on return to his home, his wife and grandson had been burnt to death in their house fire. An excellent book and how he completed it I don't know. Most of his chess library was lost also.

16. Bernie Johnson - 'The Unheralded Pawn of Chess' was editor of Chess in Australia (CIA) from 1966 until 1983. He printed and published the monthly magazine in his car garage at Belmore, Sydney and was helped by the chess identities of the day. Fred Flatow and Phil Viner being two helpers. I visited him and wife Delma from 1974 onwards when he gave me the problem editor's job in CIA. No money just love for the problem. He was a great worker for chess and made no money from it. He was NSW Chess Association President in 1977. The chess almost made them destitute and when Bernie told Del about their financial situation she went straight out and got a job in the Food Hall of David Jones one of the premier stores in Sydney. My son an 'old wares' collector showed me a 'DJ's' spoon yesterday (24th November, 2018) that he had bought at some sale. The years were 1838-1938 so a very old store. Bernie's funeral in the winter of 1985 was one of the coldest days and I took mum over to Rookwood Cemetery for the service. She told me to leave her there it was that cold! The chess fraternity rolled up for the service and Bernie was cremated. A big loss in the battling chess world. CIA was bought by Peter Parr. I heard recently revealed that Peter got a shock at how difficult the CIA printer was to use and that issue of July, 1983 showed it. He went out and bought a modern machine. It has to be said that Bernie produced a readable magazine but it required real skill to do it.

17. Tonnoirs Book Shop Flinders Mall Townsville Queensland. A lovely couple with a nice antiquarian bookshop that was a joy to find in far north Queensland. The sunny State had produced many chess Champions such as Wisker, Wallace, Jacobsen & Palmer in the old days. I called in 1996.

18. 'The Doeberl Cup' 2012 was Bill Egan's crowning glory with its comprehensive contents and slick production. He was a good worker for Canberra chess and I met him in 1977 when he defeated me in my one and only tourney appearance. I suspect Bill has a fair library.

19. Jim Jones had the largest private chess book collection in Australia. He sent me two catalogues with the last in 1985 indicating that there were 2500 items. On many of their trips to Paris to see grandchildren he added to his collection and when browsing in the Canberra book shops he cleverly sifted out non chess books with chess content. He was a fine browser and one sent me was 'Blanche' the life story of Sir Thomas Mitchell's daughter. He was the Surveyor General in the 1830/40 period in Australia, went on many expeditions and played chess on the 1836 'Australia Felix' trek with his surveyor Granville Stapylton and then burnt the chessmen after Stapylton beat him! Blanche was taught by her father. Jim's wife Carol had alzheimers and died after her husband in 2006. Jim, or James Jones, died in 2005. The last time we saw them was 2001 and I am sorry to say I do not know what happened to his library.

20. ACE (Australian Chess Enterprises) is the company name of Brian Jones the Sydney chess dealer. He was editor of 'Australasian Chess' the national magazine for a time. Strong player and being an accountant by profession was on top of finance. His son Lee is a strong player. Sadly the magazine closed in December, 2013 and there is a digital magazine now.

21. Greg Wilson is a collector and strong Newcastle player who has visited us in Narromine with partner Daphne. These visits coincide with the Dubbo Chess Open in which he plays. He is writing the history of chess in Newcastle and though retired now (ex Marine engineer) his

involvement in chess tourneys and his organizational skills plus article in the NSWCA email Newsletter keeps him busy.

22. Dr. Meindert Niemeijer. If ever there was a kinder chess dealer I never met that person. He really only wanted to swap his duplicates in the Royal Dutch Library for books that the library did not hold. But he sold me at very fair prices some of the treasures now in my library. I wasn't able to help that great collection with any Australian rarities but always responded to his catalogues with an order and letter. I was not successful on occasions as naturally he erred towards those buyers with whom he could swap.

23. P. Kniest 'Caissas Schlossbewohner' 1-5 1983-1991 This series of autobiographical books on problemists is the modern version of Gittins 'The Chess Bouquet' of the 1890's Volume 6 has still not appeared so the series is stymied.

24. Karpov's Chess Encyclopaedic Dictionary 1990 received rave reviews and is a must buy with the caution that if one is not up to Russian the book is difficult. Persistence pays off and the odd word in English helps. Perhaps the translation sites on the web have made it easier.

25. James Tyrrell born 1875, was a bookman extraordinaire and learned his trade with David Angus, George Robertson and Fred Wymark. He loved Sydney, books and collecting and his book 'Old Books, Old Friends, Old Sydney' published in 1952 is a classic and well worth acquiring for anyone with a love of Sydney and history. The Australian poet Kenneth Slessor was a chess friend and his sister Maude had married Maurice Goldstein, the strong UK chess player who came to Australia. Slessor wrote a poem In Tyrrell's Book Shop' which indicated there were more than books in JT's store:-

*...Here are old ivory chessmen, beaten brass,
Great platters from Japan, bespotted shells,
Cups cleft from onyx, bowls of frosted glass.
And temple bells....*

I missed his Sydney shops. Must have been close as I started collecting coins in the mid to late 1950's. A pity. The Tyrrell's store in North Sydney was a 'books only' store on my one and only visit in 1994. Nigel Nettheim had told me that there were chess books and there they were. The store was designed around a central very wide book table about waist height and high wall shelves along the walls. A two storey building. I found a chess prize book won by F.R. Smith there. Dear at \$25 but this man was Frank Ravenscroft my mentor. 'Old Books...' had been recommended to me by the late Bill Morris who was a strong Sydney chess player, author and poet.

26. Berkelouws' stores were in Oxford Street Paddington, 70 Norton Street Leichardt and the Book Barn in Berrima Southern Highlands and we visited 1 & 3. The Oxford Street store opened in the early 1990's and had 3 floors with the middle floor featuring a small café from which the delicious aroma of ground coffee meandered through the floors. The Berrima shop was massive and in a lovely rural setting. When one bought a book it was packaged in a brown paper bag with the history of the family business printed for all to read. I used to park the car at the Sydney

Cricket Ground and walk into and back from the city. If I had money over, a call to the Oxford Street store was on the way. Here is that history off the paperbag:-

The Berkelouw family's bookselling tradition began at the port of Rotterdam, Holland, back in 1812 where Solomon Berkelouw sold vellum-bound theology books to a loyal clientele of barque owners and skippers. Solomon's career ended one winter's afternoon when he slipped crossing a n icy plank and drowned in the freezing harbor waters, dragged down by his bag of books. Undeterred, Solomon's son Carel opened a stall in Nieuwe Market, then later a larger shop at Beurs Station. It was from this shop that young Hartog, Carel's son, began issuing the Berkelouw rare book catalogues, and in 1928 Berkelouws were granted membership of the International Antiquarian Booksellers' Association. The family suffered greatly during the Second World War with the loss of Hartog and most of his family. Hartog's youngest son Isidoor set out for Sydney in 1948, believing that Australia held more promise for his family. With a stack of valuable books from the Old World, Isidoor opened Berkelouw's first Australian store in King Street, Sydney and restarted the family business.

Inheriting their father's love of books, Henry and Leo, the fifth generation also entered the book trade. Initially working in Sydney together with their father. Henry later moved to Los Angeles while Leo established himself in Berrima, in the Southern Highlands of N.S.W. With the family tradition extending now to a sixth generation, Berkelouws' now sell new titles, as well as maintaining Australia's largest collection of second hand and antiquarian books.

27. Jacob Feenstra was a Dutchman who sold chess books in Holland. Bert Corneth spotted him at a market one day and that started their dealing. Canny Bert waited for the rain and with Jacob on an open stall got his books much cheaper! He came to New Zealand in the 1990's and dealt with overseas buyers from there running down his vast collection. After which (2000/1) he went into minor building.

28. Arthur Willmott is in his 90's and was a very active BCPS solver and composer some years ago. He was solving champion many times. He rang here one Sunday in the early 2000's when I was on the roof helping the TV antenna man so our talk was cut short. We had met them – Arthur & Isabel in 1994 in Adelaide. He was a fine carpenter in his working life and a shrewd chess book buyer getting 30+ volumes of the Christmas Series at \$3 each that had belonged to a problem stalwart of yesteryear Phil Pedler who was a good friend of Frank Ravenscroft. Arthur was editor of his own 'Australian Problem Magazine' from 1992-7 when the national magazine dropped the column. He carried chess problems for 5 years until it came back into the National Magazine. He often visited Sydney for strong tourneys and was a strong player in Adelaide in the 1940's. Took up chess problems ca 1948. Wrote many chess problem books with short runs.

29. The historic town of Gulgong (near Mudgee) has a main street which is a narrow strip with ancient shops on either side. Jules shop was a small corrugated iron affair on a corner just east of the main shops. He wore bib and brace brown overalls, was a short man with a beard, slicked back balding hair and glasses. He knew his books and whilst my interest was mainly chess and local history his range covered the fields. After his death others moved the shop, kept the name and ran it for a time.

30. David Lovejoy's 2004 book 'Moral Victories' a novel about Savielly Tartakower was a

success and he has now produced a book on Pelagius, the 4th century AD Catholic Heretic. This book is entitled 'Heresy'. He is a very strong senior chess player these days and a retired editor of the Byron Bay 'Echo' a north coast newspaper. His earlier book 'Between Dark and Dark' is an excellent autobiography. David's project of a novel on Philidor is on hold.

31. Ashwood's Second Hand Books and Records was a fascinating store in Pitt Street near the Haymarket in Sydney. It may still be there. I went there from the late 1950's looking for jazz records and chess books. The salespeople were always astute and helpful.

32. To win 3rd prize in the Frank Ravenscroft memorial Tourney was satisfying as Frank was my problem mentor. John van der Klauw worthily won the first prize. This tourney featured retrograde analysis problems and saw Dennis Hale and others make their debut. It ran in the Chess Column in the Sunday Mirror edited by John Kellner from '1968-71' Kellner was a great enthusiast as a player and editor. He was terrific to play in a simul and often helped one with better moves when playing him. He loved chess for what it was-a game between two people in a firm but friendly manner. He and his wife had a sad end in December, 1987 and as he was my first mentor I liked him a lot. I met Narelle and John on occasion when I was in Sydney. In 1968 he delivered Frank Ravenscroft's chess books to my parents' home in Kogarah which was a fine gesture after being given them only to be told at the reading of the will they were to come to me. At that sad end there was a fire and much of the Kellner Chess Library was damaged. It was later bought by Bob Theakstone and Cathy Chua. Nigel Nettheim rang me that a book by 'JVK' (John Vincent Kellner) was for sale at Peter Parr's shop and it is now here with minor burn marks on the spine. The book was Vol.2 of the Chess Player's Chronicle.

33. Dowling Street Antiques was a fabulous store of three levels containing the shops of many of Sydney's antique dealers. Not far from the Sydney Cricket Ground we often went there just to browse or buy a book and fill in an hour or so. I bought a most unusual pocket chess set there which was a "one-off" for \$150. Beautifully made. The store closed in June, 2014.

34. I never could resist buying a Rimington Wilson book if fairly priced. The great man and his son were long dead when the collection went under the hammer at Sotheby's in 1928 for a very cheap prices. Dr. Niemeijer bought some as did the then deceased J.G. White. The smart man was Bernard Quaritch who snapped up the majority at bargain basement prices. He made up a new catalogue in 1929 and with the depression just around the corner sold them at twice the price he'd paid. A tragedy for British Chess which only in recent years has amassed a national collection worthy of Britain via the BCF. Harry Golombek willed his library there in the 1990's and it is massive today.

35. The 'Jumble Sale' at the Melbourne Chess Club was not on my radar when Ian Rogers rang and told me of it and asked for some guide prices for various rare books. One I recall was the 1851 Tourney book by Staunton. I said \$50 and the sale was a success. I bid \$25 for 'How Euwe won' and 'The Return of Alekhine' and got the latter. The 'Euwe' went for \$35 I think. Bert Corneth spotted 'How Euwe Won' on a US website and it came to me. Thank you Bert!

36. Dr. Burfitt was a strong player pre 1980 and after his death some of his books were passed to Bernie Johnson, editor of CIA and he gave them to me. Most have brown paper covers that

surely do protect the book.

37. We were in Goulburn a few years back and this fascinating old shop just behind the main street took my eye. The owner was a bearded thin man, reddish hair and a bookworm without doubt. I asked him what was his greatest book coup and he told me of a Bed & Breakfast place at Berrima that had recently opened and the woman rang for 36 metres of books! It didn't matter what they contained as long as there were no tatty ones and they looked OK. The dealer had a small very old covered van and he stacked them in and off they pattered to Berrima. Thankfully not too far away. He shelved the books for her and was paid on the spot. It wasn't content it was 'the look' I wonder today if they are still there now?

38. Bob Gould's shop on the city end of Newtown's main street-King Street also the start of the Princes Highway to Melbourne was a massive old brick storehouse where books were pelted in willy-nilly. No order just plenty of mess. A person could die there (in ecstasy) and not be found for weeks in its two story interior. Intelligent man who asked me directly on being introduced by my friend Kevin Barry (ca 2000) what I was doing about spray drift around Narromine. I was an Environmental Health Inspector and very involved in that area in the 90's. Chemicals were changing to the short shelf life type and with genetically modified cotton, a lot less chemical was being applied. Bob wasn't convinced. We called again in 2011 and Bob had died receiving good obits in the Sydney papers and the shop was under his daughter's guidance. She was fixing it up with a clever bookish partner & they were transforming this 500,000 book store. It was a pleasure to wander around for an hour or so and even note the small rear window left open to allow Oscar the stray cat to enter and do some mousing. There was a sign encouraging people not to close the window. We called again in October, 2018. It was the day of the Newtown 'Food Fair'. What a crowd but there were none at Goulds. The old shop was closed and a new address in King Street was given. We got back there and it was a small corner shop still being prepared for the public and closed! Damn. It was on the eastern side of King Street well towards the Erskineville end. Next time.

39. Brian Tomson had a wonderful chess library in his terrace home in Laman Street, Newcastle. He was a lecturer in Mediaeval English at the University. Very strong player and the Irish Chess Association had a nice article on him recently. His problem career took off when he came to Australia in 1968 and out of the blue came his book. Nicely bound but only 7 copies! I was privileged to get one. He took over my column in CIA but death claimed him in 1986. It was very interesting to see the new approach he took even conducting a Tarot Card problem competition. His collection went to the Newcastle University and we called there in the 1990's to have a look. He even had 'A Sketchbook of American chess problematists' the dear Overbrook Press double volume! Wow! The collection was a Special and I had to run a gauntlet of proving that I had been a friend but that overcome I had a good look at the rarities. His collection is secure and hopefully well used.

40. Stan Vaughan the author of 'Paul Morphy Confederate Spy' 2010 was a serial plagiarist. He nominated this book for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize. He copied vast slabs of Frances Parkinson Keyes book 'The Chess Players' 1960 into his work with no acknowledgement and likewise sifted in much of James Michener's 'Iberia'. In a review I read, it seemed he also extracted work from a Spanish Tourist book. No acknowledgement, it was all so easy. I would love to know

what the Pulitzer Prize people told him! I wrote to The Beauregard/Keyes home in New Orleans about it but no reply. Edward Winter has named him.

41. Dennis & Lyn Andrews ran an excellent bookshop and book binding business in the Blue Mountains at Blackheath. She was a wag and one day when I was looking at a rare and valuable chess book there I turned to her and said “beautiful copy but I am master of the books and am not tempted”. She smiled and replied “Then why are you looking through it?” Touche. On a later visit that \$250 book was gone. It was Gossip’s Chess Manual. Dennis gave me some old covers to rebind some of my bad volumes. Sadly closed today.

OVER THE YEARS 2000-2019

LOCAL LETTERS - Pages 32-118

Part of 2000/2001 was given in ‘Bert’ but in a hurry. Let us retrace:-

16th May, 2000 - Clive Lane sent me his Catalogue and he was calling his business Fischer Books. We met in June at the family home in Glebe. Clive was a school teacher and chess enthusiast. We had a coffee nearby and then a long look at his chess collection and books for sale. He kindly gave me “The Chess Career of Rudolph Spielmann” by Jack Spence 1961; a book I had not seen before but liked. I bought a copy of ‘Among These Mates’ 1939 by Chielamangus (Cecil Purdy) for \$40 and was pleased to have a spare. We compared copies of Chess, Its Poetry and Prose’ 1887 as his was a glorious rich black binding-very special and he had bought it from Allan Searle. Mine were the standard green and blue cloth covers and we discussed the fabulous bookplate in his copy. The State Library of Victoria had clarified the ‘F. J.Y.’ as being F.J. Young the Tasmanian chess titan. The curator my friend Ken Fraser had done some research on the griffin in the crest as it was mentioned in Fox-Davies ‘Book of Crests’ and likely to be Young’s.

Francis Joseph Young (Hobart) (1847-1922) was considered one of Australia’s best players. And so we knew of two of FJY’s bookplates now. One in Clive’s ‘Poetry & Prose’ and one in my copy of ‘The Chess Problem’ by Andrews, Frankenstein, Laws & Planck. My copy is undated but it appeared in 1887 and that’s a coincidence with both books appearing the same year. My copy had come from Frank Ravenscroft who may have got it in the J.G. Witton sale in 1910. Joseph George Witton (1852-1910) had been born in Hobart and there is a link with Young. They must have known each other and both liked chess problems.

Clive also had an Overbrook Press book for sale. “To Alain White’ 1945. A valuable book. He had collected from about 1990 but changed to dealing and strangely then saw more books. People had them to sell. He had bought from Mike Sheehan in the UK and visited him in 1995. Clive had 300 books and wisely decided to start dealing. Many people including family, view chess book collecting as an eccentricity. But the peace of mind, the enjoyment and the sanity offered by a collection of anything is tolerated by family for its stability provided it has not reached obsession stage! A chess library can get too big and Clive knew that. Perhaps my gift of ‘Bert’ convinced him?

Neville Ledger was still dealing and made an offer for the late John van Manen’s remnants but withdrew it. It is interesting to look at chess books from both dealing and collecting viewpoints.

He mentioned a bid he'd made back in 1996 that the owner thought 'unrealistic.' He wanted \$2000+ Neville had bid \$400 and weeks later his offer was accepted! Neville was gearing up to write his series 'Tasmanian Chess - The Records'.

Regarding JvM's collection he had sold most of the magazines in 1994 to overseas clients such as Bert Corneth. We went over mid 1994 and bought \$1058 worth which we still own. (See Bert p.126). John had also sold his first collection to the State Library of NSW where it was combined with the F.L.Vaughan collection over the period 1962 to 1973 well before I knew him. (See Catalogue No. NQ794.1016/1). He was a collector of Australian chess facts not books. Clive bought some of the JvM remnants. Paul Dunn the new ACF Archivist had a pleasant afternoon in the SLNSW with the Vaughan/JvM collection looking at the games from the 1960 Australian Chess Championship Bulletins for his new site Ozbase that was gathering Australian games.

I gave Clive the addresses of Fred Wilson (New York), John Rather (Maryland) and Jacob Feenstra (NZ). On 30th July Clive sent me a hard copy of Chess Café.com which included 13 of the 27 page debate on the Morphy/Edge dispute. I was gobsmacked as a non computer person would be. Here indeed was a forum that must grow. There was no postage costs, replies were instantaneous if one wanted, and it was manually fast with no writing to be deciphered or envelope licked etc. This dispute was a resurrection of the debate in 'Chess Notes' Edward Winter's magazine of the 1980's. I was a minor player in those long ago years.

Retirement was good and I read 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.' I refer chess fans to pages 136, 356 and 622. The lady could write and clearly played chess. Clive sent me a 'Desiderata' list from 'Kimmoval@shakki.net' 20 chess items one of which was the first 53 years of DSZ! I hope he had a deep pocket.

2001

One issue 'doing the rounds' early that year was the era effect when comparing players of different eras. The jury is still out but one writer declared Donald Bradman, the Australian cricketer the BEST IN THE WORLD IN ALL SPORTS. Quite a claim. I remember the controversy about who was the best tenor. Pavarotti, Domingo or Carreras I thought could fight it out but most music buffs were convinced Enrico Caruso was the best. Considering there were not many recordings done in the early 20th century I wondered how and why that conclusion was made. The late John van Manen and I disagreed; he said 'No' I said 'Yes'. I won't go any further into this. www.chessmetrics.com covers the subject.

There were some amazing Europeans coming to Australia in the late 19th century. Take Mr. Plonzkowski, a Polish fellow who was ex champion of Tasmania and had a gold medal to prove it. He often played with Zukertort and others at Simpson's Divan in The Strand and had served in the Franco Prussian war and was now a resident of Glebe. I sent this to Neville Ledger for his 'Tasmanian Chess The Records' project.

In early February, 2001 I was at the SLNSW with a book by Joseph Strutt 1850 called 'Sports and Pastimes of the People of England'. I liked page xxi where JS states "Chess was also a favourite game with the Saxons..." That was a surprise as I thought the Normans brought it at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Chess was very strong with Norman women who frequently

played with their men. There are some excellent references and JS put the introduction of chess in England 100 years before the Normans (p.309). The early engraving on p.310 was from Harleian Ms No. 4431 and showed Ulysses playing chess with another Greek hero on an 8 x 8 chequered board. A bit of a long bow but a very nice engraving I had not seen. A good book and rare I would think. I took some photocopies.

Neville Ledger wrote an amusing sentence in his letter:- *“Well do I remember Docteur Jean Mennerat leaving a long message on my answering machine when he received my listing of antiquarian books (every single copy now sold). He has a very powerful voice and not too easily understood and we must have replayed the tape a dozen times or more before being certain of requirements.”* The good doctor is long gone now and I have a nice photo of him and his wife.

‘Selected Stocchi’ Vol.1 was sent by Geoff Foster in April on the great Italian problemist. Vol. 2 appeared in 2003. These blue limp cover volumes by Lu Citeroni and Geoff are excellent in biography, photos and problems. Definitely collector’s items.

Clive wrote in mid April enclosing a preview of ‘Quarterly for Chess History’ by Vlastimil Fiala. A very good review in the 28th March, 2001 London Chess Centre website (www.chesscenter.com) This series is now at No.20 in 2019.

With Ken Fraser of the SLV, two preliminary articles on F.K. Esling and G.H.D. Gossip were sent to Paul Dunn. The fascinating find was an ‘alleged game’ between FKE and Pillsbury which FKE won. Where and when has proved elusive. Clearly Esling was overseas with Engineering matters to do with his rebuild of Flinders Street Railway Station in Melbourne. Pillsbury’s death in 1906 limits the research time but it may have been an unreported simul game. It is a fact that in the 1966 Centenary Melbourne Chess Club booklet (Esling died 1955) that in 1950 Esling was in the MCC Rooms and his defeat of Anderssen was lauded. Then someone said he’d also defeated Pillsbury and with the emotion of the scene a country member came to Esling and held out his hand to shake Esling’s. The member said “Is this the hand that defeated Pillsbury?” Perhaps a clever chess buff can run this to ground.

It was nice to get a letter from Geoff Foster (21/4) thanking me for my congrats on the Stocchi book and he added a most interesting anecdote on Jim Jones as a collector:-

“I met Jim and his wife some years ago when you asked me to help with the Goldstein book. The conversation turned to kriegspiel and I told him I had a book on the subject. I lent him the book and he photocopied the whole thing. I mentioned that I would never part with the book, and he and his wife nodded in agreement, as though the thought of parting with a chess book was beyond comprehension!”

We now know thanks to Nigel Nettheim who found it very recently in 2018 that Jim passed away in 2005 and Carol in 2006. We will have to find out what happened to the chess book collection which was the largest in Australia. Readers may think how come it took 10+ years to find out they were gone. But problemists and historians are careful of their own privacy and usually only get in contact with a query or quest. It is not rudeness but just the way it is. It’s the same going down town and one sees a person one hasn’t seen for years. A comment is made and we separate perhaps never to see one another again. Just recently George Meldrum and his

family and friends were here for dinner. They have retired and were holidaying in western NSW I don't think I have seen George for well over 30+ years. He is a strong player and problemist especially in solving. It was great to see them but that may well be it! Back on Jim Jones for some reason we didn't connect that his Christian name was James. Yes it looks stupid but there it is. A boy who spent his youth with my son and was known as Peter revealed his Christian name was Geoffrey and he didn't like it so used his second name Peter. Here's another one:- a fellow I worked with for 25+ years had a wife who I thought was Beryl. We saw them regularly at Functions, etc and when he retired about 20+ years ago I said hello to Beryl and she replied "Bob my name is Noelene. I didn't correct you because I thought it may have embarrassed you!" Needless to say I was embarrassed doubly!

I dredged out some of Karl Otto Becker's problems and endings from the Chess Amateur and with a biography sent it to Geoff Foster. Becker was a Western Australian identity of German birth and a strong player. He was a fine seaman and fisherman but got interned during WW1 in Broome He died aged 91 (1866-1957) and the BCPS had a nice article and photo in 'The Problemist' later

On our way to Canberra we stopped at Cowra and saw the 'Cowra Breakout' chessmen made by Italian POW's. They even had a symphony orchestra. The 3 responsible built a lathe and were Sergeant Nicolletti (artist) and 2 soldiers Magna Vacca and Lera. Fairly valuable today if one had a set (50mm kings) We met Paul Dunn, Geoff Foster and Jim and Coral Jones mostly at the

National Library or Botanic Gardens.

John Beasley made a neat response on 15th October, 2000 to me re emails:-

"It has roughly doubled my mail but I can deal with each item in a third of the time."

Good answer however I wonder has it led to far shorter replies than in the good old days? Of course it has.

Neville Ledger published his 'Chess Tasmanian Records' Vol.1 (2 books). It was an excellent publication with much history. 342 pages A4 in 2 books. It was dedicated to his wife Nell and had a lovely poem from Arthur Saul's 1672 work "The Famous Game of Chess Play." It was printed by the Xerox Shop, 8 Cattley Street, Burnie Tasmania, 7320, and showed what every enthusiast can do! Here is AS's poem:-

Wherefore peruse this little toy,
As time shall thee permit,
And then has little else to do
Then closely sit at it.

On Prime TV Thursday, 28th June, 2001 was a Morse Episode 'Second Time Around.' Morse had played chess with a woman and Lewis said to him "Why didn't you let her win at chess?" Morse replied "That's the worst kind of deception Lewis." I'll have to think about that as I often let school children win to encourage them. I never used to with my own family. Perhaps that is why they never took to the game?

We visited Frederick Karl Esling's Maribyrnong River Railway Bridge with Ken Fraser whilst in Melbourne. A pleasant walk from Ken's home near the Flemington Race Track where the

Melbourne Cup is held every November through the Newmarket stables and finally the Bridge. It was great to take photos, sit and think about FKE building this structure and seeing it still being used nearly 100 years later. We walked back and had a ploughman's lunch at his hotel.

It's amazing what one finds out in a phone call. Ian Shahanahan rang with the good news that his PhD was behind him and what could I tell him about Andrew Ballam. I didn't know AB and contacted Ken Fraser who found out that AB had been running his Melbourne FM Radio program 'Chess Chat' for some years of a Sunday night from 8pm to 10pm. He featured games, endings and problems.

A local 'chess' farmer Max Howe of Dunniel Trangie passed away in September aged 68. He often rang from the 1970's to get townies to go out, and I used to take High School Students and other young players out the 30km to his property. He had a merino stud. We had to go through gates and got lost once, thankfully shown the way by an elderly lady who lived out that way. The land is very different at night. He had a school photographer friend Carl Maresch who was a member of the Chatswood Chess Club and he came sometimes to play.

Later that year Nigel Nettheim, Ian Rogers and the ACF President Graeme Gardiner wanted to develop a Chess Problem Medal and this came to pass and was called the Whyatt Medal after Bill Whyatt (1914-1976) with Nigel funding it.

Neville had done well with his 'Chess Tasmanian Records' and had only 12 left in November, 2001. Jacob Feenstra retired from book selling in New Zealand after 14 years. His last catalogue had been earlier this year and I bought the Maroczy 'Morphy's Games' from him for \$150NZ. Bert would not be able to deal with Jacob from now on as his own children got close to University. Bert's daughter became a doctor.

The year ended with my mother's death on 10th December and earlier of course the world had 9/11. Pleased I saw 'The Lord of The Rings' (1st movie) on 31st December to finish. Very good.

2002:-

Paul Dunn and Shaun Press had taken over the National Chess Magazine now called Australian Chess Forum (Bernie Johnson's CIA) and let us all know of the poor financial return from the magazine. I was certain Bernie and Cecil Purdy not to mention J.B. Prowse of 'The Austral' (1922-29) would nod their heads in agreement. How to overcome deficits in the money starved chess world? An electronic magazine pointed the way:- 'Inside Chess' had started and I was silly enough to say it wouldn't catch on as people liked the feel of hard copy!

I was interested in the comments by Alan Truscott the Bridge Editor of the New York Times on the three deadly sins of Bridge:-

1. It provokes bad manners and bad temper.
2. There is a luck factor which in the short term may mean the best players don't win.
3. It is possible to cheat.

Now 17 years later and No.3 has certainly been proved and chess was not immune. The sad cheating events in Bridge were very damaging.

Neville Ledger sent a 30 page catalogue on 21 January chock full of good things and it must have excited collectors. It did me and I bid for 27 items getting them all plus a lot of magazine gaps. I noted that Tony Wright was to publish Vol.3 & 4 of his 'Australian Chess Series' but I missed those as the years went by. Take the case of 'The Australian Problemist' a short lived journal from 1962-4. Ian Shanahan asked me if I had a spare set and eventually he got a set of originals/photocopies. Now the ozproblems website has it safely alive for ever.

Emails were gradually taking over. People asked me why I wasn't on but we were indirectly through my wife who had access as a volunteer in the Local History Room of the Library. And then a letter appeared in the Sunday Telegraph entitled "Staff hit by email fatigue" 1/3rd of the emails were of little interest (Spam) and 1 in 6 were of a personal nature.

Paul Dunn and I were updating the Bibliography of Australian Chess as started by JvM all those years ago, The ACF thought it a useful item for their website. It got to Paul on CD from me which he polished and indexed and modernized. Of course the 2011 Publication in hard copy by the KW Association was great for the lovers of 'things to touch'.

I received a copy of 'Unique Chess Problems' by Dr. Molham Hassan of Canberra via Paul and was amazed to see this lovely book on problems published here. It was a nice item, 86 pages all in colour on glossy paper. Later he was in contact with composers here. He started under the tutelage of C.H. O'D Alexander, one of the Enigma Codebreakers at Bletchley Park during WW2, who encouraged Molham to compose and solve. There are many doctors mentioned in this book as opponents at chess and problem fans. There are 50 problems in the book all with historical titles such as 'The Great Pyramid of Giza' or 'The Southern Cross or Epsilon Crucis'.

The Chess Café.com article of 12 Dec. 2000 by Chris Depasquale on the influence of Australians in outcomes on world title matches was a surprise. Was it true that Australians helped Steinitz, Capablanca, Alekhine, Euwe, Korchnoi even up to Kasparov/Anand in 1995?

In May I visited Peter Parr's shop at 72 Campbell Street buying about \$500 worth. The dearest items were the first 4 volumes of Fiala's 'Quarterly for Chess History.' We also saw Inge van Manen. JvM's widow at Port Macquarie Hostel where I picked up the final remnants of my friends chess library. She had just turned 90 and was very well and still working on tapestries. Her best was Rembrandt's 'Night Watch.' We stopped at the local cemetery and took photos of John's grave and plaque. Paul sent a copy of the International Chess Forum Vol.1-6 (This was a forerunner to 'Australian Chess Forum' the National Chess Magazine that started with Vol.7)

2003.

The Whyatt Medal was awarded to Peter Wong and Denis Saunders in a tie. Two of the Judges (4) giving votes to Peter and Dennis. It was a nice event on 10 January at the Penrith Panthers Leagues Club with people meeting chess friends and problemists after many years. I won the Purdy Medal for journalism and was pleased to follow my friends Bernie Johnson and John van Manen. I gave Molham Hassan's new problem book a plug 'Unique Chess Problems' and suggested to the crowd that problems helped play. I doubt they agreed with that. The car park at Panthers was larger than the Narromine Shopping Centre! John Paul Wallace won the Chess Ch'ship. Brian Jones was the new editor of 'Australian Chess' as it was now called and had a bookstall at Panthers from which I bought some chess postcards.

Arthur Willmott produced his new book '200 Chess Problems' by AW in November last. This

was his 5th book after the 1991 items of ‘The Melbourne Leader Chess Problem Tourney 1884,’ ‘A Selection of Chess Problems by South Australians’ published in the SA Chronicle 1878-1886 The Southern Argus Chess Problem Tourney 1883 and the South Australian Chronicle Chess Problem Tourney of 1882. It was good to get some biographical detail from Arthur that he enlisted in the RAAF in 1940 but due to colour blindness served overseas with an Airfield Construction Squadron and then in Sydney in the last 6 months of the war at an RAAF Depot at Waterloo. He taught himself to play chess from Purdy & Kosh’s ‘Chess Made Easy’ in 1945, watched the Australian Chess Ch’ships at Anthony Horderns that year and saw Steiner and Kosh playing and got home to Adelaide in mid 1946. He still had his 1948 MCO! His collection of chess books and magazines was over 800 and he sent me a gift of Kipping’s ‘The Chess Problem Science’ dedicated by Kipping to Fred Hawes and later Phil O. Pedler. Great provenance.

Dennis and Natalie Hale offered their Blackheath holiday home to us for a week in autumn and we took them up on that. Later they came up and we had some meals together during our stays.

A wonderful auction No.8 17/19 May, 2002 run by Alex Baburin and James Hayes of Ireland came to me from Clive. Some very good prices and the dearest magazine was the full run of The Chess Amateur (Oct. 1906-June 1930) for E1750. The dearest book was the Forbes History of Chess 1860 for E700.

I wrote to Neville in June to order ‘Chess Texts printed before 1850’ by Whyld and Ravilious and bought ‘Barnes about Chess Problems’ from the BCPS. One of Barry’s best.

Frank Rutland Manners (1912-2003) died 20th February, aged 90. He and I became acquainted when Penny, my daughter told me Frank was a Supervisor at Charles Sturt Uni Exams and supervised some of Penny’s where she talked with him about my love of chess. A correspondence started and eventually after his death I wrote an obituary with his wife Merle’s help and sent it to CCLA. We played chess at his lovely villa in Bathurst on one occasion and he was too good. He was a life member of the CCLA and his best result was an equal 4th in a semifinal of the World Correspondence Chess Ch’ship. Good fellow Frank.

With the death of Ken Whyld I wrote to Mrs Anne Purdy about Cecil and their trip to the Hebrides and she replied 15th July, 2003:-...*I remember very well my visit to Uig Bay with Cecil although it is so long ago. As you probably have guessed, Cecil got quite obsessive about any mysterious and arcane thing of this kind, and we spent quite a lot of time mucking about in the North of Lewis chasing people up and so on. His idea was that the pieces were made in Iceland but were on a ship travelling from Norway which got caught in a storm and wrecked off Uig Bay and the pieces found and buried for some reason never recovered. Unlike you, we didn’t find any reticence among the locals, they were only too willing to put forward their own theories, generally (fortunately!) much the same as his.*

An old lady there, whom he knew by correspondence entertained us for afternoon tea, and talked about the mystery at great length, though she didn’t really have any new ideas. Also we met an ancient fellow (a shepherd or such) who knew all about the Red Gillie and gave Cecil, to his great delight, a chunk of bone supposed to have been from the skeleton of R.G. as it hung on the gallows. I didn’t care for it, and also I suspected it might be a piece from a dead cow or sheep, but Cecil was deeply impressed, so we took it home and I kept it for years in a special box. After his death (1979 BM) I threw it out because it seemed a macabre sort of thing to be cherishing. I

don't think he would have accepted any other theory, but the whole matter is so speculative that you really are entitled to choose your own version and defend it to the death. The pieces have their own weird charm, wherever they came from, and the date at least seems to be genuinely accepted...."

Cecil Purdy was an expert on the Lewis Chessmen and wrote a wonderful article in Chess World February, 1948 p.24-32 that fired the imagination. Anne wrote her memories of their long ago trip there which showed the chessmen were continually in their minds as a chess conundrum.

We bought a full replica set from the British Museum and when my wife examined them she made her own mind up on the chessmen:- *"The King was mad on war which upset the Queen who was always worried no matter which Queen you examined because of her husband's obsession. The Rooks or Berserkers and the Knights were the King's men and mad for war with the Bishops holding the middle ground. The poor pawns were caught between them all."* Not bad Norma!

Ken Whyld's view that the Lewis men were 'planted' there on Lewis (See BCM May, 2003 p.236/7) was another version as Anne put it. One constructive start would be radio carbon dating the chessmen but I asked for that 20 years ago in Bert.

Clive wrote giving me details of a recent Bloomsbury auction 24th July which was a beauty and included a 1561 Alcala Lopez owned by the late Dr. Niemeijer. The SLV paid \$10,000 for theirs and were now in front on the latest prices. Fancy a Carrera being owned by Teddy Roosevelt leaving the USA! I can't believe that but there you go. Some great prices for Actius, Ringheiri, Hyde, Salvio and Lolli.

Neville had a collection of Russian chess books that belonged to an ex champion of Tasmania. I bought a few even though I had decided not to buy any more foreign language chess books that I couldn't read. It was the old Clayton's 'ban'. They were the 700 Kubbell collection, Best Russian Compositions, Dictionary of Chess Problems, and Chess Problems of the 20th century.

Bert was to blame for this as he'd placed a 'ban' on himself buying more chess books! I knew about that but along came 'Das Indische Problem' by K&K and it was a 'Clayton's' ban. That is a ban you have when you are not having a ban, He found the internet irresistible.

The lovely Maria Luczak who tried terribly hard to get Norma and myself to go to Kornik for the first Von der Lasa Gathering in Sept. 02 got the book out. And on 12th September, I got a letter from Tony Peterson of 11 Westbury Road that was the start of a relationship still going today. He had been dealing in rare chess books for 10 years which showed I was out of touch. I bought 'Chess Texts before 1850' and 'Chess Columns A List' from Neville.

Paul Dunn and I discussed the Eustace Eighch 'Earlier Chess Problems' 1923 NZ and the lovely dedication to his wife Emma. He was a civil engineer and lover of chess but most of all a wife lover. A hard book to buy.

The book 'Poems of Life and Death' by Pi Oh 2003 was about Jas. H. Duke who died in 1992. It was really something. He was a good chess friend, a strong CC Master and an excellent chess historian. He was gone too early at age 52.

It was impressive to see 100 limericks come in to Ian Shanahan's competition in 'Australian Chess'.

We visited Berkelouws Berrima Book Barn. The companion to the Oxford Street Sydney shop near Victoria Barracks but the Barn was in a rural setting in the Southern Highlands not smack in the middle of Sydney. Very unusual building made of timber with two levels and stairs all in polished timber. A massive barn. I bought 'The Mechanical Turk' by Tom Standage 2001 and then had to ring a hand bell to attract an employee in that huge place. At the Argyll Book Emporium in Sloanes Street Goulburn 'Chess' by Richard Jerome Roberts 1962 was bought. He was a self taught player and New York Times reporter. He defined Staunton as "*An Englishman who was unofficial world champion from about 1843 to 1851. But from what is known of his readiness to meet challengers, he may have retained his 'title' more by footwork than by talent.*"

Brian Jones had completed his first year as Editor of 'Australian Chess' at a high level. One of Ian's limerick entries in the AC was:-

*I'd play chess during sex if I could.
But it might be misunderstood.
So let me say this,
That both games are bliss,
So long as the mating is good. (Julian Clark)*

The last chess book for 2003 was a gift from Ian Rogers 'The chess of Frank Arthur Cowl' by Gerard Welling.

Paul sent me a catalogue of the Koshnitsky Collection of Chess Books in the State Library of South Australia. He was copying Purdy's column in the Daily Telegraph for 1932 and ½ 1933.

And as the year ended my daughter bought a 1925 California bungalow over the Railway Line in our dear little town. No one knew she was going to the auction but it had a 200mm lean on one corner and I could see clearly what the future held for me!

2004

Clive Lane and his friend Neil a first edition collector came here on 15th January. Neil had just retired from a managerial job and they were driving up from Sydney checking out bookshops on the way. They had a meal with us, looked at the books and headed back to the smoke. All in 1 day! They arrived here 5 p.m. and were gone at 7.30 - 1000kms! Not much to be found in the book shops they visited. They were lucky with the weather-a cool day! They got home about 1.30 am.

Clive later sent 'Squares' a Bob Long magazine on the Tykodi/Purdy books It had some good comment by the late John Hammond of 'Stocks & Holdings' fame. A large real estate company in Australia. JH was a millionaire and chess connoisseur and great Cecil Purdy admirer. JH had suggested there was no decent chess research library in Australia which seemed awry as the SLV had M.V. Anderson Chess Collection in Melbourne which was the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. He had stated this in 1985 and it was a senior moment!

Neville Ledger picked up two Purdy twin Sets for Correspondence chess for \$5 at a market. He was very pleased.

Two interesting books were 'A History of Chess in South Africa' by Leonard Reitstein 2003 that contained a letter from W.S. Viner about a proposed Southern Hemisphere Ch'ship but it failed to go ahead.(ca 1925) and Bert sent me 'David Przepiorka, Master of Strategy' by Henri Weenink. A nice gift about a very fine player and problemist who was taken by the Gestapo in 1940 and gassed.

I had bought Alessandro Sanvito's Italian Chess Bibliography which was a labour of love for the top Italian Chess historian. It came with Isaac Linder's 'Art of Chess Pieces' another fine book. I also bought 'Russian Silhouettes' by Genna Sosenko 2001 from Neville and it was a good read followed by 'The Reliable Past' 2003.

The solving ch'ship in Australian Chess showed a bad trend as no-one wished to solve even for a \$100 prize! Where were the young solvers? Ian Shanahan told me it was a world trend. Ian had a small chess set collection of 12 sets.

We had another trip to Blackheath and met Dennis & Natalie Hale. He was the Ryde/Eastwood Returned Services League Club chess champion. We had another family walk but this time scarred by bushfires.

My once Health Inspection trainee here had moved to Manly Council. Mark Hodges was an excellent researcher and found material on Lawrence Spencer Crakanthorp, Anne Purdy's grandfather. LSC as he was known was a strong chess player and lived at Manly where he was a health inspector. I sent most of it to Anne.

Tom Accola, Secretary of the NSW Chess Association wrote about the start of that Association and the Treasurer Norman Greenwood wrote about plaques updating the State Champions. Thanks to Cecil Purdy in ACR & CW these problems were solved and plaques updated. The NSWCA started in 1900/1.

The big event in late May was the auction of the Norman de Pomeroy Railway memorabilia collection over 2 days at Charles Leskie Auctions Melbourne. It was a big deal for me because my railway friend Ian Barkla had told me the F.K. Esling material was part of it. The SLV was not interested and that was a surprise as Esling was the first Victorian Champion. They discussed it with Ken Fraser but decided to opt out. I bid for the material although I didn't want the ceremonial trowel, watch and other items. What I wanted was a copy of his 1947 'Memories' which seemed to be his autobiography. Now all historians lament a prominent person dying without a biography and here was one on tap. I think Cecil Purdy talked the octogenarian Esling into writing it and so there was this one copy. I got one bid in at \$1240 I think but the material was sold for \$4000+ to the National Museum of Australia in Canberra. There was a happy ending which I will leave for the present.

Cathy Chua wrote 24/6 about the MVA:- *"Well I hadn't been to see the collection since it reopened in the main part of the library, renovations finally completed not so long ago. They have downgraded it most disappointingly.*

Everything pre 1960 has to be requisitioned, but although there is some post 1960 material available, a lot of it isn't even on site! Takes days to order/view. They don't even have the guest book available/on display any more. What a shame!"

I replied that the ‘corporates’ were in control and chess had lost its power. Space was a premium and exhibitions were the go at which chess falls down the list. It is important to attract people and chess players were a minority. I didn’t want to fall out with them as Ken Fraser was still a volunteer. (He rang 18/7 - 11.5 years volunteering!) It was hard not to argue with them when promises were not kept and foresight not used. I accept some blame for the Goldstein book as we did take a lot of time getting it ready but along came the Esling material and what a great feature some of Esling’s items would have made in the MVA as he was the first chess champion.

Cathy replied about the Alex Goldstein Ms and offered two solutions. Her parents book publishing company might do it or an e-book. Generous of her but it was still with Jim Jones and needed work. Also a Goldstein grandson had made an offer. Cathy lent me ‘Bobby Fischer goes to War’ at just about the same time as he was arrested in Tokyo. A very good book by Edmonds and Edinow.

My good friend George Andrews died full of years on 9/7. I had been to Merle and George’s various homes at Punchbowl, Campbelltown and Camden playing chess with him before and after I left the railway. Had some great meals! Very good fellow and brave.(See p.182) A big man and Merle, his wife, was a tall woman,taller than George. He was 92 and wrote wise letters, full of advice and love of family. The family conducted his funeral service and later I copied all his letters onto a floppy and sent them to his daughter.

Another chess stalwart John van der Klauw passed on. He won the Ravenscroft Retro problem tourney in 1968 and was a chess problem composer of miniature tricky types and went on chess home visits with his friends. One turned out to be Len Deakin, consulting engineer for Narromine Council who I knew well. Dennis Hale went to the funeral where many of John’s chess items were on display. One amusing feature of JVDK as he was known was his disappointment at the ‘silver bishop’ prize he won in the Ravenscroft tourney. He sent it to me via Len Deakin in 1976 and it took me a long time to talk him around such that his son who was here on a visit in 1985 took it back to his dad.

We went to Canberra in Oct. for ‘Floriade’ a glorious flower display and then onto Braidwood and Sanctuary Point on family history sleuthing. We saw the Esling material in the National Museum of Australia Storage Depot and how exciting it was to hear they would do a CD of the 1948 ‘Memories’ of Esling. It was nice to touch and look at the Railway trowel, his watch and other manual items but they were in the right spot accessible to all. We could not contact Geoff Foster or Jim & Carol Jones which was a pity.

Peter Wong produced “Parallel Strategy’, his 2nd problem book helped by Ian Shanahan. It cost \$7/copy for 200. A nice item that took him 3 years of spare time.

George Berger or ‘Chess George’ of the Lightning Ridge Chess Club was in town and went with us to the St. Augustine’s Catholic Primary School Centenary. We played chess under the wisteria with honours even. He was 74.

Rabbi Rudy Brasch died in November aged 92. Chess aided longevity maybe but also humour. He wrote happily about chess in many of his 37 books.

2005

Geoff Foster sent Vol.2 of Selected Stocchi in Jan. He and Lu Citeroni did a great job and the books are collectors items with problems, photos and biography making the books very desirable. Geoff was interested in Dr. J.J. O'Keefe and this renewed my embarrassment at not publishing O'K's life and problems as promised 25 years ago. I decided to scan all the problems being shown how to do it by wife Norma and put them on a CD and send it to him. It was the start of an 'O'Keefe Year'. Geoff was researching the Brisbane Courier and found 3 more O'K 2-ers that I had missed. He wanted a Problemist article on O'Keefe and this would be good in doing part of my promise to the O'Keefe family.

He examined most of the O'K 2-ers and sent me B.G. Laws memory of the Dec. 1918 meeting in London with O'Keefe. It was a wonderful evening and O'K said to Laws that he didn't want to see Royalty or Lloyd George but only to meet Laws! O'K was the first overseas member of the BCPS.

I sent Geoff my spare copy of 'To Alain White' the 1945 Overbrook Press volumes that was the last of that great series. It had been Fred Hawes copy and had been bought by me at Dorothy Quin's lovely Mount Victoria Antiques and Bookshop as told in Bert.

A friend of my youth Paul Smith sent me a copy of 'Archaeology' Jan/Feb 2005 as it contained an article called 'Tabletop Tactics' by Martha Bayless a Director of Oregon University. In pride of place was a great photo of 9 of the Lewis pieces:-1 King, 1 Queen, 1 Bishop and 2 Knights, 2 Rooks and 2 pawns. Martha had arranged them in a group that showed their personalities. They really did show their thoughts on the faces! The Queen is especially concerned; the King looks mad for war etc Martha's quote from an Old English poem called Maxims was "Two shall sit together at a board game until their misery leaves them/they shall have joy on the board" The Vikings favourite game was hnefatafl where one side had a King and defensive men and the other no king and attacking men. The King which started in the centre of the board, tried to escape to a corner square before capture. The Celts loved tawlbwrdd ('tafl-board) The superb 10th century tafl board is featured in the article and the pegged holes in it were like those in travel chess sets. Martha's article tells of the many game pieces now being found in digs and also of the 'new bully on the block'-chess! Very nice and thanks Paul for sending it.

Very recently (2018) my wife was in Newtown a trendy suburb of Sydney with my brother doing a thorough inspection of an 'old wares' shop I had poorly inspected some days before. She asked the old fellow if he minded her 'burrowing' into the piles and he didn't and at the third level down she dug out a small wooden box 6¼" x 4 3/8th" x 1 ½" (16 x 11 x 4cm). Not very imposing but on lifting the lid, there was a peg-in lead chess set of red and brown though the brown was almost gone. \$48 bought it and she did. Whilst the paper label on the box was gone they were a 'Purdy Travelling Chess set' made around WW2. They were advertised for sale on the back cover of the April+ issue of Chess World 1946. Cecil wrote that they would fit in an overcoat pocket and "were miniature Staunton pieces, unbreakable, peg-in to board. Games can be adjourned, closed up, resumed at any time; men cannot be dislodged while box shut. Ideal for train, tram, boat, beach and lunch hour at office or factory" 15/- (\$1.50) post free from Chess World 1 Bond Street Sydney. Very well done Norma! She has a good eye and knows how to burrow! The only problem is if the box is upside down, the men fall out! A fascinating store and on the first visit a few days earlier on the Newtown Food Fair Day with people everywhere I just folded. We did buy some items but we could see the store had not been properly 'done over'.

Geoff was pleased to get 'To Alain White' and the sense of history it gave. He now had a link to Fred Hawes the Australian problem giant. He sent his first effort on the O'Keefe article for The Problemist. I enjoyed the way he weaved O'K's life in amongst the problems.

I then sent him Fred Hawes 5 problem books of clippings from his ACR & CW magazines that contained FTH's problem column. No.3 1938-40 was missing and may have been destroyed in Fred Hawes home fire in WW2. Bill Whyatt had given them to me. He liked the 5 books as FTH had assembled them and he sent one of O'K's light 3-ers to the website "Chess Problem Discussion Board". I'd not seen it but it found the correct source of the 3-er. Also he sent a great biography of Benjamin.Glover Laws over 18 pages (www.bcps.knightsfield.co.uk). Here were his 1924 reminiscences of nearly 50 years. The first paragraph on how BGL learned chess and how he improved are rather good as was his fascination with an F.C. Collins 2-er and how he concluded (wrongly) that there must have been a misprint! The friendships he made and the early history, where problemists met, the venues such as Gatti's to the Café Monico (better tea & coffee.), the analyzing and the 'anticipation' dramas when problems were claimed by two composers & c. He even did some digging for H.J.R. Murray before the epic 1913 'History' was published solving queries on authenticity. Laws even did the first radio broadcast on chess problems. Yes, he was really something was BGL (1861-1931)

Geoff was finalizing his O'K article and it would be in 2 parts in The Problemist. Why did O'Keefe get the nickname 'Spectator'. We never sorted that. And on academic failures O'K's 1896 collapse at age 23 must have been devastating. He got over it and graduated as an MD the next year and NEVER forgot his priorities. Work was first, chess problems were second. Ian Shanahan got a shock when he found that O'K had flunked a year as a result (most likely) of too much chess problems. I was likewise going through my health inspection course mostly getting bare passes when I should have tried harder. Chess problems were my problem! Ian also had a tough time in the 1980-'s during a heavy composing period.

Geoff mentioned he was a collector and still bought the 'occasional' one. He had ordered the Gamage book by Mike Prcic.

Chess Players have varied interests. Wayne Bredin a Dubbo player liked Four Handed Chess and I sent him something in Pritchard's 1994 book 'The Encyclopedia of Chess Variants.

One community friend was Liz Irvine. She and husband Bruce had gone to New Orleans to see the new grandchild and at my request did some Paul Morphy research. She visited Paul Morphy Street but didn't make the St. Louis Cemetery to see the Morphy mausoleum. She did send a good photo of the grave but told me this was a 'dangerous' place to visit. I was sorry to hear that.

Geoff made some interesting statements (13/3) regarding how he composed:- *"My efforts (with O'K) are nothing compared to my approach to composing! Come to think of it, the article has been like composing a problem. I chip away at it, constantly reviewing every facet, looking for any possible improvement, anything I've overlooked. Then, when I can't wait to send it away for publication, put it aside for a few days. When I return to the problem, there is almost always an improvement to be made. Few composers are like me...Most are like O'Keefe!"*

Sandy Aich did great work with his regional Primary School chess events every year from 2000 and I was pleased to help as a low level adjudicator. Sometimes well over 100 students played. The Dubbo Chess Club produced a 'News' issue regularly and No.20 came out in April 2005.

Geoff and I started research on Arthur Mosely for a continuing series on Australian problemists for the Problemist.

Clive Lane wrote 11/5. He was getting close to retirement but would go on to next year. As for chess book selling:- *Fischerbooks is humming along, although I tend to use Ebay for buying and selling more and more, rather than selling through the website. It's become a hugemarket for books, and chess books is quite large by itself. Speaking of chess books, I have bought a few from another of your mates-Arthur Willmott. His publications sell reasonably steadily. Which reminds me-I offered to buy some copies of your and Paul Dunn's update of the Van Manen Bibliography Paul was going to clear this with you first. I suppose there would be a market for 40 or 50 copies ...* In his next letter 24/5 he replied on my ebay query:-*who is buying on ebay-there are all kinds. I sell some stuff to people who are obviously just getting into collecting and seem to buy indiscriminately, then there are the experienced collectors like Andy Ansel, Mike Archer, Joost van Winsen, Jurgen Stigter, Peter Holmgren and your mate Bert Corneth who buy occasional books. I suppose they are plugging small gaps in their extensive collections.*

Ebay annoys me at times-a good book can sell very cheaply and an average book can get caught in a bidding war and sell for lots more than it is widely available for. It averages out, I suppose. At least the books generally sell so there is turnover. I'd have to say that there is a lot of cheap junk in the chess book section of ebay. If you would like to see some really good chess books, take a look at the upcoming Klittich -Pfankuch auction 15th June.

By midyear Geoff had just about completed the Arthur Mosely article and liked his Christmas Chess Problem cards. Mosely was a talent.

Dennis Hale was to retire in July and we hoped to see him in Blackheath in the spring.

Graham Clayton wrote re the article on C.M. Fisher in the July/August Australian Chess. Ken Fraser & I were to do two others on Andrew Burns and Alexander McCombe to complement that on Louis Goldsmith and Charles Fisher. Four in all. Fisher won the 1875 match with Goldsmith which was a virtual Australian Ch'ship but before the official in 1880 when the ACF decided to award F.K. Esling the first Australian Ch'ship over G.H.D. Gossip in 1950. 70 years after the event! Graham liked chess history and good for him.

We made contact with the Mosely family in Queensland and they sent some new material and a photo in exchange for Geoff's early Mosely article. It was great as Mosely died in 1930-75 years ago. Geoff finished the article and it was to appear in The Problemist in 2006.

Ken Fraser sent me some papers on Henry Tate the musician and chess player/problemist from the 1920's. I passed that onto Ian Shanahan and Nigel Nettheim as they were music and chess lovers. Another article was building here.

A very good 24 page book on the 2005 Tasmanian Open & Lightning Ch'ship by the Burnie Chess Club was received from Neville Ledger. A very nice publication. He had been a member of Burnie Club for 61 years!

We had a good time at Blackheath with family rambling in the Blue Mountains and through book shops in Mount Victoria, Katoomba, Blackheath and Leura. Some chess books were bought but the best book was 'Fabulous New Orleans' by Lyle Saxon which contained a great sketch on 417 Royal Street-the Morphy home and a brief description of the secret stairs and his study.

We went to Selwood Science & Puzzle in 41 Railway Parade Hazelbrook and bought a 'Fifteen Puzzle', the Sam Loyd invention ca 1879. A truly lovely item in stainless steel and fairly priced at \$20.

A lost Karl Becker letter (unsigned but obvious) dated 17th July, 1926? Surfaced in an old van Manen file addressed to W.S. Viner. Astonishing that both JvM and myself ignored it for so long Viner had written game notation on the back. A most unusual letter of a true chess identity and I was embarrassed at having it for 5 years before publishing it. Geoff gave me a dig for losing it! as it could have gone in the early Becker article. Oh dear. Here it is:-

"Dongara (WA) 14th July, 1926?"

Dear Viner!

Your welcome letter of the first ultimo showed and assimilated except the end game of which later.

Bad weather & luck continues, our river just an ordinary drainpipe at most times of the year, is running a banker and the dirty river water is for miles out to sea, up and down the coast. Fish and crayfish have of course fled before it, about 2 week ago we had the heaviest blow of the year so far, at times the water washed the surf underneath the door and reached as far as the fireplace. (There is something like a cottage by the sea) Of course I had made some new pots and two more are already missing, some I found miles away from where I had put them. It is really marvelous how ill luck can stick to a fellow if fate so decides, when I read about your troubles with the hand I said to myself "poor old devil he is getting from one mess to the other" however be glad it turned not into it.....I had some small ones when I first went to sea in 1884 a long time ago. But I've not forgotten the pain and trouble they gave me & if I had there are still.... That you are well satisfied with some.

Personally I've got little to growl about at the present although I had a three month bout with my old friend & enemy the rheumatism this time. I took 12 bottles of Soda Pop and 1 bottle of Fellows Syrup but had no need to lay up entirely only to go slow & careful then after a week had gone by without drugs. I tackled a bottle of whisky, four nips (good ones) a day, four days to finish the bottle and honestly it braced me up (never mind the cold water crowd) I dunno whether my luck has changed or not but this is the first Xmas after the war which does not find me in debt!! Where I now have actually a few bob spending silver. What do you think of that!?

In the matter of Gundersen v Purdy ending I think you'll find it extremely hard to get more than a draw out of it although Black has a better position and the initiative. Kt-c5 is White's Savior alright.

You state that you feel a bit annoyed over my not being known in Australian chess circles. Well old friend there is more than one reason

1st You yourself have felt the influence of clique and clan.

2nd I did send to the 'Austral' and instead of having the readers given an opportunity to solve & judge the solution was published simultaneously to perhaps the last two moves and one of my best efforts shockingly mutilated. Also the proof reading of that same paper is apparently done in the most slipshod sort of manner, never did I have a copy without one or two games being full of

errors in the score leading to quite impossible positions. Supposing I did send a yarn or two would they be produced as written by me? I doubt it.

3rd I am not hunting for fame here at least not at the present then in a cynic way Australia is a long way behind as yet and kept there by some old fossils who can never sufficiently admire their own glorious light (the hot candle). On a later date I may be tempted to issue a small book containing endgames and a dozen....”

A great pity some of the letter is lost and sometimes where there is ...a word could not be translated. Not signed but obviously by Karl Becker who lived at Dongarra. Becker was interned in WW1. The Purdys also knew him. His hand trouble? Chilblains??

Geoff was pushing on with research into Tate and found 2 great obituaries in the Age and Argus dated 7 & 8 June, 1926. More Tate material arrived from Geoff including writings of Katherine Susannah Pritchard and Tate's first awestruck visit to the Dandenongs in the 1920's. He was besotted. I will include some:- ‘A slight cadaverous man with great luminous eyes, a heavy head and hands as graceful as a child's, no one I have ever met seems to me to have been the crucible of such rare and exquisite genius as

Henry Tate....I remember so well how the “Dawn Symphony,” perhaps his finest work was written. He had been staying with mother and me, at our cottage surrounded by virgin forest, in a valley of the Dandenongs. The singing of the birds at dawn is marvelous there. I wanted Tate to hear it...Tate put on an overcoat over his pyjamas, and wrapped in rugs, like unquiet spirits, we went out of the house and sat on a stump at the edge of a clearing. It was very cold; owls still muttering among the dark trees. But with the first light came Ropsaltria australis - the psalmist of the dawn – as the yellow robin is called, officially. He sat on a branch near us, and tuned his little harp.

It was such luck to see and hear him like that. I had met him often before and heard his shy, lovely song along the track. He does sing during the daytime in thick quiet scrub, although he is supposed to sing only at dawn. That morning, he sang for Tate, just as he should have; as if it had been arranged between us. Then the native thrushes awoke. A cuckoo's quavers flew with their wild sadness: whipbirds, golden-breasted whistlers, all the warblers, wrens and woodpeckers tossed their ripples and runs, while magpies and butcherbirds fluted and yodeled, kookaburras laughed and hooted away in the back hills....Tate wandered like a man possessed, through the trees, along the creek, up and down the clearing. It was a golden day of early spring, the birds were never silent. Tate went away on the evening train. “Drunk with it”. He said.

Tate finished his ‘Dawn’ symphony and it was presented by the Melbourne University Conservatorium Orchestra under Bernard Heinze.

So this was our chess player/problemist. A beautiful man. I wonder how the Dandenongs are today? I hope not too far removed from Pritchard.

David Lovejoy the strong chess player was selling his first book ‘Between Dark and Dark’ so I bought one which started a correspondence to the present day with his later books.

Arthur Willmott sent me two monochromatic chess problems he had composed in 8 hours. He was a clever composer and solver.

Geoff sent a 1st edition 'The Poems of Henry Tate' and then completed his article on Henry concluding that Tate seemed to have been a very nice man. A kind gift.

My Christmas present to myself was Matthew Flinders Private Journal that contained some good references to his chess play. Published by Friends of the State Library of South Australia 2005. 566 pages, hardbound. It was the first published transcript of his journal. Limited edition of 850 copies, its cost was \$130. I remember spending many hours reading Flinders's handwriting in 1979 and at last this book was printed. The index itself makes the book worth buying as there are 38 references to chess and even 1 reference to Philip Stamma and his book 'The Noble Game of Chess' on p.211. The Diary transcription gives 'Stamats' but I recall it as 'Stamas's'. Flinders played a lot of chess on Mauritius where he was a prisoner. The State Library of NSW also holds his chess set which is French in design.

2006:

The National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour had some of the Lewis Chessmen in their 'Vikings' exhibition that ran from 30 Nov. 2005 to 18 June 2006. Judging by the newspaper ad there was at least one berserker and one King.

Ian and Geoff were composing well and Geoff won a 2nd prize in a Problemist tourney. Nigel wanted to finance a chess problem solving tourney event at the Australian Juniors Ch'ship next year.

Photos were very dear from the slnsw in this pre 'smartphone' era. I ordered one of Andrew Burns the 19th century Victorian player for another article. I could not recall seeing one elsewhere but the cost was \$34!

Paul Dunn sent a CD of the Australian Bibliography plus an interesting audio of Bela Berger and his life to 1981. He had been Australian champion and I lost to him in a simul in the early 1960's

David Lovejoy contacted me 20th February re his proposed novel on Savielly Tartakover and research on ST commenced that ended up with David's excellent novel 'Moral Victories'.

A wonderful chess problem book catalogue produced by Bob Moore of Oklahoma USA but of the late Edgar Holladay's collection, came my way via Geoff Foster. Here was a chance to complete my Overbrooks and Bob Moore intended the sale to help problemists and solvers who would appreciate their contents and for sentimental value. There were over 318 books/magazines and for anyone wanting the Christmas Series at reasonable prices. I bought 'A Chess Silhouette' the Gilbert Dobbs book and amazingly there were 2 for sale. Most Christmas Series books were well under \$100US and there was even an 'American Chess Nuts' missing covers and page 312 for \$20US. That was a real bargain. Bob Moore was adamant that the Overbrook 'A Sketchbook ...' would not be sold under its asking price of \$350 US as "a similar set sold for \$400" he wrote. He was probably referring to mine but did not know it. Another curious thing was that he had a spare Volume 2 of 'A Sketchbook...' that had been given as a gift to Holladay or someone. Incredible that anyone would split this set that fitted in a slip case that took both. Somewhere there must be a stray Volume 1 looking for its partner. Bob wanted \$165 for it without covers and much writing.

Geoff's 'Organ Pipes' problem was a beauty and he got what he wanted in the Holladay sale. I told Geoff that I'd just bought Wolfgang Pauly's 'Challenge of a Legacy' by Marian Stere 2001 and whilst I couldn't read Romanian (as I guess it is that language) I could appreciate the work put in by MS in the 763 page book which was a 'tour de force' with hundreds of problems, many letters from TRD and other letters and photos (the Pauly home for one) made it a very great problem book. Pauly was an astronomer who discovered a comet that was named after him.

David L queried my lack of email but people still found me and we worked out a system where I responded to his emails by 'snail-mail'. Actually that is a bone of contention today where fast very short emails have replaced long letters.

Geoff claimed Morse, the TV detective (and his side-kick Lewis) was so named after Sir Jeremy Morse the Chancellor of the UK Exchequer and a very fine problemist. Well, that may be but we do know Morse's Christian name 'Endeavour' was because Morse's father admired Captain Cook!

David L was gathering pace with his ST research and along came a new researcher one Greg Wilson and partner Daphne of Newcastle who wanted to write Volume 7 of Australian Chess Lore on the history of chess in Newcastle. I said go for it.

David managed to speak on the phone with another David - this time Bronstein the chess legend who told him Tartakower wrote in French and German. David L was thrilled to hear from the gentle old man who was still alert and curious about chess. He had regretted not seeing Australia and said 'I will do so if I get another lifetime' David L mentioned two ST quips which were: *-marriage as a community consists of a master, a mistress and two slaves.* Another one was *"Marriage: every chess player should have a hobby."*

Clive Lane wrote 2/4 on book dealing: ... "it's a lot harder than it used to be. We seem to have an unequal situation where there is not much supply, but prices have gone down. I think this is because of the growth of the internet selling. The worldwide market drives the price of the more ordinary books down – though the rare books seem to have maintained their value. I think I will put the business into hibernation and have a think about things next year."

Clive and two friends were going to walk the pilgrim route from the Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostella in NW Spain. He was learning basic Spanish.

Ken Fraser was pleased that Paul Dunn had got JvM's Bibliography on Australian Chess Literature ready for the ACF website. I scanned just under 50 photos of various books to 'liven the book up' as my son in law Graeme said! Paul sent a copy to the KWA and they decided to print it which was good news. Their goal was a worldwide Bibliography of Chess Literature.

David L went to the MVA after driving 1,200kms down to Melbourne from Mullumbimby."I must say I was very impressed. Hundreds of books on open shelves, hundreds more waiting to be retrieved from the rare books section, all the world's major chess magazines and chess sets on every table.....I started making plans to move to Melbourne, but, alas, what you do without a second thought at twenty becomes altogether too daunting at sixty." He did not make much progress on Tartakower there and he was hoping a Swedish backpacker would translate the biographical sections of Erik Lundin's book but that was little help. I sent David, Jean Mennerat's address with a view that he may have a friend in Paris who could help with

Tartakower research. David felt Tartakower deserved a high place in chess history and literature: -“He was a fortuitous wordsmith, crafting those epigrams we all love and writing poetry in at least three languages. His fondness for paradox, I believe, was not a superficial quality but the essence of the man. He was turned inside out with a shell of wit to protect himself from intimacy, perhaps even from love and its dangers. Whatever early experience was responsible for this deliberate distancing from people, all observers agree that no matter how attractive his personality was on the surface you couldn’t get close to him. And as a chess player he was incredibly gifted and could surely have gone further competitively if he had been able to avoid paradox in his choice of openings.”

Beautifully written by David but he was worried he didn’t have all the facts. JvM was like that but with a novel it could be got around. I sent him some material on Louis Goldsmith the Australian batsman in the 1870’s and top chess player who just could not scale the heights. He was among the best but not ‘the’ best and Tartakower was like that. His parents dying in a pogrom, his service in WW1 for Austria, his Jewishness, his love of gambling and his bachelor status stopped him. But he fought against the Nazi’s in WW2 and was brave.

Geoff had won the Brian Harley Award for 2-ers taking over the Australian mantle from Bill Whyatt who last won it in 1970/1. He was thrilled to win it as his mother had bought a copy of Harley’s ‘Mate in Two Moves’ at a fete many years ago. His award in the Problemist came with Part 2 of Mosely.

Another amazing chess book came at this time. It was Mike Darlow’s “Turned Chessmen (\$50) in which Mike showed how to make good chess men by turning on a lathe. A lovely book and one of a series by Mike on wood turning.

Paul McKeown of the UK was writing a book on Bob Wade. I sent him some details. Anne Purdy (now 91) recalled Bob’s kindness when they were in London.

Pen-Pictures by an informed spectator such as Dennis Hale are pure gold. Here are his recollections of the Karlis Lidums Tournery of 35 years ago! (1971) 18 June, 2006:-

“I attended the Karlis Lidums Tournament in Adelaide in the early seventies as a tourist/ spectator. I travelled there and back with a good friend of mine – John Scott - who did play in the tournament. (John had the privilege of being able to play a game against the legendary C.J.S Purdy) There were three chessic highlights of my stay in Adelaide; they were:

(1) I worked the demonstration board for what I think was the first game between two grand-masters ever played in Australia. It was the game between Walter Shawn Browne and Florin Gheorghiu of Romania;

(2) I managed to draw against Aleksander Matanovic (of Yugoslavia) in a simultaneous exhibition he gave in a local shopping centre in Adelaide. I will never forget the veritable crush of spectators which surrounded our game at its conclusion. (it was I think the last game to finish) – it was utterly claustrophobic. Never before or never since has a game of mine attracted so much attention! It was my brief period of chess fame.

(3) I have a vivid recollection of the final session, the second adjournment session of the very hard fought game between Aleksander Matanovic (White) and Brian Tomson. One morning for

some reason I decided to walk into the playing hall while it was empty of chess players (the games were played in the afternoon and there was an evening adjournment session). To my surprise, the hall was not empty because of one game in progress! At the far end of the hall to the entrance there was a stage and on the stage there was a game in progress. It was the second adjournment session (what turned out to be the third and final session) of the game between Matanovic and Tomson; of course there are no longer (as far as I am aware) adjournment sessions in chess because of computer. It was Brian's move and he was staring intensely at the board. The game – to the best of my recollection – had dwindled to an endgame. Both players had pawns (all on one side of the board, I think), but Brian had a rook to Matanovic's bishop. It was unfortunately for Brian, but nonetheless, apparently drawish (these matters are beyond my ken as my main interest in chess has always been in the sphere of chess composition). Tomson, quite understandably, was trying to win a grandmaster scalp – quite an achievement in an individual game against a grandmaster. (Incidentally, all the players in the Karlis Lidums tournament had name cards which were placed beside the board. All the grandmasters names were prefixed with IGM-international grand master). As already mentioned, Brian was staring intensely but IGM Matanovic was not. Aleksander was not at all staring intensely, he was sitting side-on to the board with legs crossed and right fore-arm resting on the table (he was in fact facing in my direction when I looked into the hall). Though not at all offensive, this manner of sitting managed to convey his impatience at being detained by a game which he clearly thought was drawn. The game did end in a draw, but unfortunately I didn't see who offered it or the handshake. (I think I had a tourist coach to catch for a one-day tour or was it to go to the England –v–Australia test match which was played some time in January 1971 at the nearby Adelaide Oval?) ...it was a round 8 game (started 26/Jan. 1971 and concluded on the morning of 28 Jan 1971). Well at least I know where I was that morning some thirty-five years ago. Well Bob, that's my three-point summary of my experience of Adelaide and the Karlis Lidum's in January 1971. Did I chicken out of playing or was I a genuine spectator/tourist? To be frank, playing chess every day for an extended period has never appealed to me.”

I agree with Dennis' last sentence. It is very hard work and even a four round event was tough for me at Grenfell in 1977.

A week later I sent Dennis our 'mini-skirmish' of limericks relative to his limerick competition. But Bill Morris produced a 'Get-Together- poem (1980) worth repeating:-

*The chess fanatics gather at the Public Service Club
 In an atmosphere congenial and refined.
 Meadley says it's time we got together once again
 The nicest bunch of fellows you could find.*

*There's Bob himself from Narromine, that's way out in the bush
 He hasn't far to come though, he's on leave
 He seems to be on holidays some 15 times a year
 But he works hard for the Council - I believe.*

*Then there's Rurik Bergmann from up Toronto way
 He turns out 2 move problems by the score.
 And when he's not composing, he'll be collecting things*

Like coins or books or foreign stamps galore.

*There's just a chance that Bernie, with his camera, will be there
A busy man is Bernie you'll agree
He'll rush in, take some photographs, and down a glass of beer
Then dash off to the nearest TAB.*

*There's Dennis, Jim and George of course, all solvers of renown
Their skill at composition I've admired
I think there's not a problem made, they cannot quickly solve
A competence to which I've long aspired.*

*Then there's me from Gosford town, who wrote this stupid verse
It's not my fault, Bob Meadley is to blame
He said "Put on your thinking cap, and write a poem, Bill
If it isn't good we'll like it just the same.*

*And so I end this jingle that I wrote at Bob's request
A note of sadness here, I must express
A friend we saw last meeting, we will never see again
A minute's silence then, for C.J.S.!*

Bill followed Cecil Purdy in 1981, Bernie Johnson 1985, Rurik Bergman 1990, Jim Jones 2005. George Meldrum, Dennis Hale & I are left. It was great to see him and family only recently here after a gap of 30+ years. Bill Morris really was a great bush poet and loved taking the mickey out of us. Ian Shanahan came to some of those get-togethers but a little early for Bill.

Bill's poetry skill started with his primary school teacher, one 'Batesy' who liked poetry and often had the class chanting it. Bill wrote his first poem at age 12 and he liked Kendall, Lawson & the Banjo in primary moving to Tennyson in Secondary. He loved 'The Lady of Shalott' and often recited lines to forget the summer heat. Bill's father was a party singer and at the time Guildford was a one-horse suburb with unmade roads, acres of bush and no radio or TV and so Bill wrote songs and poems for these parties at which his dad sung. He also delighted much later in life, writing poems about annoying relatives and his wife Molly often made him tear them up. He was flattered Dennis Hale liked his poetry. He was deadly at chess limericks and composed many on the loo. Here is one from 2nd January, 1979:-

*A player once caused a furore
By playing QB to K4.
The fans blinked their eyes
In puzzled surprise
They'd never seen THAT done before.*

I discovered a letter from James Crake, the Hull Chess expert in the Austral 27 July 1925 which explained the relationship with Cecil Purdy. As I read it again Cecil considered Crake was his great Uncle. And that seems to be right. I sent it to Anne Purdy-

“Sir, a friend of G.Barron, chess editor of the ‘Hull Times’ has sent me a copy of The Austral of 27 Jan, 1925, containing a record of the New Zealand Championship tourney. This was interesting to me, as Mrs Purdy (mother of C.J.S.Purdy) is a niece of mine. Her father, my junior by 6 years – was, when we played draughts together at home, a very strong player for so young a boy, but never went in for chess. I am the only member of our family who took up chess as a recreation, and have at various times played Herr Lowenthal, contemporary of Anderssen, Morphy, John Wisker (English Champion 40 years ago), J.H. Blackburne, Edmund Thorold, B. Kostich, F.D.Yates (British Champion) and scored a fluky win, Alekhine, and occasionally managed a draw. I was President of the Hull Chess Club when we first won the Woodhouse Cup regarded as the Yorkshire Ch’ship – but (as you will see from the enclosed cutting) I have dropped out of the firing line.

Some years ago I went in for problem composition, and won a few prizes in International Tourneys. I am instructing the publisher of ‘Whimsicalities’ to send you a copy for review. It is a collection of various trifles I produced at Christmas times – light and nonsensical, and includes several of my problems, which you are at liberty to produce. For some years I have been chess editor of ‘The Family Herald’ under the title of ‘Expertus’ bestowed upon me by the manager of the journal. I am extremely glad to observe that chess is flourishing on your side of the globe. I have recommended the master of our Grammar School (I was on the committee) to drop Euclid and take up chess. Both are directed to the development of logical faculties, and the latter would be more popular with boys. One is C.A. Wear, who won his game in Hull v Leeds match, against a player old enough to be his grandfather.

Intense interest was taken in the cricket matches, but there is no doubt the better side won. England have not got over the war strain. Ten years ago Hull was visited on various occasions by Zeppelins, which did a considerable amount of damage, besides killing over 100 people.

With best wishes for the success of ‘The Austral’

I remain,

Yours faithfully

J.Crake Imperial Chambers Bowlally Lane Hull England 21st February, 1925.”

Anyone who is the fortunate possessor of ‘Chess Whimsicalities’ by ‘Expertus’ now knows James Crake wrote it. I know Cecil always referred to James Crake as his great uncle and that makes him Crake’s great nephew. Cecil Purdy’s mother was the daughter of James Crake’s younger brother. (Did Crake (1847-1929) play Morphy/ He was only 11. BM)

I sent Geoff Foster congrats on the Henry Tate article in the July Problemist and saw that Geoff had his Brian Harley award winner on the cover of the May Problemist. Did it get any better!

I wrote to Dennis about the danger of serious research in Chess World or the Austrasian Chess Review as one got ‘sidetracked’. Cecil Purdy was unique and cast a spell over chess lovers. If you opened it up, you would lose hours! My friend the late John van Manen, a meticulous man not swayed by ‘sidetracks’ quipped when reading Purdy “It makes the job so much longer!”.

Dennis told me of his difficulties with Mrs Shiel, the proprietor of the Chess World shop but I can't add any more as Dennis often rang up and so I have no record of those 'difficulties.' Mrs Shiel was not a good correspondent and that's probably why they fell out. I always thought Chess World was more a club than a shop where people gathered to talk about chess but rarely buy. Dennis replied about 'sidetracking' "that curiosity was not an affliction!" He was a Valentin Marin admirer the Spanish problemist and I agreed that he was one of the best such that I gathered a CD of 75 of his problems and sent them to various enthusiasts.

Ian Shanahan was playing recorder with the 'Renaissance Players' and happy with life but his health and work were not so good.

Research with David L and Greg Wilson of Newcastle continued. David was to make one more trip to Melbourne to research 'Chess Life & Review' for Tartakower history. He was closing on the task with 60 pages done from 1901-1914.

Nigel's Australian Junior Problem Solving Competition was on 23rd January, 2007. It was to be the first of many. He wrote an excellent 'Introduction to Problems' for the event.

And out came 'An Inconvenient Truth' the movie. We all went along and nodded our heads. It was a Global WARNING. Now in 2019 it has become Global WARMING.

I had to give a short talk at Sandy Aich's Interschool Chess Event and spoke on 'History, Chess, and Important People'. There were 186 players forced to listen! Not long.

The exciting arrival of David Lovejoy's 74 page preview of 'Moral Victories' was read with zest I was enjoying helping David and now he had put it all into his novel. I wrote to congratulate him and sent more material for the final burst.

I was after Tony Wright's 3 extra Australian Chess History books:- 1931-1948, 1949-1960 and Australian International Chess 1946-72. He was prolific but print runs were meagre and never many. I sent a request for them to Neville Ledger and got a reply back that others would print some. I also sent Neville, Ken Fraser and my research into the 1873 intercolonial chess match between NSW and Victoria. An excellent engraving but some players needed identifying. A tough ask (see the engraving in the next section 2006)

Greg Wilson's 17 Oct. letter sent from the 'Iron Monarch' on which he was ship's engineer was very welcome as he was away for 6 months of the year on ship. It was all about the 99th Regiment in NZ and its involvement in chess and the 1840's Maori wars.

And finally a relative of A.G. McCombe in the UK sent a request to the Dubbo Chess Club and asked if I could send 'something'. Trevor Bemrose rang me and as it happened I had just finished an article on McCombe for 'Australian Chess' and so a copy was sent. Amazing coincidence.

2007:

Anatoly Karpov wrote the Prologue and calls the book 'praiseworthy':-

'The Return of Francesch Vicent' by Jose Garzon came from Tony P and made me wonder what else was sleeping on dusty library shelves. Garzon makes a case for the birth of modern chess in Valencia ca 1475. The discovery of the Cesena MS in the Malatestiana library by Professor Franco Pratesi was a real coup as it contained the 100 problems of Vicent so long lost. This is a very fine book which I have not done justice. I casually looked at No.100 (5x2) and it is cooked in 7:-

1.Qd4..Kb8;2.Rxa7..Kc8;3.Rc8+..Kb8;4.b6..Ka8;5.Qc5..Kb8;6.a7+..Ka8;7.b7++
Perhaps the black pawn can't be taken? (k7/p2QR3/P1K5/1P6/32) mate with the b5 pawn.
1/Re4..Kb8;2.Ra4..Ka8;3.Ra5..Kb8;4.Qc7+..Ka8;5.Qb6..axb6;6.a7..bxa5;7.Kb6..a4;8.Ka6..a3;.
9.b6..a2;10.b7++.

David L had no luck in Melbourne at the MVA so it was now get on and finish.

Phone calls come from everywhere. Some get help like Robyn Sanderson asking about her grand-father William Sanderson (1852-1941). A blacksmith at Gympie. Robyn thought him a strong chess player with a chess friendship to the future Prime Minister Andrew Fisher. That was 2001 and I discovered more on Fisher including his railway chess with the Postmaster General Josiah Thomas on the way to and from Parliament in Melbourne. Fisher was also a member of the Gympie Chess Club ca 1895. I had seen the Sanderson name but where?? Robyn liked what had been found but it was small beer as there was no link to Fisher and no chess playing by her gf. Fisher was 10 years younger (1862-1928) and could they really be friends or even acquaintances? In late 2006 doing research for Greg Wilson on Newcastle chess in The Austral, there he was-Sanderson! Not a chess player but a very very strong draughts player. Here is his Austral letter in the 25th January, 1928 issue:-

"A WORD TO THE WISE IN CHESS AND DRAUGHTS

To the Editor)

Sir,

I see the proprietors of our bright little 'Austral' are contemplating a change. Well, I don't wonder at it. I have always thought it far too cheap. I would not grudge paying twice as much. The Australian people don't know what they are missing if they let this paper fail.

I am an old man now, 75 last 8th June, and I have been a student of the Draughts' game for some forty years. It has been, and still is, my principal solace and amusement after a hard day's work. I am a smith, and if I have till the 8th of next June I will have been at the anvil 62 years, and am still going strong.

I played with the Herd Laddie in Gympie in '93, and the late R.Mar, Champion of Australia was a personal friend. For years we did not miss many nights without having a battle across the dambrod (draughtsboard)

I'm not a Scotsman, but very near it. I was born within sight of the bonny hills of Scotland. I left there and came to Queensland in '77. I was then 25, and if I live another three years from today I have been in Australia 50 years; and between you and me, it's the best country in the world.

I was home for a trip two years ago and my old friends could not believe it was me. I could walk rings around far younger men. They couldn't understand it. So I told them to drink and gamble less and study Draughts.

*Kind Regards-
Yours Faithfully
W.Sanderson."*

A great letter and the end of the story. I wasn't up to speed with draughts history. Robyn's uncles said WS wrote under the pseudonym of 'Saxon' in the Brisbane Courier draughts column. There were some by 'Saxon' in The Austral, No.111 for example.(1928) The 'Herd Laddie' was James Wyllie the World Champion many times. I recall battles royal between him and Mar.

Nigel printed out the report on the solving competition at the Australian Juniors. Excellent with 86 entrants. Geoff was organizer with him.

Simon Hinge, Cathy Chua's partner wrote about Alex Goldstein and told me Cathy's book 'Australian Chess at the Top' was still selling at 3/year. I wrote to the MVA re the Goldstein Ms.

A copy of Tony Wright's 'History' 1961-1970 came from Neville. That was Vol.6 and I was missing 3,4 & 5 and still am in 2019.

We were hoping to go to Poland in October to join other historians at the von der Lasa Seminar. Passports were obtained. We had missed the first as I was not 100%

I bought 'The 64 Square Looking Glass' by Burt Hochberg 1993. I liked Nabokov's 'From Speak Memory' so well written though negative on problems. They gave him satisfaction when he was 'in exile' and later he begrudged the time spent when he could have gone to literary events. I must ask Ian Shanahan for his views on VN.

Arthur Willmott composed a series of 'Variables' problems. These are problems in which the 'Variables' pieces can be replaced by normal chess pieces. The variable piece was a large white or black oval sitting on the square. A solver just replaced each Oval with the right coloured piece. They were mostly helpmate type problem. He had bound it in a cut down manila folder cover with two brass pin clips. A very nice new idea. I replied that 'Variables' was a good word as I wanted to wish them to hell or limbo but as the Catholic Church had officially decreed the latter didn't exist, it had to be the former. Arthur rarely included solutions with this type of problem as he continually tested all we solvers. With simple positions it held out hope of a solver learning about composition. No one could get lazy with Arthur. He had gone to the Parramatta GM's tourney and met Dennis Hale there. It was quite a way from Adelaide to Parramatta.

On the BBC 30 April 2007 was a report of a 27 July 2002 excavation of an ivory piece in Butrint that inferred chess was more than 500 years older than any other previous discoveries. The find suggested Europeans were playing chess as early as the 6th century. That was quite a long bow in my view, but Professor Richard Hodges of the University of East Anglia expedition thought otherwise.

Peter Wong launched his Chessville website and it was nice to see. He had won the Norman Macleod Award and the Wenigsteiner Award in 1994. He liked drawing chess icons away from composition.

David L had 100 pages of Wiener Schachzeitung copied at the MVA which was helpful to his final research. We had ignored the foreign magazines but were reminded to do that by one of David L's friends and that helped. He wanted to finish 'Moral Victories' this year as he had to go back to work. In helping David I read Staunton's 'Chess Praxis' where in the Preface dated January 1860 he gave reasons for the book's delay:-

"graver matters than the game of chess..." This must be a reference to the monthly installments of Shakespeare he was required to do for Routledge from 1857-1860 which he used as an excuse not to play Morphy when he arrived in mid 1858. If he had time to write 'Chess Praxis' in 1859 he could have found time to play a short match with Morphy in 1858/9.

Clive Lane wrote in June and stated he was a bit fitter than he used to be as a result of Santiago de Compostella. He was retiring from work in a month's time and hoped to resurrect Fischerbooks. He asked if I wanted to sell but I told him not yet.

I wrote to Neville Ledger about Freda Goldman's lively letters in Vol.1 of his Tasmanian Chess Records. They are about the Tasmanian Ladies Ch'ship and are extraordinary. They show how close we are to losing the art of letter writing with email as some wag said in the SMH of 16th June, 2007 'emails gobble up all the musings in the ether.' Freda was an American and played chess off the board very hard. She was an excellent writer. She returned to the USA not long after the ch'ship which she did not win and the Apple Isle was relieved.

Neville was a member of the Burnie School for Seniors:-*The usual turnout is about five men and fifteen women. Not everyone contributes but I have given 30 minute talks on Chess, Vladimir Nabokov, Conan Doyle, Kafka, R.L. Stevenson, Charles Dickens, Cobb & Co & others I cannot presently recall. So this has caused me to do some research which I have greatly enjoyed. I get most of my material from library books and Encyclopaedia Britannica. Sometimes I access the internet but have generally found the information there to be for want of a better word "shallow."*

He was selling far less chess books and wrote that few people display much interest in historical figures but prefer to buy books on the Openings.

Geoff Foster was the new editor of problems in Australian Chess from Ian Shanahan and called his column 'Problem Potpourri (PP)'. He was very excited about PP and included many of his research finds on www.chesshistory.com most of which was Edward Winter's 'Chess Notes' that were part of that website then. There were some really good articles and the first was a rare photo of the Leige Chess Tourney of 1930 with 24 faces staring back at the onlooker. One thing was certain it was NOT Sultan Khan 'standing third from the right'. It is an excellent photo for the chess detectives and I must say I had a great time 'detecting' Leipzig 1877 for Robert Johnson's Anderssen book proving that Schottlander is NOT in the photo. But back to Liege-that is definitely Sir George Thomas on the far right, Savielly Tartakover 4th from Thomas

standing (bow tie). 7th from right standing is Henri Weenink (side-one) with Frank Marshall on the far left (excluding the little man behind him) Alekhine sitting 3rd from left and there I will leave it as EW may have got them all in the 11 years since I looked last at this photo. I will check 5037 on his 2018 website. And yes! The early 2007 Leige photo was **cropped** and Sultan Khan stands next to Sir George Thomas on his left! A most interesting mixup. There are 28 faces not 24!! Sadly EW did not get more of the names in 2018 than from 2007.

Research:- Tartakower won from Sultan Khan, 3^{rd-5th} were Ahues, Colle, Nimzovitch, 6-7 Przepioraka, Thomas, 8-9 Rubinstein, Weenink, 10 F.Marshall; 11 Soultanbeieff, 12 Pleci. (Gaige).

Another Tourney was tied with Soultanbeieff 1st, Pleici 2nd, 3rd Liubarski, 4th Mendlewicz, P. There is NO Alekhine! Yet he is in the photo sitting 3rd from left no doubt. From BCM 1930, p.361 Alekhine played a simul on day 1 (19th August) winning +23-2. So that is why he is in the photo. I can't explain the 28 in the photo as there were only 12 in the tourney + Alekhine. As for the mini tourney I can add nothing. Perhaps simul players were in the photo?

Rubinstein is 3rd from right sitting. Colle is first on left sitting. Nimzovitch is right of Alekhine sitting. Long long way to go. Fred Wilson's 'A Picture History of Chess' helps' but what we want is a bit of facial recognition software to nail these guys.

5046 was amazing! Who was the 1930's woman Angeliga Leoni of Cyprus who played a 30 game blindfold simul and won +27=3!!

5055 The Berne 1932 photo with about 75 people in it and please note Sultan Khan sitting 4th from right. He's easy.

How about that quote from Steinitz's Quotes:-*Anderssen who could not play a single game blindfold...I never knew that.*

I also noted Jas D. Seguin was a local lawyer in New Orleans as well as chess editor of the Times-Democrat. He would have known how good a player Paul Morphy was, and, as a lawyer!.

The article by EW called 'Genius' -Philip Hamilton Williams is a beauty. He does not mention 'The Tube Problem' composed during a WW1 Air raid with PHW in the tube with Zeppelins dropping bombs on London. His lovely trait of giving away all his biscuits to the children reveals his personality. The photo playing chess with the dog is a classic. He was a genius.

The major article on G.H. D. Gossip does him proud. This perpetual low ranker has got more print about him than many of his higher ranking opponents. I like him because he tried but the ability wasn't there.

I thanked Geoff profusely for these pages because I was a rank beginner on the web.

Ian Rogers retired from active chess mid-year and set a very nice ending in his SMH column:-
White draws 7k/2Pp4/6K1/8/6Rp/16/2q5 (3x4) Key 1.c8=Q+

The rest of the solution is for the reader. (Call it my Arthur Willmott gene)

Neville sent me his 'Cobb & Co' talk 2.5 pages and very different to mine. Do readers know zebras pulled the Cobb & Co coaches in 1870s South Africa?

Brian Jones sent some books to give out as prizes in the next Dubbo Interschool event. Very good of him.

My chess researching Novocastrian Greg Wilson had a close call when rain and storms flooded his home block and came within 1" (25mm) below the floor level. This was the time when the big container ship the Pasha Bulker ran aground on Nobby's Beach Newcastle. Quite a sight.

I'd been sent part of the Maurian/von der Lasa game played in New Orleans in 1887 ca. It came from Maria Luczak the librarian at Kornik. Here is the position:-

k3b3/pp4p1/4p2p/q3N3/2P2P2/PP4P1/7r/1KQR4 (9x9) White to play. Result?

I was uncertain how it continued or who was white or black. White played Qc3 and that is all I have. I sent some speculative moves to 'Chess George' in Lightning Ridge and as the letter was in 'old German' I hoped he could translate it. Apparently Hitler changed the language in the 1930's.

David L was now at 1930 with Tartakover. It was the fictionalizing of ST's life before WW1 and during WW2 credibly that was taking time. He was off to the UK and Austria to do some research.

A new book "The Chess Kings" 2006 by Canadian Calvin Olsen was a very good modern look at the 'Kings' and I told DL about it.

Greg Wilson made a great find in the slnsw with research into letters between the 1870 Newcastle chess team and Sydney. Very early and a new find. A NSWCA existed then.

Clive Lane wrote:- 22nd August - "I'm assembling stock now to re-launch Fischer Books which will happen in late October. He and wife Marjory were off to UK and France and he hoped to call on Tony Peterson as he had dealt with him before.

Sadly Poland was out for us as Norma was crook with sciatica and couldn't walk far. My US chess friend Ray Kuzanek was going to Kornik to give an address on the Morphy/Edge letters which I'd helped him transcribe.

I had forgotten the debate about whether Sam Loyd invented the 14/15 puzzle. It was all in 'The Games and Puzzles Journal' by George Jelliss Nov. 1987 No.2 p.24. Did he or didn't he? Ian Shanahan sent it and here is the main article from the above:-

The chapter on history in Edward Hordern's Sliding Piece Puzzles is mainly concerned with the "15 puzzle". He provides a wealth of references to articles written on the problem between 1879

and 1884 (and many subsequently) to show that there was a great craze for it around 1880, comparable to that for the Rubik Cube 100 years later.

Despite the claim by Sam Loyd (ref 1) that “in the early seventies I drove the entire world crazy over a little box of movable blocks which became known as the 14-15 puzzle”. Mr. Hordern is unable to cite any description of the puzzle earlier than 1879 (ref 2). He concludes “From all the information available, it would seem that the likely course of events was that the ‘15’ puzzle was invented in America towards the end of 1878 by an unknown person (not Sam Loyd). The resulting puzzle craze started early in 1879 and spread to Europe in the same year. Sometime later, in either 1880 or early 1881, Sam Loyd proposed his version, the ‘14-15’ puzzle, which gained him immediate notoriety through the enormous reward offered for its solution. The craze then seems to have died sometime in 1881”. The case against Loyd is however, I feel, far from proven.

By chance I discovered an earlier source for Loyd’s claim of priority (ref 3). He writes of the 15 puzzle :”Its history is very simply explained. There was one of the periodical revivals of the ancient Hindu “magic square” problem, and the idea occurred to me to utilize a set off movable blocks, numbered consecutively from 1 to 16, the conditions being to remove one of them and slide the others around until a magic square was formed. The “Fifteen Block Puzzle” was at once developed and became a craze”. “I give it as originally promulgated in 1872:-“ He then propounds the (insoluble) 14-15 puzzle version. The editor “Sphinx”(H.E.Dudeney) in a postscript chides: “A puzzle inventor cannot be held responsible for the extravagant interest bestowed on his productions by an excitable public, but to propound to the world a problem that looked plausible, but actually had no solution, was a sin for which it is to be hoped Mr Loyd is duly penitent”. Note that here Loyd gives a specific date, not just a vague period.

Since 4x4 magic squares existed for centuries before the 15 puzzle arose this story of its origin seems quite plausible. Historical order is not always the same as logical order from simpler to more complex. To prove it though we need to trace the 1872 source.

References:-1.Cyclopedia of 5000 puzzles, tricks and conundrums, 1914, edited by Sam Loyd Jr. 2.American Journal of Mathematics, 1897, articles by W.E. Story and W.W.Johnson. 3 Tit-Bits, 2 4 October 1896.

As Alain White wrote on p.99 of Sam Loyd and His Chess Problems, Sam failed to get a patent because it was impossible. If you put the squares from 15 in the top LH corner down to 1 in the bottom RH corner it is possible. But turning it so that 1 starts at the top left hand corner and 15 at the bottom RH corner is NOT possible. Sam failed to get a patent and so he was fair game by others. I bought a new 14/15 puzzle as mentioned earlier. It had no reference to Sam Loyd but is a beautiful metal object. It came to Australia as early as May 8 1880 for the Town & Country Journal of that date refers to it. I found that looking through the old chess columns. That is what has to be done using the US version of our Trove to get the earliest date. Research in the old US newspapers. The references above are too late. I replied to Ian Shanahan who had sent it, that the 1872 source had to be found or a later source if 1872 was too early.

There were 170 primary school students at Dubbo and Brian Jones’ books were a hit. The silence during play was unreal!

David L was up to 1938. Austria & UK were great and he got photos of Tartakower's first address in Vienna.

We went to Melbourne on Esling research. And Norma made progress with family history at Canberra's War memorial. The most interesting chess column was Henry Charlick's 'Adelaide Observer' column and he could well be Australia's greatest chess editor. I know that will cause debate. We saw the MVA collection met with Ken Fraser and noted that the MVA had been split with magazines and journals now stored at Ballarat 100 kms away. It took 3 days for material to come to Melbourne but the shelves in the MVA room were full and great for browsing. I saw Paul Dunn in Canberra and talked with his Irish wife who guarded the phone to keep "screwball chessists" away from him. She even denied she was married to him!

Geoff had settled in as Problem editor in 'Australian Chess' and wrote good humorous letters. I told him the Australian Junior problem solving was very tough for seniors like myself and I had missed a few.

Dennis Hale sent me a translated Spanish article on his hero Valentin Marin by Manuel Valenzuela which was incorporated into the Marin CD.

David L was nearing the end ("at last" he wrote) and expected his Tartakover Ms to be complete by January next.

I was pleased to get 'The Chess Master of Eureka' into 'Australian Chess'. Edward Thonen was a strong chess player who taught many of the miners on the gold diggings around Ballarat. In the Eureka Stockade Rebellion 1854 he was killed manning the walls when the Government overran the striking miners.

During the Year there was much contact with problemists about the 2nd Wyatt Medal Judging.

2008:

The Tartakover Ms arrived 3rd Jan. It must have been very satisfying for David to have reached the end. I had read the earlier pages he sent and now here was the complete story – a novel on a factual basis with excellent notes and sources supporting the facts. A lifetime has passed since ST's death but David had resurrected him with all honesty possible. He had done the hard yards and now to publication.

Geoff had done well with a 1st in a Holland tourney and Ian was preparing entries for the FIDE Album 2004-2006.

Paul Dunn was writing Australian Chess History articles for 'Australian Chess' and this was to be the start of a very good series thanks to Brian Jones support.

Ian, Dennis & Geoff did a good job with the Australian junior Solving C'ship. One under 10 lad solved them all in 8 minutes getting one wrong! I couldn't beat the Under 14's time and these young solvers were hot!

The death of Bobby Fischer on 19th January was in all the media and I had just bought 'Pawn Sacrifice' last week Dec 2018 the Toby Maguire version. I did like Liev Schrieber as Spassky but it did not alter my views on Bobby and I was not a fan though I have most of the Fischer books.

‘Moral Victories’ by David Lovejoy was launched during the Sydney International on March 27th by Ian Rogers. We received an invite but the distance forced an apology.

The internet website MatPlus.Net was publishing problems by forgotten composers and a 3-er by the Brazilian lawyer Calders Viana, lawyer/journalist born 1862 caused a lot of posts:-

NQ3K2/p7/P7/p2p4/B1p5/2k2p2/1R3P2/8 (7x6) 3-er Kg8. I sent for some extra copies of ‘Moral Victories’ and offered prize through Geoff if anyone could fix a 4-er of Viana’s.

I also sent 3 CD’s of 1929-31 ACR to Ian and ended up sending most of ACR/CW etc to him. Later all of it would go on the ozproblems website not existing at present.

It was great to get a book on ‘Moral Victories’ and Dennis Hale told me of the launching ceremony. The book filled a gap in grandmaster lore and was a source book also. I reread it and enjoyed it just like the first read. I like reading books and watching movies over and again as one appreciates and savours different features. I put together 28 points/queries/comments for David and he answered them all. Vlaicu Crisan won the Matplus ‘fix the problem’ prize and I had pleasure sending it to him in Romania. Another copy went to the vdl library in Kornik Poland.

Clive Lane (18/5) on his overseas trip:-*I managed a side- trip to the book town of Montolieu, in the department of Aude...One of the bookshops has a chess specialty, so I bought 4 or 5 books. He gave their address and email:-Librairie Feu Central Rue du 8 Mai 1945 11170 Montolieu with an email of: librarie.feucentral@wanadoo.fr....In the UK I caught up with Tony Peterson and bought a few books from him...I’ve relaunched Fischerbooks now (www.fischerbooks.com.au) and I’m enjoying the book hunting if not the endless hours on the computer. One of the books I have in stock at the moment is David Lovejoy’s ‘Moral Victories’... I attended the book launch at the recent Sydney International Tournament in Parramatta and Ian Rogers gave it a glowing endorsement. You may know that David has been including a chess column by Ian Rogers in his paper ‘The Byron Shire Echo’ for many years, but I don’t think this influenced his opinion! I also would agree that David has done an excellent job. I particularly liked the way he handled the casual conversation between the chess masters at tournaments and brought them to life as people. I hope he does another one – there are certainly plenty of chess masters who have had interesting lives.*

David had sold 400 of the 500 printed by 13th June and he then got a call from a Sydney man Mr Hirschhorn who said his family has a tradition that Tartakower was a distant relative but he was unable to add anything to Savielly’s biography. I read it for the 3rd time and though not interested in chess play this book helped spruce up my interest for when I was very young I wanted to do exactly what ST did but found I lacked something-skill at chess! Travel was great for Savielly and if one takes in the scenery, the history and finds a chess book or two falling into one’s lap as Bert Corneth tells me happens to him all the time! He reckons he does no planning!?! Sure Bert.

We went to Toowoomba and did some sight seeing and research re Dr. J.J. O’Keefe who was raised in Cambooya just south of the city where he grew up on a farm (Mt. Prosper) after attending the Ramsay School in the Great Dividing Range. If one could combine travel with research it was a good holiday. I later made contact with the family and we shared some facts. I had pledged to write a book on O’K but that did not happen nor did it for Goldstein or Mangalis. But there are good endings to all those now to be told later. That eased the guilt.

There was a very interesting column by Ian Rogers in the Sunday Herald comparing champions of different eras. Here is part of that 29 June 2008 column: *-An eternal debate in sport is the question of how champions in various era compare. As a young player, Australia's Guy West used to solve the problem by composing games which could have been played between the World Champions, though his epic Tal versus Morphy match, while entertaining, did not add much to the debate over whether the American 19th century genius could have held his own against Latvia's great attacker.*

More recently, the debate over whether the late Bobby Fischer was a greater player than Garry Kasparov has generated considerable fiction. Nominally, the chess rating system should provide a method of comparing all players since the international rating system began in 1970. When Kasparov reached his record rating of 2851 in 2000, he considered that it was equivalent to Fischer's record of 2785 in 1972, given the inflation at the top of the rating system. The question of rating inflation is not just of academic interest. A Grandmaster performance level of 2600 used to be the equivalent to a top 10 ranking; now it is equivalent to a ranking outside the top 100.

Fortunately a mathematician has come to the rescue, not only quantifying the inflation rate over the years but also pinpointing the moment where it began. Rod Edwards, in a landmark survey in 2006, updated two years later, has discovered that high level rating inflation did not begin until 1986 and has then proceeded at an average of six points per year since then. Edwards has thus established that Fischer's peak rating is well ahead of Kasparov's peak which, adjusted for inflation, turns out to have been in 1990. Third place is occupied by Kasparov's great rival Anatoly Karpov, still ahead of the younger generation...

It was an interesting article and as I had not heard of Guy West's Morphy v Tal match I wrote to Ian saying that West could not have picked two finer players and who won though they were both best in their time. But was it the 1960 Tal v the 1858 Morphy?

The latest Morphy book was the 2005 'Paul Morphy A Modern Perspective' by GM Valeri Beim who put Morphy under the hammer as did Macon Shibut some years earlier. He considered the 1857 year as an 'apprenticeship' for Morphy and his first 1858 games against 'strong British Masters' were more useful than those against Lowenthal, Harrwitz and Anderssen! He even said if Morphy had met Staunton 'immediately,' "... the outcome could have been unpleasant." He found plenty of errors in Morphy's games.

Steinitz wrote that Morphy "would of necessity cultivate and extend the system which had been developed since his time". Beim stated that Morphy had 'definite shortcomings' in technique even after the Anderssen match. So if we compare the 1858 Morphy with the 1960 Tal, the latter would win. And 'improvements later' could not be compared. And yet Anderssen continued to improve after his loss to Steinitz in 1866 by his win in Baden Baden in 1870. He was 'keeping up' with the best and did that well into the 1870's.

In 'Warriors of the Mind' Kasparov was rightly No.1. Today it would be Carlsen. But 'Warriors' left Alekhine out and he was champion for a lot of years. Morphy suffers too.

My late friend John van Manen was in the 'can't compare eras' team, I was not and I felt Morphy got a leg-up through the 1870's Anderssen and that the "era effect" in 'Warriors' was insufficient to permit true comparison. Rod Edwards has an 'inflationary effect'.

I was surprised by Rod Edwards marking 'down' Kasparov' to below Fischer. Kasparov was a true Warrior-scared of no one. Karpov too, and Carlsen.

My views are open to debate.

Geoff was thinking about an ending/study in his column with a prize. A good idea and Nigel & I supported it.

Michael McDowell wanted a copy of the 1961 Sun-Herald Tourney judging and one was sent via email. I got a lot of the original judging sheets from Frank many years ago as Fred Hawes and he were the judges.

Tony Peterson sold all his stock copies of 'Moral Victories'.

It was embarrassing when helping Ian Shanahan with his project to get Australian and New Zealand problems on Mr.Keteshovich's website in Czechoslovakia. The idea was to encourage other countries to add to the site. Then there was the book 'Early Chess Problems' by Eustace Eighch of NZ (1923) that the late Bill Morris the poet had given me on 21 Jan. 1975. He had crossed out his old address of 6 Wingello Street Guildford (Sydney suburb) and put in his new one of 35 White Street Gosford on the inside cover. I had not really looked at it and it was a rare choice item in hard cover red cloth printed by Dawson Printing Company of Auckland NZ. There are some colored diagrams which are quite lovely and also a nice photo of the author who was a railway civil engineer, opposite the title page. That title had the words 'Part 1', as far as I know Part 2 never appeared. Now when I examined it for Ian I discovered that pages 85-100 were missing! (Problems 65-96) and Ken Fraser of the MVA discovered a copy in the Newcastle Auchmuty Library (Clearly the MVA did not have one) and I contacted John de Gravio the Archivist who copied the missing pages and I glued them in where a missing signature had clearly fallen out. What I also liked about the book was a child had done some doodling in the back pages with no harm but it was nice that the book had been handled by children. Probably Bill's kids. The poem to 'dear Emma' is lovely and I quote 4 lines:-

When quiet and you're knitting for us all
And I in travels gone far beyond Jerusalem.
Or busy you again in household faring
And left behind me home and you, fair England. (see p238)

I tried to research him on Google but nothing. His chess problem book turned up on Amazon but no copy for sale. Emma was, I think, his English wife, they had family, he constructed railways all over the world. Not much I'm afraid and he may be in some railway engineering journals like Esling was. How embarrassing to only find those missing pages 30+ years later.

Arthur Willmott's latest book was '270 Chess Problems' compiled by Arthur Willmott July 2008 and with Ian's Foreword went to the ACF with his Whyatt Medal application. A good DIY job by Arthur 74 pages + photo of AW in composing/solving mood.

I sent Phil Burke from the Blayney Chess Club some details on John Kellner, my chess mentor. Kellner was born in Blayney but this was a forerunner to 'Some Memories of John Kellner' (1931-1987). I later added to it when finding the Kellner familys' time in Dubbo. This came about because my wife Norma was invited out to a relatives place and I went along to talk to

the lady's husband. He recalled John's father well; a policeman as he was, and his wife was in the same class at school as John. Small world, you think? Yes it is out in the west but one must listen.

It was pleasing Geoff Foster was 'internet savvy' as they say and a Whyatt problem not in the Whyatt book was discussed.. Michael MacDowell called it 'a complete block with three tries failing the pinning defences – it's a little beauty. Definitely published in the wrong place' which was the Sunday Telegraph 27 August 1961. Here it is:-

b2r4/8/5bN1/1QPk1Bp1/3P4/KPP5/16 2- er (8x5) Ka2

This website was ChessProblem.net by Alexander George . Geoff also included the Mosely and Tate articles from the Problemist plus all the photos and the terrific Mosely Christmas Cards. He was writing an article on the Italian Bruno Preziosi who became a renowned theoretical physicist and who composed some fine problems.

On 30th August, 2008 Peter Wong set up a chess graphics website www.virtualpieces.net. I wonder if this was the forerunner of www.ozproblems.com which did not exist then?

Arthur Willmott won the Whyatt Medal and it was presented to him in Adelaide in late August and I congratulated him on the win.

There were 168 students at Sandy Aich's 18th September interschool event at Dubbo Sports World and Nigel's Australian Junior Problem Solving Event was on again in Adelaide next year.

Neville Ledger enjoyed reading 'Moral Victories' and was still dealing in NIC Yearbooks, Informators and the Quarterly for Chess History. Other sales were well down. He recalled 'Alekhine's Anguish' as a comparable book to 'Moral Victories'. I liked that book but didn't like the cruel review in BCM 1999 p.646. Charles Yaffe was an engineer and did a good job. As for MV it got a great 3 page review in Chesscafe.com by Steve Goldberg.

A nice article appeared in the Law Society Journal November, 2008 "Lawyers show their strategic skills" with a photo of 4 players including John Purdy. Sent by my barrister brother. This match was for the Terrey Shaw shield and was presented by Corinne Shaw, the late Terry's wife in a photo showing her giving the Shield to Robert Colquhoun. This was an annual event between the Solicitors and the bench with 14 players a side.

2009:

The sad news was the closing of the Sunday Telegraph Chess Column on 4th January. Times were tough for hard copy newspapers and worse was to come.

Geoff wrote a good 4 page article on Bruno Preziosi for Mat Plus Review under webmaster Milon Melinirovich and as well told of contact from Sir Jeremy Morse, former British Minister & MP and very good problemist. He wanted info on E.DMcQueen who composed a fine task

problem published in the Melbourne Leader in 1934. Sir Jeremy wanted a biography. There was also in that issue of Mat Plus of Autumn 2008 that featured Preziosi a 5 page item on K+ 2N's vs K+Q (Mkhedruli) by David Gurgenidze-win or draw?

I sent Geoff all the material on McQueen that I'd sent to Ian Shanahan in 2000. Geoff wanted Laimons Mangalis updated to go on Mat Plus or The Problemist. I had done work on Mangalis many years ago in the 80's but never published though Baiba Ford, Laimons daughter was on side. It was like O'Keefe-I didn't want hard copybooks around unsold. The problem book market was small. Geoff contacted Baiba and she was very keen and so it was go too. All because the computer was opening printing doors that didn't exist years ago. And then John Kellner rose with the write-up in 'Kibitzer's Corner' a tribute by John Hawkes. Nice article.

The Mangalis article was finished by Geoff and went off to The Problemist and McQueen research geared up. We were also discussing Fred Hawes and Alex Goldstein and Geoff sent me an address of Amy Ellerington, Fred Hawes daughter in Lithgow. I rang her and she decided to send me her father's problem book. A hole in one! Sir Jeremy sent McQueen's birth certificate.

I scanned the Hawes Ms and sent it to Geoff and Ian and it was set out nicely by Fred in those pre photocopy days with 170 pages. There was even another Ms of joint problems by Fred and Frank Ravenscroft and we would look at it later on the way to Sydney. The trouble was Fred only had 166 problems in his collection but had an output closer to a 1000. He had only kept the best works.

A lot of old photocopies from various research projects over the years were in this file dated 27th February, 2009. One article from the Hobart Town Daily Mercury for Monday 25th April, 1859 p.3 was 'Chess in the Olden Times'. It was about King Henry II and his sons, one being King John and his fight with Fulk Fitzwarine and Charlemagne's son Charles and Baudin who didn't like one another either when they were beaten at chess. An even earlier article was in the Hobart Town Courier Friday, August 8th, 1834 p.4 which detailed the Paris/Westminster Club games. I give this:

"A great match at chess is now going on between the Paris and Westminster clubs. The proposal originated with the Paris club and the Westminster players readily accepted the challenge. The match is to consist of two games played simultaneously. Should both games be drawn or should each club win one game the match will terminate, and should both games be won by the same party the match will be considered gained and finished. Should one game be won and the other drawn, the party winning the one game is to be considered the conqueror. Should any disputed point arise the Edinburgh club is to act as umpire. The game is to be carried on by letter not more than a fortnight to intervene between each move. The two games have commenced and the following is their progress to the last move.

No.1 English game (so called from the first move) 1.K.P. two squares, 1.K.P. one square, 2.Q.P. two squares (Paris has no reply).

No.2 French game (begun by Paris) 1.K.P. two squares, 1 The same move.

The Paris club holds its meetings at the hotel de l'Echiquier and counts about 70 members. All the first French players are of the number among whom are several peers of France, members of the Chamber of Deputies, marquesses, counts, generals and colonels. Their best players are La Bourdonnais, Boncour, St. Amant and Deschappelle, the first of whom has the renown of being the strongest chessman in Europe. The Westminster club meets at No.20, Bedford street, and comprises upwards of a hundred members including all the chief metropolitan players and several noblemen and persons of distinction. The English are quite aware of the difficulty of the contest, and the excellence of their antagonists; while on the other hand they are no less sensible of the honour of being engaged with a foe so highly worthy of their arms, and of the excitement of a struggle in which whether our countrymen gain or lose, the gratification will still be great and lasting.

We shall not fail to communicate to our readers who may be admirers of this interesting recreation, the progress of the contest as we learn it by every fresh arrival from London. Neither can we conclude this little article of news without expressing our regret that the Hobart town chess club which was projected two or three years ago should have so soon met the fate of almost all other associations of the kind yet attempted in the colony and is now no more heard of. We should rejoice to see such a thing established amongst us. Chess is perhaps one of the most solacing, innocent and inexpensive amusements that the ingenuity of man has yet devised. We are, we confess, friendly to rational, unobtrusive recreations like chess (if another can be found like it), not on their own account alone, but because we consider the countenance and extension of them as affording that species of relief to the exhaustion and harassment of daily affairs which our frail and imperfect nature looks for, and as most effectually serving to displace and banish from society the present indulgence in irrational, expensive and even vicious pleasures.

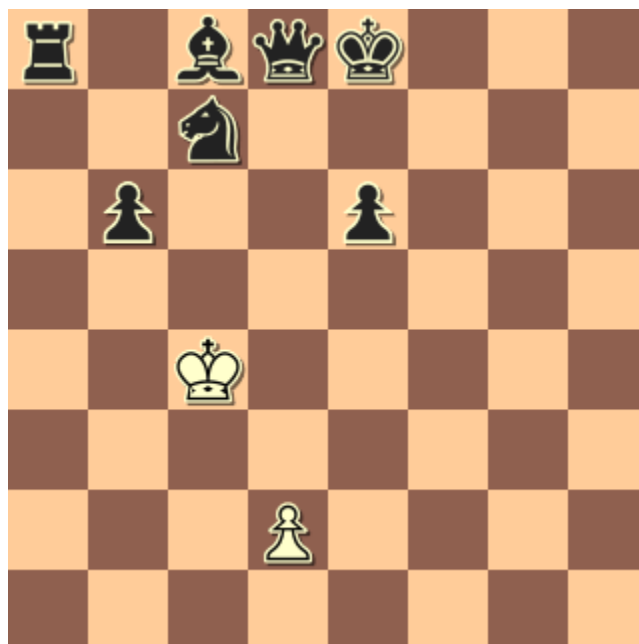
Quite pleasing to see such an early press article on chess in a Tasmanian paper and it could just be THE earliest chess article published in Australia. There was another in the Hobart Town Courier 22nd May, 1835 p.4 about the Leeds vs Doncaster match. (Paris defeated Westminster 2-0).

Geoff was kind to one young solver who gave the wrong solution for the \$50 prize. Geoff wrote back and gave him some hints for a second try. The lad never did reply which was a pity.

The Bibliography of Australian Chess Literature by the late John van Manen was updated ready for printing by Paul Dunn. A professional job and the basis of the later KWA offer to publish in hard cover.

The Mangalis article was very pleasing and in the July Problemist. Baiba Ford (nee Mangalis) liked it too. It was sad that Denis Saunders obituary also appeared in that issue.

The CDs on F.K. Esling and the Australian Chess Problem History were completed. The first was satisfying for me as I considered him one of Australia's chess 'greats'. He was the first champion and a good problemist as well. And, in the real world he built the icon of the City of Melbourne-Flinders Street Railway Station. The second CD still needed a lot of 'tidying up' as a lot of gathered material over many years needed to be condensed to something readable. An enjoyable task helped by Ian Shanaham who polished it for the website. He also sent me a Help 5-er worth a diagram.(2x7). It later was published in The Problemist.



Solution Black first 1.Qd6..d4;2.Bd7..d5;3.0-0-0..dxe6;4.Kb6..e7;5.Kc6..e7xR=N++

Dennis Hale organized a mini get-together of problemists at the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club 24 Sept. It was great to meet Ian Shanahan, Peter Wong and Dennis Hale. I had not met Peter and it was a long time since meeting Ian. Dennis I had met at his Blackheath home. We had a nice lunch there and talked problems until we were hoarse. Photos were taken and a good time had by all. I had earlier checked out a book bindery near the Club and was pleased to see it in this digital age. Dennis gave good instructions and I got out at West Ryde Railway Station and a 5 minute walk to the Club where Dennis was chess champion. Peter offered to set up a website ozproblems.com which is a major feature of Australian Chess Problems today. All to his credit. Google could change the rules one day but the site will be 10 years old next year. He also said he had never discussed “chess problems for six hours straight” a first for him and I think the rest of us. One amusing feature was the Club Manager refused to let me in as I had no photo ID. Thankfully Dennis turned up and all was well. I rang Arthur to let him know of the afternoon. It was a pity he was so far away in Adelaide. He turned 88 late next month. I also sent him a CD of the interim version of the problem history as he had played a significant part in it.

It was moving to hear the LGBTI broadcast on ABC Radio via the Archivist of the Newcastle Library as my late chess friend Brian Tomson who died in 1986 was featured. He was Professor in Medieval English who also loved chess problems and play. He was a very strong player.

On 27 August Paul Dunn sent some fabulous research items he had dug out on various newspapers containing great chess items. The first was the Nelson NZ Evening Mail 15th August, 1907 with an article on the blind problemist F.A.L. Kuskop. It was a very good biography of his early life and had featured in A.C. White’s article on ‘Problem Composers of New Zealand from the ‘Times’ weekly edition. I give it here:- *“Mr. Kuskop is the Mackenzie of New Zealand. England may be proud of the two colonies which have produced blind problem masters of the*

rank of these men, though Germany may well claim a share in the glory of one of them. For Friedrich Anandus Leopold Kuskop was born in Weimar on October 23rd 1844. On completion of a successful high school career he accepted a clerical position in a commercial firm of his native town. After 18 years of service he left Germany for New Zealand settling in that Colony in 1881. He was then, and remained for some years subsequently, practically a beginner at chess, having learnt the moves in Germany, but never taken the game up seriously. In 1892, when nearly 50 years old, Mr. Kuskop was obliged to give up work owing to serious eye trouble, which has, up to the present, stubbornly resisted curative treatment. He has, therefore, been unable to read for nearly 15 years, being virtually blind. In these years of affliction, which he has spent in Wellington, in the North Island of New Zealand, he has passed away many pleasant hours in solving problems set up for him by his nephew, F.K. Kelling, a well-known member of the New Zealand Chess Association. Mr. Kuskop first became a regular solver for the "New Zealand Mail" chess column. A few years later he tried his hand at composition, his first published 3-er appearing in the 'Mail' of March 1, 1895. Encouraged by Mr. Benbow, the editor, and by the favourable criticisms of the solvers, he kept on composing, always striving for a higher standard. He has been so successful that I shall venture on giving a further selection from his problems next month, for though many of his problems are well-known in England, I do not think that any selection of them has ever yet been published.."

The second item was 'Economy of Force in Chess Problems' by J. Tolosa y Carreras in the Otago Witness from 26th October to 21st December, 1898. Paul had retyped and rediagrammed it.

The most astonishing was the third item a For sale Notice of a Valuable Chess Library collected by the late Samuel Saunders of Warwick and Killarney Qld.

"Brisbane Courier Monday 7th February, 1898:- Valuable Chess Library for Sale comprising the collection of the late Samuel Saunders, of Warwick and Killarney. Every volume is in perfect condition (except where mentioned), well and strongly bound, and would form a valuable acquisition for Chess Clubs, Schools of Arts, or private enthusiasts. Works in English, American, German, French, Italian, & c & c:-

9 Vols. British Chess Magazine 1884 to 1895, complete (some double vols.)
 5 Vols. Chess Journal 1891 to 1895;
 2 Vols. International Chess Magazine 1885 to 1888;
 1 Vol. American Chess Journal 1876 to 1879;
 1 Vol. American Chess Nuts;
 1 Vol. Chess Strategy (Lloyd);
 1 Vol. Chess Strategy, Its Poetry and Prose (Mackenzie);
 4 Vols. Westminster Papers 1 to 11;
 1 Vol. English Chess Problems;
 1 Vol. The Chess Problem 400 positions, by Andrews; Frankenstein, Laws, Planck;
 1 Vol. Complete Guide to Chess (Meyer);
 1 Vol. Pierce Gambit, Papers and Problems;
 1 Vol. Poems and Chess Problems;
 1 Vol. Chess Endings 1891;
 2 Vols. Huddersfield College Magazine;

1 Vol. Chess Problems (J and W.T. Pierce)
 1 Vol. Art of Chess (Mason);
 1 Vol. Amateur Chess Magazine 1872-3;
 1 Vol. Chess Problems (Berger & c);
 1 Vol. Chestnut Burrs (Lyons);
 1 Vol. Chess Problems (Vaile, Klett & c);
 1 Vol. Canadian Chess Problems;
 1 Vol. Era Problems Tourney;
 1 Vol. Chess Problems by J.B. Bridport;
 1 Vol. The Problem Art;
 1 Volume 100 Chess Problems by A.C. Pearson;
 1 Vol. Select End Games (Freebow);
 Italian - 14 Vols Nuova Revista DEgli Schach, complete 1875-1894;
 1 Vol. Miscellanea Sul Giuoco Degli Scacchi (Ausder, Anton, Calvi, Carrera, Dubois, Greco & c
 & c)
 German:- 12 Vols. Deutsch Schachzeitung 1872-1894;
 1 Vol. Handbuch des Schachspiel (Bilguer);
 1 Vol. Theorie Und Praxis der Endspiele (Berger);
 1 Vol. Handbuch der Schach aufgaben (Max Lange);
 1 Vol. Berlin Bruiner Runger ,1859;(Wiener Schach Congress, 1873);
 1 Vol. Lange Schach Freund 1861-3;
 Reinische Schach Congress, 1871;
 1 Vol. Dufresne Schach auf-gaben;
 1 Vol. Dufresne Lehrbuch des Schachspiels;
 1 Vol. Recuil de Prob. Scacch a Gruphiawes, Max Lange; Schoumoff, Stamma & c;
 1 Vol. Krihk der Spanische Partie, 1883.
 French:- 5 Vols. Journal d'Echecs, 1867 to 1877;
 1 Vol. Strategie du jeu d'Echecs 1867-8;
 12 Vols. La Strategie Journal d'Echecs 1878 to 1894 complete;
 1 Vol. Revue des Echecs, Vol. 2 and 3;
 1 Vol. ABC des Echecs; 1 Vol. Theorie jeu de Dames, par l'Abbe Durand;
 1 Vol. Collection des plus Beaux pro d'Echecs par A. Alexandre; 1 Vol. Bohmische Schach Auf-gaben;
 1 Vol. Nordiske Skak Problemer, Fras Tiden, 1858-1878 K.J.P. Benhaven;
 1 Vol. Chess Fruits;
 1 Vol. Selection Chess Problems, F.C. Collins;
 1 Vol. 131 Problems, J.W. Abbott;
 1 Vol. Chess Problems by Pradignat and Dr. Gold;
 1 Vol. Chess Problems by C.W. Sunbury;
 1 Vol. American Chess Problems;
 1 Vol. Chess Blossoms, Beechey;
 1 Vol. Clipper Problem Tourney;
 1 Vol. A Chess Century;
 1 Vol. 100 Self Mates and Solutions;
 1 Vol. Chess Souvenirs, E.J. Winterwood;

Small Books, Pamphlets. Serials & c, unbound, some well worn:-
 1 Vol Problems Aux Amateurs d'Echecs;
 1 Caissa's Ghost;
 Ren's Chess Souvenir;

Problems, Emfonan, Esphingese Fantasias, Andres:Beitrage sum Schachspiel;
 Viel Jugige Schach Auf-gaben;
 100 Prob. L di Scacchi;
 Raccolta di;
 120 Probs, di Scacchi;
 Schach Zeitung 1871;
 Sammlung der Auseriessensten Schach;
 Traite Analitique du Prob. D'Echecs;
 Dr. Tolosa Carreras:l'Arte di Construire Prob. Di Scacchi,Valle;
 Chess Player's Chronicle Vol.1;
 Paul Morphy Skisse aus der Schachweit,von Max Lange;
 Supplement Chess Probs., J. and W.T. Pierce;
 Der Der Schachkinestler;
 Almanacco delle Sacrista;
 ABC der Echecs;
 Das ABC des Schspiels;
 various small items, half-dozen;
 6 Chess Scrapbooks, containing 20,000 problems, chess items, solutions & c & c;
 3 Scrapbooks, draught problems, games, items of interest.B. Chess Magazine 1896-7 unbound;
 La Strategie 1895-6, unbound;
 Deutsche Schach Zeitung 1895-6, unbound;
 La Strategie, 1897, one missing;
 B. Chess Magazine 1897, one missing;
 15 numbers Nuova Revista.

Tenders for the whole, or part, to be sent to James Saunders, Chemist, Roma.”

What can one say? Except I don't know of Samuel Saunders and his collection which is predominantly chess problems with items I've never heard of. The scrapbooks containing all those problems leaves Alain White in the shade. Or did for a while.

As he lived at Warwick and Killarney on the NSW/Qld border just below Toowoomba and not very far from Cambooya where J.J. O'Keefe was raised as a lad, it would be nice to link but Saunders is a little early as in the mid 90's O'Keefe was at Sydney University gaining his MD After which he served as a young doctor with his Uncle D'Arcy Bucknell in Kogarah. If anyone knows what happened to the collection I'd be pleased to know.

He is NOT mentioned as a chess 'notable' in Bignold's 1895 'Australian Chess Annual' and he should have been as this collection was the best in Australia I believe. But of course there could have been anonymous others! James Saunders had it well catalogued and it is hoped he got good value. There was though a recession in 1893 and the rural areas of Australia suffered. He may be in BCM and I will investigate if he was a composer/solver.

Some other Xeroxes I got in Sydney included a picture of a young Adolf Hitler playing chess with Lenin, drawn by Hitler's art teacher, Emma Lowenstrum and signed on the reverse by both men. It was drawn in a Jewish home in Vienna. A prominent family that fled before the war. It was on sale at Mullock's Shropshire 1st October, 1909 for £40,000 with a 300 page forensic document as support. Emma was Jewish and Hitler may have protected her though she died of natural causes in 1941. Some debate about authenticity.

I also discovered Frederick Jamison Gibbes MP (1839-1883) a very strong chess player with many games for NSW against other colonies 1871-1880. Two of his toughest opponents were Louis Goldsmith and Andrew Burns who both beat him.

I picked up Bill Wall's write-up on 'Chess During WW2' Very good. Sad that a lot of chess books went up at the National Chess Centre in London which opened September, 1939 and was destroyed a year later. Vera Menchik was Manager. It reopened in 1952. The British Library took a big hit too and the chess book section fared badly.

I also found a microfilm of the Melbourne Leader during WW1 when problem columns were great. In the September, 1915 issue was a problem No.3921 by N. Passon which I suspect was a spin on en passant and a pseudonym for Henry Tate. The town mentioned as N. Passon's home was NARINGGARINGALOOK. Just the sort of name Tate would use. The closest real town in Victoria is NARINGAL 3277 but it ends just as the other begins.

To the problem story:-

Dux Solving Tourney-

"Dear Sir,

My Recorder may need revision and amendment, but the "necessity" for its use in the case under discussion is, I think, manifest, from the enclosed position, which occurred in the first game played between Mr. L.D. Byron (obviously Lord Byron B.M.) and myself. I played White, giving him the odds of three queen side pieces (i.e the QR,N & B-BM). I found his tactics which (after moving two pawns to the third) consisted in moving his knights only until they were captured, difficult to cope with, but finally, after losing a couple of pawns, I managed to change one knight off and a move or so later, by sacrificing the exchange, I disposed of his last knight. He then seemed utterly at a loss, and had I not lost my queen through a blunder a few moves after the adjournment I must have won. We adjourned at the position shown on the diagram. On preparing to resume play, he asserted it was his move, whereas I was certain it was mine. He claimed a win and I a draw. Can you decide?

Yours ,etc

N.PASSON.

P.S The only point we agreed on, was that I had captured his queen on my last move!"



(8x13) Who moves next? Here is a game to diagram:-

1.g4..a5;2.Bg2..Ra6;3.h4..Rb6;4.h5..Rb4;5Nh3..b6;6.Ba8..Ra4;7.Qa1..Rxa2;8.b4..d5;9.Qf6..gxf6;10.g5..h6;11.c4..Qd7;12.c5..Qf5;13.c6..Qh7;14.g6..e6;15.Ng6..fxg6;16.f4..Na6;17.f5..Nc5;18.f6..Ne7;19.fxe7..Bg7;20.b5..Nb7;21.cxb7..c5;22.e4..Bd4;23.e5..f5;24.Kd1..Rxd2+;25.Kc1..Kd7;26.Kb1..Kc7;27.Rh3..Bd7;28.Rb3..Be8;29.Rb2..Kb8;30.Ka1..Qg8;31.Ka2..Rxb2+;32.Ka1..Qh7;33.Pxh7 diagram. So White moved last and so it's Black's move and he should win.

“Taking into consideration the position and the points in Mr. Passon’s letter (above diagram) Prove who has to move, and state result of the game if played out”

Well, White sure hopes it is his move as he doesn't have one and it's stalemate. If it's Black's move, White is dead. Who made the last move? Can we work it out? Remember White started with his 3 queenside pieces gone-the R,N & B. He had 13 men. There are only 3 Black men to spare to help get the 3 doubled White pawns into their diagrammed position. And what was White's last move to take the BQ? It can only be a pawn move.

I suspect this problem is faulty as a draw seems the composer's intention. But with Henry Tate and N. Passon who would know? I don't have the solution and it's 10 years since I gathered this stuff. I have a vague memory that the position is unsound. Just thinking, I reckon the game could be adjusted so that Black played last and the game is a draw. And it can! So you can get to the diagram with either side to move as in the game above White could play 30.Ka1..Bd7; 32.Pxh7..Be8 diagram! Now if we have to comply with all Passon's half-rules in his letter such as losing a knight for the exchange, the position is definitely illegal as there are ONLY 3 spare Black men and they are the 2 Knights and the queen which move the White pawns to double. There are no spares for swapping White Rooks for Black Knights.

I wanted to show the inventiveness of the WW1 Melbourne Leader Group:-Fred Hawes, W.J. McArthur, Dr.J.J.O'Keefe. H.J.Tucker, J.J.Glynn, H.Beechey, B.G.Fegan, C.G.Watson (the best with O'K), Phil Pedler, J.A.Erskine, T.D.Clarke, A.Mosely, Henry Tate (Passon?), T.R.Dawson even sent problems, Frank Ravenscroft Smith or FRS later FR, E.R.Scott, P.Hannan, L.Graham, G.W.Clarke, E.H.H.Jerrard, Robert Glasgow (1st problem), W.E.Roberts, C.G.Steele, W. Cornwell, J.D.Williams, Rob Forrest, W.Thomas are the majority of this passionate group led by the editor H.E. Grant who was honoured by the book 'The Dux' in 1914. Henry Tate claims to

have met Passon at Naringaringalook and lost money to this 'chess buccaneer' No.3823 9th January, 1915 Melb. Leader tells that tall tale. I love this stuff.

Paul Dunn was researching the 'Otago Witness Chess Column NZ and a sad claim of plagiarism against Joseph Smith for copying another's problem. There are aren't too many problemists who escape this charge and I got caught many years ago. It's an old chestnut and the majority are just anticipations in well worked fields. I sent Paul a copy of the problem history CD and also mentioned the Flinders Street Station 100 year anniversary. The organizer was Jenny Davies who had invited us to the function about the 100 years and to try to get F.K. Esling some redress. But too long ago and too far for us. We love Melbourne and I would like some redress for the man. Jenny wrote a book 'Beyond the Façade' on this great icon.

Paul Dunn started articles on J.H.Blackburne's visit to Australia in 1884/5 and uncovered much unknown material on the champion's visit.

Sir Jeremy Morse doing research in England found E.D.McQueen's daughter's address in Hobart! He was clearly in a class of his own and left me in the shade. I contacted her and she responded with a great article in the Problemist later.

I told Geoff that Fred Hawes had a big clean up late in his life and burnt a lot of his chess correspondence. The same fate happened to much of Frank Ravenscroft's material. Fred had told his daughters he wanted to clean up before his death. Sad really, as the O'Keefe correspondence from Lord Howe Island was gone. I sent Geoff a CD on McQueen's problems.

Sandy Aich the President of the Dubbo Chess Club must have been surprised when my wife Norma found some chess news in the Dubbo Dispatch 25th May, 1902. The challenge in Dubbo was to have a match between players on the North and South sides of the Great Western Railway Line which ran to Broken Hill and Bourke. They couldn't match Sydney's North & South of the Harbour Bridge Challenge match but it was a good idea. Incidentally Norma found chess easily as when she was skimming through on a microfilm the chess diagram always stood out!

Marian Stere's wonderful Bibliography of Romanian Chess 2009 was bought. A 301 page hardback. The author wrote that after writing and publishing his book on Wolfgang Pauly he felt he couldn't write another but a bibliography was tempting and after a 9 year spell he put the harness back on. My copy, No.70 of 222 has his signature and the ink stains of that signature on the prior page giving the book a human feel. For anyone wanting to know how a bibliography of 842 items plus a small section of postage stamps and postcards and Chess Miscellanea with scoresheets, ID cards, clubcards and crosstables, should be written, here is the book. It finishes with the Auction catalogues of Nicolae Ceausescu, the former leader of Romania's chess collection. One set given him by Karpov went for E2,200 and the sets and table photos are amazing. This is a first class book covering a dry subject in a collector's catalogue' way. The photos are great and the book is an art form. I told Paul Dunn it was far better than our proposal to kwa.

I posted Amy Ellerington, Fred Hawes' daughter back her father's book on joints with Frank Ravenscroft and she was pleased to have both books back safely and also pleased to hear about the digitization of the problems.

A very chessy year 2009.

2010:

I always had trouble solving Leonid Makaronez' problems and No.61 in Geoff's final column for the last year in 'Australian Chess' was too good. Geoff then told me that my solution No.62 by Leonid was also wrong!

My wife found a Sydney Morning Herald early 'Chess' index and also one in the Sydney Gazette and these were passed onto Paul Dunn.

I sent a CD of E.D. McQueen to Neville Ledger asking if he knew him. Neville did not but included a great photo of the Burnie Chess Club-all 15 of them. He was a good player and keen problem lover at times. He wrote the following in his 20/1 letter:-

"That CD is going to give me a lot of pleasure in the future. It is strange but for many years I held the belief that difficulty in finding the key move was all that problems were about! Did Sam Loyd think the same or is that being too simple? Anyhow years ago I obtained a second hand copy of "Chess Problems Introduction to an Art" by Michael Lipton, R.C.O. Matthews & John M. Rice. This opened the doors to the almost unbelievable number of themes, and to the discoveries being made. I am sure you will have a copy. More recently I purchased "Chess Problems: Tasks and Records" by Jeremy Morse which might be definitive at this time. Every now and then I set up a problem at the Burnie Chess Club and to my surprise EVERYONE comes to that table. One young lad is really excellent and has so far solved most problems, which I limit to 2-movers. Sometimes I set up a problem where a game position has to be reached in 6 or 7 moves and he has proved talented in that regard. A few nights ago I set up a nightmarish position where most of Black's pieces had somehow found themselves behind White's pawns only one or two which had moved. Black had a mate in a few moves but the question was: White to play and Draw.

They could not believe it. Without reading any further you have already guessed it! White made a non capturing Knight move (the only move available) and it could be proved regarding the 50 move rule. They all gasped in amazement, but fortunately did not ask me to demonstrate. I found it almost beyond belief but the composer has constructed over 100 positions of that nature."

The Hobart Australian Junior Chess Problem solving tourney (the 4th) was a success with 62 entries. Geoff set the problems and Nigel and Peter Wagg did the supervising.

Admiration for Fred Hawes labour of love for chess problems over 40 years in The Austral, Australasian Chess Review and Chess World was more awe that anyone could do it. There must have been times when he was sick or ill when he would have liked to chuck it all in but he persisted as he gave all his free time to them. Probably why his children were NOT interested.

Was he a very early computer gamer without the computer? We were gathering all his problems not in his two books held by his daughter Amy.

Nigel asked did I know a living Australian end-game composer. A good question I couldn't answer. I suggested contact with Andrew Ballam and his chess radio program in Sunday evening Melbourne that featured endings. I knew a lot of deceased end-gamers such as Becker, Esling, Watson, Erskine and Charlick.

Paul Dunn was researching in the Sydney Morning Herald 6th November, 1846 and found two games, one played in England and the other 'lately played in this colony.' It could be this is THE earliest published Australian game. It's a poor game between Mr. J (White) and Mons. M.M. (Black). I told Paul I thought it was the other game because of the Mons or Monsieur. But having played through this one it has all the shortcomings NOT found in a game played in England. Here it is:-

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..Nf6;3.d3..h6;4.f4..Bd6;5.f5..Bc5;6.Nf3..d6;7.h3..Nc6;8.Bd2..d5;9.dxe..Nxd5;
10.Bxd5..Qxd5;11.Nc3..Qd6;12.g4..h5;13.Nb5..Qd7;14.Bc3..f6;15.d4..exd;16. Nxd4..a4;
17.Na3..Nxd5;18.gxh..Nxf5;19.Qe2+..Ne7;20.Nc4..b5;21.Nd2..Bb7;22.Rf1..0-0-0;
23.0-0-0..Nd5;24.Ne4..Qe7;25.fRe1..Nb4;26.Kb1..Bxe4;27.Qg4+..Kb8;28.Rc1..f5;
29.Qe2..Qf7;30.b3..Re8;31.Qh2..Bxc2+;32.Kb2..Bxb3;33.axb3..Nd3+;34.Kc2..Nxe1+;
35.Bxe1..Re6.

Black resigned. (Moves changed to algebraic.) Paul had started writing historical articles for Australasian Chess and on 30th June I sent the set of the New South Wales Chess Bulletin to him for scanning onto the ACF website.

Just earlier Peter Wong sent an email 27th May to all problemists advising the ozproblems website was close to being set up. That was great news and a result of the talk in the Ryde-Eastwood Club last year. It's amazing today to look back and wonder how problemists got by without it.

Also very nice to find an article in 'Memento' Issue 39 of the National Archives on the great Aussie cook Margaret Fulton and her father Alexander. He was shown in a photo gloriously decked out in a kilt with a boomerang in one hand. Margaret's sister Mrs Bryant lived at 2 O'Connell Street Kogarah where I was raised as a lad at No.26, and I remember that day when I was invited into the Bryant house to learn how to play chess, Alexander Fulton was then in his 60's and a good teacher. He was a Scot who brought his family to Australia in the 1920's. The Bryants' had a lovely circular chess table with an inset board and glazed cover. The pieces were ornate especially the knights and I fell in love that day in the early 1950's. Margaret had been made a 'National Living Treasure' and her father (1888-1983) was a master tailor at Glen Innes. In the photo Margaret is holding her dad's tailor shears.

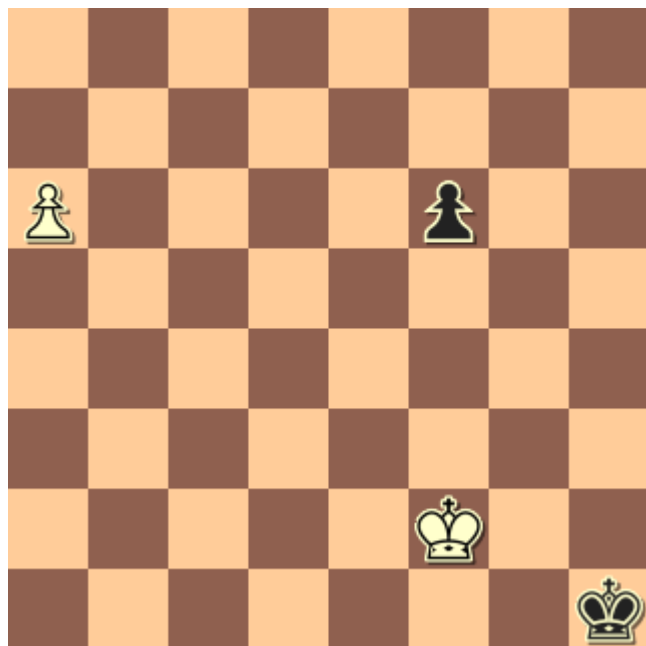
Neville sent me a complimentary copy of Volume 4 of 'Chess Tasmanian Records' and as he wanted a copy of Whyatt I sent him one of the not so good remainders. He was pleased with that.

Geoff met Baiba Ford (nee Mangalis) in Canberra and she wanted to thank him in person for the article on her dad. Geoff wrote” I’m just beginning to realise how much the article meant to her. It brought back memories of her father, which she was able to share with her children (who never knew their grandfather).“ Chris Jones of the Problemist sent a copy of the article to her and he did the same for Colleen Griffiths, E.D.McQueen’s daughter. Geoff posted them on and this one was in the July issue.

Chess history is great fun. Who would believe that the book ‘Thomas Frere and the Brotherhood of Chess’ had a Staunton supporter in the argument about why he didn’t play Morphy. This supporter was ‘Pro Recto’ and he was a Tasmanian living in New York. This news was sent to Neville to see if he knew who ‘Pro Recto’ was. He didn’t.

A snag arose with the diagrams in my CD on problem history for Peter’s website as the diagrams would not come up. Ian Shanahan knew what was wrong as he knew I was a tyro and didn’t have modern computer programs using Word and Shredder 6 (Fritz) diagrams. All was well as what had to be done was to Click on the ‘Tools’ menu then click on ‘Options’ then ‘Save’ and click on the ‘Embed True Type Fonts’ box so that it contains a tick and click OK. Peter did that and the CD diagrams (117) came up instead of the gobbledegook and there was no need to rediagram.

Another endgamer, new to me was Ernest Pogosyants, a Ukrainian who had composed 6000 studies! Many he composed with his lifelong insomnia which was caused by incarceration in a hospital for his political criticism. He was also a Poet. Look at this one. Hard to believe.



White mates in 5 (2x2)

Solution 1.a7..Kh2;2.a8=R..Kh3;
3.Ra4..f5;4.Rf4..Kh2;5.Rh4++

I got out Karpov’s 1990 Encyclopedia and found two more terrific endings. Paul Valois wrote movingly about him in 64 issue 19 of October 1990. It wrote of his wit, sketches and aphorisms and his loss of sight in his last years. The photo shows a humourous chubby man who loved miniatures and studies. With 6000 studies he was in T.R. Dawson category.(If 2.a8=Q?)

There were 120 players at the 9th September Dubbo Interschool Event and very well run by Sandy Aich and his wife Julia. I enjoyed some low key adjudicating.

Peter Wong was preparing biographies of problemists for his website. Arthur Willmott's done by Ian Shanahan was very impressive as was Peter's own biography. We all hoped the site would attract young people to problems. Geoff Foster sent me a long letter on Chessman Laser and followed on with another. He was a terrific helper dealing with an older guy though! I sent him 'The elephant sat on my car.' Denis Saunders amusing article on his affray with a circus elephant on the loose.

Neville's wife Nell hurt her leg and had 6 weeks in hospital which allowed him to 'springclean' his chess room. This resulted in a 20 page catalogue of chess items for sale that included some gaps in my wants. One was Edward Winter's 'Chess Omnibus' 2003 and another was the 'History of Chess' the Moravian Chess reprint of the 1860 work by Duncan Forbes. Neville was also selling part of his own library. 'Chess Omnibus' was I thought, the best of EW's books. It was also pleasing to have the reprint of Forbes' book as my own copy was an 1860 original not in very good order and a danger to use. I wrote about this amazing volume in Bert and am pleased to say it has now been repaired in 2018. I kept it as original as possible.

On the reprint by Moravian Chess which is a good solid job in maroon cloth as a hardback the only problem is the Chaturanga diagram opposite the title page as only 3 sets of men (8 in each set) have printed on the board when there should be 4. The diagram was also coloured and one needs to know that to follow the book explanation. The Chaturanga pieces in the Top LH corner are yellow in colour (missing in the reprint), The second set in the Top RH corner are black, the third set on the bottom left hand corner are green and the fourth set in the bottom right hand corner are red. The pages 16 and 17 will now be clear.

And then came Neville's supplement a few weeks later in November and it included a true rarity 'The Australasian Chess Magazine' 1919/20 Vol.1 No. 1,2,3,4,5,7,9,10,11 & 12. Vol.2 No.1. Not complete but amazing to see 90 years later. I already had a photocopy full set thanks to Des Cowley of the MVA but here were 11 of the 14 originals. Of course I bought them for \$4/copy. I did not know the editor of the ACM, A.R. Snowdon and had not appreciated that the publishers were Tyrrell's Limited of 99 Castlereagh Street Sydney. An old and famous book name. 'Old Books, Old Friends, Old Sydney' had been a best seller by James Tyrrell and was one of my favourites. It was also pleasing to see the ad on the rear page by 'Mick Simmons' P/L of Haymarket Sydney for 'Indoor Games'. This was another famous sports store and one frequented in the 1950's. Tyrrell's called themselves 'The Book-Lovers Shop' with 100,000 books. Chess literature was a specialty and alongside were ads for 'Tooheys Stag Brand Lager and Stout' and 'Wally Weekes Garrett's Hotel Castlereagh Street Sydney. I noted that Snowdon was the Honorary Secretary of the Sydney School of Arts 275 Pitt Street. Another famous chess stop.

Paul Dunn sent me his first scans of the NSW Chess Bulletin, quite good and also a copy of 'Journey without End' by Chris Depasquale In quest of the Australian Chess Championship December 1999-January 2000' An honest book by a man who scaled the heights and looked at

the summit more than most did. I sent Paul a CD of the late John van Manen's translated chess articles.

Peter Wong had the Home Page for ozproblems.com completed in early November. Dennis Hale had sent him his biography and the site was to go online Sunday 7th November. I found it on 12th November and enjoyed it greatly.

Neville sent the list of editors missing for the Correspondence Chess League Bulletin from November, 1967 to August, 1978 for the Bibliography which would now be published by KWA next year.

Ian Shanahan won a 1st prize in The Problemist which was a great effort. Peter mentioned it on the website.

The impressive but bad news sent by Geoff was that 5 problems in the Whyatt book had been cooked or had no solution.

They are No.23 cook dx7, 39.no solution. 59.cook Nc8..Be3;2.Be5, 166. Cook Ncb5 and No.3 in AG & WW cook Qg8. I was impressed! The late Jim Jones who checked all of them for the book would have been too. Only 5 in 209 problems-verging on computer- like! Geoff was going to put Whyatt on the website which was a big job and included making my comments more constructive. Ian rang me about Whyatt and wanted it scanned for a friend in Europe. I suggested he send me his friends address and I would post him an original.

Peter sent me 2 CD's on the ozproblems website. Great to have and I sent him a CD of the Bibliography of Australian Chess Literature by Paul and myself. He liked the detail on most articles. It was good to see Andy sag's biography being prepared for the website and Ian Rogers gave ozproblems.com a great plug in his Sun-Herald chess column. I sent Peter the Ravenscroft material and the missing Australasian Chess Magazine articles.

The year was ending and our little town was very lucky not to have been flooded by the Macquarie River which peaked at 14m on 7th December. I went down and had a look at the river near the old filtration plant. It was actually roaring and very scary but the Burrendong Dam engineers had calculated correctly and the water started dropping the next day.

Here is a letter from the Australian 8th October to finish:-

"Something precious lost in translation:-

Until I left England in 1973 at the age of 24, I enjoyed a rather poor relationship with my father. I arrived in Australia married, with two children to start an adventure on the other side of the world. Almost as soon as we arrived I began writing letters home and, to my surprise, all the replies were written by my father.

A letter posted in country Victoria took a week to reach England, which meant a two or three week gap between letters from home.

In the beginning these letters provided moments of joy as we endured homesickness while trying to establish ourselves in our new home.

I began to thoroughly enjoy reading my father's letters as well as composing replies. It was not until I returned to England on holiday that I discovered my parents had saved all my letters, just as I'd saved theirs.

Looking through my old letters, I discovered all sorts of forgotten moments and special events, recorded in poor handwriting and even poorer spelling.

My father died in 1990 and my mother took over letter-writing for the next 10 years. I never lost the thrill of seeing an air-mail letter in the mailbox.

I have saved many of these letters and I hope one day my grandchildren will enjoy reading them because they open a window to the times when they were written.

With the advent of the paperless office, email began to arrive at my workplace and it was simply amazing.

We could communicate instantly not only with colleagues working alongside us but with people in our firm's head office in Houston. It was certainly magical, but little did I realise the effect that email would have in terms of communicating with friends and family abroad. Once I used to contemplate topics my letter would cover, what had occurred with children, family, hobbies, and so on, as well as answer questions raised in the letter to which I was replying.

It is a tragedy that all of this has been replaced by instant one-liners via email, or sometimes a couple of sentences.

Gone is the depth of discussion and thoughtful observation. And what has replaced it? Certainly not something you're likely to revisit or hope that one day your grandchildren will read.

Instant messaging is even worse than email. We have gone from the multi-page letter to "gr8 2 cu". If it weren't so sad, I'd laugh out loud.

Vaughan Patrick Floreat, W.A."

A very good letter, 8 years old now. Do we still feel this way?

2011:-

Peter Wong's team of Nigel and Geoff reformatted and scanned the first part of Whyatt for the website. That was good to see but the problem of not knowing a lot of digital knowledge such as Word scanning does not work for the website and the Australasian Chess Magazine scanned by me last year had to be sent in pdf and thankfully Norma did that.

A phone call from Nigel 10th February advising that Peter Parr had a 'JVK' book for sale and that was probably John Vincent Kellner my old chess mentor. I bought it for \$13 and put it with

its mates. What a story of provenance they could tell each other! 170 years of stories. Sure some may be dull but who knows some great chess personage even Staunton himself might have flicked through the pages. Or, sadly, the book was never opened. It was Volume 2 of the Chess Player's Chronicle 1842 - a very slightly burnt copy. Nothing serious. I have told this story before in Bert but not this finale. If it really was JVK's then it had survived the terrible fire in 1987 when the Kellner's suicided. It must have been bought by Bob Theakstone or Cathy Chua and ended up with Peter. I favour Bob as the buyer after the fire sale.

There was very bad news but I will let Clive Lane tell it:-

“27th February:- “I sold some cheap Australian material to Tony Peterson the other day, but with the strength of the dollar I must have another look at his catalogue. I am having a big think about the future of book-selling at the moment, with all the publicity about books in digital form. Here in Sydney, Chess Discount Sales is closing, as Peter Parr is finally retiring and he hasn't found anyone willing to take over the business. I am debating whether to buy stock cheaply from him, but I'm just not sure what to do. I think that there is still a market for good chess books – the collectors market – but it's diminishing as collectors age and fewer young people collect.

For instance, I recently purchased the library of the NSW Junior Chess League from Richard Gastineau-Hills. He said that juniors weren't interested in chess books anymore and got their chess on the internet or with digital book. I'd agree with his assessment.

There was also the rather surprising interview with Hikaru Nakamura after he won the recent Wijk An Zee tournament where he was asked the standard question of which books were most influential on his development and he replied that he actually hadn't read any chess books! He learnt everything by using chess software.

Booksellers are generally doing it tough, with Borders closing and Angus and Robertson closing. At least we still have Dymocks. I must confess that I'm part of the problem, as I've ordered 6 or 7 books from Book Depository in the UK (www.bookdepository.com) that were half the Australian price and came with free international Air Mail postage. We're certainly living in interesting times.”

Clive was playing a lot of chess and studying the game more than previous years. He was also chess coaching in his old high school and playing lots of renaissance music on tenor viol dagamba and guitar.

A sobering letter from a dealer to a collector! Still, if books are cheaper to buy than in Australia (a familiar refrain over the years) the local book market needs a shakeup. I was still buying from Tony P overseas and locals but with Peter Parr going and Neville Ledger probably thinking about it, the local market was getting thin. I was of the view that openings theory books and other non historical type chess books might be nearing an end. It was hard to believe Nakamura had never opened a chess book but we have to take his comments as true.

It also seems likely that neither the MVA nor SLNSW will want old chess books. They are all going digital and storing books off-site. If ever there was a recipe for a library's book demise in a

specialized field such as chess this was the way to go. I look at our own local library for 3,500 people. It is full of novels, CDs, children's books and a scattering of non-fiction. The dam wall is still being held up in 2018. What about the future? One can pick up amazing books, CDs etc in garage sales & St Vincent de Paul etc. I recently purchased 5 books for \$1 at Gilgandra Library. But what to do with chess libraries as collectors die off? Well, I look at ebay and things are thriving there.

Linden Lyons was in contact 24th February about an application for a Creative Fellowship grant from the SLV and he wanted to show the value of chess in rural areas. He wanted to use Thomas Denton Clarke a Victorian country problemist as the key figure. I sent him the Australian Problem History, F.K. Esling and some research done on Clarke from the MVA and myself. It was a good subject and we hoped his application was successful.

A letter from Peter Parr 28th February confirmed the closure of his store Chess Discount sales and the offer of 30% off items at the sale. He added some detail on the Kellner fire in 1987:- Thank you for your cheque for \$13. The JVK book was John Kellner's. Lloyd Fell and Bob Theakstone picked up the books from Kellner's home and took them as suggested by the police. Cathy Chua may have received some of the books from Theakstone but most were donated to the NSW Junior Chess League. I purchased from the Fell Estate and from the NSW Junior League all available books. Of course I played John Kellner many times and Narelle Kellner a few times. I was present when J. Kellner played a record 17 game simultaneous blindfold exhibition in Victoria. He remembered all positions during a lengthy lunch break. An amazing feat. He suffered a terrible headache for some days after and never attempted it again.

John van Manen's pioneering work on early Australian chess updated, is a most valuable contribution to our chess history."

We now know Clive Lane bought the NSWJCL Library but that may have been a later one than that bought by Peter Parr.

Neville had 'Chess Tasmanian Records' Vol.5 out. 134 pages A4 and it included results of events held by Hobart, Launceston and Burnie Chess Clubs and the Australian Junior Ch'ship held in Tasmania 35 years ago (i.e ca 1976) I bought one at \$26.

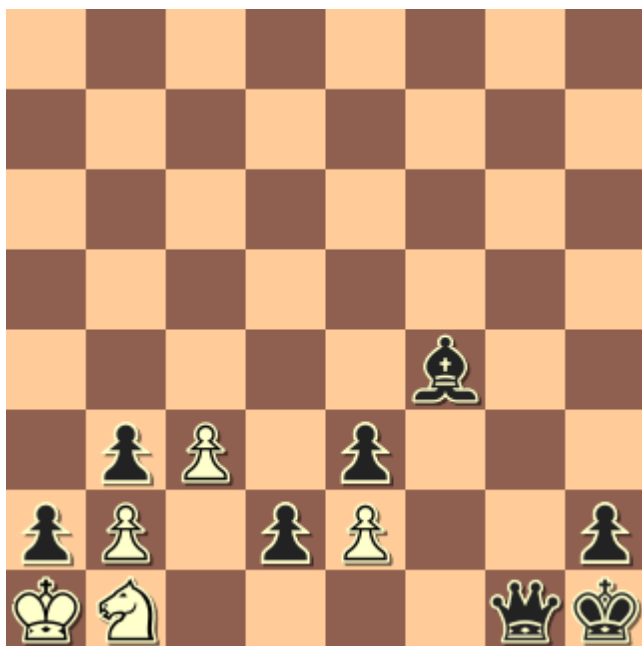
I sent some research to Paul Dunn on Blackburne to add to his interesting articles on the 'Black Death's' visit to Australia in 1885.

There was a fightback article "Holding the Line" by the independent bookshop owners in the Weekend Australian in March. Some of the names were Fiona Stager - Avid Reader Books Qld, Suzy Wilson - Riverbend Books Qld, Derek Dryden's 'Better Read than Dead' Sydney, Mark Rubbo - Readings and David Gaunt of Gleebooks Glebe. They were holding their own against the digital dread.

Linden's application to the SLV was good and he sent me a copy. It was a fine promotion of chess problems that Ken Fraser would have liked. The Grant application was for 12 months.

Chess in rural areas has fascinated Ken Fraser for many years and could be included in Linden's project. I sent him some more material.

It had been 30+ years since contact with Chris Feather in the UK but his No.100 in Australasian Chess January, 2011 was a truly lovely 5 move helpmate. Here it is:-



(5x8) (b) take off Pc3 Black moves 1st

(a) 1.Kg2..c4; 2.Kf1..Nc3; 3.Ke1..Nx a2; 4.Kd1..Kb1; 5.Qe1..Nc3++

(b) remove Pc3

1.d1=B..Nc3; 2.Bxe2+..Nd1; 3.Bf1..Nxe3; 4.Bg2+..Nf1; 5.Bc1..Ng3++

What can you say? I was totally defeated by (b) and wrote to Chris congratulating him. He replied in a lovely letter. Two guys still using snail mail. 7 years later it still thrills.

I sent Peter Wong the Ravenscroft/Hawes problems 'embedded' into the Shredder /Word diagrams and hoped that was that. Peter's site was a world class Australian effort.

Geoff Foster sent an interesting letter 25th March, on computer problem composition:-

"You asked about the limits of computer composition. For studies and direct-mate problems one method is to use the endgame tablebases. The six-piece tablebases are available on the Internet. It is commonly claimed that they contain every six-piece position but this is not true, because they don't have positions with a lone king versus five enemy pieces. Such positions are of no interest to players. But they are of great interest to problemists! There are now seven-piece table bases, but these are not publicly available. The table bases contain (almost) all six-piece problems and studies, but the trick is in finding the needles in the enormous haystack. However, there are certain classes of problem which can be found by a computer search (see John Beasley, The Problemist, November, 2008 page 511, and my article 'A Mystery Solved' in The Problemist Supplement, September, 2009). I'd like to do a computer search, but I don't have the specialized programming knowledge.

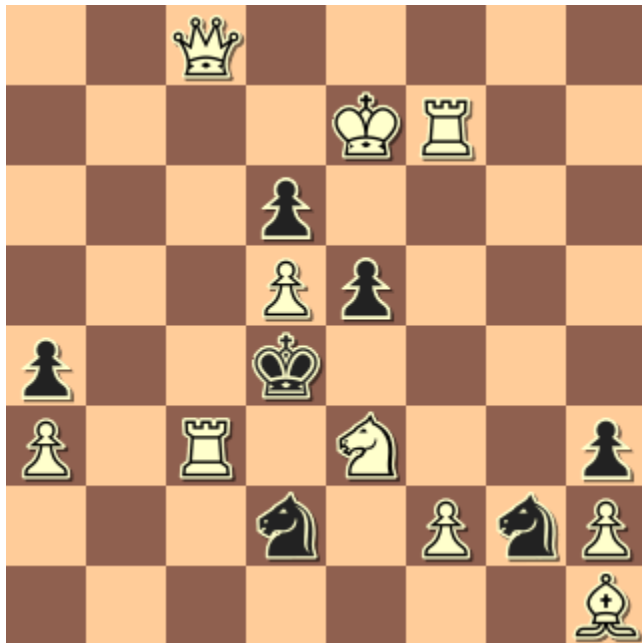
A simple way to use computers is to use a solving program such as Popeye. Problems with fairy pieces conditions often need only a very few pieces, so it's possible to enter a random collection

of pieces and see what Popeye comes up with. Of course this method is very unlikely to result in a finished problem, but it can reveal interesting possibilities – computers have a habit of finding very subtle ideas!

I've become adept at a different method. Years ago I wrote a program that plays backwards from a given mate (or stalemate), finding problems having a unique solution. Of course, the number of possibilities is huge, so some method must be used to limit the search. For example, in "sliding block" problems only a small section of the board is used. I've found several tricks, but such tricks must be jealously guarded. I've never heard of anybody discussing such secrets, and I won't do so now, because this letter is done!"

What he meant was he had reached the bottom of the snail mail page. Clever guy Geoff and far cleverer than I will ever be. He and Ian Shanahan were well matched.

One nuisance for microfilm reading such as 'the Austral' 16mm is that one has to wind it on the machine, focus, magnify and record. This was the pre digital world and much material still rests there and may never go modern. So I copied all the problem numbers only, not forsyth, to allow ease of location. There are 613 problems in the 7 years of 'The Austral's' life. It was a busy magazine full of games and problems and draughts games. I did this 7/4/2011. Here is a brief sample from 25th August, 1923 issue:- T.D. Clarke unplaced. In Australasian 12th May, 1923



2-er (10x7) Key Rh7 waiting if
 1..e4/dNany/gNany;2.Qh8/Rc4/Nf5

Judge Fred Hawes wrote:-*Remove key piece and 1.Kf7 will solve the problem. Here artistic difficulty is developed at the expense of economy.*

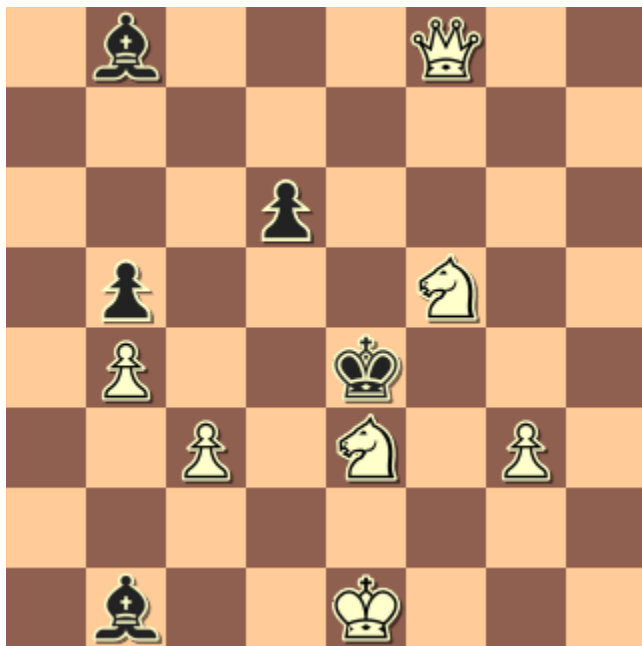
So Fred didn't like it. I have to say when I saw the key I wondered what was going on. Fred considered it a superfluous piece but also devious. I wonder what Sam Loyd would have said?

The photos of the solvers and organisers at the Australian Junior Problem Solving Ch'ship in Melbourne on 18/1 were excellent. The photographers were Raelene Zelesca and Dawn Netheim. Nice to see Doug Hamilton and Nigel marking papers and Nigel giving Bobby Cheng the 1st prize. Steven Solomon and Andrew Ballam were great assistants.

Matplus Forum had some interesting developments 5/5:-

“...Siegfried Hornecker said that the 7-piece endgame tablebases (EGTB) were now publicly available on the Internet. Torsten Linss replied as follows: There are plenty of 7 piece TB generated chess problems around already... ” The ellipsis at the end of Torsten’s reply were full of meaning, as you will see. Olaf Jenkner then replied: “Yes, most of them are selfmates,” and he gave a link to some problems in the PDB (a chess problem data base on the Internet). The problems were about 100 selfmates by Torsten, all with just two black pieces, published since about 1996. Olaf then, (with a hint of sarcasm) said “none of them is cooked.” It never occurred to me that tablebases could be used to compose selfmates, so I asked: “How is it possible to use EGTB to compose selfmates? The EGTB only shows what happens with best play on both sides.” Olaf replied:”Ask Torsten, it is in Germany no secret. It is clear when you look at his unbelievable miniatures shown in the link above.” I’ve been thinking about how it was done. When generating a conventional EGTB, the main step is to find all possible checkmates with the given material, then perform “retrograde analysis” on each of them. By doing this it is possible to find the shortest path to mate for any given position. What Torsten must have done is to find all positions in which Black is forced to mate on the move, then perform the retrograde analysis on those positions. He was able to do this because the vast majority of mates are not forced, so there were many fewer positions to process. I’ve made a further post, but most members don’t seem to be interested – they would rather argue about airy-fairy topics of no practical use. I hope that more information is posted. Anyhow it just shows what an absolute computer-whizz Torsten Linss is.”

It is interesting to examine posts on the web. I’m inclined to agree that they are entertaining rather than educational. To come back to yesteryear where I like residing here is a 3-er by Joseph George Witton from the Town & Country Journal 1st November, 1879 (7x5)



Key 1.Ne7. Amazing and I failed. I sent it to Neville Ledger as JGW was from the ‘Apple Isle’ and gave the solution but no variations. Neville was pleased I’d done that “I would never have found the key”.

Now this fellow Witton battled on through life, came to Melbourne and was paid peanuts to help Andrew Burns with his Leader column and then he died in 1910. He was 58 so his children were grown. His chess books were sold and Frank Ravenscroft got some in 1910. I have one with J.G. Witton’s stamp. I often wonder about him.

Neville weighed in with another 3 page catalogue that had books owned by a departing Tasmanian chessplayer. It was a beauty for the player with Opening Theory, General, NIC and Informators a plenty. Not my cup of tea but it did well for Neville with 50% sold in 11 days!! One of his first chess books was “Chess The Easy Way” I did not know that one and must find out more.

Nigel received a chess photo from Sarinya Eyland of a group of players in China. It looked 1930’s 40’s to me and I suggested it go to Edward Winter.

The first half of 2011 finished with Clive Lane’s letter of 2nd June which included articles giving sad judgments on the fate of the book. Here’s his letter:- “*You may be aware of the American site for book sellers and book enthusiasts: Americana Exchange which publishes some great articles on the book trade each month. Its at <http://www.americanaexchange.com/AE/AEMonthly?AEMonthlyArticles.aspx> (but probably easier just to Google ‘Americana Exchange’).*”

I have enclosed a few recent articles that might interest you – but in brief:

- *There doesn’t seem to be much future for printed books*
- *There doesn’t seem to be much future for selling printed books*
- *Libraries are moving towards divesting themselves of their printed books and going Digital (you may have noticed in the Sydney Morning Herald, for instance, that Fisher Library is getting rid of a large part of its collection). So the libraries may not be accepting donations in the future.*

A gloomy set of predictions, I know, but a brave new world appears to be rushing toward us. What this means for me is that I am selling my books as rapidly as I can while they retain some value. I could be wrong, but I am starting to think that the printed book is going to end up like any information in a superseded format; i.e unwanted. I would except some antiquarian books, which should retain value as historical curiosities. Best wishes Clive.”

Precis articles:- ‘Electronic Books at Amazon now outselling all printed books’ Michael Stillman Amazon was astonished by the speed of change. They had sold printed books for 15 years.

‘Books & Libraries - The Good, the Bad and the Ugly’ Michael Stillman John Hopkins Uni. extends library to a ‘student friendly place’ losing the ‘bunker feeling’ There will be no books.

University of Nevada-Ceasing all special collections due to \$ shortfall. No more gifts accepted. (What indeed will happen to those in SLV, SLNSW and Newcastle Uni.? BM)

‘EBay Progress for Books from the Bottom UP’ Bruce McKinney

Prices are falling for printed works but definitely a selling opportunity.

I looked up Americana Exchange 18th December, 2018. It has a new name now. Rare

Book Hub. And I looked up some prices:- very nice to see the late Peter Parr's 'Australian Chess Magazine' 11 issues 1993-5 \$67.50. Also Cathy Chua's 'Australian Chess at the Top' 1998 \$55 and that bloke Bob Meadley's Whyatt book 1979 for \$107!!

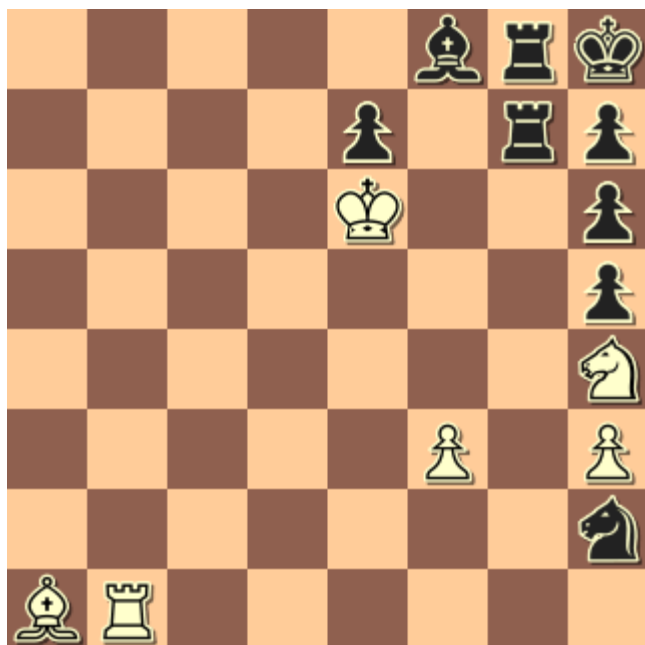
It's a very good auction site, with photos of book covers and excellent descriptions of each book. What can one say about 2011 in 2019 regarding printed books? They are holding up OK. I will examine this site more closely.

Nigel sent 2 email photos from Sarinya Eyland which had originally come from Lily Tokareff of a group of 14 chess players of Harbin China asking if I could help. They were great photos and I spent some time researching in BCM in the 1920's as Garry Koshnitsky, the late Australian chess icon had come from there or near Tsitsiker NW of Harbin. But no luck. There were 2 interesting faces that resembled Keres and Alekhine and we knew the latter was in China early 1933. Then Boris Kostich had visited in 1922. Trouble was the group of chess players did not give the two faces pride of place in the photos and the only player who looked like Kostich was Liy's grandfather! Nigel sent them to Edward Winter where they are item 7094 in Chess Notes. The earlier photo mentioned on the preceding page must have been another of the group but too far away to recognise anyone.

I replied to Clive's late December letter on the demise of the book and I told him that Ross Burnet of Uralla Books near Armidale was going OK and had even installed a café in 1/3rd of the shop where he was 'mine host'. I watched his technique on one visit where he even sat down with the clients and they ate and drank whilst Ross, a very clever antiquarian answered their queries and he came back with a book that they bought! When we got to Coffs Harbour I called on 'Readmore Books' on the highway near The Plaza and watched a chap bring in 12 books and depart with \$36. Later the books were for sale at \$9 each. She ran a good store was nice, helped with wants and I asked her what she thought of the book future. She smiled and said "Keep prices low and increase turnover." Sadly a year or two later she was gone.

I tallied up my collection on 31/3/2011 (\$35,000) and though a lot of interest had been foregone in collecting, if life revolved around that was it worth living? I noted Clive's warning but was happy and finished by writing "Now, if I hadn't eaten all those chocolates over 60+ years!" Tony Peterson had told me new collectors were coming in but that the ebook would take over. I wondered if that was true as old books are not usually republished.

I sent Ian Shanahan an amazing 4-er by W.J. Wood (b.1872)-?) from an article on 4-ers by B.G. Laws in the 1923 BCM. Here it is (6x9) Key 1.Rh1 the variations are for you to work out.



I know, it looks like a typo but the key is Rh1. Walter John Wood was born in Malvern England 9 June 1872 but there was nothing more in Gaige. It is a classy article by Laws in BCM on pages 264+ & 355+ and he wrote "It would seem futile to play the Rook to the corner, but on consideration it will be seen that to be of use there is no other square for it, as unpromising as it is".

He also wrote that Four Movers were 'The Grand Opera in the Art of Chess Problems'.

Linden was successful with his Creative Fellowship grant at the SLV (6 months part time) on T. D. Clarke. I sent him more material on Clarke who was in real life a poundkeeper.

Ian was having major health problems and required a kidney transplant. The hospital set him up for dialysis at his home. I told him my snail mail correspondence was declining almost to zero. The local Postmaster told me business had dropped 50% and only ebay parcels kept them going. I wished him well in a very tough assignment.

Drusan Drajić's first 2 volumes on 'An Overview of Yugoslavian Chess Literature 2010-2011' were bought. They were great chess enthusiasts over there and eventually DD put out 5 volumes through kwa. There was a good description of Nenad Petrović's 'Problem Zagreb' which took me back to the '60's when Frank Ravenscroft first showed it to me and willed his copies to me later. It may well have been the BEST problem magazine in its time.

There was a very good article in The Register Adelaide of 9th July, 1921 p.7 on chess history in that city from 1850-1870. It added to Charlick's 1914 book on the Jubilee of the Adelaide Chess Club.

Geoff Foster had become editor of The Problemist Supplement and had received a letter from John Roycroft who was trying to locate a beautiful old and large Staunton chess set that had been sold in 2007 to a person who emigrated to Australia. The key words were CUMMINS and JACKSON but I could not help. I was still finding Leonid Makaronez my hoodoo composer and got a mental blank whenever one of his problems was in Geoff's Australasian Chess problem column. By the way he called that column Problem PotPourri which was nice. I had suggested 'Fostering Problems' but it was too late.

A most interesting article ‘Checkmate or perceptions of an ancient game of skill’ by Cindy Neilsen was published in the Dubbo Weekender.(13 August 2011) She was a late bloomer and wrote well:-

“Two years ago I finally moved out of my comfort zone, admittedly not before a bit of squirming in my seat. At the then ripe old age of half a century, I at last booted myself from the non-chess players’ camp into the chess players’ camp.

While I do not boast to be steeped in a long or deep understanding of the game of chess, I can lay claim to a rudimentary knowledge of its workings sufficient to hold my own against a willing opponent – well at least for a time. Very occasionally I may even notch up a win, much to my usually short-lived smug satisfaction.

One of the main reasons I had not previously taken up chess was my own warped perception of the game and its players. To me, chess seemed to be one of those rather esoteric, elitist pursuits reserved strictly for that sector of society made up of rather esoteric, elitist and misogynistic males. It is a refreshing and revelatory experience when one’s long-held perceptions are completely obliterated by an opposed reality. To my surprise, and suitable embarrassment, I learned that chess was a game for all seasons, for all people.

Whether I actually make the grade as deemed by the upper echelons of the game and can verily add ‘chess player’ to my bow is neither here nor there. The mere fact that I can sit across from my husband or 10-year-old chess-playing daughter and pose even a slim threat is gratifying.

Speaking of young people playing chess, to date my daughter has attended two regional chess tournaments in the Central West; an autumn tournament which attracted more than 40 male and female youths and, more recently, a winter tournament which attracted more than 60 young people. Apart from improving their knowledge and honing their skills by playing others of the same and different gender, age and rank, these young players have a wonderful opportunity to interact and socialize with their peers in a safe and edifying environment.

It is disappointing, therefore, that few schools (of which I am aware) offer chess as an official school sport alongside the usual suspects of footballs, netball, soccer, gym. Etcetera.

Clearly, the reason for this stems from Australia’s social and cultural upbringing. Within a sporting context, Australians largely engage in and glorify highly physical sports and activities and tend to spurn those of a more intellectual nature. This is sad and unfortunate.

But it does prompt the question: What is the origin of chess and where is it predominantly played? To answer these questions, we need to go as far back as antiquity itself.

History records that the game of chess originated some 1500 years ago, although there is some disagreement as to where it began, with some historians claiming it began in India, others in China and again others in Persia (now Iran).The game of chess is said to be one of the oldest games of skill known to man. And it has never really waned as a sport.

Today, roughly 600-700 million people world-wide play the game, face to face as well as over the internet. Apart from the USA, however, it is not a particularly high-profile sport in the western world, compared with nations such as Russia, China, India and some of the former Eastern bloc countries where the game of chess is a highly regarded institution.

Australia does not demonstrate the same level of interest or regard for chess as these countries. And yet it is a game – so I happily discovered – that can be enjoyed by everyone, whatever level. So let's make playing chess cool and hip...because it is."

Nice article by a local and doubtless she was encouraged to learn the game by her daughter and husband. I have lived in western NSW for over 50 years and the game is strong but the worries are that enthusiastic organisers may move on to larger centres for family reasons.

Dennis and Natalie Hale were interested in Cindy's article and so I sent it to them.

The sad news was John Purdy's passing. Cecil's son was a judge and former Australian chess champion. I wrote to his sister Diana Hutchings.

The Dubbo Interschool Chess event was played 8th September with Millthorpe winning the Primary section and Orange Anglican Grammar the Secondary section. Joe Cummins coached them both and clearly had a wide skill to train the different age groups. I was one of the adjudicators.

Paul Dunn had sent in all the updates to the kwa for the coming hardcopy Bibliography in November. He also sent the Wisker article to Hans Rennett of Belgium. He had been in Melbourne playing in a Seniors event and went to MVA doing research on Blackburns visit. He sent me a file of the Australian Columns Problem Tourney 1909 which was the first. It was well printed with great diagrams. He had heard back from Hans who wanted more material on Wisker and so I sent him via Paul an article written in 1986. He got that and then asked a very good question –What happened to Wisker's wife? Paul had also digitized 2 years of the NSW Chess Bulletin and told me the whole issue would have to be written to DVD's as CD's were not big enough.

It was quite sad to call at Peter Parr's shop in Campbell Street on 26th October. There was little left and he was sitting midroom at his computer surrounded by piles of chess dunnage and boxes of books. He intended reopening at his Redfern home as the rent had been increased from \$1000/week to \$1600. Time to go. He gave me a nice Staunton picture that had been blue tacked to the wall and I bought a copy of the Alekhine/Capablanca 1927 matchbook by William Winter for \$18 and some copies of Australasian Chess Lore. We shook hands and said goodbye. I never saw him again. A lot more Wisker research was done at the slnsw. The terrible end to Wisker's family was that his wife died of cancer not long after returning to England and some years later there was a plea by the foster father of Laura for money from Australia to help with her education. I do hope the girl benefited. On the way home by train we stopped off at Lithgow and I bought an Elvis Presley chess set for \$10 in a nice sturdy tin . The pawns were all blue suede shoes!

Paul was researching the famous Mr. Watts who played in the first chess match in Melbourne in 1856. Ken Fraser and I had puzzled of 'Which Watts was which'. John Townsend later proved he was a member of the London Chess Club and he came to Australia. There still lacked conclusive proof he was our man but it looked to me that he was. Paul was finding new chess columns. Too late for the Bibliography but research never ends. The best was the 'Capricornian' 1884-1890 and he also found 2 games between Launceston and Green Ponds 1848!

Joe Cummins sent me some notes on how to coach primary school chess and one thing was clear, he was a class above me. I played one of his primary boys during the lunch break and he was good. We called it a draw.

Paul finished the year with further details on Watts and his arch rival A.G.McCombe who was a hero of mine and he sent me some early BCM scans. He was a good researcher.

2012:

He wrote again on 4th January and had done a review on all the William Watts who died sometime after Julius Hamel (as Ken Fraser had found). The William born 1829 and died 1904 of Watts, McKechnie and Co was too late. Paul had a list of 27 William Watts who died 1891-96 which left 12 after those were removed who were still alive after Hamel's death. He had done a lot of research. John Townsend in his 2 books suggested it was a William Watts. It was a side interest that Louis Ellis, one of Hamel and Watts chess rivals was at the execution of Ned Kelly, Australia's most famous bushranger. The judge who hung him, Sir Redmond Barry had a statue in front of the State Library of Victoria.

Geoff Foster had won the Whyatt Medal and well deserved it with his Problem Potpourri column in the national magazine as well as editing the Problemist Supplement and being an active composer.

I cut out a fantastic article 'Vive le livre and long live bookworms' by Brian Turner in the Australian 14th January. There is no chess just wonderful bookshops all over the world that surely had the odd chess book or two for sale.

John Townsend sent details on his William Watts born 1805 and his disappearance from London in 1847. This seemed about right for our first Australian chess champion.

Geoff had an amusing reply to my snail mail solutions to his problems:-

"Before the advent of the personal computer I used to have writer's cramp and my handwriting was terrible. Recently I came across an old postcard of mine which had incredibly small handwriting. On the rare occasion I use handwriting I find that it has greatly improved on what it was.

Handwriting is probably doomed. Speech is also on the way out, being replaced by mobile phone texting."

I was sure when Bert reads this he will wonder if this is Geoff's humour which is like his own or was it serious? Geoff also had a chess book once owned by the villain Norman T. Whitaker with a dedication:-

"To Norman T. Whitaker, with whom I so often play chess – and lost – with best wishes from, most cordially yours Gerry Anderson April 3/1959."

And on Norman T, when he died his library and papers were bought by Dale Brandreth who said they were *"as dull as batshit."*

Gerry Anderson was the famous problemist-GFA.

I sent Ken Fraser a thank you for his Christmas card with the details on William Watts by Paul and John Townsend. We had argued a lot about which Watts was which and Ken was right and I was wrong. It wasn't the William Watts of Watts, McKechnie and Co. I bet Ken grinned at that as this was a 37 year old argument!

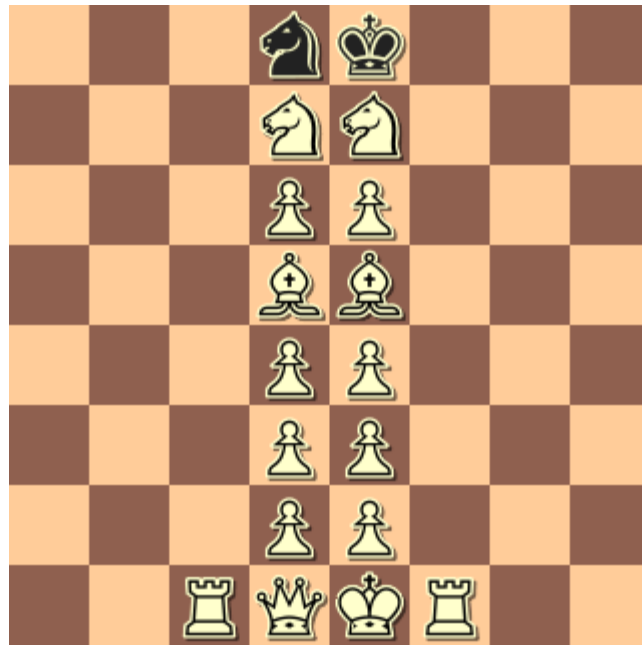
The great day arrived and 5 Australian Chess Bibliographies turned up and one immediately went to the late John van Manen's son Frank. The family would like it as John and Inge (his wife) featured in many of the photos.

Neville sent 'Chess Tasmanian Records Vol.6' - \$14. A good issue.

Geoff's article in the Problemist May 2012 on 'The Manuscript of F.T. Hawes' was great to see and his daughter Amy would have been pleased. Geoff was also interested in long move problem and I sent him what I could on some of the American composers in Brentanos 19th century magazine. They were the world's best then with Babson and Reichelm at the top. I don't think I'd ever seen the solution to 'The Obelisk' Babson's 1220 mover. It appeared in all its glory in Brentanos Jan. 1882 issue No.9, p.455. Babson in classic form wrote:-

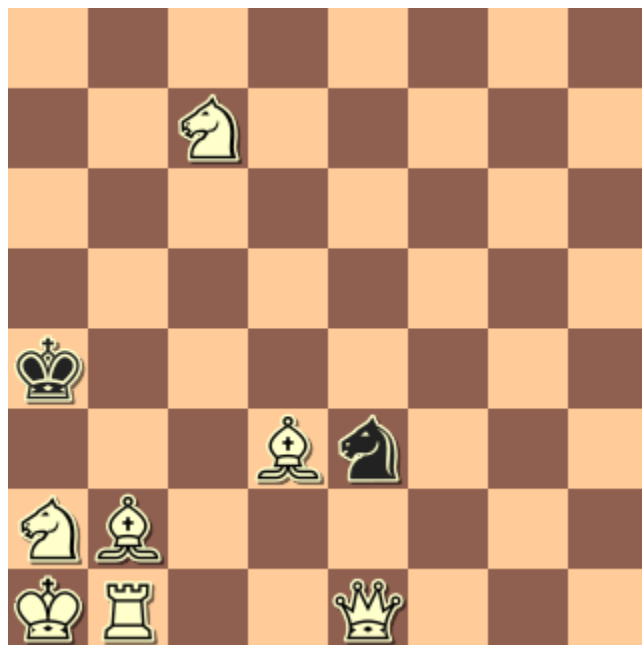
"We behold afar off in the centre of the park a huge cross stretching its giant arms towards the East and West, while at the farther end and rising far up into space a most marvelous tower, or obelisk, overlooking the surrounding kingdom with seeming pride at its magnitude and apparently thinking within itself, "I am monarch of all I survey". A Herald summons us to the King, and we reluctantly leave the wonders of this park to await upon his Brobdingnagian."

I best give the problem after that buildup but whilst never knowing the solution in looking through the dying issues of Brentanos I discovered Vol.2 No.1 was missing!! But then I found the cover of Vol.2 No.1 which has the content of the issue on the inside and discovered December Problem solutions but NOT January. I don't think Brentanos ever published "The Obelisk solution" and was it really a joke as Michael McDowell suggested to Geoff?



“Mate on the 1220th move after compelling Black to make three successive and complete Knight’s Tours” (16x2)

I replied:- “Re the 1220 move selfmate White has to force Black to complete 3 knight’s tours, which as I interpret, means every square on the board 3 times!! Even previsualising the final white mate square is awesome and imagine WKa1,WNc7 & a2,WB b2 & d3, WR b1, WQe1-BKa4 & BNe3, White plays Bc2+ and forces NxB++. But forcing all that makes this if sound the greatest problem ever and worthy of serious discussion by Winchloe. Can you make any impact on the way of doing it?”



One WR is gone but the method of driving the BN around the board three times and preserving all the white pieces as the Knight made the trek was not in my world.

Geoff replied 21 March:-*The 1220 doesn't make any sense to me. Three complete knight's tours would be (3x64) -1 =191 moves just by the black knight. The only way to force the black knight to move to a given square would be to check the black king so that the knight can interpose, at the same time making sure that the black king has no escape square. The only way to force the black knight to a corner square would be to make it capture a checking white piece in that corner, which would make 12 captures for a start. Let's just play a few moves to get the hang of it: 1.Sf6+..Kf8;2.Rc8..Kg7;3.Se8+..Kh7/h6. You can see that I'm not getting anywhere. Maybe the idea is to force the black king to every square three times? You said that perhaps the "WinChloe crew" could help, but Winchloe is a database, not a group of people! No doubt you meant the Matplus forum. I could post it on the forum, but the members are not really solvers; they seem to like discussing technical points and nobody ever gives a problem to solve. Also I would be embarrassed to give what I thought was a nonsensical problem!*

Geoff posted it on Matplus forum but there was no response. I wonder why? In my letter of 4th April I was a little disappointed that Gustav Reichelm made an almost non-appearance in 'A Sketchbook of American Chess Problematisers' apart from a paltry mention on p.90 giving his birth and death dates (Nov 6 1839- Nov 30 1905) plus his liking for long range problems. We were discussing one of Reichelm's 121-ers that Geoff made into a nice article in the Problemist Supplement called 'A Real Puzzler'. I wrote:-

"Babson (26th December, 1852 – December 20th, 1929) was a travelling salesman and composed ca 400 problems with a book planned in 1892 that fizzled. As for his 'Obelisk' A.C.White infers it is sound and it is a DIRECT MATE not a self mate in which the solution compelled Black to make 3 successive and complete Knight's tours. So I'm sorry about my earlier misinformation. It is a DIRECT MATE not a self mate. There was another called 'The Colossus' a direct mate in 1900 moves that James Rayner cooked in 1896 moves! But it was set on a 10x10 board with 27 B lack pawns and many extra pieces."

There were lots of other books that featured The Obelisk:-Chernev's 'Wonders & Curiosities of Chess' item 51 The Fireside Book of Chess p. 87 but no solution either. And then there was 'The American Chess Bulletin' 1909 p.?? & 1930 p.37/38 & 59 but I didn't have them. I will have to study Babson in Brentanos as he was the Problem Editor from Vol.1, No.6 until the end and was sending problems in well before No.6. I also found p.459/460 missing from my set but unlikely the solution was there only 4 pages after publication on. p.455. A possibility though.

It's maddening this genius of the 'Babson Task' (see The Problemist September, 1988) has left us in the lurch with The Obelisk. It seems that White loses the majority of his men nudging the black knight around the board and finishes with capturing it and checkmate. He must still have his Queen. The first move looks like Nf6+-only 1219 to go. I also wondered if 'The Obelisk' is a reference to Washington's monument finished in 1884 but clearly started well before.

Paul Dunn included a DVD and book of the Lewis chessmen that he and wife Pat bought when visiting the British Museum. I thanked him profusely for those men are fascinating. Likewise Mr Watts was proving difficult but Paul had enjoyed talking with Levon Aronian and Shaun Press at the ANU Chess Club and Lev's training on the Gold Coast and strolling down to the beach afterwards. He was preparing for a match with Kramnik.

Paul Dozsa the famous 'meal stealer' was gone and he was a good chess player (NSW champion) but a villain in upper class restaurants where he refused to pay the bill. A novelty early with lots of press coverage that soon resulted in jail for Paul. Fairly embarrassing but in 1997 I met him at the NSW Bridge Ass'n Club in Sydney where the Chess Ch'ship was held. He told me his life story in a nice way and then suggested we go to lunch at the Goulburn Club where they had on a special of two meals for the price of one. Thankfully I was having lunch with my wife and we parted.

Bill Egan's Doeberl Cup came out and was a great job with its biographies of all the winners. Paul sent me a copy as a gift that he'd got Bill to sign:-"To Bob Meadley, the Henry Lawson of the problem world". Very witty and referred to our tourney game at Grenfell in 1977 which he won and where Lawson spent a lot of time. I saw a sign outside a pub 'Henry drank here' and went in and said to the publican 'Did Henry drink here?' He replied 'He drank in all of them!'

David Lovejoy had his 3rd book published. 'Heresy' a book on early religion and an interesting one too for this lukewarm Catholic. A contrast to 'Moral Victories' They all sit together on my shelf with 'Between Dark and Dark'. Three Australian beauties.

Ian asked for detail on Dr. WR Inge Dalton (1841-1931) inventor of the Dalton theme. An interesting research task and I found a few things for Ian.

Arthur Willmott rang to keep in touch. He had been champion solver in The Problemist and was still solving. I told him his books were all in the Australiasian Chess Bibliography. It was a good thing I kept a note of phone calls because many chess enthusiasts prefer the phone.

I 'had a go' at cataloguing the chess library with wife Norma as overseer. Awful job and for a man who likes chess history this work is the pits. I like to read em not list em. We got through the books but not the periodicals and there was a long way to go. I was putting 'bought prices' alongside the listings.

'John Brown The Forgotten Chess Composer' by Brian Gosling was a nice addition to problem lore. Brian mentioned that Philidor loved chess problems which caught me out but I accept it to be true. Also Staunton, Anderssen, Morphy, Steinitz, Pillsbury and Lasker liked them. The biographical details on JB and the local photos made this section a highlight. We enjoyed calling at Bridport so many years ago as I loved his problems.

Solving in Geoff's 'Problem Pot Pourri was fairly tough and I missed plenty but there were joys like No.150 by my old sparring partner Leonid Makaronez and No.160 by Chris Jones who gave me a short right jab with my solution. Geoff didn't include the solutions with the problems and if he had I wouldn't have solved. Is there anything worse than solving a crossword in a

newspaper and finding the solution on the same page? He wondered how many people he was composing and writing for. It was hard to get subscription lists from editors (protecting their turf?) and as I write this I am not solving as the local magazine is gone. I also felt the 'specialisation' of problems took them further away from the players. Most don't agree.

The latest Morphy book arrived. Matt Fullerty's 'The Knight of New Orleans' 556+ pages. In the acknowledgement of books read he didn't include Frances Parkinson Keyes 'The Chess Players' which is my favourite book. Yes, it's 1960 but it deals with 1860. These books don't date as they deal with history. The typos in the 'Cast of Characters' was not a good start but it's a racy read and I enjoyed it. One knows from the start Paul is on a loser with Clara.

There was a good article on Brian Tomson in the Irish Chess Journal August, 2011 giving some Irish details and his playing strength there before coming to Australia and his gradual love for problems. Good to see.

Gino Di Felice's book 'Chess Periodicals An Annotated International Bibliography 1836-2008' arrived last year but I didn't examine it until late July 2012. It was too late to make alterations in the kwa hardcopy but Gino found 32 items we had missed! He was clearly a better digital digger /researcher than we were.

The article like 'Death of the Bookshop' by Duncan Ley told it like it was. The closures were coming thick and fast. The GFC was the death knell but 'pricing' was the real killer. It's a good read in the Sunday Telegraph 5 August p.42 & p.95 (Agenda) and features the Australian book world. When I thought about it, I didn't buy that many chess books for my collection in book shops. True some came in but dealers filled my wants as Tony Peterson still does.

There were 123 students in the Dubbo Interschool Event on 11 Sept. I met Don Keast there as he and wife Jocelyn had moved from Broken Hill. He was a very strong player and chess journalist. There was a tie in the Primary Section between St. Mary's Dubbo and Mountain Christian College Blackheath. The latter had come a long way and left by bus at 5am! Orange Anglican Grammar won the Secondary which was Joe Cummins team. There were no hard adjudications.

Nigel sent the Report on the 17th January Australian Junior Problem Solving Tourney at Melbourne. The sixth event with Andrew Ballam and Nigel supervisors. The problems were tough and I did the Under 17's on the set time and failed badly.

The sale of the late Lothar Schmid's chess library had hit a snag in late 2012 as the family wanted \$10mn and the German State Library offered \$1mn.

Ian Shanahan was on a roll and got 6 problems in the September Problemist with Linden Lyons getting 6 in the Supplement. A truly Australian flavor.

Our research time in Sydney was great and Trove and Google helped me pinpoint items in the Library. The proposed biography of C.G.M. Watson was well underway. He was an Australian chess champion and a very good problemist. His problem nickname was 'Lethe'. This is one of

the rivers of the underworld, whose water when drunk had the power of making the souls of the dead forget their life on earth. It was from the Greek and meant ‘oblivion.’ (The New Oxford Illustrated Dictionary 1976 in instalments by Bay Books). Does the definition help? Doubt it.

Requests came from many places; Siegfried Hornecker contacted Ian who contacted me about an article in ACR Feb 1932 on P.J. Finnerty who was a strong Queensland player and goldminer who named a mountain near Mingela Townsville, Mount Alekhine. I sent it 7th November. The later article was in BCM December, 1996, p.672/3 by the late Ken Whyld.

Ian also asked who was the greatest problem composer/collaborator in Australia and I went for Dr. J.J. O’Keefe who had 10:-Dawson, Hawes, Smith, Heydon, Cornwell, Erskine, Palatz, Beale, Charlick and Gadsen. And Ravenscroft, so that’s 11. Ian had bought a copy of ‘Retrograde Analysis’ in Gould’s Bookshop in Newtown. This is one of the rare ones.

The Hawes article got into the January, 2013 Supplement making two for Fred’s daughter Amy. It was very good of Geoff to honour the great man of Australian chess problems.

2013: A CHESS ANNUS HORRIBILUS

The year started well with the productive Neville Ledger’s ‘Chess Tasmanian Records’ Vol.7. arriving for \$16. I liked his continual consistency. The ‘Remembrance’ chapter was great.

Bert produced a Dutch wonder by finding ‘How Euwe Won’ in the USA and had it sent to me. A long standing gap filled very nicely. Thanks Bert.

Peter Wong sent me a hardcopy ‘Walkabout’ for 28th February, from ozproblems.com. The ‘massacre’ proof game by Francois Labelle of Canada and his trusty computer did it 19.5 moves. The WK ends up on e5 and the BK on e2!! He also had upgraded a Henry Tate 2-er. Geoff Foster likewise improved a Denis Saunders 3-er.

Mike Crawl, the son of Frank Crawl contacted me about his father as he wanted to write up his life for family. We got a lot of material out of ACR & CW and also his father’s classic 1964 letter sent to Neville Ledger when the Ch’ship was to be played in Tasmania.

The FIRST hammer blow was Anne Purdy’s passing on 11th March. She was 97 and had long out lived Cecil who died in 1979. Diana and Frank Hutchings sent me the lovely farewell card with 2 nice photos of a young Anne Crakanthorp. Anne taught at Cheltenham Girls School and went on Bob Dyer’s ‘Pick a Box’ Radio show and won. She gave half her winnings to her school. She was a CSIRO Journal editor and bought a car as Cecil never drove. Her real Christian name was Nancy but Cecil called her Anne and it stuck. There is a Sculpture of Cecil and son John at Greenwich Baths, North Sydney. 40 people attended the funeral.

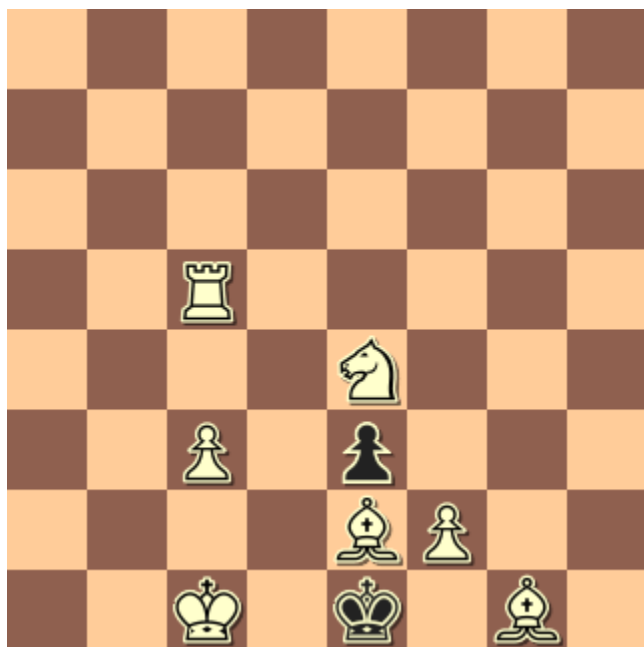
And then came the SECOND hammer blow in July when Brian Jones in his editorial in Australasian Chess wrote that it would cease at the end of 2013. Subscriptions had halved! And it was a very good product. At \$60 for 6 issues perhaps it’s time had come. The magazines of which AC can proudly be a part in Australia’s chess history were the lifeblood of those wanting

a memory jog in print. The magazines are a record of that chess history. Nothing could be done. The end of the hard copy National magazine.

The 7th year of the Australian Junior Problem Solving Event was held at the Gold Coast 22nd January with 76 participants. Geoff set the problems and Jim Ritchie, Toby Davies and Matt Gilpin helped Nigel as supervisors.

I wrote to Geoff about the end of his fine column ‘Problem Pot Pourri’ and the subscription collapse. We agreed it was modern life and that the subscription was too much for many. I sent him a problem from Mark Wilson who resurfaced every so often and I could recall his problems in my column in CIA back in the 70/80’s. A Sydney fellow but there it ended. Problems for him were a solo hobby and good for him.

The THIRD hammer blow fell when Phil Viner announced his resignation as chess editor of the Australian column after 30 years. He had taken it over in 1983 from Bernie Johnson the first editor who started the column in 1966. Phil wrote a very nice resume of his ‘chess’ life in his final column 27th July and included an original from Mark Wilson which follows. The column continues to this day with Paul Broekhuysen as the able editor though space has been lost.



White Mates in 3 moves (7x2)

Key 1.Re5 waiting if

1..KxB;2.Nd2..Kd3;3.Rxe3++ or
1..exf2;2.Nc5!..f2 any;3.Nd3++

I wrote to Phil and thanked him for his time as Editor. Paul continued the publication of Australian chess problems in the column and now has 5 years. He wrote on Phil’s death in the 15th December 2018 column. Fancy only 3 editors in 52 years.

Nigel had translated a book by Gustav Becking “How Musical Rhythm Reveals Human Attitudes” 2011 and he dedicated the book to his parents Ron and Viva Nettheim. We met the family at Nigel’s wedding to Dawn at the Sydney University Chapel in 1987. In brief the book aimed to show the attitude to life of different composers. Music not chess though the two are linked. I sent Nigel a copy of the Chess Bibliography to even up. How little we know of each other’s skills? Nigel’s German for one.

The FOURTH Hammer Blow. Peter Parr died 8th August. He was born in England on 20th October, 1946. Nigel went to his funeral at Rookwood and there were about 70 present for the cremation service with many chess identities giving tributes. There were also many on Chess Chat the website. He was out of the main chess scene but only just. There was an excellent article in the Sydney Morning Herald 2nd September, p.31

I was 'coaching' the Narromine High School Chess team under the control of teacher Vaughan Ellen formerly of Canberra where he learned to play. It was good to play chess with teenagers and many were very keen to learn.

My last solving task in Pot Pourri went to Geoff on 19th September as he would put the December solutions in with the final column to wrap it up. It was a bit sad but I was warming to the loss of stress. Solving tough problems is wearing and Geoff tried hard to win me over to solving in The Problemist Supplement of which he was editor but I declined. I liked giving Australian problems a kick along but that was it. He sent me an excellent article on the Alan Turing film now on DVD by Patrick Sammon. This may be different to the Benedict Cumberbatch movie

Paul Dunn sent 'Exploration of Chess Beauty' by Andras Toth 2012 as a gift. This is an Australian chess book printed in Sydney by Image Print P/L. A bright light in a year of darkness for Australian chess. There were 252 diagrams of problems, endings, game positions all of which have a 'different beauty in the eye of the beholder'. Problemists who haven't seen the 1852 3-er by William Grimshaw (p.118) will be astounded as I was. Toth gave the key 2 exclamation marks and he was right; it was beyond logic and therefore beautiful. The book needs an index and a good proof reader for the next edition to remove the typos.

Greg Wilson sent a chess instruction book for me to give out at the High School as term ended. I gave it to Harry Moore, a student who was leaving to go to Kempsey High School. The book had a dedication from Greg as President of the Newcastle Chess Association. Harry definitely had potential and this horrible year ended.

2014:

One of the 13 year old chess players was the aboriginal boy Tyler Williams. During the Dec./Jan. school holidays he came around home and noticed me painting a trellis and asked could we play chess. 'What about a Game, Bob?' he said. Volunteers with their WWC consents (Working With Children) are only allowed to be involved with children when there is a teacher present. He wanted to come inside but Norma said "No, you know the rules, Bob. Go and play down at the library". And we made arrangements to play after lunch at 2 pm there. What I liked about Tyler in the months we had been playing was that he took notice and learned. I said "Don't open with your side pawns. Use your centre pawns." He learned fast. We had the library game on 7th January. It was to be the last time as when away with his father who was driving a truck near Walgett, Tyler fell out of the passenger door and 6 weeks later he was gone. He never made it to Year 9.

I told Nigel of this in early February when Tyler was fighting for life and he went to the Sydney Childrens Hospital to see the family. He later spoke to Tyler's dad on the phone and found out that Tyler and his dad played chess. Tyler used to say to his dad during the game, "Dad, do you realise that if you go there I can mate you?" Tyler loved attacking.

His funeral was held in St Augustine's Catholic Church on 13th March. The church was packed and there was no eulogy just some kind words said by our Parish Priest father Jordan Perry and then an Elvis song 'If we meet again' and another by a rap group called the 'Fighter.' Vaughan Ellen had some of the boys as a guard of honour outside. We all signed the book of remembrance

Geoff had contacted me in mid January about Brian Tomson and the suggestion by Ian Shanahan that an article on 'The Series Movers of Brian Tomson' would be a good item for the Supplement. Geoff had most of his problems and I filled in the biography. I also told Geoff I wouldn't solve in the Supplement as I wanted a breather.

A digital chess magazine had replaced 'Australasian Chess' (the old Australian Chess) it was called 'Fifty Moves' and there were 6 issues a year but I did not subscribe.

An Interschool Challenge was held at Farra College Tamworth on 17th June and run by the Sydney Academy of Chess. 16 schools played and Armidale won the Secondary with Timbumbri Primary winning that division.

Ours was held at Dubbo Christian School 4th September with 130 players. Orange Mags won the Secondary and Millthorpe the Primary. Joe Cummins was the coach of both again! He was also an adjudicator on the day, as was I.

I had written Paul Dunn about Ken Fraser's passing on 16th September, aged 86. His ashes were scattered after a private service at Echuca where the family often went for picnics. I didn't go as I had leg trouble and although over it, the 600km drive was too much at short notice. It was private anyway and they had a meal at Ken's favourite restaurant Pepper) in Finsbury Street near Flemington and most of the State Library of Victoria staff attended. This was the end of a near 40 year friendship and I told his niece Narelle who lived near Echuca that I would write up his life and send a copy. This was done and is now on ozproblems.com. The family liked it. Paul Broekhuysen had an obituary in the 27th September Australian.

A phone call came from Richard Finnerty the nephew of Patrick Finnerty, the miner who named the mountain after Alekhine and I sent him the BCM December, 1996 article. Richard lived near Townsville. Talk about a surprise.

Another great one gone was Evelyn Koshnitsky at 99.5 years. A great worker for women's chess and wife of Garry the Australian Champion. I sent Nigel all I could find in the Australian Womens Chess League Bulletin and he liked the article by Evelyn on Garry in the Aug/Nov 1999 issue.

Paul Dunn was a kind man and knew that Ken Fraser's passing had changed me. That was true as I was the only one left of our trio from 1975. John van Manen went in 2000 and now Ken,

who had gradually groomed me to do more research work without his help. He was always reluctant to write chess up and so it was easier to do it myself. Paul also sent the kwa book on Simpson's Divan in London and a file of Kuskop's problems. I was still annoyed 24 years later that I had walked straight past Simpson's and never got there. Bert was in one of the kwa photos in the booklet and he would smile at me getting so close but not close enough! I told Paul of my fruitless search at Kensal Green for McDonnell and La Bourdonnais' graves and the only thing I turned up there was the front sole of my right shoe ruining it. Thankfully I found some string and tied up the front hobbling back to the van a km or 2 away. Norma was amused.

2015:

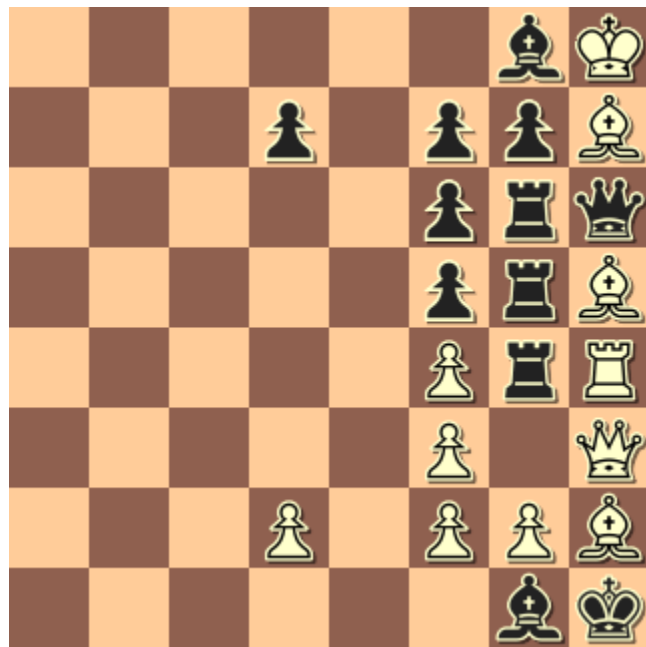
Nigel was getting ready for the Australian Junior Solving Tourney and meeting Geoff again in Canberra. There were 75 entrants.

I sent Peter Wong an updated Henry Tate CD and mentioned that Geoff & I liked Tate and as the Tate material had gone missing we must return it! Peter later upgraded my CD and sent it back with C.G.M. Watson & Fred Hawes and Ravenscroft added in a much better format. I liked that.

There was some research 24th January on the Australian Chess Problem Club that had started under Fred Hawes in ACR 1941 p.161. They ended up having 4 tourneys during the war and in 1944 after J.T. Eaton's death on 18th February, 1944 the Club seemed to fold.

Paul Broekhuysse was contacted about the revamped Australian Chess Problem History and he featured it in the 6th February issue of the Australian. I had placed an index at the front which made the History far more useful and easier.

One proof game that attracted me was the below by FTH & FR in CW December, 1950 p.296



Mate in Two (11x12) The solution was never given but we knew Laimons Mangalis got a 61 move solution. This problem went to a Yugoslavian Tourney and was found faulty but this was now a corrected version. Or was it?

It took me 100 moves when I first tackled it but gradually the penny dropped and the final version was 59.5 moves and a mate in 1. So it was obviously a cook. I could see White could play. 1.Bg3+..Bh2;2.QxB++ but I had a game with Black now to move and so 1..QxB++

Here is my game:-1.a4..a5;2.b4..axb;3.c4..b5;4.Bb2..Ra6;5.Be5..Nc6;6.Bxc7..Nd4;7.Bb8..Qb6;
 8.Nf3..Nf6;9.Nh4..Nh5;10.Ng6..Ng3;11.hxg..hxg;12.Rh5..Bb7;`13.Rf5..gxf; 14.Nc3..Rh3;
 15.Nd5..Qh6;16.a5..Rg6;17.Nf6+..exf;18.a6..Bf3;19.a7..Bd6;20.a8=B..Bf4;21.c5..Bg5;
 22.Bf4..Bh4;23.Bg5..Ne6;24.c6..Nf4;25.gxf..Bg3;26.Bh4..Bh2;27.Bg3..Bh5;28.Qa4..Ke7;
 29.Kd1..Ke6;30.Kc2..Kd5;31.Kd3..b3;32.Ke3..b4;33.Qa7..Kc4;34.c7..b2;35.Bf3..Kb3;
 36.c8=B..Kc2;37.Kd4..b1=R;38.Kd5..Kd1;39.Kd6..Ke1;40.Ke7..Kxf1;41.Kf8..Kg1;
 42.Kg8..Kh1;43.Bb7..Bg1;44.Bh2..Rgg3;45.Ra3..Bg6;46.Bh5..Bh7+;47.Kh8..Rh4;
 48.Bg6..Bg8+;49.Bh7..Rg6;50.Bf3..Rb3;51.Bh5..Rbg3;52.Qb6..Rg3g5;53.Rh3..Rhg4;
 54.Rh4..b3;55.Qe3..b2;56.Qf3..b1=R;57.Qg3..Rb3;58.Qh3..Rf3;59.exf diagram I guess the
 problem could be set as a Mate in 1? It may be in Problem Zagreb? I sent it to Geoff.

Norma thought Nigel had a very well set-out Report on the Australian Junior Problem Tourney and he had run it for 9 years. Time to pass on the baton to the ACF.

Geoff gave a great reply putting the Mattplus Forum group forward. There were 20 posts on the Babson Task but the one of interest to me was ‘The Obelisk’ solution in 1220 moves by Cornel Pacurer an IT expert in Canada. But though he looked everywhere (as we do) he could not find it This reinforced Geoff’s view that ‘The Obelisk’ was a joke. But seeing as the greatest American Obelisk was being built in the time of Brentano’s (1882) it did not seem like a joke to me. The Washington Monument was the Obelisk. Babson was a genius and I wondered what Dawson thought of him? One genius to another. Geoff came back on the FTH/FR diagram given on the previous page and I asked him how composers went about ‘composing’ something like this and how long would it take. He wrote ‘Maybe the composers chose the position first, then tried to arrive at it. It is too long for a computer to solve’. I also suggested to Geoff that it was time his own digital collection was done and he replied that he was in his prime and in a very productive period. “No sign of slowing down” he wrote.

Cornel came back with the fact that Babson’s interest in task problems began before he was problem editor in Brentanos and that “The Obelisk” was **unsound!** There was a portrait of Babson in the Pittsburg Times October 19th, 1913 and a comment that he was 100 years ahead of the times and with the world’s problemists involved in a Babson Task problem where would it end?

Alain White was swept up in it all and wrote “The Problemists Jaberwocky” on the Babson task Here’s the first verse:-

“Twas brillig and the Keeney Laws
 Did Meyer and Windle on the board,
 All Pauly were the Carpenters
 And Rice-Dobbs out-Rohred:
 Beware the Babsontask, my son!
 The knights and rooks, the queens and pawns...and on it went

The full poem is in The Chess Amateur August, 1914. Cornel’s complaint is catching.(see p.116/7)

But “The Obelisk” unsound?? How sad.

These Posts raised Babson to a new level and I replied to Geoff in handwriting (I’ll bet he loved that) on 8 March. Alain White called Babson at Brentanos as like “a circus manager and some of his sideshows”, and concluded he was the “P.T. Barnum of American Chess”.

That may be but his first problem appeared in 1871 when he was 19. The guy was a problem genius. And Babson called these “extravaganza” problems his BROBDINGNAGS straight out of Gulliver’s travels indicating he composed them on his commercial travelling business. At night in various cities/towns he dreamed them up. Here’s another teaser from White from Sketch book p.89 Vol.1 Overbrook:-

I once published a challenge problem, in which only the 16 pawns were on the board, the white pawns deployed from a7 to h7 and black from a2 to h2. The stipulation was to add the 2 K’s and the self mate in a minimum number of moves. Needless to say I had not the faintest idea whether the thing could be done or not. Babson at once took up my challenge and within a week sent in a perfect solution, adding the WK at d3 and BK h3 and demonstrating the self mate in 35 moves by means of a succession of intricate promotions, beginning Ph8=R+.

Perhaps someone today can solve this? The Australian Melbourne Leader group were into these ‘eccentricities’ as they called them and the coming Australian Champion C.G. Watson composed many in the early WW1 period.

We best finish Babson with Leonid Yarosh’s terrific 4-er from 1983 Key 1.Rxh4



From OCC p.25 2nd ed

1..cxb1=Q;2.axb8=Q..Qxb2;3.Qb3
1..cxb1=R;2.axb8=R..Rxb2;3.Rb3
1..cxb1=B;2.axb8=B..Be4;3.Bxf4
1..cxb1=N;2.axb8=N..Nxd2;3.Nc6+

He composed two more and won a first prize in Shakmaty y SSSR. This one appeared in the same magazine March 1983. See also ‘The Babson Task’ The Problemist Sept 1988.

OCC shows the Babson Task history as the world finally got to the diagram.

One of Ian Shanahan's letters dated 2nd July to Alex Goldstein turned up. This was just before Alex passed away and it was great Ian met him. I also met him in 1978 and he was a gracious man who helped with his chapter in the Whyatt book.

Nigel was researching the Taverner problem book which I had often given as prizes in Problem Corner in CIA. Published in 1924 but with no date it was now hard to buy but available as an Ebook on www.anders.thulin.name. Nigel thought it very well done and asked if my copy had any marginalia but it did not. He told me that Ian Rogers still held to his younger view that problems helped in playing the game. Nice to know.

BCM research hadn't revealed 'The Obelisk' solution or unsoundness. Perhaps the New York Clipper. Australian problems in Overseas Magazines interested me and it went to the real ozproblems.com in time.

Neville Ledger sent Vol.9 of Chess Tasmanian Records and with rain over 2 days the first day badly wet some letters but not the next day when Vol.9 turned up. (21st April). He was a strong player with an interest in Retrograde Analysis problems. He mentioned one position with 96 Black King moves in Fabel's 'Introduction to Retrograde Analysis'. Fabel mentioned that many hours had been wasted trying to extend the BK moves to 97. But the book does not contain solutions.

How annoying was that and so I sent him the FTH/FR Retro given earlier but with my 59.5 move solution. It was always worthwhile to tackle something like this even as we age. Could I still get the game out? Could I reach FTH/FR's solution? Well I did not but I got a solution. And I always think it is unfulfilled without a solution given. Editors really should give the solution.

Peter Wong was now ready to put the rearranged Australian Chess Problem History in 2 files:- Pre 1962 and Post 1962. It was great to see it presented professionally to encourage non problemists to look at problems. Ian Shanahan also examined it on the ozproblems website.

The article *More than a Game, More than a sport* was a clever title and made people browse the article if not read it.. Peter Martin of Twitter @ Peter Martin is a journalist who loves chess. Trevor Bemrose of the Dubbo Chess Club sent it:-

"My most important lessons, I've learned from chess. I have learned not to get distracted by keeping the score. The only thing that really matters is whether you're working towards your long term goal. In chess the two aren't the same. While it's possible to count who has the most points as you go, it doesn't win you the game. If you are greedy, you're likely to lose. And I've learned to be nice when I lose and generous when I win. The last moves in a game of chess are necessarily cruel: it's a game of hunting and being hunted. But it usually isn't personal. Everyone takes turns at losing.

As well as other things. While it's necessary to think through problems as much as you can, it's not enough. You also need to recognize patterns. "What happened last time I was in a position like this?" "What's my subconscious visual memory telling me?" It's important to tap into your inner self. It is better at finding solutions than is brute force. Had I never played chess it is

possible that I would have picked up these lessons from somewhere else, but I doubt it – not all of them, not in the same place.

Chess teaches lessons about life because it has evolved and been refined throughout the last 15 centuries of human life. It has become uncommonly good at teaching us who we should be. John Adams believes there's more to come. You might have read about him in the papers a few weeks back. A former advisor to Coalition senator Arthur Sinodinus, he has been lobbying the government to allow Australians with higher education debts to get early access to their super to pay them down. While that's on the backburner (the government says it won't do it in this budget) he has turned his attention to chess, and the way it might help Australia face the sort of challenges identified in the 'Intergenerational Report'. Our jobs are increasingly going to involve our minds rather than our muscles. We are going to be doing them longer, well beyond traditional retirement age. And we are going to have to compete against the best in the world, wherever they are.

Chess is particularly good at developing high – level mental skills, not only in maths but in a whole range of things that involve focusing, visualizing and applying reasoning. As strange as it sounds, reading is one of them. Study after study shows that children who play chess are better at reading, as well as better at reasoning. Might chess be useful enough to be worth spending government money on? Should it be taught in schools in the same way as music? Should it be funded as a sport in the same way as sports such as soccer?

Adams says he doesn't know the answers. In his new role as government relations director of the Australian Chess Federation he has begun a research project that will examine the extent to which chess can play a role in boosting Australia's intellectual capacity and equipping it for the challenges of the 21st century. It'll be published early next year in time for the budget and before the election when the political parties will be scratching around for policies.

Chess has a number of advantages. It is cheap, almost certainly makes us better able to think, and fun. It would get us recognized around the world for something other than kicking and hitting balls. And it might make us better people.”

We were in Brisbane seeing family and I picked up 'The Western Echo.' A magazine for the western suburbs of Brisbane. It had a nice chess column called 'Chess T'Minit' with The Gap Chess Club and a nice ending win by Karpov over Korchnoi in 1978. They had their own website www.thegapchessclub.org.au

The year ended badly with the closure of the High School Chess club due to a disagreement between teachers. I enjoyed the chess with the young teenagers as I was losing contact with the community and it was nice to go down town and hear some young person say 'Hello Bob.' It did not return next year.

2016:

Peter visited Ian Shanahan and presented him with the Whyatt Medal for Chess Problem Artistry. Ian was pleased with the look of the medal.

Dennis Hale's wife Natalie passed away last year and I sent him our sympathies. We had known each other for well over 40 years.

I decided to become a volunteer chess coach at the St. Augustine's Primary School in Narromine. Our own two children went there 40 years ago and though neither played chess they like all card games especially canasta. I was given a new Working with Children certificate in March.

Oz Problems in Overseas Magazines went to Peter on CD and I mentioned I was working on the Alex Goldstein story. I wanted to do this as Jim Jones, Andy Sag and Arthur Willmott had all helped and it was finished in late April for Peter to edit with Ian Shanahan writing a nice intro.

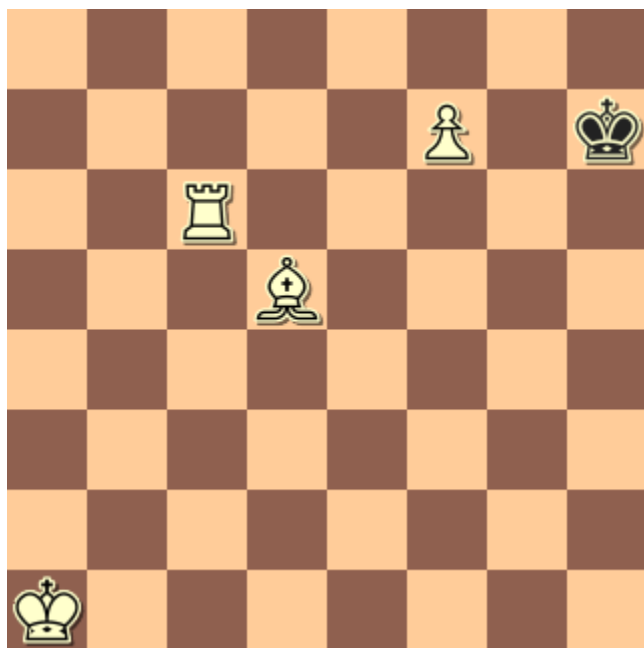
An amazing article came from Peter from the Sept/Oct, 2015 Feenschach magazine on "The first Underpromotion to a Rook or Bishop" by Stefanos Pantazis of Athens and by a very fine and thorough historian and it included a section on Edward Jones Catlow who came to South Australia from England in 1848 and was one of our finest problemists. I will include the EJC part:

Catlow and the Fatal Shore

"Edward Jones Catlow was an active and prominent composer in the early 1840's, but is now only known to antiquarians, thanks in no small part to his one famous problem sailing for so long under a flag of convenience. He is well represented in R.A. Brown's 1844 problem collection, and as 'Edward' was one of the first contributors to the pre-Staunton 'Illustrated London News'. A less obvious pseudonym was 12-17, used in the 'Chess Player's Chronicle', while in 'Aexandre' he is usually "J.C.". He seems to have had more than his share of bad luck with false attributions; four of his problems in Alexandre are given under the initials "J.K.", and then resurface three year's later in 'Chess Euclid' as Kling's own. And odd case of carelessness, as Kling was also a contributor to Brown's collection where all four problems first appeared.

Catlow (c. 1812-28/iii/1885 in Mount Gambier, S.A.), a schoolmaster in later life, was the son of Samuel C. Catlow, minister, and was educated in St. Paul's School (admitted 25/ix/1820 aged 8). His sisters, Maria and Agnes, published some popular works of natural history for younger readers. He disappears from chess around 1845 for almost twenty years, till, in early 1865, this reply appears in Staunton's column: "E.J.C. ,Rapid Bay, S. Australia,-I. We have a vivid remembrance of your problem contributions many years ago, and were favourably impressed by them. Those you have now sent us shall have every attention.2.The collection of problems you speak of, published about twenty years since, is probably out of print. You should write to the publisher." (Illustrated London News 21/i/1865).

His problems, still largely in the old style, did not find a ready acceptance, and he became best known to British readers for opening analysis and Australian chess news. Most of his problems, gradually modernized, were published in Australian columns, though he did send the occasional original back to England (e.g. Take part in the 1872 'Westminster Papers' tourney). He remained active as a composer almost to the end, receiving an HM in the 1884 tourney of the Melbourne 'Leader'.



I Saturday Magazine 20.1.1844

2-er(4x1) Key

1.f8=B..Kh8;2.Rh6++

There was another 8/k1P5/2K6/40
Key 1.P=R..Ka6;2.Ra8 2-er This
is probably Catlow's also.

Notes

* S.A Register 5/viii/1875 p.5

** S.A. Register 9/xii/1848 p.3

*For the last twenty years of his life he left a wide paper trail, as a schoolmaster active in public affairs and a public contributor to the local press of items ranging far beyond chess – from poetry translations and charades to magic squares and mathematical puzzles. Press reports from 1875 * place his arrival in South Australia c. 1858-9, but further research reveals a discrepancy. He had in fact arrived in Adelaide on the ship Thomas Lowry some ten years earlier (5/xi/1848).*

** Within weeks he starts a chess column in the 'Adelaide Observer;' the very first article includes his underpromotion problems in somewhat scrambled form, apparently quoted from memory. For whatever reasons the column comes to an end after two weeks (30/xii/1848 & 6/i/1849), and nothing further is heard of Catlow till late in 1862 he emerges at full gallop when he is elected a member of the Adelaide Philosophical Society, gets married, and is appointed a teacher, all in the space of two months. The answers may be most prosaic, but I for one would like to know (a) why a man of pronounced intellectual bend would emigrate to Australia at that early date, and (b) why a man of such public and active temperament seems to start his career at the age of fifty after 13 years of anonymity."*

Two very good questions asked by Stefanos Pantazis and perhaps the answer is in 'Notable South Australians' by George Loyau where on p.68 is "He (Catlow BM) was an accomplished Latin, French and German scholar... ". The need may have been there plus the surety of a Public Service teacher's salary in his later years. (The quote is from the late JvM's files.)

By 21st June The Mangalis CD was finished and sent to Peter and just like Goldstein this was the end of the guilt period for me. I had promised their families work would be done and it wasn't for decades. The same could be said for O'Keefe but Geoff's and my article in The Problemist eased that. It is much easier now with digital publication.

By mid July Joseph Kentigern Heydon plus 2 items on T.D. Clarke and A. Mosely went to Peter.

In August Norma and my son John talked me into going to the Dubbo swapmeet. This was an event where people took their old wares, odds & sods and antiques to the Dubbo Show Ground in vehicles and hired trestles and showed them to the public. I didn't want to go but it was a nice day and it kept the peace. A very good crowd was lined up to get in with their vehicles and we paid our entry fee of \$8 each. The first thing I spotted was a hubcap that suited the one lost. Not the same but good enough for our old car. \$5. John grabbed me and said 'Come and meet this dealer friend of mine, Nigel from Maitland'. I shook his hand and he said 'John tells me you are into chess. What do you think of this? Showing me a nice set of Xiangqi chess men in a board/box made by Shanghai Handicrafts, Peoples' Republic of China. The 32 round discs with the Chinese calligraphy on the top were there. He said "I don't know what they are-no-one wants to buy them so I've dropped them to \$18". I told him what they were and that they would quickly sell in Sydney but he wanted rid of them after carrying them around for 2 years! I bought!

They were lovely and though I knew little about the Chinese game it was to be the start of a great interest in the origin of chess including China when I discovered David Li's book. I wrote a long review for John Elburg's Chess Book Reviews website.

He then showed me the remaining member of a duo of Onyx Chess Knight Book Ends. It's mate had suffered the usual death by being smashed in a fall. I said to him "Blimey that's a Chess Knight" "Yes mate", he said "I bloody know that but there's only one of them". \$5 bought it and so I did. I wandered around by myself as Norma and John did their 'old wares' bit and I came across this old guy Barry from Wellington. Come to think of it he probably wasn't my age but he had seen some sun. There was a set of chess pieces in a grubby takeaway Chinese meal container. I looked more closely. \$5 he wanted. "Do you mind if I take them out of the container?" He didn't mind so I stood them all up on a trestle table and looked at them - 3 white pawns down and the head of the Black King. They were not Staunton but of French design, tall and narrow. Hopeless to play with as the first bump and over they went. "Well mate," he said "You've been lookin at em for long enough. Are you gonna buy them or what." I smiled "One last question - where did you get them?" "From the sale at the closed Stuart town Museum" he answered. "OK, I'll take them" \$5.

I was beginning to enjoy this swap meet. I saw a nice set of chessmen in a nice box for \$25. I said to the guy 'What about \$20?' He said "No, \$25" and I said "What do you know of them?" "Nothing mate" And then I made the mistake saying "You should know where they came from" At which he lost his temper and told me to f...off. My son came over and said "There is nothing worse than seeing two old guys arguing" And so the swap meet came to an end on a sour note. I said to my two, "They are a nice set, but I don't want you to buy them from him at any price." "Get over it Dad" said John and a month later there they were. Norma and John had bought them for \$25 from the same guy at Mudgee I think. I shook my head.

St. Augustine's entered 2 teams in the Interschool Event 1 September. And I met an interesting wood carver at that event Maurice Steer from Ophir Road near Orange. He had children playing in the event. I later sent him an email about an old French chess set I had bought at the August Dubbo Swap-Meet as the set had a missing head on the BK and 3 WP's were gone. Very nicely carved originals and I decided to 'have a go' at hand carving and the set is now complete. So I did not trouble Maurice who would have done a much better job.

There were 128 players at the Interschool Event with Millthorpe winning the Primary (Joe Cummins coach) and Dubbo Macquarie Anglican Grammar the Secondary. Another success for Sandy & Julia Aich. We finished about mid level.

Peter Wong was great at reorganizing my CD's for his website and put in a lot of work which made it only fair that he be joint author of Mangalis & Heydon and so he was. The year finished with Mangalis on ozproblems. How lucky we were to have this site .

2017:-

Nigel and I started a "Research Philidor" series of emails to help David Lovejoy with his novel on the great Frenchman and at the same time try and complete our Indexes of ACR & CW. Nigel sent me 1950 and then we got back to working out how many articles on Philidor appeared in those magazines. Cecil Purdy was a Philidor admirer and had owned a 1762 edition at one time. We also noted Ian Shanahan's book on music and the New Testament was on the Scribd website. A very fine effort by Ian for music and religious scholars.

And then we morphed into Cecil's chess sayings in Chess World. I found 8 in 1953 and 6 in 1950 and then came David's news that he was having second thoughts about the musical side of Philidor and the novel may not go ahead. I couldn't blame him as I was indirectly involved with his Tartakower book and knew from his rear notes how much work that entailed. Philidor was a giant not to be trifled with. We continued on with Cecil's sayings and from 1959 to 1967 there were 26. Nigel was researching 'The Evolution of Chess Theory' by 'Zugswang for the Philidor story and whoever Z was he knew his stuff. Nigel thought Z was possibly David M. Armstrong but we could not prove it. Anyone wishing to see this material will find it in 'Chess Notes' by Edward Winter No.10,876.

Now back on Cecil Purdy's sayings. We know that Ralph Tykodi and Bob Long thought a lot of Cecil's work and republished much of the Australian material. So here are the sayings found in Chess World 1946-1967. We didn't find the one that started Nigel down this track which was "If business interferes with chess, give up business". So there are still lots to find in ACR from 1929-1945 and we still could have missed some in Chess World.

1946 CHESS WORLD

p.21 In actual practice, a draw is not always acceptable to Black...

p.58 Counter-attack is seldom a desirable defence unless the thing counter-attacked is more valuable than the thing attacked.

p.61 A central passed pawn, even if supported, means practically nothing in the middle game

p.99 Unrestricted libel of the dead is part of our precious heritage, the freedom of the press. The dead cannot sue. (The opposite to 1950 p.162! BM)

p.110 Alekhine's chess is like a god's. One can revere, but never hope to emulate.

p.113 Go (the game) will never appeal to as many diverse type of mentality as chess. Nor could it possibly inspire a literature of thousands of books, as chess has.

p.257 Alekhine played CC OTB!

1947

p.178 Is even an even game even?

p.244 How easy chess is. You merely need to have every piece in the right place at the right time.

p.283 Relieving the monotony of millions of years of harp playing? Play through Alekhine's 'My Best Games' 1924-37!

1950

p.15 In peace there's nothing so becomes a man as modest stillness and humility. Cec???

p.45 The basic principles of chess rather call for neutralisation of a threat.

p.46 Correspondence chess is a wonderland.

A Queen sacrifice, however obvious, is a nice way to round off.

p.71 Chess is a difficult game even for its greatest artists.

p.73 Over the board play, even among great players is and must be relatively superfluous.

Koshnitsky once told me that when he took up CC he discovered that he had never played chess at all.

A player.....must be careful not to play too much CC or he will lose the habit of visualisation which is...the essence of OTB skill.

p.98 The proper use of combination play is the secret of winning chess.

p.145 Reasoning in chess is from the present to the future and the future to the present; the past has no bearing, and any reasoning on past moves is likely to be fallacious. .

p.162 Concerning the dead, nothing unless good-advised the ancients. (see p.99 1946)

p.169 The master thinks mostly in moves and is impatient of words.

p.170 Position play is the treatment of positions in which some attacking play is not possible, and purely defensive play is not necessary.

p.195 Aggression brought to a fine art (Purdy on Bronstein)

p.199 Biting on granite is inefficient.

p.202-Spectators will always run amok at telegraphic matches if allowed.

p.205 Short in stature but a quick grower Caissically. The Admirable Triton

p.213 A welcome book at an unwelcome price. (Reshevsky on Chess)

p.256 A mellow and courtly knight of the old world-a walking rebuke to crudity.

p.277 Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers.

p.286 Chess can never be reduced to words.

1951

p.39 If you take your opponent out of the books, do it with a bold move not a lukewarm one.

p.50 How is the Rook to blossom? Through an exchange of pawns.

p.79 It is well known that a chess club cannot be run at a real profit.

p.154 The French Defence could be safely played in almost any company.

p.163 "Players I have beaten" (a proposed book title by Chielamangus) (aka Cecil)
p.164 We couldn't see Brisbane but we could feel it.
p.235 Friends may forsake me, let them forsake me, I'll still have you Sonneborn.

1952

p.3 'bitter-enders' they will fight with their pawns, they will fight with their rooks but they will never surrender (apologies to Churchill) M.Goldstein
p.25 The chess openings are as full of ideas as the sea is full of fish.
p.78 We publish something about their chess careers - always stopping short of libel.
p.145 Chess is the only single game or sport in which so many nations meet together for team competitions.
p.148 Alekhine's play was unfair. He didn't play good moves. He played the best move and kept doing it.
p.152 A move behind plus a mistake spells trouble.
p.162 Tartakover, capable of defeating anyone on his best days and equally capable of losing to the tailender on his worst.
p.273 As-Suli died in poverty. According to Reinfeld, this was the final proof he was a chess master. (Perhaps this is Reinfelds and Cecil.)
1952 p.284 The dark horse has a big pull over the marked man.

1953

p.4 The difficulty of combining soundness with surprise when you have the Black pieces.
p.6 The White pieces are always an advantage in practice, but especially when giving "the odds of the draw".
p.36 An attacker likes his opponent to play quiet moves.
Do not break up your own position, let the opponent expend some effort on breaking it up.
p.40 Edward Laskerwrites well and entertainingly, he lapses but rarely into journalism. This book (Chess Secrets) with its sugar-coating of gossip will teach most students more than many orthodox texts. Drudgery should be avoided.
p.67 Chess must always have the last laugh on theoreticians, else it would suffer the fate of draughts - not extinction but an appreciable hardening of the arteries.
p.68 (Cecil on wife Anne's play) A meritorious specimen of Amazonian ruthlessness.
p.71 On F.G.McSherry NZ chess editor:-Indeed, he soon became good enough to know he would never be really good.
p.269 Without books you can play at chess but you cannot be a chess player.

1954

p.13 Chess literature suffers enough already from lack of acknowledgement
p.13 Trust is in general a bad attitude in a chess student and doubt is always safer
p.138 First class correspondence chess is on a higher plane than cross-board. Too high for some!
p.156 A fourth class chess player will not infrequently make a fourth class move (Spencer Crakanthorp)
p.159 Flohr plays chess like a kitten with a ball of wool.
p.164 Kosh said now that Edna Kingston had married Lajos Steiner her monotonous wins of the NSW Ch'ship were eradicated!
p.164 Alekhine threw a glass of water in rage. Purdy quipped "he disliked the drink!"

- p.165 It was worth at least a Queen to have Hitler controlling the German forces.
p.168 Do not rise at 4am on a winter's morn unless you have a really cramped game or run a dairy farm
p.170 Be alert like a good yachtsman, to take advantage of every veer and flow in the breeze.
p.182 I was Champion of Australia by the grace of Adolf Hitler during WW2 (Koshnitsky)
p.271 Hawes was 'waterer-in-chief' of the problem hot-house plant.

1955

- p.152 In chess you get turned into a pillar of salt if you DON'T look back.
p.156 Get the bad chess out of your system (Koshnitsky)

1956

- p.39 Crowl, an extremely religious man, mercifully spares the Bishop.
p.40 It is sad to look back on a misspent life. (Cecil on his 28 years as a member of the NSWCA)
p.75 Harry Klass always noted more for his chess than his results.
p.104 The great chess masters never die..... the print lives on Tartakower obit.

1957

- p.53 Orange Juice is a handicap. (This was at an opening luncheon. I can only presume he meant people drink too much or else they wanted alcohol.)
p.104 Chess should be a link with life and not an escape from it Dr.A.Frank not Cecil
Chess should be an exciting and witty outlet for the aggressive urges of mankind. Dr. A. Frank not Cecil
p.171 Chess is far more 'flukey' for instance, than tennis, squash or billiards.
p.177 White dug his own grave. Black filled the earth in with virtuosity. (Comment by Cec on losing to his son)
p.189 The power of illusion!
p.191 Master in Lucidity (Cec on Max Euwe)

1958

- p.182 Chess skill comes more by enjoyment than by effort.
p.278 The Queen should never be exchanged for less than 9 pawns Also Chess pieces have been found.....Ur and there (that's one I do remember)

1959

- p.53 On John Purdy's wife Felicity:- Useful as well as decorative.
p.94 From beginner to tyro-Chielamangus
When in doubt make a threatening gesture; 2.Over-Support an advanced pawn;
p.97 The value of a threat is not to be measured by its target but by the extent to which it inconveniences the opponent.
p.233 Queen early and often; Bludgeon your opponent.

1960

- p.34 I have always rebelled, ever since boyhood, at the high value placed on soundness in brilliancies.
p.57 Chess is primarily a skill. It's mainly a matter of who sees the mostest the fastest.

p.177 'Dynamic' is just a clever way of saying that he played with the pieces. (On Alekhine's dynamic style)

p.180 Chess is a character game and consequently temperament plays a big role.

p.249 Two good fairies had cast their spells on Caissa at her birth. One the spirit of universal truth, the other the whimsical sprite of romance.

1961

p.15 In order to succeed in chess you must hate your opponent. Cec??

Experts are better losers than ordinary players.

You should regard your ego and your chess skill separately.

p.29 What is a trap? Any tempting move which gives the opponent a chance for a combination.

p.56 People value things according to what they have....to pay.

p.84 Chess is not a subject that calls for drudgery.

Most of your real chess learning is unconscious.

p.145 The future belongs to limp covers (Cec on books)

p.217....warm mineral waters: seem to heal practically everything even chess zeroists.

p.219 Lisa Lane(USA) was called "the most beautiful woman that ever played chess'. Her reply was 'Did Cleopatra play?' (Not a maxim)

1962

p.33 What is the most important thing in practical chess?...avoid oversights.

A woodshifter.....plays with consistent mediocrity.

p.39 Fortunately, consultation even with the world's greatest - is not decisive in CC.

p.40 Defaulters must not be punished by polite silence...death is the only really good excuse for withdrawing from a chess tournament.

p.182 Caissa is a jealous nymph, and if sacrificed even temporarily may revenge herself on a faithless lover by dooming him to permanent mediocrity.

1963

p.100 If you want entertainment, this game is not for you until the end.

1964

p.121 Too many books may spoil an author's reputation

Writers in general praise their rivals as readily as a Scot throws money away....

A Whirling pen is stilled.

p.123 Reserving options is always good, provided you don't lose more options than you reserve, or concede a valuable option to your opponent.

1965

p.26 Clock trouble doth make idiots of us all.

p.28 Position play is when nothing seems to be happening.

p.29 The most paying style might be to try and avoid all weakening moves.

A negative approach will never win tournaments.

A positive approach demands the acceptance of small risks.

p.117 The computer has 'blind spots'. Eliminate these, and it is well on the way towards mediocrity...

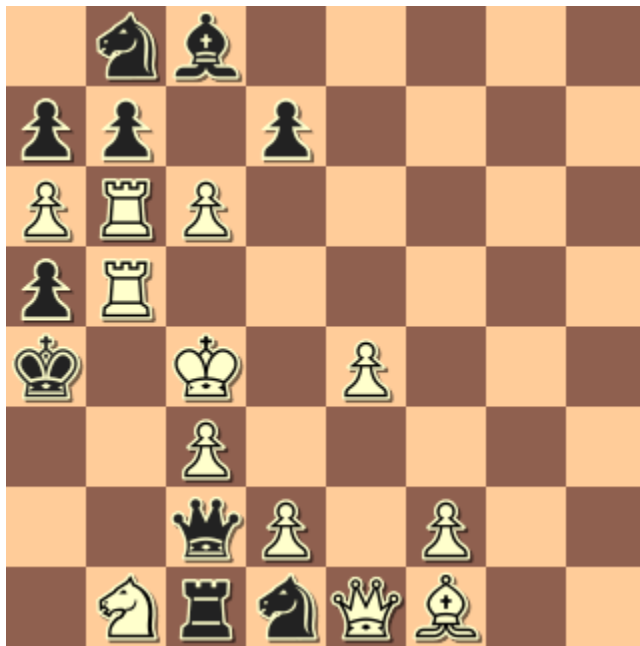
1966

- p.4 Error is the lifeblood of chess (J.A.Erskine)
p.5 The great bulk of chess literature is purchased by weak players.
p.99 The main desideratum in chess is avoidance of oversights.

1967

- p.6 Threats are the basis of winning chess.

I asked Andy Sag would he analyse the chess position in the excellent book 'The Flanders Panel' by Arturo Perez Reverte. And here is the diagram from page 257.



White to move (12x10) Readers will recall in the book White won. Andy was not so sure:-1.Rb3..Qa2!;
2.c6xb7..a7xRc6;3.bxc8=Q..Qxb3+;4.Kd4..Nc6+;5.Qxc6..dxc6;6.Bd3..c5+;7.Ke5..Nb2!;8.Qe3..Re1!;9.Be2..Qf7;10.a7..Qxa7;11.d4..Nc4+;12.Bxc4..Rxe3;13.fxe3..Qc7+;14.Kf3..cxd4;15.Bd3..dxe3;16.Ke6..Kb3;17.e5..Kb2;18.Kd4..e2!;19.Bxe2..Kxb1;20.c4..a4;21.e6..a3;22.e7..Qxe7;23.Bd3+..Kb2;24.Bf5..a2 wins.
Shredder(Blitz 5) liked
1.cxb7..Bxb7;2.Rxb7..Qa2+;3.Kd3..Qe6;4.Qe2..Nc5;5.e5..Qf5+;6.Kc4..Nb4;7.Rxa7..Qxb1;8.d3..Qb3+;9.Kd4..Nc2+

Andy agreed that 1.cxb7 was White's best..d5+;2.Kxd5..Bd7;3.Kd6..Bxb5;4.Bxb5+..Kb3;5.Bd3+..a7xRb6;6.BxQc2+..Kxc2;7.Na2+..Kb3;8.a7 should win.

Peter Wong was surprised I didn't subscribe to the ACF Newsletter and so I emailed Frank Low the editor and apologized for not knowing about it. It was a very fine e magazine. Frank and I were similar ages, both in our late 70's. He told me there were 2000 subscribers to the Newsletter of which "only an average open rate of 33% of which an unknown percentage might read bits. That was an interesting statistic. Only one third of subscribers read the free newsletter!

Frank was an amusing writer:-

"My compliments to Norma It cannot be easy as the wife of a chess lover without the realisation that you and I belong to a community of the surely demented (my opinion). I retired in 2007 after 40 years practicing law in George Street. My office was down the road from Peter Parr's last shop on the corner of Campbell Street, the ambience of which could be compared to the late

Bob Gould's (larger, general) last bookshop at King Street, Newtown -a cornucopia absolutely packed. I believe his estate is at last being distributed now....I have to confess that I was never more than a dabbler in problem composition, F.T.Hawes (was that correct) corrected me and mentored my first and only (2 move, probably derivative) published problem, published (I forget where). But I admire those that practice this fascinating art and am proud that so eminent a practitioner as FIDE Master Peter Wong should have agreed to write a monthly column for the ACF Newsletter and in some way help to expand the culture and consciousness of chess perhaps to an outside world.

Have you consulted the M V Anderson library often? I saw it in an only visit a few weeks after he died in 1966, and saw some correspondence of Cecil Purdy....I took a few coaching lessons in the old Bond Street premises (now demolished) before I went to the Australian Junior Chess Championships in Adelaide in December 1956.....I finished a four year Arts degree in philosophy....commenced a law degree and abandoned all thoughts of becoming a champion! Which was the right call, given my playing limitations."

Frank was a good correspondent and told me of Bill Egan's e-book 'Chess Novels-A Survey' It was amazing to read of the interests of others like Bill outside chess play. Frank remembered Frank Crowl and Bernie Johnson and knew of John van Manen. Sadly he did not know who 'Zugswang' was. He also knew Al Gould and was involved in the first Chess in Australia (CIA) issues professionally printed in a Petersham printer as he was editor for two years as a student. His chess books were stored as he and his wife's massive music library took precedence.

I sent him a CD of the Ken Fraser 2014 story and he told me he had been out of chess during his work career (1967-2007) and only had a public chess role since late 2015. He enjoyed the editing of the Newsletter and made funny comments such as " *the bane of my life is the computer, which has a mind of its own, and is my constant adversary – formatting takes up more time than writing* ! (I quietly agreed) Norma changed the CD into a PDF and emailed it to Frank. He sent me a list of some of the earlier Newsletter editors.

St Augustine's sent 3 teams to the St. Mary's interschool Teams Challenge. This was different to Sandy & Julia's mammoth Interschools event as it was more local and smaller. The big event was on hold as Sandy & Julia had been running it since 2000. Our teams finished in the middle with the A team 4th.

And just when everyone was chucking out their not so loved books along came Michael Wilding's article in the 23 August Australian called 'Shelve the idea of ditching books' Nice title and he was critical of the loss of open access to shelves in great libraries. Were collections of books really collections of 'accrued capital'? (that made me think) An excellent article by the emeritus professor at Sydney University.

Frank and I had a debate in late 2017 about who 'Zugswang' was as I had just about finished Philidor which I was keen to wrap up. Was Z, David Malet Armstrong (1926-2014) Professor of Philosophy at Sydney University (1965-1985) and strong chess player when younger? Nigel thought he was but Frank was unsure. (John Hammond was Zugzwang. See 'Squares Mag.No.1)

2018:

Frank Low agreed to my writing some articles and ‘A Backward Look at ACR’(2 parts of 1929) was in the early issues of the Newsletter but unfortunately with no feedback no further articles were published.

Frank Hutchings passed on at 81 and there was a nice write-up in the January Newsletter. He was a very strong chess player in his day and long married to Diana Purdy to whom we sent our sympathies.

Peter Wong contacted me about an O’Keefe 3-er with 8 pieces and I noted 9 problems by Australian and NZ composers in ‘777 Chess Miniatures in 3’ by E.Wallis 1908 forgetting that miniatures have 7 pieces maximum.!

David Turner had a very nice series on chess sets in the Newsletter and he had a good collection. I congratulated him on such good buying.

In emails to Tony Peterson he asked after Clive Lane and so I snail mailed Clive and got a lovely reply 10th July:-

“Nice to hear from you! And good to hear Tony Peterson is still in the book business. I visited his place in one of those English sea-side towns.....and I see he is now in a place called Witchampton, West Sussex.

I left the chess book business as I was finding it increasingly difficult to source good quality hard covers in Australia and New Zealand. There seems to be a declining number of collectors interested in old chess books in descriptive notation – as you would expect. I bought the library of the NSW Junior Chess League from them, as they were finding that younger players weren’t interested in older books, or didn’t read chess books at all (much like Hikaru Nakamura, who boasted that he did everything on line and hadn’t read a single chess book!)

Still I do like those older chess books and I occasionally wish I had kept some of those beautiful books that passed through my hands. I’m sure your library still affords you many hours of pleasure with your chess history research. I had a look at your Philidor research on Edward Winter’s Chess Notes site. Wow! That’s a lot of material.....I ran into Philidor as a composer when I was doing my BMusEd and MMus. Since retiring from music teaching I have concentrated more on composition myself and have had now numerous works published (mostly chamber music for amateur players). I suppose I would describe myself as a hobby-composer..... I play once a week at my club (Norths, at North Sydney Leagues Club) but I haven’t been focusing much on my playing of late.....musical composition is taking up all my available mental space!”

Clive was a sad loss to chess as he was extremely keen in the early 2000’s. He lives in a very nice area of Sydney and there were many attractions outside chess for him. Music being one.

On 26th July two St. Augustine’s teams went to St. Mary’s Dubbo for the Interschool Teams

event and the opposition was stronger and our teams finished mid field.

With the nice man of Australian chess play and journalism and officialdom gone, Phil Viner on 5th December aged 91, one of the game's great historical personages was no more. He had edited the chess column in 'The Australian' for 30 years, won the Purdy Medal for Journalism, was NSW Champion and a strong senior player as well as his ACF work. He gave his life away from work to chess. I knew him little for he lived 'in the bush' (Southern NSW at Leeton) for some years before returning to Sydney with the Lands Department. John van Manen and I once had a meal with him at North Sydney. Phil and John were close.

As the year ended I was gathering an article on a comparison between the 1846 'Beauties of Chess' by Alexandre and the 1868 'American Chess Nuts' by Cook, Henry & Gilberg but decided to change to the Bert Update as it was more interesting. The following CHALLENGE is given to all problemists in all countries. Lest we forget those gone before and those still with us.

'The Chess Amateur August 1914 p.313

"The Problemists Jabberwock

Under the above title Mr. Alain White contributes the following to "The Pittsburg Gazette Times"- It is strange that Lewis Carroll, who based his immortal "Alice Through the looking glass" upon a chess problem (an 11 mover, you remember), should have made that terrible monster, the Jabberwock, have no connection whatever with chess! This is clearly an oversight, and we think if he had been living today that he would have imagined more manzome, as he calls it, than the famous "Babsontask", which ranges unconquered in the columns of "The Gazette Times". He very possibly would have mastered the task himself, and sung of it as follows, but, alas, we have no such champion among us as the Conqueror of the Jabberwock, and the following exciting narrative must remain a dream:-

THE BABSONTASK

'Twas brillig and the Keeney Laws
Did Meyer and Windle on the board;
All Pauly were the Carpenters,
And the Rice Dobbs out-Rohr-ed;

Beware the Babsontask, my son!
The knights and rooks, the queens and pawns;
Beware the Bettman bird, and shun
The Kolitz and Kockelkorns;

He took his Shinkman board in hand;
Long time the Dawson foe he sought-
So rested he by the Wurzburg tree,
And stood awhile in thought.

And as in Barry thought he stood,
The Babsontask with eyes of flame,
Come Kipping through the Winter-Wood,
And Arnold as it came!

THE AUSSIE SUMMER

'Twas brillig and the Witton Hawes
Did Wong and Foster on the board;
All Nettheim were the Shanahans,
And the Ravenscroft Hales outpoured;

Beware the droughty days my son!
The queens and pawns, the knights the rooks!
Beware the Saunders bird and shun
The Henderson Willmott cooks;

He took his Whyatt board in hand;
Long time the Watson foe he sought-
So rested he by the Esling tree,
And loved the shade it brought.

And as in Goldstein thought he stood,
The Stuart-Green burned down with flame,
Come Bennett through the Speakman Wood,
McArthured as he came!

Le Mieux! Le Mieux! And through and through
The Shinkman board went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its Head
He Murray Marbled back.

The Heat! The Heat! is through and through
The Whyatt board had grown a crack!
He left it waiting with a threat
And Mangalised it back.

"And hast thou solved the Babsontask?
Come to my arms, my Jokisch boy!
Oh Heathcote day! O'Keefe! Magee!"
He Keebled in his joy.
'Twas brillig and the Keeney Laws
Did Meyer and Windle on the board;
All Pauly were the Carpenters
And the Rice Dobbs out-Rohr-ed.

"And hast thou solved the problem hot?
Come to my arms, my Tatey boy!
Oh Kuskop day! O'Keefe! Mosely!"
He J.A. Erskined joy.
'Twas brillig and Boudantsev said,
"I do not know these problem types"
And Wilson nodded too his head,
"They smoke too many pipes".

(Through John Keeble's kindness this appears in the English Press.)
26 composers here.

28 here. Any missed? Yes, Charlick & Elms for two of many.

I hereby dare the Matt Plus Forum and YACPDB and any other Chess problem club, fraternity, website etc to do better . (This is a direct lift from Star Trek the 2009 movie starring Chris Pine. The Admiral (Bruce Greenwood) says to a drunken James Tiberius Kirk (Pine) "I dare you to do better") ACW is a bit more Jabberwocky than mine. But I have been very pleased to raise the profile of the Australian composers both deceased and partially dead to the public eye. They did great work and deserved to be remembered. So do those in other places. It is up to the current problemists.

2019:

It was a real pleasure to read 2 positive articles on books. The first by Jane Nicholls is called 'Shelf Life' and was in 'Deal' the Australian magazine Issue 110 February, 2019. A great 2 page article that claimed readers have turned away from e-books and turned up the volume on audiobooks. People really want to read more books but it's hard when they're so busy. Dymocks and Booktopia were supporters of literacy and there was "a genuine independent publishing sector" emerging in Australia." People loved to go into a bookstore, browse the shelves and discover something that surprises and inspires them" Steve Cox, Dymocks manager.

The other was in the Weekend Australian Review February 16th. An editorial called 'the forum' by Deirdre Macken which is very positive about libraries She cited Susan Orleans 'The Library Book' as a rediscovery of the author when the LA Central Library was destroyed by fire in 1986. Dierdre Macken visited a library and realised it was open for a lot of hours and was a civic space where you won't be asked to buy, security is light, no streamed music and it was the publics to be enjoyed. "Libraries are a model for the civic democracy we're missing" she wrote. It was a civil space to spend some time for all ages. Very good to read

So now we leave the local portion of Bert and go to the '**Overseas and Melbourne**' items. The selective index at the rear is first a local index, then an overseas & Melbourne index.