

OVERSEAS AND MELBOURNE: pages 118-294

2000

The rare item of 2000 was Jacob Feenstra's Red Chess Book Catalogue 00/01 which was omitted from Bert 2000. I should not have, as it contained 320 items including some rare NZ items 317, 321,322 which were about the Otago (Dunedin) Chess Club History. Only booklets but rare. I bought them. The Catalogue was even printed on the inside of the red back cover and here are some of the fantastic items:-

- No.1 1864 Bilguer/Vonder Lasa 'Handbuch (\$350 NZ)
- No.9 1913 Murray 'A History of Chess' with the gilt knight on the cover \$225
- No.175 1859 Edge 'The Exploits of Paul Morphy' \$225
- No.219 1859 Fiske's 'The New York Tourney 1857' \$525
- No.270 1829 London v Edinburgh Games 1824-1828 \$275
- No.297 Hoffer & Zukertort 'The Chess Monthly' 1879-1896 missing Vol.13 \$2,400
- No.298 " " Another Set 1879-1887 \$1200
- No.302 An 'all in one' binding of Chess Player's Chronicle 1886/7 (54 issues?)
+ 64 p. of Bird's Modern Chess + Marriott's Collected Games +
Chess Souvenirs by Winter-Wood + A Chess Tale by Morgan \$280
- No. 312 Revista Scacchita Italia Vol.1 1900 \$165

One of the best local Australian/NZ catalogues I've seen outside that massive Saunders Catalogue of 1898 featured earlier in 2009.

I noted that Overseas 2000 was well catered for in 'Bert' but I did not include Ken Fraser's 'tour de force' 6 pager of 4th April 2000 when he was helping Ken Whyld with 'Chess Literature pre 1850' and as both of them are gone now it may be of interest to see how Ken Fraser ticked over. He rarely wrote long letters and this one is heavy but gives a good picture of the research librarian. The letter was to Ken Whyld with a brief note to me on the top.

14/4/00
Bob, (I thought you might like to see the results of my search for Ken Whyld concerning nos 570, 679 and 917 of Erste Jartausend & heavy weeks work, but satisfying
Ken

Dear Ken

The old Irish Chess-Player' of #679 has got a name. He is Flann Siona, King of Leath-Cuinn (boos!), who played his game of chess in the early 10th century as a mark of contempt towards Lorcan, King of North-Munster (cheers!)

That was the easy bit - now for the complications.

The search for # 679's date has thrown up a few problems, as well as an error in transcription in Erste Jartausend, but briefly, the date of the 'Dissertation' is Dublin, 1774-75, with a 2nd ed. 1786. There may also have been a reissue in 1781 - see below for details.

1. The OED knows nothing of 'Gaver-Rind', but 'Gavel-kind', an early form of land tenure in Kent, Wales and Ireland, abolished by the Land Act of 1922, is in the OED and seems the most likely substitute. I am sure that van der Linde's ref. to 'Dissertation on Gaver-Rind' should read 'Dissertation on gavel-kind'.

It is a short title for:

Vallancey, Charles.

A critico-historical dissertation concerning the antient Irish laws, or national customs, called gavel-kind and thanistry. Dublin, 1774-75. 2nd ed. Dublin, 1786.

This was issued in two parts; Pt. 1 (1774) being the 'Critico-', and Pt. 2 (1775) the '-historical'.

The 'old Irish Chess Player' occurs in Pt. 2, which the title page describes as "containing the Tanistic law of Senior-succession, illustrated in an historical and Genealogical account of the Kings of Munster. ...".

The relevant passage occurs in the first part of the section on king Lorcan [908-914?] In the 1775 version the pages are 449-452, so I suspect that van der Linde's "p. 465" refers to the 2nd ed. which I haven't sighted. The nearest copy is in Canberra.

2. 'A critico-historical dissertation...' is nos. III-IV (pp. 215-636) of the 1st vol. of: Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis... : Published from the mss by Major Charles Vallancey . 6 vols. Dublin : Thomas Ewing, 1770 [i.e. 1774]-1804. (An errata note in numb. III corrects the date of numb. I from 1770 to 1774, but most catalogue entries seem not to have noticed it)

'Collectanea' is a miscellaneous collection of some 40 works by various authors, the principal one of whom is Charles Vallancey, 1721-1812. The first 4 vols., 1774-1786, were published in 14 numbers, each with a separate t.p., and some of which contained more than one item. Vol. 5 is 1790; Vol. 6 is 1804.

The 6 vol. Collectanea is variously dated in the standard catalogues as 1770-1804; 1781-1804, and 2nd ed. 1786-1804. This is the basis for my saying there may have been a re-issue of vol. 1 in 1781, but it is only a possibility so far.

The British Museum catalogue records the second edition of 'Collectanea ..' as follows: "Second edition (With notes and plates) 4 vols, Dublin 1786. 8°.

In 14 nos. Those in vol. 1 are of the second edition; the rest, dated respectively 1781-86, are of the first."

3. Vol. 5 of 'Collectanea ..' has another small chess item which doesn't seem to have got into chess bibliographies. (I should have known better than to say 'unknown' - it is in the major catalogues)

Anecdotes of chess in Ireland, by Joseph C. Walker.

In: Collectanea de rebus Hibernicis : Vol. V, pp. 365-368. Dublin : R. Marchbank, 1790.

Note: The final part of the title page of Vol. V reads:

“... Also, /Anecdotes of chess in Ireland / by Joseph C. Walker.”

[p. 365]

To Col. Charles Vallancey, Miltown

Dublin, Eccles-street, 10th May 1790.

Dear Sir,

You beg a copy of the passage respecting Irish literature in the letter which Sir William Jones lately honored me from Bengal. I can deny you nothing; but on this occasion, I confess it pains me to meet your wishes. I cannot without doing violence to my feelings, transcribe so flattering a compliment to myself – “*The literature of Ireland (says Sir William) is extremely interesting; and I heartily rejoice that such men as Col. Vallancey and yourself are labourers for the sake of the public in so abundant a mine.*”

The anecdotes concerning the history of Chess in Ireland, which I mentioned to you last week at Miltown, were originally collected at the request of Mr. Twiss, when he was about to publish the 2d volume of his “Chess”. He was pleased to insert some of them in that work, but without any connection. I have since given them the form of a memoir, which I now have the pleasure to enclose. (a)

Believe me

Dear Sir

Your faithful friend

And obedient servant

Joseph C. Walker.

(a) See the words Bruigh, Fil, Cabhag, Pheorna, Phichill, in the preceding Law Glossary.

Note (K.F.) The ‘preceding Law Glossary’ is chap. 7 of Vol. 5, (p. 218-299) “Select Terms of Law and Government, and other remarkable words, extracted from the Breithamhan Laws, proved to be Arabic or Chaldean.”

[p. 366]

Anecdotes of chess in Ireland : by Joseph C. Walker, M.R.I.A &c.

The origin of Fill (or the game of Chess) in Ireland eludes the grasp of history. Colonel Vallancey seems to insinuate that the Irish derived it, with other arts, from the East: “Phil (says he) is the Arabic name of Chess, from *Phil*, the elephant, one of the principal figures on the table.” (b)

In the old Brehon laws we find, that one tax, levied by the Monarch of Ireland on every province, was to be paid in Chess-Boards and complete sets of men: and that every Bruigh (or Inn-holder of the states) was obliged to provide travellers with salt provisions, lodging, and a Chess-Board, gratis. And Dr. Hyde inform us, that the old Irish were so greatly addicted to Chess, that among them the possession of large estates has been often decided by it; and adds, that there were some estates in his time, the property whereof depended on the issue of a game at Chess. (c)

(b) Collect. De Reb. Hib. V. 3, p. 532. (Note – K.F.) Fil is on p. 529-530 in the Deakin copy.

(c) Hist. Shakiludii.

[p. 367]

In a description of Tamar-Hall during the Pagan ages, lately discovered in the Seabright collection, *Fidhcheallaigh*, or Chess-players, appear amongst the officers of the household. And in the Liber Lecanus, the oldest Irish manuscript extant, we are told that Cashir the Great, who reigned in the second century, bequeathed Chess-Boards and sets of men to his son and nobles. Nor has the game of Chess escaped the notice of the Irish romance writers of the middle ages; we often find their heroes engaged in this 'mimic-war'. In a celebrated metrical romance called *Laoi na Seilge*, now lying before me, the author numbers Chess with the amusements of his hero Fin Mac Cumhal. I give the passage in the elegant translation of the ingenious Miss Brooke:

"In peace, his tranquil hours to bless,
Beneath soft beauty's eyes;
Or on the chequer'd field of Chess,
The mimic fight to try." (d)

How long Chess continued a prevailing game in Ireland I cannot learn: engaged, during many centuries, with feats of arms, History seldom condescended to enquire into the private life of the Irish. I cannot, however, close this little memoir without observing, that a chess club, consisting of some of the principal gentry and nobility, and of which the late Primate Stone was president, was instituted in Dublin about forty years since; but, like all private associations, its

[p. 368]

existence was of short duration. In or about the year 1780 another chess club was formed in Dublin, and is still in being; but it is so feebly supported, that the hour of its dissolution cannot be far distant.

But Chess is not the only game on the tables of the Irish: the game of FALMER sometimes beguiled the leisure of our ancestors. Three persons were concerned in this game, and each throw the dice by turns. And it has been observed, that the rustics in Connaught play at *Taibh-liosg*, or Backgammon, remarkable well at this day. "It is no uncommon sight (says Col. Vallancey) to see tables cut out of a green sod, or on the surface of a dry bog." (e) The dice are made of wood or bone. I have observed elsewhere, that Carolan, when blind, continued to play at Backgammon with excellent skill. (f)

(d) Reliq. Of Irish Poetry, p. 85.

(e) Collect. De Reb. Hib. Vol. 3, p. 530.

(f) Hist. Mem. Of Irish Bards, Append. p. 68.

This is the item which Ebe Kartus of Deakin University Library, my former colleague in the Anderson Collection, pointed out to me. (One of the delights of the trips to Deakin's Geelong 'Waterfont' campus was to lunch with her.) The details of Ebe's find are:

Walker, Joseph C., d. 1810.

Recollections of chess in Ireland.

In: Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis. Vol. 5, p. 365-368. Dublin, 1790.

Both Jas. C. Walker and the 'Collectanea' are mentioned in Twiss, vol. 2 (p. 259 according to van der Linde in GLS)

I have transcribed the entire text of both items from the Deakin University copy and have airmailed them to you today.

#510. This pamphlet and its companion take opposite sides in the debate over the condemnation of Colonel Nathaniel Fiennes, who surrendered Bristol to King Rupert during the Civil War.

My visit to Monash University to look at the two items was stalled by the difficulty of identifying which of 2600+ reels of microfilm of the Wing Index contained "A checke to Brittanicus". - An aside.- My sources, which are catalogue entries, suggest that either cataloguers, or the 17th cent., took a very cavalier attitude to the spelling of Brit. One or two 't's, one or two 'n's, or any combination thereof seems to be perfectly acceptable. But to continue.

I managed to read 'A check to the checker of Britannicus' and can confidently say that it contains no chess.

My reservations about the title 'A checke to Brittanicus' containing an allusion to chess have been completely dispelled after reading what Britanicus himself had to say a week after the pamphlet was published, when he refers expressly to it by naming the printer, publisher and date. - I quote from the original in our Rare Books Collection.

Writing in "Mercurius Britanicus", No. 23, for the week 12 Feb.-19 Feb. 1644, he says, "I know not well where to begin : whether at Oxford or London : For I ever expected a Checke from Oxford, but I never thought of a Checke so neere me ; but this is ordinary in a Game at Chesse : But the best is, there is none will owne it, nor subscribe it, but John Dawson, and George Hutton, and 1644, and I have no quarrell to any of these : ..."

#917. The mystery word 'if(?)' on p. 4 has been downgraded from a doubt to a slight hesitation. Another examination of the microfilm shows the apparent mis-formation of an 'a' (in a possible 'as') is caused by shadowing (?) from the 'he' in 'the' of last indented line on p. 3 (..the Chesse, yet ..) getting mixed with the 'i' of 'if'. The question has now become: "What happened to the dot on the 'i'?"

Perhaps I can finish with a quote from Britanicus of a fortnight earlier:

"It is a pretty experiment to be silent for a while."

Ken Fraser.

Das Erste Jarhundert, #679. "The old Irish Chess-Player".

The following passage is taken from Part 2 [1775] of Charles Vallancey's 'A critico-historical dissertation concerning the antient Irish laws, or national customs, called gavel-kind and thanistry. Dublin. Thomas Ewing, 1774-75. [Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis. No. III-IV]

It occurs in the section on the history and genealogy of the kings of North-Munster dealing with Lorcan (908-914)

[p. 449] **LORCAN**

"Lorcan, son of Lachtan, son of Corc, son of Anluan, son of Mahon, son of Torelach, son of [p. 450] Caithil, son of the above Aodh Caomh, son of Conall, son of Eocha Bealdeary of the direct line of Cormac Cas, succeeded his father in the sovereignty of North-Munster: he was a powerful and resolute prince, and was distinguished for his generosity, prudence and piety. Our historian relates a remarkable affair that happened between this prince and Flann Siona king of Leath-Cuinn; this king, instead of employing his forces in giving proper check to the Danish invaders, who in his time were committing the most barbarous devastations, cruelties and sacrileges, especially in the North of Ireland, and even in Meath and Kildare under his own eyes, thought proper to make a sudden irruption into the province of Munster, at the head of his troops, where he plundered and laid waste a great part of the country. At his return home loaded with booty, he boasted to his officers, that there was no prince or state in all Ireland, that would dare to molest or obstruct his march, and that he should hold himself as safe and free in his passage, as if he had been on a tour of pleasure and sporting in the heart of his own patrimonial estate; wherefore he declared that he intended to divert and amuse himself at his chess-board, wherever he thought proper in his way homeward, without the least compliment to any prince or state whatsoever [This practice and conduct, it seems, was held a mark of contempt in those days, towards the prince and people, in whose state such sporting liberties had been taken by another, without their consent] A domestic poet called Flann Mac [p. 451] Lonnane, who was of the king's retinue, having heard out this piece of rodomantado, could not refrain from telling his master, that he was apprehensive if he had gone upon such a sporting scheme into the country of the Dal-Cassian tribe, attended as he was of all his forces, he should soon have a more serious and yet a brisker game to play, than that of either chess or hazard; hereupon this king, after casting a scornful look at his poet, instantly orders his troops to march towards Thomond. In the mean time, the poet Mac Lonnane, who would not gladly be found a false prophet, took an opportunity to give friendly notice of his master's design to Lorcan, king of North-Munster, who having lost no time in giving the alarm to the chiefs of his tribe and their forces, they soon were in readiness to give a warm reception to king Flann; this prince having marched into the country of the Aobh-Caisin in Thomond, halted on the plain called Magh-Adhair, at the very spot on which the kings of North-Munster were usually inaugurated; and here, after a short refreshment, he ordered a signal to be made to his courtiers and officers, to fall to their amusements without care or apprehension; and for his part, he challenged a companion to a game of chess. But the Dal-Cassians, who had diligently watched his march and motions, were by this time assembled in sight of his camp, and

in a sufficient number to disturb his attention to that sort of game. In a word, they poured down upon him, before he had finished his party at chess, and soon overturned his gaming tables [p. 452] after forcing their way sword in hand, to the very spot on which they stood : the sport did not end with this brief scuffle ; for our historian informs us, that the affair came to a general and most bloody engagement between both armies, which continued for three days successively, and ended with a total defeat and dreadful carnage of king Flann's men, who at last was drove to the extremity and confusion of employing his poet, to obtain quarters for his own person.

Note; This piece of military conduct, however odd it may appear in our days, I judged not altogether improper to be related in this extract; inasmuch as it may serve as a sample of the manners and customs observed by the warriors of those times. It is just to remark at the same time, that no part of the ridicule of this transaction falls upon Lorcan or his tribe, who, being attacked in a contemptuous, as well as hostile manner, were obliged nor only to vindicate their own honour and rights, but also to repel the invader of their country, to whom they owed no submission.

A correction now on Lindsay Allason-Jones of Newcastle University UK who responded to my 'Dear Madam//Sir' letter on 'Gaming Boards on Hadrian's Wall' in the TV Series "The Romans in Britain" (see p.143 Bert) Lindsay included an extract from the book "Women in Great Britain" and then on 31 August 2002 I saw Lindsay on TV noting she was a woman. My apologies for my letter of 1/12/2000 Lindsay addressed to Mr'

2001:-

My retirement honeymoon had ended. It had been a great year and I realised my working life was really over unless I changed my mind. If not the time was more for family and chess. Was it possible to do this or would there be many boring days? There were but our old home needed work and chess research could fit in around it as would family life though Norma had found her 'niche' in the local history room 3 days a week where she is still today! It was amazing how her work fitted in with chess history and vice versa. For example, one time she was looking through an old Dubbo Liberal and there was a chess article by a young Spencer Crakanthorp who was a bank teller. He was describing some Sydney Tourney he had attended. It was pre WW1.

GEORGE HATFEILD DINGLEY GOSSIP (GHDG 1841-1907) was the topic for most of the year with the two Kens Whyld & Fraser and the Pre 1850 Chess Texts' that appeared in 2003. Ken Whyld's daughter Abigail had a long stay with work at Melbourne and met the other Ken there. We were working on F.K. Esling the railway engineer who built Flinders Street Station, one of that cities iconic buildings.

I wrote Bert that I'd been lucky in Jacob Feenstra's auction getting No.249 the 'Morphy' Maroczy and 261 the Cunnington' Half Hours with Morphy'. I had to rebind the Cunnington 1913 in its original covers and this was easy enough to do with glue and sometimes a new cloth mesh spine if the sewing or pages were loose. This book belonged to the Otago Chess Club and had the Club circular seal stamped in 3 places. The glue 'Hi-Flex' is a wonder of book repairs as it sets quickly and is easy to use. The other 3 booklets of the Otago Chess Club purchased

from Jacob were the Club Rules (8 pages with 1909 Office Bearers) The Hon. solicitor then was 'D. Forsyth' and he invented that chess notation. J.J. Marlow was the much loved chess identity and President. The next booklet was the 75th Anniversary of the Club 1884-1959 (8 pages + 3 fine photos, one of J.J. Marlow playing G.Wright. Marlow was Club Patron, Wright was a 61 year member!) The third booklet was the Century of Chess in Dunedin 1875-1975 (12 pages + 8 photos + 2 cartoons) The photo on page 8 of the 1898/9 Congress players was a beauty.

Peter Fayers of the BCPS caused some malicious humour in our house when he wrote me that 'Bert' had sold 1 copy! My wife burst into maniacal laughter at my gloomy look. Her response was "Looks like you're not the next Jeffrey Archer!" Hmmm. John Beasley called all these books 'vanity' books. And mine had been pricked. Just wondering why I am writing this Addendum?

Ken Whyld sent the 1881 British Census on GHDG. The UK were smart. They kept theirs. Out here we destroy them. GHDG was 39 and a New Yorker. Alice was 40 and Irish and his occupation was "Author of Work on Chess". Three children Helen, Harold and Mabel and they lived at 1 Lilian Villa Spring Road Suffolk. Ken also asked me "Why did Gossip get up people's noses?" The answer was simple I thought:- "Because he looked down his". Ken also sent me news about the 1893 Christmas BCM issue. It wasn't in my set so I contacted KF as it was over 70 pages!

I also sent KW my article 'Further Esling Family History' no chess but it was the hope that he may feature the 'alleged' game of Esling's against Pillsbury. To do that he had to go overseas on engineering matters and must have played the great American somewhere? In 2018 we are no wiser.

Jacob Feenstra 00/2 catalogue turned out to be his last. It contained a massive number-416- in its green covers. The prices were interesting:-

- Hammond's 1950 'The Book of Chessmen' \$125
- 12. Murray's 1913 Gilt Knight cover 'A History of Chess' \$350 (down from \$400)
- 13. Bardeleben & Mieses 1894 'Lehrbuch der Schachspiels' \$125
- 153. Euwe's 'Het Eindspel' 1940/41 12 issues \$125
- 180. Gittin's 'The Chess Bouquet' 1897 \$125
- 187 Miles 'Chess Gems' 1878' \$175.
- 195 T.A. Thompson's 'Chess Problems' 1873 \$125.
- 278 Bird 'Modern Chess & Chess Masterpieces' 1887 \$125
- 310 Schorr 'Teplitz Schonau' 1922 \$150
- 311 Kagan 'Karlsbad' 1923 \$125
- 313 Tartakower 'Bad Kissingen' 1928 \$125
- 315 Chess Pie No.3 1936 \$140
- 371 Brooklyn Chess Chronicle 1886/7 \$160
- 379. The Problemist 1930-36 incomplete \$185
- 380 Fairy Chess Review Vol 3 & 4 \$250
- 381-388 Our Folder the Good Companions magazine Vol4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11 \$795
(sold in separate years) Fine magazine not all that well known for its photos

and historical content over and above chess problems. The articles on Morphy and Philidor to name two of many are outstanding.

I bought No.8 only 'The Soviet School of Chess' by Kotov & c 1983.

Barrie Ellen the London book dealer turned the big 60 and I wrote Mrs E and Barrie that my wife considered me "almost perfect now." (I was 61) I wanted to know the definition of "almost".

KF sent me the gruesome details of the Victorian chess champion R.L. Hodgson's death. (See Australian Problem History on ozproblems.com) a terrible story I won't repeat. He was VERY excited about the Christmas 1893 issue as IT WASN'T in their main set but WAS in a duplicate! How lucky they hadn't sold that. And he included a photocopy of the issue of 72 pages. It was just magical and the chess I loved. The 11 page article by Charles Tomlinson (then 85) of Captain Robinson and his visit to the Isle of Wight reminded me of our very short stay there in a droughty 1990. This was 150 years earlier and CT described the eastern coast of the Isle with its bays and beaches. The Captain didn't go to Queen Victoria's retreat 'Osborne House' but we did looking for evidence of chess (no luck) The 3 pages of 41 autographs make even a photocopy of this issue a real collector's item. Here, for example, was the signature of "G.Hatfeild, D. Gossip" the subject of 2001 with the two Kens. Anyone who believed in psychic phenomena would agree this was weird. Joseph Ney Babson's 6 problems such as 'The Colossus' where White without moving a pawn mates in 1886 moves were here with solution and pride of place. Others were 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' (7-er), 'A Tragedy' (Selfmate 7-er), 'Castle Thunder' (Selfmate 16-er), 'The Eccentric Prelate' (Selfmate 18-er) were there to savor also. What an issue! I should add that the June 1893 BCM p.260 invited 'would-be' authors who wanted to be considered for the Christmas issue to send them. I sent KF a map of the Isle of Wight so he could follow the Captain's wanderings over the eastern side of the Island. To be honest our 1990 trip was not as magical as the Captain's in 1840. There was one great story told us as we had morning tea at Lil and Bob McWilliam's home when we said we would go to Portsmouth next to see Nelson's ship 'The Victory.' Bob was a tour guide on the ship and taking a group around when he pointed to a tiny plaque on the ship's deck. "This is where Nelson fell" he said pointing dramatically to the plaque which showed the spot. . An old lady piped up, "I didn't wonder, slipping on that nasty plaque"?!

Ken Whyld gave GHDG full treatment in his article in May (p.262 'Old Gossip') and July (p.398 'Mr Darcy meets Biggles')

Two fantastic items to arrive were from John Beasley's first and second editions of "British chess problem books published up to 1949" The 1st in Jan 1996, the 2nd in June 1997. I asked him "where indeed are the chess humourists?" He thought Bill Hartston's 'How to Cheat at Chess' was superb. Then we got onto the British Museum's letter to me regarding dating of the Lewis chessmen and the need to carbon date. He replied" I agree that drilling is destructive, but surely there is an inferior or damaged piece that could be used for preliminary tests? I personally attach little weight to stylistic arguments, having been cynically amused by the various frauds that have been perpetrated at the expense of art experts and I am afraid I am left with the impression of officials finding reasons to stifle an enquiry when results might be embarrassing

rather than of scientists seeking to establish the truth. The only ‘stylistic’ feature that is apparent to me is that the carving does not appear to be particularly expert, and that is hardly a quality that is peculiar to the 12th century”.

I replied that ‘Chess & the Single Man’ by Paul Holt 1975 was rather funny as was ‘Chess is our Life’ C. Niarchos 1972 which was really a series of chess cartoons. The Complete Chess Addict’ by Fox & James 1987 must have been viewed well as there was an “Even More...” later.

Jean Mennerat wrote 10/4 to keep in touch and I sent him my last hard copy of Bert. That made 6 Harald and he could examine it for mistakes.

Upon receiving ‘The Soviet School of Chess’ 1983 from Jacob I sent off a letter to Professor Donald Fiene of Tennessee University further to his 1977/9 BCM articles on ‘The Turk.’ It seemed ‘The Turk’ went to Russia and was at Tula and St. Petersburg so Catherine the Great could have seen it, The date at Tula was 5th November, 1777. This answered some of Fiene’s questions but the chess world may have known all this by 2001 when I got my copy of the info out of Soviet School. He did not reply.

Harald Ballo had acquired some wonderful material on Auguste D’Orville and I hoped he would publish. He liked using his library for research as did I.

Bert and family had an exciting trip looking for Daniel Noteboom’s grave. Wisely they combined it with a visit to the European Space Agency and “Everybody Happy.’

We have had many cemetery treks with our family some not so successful when the trip wasn’t shared. Our two children’s radar soon rose when that word was mentioned with a trip. Bert missed out finding Noteboom’s grave firstly but told me of the visit to the Max Euwe Centrum in November last at Amsterdam. It contained a museum about Euwe and a chess library of 7000 titles with many rare items. They organized a book fair twice a year and he bought “a few interesting items for a reasonable price.” He also got acquainted with a few more Dutch chess book sellers and collectors. One of his coups was Dr. Niemeijer’s ‘Schaakbibliotheken’ 1948. He wanted a photo of John van Manen and I hope I sent him one. He had made some other great buys such as a Lambe, Greco and a 1777 Philidor plus the Chess Monthly from Jacob missing Vol.13. Why Volume 13? Well, it was probably like my set of Stratagie which is missing 1884. That’s an easy one as Morphy died that year and there is probably a good obit. of the man. Volume 13 of Chess Monthly ran from September, 1891 to August, 1892. It’s probably related to page 8. The death of the great problemist J.A. Miles.

But it’s a weak obit. On the same page is an article on New Zealand Chess Players and the Congress that opened January 16th and won by R.J. Barnes. He had a letter dated June 20th just above that article dealing with NZ chess and hoping for more coverage in the Monthly. There is also on p.193 an excellent engraving of Sam Loyd which I have forgotten about and seen nowhere else plus his life story and problem career.

One of the sadder conclusions from the Christmas Issue of the 1893 BCM was that I asked KF if he could locate a copy of “The Life of Charles Tomlinson” by his niece Mary Tomlinson (see p.

226 BCM 1900) but he could not and it proved 'very elusive'. The SLV did not have it. There were many chess references and comments about chess players. So, surely someone can find it? The reference in BCM above is a good review advising that Tomlinson wrote 32 books. Here is a teaser from that:-

"In the autumn vacation of 1859 I paid a visit to a village near Huddersfield, where a relative of mine was vicar. On the morning after my arrival I set out for a solitary ramble, trusting to chance to make it interesting. On approaching a village, the name of which was not pronounced according to the spelling, I was struck with the brick-red appearance of the roads, which became more vivid under the influence of a slight shower. I was unable to account for this appearance, but on coming to a by-path the colour became more vivid. Pursuing this path....."

We were going to Melbourne and I asked KF if he wanted to see Maribyrnong River Bridge built by Esling and would he like to come? Well, it turned out it wasn't very far from his terrace in Finsbury Street Flemington overlooking that great Melbourne Cup racetrack. Call here and then we will walk to it was the gist and so we did. Passing through the Newmarket stables and onto the river where we noticed the trains thundering across the bridge. I had to climb up and touch that bridge in between trains and we took photos and considered the morning a success and later met neighbours, the Prices, who lived in the next door terrace, Ian Price had been a mining engineer at Cobar and we knew a common friend. Small world. Melbourne was great and the trip to Williamstown by ferry was a highlight as we walked all around that place and looked at the great houses along the promenade. On nearing the ferry Ken spotted a full tourist bag by itself and he asked the captain about it. He radioed ahead and on getting to Melbourne port he was given a very nice kiss by a grateful attractive lady as there were some valuables in the bag. Research in the library was all around Esling but Ken and I met Gary Bekker in the Reading Room and we all got very excited such that a fellow came over and told us to 'shut up.' We were loud no doubt about that Ken said later not to worry as the guy had been coming to the library for years and hadn't produced anything on his proposed book!

We called and saw Robert Johnson and his family near the Grampians and looked at his Anderssen project. He had some great books in his library including the Anderssen 'bible' by Herman Gottschall 1912. It was a beautiful copy that he'd bought from Dale Brandreth. Robert is very close now to publishing in early 2019.

Ken sent me a very good index on the chess column in the Australasian for 1884/7. It was in 6 month sections (two per annum) and quite detailed with the names of all players and problemists. The chess news was helpful especially during Blackburne's visit. He also sent a prelim. Copy of 'Chess Texts before 1850' by Ken Whyld and Chris Ravillious which was a very good manuscript. Sadly the Goldstein book was on the 'back-burner' but that was my fault as I hadn't pushed it along. It would be better on the web and it did get to ozproblems.com in 2016.

Bert rang in early June. He had sent some 12 postcards two of which were Weenink and Marshall and a book '50 Jaar LSG 1895-1945' along with Daniel Noteboom's grave photo. We were good mates from that great day in December, 1995 - a chess highlight for me meeting a man with similar interests.

Ken's Gossip material was just amazing and the genealogy had been brought up to date by the two Kens. GHDG's grandson had been a WW1 flying ace who served in the RAF and died aged but 25 in Turkey. His name was George Hatfield H. Gossip.

KF produced a 23 page booklet on the Chess Serials now off site, 520 titles. It was sad that everything leaves the library for storage but that is the modern library. He also included a copy of GHDG's chess column 'Once a Month' Feb/Oct., 1885. The most interesting section was on 'The Chess Championship' (p.237 Sept. 15th, 1885) where the Esling match was declared 'off' due to GHDG's bronchial pneumonia. He had caught it after a cold winter with months in a room without heat prior to the match. Bad form resulted and to his credit GHDG admitted his weak play, He could play well and defeated Esling in the 1887 Ch'ship Tournay in Adelaide where he also drew with the winner Henry Charlick. His writing style encouraged animosity and he got that in spades from the Melbourne University Review a copy of which Ken sent me. It seemed late in his life in the USA, GHDG used a pseudonym 'Ivan Trepoff' and became a romantic crime writer. The two books Ken found in the National Union Catalogue pre 1956 Imprints were "The Jew of Chamont 1898" and 'He is without sin' 1911 obviously the latter 4 years after his death. I have not seen either. There is no doubt that Gossip was a very poor man trying to make a living from chess and writing

On the Chess Café Bulletin Board No.322-6 was a letter from Ricardo Calvo of the USA which was an eye-popper. (July, 2001) It seems that J.G. White had a copy of the 1495 Vicent which was in the collection as RC was sure JGW purchased it in 1912 and it went lost or was hidden. 'The Return of Francesch Vicent' by Jose A. Garzon in 2005 (an exciting story in itself) took the sting out of the 'lost' copy in the USA as well its relevance and value.

Harald Ballo sent a great letter with enclosures on his d'Orville find and I filled him in on Australian research.

Jacob Feenstra said on the 11th June that with his house extension finished he was quitting chess books:-

"I decided to quit the chess book dealer job; i.e I'll stop buying and selling chess books, so the last catalogue was really my last catalogue. I've done this for 14 years (in intervals) and it has been enough. I enjoyed it most of the time very much and got to know quite a lot of nice people over the years...but I decided the time has come to move on."

It was a very nice letter and he mentioned that he lived in Waitati not Wellington. I told him of the holograph display of the Cowra breakout by the Japanese POW's and the chess sets made by Italian POW's one of which I would like to have.

Bert wrote me about Jan Koppenaar and his enthusiastic collecting of chess postcards. Bert had visited Jan's home and gave him his only old postcard, which was an original from about 1910, showing the chess village of Strobeck in Germany. Jan was happy with that one as it was a rare item sought after by collectors. Bert made a few colour copies one of which he sent to me. Jan liked our attempts to find the graves of the chess greats and Bert showed him 'Australian Chess at the Top' the book by Cathy Chua which has a lot of photographs in it.

Jan was Chairman of the Daniel Noteboom Chess Club in Noordwijk. Bert had bought a copy of 'White Rooks' the ACW book from Jacob and it had a wonderful dedication in the front:-
"The Good Companion Chess Problem Club's Solving Tourney. February 22nd, 1918. Second Prize won by Mr. O. Balk." Now Oscar Balk (1864- 1942) was a strong player and Otago Chess Club Champion 1899, 1903, 1913 and 1928. Bert was impressed by the 29 year timespan. Cecil Purdy had a really fine obituary of Oscar in ACR 1942 p.44/45 that makes one wish to have known Oscar as he was a man worth knowing. He had played at the Oxford City Chess Club, also Yokohama Chess Club and finally Otago Club (Dunedin NZ).

One item of interest was the GCCPC awarding Christmas Series books as prizes! Jacob bought most of the Otago Chess Club's old books and so other ACW books with dedications such as the above have gone all around the world by now. Clearly Oscar donated this book and others to his club. Bert tried to order more "immediately by phone" all gone. I sent some old Dutch chess photos of Alekhine and his cat, and Euwe, to Bert and Jan. One good turn deserved another. They had been given to me by Cornelius Nieuendyk a travelling railway tradesman who stopped off for chess here and a meal on occasion. I didn't have any dates but they were clearly the 1930's.

Ken's long letter arrived 28th June and that made two blockbusters in 14 months. The areas covered were important to us both - pre 1850 Texts and Gossip. This one must be reproduced as the print is just fair and so a retype.

"Flemington. Started June 11th, 2001; finished one phone call and two weeks later on the 24th – and I still haven't got it solved properly.

"Dear Bob,

Well, here's something about our friend GHD which takes up the story from where Diggle left off. You will recall that the good Diggle has him in Montreal in 1894 "busily engaged in literary pursuits" and in June, 1895 "sojourning in Buffalo." Diggle then began his next paragraph with the words "And here our trail suddenly ends." But, as the old-time serials used to say, "Now read on:-"

International Politics: *Out of left field comes the new category of 'Gossip as political commentator'. I have found out that he contributed four longish political articles to the "Fortnightly Review" in the 1890s, three of which are, as it were, Post-Diggle.*

The first article, in 1890 dealt with "Protectionism versus Free Trade in Australia" and contrasted Victoria with NSW. It was very pro-Victoria and Protectionism; it depended heavily on facts and figures in Australian Colonial government handbooks; and it was a bit ho-hum.

But the other three, 1895-98, deal with England's disputes with Venezuela and Nicaragua, seen from an American point of view, and with the Cuban revolutions against Spain. In order they are:

1. December, 1895. "England in Nicaragua and Venezuela; from an American point of view." A one-page reply to this article appeared in January, 1896.
2. March, 1896. "Venezuela before Europe and America; from an American point of view".
3. May, 1898. "The mournful case of Cuba" GHD's article was the second of two in that issue on the Spanish-American War.

These articles are all pretty much on the side of the Monroe Doctrine of 'The Americas for the Americans' Europeans, stay out!

Although he was pressing a particular point of view, there was none of that angry stridency we often get in his chess writings. He was writing fairly sensibly, and I found the article rather interesting even though I have very little knowledge of that part of history. The very British reply in January, 1896 to the 1895 Venezuelan article suggested that he was seriously off-track on one point. In a fairly typical diplomat's response it pointed out that England's involvement in Venezuela was a South American issue, not a Central American one, and therefore England was not in conflict with USA policy on Central America, etc. etc.

And to top it all he wrote an article on "Cricket in Australia" for 'Outing', a New York sporting journal I had never heard of. The reference didn't give a date but the volume no, suggests that it was 1888/89, when he had first arrived back in America.

All of the above I have in print, except the cricket article.

***The Novelist.** The thing I'm having trouble with is Gossip as a novelist. I find it very hard to get my head around the idea of GHD hiding behind a pseudonym like "Ivan Trepoff" to write "The Jew of Chamant", shy and retiring he ain't.*

But two facts can't be hidden. The first is that the novel was published December, 1898 in Buffalo, N.Y., where Diggle leaves him in 1895, presumably still 'engaged in literary pursuits'. The second is that 'The American Catalogue', 1895-1900, published 1901 by 'Publishers Weekly' The book-trade bible, expressly identifies GHD as "Ivan Trepoff." The complete work was accessioned here in Melbourne on 16th August 1901.

Incidentally, you might like to know what 'The Jew of Chamant' is about. Here is the description from the pages of the December 17th, 1898 issue of 'Publishers Weekly' which listed the books published that week. It sounds like a fairly typical piece of late 19th century anti-Semitism.

"My object in the present work", the author says, "is to paint the rich Jew in his true colours, as the enemy of society – to show that the Jew, who steals millions can, in Europe at any rate, defy the laws with impunity, and that he almost invariably escapes punishment, owing to improper occult influences and the mighty power of Israelitish gold".

The problem about the novels that I am trying to solve springs from the following facts:

- *The pseudonym of Ivan Trepoff is attributed to two different people;*

- *There are four novels written by “Ivan Trepoff” (Pseud.) They are: ‘The Jew of Chamant’ (1898); ‘Spiritmist’ (1909); ‘The Forsaken’ (1910); and, ‘He who is without sin’ (1911).*
- *The last three of these novels appeared in New York after Gossip’s death.*

For the record you had better have some idea of the other three novels. ‘Spiritmist’ “is one of those unpleasant and brutally outspoken stories about which there are two opinions, one holding that they are abominable and indefensible....wanton and wretched debaucheries.” (The reviewer in the N.Y. Times, 19.6.1909, didn’t like it.)

‘The Forsaken’, to quote what I think is its subtitle, is “an argument, in novel form, on the morality of divorce.” (My memory)

‘He who is without sin’ “may not be entitled to a high rating as a novel, but it is amusing. The narrative is unconvincing and the characters are a queer, extravagant, inconsistent, and improbable lot; but there is action in the story, plenty of entertaining incidents, and a good many dashes of really enjoyable humor” (N.Y. Times again, 7.4.1912)

The first of the two people supposed to be Ivan Trepoff is GHD Gossip, whilst the second is a New York surgeon and University of New York professor of surgery called Harold (or Herman) A. Haubold, who died in 1931. I found his obituary in the New York Times where he is described as the author of only the last three of the four Ivan Trepoff novels. But Dr. Haubold was certainly around in 1898. There is an article about him in the New York Times of October 26th, 1898, describing his work as an army physician combating typhoid in army camps during the Spanish-American war.

It is no good looking up the various dictionaries of pseudonyms. All I can say about them is that “confusion reigns supreme.” Halkett & Laing, before whom all librarians are supposed to prostrate themselves, credits GHD with 3 titles, another source ignores him completely, while yet a third divides the titles up between the two of them fifty-fifty. It is nearly driving me around the twist. The whole problem would of course be easily solved if there really are two Ivan Trepoffs, one of whom died when GHD did. But you know what Mal Fraser would say to that. (Australian, Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser used the term: - ‘life was not meant to be easy.’ BM)

Essentially, I think the US National Union Catalogue got it right for Ivan Trepoff (pseud.) when they scored the game GHD 1; Haubold 3, even if it is “sucks and boo” to Mal.

I think my next step is to make direct contact with the people in charge of copyright at the Library of Congress and ask them to give me a straight answer to the simple question: “To whom was the copyright for ‘The Jew of Chamant’ issued in 1898 and 1899?” I forget to say that there was also an edition of it in New York in 1899.

Hatfield. *Just a bit more about the Gossips and then I’m giving them up for Lent. In my last letter to you I mentioned GHD’s 1847 baptism and the 1851 census, both of which have him at Hatfield.*

The latest twist to the story is that, after leaving the boy with his maiden aunt Georgina at Hatfield, GHD's father married again in 1848 in Wandsworth. This time he married a Marie E. Some one-or-other who was born in Marylebone. Two successive wives with the initials M.E.?! – it makes you wonder if the man had a kink. By the time of the 1881 census he is 83 and she is 57, and they are living in Hackney. I note with some interest that, according to St. Catherine's records, Helen Josephine, the second of GHD's children, was born in Hackney. Maybe the father did have some contact with the son after all, but there is, of course, more than one house in Hackney.

The other thing about the Gossips is that by the time of the 1881 census there are none of them actually living at Hatfield. It looks as if the genuine Hatfield Gossips of Hatfield have come to an end. GHD is a good bet to have been the last of the tribe to have known Hatfield House. The last of the Gossips to be mentioned in the inscriptions in the local church of St. Laurence at Hatfield is Aurangezebe, who was with George in New York. He died in December, 1844. Their older brother John Hatfield Gossip seems to have been the last of the Gossips to live at Hatfield. In the 1851 census he was co-owner with his sister, GHD's maiden aunt Georgina, but she died in 1857, John lasted until 1879.

They were, incidentally, either bone poor, or they had damned good accountants. When John died he left £20, Frances, his widow, is described as a property owner, although in 1881 she is in Doncaster as head of the household with two of her unmarried daughters. When she went in 1887 she left £37.1.4d. I could find no mention of a will for George Hatfield or his son GHD.

Alice did much better than the lot of them. When administration of her will was granted in London in 1890, her estate was valued at £1072.4.5d. The executors were a Queen-Street, Melbourne, firm. Reading between the lines it seems likely that she made her will when she went into the Womens' Convalescent Home in Oakleigh, because the official grant of administration of her will says she was "late of Oakleigh near Melbourne in the Colony of Victoria."

Other matters. *A nice bit of news about the collection. You will remember that just before you arrived in Melbourne last month the chess periodicals were moved off-site and that I was worried about being able to get at them for research purposes. Well, in the last couple of weeks I have had to ask for chess periodicals from both the catalogued section and from the list of "Chess serials not on the data base." So far I have got them all, and I was thrilled to see that the system can work. As proof I am enclosing for you a copy of the page from "The Four-leaved Shamrock" which Ken Whyld referred to in his article. It is not on the database and I should imagine is not easy to get hold of. You would love it. It was run for a time by the Irish female problemist, Mrs. Rowland?., and always had a good photograph. I've also included a copy of Steinitz's interesting review of the American ed. of GHD's Chess Player's Manual from the International Chess Magazine of May, 1888. I thought you might like to read Steinitz's assessment of the hostile reception of the original edition a few years down the track from its first publication. GHD's letter in the next issue is just another example of his defensiveness about any criticism. Another enclosure is the New York Times favourable review of the 1888 book. Note the remarks about the careful proof-reading of the book, and then look at GHD's complaints to Steinitz about misprints in his article. The boy is consistent.*

I have identified GHD's 1872 letter. It was in the Westminster Papers for Nov. 1873 as a response to George Walker's request for the origin of the word 'laking'. What I found interesting was the reference to the labourers of Windermere and Kendal. Unless I am very much mistaken he is reminiscing about his schooldays at Windermere College, and, as such, it is an independent confirmation of David Hooper's potted biography of GHD in BCM's Quotes and Queries for October, 1964. I've added a copy of that 1873 letter to the pile.

And now, to the pre-1850 work. *I frankly have not had much of a chance to examine it closely yet. These damned Gossips have taken up practically every moment of my time for many weeks now. But I do have some idea on the subject of the difference between what constitutes a Bibliography of chess, and the sort of material that a chess collector naturally tends to acquire. Basically it is the difference between "That's important/Relevant," and "That's interesting".*

I rather like to use the example of the collector in Melbourne who owns what has to be the finest mint copy in existence of the 1868 "Games of the intercolonial chess match; Melbourne versus Adelaide; played by means of the electric telegraph...." He brought it along to a talk I gave on the chess collection to a book collectors group some years ago. I nearly flipped when I first saw it. It was superb! It was in absolutely original condition, and it meant that there were now four known copies of it. The chess collection doesn't have one. We have to depend on the library's copy in the collection of Victorian pamphlets in another part of the library. And when they bound it they removed the covers! This superb private copy, which we would give our eye teeth to have, is in the collection of a man interested in telegraphy.

In a bibliography of Australian chess, that pamphlet has an important place both because of its Age - it is very early for Australian chess, and one of only about five Australian chess publications on the 19th century- and also as an early example of the different methods of communication which chess players can, and do, utilize, e-mail, and what-have-you. To be sure, the pamphlet has a legitimate place in a bibliography of telegraphy in Australia, but in telegraphy it has a much lesser importance than it would have in chess. It becomes just another example of the way in which telegraphy can be utilized. For chess the pamphlet is "important/very relevant," for Telegraphy it is "rather interesting."

It is only a short step from that example to the areas where chess is used as an illustration or a theme, but where the game itself is not the real consideration. Such an item would be of interest to collectors in the field, and they could certainly find a place in their collection for it, but it would not be about the guts of the subject - the pushing of pieces across a chessboard according to the accepted rules of the game.

I know there comes a stage where the line is pretty fine indeed, but we both know about the bower-bird collectors who lose the plot and collect anything remotely connected with their subject. But what a bibliography is about, as what a good collection is about is what we might call the key features of a particular topic's solar system. It is about one particular sun and its planets. Sure, the asteroid belt would be acknowledged, but usually only with a brief mention in the appendix.

This is perhaps why I have some concerns about the listing of every edition of Cotton, Hoyle and the other various 'gamesters' in the body of the Pre-1850 Chess Texts. My point is that most of the gamesters fit rather snugly into the category of books with a section on chess". But I have to keep reminding myself that Pre-1850 is a chronological arrangement. Unlike L/N, Betts, etc, it does not arrange the books in categories. I have re-read the remarks in the preface on the gamesters, and I can appreciate the point they are making, but I find it gives something of an imbalance to the work as a whole to list every edition and printing. But then, in their period the gamesters supplied the needs of all those late 18th century and Regency gentlemen who had to find some way to while away the tedious hours of their overly leisure-filled days, and as such they make up a substantial part of the chess literature of that period. The emphasis on the gamesters in that part of the bibliography is therefore unavoidable.

One thing we might find, however, because the gamesters were so common and popular, they played some kind of role in popularizing chess and making it more accessible to the lower orders of 'artisans and mechanics'. Now there's a nice Sociology Ph.D. for someone. "The clubs in Liverpool and Manchester 1800-1850." And at the top of the bibliography is the Whyld/Ravillious opus: "Chess Texts in the English Language, printed earlier than 1850."

Back to the subject. A chess collector would naturally find a place in his collection for examples of chessmen; he would certainly find a place for photographs of chessplayers; he could add novels which feature chess; or he could have a collection of ads which use chess pieces. I think all of these can have a place because they flesh out the subject. They put colour and substance, as it were, into the bare bones of 1.e4 e5 and so on. They show that chess is multi-faceted and fascinating. But I do have difficulty with the idea of moving the various chess-inspired subjects surrounding the board onto the board itself. This is what I am trying to say when I speak of distinguishing between "important/relevant" and "interesting".

Perhaps, Bob, I've been too much influenced by the need to catalogue the collection. It has certainly coloured my thinking.

Lothar Schmid once sold MVA a fairly trashy detective yarn purely on the grounds that it used a picture of chess on its cover. The yarn itself had nothing whatsoever to do with chess, but I had to find a place for it in the catalogue of the collection. I finished up cataloguing it straight down the line as American Fiction, 20th century, and added a local note to the record mentioning the cover to justify its place in the collection. It has no serious place there, but it does fit into the 'interesting material' category. We get over the problem of this and other 'interesting material' in the collection by giving them their strict classification. The novels do not have the chess number 794.1 attached to them; sure, they live with the chess collection and have the AC prefix, but they are in the 800 numbers for literature. Chess Stamps have the proper number for stamps, not chess, and so on down the line. I must admit that I wish chessmen could be 794.1, but they have their own distinctive number in the creative arts, somewhere in the 730s. Given what a collection of chessmen can include, that figures.

I'm glad I've had to explain all this, because I now have a sub-theme for when I give my talk about the collection in a fortnight's time to a group of library technicians at their annual get-together. I will use Lothar's detective yarn as a good example of "other interesting material,"

and I will add the theatre program for the musical “Chess”, the books about chess in ballet and film, and a few other items.

But these technicians are also going to see the leaf from the 1483 illustrated Caxton; the Staunton which began the collection in 1917; the 1561 Ruy Lopez; the 1656 Greco and some of the other treasures. What I hope they will do is go away with some appreciation of the range and the strength of the collection, and why chess fascinates so many people. Even people who, like myself, don't even play the game. But I have been banned from talking about my own personal collection of “interesting chess suicides.”

Family last weekend. My sister organized a meeting with a Sydney cousin and her husband who were passing through Melbourne doing the Meadley thing of a driving holiday around the coast. I have never met them, so there was a chance to meet up and fill in some of the gaps in the information about my father's mob. Mind you, I have a cousin in Melbourne I have never met, so it is nothing new. If there had been the time I would have suggested that while the Sydneysider was here she could have met all four Melbourne cousins and their families but that will have to become a “next time”. The Frasers of my father's side were never a close family; they never went visiting one another, and the descendants have followed suit. We nevertheless all got on quite well and I was able to hand over the several pages of the family tree I had written up. Regards Ken- Next time- The Gossips in Sydney”

Enclosures:-

- 1. Gossips in the 1881 Census of England*
- 2. Four leaved Shamrock*
- 3. Steinitz: review of 1888 ed –International Chess Review*
- 4. Gossip letter to Steinitz 1887 & 1888*
- 5. NY Times review of 1888 ed.*
- 6. Gossip's 1873 letter in Westminster Papers*
- 7. Inscriptions at Hatfield (I don't know if you have Int. Ch. Rev or West Pap)*
- 8. Dr. Haubolt's obituary. 9. List of Gossips articles & American catalogue.”*

What a letter. The best I ever received from him in 25 years. He was wanting to know my views as he rang 28th June & 1st July to see if the package had arrived. I will include some of my reply relevant to the Pre-1850 Texts.

2nd July, 2001 To Ken Fraser (part only)

The Pre- 1850 Work- I liked the story of the telegraph item collector and I can say that UNLESS you can offer him something more infinitely desirable, that he will never part with the 1868 chess work. Interesting subject – how many copies are there? Melbourne has 1, Sydney has 1 (I think), Lothar Schmid has 1 (I guess) and this chap? Is that it? 4?

I have examined your comments on the Pre-1850 matter and it is not really the issue of examining the work closely. It is to do with the OMISSIONS. What is “important/relevant” or “interesting”?

Ken Whyld is actually trapped by his own writing. Turn to page 229 in OCC(2nd ed 1992) and read 'literature and chess'. I think that if it is good enough to place all the poets using chess imagery, as he calls it, in OCC, then it should be good enough to include them in a bibliography. Say a chess historian wants to read what Pope or Cowper have to say about chess – where does that person look? Through all their works or in a bibliography? True, if they have the knowledge to know that Norman Knight included the extracts they are home and hosed. Or, they could ring up Ken Whyld and he would be able to tell them to 'Look in Knight' – 'sorry they are not in my bibliography because whilst I suggested they had used chess imagery in OCC none of them say anything genuinely original or thought-provoking' (quote from introduction to Pre-1850)

I appreciate that KW writes in the OCC article that chess poetry has great profusion if not richness in his OCC article. But isn't it good for chess to have the great ancient poets quoting chess even if feebly.?.....

Now we turn to page 39 in OCC and KW's definition of 'bibliographies':- "There is not, and perhaps never can be, a complete bibliography of chess titles....." It is clear that KW didn't think JvM's Bibliography very important as he didn't quote it. But that said, why not completeness or an attempt at it for the very early works that mention chess?

I understand your point completely that once the game itself is not the real consideration, as it is not the guts of the subject. You go on to say it is a fine line and I agree with you that to record every mention of chess...is of doubtful value, as KW & CR state. BUT to put part of Edgar A Poe in and then omit other views of Poe on chess as they have done seems quite strange.

You take a different line about the inclusion of all the 'gamesters and perhaps you are right. I got a copy of the 1850 edition of "The Sports and Pastimes of the People of England" last year – chess and other extracts only. And I have to say that if pre 1850 versions of this are as good as this one on chess then they should go in. By the way this edition was printed for William Tegg & Co at Cheapside. There was a 'J.Tegg' bookseller in Sydney in 1840 as the Australian Chess Club bought their equipment from him. A relative?

And you make a good point about the influence of the leisured class and chess. I would go further and say that your Sociology Ph.D "The sociological role of early 19th century gamesters in the rise of chess clubs in 1800-1850" could be expanded to include the Sociology of chess per se. Is it a game/art/science worth playing?....

Yes, do chess photos, engravings, novels, advertisements need to be included in a chess bibliography? I think I agree that many of these topics are more interesting than relevant but I do think we humans are good copiers. The young want to imitate the pop stars of the day, the slightly older get on the money kick and do battle on the stockmarket and at work to improve their finances and they'll listen and watch the successful monied people. The older like to think they have contributed something to their environment and this is why we copy people in taking on community tasks. Everyone wants to be appreciated. If we see a great person playing chess or writing about chess then some of us might wish to copy that person. Sincerest form of flattery it may be but it's also human nature.....

And so what the great poets, novelists etc think of chess is very important even if it isn't "genuinely original or thought-provoking" It all adds to the picture of the game many centuries ago. EVEN disinterested people took an interest in it. What is in this game/art/ etc that takes people in so? Is it worth learning? And hopefully we get another sheep in the fold. And this secures the communities mental stability. People must have a safe haven outside work to be sane.

Lothar's sale to you of the detective yarn may well have coloured your views. It does have no serious place in the MVA. In your second-last paragraph you comment on the wide ranges of chess that fascinates so many people. AND I think you should expand on the chess suicides one day as this appears to run counter to chess as a game worth knowing. But I knew it wasn't chess that brought about Higgs demise- it was lack of love. Tyrrell's was a brain tumour or some head problem. Hodgson's was headaches brought on by a bike accident and money troubles. Lambit Oll I would like to know more about - I suspect love problems. In all these cases it could be argued that chess was a solace for them all and perhaps kept them alive longer than if they had not known of it. It could also be said chess helped their demise.

I think KW/CR should include ALL those early references that are in Knight and elsewhere. You are not so sure. Fair enough. Bob."

In reading this section 18 years later my views are the same. What was the point in leaving some early books out? I discussed it with Chris Ravilious and will write about that later.

The two Kens were still 'Gossiping' and I was wrapping up the Melbourne Geelong holiday as I'd found a nice article on A.G.McCombe in the 'Geelong Grammarians' by Corfield and Persse 1996 with some nice photos of him and his prominent ears that resulted in the schoolboys nicknaming him 'Gig Lamps.' I had talked with Michael Guiney the Railway historian on Esling's resignation at 56 and he told me that Esling would have to wait until he was 60 to get his insurance policy final payment.

KF responded about Thomas Henderson the early Victorian problemist who won some early tourneys and had died in 1914. He made a sad point that I could get that obituary in BCM from my own copy but with the SLV serials/periodicals now off-site he had to order them in. He had shown the U3A people Henderson's scrapbooks which were TH's daughter's school books that he had pasted problems all over. He also commented on my views about the Pre-1850 Texts but had to examine Norma Knight's book 'Chess Pieces' and 'King, Queen and Knight' before finalizing his views. He was an interesting man and replied ".....chess was, for me, a job which I found very interesting and fascinating. I was always a bit fearful of letting it become a passion with me. As soon as I got an inkling that might happen I tried to take time off for a breather. I had to do it with the Gossip hunt because I felt I was becoming a bit obsessed by it."

I knew the feeling as I had been obsessed for decades! I reminded Ken that Ken Whyld wanted his comments/corrections on the Pre 1850 Texts.

Norma found this in our local paper the Narromine News 19th June, 1936 :-
"A wrestling match took place between a Minister and an infant at St. John's Maroubra. Whenever the Minister tried to make the sign on his forehead, the baby reached up and

grabbed his spectacles. The Minister won. He was the Rev. T. B. Meyer and the child John Spencer Purdy. The baby wore a marvelously embroidered long gown, 300 years old, an heirloom of the Crakanthorp family.” As JSP was born 25th September, 1935 he was at a lively age. He was Cecil’s son, and I sent it to Anne Purdy who was holidaying in Quedlinburg near Berlin. She got around for an 85 year old.

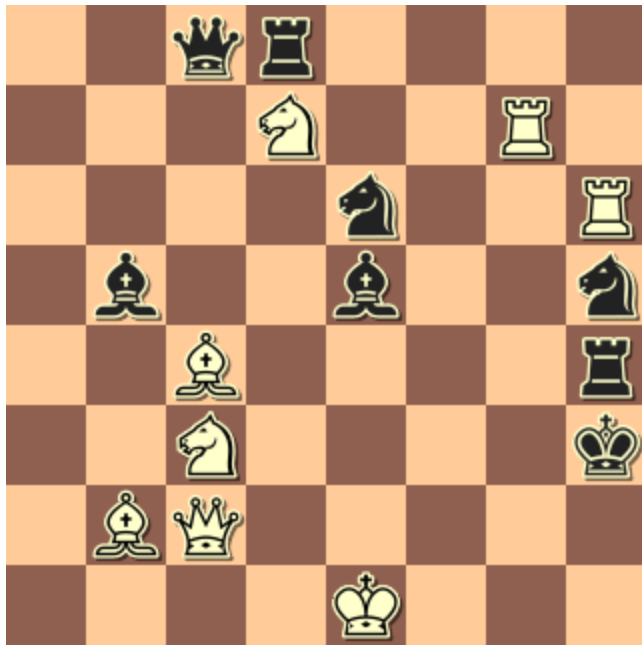
I love epitaphs even when non chess. Here is one I sent to KF from Kew Cemetery:

Douglas Oswald Shiels

6th April 1891 – 23rd February 1979
Here lies what’s left of Douglas Shiels
Who cares of life no longer feels.
The Ups and Downs, the this and that
No longer worry now he lies flat.
If silk or wool or merely cotton
Comprise the shroud that now he’s got on
He worries not so long’s the stuff
Which covers him is quite enough.
Time heals all griefs so we are told
For Young and Middle Aged and Old
So now that Doug was eighty seven
We hope at last he’s reached his heaven.
Eileen Fitzgerald Shiels (Cook)
18th July 1904 – 23rd August 1982 RIP

A lot of love here. BM

The Melbournians loved sticking it to the Sydney-ites and when Victoria won +4-3=0 over NSW in the 1880 Intercolonial Match F.K. Esling (then 20) composed a Selfmate 7-er to show the win. The problem contained the final moves of each of the 7 games.



Solution:

1.Bxe6+..Rg4;2.Rxh5+..Kg3;
3.Rxg4+..Kf3;4.Qd3+..Bxd3;
5.Nxe5+..Ke3;6.Nd5+..Rxd5;
7.Bc1+..Qxc1++

From The Melbourne Leader
12 June 1880. I'd like to find
all those games and check if the
final moves are there and where
they fit into the solution. Surely
not in board rank?

White to play and selfmate in 7

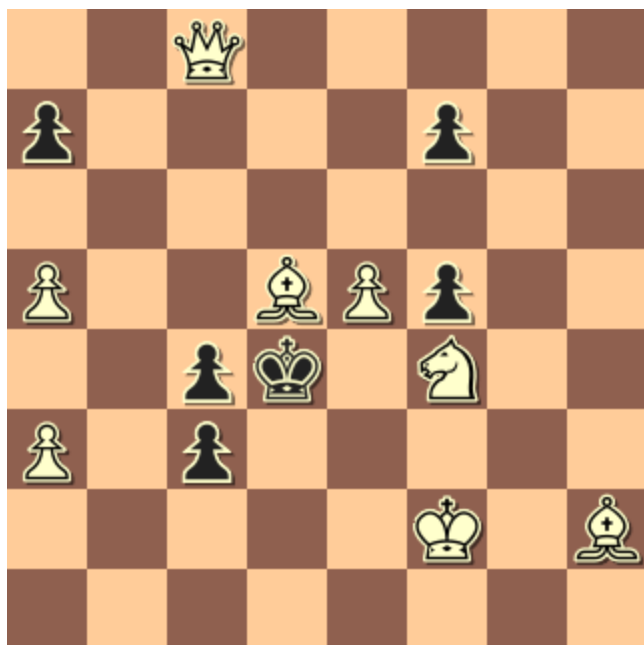
KF picked up some incorrect notes I'd sent him and I admitted not always wearing my reading glasses. Norma said it was a vanity trip. She was right. Poor Ken had fallen off a ladder on his front verandah changing a light bulb and was lucky it was a clean break of his left wrist. He was OK. He sent me news of someone named Andrew Ballam's phone call to John Roycroft about a cooked Kasparian ending and we found out Andrew had been running his FM radio Chesschat show in Melbourne for 10 years! It seemed Andrew had also rang Ken Whyld who emailed KF and that's how it all came out!

Ken also sent me two pages of GHDG descendants i.e. GHDG & Alice's children and one Harold K. who had married Mathilde Lafrenz, had a child George H. who grew up to be the WW1 air ace who was born 6th January, 1897 and died 24th April, 1923 at Constantinople when his Sopwith Snipe crashed.

A great patron of the National Gallery Dr. Orde Poynton gave \$13mn to the Gallery for prints, drawings and illustrated books. It was interesting to read of other patrons such as David Coe and John Schaeffer. Poynton had died in February 2001 and it was the largest donation received by a ny Gallery in Australia at that time. I recalled Alfred Felton ca 1900 who did the same for the Victorian Art Gallery. He had been a chemist. Poynton's father was a Harley Street specialist. All non chess but an astonishing other world.

James Higgs (one of Ken Frasers heroes) was a strong player and problemist and I spent a ½ day on the next diagram and failed. It was in the Melbourne Leader 25th July, 1883.

Ken found the problem and sent it to me. Much later in life James fell in love with a young woman who spurned his affections and he committed suicide by drowning in the Murray River.



3-er (8x6) Key 1.Be4 threat
2.Ne2+ & 3.Qxc4++

If 1..Kxe4;2.Qc5..any;3.Qe3++
1..Kxe5;2.Qxf5+..Kd6;3.Ng6++
1...f6;2Ne2+..Kxe4;3.Qxc4++
1..c2;2Ne2+..Kxe4;3.Qxc4++
1...fxe4;2Qd7+..Kxe5;3.Nh5++ if
1..fxe4;2.Qd7+..Kc5;3.Qd5++

Graeme Gardiner President of the ACF wanted two items - a problemists composing medal and a Bibliography of Australian Chess. The ball was now rolling and a start was made on digitization of John van Manen's 3 books on Australian Bibliography.

Ken Whyld had moved from Caistor where Norma and I had a great stay with him all those years ago. He was still sorting out his library and preparing for a trip to Amsterdam to deliver a paper on the Gottingen Manuscript. I sent him our best wishes for 2002 and a cricket story dug out by the Melbourne Cricket Ground Archivist. The famous Ashes test also portrayed a cricket ball used in that test and held in a carved wooden hand which was part of a lovely timber stand made by a Mr. F.Dunne, woodturner of Collins Street, Melbourne. His son Francis Xavier Dunne was our retired Parish Priest in our dear little town of 3000 souls in western NSW. Father thought it all a storm in a teacup that his father had made it but it was a big deal and we were pleased to see the trophy which stood about 1.5m high in the Archives Room of the MCG in 2001.

KF enjoyed his talk to the U3A (University of the Third Age) group and showed them copies of the rare books –Damiano, Lopez, Philidor and the Caxton page. He also showed them a photo of Esling's viaduct at Flinders Street Station and the latest on GHDG. Some even played through the last few moves of a 1948 game Magnus Victor Anderson (MVA) who had set up the chess collection and Arthur Wellman which MVA won. A good effort as AW was strong. Ken also gave me some useful tips on laying out the 3 Bibliography books of John van Manen for digitizing. He thought it would go together well and it did.

Sadly my mother's died on 11th December, aged 84. She had covered many of my chess books with a vinyl to protect them as she was a good machinist in her time. And so we went to Woronora Crematorium for the services. It was hard to believe she was gone as she had seen our two grandchildren just 2 months before. We got a great photo of the 3 of them. Ken sent his sympathies.

I told Bert of mum's passing and of a very satisfying 'lost' chess book purchased mid year at Beechworth, Victoria. It was a copy of C.H.O'D Alexander's 'Chess' 3rd edition 1954 with the cover photo of Botvinnik. This was the first chess book I ever bought and then I lent it to someone and you know the rest. Only \$6 and 'The Flanders Panel' also was bought for \$10. It was nice to get Bert's Christmas Card and also one from Anne Purdy.

That great bookman of Uralla Ross Burnet sent me his latest pamphlet –A 'Book Search' service with no fee and no obligation to buy if the book was found. He was a clear front runner in the later web book finder services.

What a year was 2001.

2002:

It was great to get feedback on Bert from Jean Mennerat and he included his book 'Le Manuscrit de Chapais' which I photocopied and sent to Ken Fraser as he had offered to translate pages 3-6 for me. Jean's collection stood at 26,291 items as at 14th December, 2001. Ken was astonished as he thought the MVA was 3rd in the world after Cleveland and The Hague. There were many rivals for 3rd place it seemed. Lothar Schmid was another.

Ken Whyld was concerned at my lack of internet connection but I was holding firm for the present. Ken knew I didn't like 'undesirable email' and my one experience in using my son's email for genealogy purposes backfired and he was inundated by all those groups. It took me quite a while to 'unsubscribe.'

Ken Fraser had a good weekend showing Graeme Gardiner the ACF President through the collection and I could thank his later bad cold for the transcription of Chapais as he had to stay home. He considered it a 'schoolboy translation' but that was better than none Ken's 5 pages were quite valuable as the Chapais Ms is massive at 523 pages. Jean Mennerat had a passion for this before the war when as a student he discovered a reference to it in Delaire's "Les Echecs Moderne" Vol.1 of 1914 and the reference was "Chapais-Essais analytiques sur les Echecs" Paris 1780. There was another reference in Bilguer's 'Handbuch' (1891 7th ed) and that von der Lasa owned it. I did not mention in Bert, Jean's purchase of the Chapais Ms in Microfilm from Cleveland in 1993 nor the earlier purchase of a Xerox of the Ms in Poland in 1989/90. He thus had 2 copies but was very excited about the first which I suspect he got from the von der Lasa Library in Kornick near Posen Poland and they must have been two of the first westerners to cross the Iron Curtain when the Berlin Wall fell. He went to the Kornick library and later there were two wonderful seminars held by that library conducted by the late Maria Luczak. What a trip that must have been for Jean and his wife!

The Chapais was about Endgames such as K+R vs K+N and K+N's vs K+P's. A dozen types at least. Chapais was a Parisian Merchant and von der Lasa purchased it in 1855 when in Paris. KF could not find anything on Chapais in the National Archives due to the Parisian records being damaged by a fire in 1871, nor could Jean. It was in a beautiful hand and inside the front cover was the crest of the Heydebrand und der Lasa Family plus the Baron's autograph.

Harald Ballo was pleased that Bert had enabled many chess fans to access his site as was I. He intended to resume his 'Schach Zettells' again that were so good in DSZ. He also mentioned the new magazine-KARL and sent a copy. More on that later. He remembered Jacob Feenstra as one of his very first chess acquaintances outside Germany and that rainy day in Amsterdam when he bought some of Jacob's books.

Ken Fraser sent me an index of Henry Charlick's Adelaide Observer chess column 1880-1908 in South Australia. It was a beauty that made one wish the newspapers were handy!

He also proved up that 'Hobart' was F.J. Young, a query that had been with us for too long although we assumed they were one and the same. I found some info on the Medley brothers John Racker and George Webb Medley. JR was a NSW policeman. KF wanted this for a contact.

Bert wrote 2nd February on the day of the Royal Dutch wedding. Regina and Bert were amused by my term 'chess holiday.' She waggishly replied that she was far too tolerant regarding Bert's hunting for chess books to which he countered that he carried all the heavy suitcases anyway! He wrote "Recent acquisitions have brought me in contact with a few more chess book collectors in Switzerland, Germany, France and Argentina. Again, internet played an important role. A beautiful and very well organized website was 'www.schachbuecker.ch' by Mr. Frischherz from Switzerland, which gives as well, links to other collectors....I had bought 12 books last year directly via the internet. The most beautiful was a fine copy of Baird's "Twentieth Century Retractor" 1907..."

Well I agreed with him on the latter book which came to me from Frank Ravenscroft way back in the 1960's. I later bought Mrs Baird's companion volume "Three Hundred Chess Problems" from the BCPS.

An Australian bibliophile Benedetto (Ben) Haneman (1923-2001) had passed on and he was a great lover of Cervantes with 1,100 editions of Don Quixote. There were thousands of books on Spanish literature and history. I knew of him because his medical practice was at Carlton near our family home. He sadly died after a fall in the SLNSW where he was a volunteer. He loved Spain, spoke the language and never tired of travelling there. I am sure he was a chess fan but cannot make the link at the moment. His obituary in the Herald 25th January had a photo of him in front of part of his library at home.

The search began for the von der Lasa Library after the Chapais matter. Where was it?
KF replied:-

" I found an article on chess libraries in a Polish chess encyclopedia of 1986 which gave some details about what happened to v.d.Lasa's library. Luckily, Barbara, the head cataloguer. Speaks Polish and translated the v.d.Lasa bit for me. Roughly the translation is that when v.d. Lasa died, his library was stored in the family ancestral castle at Osieizna in South West Poland. After WW2 it was placed in the Kornik Library (Biblioteki Kornickie), which is another castle and is a major Polish Library.....in OCC....the library was found intact....in 1957. "

Ken was very excited at this as the MVA ranked up there with it. In a 1913 German chess

encyclopedia it turned out that v.d.Lasa's most valuable books were sold in 1935...and that the collection is in Kornik. He also included many web pages on the Library which was a fabulous place which I wanted to go and see!

As for the JvM retype of his Bibliography, it was underway. Whilst Ken had been retired from chess at the library since 1994 he continued to help many in the chess field. It must be hard not to help when one volunteered at the workplace one worked at for decades.

Harald Ballo's gratis copy of KARL (4/2001) featured a photo of the young Sammy Reshevski playing older members at a Paris chess club in 1920. The expressions on the faces of the older men was difficult to read but I guessed if Sammy went through them all, that might be OK, but if he only lost to a few the losers would feel uncomfortable. He was indeed a 'wunderkinder' and the 9 page article by Harald was a beauty. A great magazine by Johannes Fischer and Stefan Löffler. The article on Arianne Coeoli was sent to Ken as it was an Australian item. Harald and the editors filled the magazine with great photos!

Letters from Jean Mennerat were worth waiting for and his 18th February letter was the best he ever wrote to me. As well as mild criticism of Bert for omissions he wrote:-
"I don't think your 'Bert' has plenty of gaps. It is a very valuable work, an extremely interesting essay on chess book collectors and collections."

Very nice to get that from one of the world's greatest collectors and the photos he sent of Harald Ballo and himself outside the Notre Dame, and various cafes, and at his library at the foot of the Alps were just outstanding. Row after row, ledge after ledge, occasionally a walled chess painting, his work desk, the ladders and the chess books high or low had to be seen to be believed. It was a snapshot of a professional chess book collector's world. One of the photos has two of his collecting cohorts discussing topics or posing for the camera. They were Karel Falleyne a Flemish collector who had a huge collection of chess ex libris and the other was Gerrit Cierod his late Dutch friend. This one was taken at his home in Gaudon ca 1993. Gerrit has a quite important collection of chess books and stamps. His catalogue of 1988 contained 1202 items.

Since the photos were taken he added another room filled up with chess books on seven ranks of shelves from the floor to the ceiling. And later he 'invaded' the stairwell! He sent along a list of collectors from 20 years ago (ca 1981) that had been given him by a Parisian bookseller. A marvellous list which showed that I did have plenty of gaps in Bert.

Here they are plus some others.

Collectors given by T. Guisle

Clementi, Aldo Roma, Italy; Carlsson, Oscar, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Eichler (Prof D G) Hamburg, Germany; Ford, R.J. Kent England; Gratz, Herbert, Leipzig, Germany; Greeno, Hadden & Co Lts Connecticut, USA; Hanauer, Dr. Milton, New York, USA; Hochberg Burt, New York, USA; Jensen, Bernt Bronshoj, Denmark; Levene, Dr. B.F., New York, USA; Nichol Michael Benidorm, Spain; Raffel M. Everett, Maryland, USA; Shapiro, Oscar, Washington USA; Sillars, David Chicago, USA; Rossler, Helmut RFA; Simkowitz, Isidore, Miami USA; Van Parys, G. Martin, Seattle USA; Wilpert, Arno von, Augsburg, Germany; Zichichi, Alvise, Roma, Italy.

As for von der Lasa's books sold in 1935 there appear to be only 38 and I will list them:- No.460 Boissiere 1556 35; 461 Cessolis 1420-30 600; 462 Cessolis 1419 480; 463 Cessolis 1450 500; 464 Cessolis 1477 1500; 465 Cessolis 1483 750; 466 Cessolis 1493 ? 1500; 467 Cessolis 1494 600; 468 Cessolis 1534 48; 469 Cessolis 1549 ? 200; 470 Civis Bononiae (Codex Lasa) 3600 (very heavily written up 1 & ¾ pages); 471 Damiano 1518 360; 472 Damianond 120; 473 Damiano n.d 120; 474 Damiano 1606 75; 475 Damiano 1607 100; 476 Gallensis 1489 150; 477 Gesta Romanorum 1489 100; 478 Greco 1620 300; 479 Greco 1625 300; 480 Greco 1669 300; 481 Gianutio 1597 50; 482 Ingold 1472 1500; 483 Lopez 1561 75; Lopez 1584 20; 485 Mennel 1520 300; 486 Mennel 1536 240; 487 Middleton 1624? 180; 488 Middleton 1628? 200; 489 Murner 1512 150; 490 Publicius 1482 120; 491 Publicius 1485 120; 492 Ercole del Rio 1750 50; 493 Rowbothum 1562 80; 494 Selenus 1616 50; 495 Vida 1527 45; 496 Vida 1528 120; 497 Vida 1735 40; 498 Vida 1736 20.

The prices are in RM. The outstanding item was No.470 the Civis Bononiae Ms.

I started to think about the Baron's trip out here to New Zealand and Australia in 1887/8 and I wrote an article in March which Ken Fraser later added to.

Bert sent a digitized library catalogue to my son John who brought it here for his customary baked meal cooked by Norma. It was a beauty of 1200 titles.

I sent a copy of my digitized version of John van Manen's Bibliography to Ken though it needed a lot of work. He was unable to check, correct or add to it but he gave me some hope that this would not be a solo job as Paul Dunn the ACF Archivist had agreed to help Ken sent me some material on the Baron's visit and very soon after came the exciting letter from Maria Luczak. On the forthcoming von der Lasa Conference at Kornik Castle.

I sent her my article 'The Baron Down Under' which had just been completed at the SLNSW last month. I also gave her the names of a lot of people to invite for this important event and I contacted Jean about it.

It was an interesting but sad time for our family as the family home was sold severing a 64 year story at 26 O'Connell Street Kogarah. We got a good price and so our ties to the home were compensated. My wife and I got it ready for auction and after it was all over, the chess research began.

I told Ken Fraser of our visit to see the 90 year old Inge van Manen who was well and we looked at her lovely nude tapestry that she had done for John but didn't like herself! Inge had a good neighbor and Dutch friends who called to see her and took her out. I stacked the remnants of John's library in the car and later reincorporated most of it into his collection on my verandah which I keep separate from mine. Some Dutch material would go to Bert.

Other Sydney research tasks included the Shire Council's Heritage Study which Norma's Narromine Local History Group agreed to complete. Norma spent a lot of time at The Rocks State Records Office which was great as it is now closed.

I bought the first 4 Volumes of QCH at Peter Parr's shop plus 'The Encyclopedia of Chess Variants' by Pritchard and 'The Turk' by Levit plus some new Australian material and though Peter's shop was at its most chaotic with exploding shelves, groaning cupboards and chess players flitting in and out he had a good business and kept up to speed.

Ken encouraged me to go to Kornik. He was also excited about a 'clan' meeting of Frasers in Melbourne this week. The first time in 50 years. He had been writing up the history for the event. He had also carried out a Bibliographic search for Australian chess items from 1989-2002 and 189 items were found. A copy went to Paul Dunn. Ken also sent me his 'Fraser' history later which Norma thought rather well done. He had found a lot of early Esling material in DSZ for 1879/80 & 81 and also a photo of the State Library Dome Open Day June 30th which captured press and TV interest as it was so photogenic.

Paul Dunn wanted a copy of Ken's 'Caxton to Computers' 21st December, 1984 – 12th January, 1985 that he had done for the Australian Championship at Ballarat. It was interesting to reread Ken's introduction in which the collection founder Magnus Victor Anderson "believed strongest that private collectors should ultimately hand over their collections to public use." He was as good as his word as was Dr. Niemeijer, J.G. White but today – 2019 – things have changed. Many books are stored off-site and not quickly accessible. Libraries don't appear to want books any more unless they fill rare gaps and they don't want to pay much for them. The world has changed and collectors today still sell to collectors mostly through dealers at the market rate.

Now to Kornik, I regret today that we didn't go to the first or the 2nd Conferences as I was just reading the late Maria Luczak's very kind letter from the heart plus all the enclosures sent including the Baron's 1887 catalogue 'Sammlung von Schrifte ube des Schachspiel.'

Jean Mennerat was not going also and being 85 with a sick wife his reasons were sound. I speculated with Jean as to what would happen to Lothar Schmid's library 'one day' and told him I still hoped to sell mine. The letter to Maria Luczak was not an easy one to write as I wanted to go and Norma said I could go on my own but my minor health problems ensured I wouldn't. They were rectified 30th September. I also told Ken Whyld I would not be going.

The photos of John van Manen's grave were sent to Ken Fraser for library records. I received from Bert a letter John wrote to him 8th September, 1996 when Inge and John had just moved to St. Agnes Gardens, Port Macquarie. Here is an extract:-

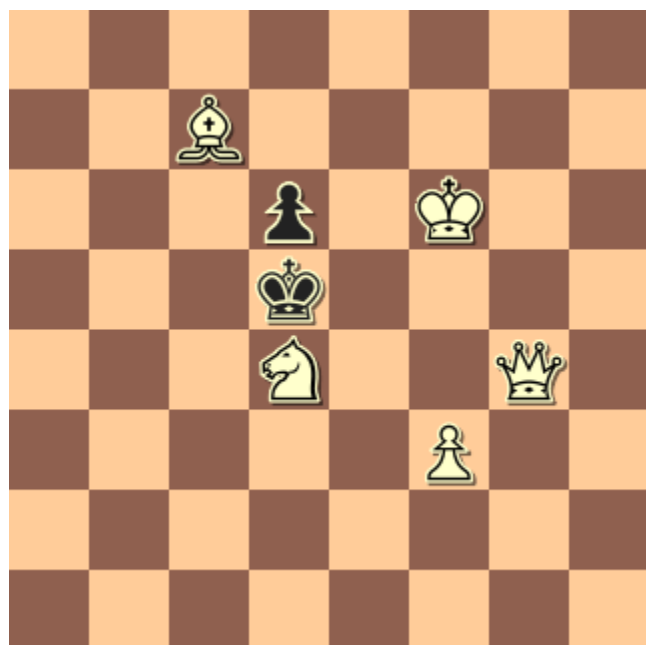
"We are now properly settled and enjoy sitting on the patio looking at the kookaburras in the large gum trees behind our unit, which are occasionally visited by a koala too (which we, up to now never saw in the wild). Large flocks of Straw – necked ibises come down daily to feed in the grass playing fields. Never before in my life did I spend so much time looking at wildlife around me! (There was a school behind their unit- BM)

The 3 cuttings books of Jan Hillebrand that belonged to JvM plus Vol.4 of 'Australian Chess Lore' went to Bert and he couldn't make Kornik either with work problems. He had bought 'Chess & Chess Players' by George Walker with a dedication by George to a friend in 1863 living at St. Petersburg in Florida not Russia! I was surprised at that.

He told me that Gossip's 'Chess Player's Manual' English edition was a favourite of his two children when little as they liked the King and Queen and the castle and dragons! on the cover. Bert thought it looked like an 'old sorcerer's' book with some magic about it. Nice one Bert. I could see GHDG nodding in approval! Especially after what Zukertort had to say about the book. I still admired GHDG as he never let down his guard and gave as good as he got.

I looked at the cover again though my copy was not as pristine as Bert's (£22 in 1991) and after a lot of repair it was now sound. Nice paper in this edition and far better than the American edition with Lipschutz though there were 12 more problems in the latter.

What was the problem on the cover? Was it a real problem or just a 'posed' position for the cover designer. It really is a great cover and one of the best.



What was this problem? A GHDG blockbuster? There is a mate in 4 by
 1.Bb6..Kc4;2.Qe4..Kc3/Kb4;
 3.Qc2+..Kb4;4.Qb3++ or
 3.Qc2..Ka3;4.Qb3++ but it looks a bit long. There must be a 3 move mate. Or is this a devious GHDG maddie? As Z said if anyone read his book they would go mad. But did that include the cover diagram?

There is a fine 3 move solution IF the WB is on d8. Key
 1.Nb3..Kc6;2.Na5+..Kc5;3.Qc4++

White mates in three? (5x2) Cover Problem on GHDG's 'The Chess Player's Manual'.

Bert found the correspondence match between London and Edinburgh 1824-8 on a Californian website and it was from the Lowenthal library and then to Rimington Wilson. What a good pick-up and it was one of the few copies printed on large paper. He missed Jacob Feenstra's catalogues as did I. New Zealand is on Australia's right geography-wise. He then bought some nice items from Juan Baptista Morgedo's collection in Argentina. That was even further right. He gave me some excellent websites for collectors:-

www.abe.com ; www.zvab.com ; www.bibliology.com; www.antiqubook.com.

Jean sent some lovely photos of his wife, Harald and himself from last June plus more on his

fabulous collection. He didn't think computer information would kill hard copy:-

“Do you imagine to read with a computer in bed, or on beach, in the garden, on the train, in the underground? No hard copy will survive.” Maybe but smart phones work well on all those places today.

I wrote Bert that I was using a powerful magnifying glass to check out various books on his shelves as in the photos he sent. I spotted the two Baird problem books on the bottom shelf, then a Selkirk, then a GHDG and the Staunton/Wormald on the top shelf. Not bad for 12,000 miles a way! Bert told me I got one wrong.

Ken Fraser was helping with Karsten Brandt, Eslings boyhood friend. Brandt wrote children's books and then in WW1, biographies of German Generals. He was a good player.

Michael Taylor of Pitt Street Sydney closed his bookshop after 10 years and went on line. Another Runa Schmidt-Muller said the day of customer browsing was over. She didn't think that sad as the owner of Dee Why Books. David Spode shut his Double Bay store in 2000. Rents were too high and there was not enough passing trade. Runa finished with a comment that book lovers have to accept that browsing is now done on the net. It was just the way of the world. (Herald 9th August, 2002)

It was kind of Gerd Giebel to send the Brazilian Problem Tourney invitation to Arthur Willmott, Peter Wong and myself. He included a lovely postcard of that great city so I sent him one of gliding in our dear little town.

Jean was very pleased with the Konik Conference Papers and he hoped to see the correspondence between von der Lasa and J.G. White that Ken Whyld was completing. He gave me the names of two Pittsburg collectors, Mr. Sigmund and Martin Southern. I was unconvinced that St Petersburg Florida in 1863 was the right St. Petersburg on Bert's copy of 'Chess & Chess Players' and asked Jean for his views.

Ray Kuzanek replied to a long ago letter I sent in 1998. He had nursed his father in his final illness over some years. He included an excellent photo of Frank Skoff, Ken Whyld and himself in front of a Morphy bust at O'Hare Airport Chicago where they had a farewell meal with Ken.

Ken Fraser wrote about my thoughts of Esling being autocratic “If you had to lay down a whole system of railway tracks and still keep the trains on time, being a bit autocratic might go with the job.” Touche Ken! He wanted to know why Esling was sent to Germany for his education and wondered whether his treatment by the Victorian Railways may have come about if Esling was ethnic German and not an Ethnic Dane as they came from Schleswig Holstein.

Ken Whyld was disappointed we weren't coming to Kornik and told of his lecture on the White/ Der Lasa Letters if Maria Luczak agreed. She did and he liked her and said she did “indeed radiate enthusiasm.”

There was an excellent 'Then & Now' photo of the Mitchell Library 1965-2002 in the Herald, 27th September, David Scott Mitchell was a private collector who gave his collection to NSW if

they built a building for it. Thankfully they did and one could see it today with all its glories.

Ray Kuzanek was now “On a roll” and when there is a lull between correspondents there needs to be a reassessment. His material from various American Magazines and Newspapers in the Morphy era was great to have and generous of him. He wrote that “I should really consider a computer” and then gave me all the reasons including that “the world would like to hear from you too!” I replied standing up by snail mail in my awful handwriting because I was not able to sit for a while after a small operation. I leave you to guess what was wrong.

Ken Fraser discovered the “Rules and Regulations of the Commercial Reading Rooms and Library Established 1841” as he was researching SLV pamphlets and indexing them. Rule V was “That no game shall be allowed except chess.” I presumed this to be in Sydney.

Harald had a lovely article in a recent DSZ on our late chess friend John van Manen. I told him of my typing of the late Jas Duke’s letters onto a CD. Jas had died in 1992 and it was now 10 years later before action was taken. He would have loved Harald’s research on d’Orville.

The very successful Kornik von der Lasa Conference was over and the papers were being sent out. Maria sent me my place card which made me wish I had got there. I told Maria of my wife Norma’s book on the Narromine/Trangie Irrigation Scheme for which she was paid and that it was going to the printers tomorrow. (29th October) 250 copies. I congratulated Maria and her helpers on the Conference and just back on item No.177 in DSZ on John van Manen it was great to see the photo of a young boy - John here.

Ken Whyld wrote about her:-

“For no reason whatsoever I had pictured Maria Luczak as a small, dark-haired, and no doubt pretty woman, and was looking forward to chatting with her, in her fluent English. Well, she was fairly pretty, but tall, blonde and speaking German, but no English at all! She has a colleague named Nowak who has excellent English. No doubt she was the one who had been writing to us. However Maria was very pleasant and helpful, and went out of her way to make things go smoothly. You will probably get a group photograph. If you do, and it has no identification of the people, I can send you my interpretation. What you won’t see on it is the Australian flag, because it is obscured. There were 8 flags hanging from a window above the main door – Italy, Russia, Germany, Czech R., UK, Spain, Australia and Canada...”

He finished with the comment that he had “5 years solid work on my plate, so I can’t think of retiring yet. Soon I will finish that ‘pre-1850’ bibliography, and hope for publication around the end of this year.” His daughter Abigail was on her second tour this time to Hong Kong, Fiji, New Zealand and South America. He made an interesting comment that many great authors were poor chessplayers and thus took it out on our game as not being worthy to study! I sent Ken the Jas Duke disc and as it had some criticism of him on it, said I would take it out if he wished it removed. I told him also the very sad news that the subscription to ‘Australian Chess Forum’ the National magazine had only 300 subscribers! Gone were the days when Purdy had 3000.

I sent Harald a book from John van’s library for his kindness in the item 177 DSZ article. It

really was great to see. Harald sent me a copy of Howard Staunton's letter to Baron von der Lasa ca January 30th, 1851 inviting him to play in the 1851 tourney. It is a beauty and here it is:- It was given in the Kornik book courtesy of problemist John Beasley

"8 Sydney Place Brompton London

My dear Mr. Heydebrandt,

Some days since being myself a great invalid, I requested Mr. Horwitz to make known to you the promising results of our endeavor to promote a Great Chess Congress in London, during the coming Spring, and to convey the expression of our anxious desire that you would afford us the incalculable advantage of your presence on this interesting occasion.

The moment I am enabled to resume my pen, I hasten to add my personal and particular solicitations that for the sake of that game for which your name does so much, and I may add, sacrificed so much, you will not suffer any insurmountable impairment to prevent your being present at this striking and unique assemblage – Already from all parts of England, from France, from India & America we have the most qualifying manifestations of sympathy and support, on all sides there is an anxious longing expressed to hear that you will wish (to) take part in a Congress so fraught with important consequences to the future prosperity of Chess.

So my dear Sir, exert yourself to gratify the wishes of the Chess Community –

I wrote to you some weeks ago an account of our early proceedings, through our dear friend Mr Schumacher, but his illness prevented me communicating with you.

In a few days I will send you a programme of the intended assemblage – but in the meantime, I entreat you to give me the assurance that you will join us. That assurance will induce hundreds to join our standard and infuse the greatest animation through all ranks of players both here and abroad. Should you determine to come I will take care that you are subject to no inconvenience on the score of a residence. London will doubtless be disagreeably full & I have many visitors but on hearing of the month when you purpose coming, I will take you (to) comfortable apartments in the neighbourhood of the town and on your arrival will meet you in company with Mr. Horwitz to convey you from the Railway to my house and from there to your own.

Anxiously awaiting your reply and with best compliments I subscribe myself

My dear Sir, faithfully yours H.Staunton

Herr Von Heydebrandt der Lasa January 30th, 1851. ”

It was clear Kornik Library held many treasures of which the above was one. A copy given to Harald by Maria and then to me. The Library holds many letters and Maria sent me some of the Australian ones later. It appears that a friend of Staunton's wrote the letter above as he was sick.

We know von der Lasa did not play and even his subscription of £1/10/- was returned as it was received too late (p.lx 'The Chess Tournament 1852) but there would have been correspondence. He was at Frankfurt just prior to the tourney and was unable to get away. The German players were Anderssen, who won, and Mayet.

Ken Whyld was unconcerned about Jas Duke's comments and replied –

“I am not offended by his remarks at all. He says that he is on Skoff's side rather than my side in the Morphy discussion. First of all, there is an ambiguity in our account of Morphy, which I did not realise until Skoff picked it up (and Jas followed suit). When we spoke of Morphy's “weakness of character” we were not referring to morals, but to his resolve, his ‘guts.’ Away from the chessboard he never seems to have overcome any setback. He didn't grit his teeth and bounce back. That is what we meant. When we saw that the phrase was open to a different interpretation we took it out of the 2nd edition. So, in a sense, Frank, Jas, and I were all on the same side (up to a point at least). Paul seems to have had no vices....”

Ken also confirmed that he'd come across a ‘Field’ involved in the chess scene at St. Petersburg, Russia which did help with the thought that the dedication in Bert's ‘Chess And Chess Players’ was Russia rather than Florida. He also listed the names of the attendees in the Kornik photo which was a big help.

I told Ken that Jas's reliance on his own memory instead of keeping copies of his letters was unfortunate as when writing to multi correspondents, one could mix up contents and send the right reply to the wrong correspondent. When Jas started down the road of James Leonard, the US Civil War player, a subject that interested me, I sent him 41 pages of research and got no reply. Then, after his death I got copies of his letters to JvM and there were his views on Leonard! (Weaker than Morphy) John wasn't that interested in Leonard and must have wondered what that was all about. Jas's letters needed to be seen to be believed. When he was on a high they ventured into the high teens!

I received a lovely Polish Christmas Card from Maria Luczak and as I had a postcard of our little golf course with sand greens I sent it to her. The course was more brown than green as we were in ‘drought again’. Her letter was addressed to Dear Mr. Bob’ and she gave me the names of all those at Kornik and corrected my guess that it was Harald's wife next to him, when it was her! She congratulated Norma on her irrigation book.

2003:

I sent Bert, Ken Whyld's assessment that it was the Russian St. Petersburg in his dedication in ‘Chess & Chess Players’ but more was to come.

The amazing happening with Ken Fraser was that he bought a \$4.95 Australian Post Office Travelling chess set! It measured 150 x 150mm. Was he seriously considering learning how to play chess or solve problems? He also asked if problem solving was addictive! His translations of No 177 on JvM and No.182 on von der Lasa in DSZ were just great. I did not know that the year before his death von der Lasa was named President of the German Chess Association (Deutsche Schachbund).

When Jean Mennerat pointed out that I'd missed Frederick Alliey in Bert I reread the section on him in Niemeijer's ‘Schaakbibliotheken’ where it seemed to say his library ended up in Grenoble. Jean's was at Belfort.

Ken Whyld sent a postcard about the print run on the Adelaide Congress Booklet of 1887/8 which was 250 copies. The publishers were sorry as they all sold out very quickly 500 would have been better.

Bert went to the chess book fair at the Max Euwe Centre on November 30th and met many collectors from Germany, Austria and Sweden as well as Holland. He met Harald Ballo at Jurgen Stigter's home where a very informal and useful meeting on 'Creating More cohesion' amongst chessbook collectors was held. He also thought Jurgen's library was the largest in the Netherlands. He was giving up 'bookbuying' but Odilia, his daughter had bet her mother Regina he couldn't do it. I told Bert that we were still 'Masters of the Books' or were we?

Here is a letter from another book lover Michael Syngros as a result of Bert:-

"10th January, 2003

Dear Mr Meadley,

Recently I acquired from Matthias Burkhalter one copy of your A LETTER TO BERT (A medley about libraries, dealers and collectors) 2001 pp 157 in loose sheets), which I read with great interest and being a collector myself I could not resist the temptation to contact you.

First to introduce myself. I started playing chess at the age of 10 and I continued till around 20 when the needs of life (my job and my family) absorbed all my time for quite a number of years. Notwithstanding this, I always had some interest in chess and one day I bought a small chess book (sure not to study but just to read) after a while I bought another one and little by little I was involved in collecting chess books. Frankly speaking I can not tell what prompted me to do this. Fact is that I now have a small chess collection of about 3,500 books (including some really old ones) out of which about 1,100 is Russian chess literature. I have also a good number of chess periodicals.

The first thing I do in every town I am going (for business or as a tourist) is to visit the libraries and see what old chess books they have. In 1998 when I went to New York and Washington, I flew to Cleveland and visited the Cleveland Public Library where I stayed from 9.am. till 6 p.m. without break and I was lucky to lay my hands on a Lucena, some Damianos etc, (Another Lucena I have seen in the National Library in Madrid). By the way for years I was corresponding with Alice Loranth supplying the Cleveland Public Library with Greek chess literature. While in USA I visited John Rather and spent some time looking around his books as I did with Dale Brandreth where I was astonished with the hundreds of his books somewhat not in order (I do not know if the situation is still the same). In the Lenin Library (Moscow) I was not lucky, perhaps the barrier of the language or their mentality (I was there in 1980). Unfortunately I never met Dr. Niemeijer although we were corresponding for over 25 years.

Now, I am sorry but, I cannot afford any more buying antiquarian items (which had and still have a charming effect on me) and for this reason I have restricted my interest either in facsimile reprints or microfilms. On the other hand my main interest is in the collection of games (one player), important tournaments and matches, Olympiads, history, encyclopedias' lexica and works (books or even articles) connected with libraries collectors, etc (like yours).

*For the moment I am missing six books to complete my White Christmas series. And some years of early BCMs to have a complete run of this periodical. Can you help?
I must stop, otherwise I can talk and talk about chess books.
My email address is : marisyng@hotmail.com and I would appreciate to hear from you. My best wishes for a Happy New Year
Michael Syngros.”*

Well! I had to reply to that beauty even though I couldn't help with wants. I told him about Bert, the November 30th meeting and Jurgen Stigter. I did envy his stay at Cleveland and his friendship with Mrs Loranth. She was one of the best. I both sympathized with the gaps in his BCMs which were like mine and also told him if he wanted a photograph of my den I would have to clean it up first! My library works and I have books everywhere as I write this in January 2019. I told him my wife Norma would be thrilled to know a chap from Greece forced me to clean it up. And I did for awhile.

Ken Fraser said that now I had won the Purdy Medal for chess journalism that I 'can die happy'! Well, there is a story here. I am a retired health inspector (2000) and one of the awards everyone wanted to win was the Purdy Medal for health inspection. I would have killed to win that back in the 60's but I wasn't smart enough. This Purdy was the father of the chess master Cecil Purdy and he was Medical Officer of Health in Sydney - Dr. John Smith Purdy (1872-1936). Cecil married Nancy (Anne) Crakanthorp and her father was Lawrence Spencer Crakanthorp (1857-1929) Health Inspector at Manly and so one can see the reason for this medal for health inspection. It started in 1941 to commemorate Dr. J.S. Purdy's career and his teaching at the technical college. A relative of Norma's, Bob Stevenson was a smart guy and won this Purdy Medal for Health Inspection awarded by the Tech many years ago and he came to Narromine with his wife doing family history and we went out to Keema Plains and saw the carved trees and where his ancestors made a living farming. So there were two Purdy medals from very different areas.

It was always good to seek out the wives of the Chess Champions and A.E.N.Wallace (1872-1928) had married Theodesia Ada Britton and she was one of the first female journalists in Australia using a nom de plume "Biddy B.A." There is a referral to her in the Australian Womens Weekly, 26th September, 1914.

I wrote to Ken Whyld about that November 30th meeting in Amsterdam where he met Bert and saw the need for some 'cohesion' between collectors, and that some collectors became good friends even though it was a solitary activity shortened today by the internet. If two collectors could decide on a common research topic and proceed with it, that may lead to friendship. Ray Kuzanek and myself have a link through researching Paul Morphy and not so much collecting. I wanted to mention this, as theft in the mails can damage any friendship, and in 2000 I sent an envelope to Ned Munger, author of the 3 fine chess set books:- "Culture, Chess and Art" which did not arrive as sent. Someone had neatly slit the envelope and taken out the valuable item but left the letter intact. 3 years later I got compensation of \$100 Aus. But it was a tough assignment.

In 2017 Ray Kuzanek sent a cylinder with valuables inside worth \$300US and it never arrived. I started the compo procedure from Narromine P.O. was informed that was OK, made the claim

and it was rejected as it had to be started by the sender! They didn't tell me that at the start. Very annoying. Ray did not wish to press his claim and it caused a coolness between us which we got over. The moral is ensure registration and insurance is paid.

Ken Fraser sent a great map of Melbourne General Cemetery for my later Esling grave hunt which failed. More later. Ken cracked a joke that the first Melbourne Cemetery was the Queen Victoria Markets site which was now a car park. "Impious lot we are, we Melbournians," wrote Ken, I wanted a city directory but this map would do for the present as I could learn where I would be walking on that hunt. I love directories.

The Jas Duke CD hit the spot with Ray Kuzanek and he photocopied the lot for his old friend Frank Skoff, the Morphy historian who took the fight up to anti-Morphy types in Edward Winter's Chess Notes in the 80's. Ray sent two excellent photos of the Morphy House in New Orleans and the chess set PM had owned then owned by C.G. Fleming. Ray has a very fair collection of Morphiana.

An obituary of Hellga Falk (1906-2003) appeared in the SMH 23rd March. Was this the sister of Monsieur X (Harold Falk)? I sent a copy to Harald Ballo and Dr. Clive Kessler of Sydney but no reply. It was a very long bow but it struck a chord. Could be wrong.

I congratulated Ken on winning his SLV Volunteer award. 10 years! And also his assistance to Richard Kennedy of the USA on the Jerome Gambit.

Maria Luczak wrote me of the career of Baron von der Lasa:-

"Between the beginning of 1858 and the end of 1859, he was posted as a diplomat at Rio de Janeiro. Initially he was there as Prussia's Charge d'Affairs and since February 1859 he served as Prussian Minister. So he had been promoted. At the beginning of 1860, the diplomat returned to Prussia and on April 24th that year, he married Anna von Helldorf.

Just missed Paul Morphy who arrived in England June, 1858 and left April, 1859. I doubt if they had met whether they would have played anyway. Chess was a great game but not a diplomatic one.

Ken Fraser was preparing an article on Magnus Victor Anderson the founder of the chess collection in the SLV known as the M. V. Anderson Chess Collection. He had made some interesting discoveries especially about MVA's 3 years as an art student in the Paint Class (night) at the National Gallery of Victoria. (If anyone is in Melbourne please visit the NGV and note the many great paintings with a 'Felton Bequest' plaque on them.) MVA donated 1,400+ art books to the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery.

The obituary of Dr. Samantha Janes Eames (1969-2003) of brain tumour was heart wrenching. She was shown holding an alabaster bear from the dig at Tell Brak Syria originally excavated by Sir Max Mallowan, husband of Agatha Christie. This bear? looked more like a chess knight to me and was found in her dig. (SMH 5th April, 2003)

Dennis & Natalie Hale kindly let us stay at their Blackheath holiday home. I was poetic when I wrote to KF:-

“This is a breath-taking place with views made by God-some did take our breath away. The burnished autumn leaves add to the overall beauty”

There were some good prices for chess books in 2002:-

Forbes 1860 \$1400; Murray 1913 \$464; The Hague 1955 Catalogue \$268; Full run of the Chess Amateur 1906-1930 \$3500; Tournament Books London 1899 \$310; Paris 1901 \$476; Barmen 1905 \$445. I wanted ‘A Chess Silhouette’ the Dobbs Overbrook but I wasn’t chasing it.

It was sad to see a very fine bookshop close to the Hydro at Medlow Bath. It was in a lovely nook just off the Great Western Highway and was ‘The Old Post Office’ in Railway Parade with proprietor Peter Koeindorfer.

I wrote an article in April called ‘The Continuing Enigma of the Lewis Chessmen’ and sent a copy to Neil Stratford of the British Museum for comment. I suggested the chessmen could have just as easily been carved on Lewis by religious craftspeople and that the solitude of the Chapel/Nunnery at Mealista was a perfect setting for fine work. I sent a copy to Harald Ballo and KF.

Barry Barnes great book “Barnes About Chess Problems” was one of those books of which there should be more. He had met Meindert Niemiejer and I envied him that. He had some kind words to say about Denis Saunders the Aussie problemist. A happy book.

Maria Luczak sent me some nice letters of the Baron and Charles Benbow which was transcribed into ‘The Baron Down Under’ (2) They shone a light on 19th century chess and the Baron that was rare. It required a present back to Maria and I sent her the last set of ‘Australian Chess Lore’ Vol 1- 6. I liked Charles Benbow who was a player/problemist (1842-1908) but think of the Baron - he was 24 years older and going around the world at 70.

Ken Fraser was on his 5th version of the M.V.Anderson biography. He went to Ballarat again to see the art library and noted it showed 60 years of collecting by him from 1905 until his death in 1966. MVA had an accounting business in Ballarat not far from the Gallery.

Can you imagine stealing rare books from Mont Saint Odile in the Vosges mountains in NE France? 1100 ancient books disappeared from the monastery library without a trace of a break-in The thief Stanislas Gosse 33 had taken books since August, 2000 until May 2002 saying he was driven by passion for the priceless books filling his little Strasbourg flat with the massive volumes dating back to the 15th century. He had found a forgotten map showing a secret access to the locked library from the attic! This required a daring climb up exterior walls to a steep narrow stairway and then the secret chamber. A hidden mechanism opened up the back of a library cupboard. It was thought monks used the stairway to spy on other monks. Gosse read the books in the library using candles and even after the locks had been changed it didn’t help as they missed the cupboard.

Gosse told the court *“I’m afraid my burning passion overrode my conscience. It may appear selfish, but I felt the books had been abandoned. They were covered with dust and pigeon droppings and I felt no-one consulted them any more. There was also the thrill of adventure – I was very scared of being found out.”*

Which he was when police installed a video camera. Gosse had taken great care of the books and even restored some of them. The prosecutor said Father Donius forgave Gosse and that he could come back to the library but only through the front door. He received a suspended sentence of 18 months (SMH 21st June, 2003)

Then there was Peter Bellwood who was caught at Copenhagen Royal Library slicing out pages from 400 year old books. Mostly maps. The National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth suffered similarly. Bellwood was a former gardener and golf course green keeper and was jailed in 1996 for 7 years for plundering more than 1000 prints from a dozen institutions including the British Library. Scotland Yard said 4500 maps were missing from libraries over Europe. They were as much as £10,000 each. Bellwood lived modestly and when police raided his home the walls were covered in art. “It was like an Art gallery” said one officer (SMH 21st May, 2003)

It’s hard to know what to think of this? Mr Gosse was lucky. Mr Bellwood was not. I’ve been to the Library in Aberystwyth with my wife! An amazing place worth a visit or it was in 1990.

The truly astounding article by Ken Whyld in BCM May, 2003 was a ‘jaw dropper’. I got a mention and there was no doubt that the farmer and dear Mrs Matheison were sure the Lewis chessmen were found in the church bulls paddock They differed on which mound. Was this another Loch Ness as Ken claimed the history post 1831 was ‘folklore,’ I wrote to Ken and told him that the British Museum’s Neil Stratford would surely respond. But they didn’t. They played the ‘Geoffrey Boycott’ straight bat. These chessmen need radio carbon dating but tourism and any adverse publicity is why they won’t be.

Barry Barnes witty reply to my congrats on his book was nice to get. He contacted Denis Saunders by email via his Caloundra friends but he was very unkind to my dear old home town of Hull writing “I have only driven (at speed) through Hull”.

Bert rang 9th June and his melodious voice boomed through 41/5th on speaker I gave him the email addresses he wanted and I told him of Barry Barnes book but Bert is a player not a problemist.

Around mid-year ‘Chess Texts in the English Language printed before 1850’ by Ken Whyld and Chris Ravilious arrived. It was a gratis copy from Ken. A dear book at \$150 Aust. and I was quite critical in my 21st June letter to KF as the selected choice from poetry, fiction and drama’ grated a bit. KF was critical of my wide bibliographic views saying I was too open-ended and that most bibliographies set limits. I was pleased to see his work in the pre 1850 book and I decided to send some constructive criticism to Ken Whyld. It looks so lousy now with the three of them gone. Ken Fraser was sure Ken Whyld had “stirred up quite a few possums” with his Lewis chessmen article but his real reason for writing was he had finished - ‘Art and Chess: the passions of a library donor’ 10 pages & a beautiful job with lots of unknowns now known, but

it had to be culled by as much as 1000 words and there I was able to help him. Terrific work in memory of the chess library founder Magnus Victor Anderson.

Jean Mennerat was battling on the health front and was in hospital a long time. He had known J. B. Morgado of Buenos Aires mentioned earlier. .

Bert sent a postcard from Denmark where he had found a few old Danish chess books (Enevoldsen & Nissen). He finished "I must confess." Odilia had been on the money!

In my letter of 14th July to Ken Fraser I referred to the 'pre-1850' book now out and also Ken Whyld's article in BCM 'Fantasy Island'. How sad it all was now as Ken Whyld had died a few days earlier on 11th July. I had rung KF about it. The tributes on the BCM website ran to 3 pages Chess Café.com No. 469 - 1 to 5 followed suit. It was had to get one's head around it and KF was sorry too for that news.

The Book of the Kornik Conference in September last year arrived and was a beautiful item with a lovely sketch of the Castle. I was impressed by Ken Whyld's article on the J.G.White/von der Lasa letters and Vlastimil Fiala's biography of von der Lasa was very good.

Igor Monastyrsky, the professional chess teacher from Odessa was teaching pupils in Sydney schools. A brave venture that took him 9 years to cut the ties with other jobs and go full time. The chess master had made a move that hopefully worked out. He had left his homeland in 1989 on the breakup of the Soviet Union and was now 53. He believed that chess was more educational for 5 year olds than any other subject. I liked his style of making chess fun and his technique with beginners of saying "You boys will never beat me" and then they promptly did! He was sure it made them keener. (SMH 14th June, 2003- My Career).

The letter from Ken Whyld's wife Pat Frankish was loving and told of Ken's refusal to accept medical treatment that he tried to correct with exercise. He went for a long walk and then died 5 minutes after his return. She had loved him for nearly 30 years.

Ken Fraser sent me the Ballarat Chess Club Rules from the Ballarat Times 18th June 1856. There were 10 rules and the Club met at Brun's Cigar Divan 3 nights-Monday, Wednesday & Friday. The subscription of £4 p.a. was steep.

Bert was pleased that the dedication in his book Chess & Chessplayers' by Walker was from Russia. He asked the seller who confirmed it. He had bought 'Das Indische Problem' 1903 by Kohtz and Kockelkorn, a beautiful copy he had found in an antiquarian bookshop in Stockholm via the internet. He told me of the newish magazine 'Kaissiber' which was up to 19 issues but in German. No good for me. He also found out a hard truth about conducting end game solving contests when he only got 4 participants. Sadly one of his colleagues was robbed and the first 7 volumes of Tijdschrift van den Nederlandschen Schaakbond were taken plus other items.

Dangerous times for collectors.

Tony Peterson sent his Catalogue No. 35 to me in August. It was to be the start of a chess

friendship that continues to this day. He began in 1993. A Brunet y Bellet was for sale at £200 and a Hoffman Greco for £70 but I missed them. A very nice catalogue. The Alexandre 'Encyclopedia des Echecs' was a nice copy well rebound in half calf but I did not bid £420. He replied that it was not easy to get antiquarian books.

I was pleased when the Wellington Chess Club NZ acknowledged 'The Baron down under' from the Kornik book as I admired him at age 70 making that long trip which he glossed over in his public reports.

Ken wrote about the renovations at the SLV and the new position of the chess collection on a balcony above another part of the library. Like the 1970's position when we called but a lot more glass and vision outside. The initial displays included a replica Lewis set, some early illuminated chess manuscripts, the first chess problem book 'The Dux' and a copy of the 1483 Caxton (not original). It took us a while to get there - 4 years.

He was having trouble with tree roots blocking sewers and I told him of 'Rootox' as I knew of that problem having to renew most of our sewer lines in 1998. To stay away from the giant WW 2 peppercorn tree the plumbers diverted the line as far away from the tree as possible. We couldn't bear the loss of shade in the harsh summers we have here, not to mention the 2 bees nests we now have at waist level! They are quite tame.

Ken sent me some architects plans of the new chess rooms. Very modern with much glass and students would love it. He also sent a sketch of the players in the Vic/NSW 1873 match and he was right- I did have a whale of a time trying to sort out who was who.

I told Bert I wasn't really cured of Bibliomania and of my first experience on ebay. Kling's 'Chess Studies' 1851 was the book and my son was egging me on to buy it. I bid \$105 but noticed my bid was the first for 2 weeks and that made me suspicious and as soon as my bid registered someone else bid a little more. I pulled out with my son calling me a wimp. Maybe. Gerd Giebel sent No. 52-54 April to December of the Brazilian Problem Magazine of 8 pages. It had some lovely problems including a TR Dawson self mate or was it?

It was a surprise to get a letter from James Robinson, Curator of the Medieval Collections at the British Museum to find that Neil Stratford had retired in April 1998! James was pleased the Lewis Chessmen "have fired your enthusiasm and I noted your comments with interest. No further work had been done on the Lewis hoard since the publication of Neil Stratford's book in 1997." I sent him a copy of the late Ken Whyld's 'Fantasy Island' article from the May BCM and he replied 4th November :-

"Although a certain degree of colloquial mythology has obscured the details of the find over the years, there seems little reason to doubt the hoard was discovered on the Isle of Lewis. Ultimately, of course, the precise find-spot is not critical to our understanding of these marvelous objects and it may be slightly fruitless to pursue conspiracy theories about the concealment and sale. I will, naturally forward to Neil Stratford your comments and the photocopies of Ken Whyld's feature."

A nice reply but I was surprised about what he wrote on the 'find-spot.' If it was in the church

bull's paddock as I was told by two locals in 1990 what would be wrong with a mini excavation on the 2 mounds that stand out? There could be stray chessmen or even part of the cairn.

I was very pleased that Frank Skoff had read Jas Duke's letters on the CD and intended reading it again. (He did) A new book on Jas Duke came out this year by his friend Pi O.

The Sunday Magazine (sorry nd but mid 2003) had a wonderful article called "hooked on books" by Catherine Keenan which is given in full excluding photos:-

"Many years ago, Patrick White walked into Berkelouw's bookshop on King Street, in the city, bought a rare and expensive book then walked out and tore it to shreds. He stood there, scowling as the torn papers floated down into the bin, a sight to make only book collectors weep.

But it was because of the collectors White performed this bizarre ritual. The book he destroyed was the same each time, and it was one of his own. 'The Ploughman and Other Poems,' which he wrote when he was very young. It was one of his attempts at poetry, and it was awful. His mother had it published by Beacon Press in Dee Why in 1935. Only 300 copies were printed, many fewer were sold.

White soon left them behind, going on to fame as a novelist. But as he won the Nobel Prize for literature and his reputation swelled, collectors started seeking out copies of his early verse. White was so appalled he asked some of Sydney's antiquarian book dealers to keep all the copies they received for him. A few times he paid Leo Berkelouw a premium, then walked out of the shop and tore his purchase to unreadable bits. This only made the tinybook rarer and become more desirable. Copies today sell for up to \$7000.

People collect all sorts of books: *science fiction, Australian children's literature, "modern firsts" (first editions by contemporary writers): Hemingway, Rushdie, Woolf, etc) books that have won the Booker Prize, editions of 'Gone With the Wind' and books on just about any subject you can think of – exploration, dogs, stamps, coal, phallic worship, Egyptology, or a certain type of train (and only that train). If an area is not popular, the books can be very cheap, but at the serious end of the market prices run to hundreds of thousands of dollars. These books are often very old, truly rare, and quite beautiful. At Hordern House, a book dealer at Potts Point, for instance, it is possible to hold in your hands an original 18th century ship's log, bound in vellum, written in copperplate, with exquisite hand-drawn maps and illustrations. It costs \$500,000.*

But whether they are spending \$50 or \$50,000, book collectors tend to be passionate about their subject. They have to be, for it is only knowledge of a book's rarity and provenance that makes it special. Obtaining that knowledge is not easy. Collectors inhabit an intensely genteel world Gough Whitlam, Bob Carr, Barry Humphries and comedian John Clark are included – but it is rife with rumour, secrets and high-risk deals. Mastering it can be an addiction.

Take Tony Bosman, for instance, a sober-seeming family man of 48, who trained as a lawyer and now manages a cleaning ("manpower services") company. Like all collectors, he started out as a book lover. But he soon developed an insatiable desire to possess as many books as possible. Before he knew it, he had amassed an enormous, indiscriminate library. He estimates he has

bought 20,000 books in his lifetime, and at one stage was up to three books a week. He shakes his head and confides: "I recognize that somewhere along the line there I went a little bit out of control." Something had to be done.

When Bosman stopped hoarding books and became a collector, it was like stepping up to class A drugs after a lifetime of sniffing glue. All his previous book purchases had been regular hardbacks and paperbacks, none worth more than the cover price, but now he started buying rare and expensive books. His first major purchase was a three volume set of William Dampier's 'A New Voyage Around the World' and from the moment it came into his possession, he was hooked.

Everyone knows that an addict's most important relationship is with his dealer, and it was Bosman's dealer, Paul Berkelouw, who explained to him that good collectors focus on only a few areas, carefully cultivating a comprehensive and unique library. Under his advice, Bosman now limits himself to books on early exploration, Australian literature, and certain modern firsts that mean a lot to him (there's also that early edition of Milton's 'Paradise Lost' and a few other oddities, but no one's perfect.) The books he buys now are much much more expensive than the books he used to buy, but his addiction has, as it were, stabilised. He has sold off much of the rubbish that used to line his shelves, and is down to a mere 5000 or 6000 books, including such gems as a signed first edition of Banjo Paterson's first book, 'The Man from Snowy River', and a first of Matthew Flinder's "A Voyage to Terra Australis", in such pristine condition that many pages are not even cut.

Of course, this means the book can't be read, but only a fool would want to read the books he – it is usually a he – collects. One has reading copies for that. As John Baxter, another long-time collector, puts it, "They say that every time you open a book it loses \$5 in value." Bosman feels disloyal if he goes to anywhere but Berkelouw Bookdealers. He normally deals with Paul Berkelouw, who, with his brothers Robert and David, constitute the sixth generation of the bookselling family. But it is their father, Leo, who works at the heart of the family's rare-book business – the largest in Australia – on a property just outside Berrima.

With watery blue eyes, gentle manners and lingering traces of a Dutch accent, Leo cuts a romantic, old-fashioned figure, tucked away in the countryside, working on antiquarian books. On the day I meet him, he is trying to establish if a manuscript he has just bought is by Mary Shelley, sister of the more famous poet. But he is a businessman too, and he explains that the golden rule of book dealing is that you should never sample your own stuff. "You should collect something else. Wine, Girlfriends, or something. But not books, it will send you broke."

In the next breath, however, he confesses to breaking his own rule. Berkelouw has a substantial collection, and an unusual one. He owns 1300 volumes – of the same book. He rolls his eyes: "It's madness, Madness." The book in question is "the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," by the 12th century Persian poet, first translated into English by Edward Fitzgerald in the 1850s. But each is different – the bindings, illustrations, languages or translations all vary. The jewel in his collection is a first edition, bought in London 25 years ago for \$16,000, and now worth about five times that. The copy that he would most love to own, however, is forever out of reach. It was made by one of the finest binders in London in the early part of the 20th century. "It took them

four years to do, and it was all with diamonds and precious stones and in leather, it was just the most exotic binding produced ever in England.” Berkelouw explains. Then he pauses for effect and adds: “And it went on the Titanic, and was lost to mankind.” He sounds almost gleeful as he says this. For the true collector, never underestimate the allure of the unattainable.

When I ask where Berkelouw gets his books he goes suddenly coy, fobbing me off with general answers about “estates” and “auctions” and “people coming to us.” I soon discover that all book dealers are evasive on this subject, for their most precious skill is knowing how to come by the right stock, at the right price. Selling something that is genuinely rare and valuable isn’t difficult: it’s getting hold of it in the first place that’s hard.

All dealers have stories of gems discovered at garage sales or op shops, but Double Bay bookseller Nicholas Pounder insists that doesn’t happen as often as people think. Sure, there was that time he found a pamphlet by the founder of Dadaism, Tristan Tzara, in the backroom of a post office in Bangalow. “Fabulous, it’s just like an intuition, I mean, I’m hell to go on holidays with, I’m always making people wait in the car.”

The most common way in which dealers make money is by buying something that is not regarded as valuable and then arguing for its significance. This is what distinguishes a great dealer from a good one, and it is particularly important at the top end of the market. Almost anyone can buy, say, a first edition of ‘Jane Eyre’ and sell it on, but it takes a special eye to take a punt on a book whose origins are unclear.

Anne McCormick, of Hordern House, takes such risks often. For instance, she once came across a five volume Japanese book, published in 1854, and thought it looked interesting. It was about exploration – not something the Japanese are known for – so she screwed up her courage and paid more for it than anyone else. It was only afterwards that she could do her research, and this time her hunch paid off. It turned out the book, replete with beautiful woodcut illustrations, was the first book published in Japan about America, and was a great rarity, only one other copy is known to exist. She sold it on for \$32,000.

Pounder says this kind of risk taking is too stressful for him. Erudite and happily eccentric, he says that running a shop is simply the best way he can think of to avoid “the indignity of work.” He was a collector first, and when he decided, in the early 80s, to start selling off some of his books, he found the transition difficult. There was a three-day rush when he opened his shop in Darlinghurst, and every few hours he would have to shut the door and lie down on the floor. “I had the sense of violation or violent assault.”

The role of shop owners like Pounder has, however been seriously threatened by the internet. For a mostly fusty profession, booksellers took to the net with great alacrity, especially in America and Australia. There are more than 10,000 of them on line. Whereas once, if you wanted, say a first edition of George Orwell’s ‘Nineteen Eighty-Four.’ you would have had to scour shops and auction rooms, waiting for one to come up now all you have to do is type your request into www.abebooks.com and you will be offered 138 different copies, from around the world, ranging from about \$7 to \$7000. All delivered to your door in a few days.

The main consequence is that this had undermined the very notion of scarcity, previously the 'sine qua non' of the industry. When you can poke your nose into every bookshop from Arkansas to Aberystwyth in a matter of seconds, very few things can be considered rare any more. The result is that the cost of mid-range collectable books has dropped substantially. And because books can be compared easily, prices have become more uniform.

This is good news for collectors, but there are pitfalls. Knowing how to discriminate between the \$7 edition of 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' and the \$7000 edition isn't easy.

Collectors can find themselves paying lots of money for a "first edition" that turns out to be a first book club edition, and is virtually worthless. One problem is that good dealers spend their time establishing the bona fides of a book, then they post it on the net, often helping to sell the copy below, for \$50 less. The dealer who has done the work misses out, and the buyer may not get what he or she paid for.

Yet these problems are as naught to a collector like Baxter, who argues that the main problem with buying over the net is that it is simply boring. If you can just type what you want into a search engine, where is the thrill of the chase? "It's rather like shooting fish in a barrel," he says.

One part of the business that hasn't been adversely affected by the internet is the very high end, where items are truly unique. Many of the items sold by Hordern House fall into this category.

Ringling the buzzer and being admitted into this converted cottage is like stepping into an earlier, more genteel century. The walls are lined with glass-fronted book cabinets, and the floor dotted with antique globes of the world and artworks. The company deals in children's books and general antiquarian books, but is best known for its collections of Australiana and books on early exploration (part of its strength is that it also sells related manuscripts, maps and artworks). On any given day, just down from the backpackers and the junkies in Kings Cross, one might find here some of John Gould's exquisite books on birds, or perhaps the first map ever drawn by an Englishman of Australia, or a first edition of Thomas Moore's 'Utopia'.

It is hard to imagine it as a place of vulgar commerce, though it most certainly is. The owners, Anne McCormick and Derek McDonnell, have a staff of six, stock worth \$8 million, and have handled individual pieces worth up to \$1 million each. Their customers are half in Australia and half overseas and include many museums and other institutions. To get their stock, McCormick and McDonnell might fly to Hawaii or Florida to buy a library, and they are regulars at London and New York auction houses. They receive catalogues from every auction house in the world.

McDonnell was an Oxford don before he became a book dealer, whereas McCormick, like Pounder, had little formal education before she went to England, aged 20, and fell in love with old books. She gave up dental nursing and devoted herself to them. "I loved everything about them. I actually really, truly fell in love with old books."

Thirty years later, that passion is still evident. McCormick ran her own rare-book business for a while, and then she and McDonnell, her second husband, opened Hordern House in 1985. She

still loves the sheer beauty of the items she sells, and as she shows me what they have in the shop that day – a few pages in William Dampier’s hand that they have yet to fully catalogue, a first edition of Bligh’s ‘Voyage to the South Seas’, and the superb ship’s log from 1768- I begin to understand why it is an extraordinary thing to stand in Potts Point and speculate how a German prayer book from the 1500s had made its way, over the centuries, to a part of the world that – when the book was written – wasn’t even known to exist. “I think, how can I be so lucky that I should have this?” breathes McCormick reverentially “And then I can let it go.”

When I started researching this story, I confess to regarding book-collectors with some suspicion. I thought there was something slightly avaricious, slightly grubby-handed, about the emphasis on the materiality of books. And McCormick confirms there are very few collectors, especially at this end of the market, who do not have at least a partial eye on the soundness of their investments. But as she shows me other treasures she has in, I realise there is more to it than that. The beauty of these books is their own reward.

But you need the wealth of Croesus to even dabble at this level, and most people can only afford to collect mid-range books: modern first, and the like. The best explanation of why people collect these comes from John Baxter, a round jocular figure, who keeps a second apartment above the family’s apartment in Paris to store his 10,000 books.

He explains that a first edition is a way of establishing a link with the author. It is a chance to hold in your hand the same edition of the book that the writer eagerly unpacked from the publisher, and, -ideally – signed over to a friend. People can pay tribute to the books they love by quoting, re-reading or studying them, but collectors do it by spending money on well preserved first editions. It is their way of paying their respects. “It may be crude and inexact, but it is a measure of what you will sacrifice for this thing.” He says. There’s nothing grubby about that.”

Terrific article and I give the 2003 addresses:-

Hordern House 77 Victoria Street, Potts Point

Berkelouw’s Bookdealers Bendooley Old Hume Highway, Berrima, 19 Oxford Street, Sydney and 70 Norton Street, Leichardt.

Nicholas Pounder Bookseller 346 New South Head Road, Double Bay

Louella Kerr Old Fine & Rare Books 139 St. John’s Road, Glebe

The Cornstalk Bookshop 112a Glebe Point Road, Glebe

Da Capo Music 112a Glebe Point Road, Glebe

Dee Why Books Unit 31 14 Jubilee Avenue, Warriewood

Barbara Fisher Old and Out of Print Books 21 Stratford Street, Cammeray.

Excepting Berrima these are all Sydney suburbs.

It is an eerie but nice feeling to touch something like a signature of a noted person or Matthew Flinders chess set. The best book of his with a chess flavor is ‘Matthew Flinders Private Journal’ 1803-1814 which was published by The Friends of the State Library of South Australia in 2005 and this is the ONLY time the diary has been published. It has some 38 great chess references in it and is much easier to read than the microfilm diary. A massive hardback that contains his survey map of Australia as he sailed around it.

Good index. \$150 I think-well spent.

The articles on the 19th century Australian chess players was on the agenda and the 1873 sketch of the Vic/NSW telegraphic match was the catalyst. I do believe Ken Fraser sent these items to move me along and it did. For a start it could well be the FIRST chess engraving in Australia. And he had located a good sketch of Louis Goldsmith the lawyer/cricketer/chessplayer and wanted the article written. I started.

‘The History of Chess in South Africa’ by Leonard Reitstein, ‘The Art of Chess Pieces’ by Isaac Linder and the Italian Chess Bibliography by Alessandro Sanvito were purchased from Tony P. My kind of books.

Ken meanwhile sent another great engraving of Blackburne playing a simul at the Co-operative Hall, 21st June, 1885. It was so good and showed Esling at Board 2 with a full head of hair. He was only 25.

Frank Skoff weighed in November 17th with a great letter:-

“It has been centuries since we last corresponded with each other, and I am elated to resume the activity. First let me mention Duke and sum him up thoroughly. He is a real find, a gem of highest quality. I say this after going through the 130 pages the first time long ago, perhaps some months. I found his treatment of Morphy deserving the highest marks. The death of Morphy’s father must have been a deeply-felt shock, which Duke is the first to bring out as unsettling Morphy, to say the least.

At age 87 my memory is not always dependable. An item in Duke caught my eye - the Ruggles fake game with Morphy. I always believed it was a fake because the alleged Morphy signature was so crudely conceived - it just couldn’t be genuine. By accident I ran across a brief history of the Ruggles game in the 1981 BCM (p.106). The shocker: the game was found in THE GRAND TACTICS OF CHESS by Franklin K.Young (p.416), Q&Q Whyld.

On p.3 of the Duke material is some discussion of James A. Leonard. Not much material. However my murky memory recalls NAPIER’S ‘AMENITIES AND BACKGROUND OF CHESS PLAY’ (3 p.back volumes). In one of the three Napier does bring up Leonard, whose exploits were a fresh memory in Morphy’s day (I hope my memory got it right). Napier wrote some of the finest prose in his AMENITIES...I was deeply impressed with all three of his volumes (published during 1933-35 I would guess). Sometime later in his career Napier wrote about how he did his AMENITIES. His space was so limited on each page that he had to count out to himself how many spaces he had left for any prose output In turn this forced him to change or discard words to meet the spaces available.

On page 8 re ‘weakness of character’ in Morphy: Duke hits this in the very centre of the target. In one other tidbit someone wrote that I confused weakness of character with Morals or something like that. That someone never explained what the difference was... he just waltzed off the stage of his big fat ego, having just accomplished a great feat.

*So much for now, Bob. I'll write again when I am in better shape. All the best to you,
Frank Skoff 3945 N. Jannsen Ave. Apt. 28 Chicago Il. 60613-2665”*

Great letter but 15 years too late because Jas Duke and Frank Skoff should have been in contact with one another in the early 90's.. My fault really because the Jas Duke CD didn't go out until recently so neither knew of one another. But neither did I. Jas and I carried out some research on Morphy through a professional researcher but we did it on our own. Frank was the pre-eminent Morphy historian for 30+ years and contact with Duke would have kept them both enthused with chess history. It is all in Edward Winter's 'Chess Notes' of the 1980's. It got very heated and I dropped out early. I replied to Frank that it was a great pity but there it was. I hadn't read Napier's books but tried to buy them with no luck. This is the beauty of the internet. People can get in touch with common interests.

I had written to Chris Ravilious the new editor of Quotes & Queries in BCM wishing him well in his new role and on the Lewis Chessmen article by the late Ken Whyld and the pre- 1850 bibliography. He was very happy in the role and “the auguries look good”. He wanted me to expand the Lewis chessmen article but the British Museum really didn't want any more publicity such as that suggested by KW and I didn't expand it. I was impressed with Alessandro Sanvito getting the Venafro chessmen carbon dated which took them to 900AD or thereabouts and not much earlier. I thought they may be much older.

On the pre-1850 Texts he wrote this 27th October:-

“I can well understand your unhappiness over the omission of any reference to such early works as Burton's 'Anatomy of Melancholy'. Ken and I gave a lot of thought to what we should include and exclude, but in the end we decided that references to chess in the works of authors like Burton or Cowper were not truly describable as chess 'texts', or at least that broadening the scope of the bibliography to include such references would have meant opening the door to an unmanageable avalanche of material - as our invocation of the 'OED's illustrative quotations in our introduction will have made clear. Plainly there was a good deal of subjectivity in our final choice, but my personal view is that our overall strategy was the right one. Maybe someone will feel inspired to issue a further publication listing all our omissions. – I once toyed with the idea of something similar for chess publications 'not in Betts', but didn't proceed very far with it!”

Well, Chris is gone too now and the 15+ years have gone very quickly since this letter. I just felt that there would be one chance to do pre-1850 Texts and hoped that it would be all inclusive. That didn't happen and those interested in bibliography would need to recall Norman Knight's books especially when looking for very early chess references. Ken Fraser did not agree with me either but pleasingly he got some items in.

On 10th November, Karel Mokry wrote to me :-

“I am in the Czech Republic. I was a professional chess player in the 1980s and early 1990s, since 1991 I own a chess bookshop. I am also a collector of chess books and this is the main reason I wrote you.

*I read your 'A Letter to Bert' on the Internet which is very nice reading. I like this kind of 'public ation'. Unfortunately there are not many items of that type. I am in contact with Bert Corneth and he informed me that you are not on the internet yet and gave me your address. As you write in the "Letter..." there is no copyright for it. I would like to inform you that I will place the Letter on my website www.chessbookshop.com (email karel@chessbookshop.com). Unfortunately I don't have a printed list of our complete stock (3000 items) it is on the internet. I collect pre 1946 chess books especially tournaments, magazines, endgames, problems and bibliography.
With best regards Karel Mokry."*

It was nice to hear from Karel and he will be getting this Addendum when it's finished. His English is way better than my Czech!

I let Ken know that the Fisher/Goldsmith match of 1875 needed to be mentioned in the Goldsmith article. It was played 26th January to 9th February - a fairly quick match of 9 games. Goldsmith led 4/2 and lost 5/4.

Maria Luczak sent me the letters of Thomas Harlin, Charles Maurian (in French), G.H.D. Gossip (in French), John Wisker, F.K. Esling (in German) and N.Manley. She was a lovely librarian and this was payment for the set of Australian Chess Lore sent months ago. She also wrote that she would help with Paul Morphy references in the library and would like especially the Baron's game with Maurian. The two games by him against Senor A.C. Vasquez and James McConnell were sent by Ray Kuzanek and were in the New Orleans Times Democrat of 4th & 8th March, 1888. The Baron won against Vasquez and lost to McConnell. Perhaps the Maurian game is in the TD as well as he was the editor but maybe not. Here are the games:-

New Orleans Times Democrat March 4th, 1888

Senor A, Vasquez - White von der Lasa -Black Played in Havana

1.e4..d5;2.exd..Nf6;3.c4..c6;4.dxc..Nxc6;5.Nf3..e5;6.d3..Bc5;7.Bd2..0-0;8.0-0..h6;
9.h3..Bf5;10.Nc3..Qc7;11.a3..a5;12.Qc2..fRe8;13.Ne4..Bxe4;14.dxe4..Nd4;
15.Nxd5..Bxd4;16.Be3..Bxe3;17.fxBe3..Qc5;18.Rf3..eRd8;19.aRf1..Ra6;20.Rg3..aRd6;
21.Qb1..Qc6;22.b4..axb4;23.axb4..Qxe4;24.Qb3..Qh4;25.Kh2..Rd2;26.Bg4..Rd3d3;
27.Qa4..Rxe3!;28.fRf3..Rxf3;29.g2xRf3..h5;30.Qb5..hxBg4;31.fxg4..Rd2+;
32.Rg2..Nxxg4+ White resigns

New Orleans Times Democrat March 11th, 1888

Von der Lasa – White James McConnell – Black. Played March 8 in New Orleans

1.e4..e6;2.d4..d5;3.Nc3..Bb4;4.exd..exd;5.Nf3..Nf6;6.Bg5..Bg4;7.Be2..h6;8.Bxf6..Qxf6;
9.0-0..Bxc3;10.bxc3..0-0;11.Rb1..b6;12.Ne5..Bxe2;13.Qxe2..Qe6;14.fRe1..Nd7
15.Qb5!..fRd7;16.Nc6..Qd6;17.Nxd8..Rxd8;18.Re3..Nf6;19.f3..a5;20.bRe1..g6;
21.Rd1..Kg7;22.c4..dxc4;23.Qxc4..Nd5;24.Re3e1..Qf4;25.Re4..Qd6;26.c3..Qa3!
27.Rd3..Qc1+;28.Kf2..Nf4;29.Rde3..Qd2+;30.Re2..Nxe2;31.Qxe2..Qxc3;32.Qd1..Rd5;
33.g4..c5;34.Qb3..Qxb3;35.axb3..cxd4;36.Ke2..Rb5;37.Rxd4..Rxb3 White resigns.

Ray Kuzanek wrote 12th November, about a website for Morphy material as a result of the Jas

Duke CD. He was right but a big job. I don't know of a site in 2019. He also sent some excellent descriptions of artifacts inside the Beauregard-Keyes home in New Orleans. I was surprised to see that Frances Parkinson Keyes had 10 grandchildren and doted on them all. The 51 books she wrote including 'The Chess Players' and "Madam Castell's Lodger" which are excellent chess reads, were on display in the home which Ray had visited. He also sent a very good report on Baron von der Lasa's visit to New Orleans from the March 11th Times Democrat of which I think Charles Maurian was the chess editor.

It is a great article and though hard to read on a poor microfilm here is most of it:

"A Distinguished Guest

The New Orleans Chess, Checkers and Whist Club during the now nearly eight years of its existence has had the pleasure of entertaining numerous eminent professors and amateurs of the royal game of every shade of strength and prominence, but it is reassuredly beyond doubt that of all who have visited its room, the advent of none has been looked forward to with so much expectancy, the coming of one productive of so much pleasurable interest as that of the eminent gentleman and chess master who has been its guest since Wednesday last – Baron Tassilo Heydebrand und der Lasa.

To say that to everyone even in the slightest degree familiar with the history of chess the name and fame of der Lasa is as a household word in every land and in every language, is to utter a trite saying. But not only, indeed, is it indissolubly linked and interwoven in the annals of the modern game almost from the days of Deschappelles, Labourdonnais, McDonnell but with the annals of the game viewed in its highest aspects – as a noble, scientific pastime, dignified with a history of centuries and a splendid literature, practiced with zest by the most cultivated minds in every land, improving the intellect, strengthening the character, chivalrous and elevating in its every tendency. A master and, consistently throughout his long career, an amateur of the first rank in practical play, a theorist of the highest order, a chess literateur, historian, and critic of universal authority, coupled with his eminence, social and official, in his native land, all combine to render Baron von Heydebrand the first living representative of the royal game.

Born in Potsdam (later corrected to Berlin BM) in 1818, and entering into the Prussian diplomatic service in 1845, Baron von Heydebrand has filled during his long career, a great number of its most important offices, having been at various times Prussian ambassador or minister plenipotentiary to Denmark, Brazil, Portugal and other countries, a privy counselor of the empire and chamberlain to his Majesty the Emperor of Germany – these two latter offices being now held by him. Naturally only the leisure moments of so busy a career could be devoted to chess, but those moments have been of precious value to every department of the game. One of the seven of that illustrious constellation of famous players who arose with strange simultaneousness in the early "thirties" and who were justly dubbed the Pleiades

THERE IS NOW AN BIG GAP IN THE MICROFILM QUALITY

A striking point? of the Baron's strength is to be found in the ??????? in the early part of 1852 in a ??? three parties with Anderssen who was in the prime of his strength and fresh from his

triumph of 1851, Baron von Heydebrand gained all three games. Indeed he may fairly be said to have been held as the first player of his day up to the time that Paul Morphy's meteoric career began; and the poetical adjuration addressed to that phenomenal miester in 1857 – that his triumph would not be complete until he had met von Heydebrand,

But one remains – the noblest heart-
At him thy glove be hurled
Der Lasa conquered then thou art
The champion of the world.

Shows in what estimation the Berlinese master's strength was popularly held. Alas that glorious contest was fated never to occur. The two great masters never even met each other. Von Heydebrand was in Brazil during the whole of Morphy's stay in Europe.

Need it be said that upon learning of the arrival of this eminent chess master and gentleman, our local players took prompt steps to bid him a welcome to our midst. A special committee consisting of Messrs. Chas. A. Maurian, Allain Eustis and Jas. D. Seguin was deputed by the governing committee of the New Orleans Chess, Checkers and Whist Club to call upon him and tender him the hospitality of the club, and the only regret of our amateurs is that the stay of their eminent and amiable guest is to be limited to but a few days. We shall give in our next further particulars of his visit, during which several interesting parties with local players have been contested.

March 18th, 1888:- The recent presence of Baron von Heydebrand und der Lasa in this city and his visit to the New Orleans Chess, Checkers and Whist Club constitute, indeed, a red-letter event in the history of the Club. Unfortunately, however, the shortness of his stay in the city, occupied with the demands upon his time in the way of sight-seeing, rendered his visits to the rooms of too brief duration to permit of much chess-play, and as a consequence but two parties were contested by the venerable chess-master, one with Mr. James McConnell and one with Mr. Chas. A. Maurian. The local players had the good fortune to win in each instance, but it must be observed that Baron von Heydebrand in each partie in the earlier portion had secured a marked if not a winning position, and lost through weak play in the latter part. That the nearly three-score years and ten years of the great master should lessen the faculty of enduring the fatigue of a more or less prolonged sitting, is both naturally to be expected; but in the opening and the midgame, the quickness of his perception, the solidity of his judgement, the precision of his combinations still mark the great antagonist of Bilguer, of Hanstein, of Mayet, of Jaenisch, of Staunton, of Anderssen, in those grand battles in those classics of chess-play. Baron von Heydebrand who arrived in New Orleans on the 6th, and, in fact, was in town a day and a half before his presence was known to the officials of the club, left for the North and West on the morning of the 12th, his brief stay, it may be added, preventing our local players from organizing certain appropriate demonstrations in honor of the venerable master that a longer visit would have permitted. He goes from here to St. Louis Cincinnati, Cleveland and New York, sailing thence homeward and thus completing his second tour around the world. We may remark here that the statement in our article of last week, as to Baron von Heydebrand's native place, was erroneous. He was born in Berlin, not Potsdam, as incorrectly stated in the German Handbuch p. 89".

I replied to Ray and suggested this material should all go to Kornik as it seemed rare to me and not well known. I told Maria Luczak and Ray sent it. As for the Kornik Conference and Ken Whyld's death it seemed the kwa group emerged. A good thing.

On the way back from the Southern Highlands we stopped off at Goulburn where we were able to research chess and family history in a good library. I looked at C G Watson, L. Goldsmith, F. K. Esling, A. Burns-all Victorians. I also made a bad mistake just as Tartakower predicted. I was in the Genealogical Society of Victoria Headstone Records and found Esling and Burns in the Melbourne General Cemetery. They had good headstones. Why didn't I take that in? I also looked at "A Biographical Register 1788-1839 by Gibbney & Smith 2 vols and discovered mini bios on many chess players such as Alexander W Britton, Spencer Crakanthorp, William Crane, Albert E Wallace, Arthur Mosely, Henry Charlick and Frederick Esling, Charles Fisher, Landau Younkman and there was a nice article on Britton but also one of his sister Theodosia Ada Wallace nee Britton (1871-1955). I mentioned her earlier but she took a BA from Sydney Uni. in 1891 became a journalist, founded the SMH Womens Page, wrote as 'Biddy BA' for the Australasian, published 'Etiquette' and was head of Country Press Cuttings Dept. taking Columns from the Newcastle Herald, Orange Leader and a Dubbo paper either the Dispatch or the Liberal. A very productive stop for us in a nice city.

Ken Fraser had a close call with a tram and was very lucky:-

"Ten days ago (ca 1st December) I was on my way to a musical about Baron von Mueller when I was knocked down by the tram, I had just got off. And I was still in the safety zone! I finished up in a neck brace in the Alfred Hospital until near 1am while they put some dressings on the wounds and X rayed me for any broken bones. I was lucky." And there we will let the matter rest as he sent me some good material on Louis Goldsmith in that same letter. He had earlier sent a photocopy of the 'Illustrated Sydney News' of 4th December, 1873 with that FIRST engraving mentioned earlier. There were 7 players sitting in the Victorian Team:- Burns, Goldsmith, Heap, Phillips, Sedgefield, Stanley & Stephen. Most of these players do not have a photo/sketch/engraving today and here were 7 if they could be sorted! Their heads are realistic and the engraving is given later.

I thanked Bert in advance for the David Przepiorka book by Weenink as he was a player/problemist I admired and who died in WW2. Bert told me of the foundation congress of the Ken Whyld Association for the Bibliography of Chess (KWABC) He had bought 'How Purdy Won' 1983 and was in contact with Clive Lane. And Regina bought him 'Kassiber' 1-16 in 2 lovely volumes in publishers cloth, autographed by Stefan Bucker. He said "The research and analysis in this magazine is of awesome depth and quality." He was playing chess again and Regina had a part time job. All happy.

Tony Peterson was playing Board 1 for his club the Metropolitan Chess Club. His rating was BCF 177 Elo 2020. Clearly a strong player. I ordered the club history 1890-1990 by Moore and Deery.

A nice Christmas card came from Jean Mennerat and he wished us both well as did I in an aerogram.

Another lovely letter arrived just before Christmas from Bill van den Berg and here is his letter with pleasure:-

“Dear sir, a nice piece of work, that Letter to Bert! I printed the Letter and read it in one breath. A lot of recognitions! Chessbooks loving. I suppose we and a lot of others (how many?) are soul mates. Let me please introduce myself W. (William or Bill) G.T. van den Berg, born in Delft (The Netherlands) on the 22nd of August in 1948.

I started collecting in the mid-seventies, when, you mentioned him in the Letter M (Matthijs) Brans sold a huge part of his chess library in pieces to me. Alas I did not buy an 18th century chess-script. I never forgave myself. Afterwards I bought a lot from C.M.Bijl, who does not collect anymore, among others the Adelaide 1887 tournament books later I bought on auctions from the libraries of Just de Hooge, J. Selman jr. and D. Wiebes. In the Letter you are wondering who might have bought the best pieces from the De Hooge-catalogue. Well, for what I know there were Geurt Gijssen, the executor of De Hooge’s will, who is I think, the greatest Dutch collector, maybe be equal with dr. Jurgen Stigter, one of the founders of the Ken Whyld – foundation. (see: www.kwabc.com), but I suppose this is all known, because your Letter is on the same Internetside) the Dutch National Library and myself. I was allowed to buy the volumes of the Tijdschrift van den Nederlandsch Indischen Schaakbond with which I could almost complete that run (1916-1941) I still miss vols. 2 and 22 and some loose numbers of 1939 and 1941. Have you...? Also Mr. J. Mennerat was there on the Avenue Concordia in Rotterdam.

Furthermore I bought a great part of the library of Gerrit Cierod after his death in 1995 By the way, you mentioned Jacob Feenstra in Waitati, a well known acquaintance, already when he was a bookseller in Zwolle. From him I bought the New Zealand Chess (1975-1998) and a lot of scarce Australian and New Zealand chessmaterials. Australasian Chess Review complete, some rare tournaments books (7 x New Zealand: James) and booklets, all from the earlier possession of the Otago Chess Club. He still looks out for me. I missed a postcard signed among others by Purdy and other leading players. Did you perhaps buy that card? I once write a letter to Mr. John van Manen about the fact that I am (also) focused on Australasian chess material. We got a short but nice correspondence, but as you already wrote: he was out of collecting chess. From him I got Mr. N. Ledger’s address moreover Mr. van Manen surprised me with his Australian and New Zealand chess works (1978) catalogue). If you are still interested here are some facts about my collection:-

December, 2003 contents:- tournaments/matches 1450; biographic/game coll. 170; chess general 217; problem/studies 85; history/belletrry 225; derivated games/draughts 85. 65 lots of curiosities, scrapbooks, efemers, letters of masters, signatures, stamps, chess postcards (about 500), several chess paintings/periodicals: complete runs: 36. Almost complete runs 10; incomplete runs 56; complete years, loose 240; incomplete but more than half: 61.

Some items:- Tarsia 1584; Beale 1656 (whit Charles 1), Greco n.d. (1752), Lolli 1763, Stamma 1777, Philidor 1786 (Dutch), Stein 1789; Van Zuylen van Nyeveld (1792 dutch, complete), de la Bourdonnais 1853 (Russian), Giusti 1831 (2 parts), Mrs Baird (1902 and 1907); van Embden 1785 (draughts, dutch); draughtsmatches England v Scotland 1884 and 1894;

Tournaments (a.o.) Cambridge 1860; Cincinatti 1890, 1891, 1892, 1894; Szekesfehervar 1907; St. Petersburg 1905/6; Braunau 1925; Nurnberg 1896 Albin's copy with a lot of notes in pencil.

Some periodicals complete: *Schaakwerld 1875 (van der Linde, dutch), Morphy; a very rare Dutch periodical almost unknown even in The Netherlands 1885-1887; Tijdschrift van den Nederlandse Schaakbond 1893-2003) Schaakcourat 1907-1913 (Dutch).*

Tijdschrift van den Nederlandsch Iaakbond 1916-1941 (missing vol 2 and 22, a rare periodical from the formal Dutch Indies, emitted in 500 copies).

Tarrasch Schachzeitung, Kagans Neuste Schnachrichten, Lasker's Chess Magazine (1904- 1909), The Westminster Papers vol 1-111 and XI) The Household Chess Magazine (1865 Souweine mentioned it in 1937 "an ultra scarce item"); La Regence (1856-1857), La Nouvelle Regence (1860-1864), La Strategie 1867-1937, lack 1938-1940), Les Cahiers de l'Echiquier Francais (1925-1937), L'Echiquier de Pariis (1946-1955), Cinema du Jeu des Echecs (1922, Goetz), l'Echiquier (1925-1935, Lancel).

Not a world shocking collection, certainly not for 30 years collecting, however I also had to raise a 3 kids family, so I had to stop from time to time.

I am building up a catalogue. Slowly, so that I can work on my chess collectors story. More than 10 years I am engaged working on it. It grows. The difficulty is to point out the moment to stop, ones life is not enough. With today's technics it should be possible to scan some beautiful and/or rare materials to illustrate. It is my wish that it becomes a desirable chessbook.

You wrote that it is hard to obtain rare Australasian chessworks, yet I should like to know if you have doublets to sell or exchange anything I do not have. The Bignold 1896 is high on my wanted-list. I hope that all these information will help you with your investigations May be we can help each others with European-Australian (vice versa) chess works.

*With chess - and Christmas greetings W.G.T.van den Berg
Waterblok 51
2612 KX Delft The Netherlands."*

A great letter from Bill. And I replied to him at years end. We were soulmates and we had our regrets like Frank Sinatra but we move on. Bill had a collection far larger than mine and chess collecting is clearly a passion with Dutch chess lovers. I hope he gets his 'labour of love' out as a book one day. It will cost a lot of money if very well illustrated but there is the need to publish. I believe in 2019 it is better to get the material out. Too much is lost by trying to get a hardcopy book printed. I have very much enjoyed doing the Philidor digital book on Edward Winter's website (10,876). No cost and it is there to be read. The same can be said for 'Bert'. I am sure it could have been made far more readable with illustrations but facts are what I like. It is interesting how we like to read hard copy more than digital. As for his swap wishes I couldn't help. I do have a Bignold and it is a very poor copy because the paper is acid and brittle. It can't be used. I bought it from Fred Wilson in America just like the 1887 Adelaide Congress book.

My photocopy of both books from the SLV is far better for reading and research. Bill is a collector par excellence. He sold his collection to Jurgen Stigter in 2008.

2004:

A trip to Sydney on the train from Narromine & Dubbo takes many hours and so I took along 'The Chess Players' by Frances Parkinson Keyes. I had read it twice but now with Ray Kuzanek, the Paul Morphy chess historian, and I becoming chess friends it was a chance for a more forensic look. It is one of my favourite reads and raised the point about Paul Morphy's love affair with a Creole woman which the chess world doesn't believe but which a great author like FPK says it was "a matter of well authenticated record." She went even further in the Notes at the rear and said she knew the girl's family. I made about 100 points of discussion between Ray and myself.

The article on Louis Goldsmith was finished thanks to one of Ken Fraser's best letters and I sent it to him for vetting after which it appeared in the National Chess Magazine by Brian Jones – Australian Chess.

I sent a list of Baron von der Lasa's games to Maria Luczak that had been published in Bell's Life in London ca 1860. The editor George Walker was a great admirer of the Baron and the games appeared. There was a comment next to game 341 (vs Hirschfield) "von der Lasa rarely plays now, and we are glad to record all of his doings unpublished in this coconut. He played a number of games last summer in Berlin Club, the best of which we are giving in our series". It was hard to read dates on the microfilm but ca 1861.

The copy of David Przepiorka arrived safely and I thanked Bert for it. DP was a master composer and player which Weenink did credit in this fine book. Sadly Weenink died in 1931 and a very short but sad obit said so in the front of the book. Dr. G.C.A. Oscan deserves a lot of the credit for this book's appearance. He was a friend of Przepiorka. I noted in JvM's 'remnants' that Bert didn't appear to have 'Schachclub Bamberg 1868 - 1968' by Meisenbach so offered him a copy

The Lewis Chessmen were never out of my mind and I sent James Robinson the curator at the British Museum an article from BCM 1890 p. 271/3. Also having a copy of Sir Edward Sullivan's beautiful 'Book of Kells' where the Portrait of St. Matthew (Plate V Fol. 284) showed the foliage scrolls with animal heads just like those on the chessmen! Plates 6-8 contained them also as did Plate 15. Are the Lewis men of Celtic design?

Ken showed the Goldsmith article to the SLV for their approval of the use of the engraving I sent a statement and all was OK. It wasn't often a top cricketer and a top chess player were the same person. I wanted to next write on C.M. Fisher who defeated Goldsmith in that titanic struggle of 1875.

An amazing postcard came from Gerd Giebel in Brazil of the rainforest and a waterfall. It had a Benjamin Franklin quotation over the waterfall: "Deus ajuda os que se adjudam" It was nice to see Ben quoted as he was a chess player and God created that beautiful place.

I wrote to Leonard Reitstein on his new book "A History of Chess in South Africa" congratulating him and asking if he had ever come across any details of the future Australian champion Julius Jacobsen when he was living there. Also Matthew Flinders the great navigator who played chess with Secretary Alexander in 1810 after being released from Mauritius where he was a prisoner. He could not help.

The C.M. Fisher material started arriving from Ken who was great about all this and so I could write the article. It's a long way to Melbourne from Narromine and in return I sent him all the letters from Kornik related to Australia and New Zealand from Maria L. Ken started to translate them starting with Maurian and GHDC.

I was also convinced that the early chess engravings such as Blackburns in the 1885 blind simul featured onlookers real faces. One could imagine how they looked in life. I believed Fisher and Burns were both in that sketch. And back on the Kornik letters a German friend Anna who lives here could see that Esling was thanking the Baron for sending him a chess book even though it was in Old German. How about that? I didn't know the German language changed in the 1930s.

Ken also sent the 'biggie' for the library which was an auction of Dr. John Chapman's material which included an 1868 chess pamphlet of the match between Sydney and Melbourne Chess Clubs. They would bid for that (The Age 23 Feb 2004) and another article on the Melbourne Chess Club in Brunswick Street Fitzroy by Clay Lucas. One comment was :- "One club member says that when he first joined he was shocked by the dress of the other players. It's like when you go to an artist's studio, what happens on the chess board might be really beautiful, but the people playing might look a horrible mess. It is an excellent article with many photos. (Melb. Times, 10th March, 2004)

Chris Ravilious put the Lewis men front and centre in Q&Q BCM January, 2004 No.5667. I had to admit my theory was just as way out as the late Ken Whyld's. Mine was that the pieces were carved at the chapel/nunnery near Mangursta & Uig and the clergy played with them until the Reformation in 1538 when the chessmen were given to locals who held them until the Land Clearances started in the late 1700's/early 1800's after which they were buried and then found again in 1831. This was way different to my theory in 'Bert' that they had been carved by Napoleonic war veterans. As Chris said : "The story will run and run." I then sent Chris a long list of suspects who may have made them.

Getting back to Ken's article on the founder of the chess library called 'Art and Chess' it was 'on hold' until September as that was when the next issue of The Latrobe Library Journal appeared. It was hard even for volunteers to get work published. It was great that Ken Fraser would be in that prestigious magazine. He had spent most of his working life at the State Library of Victoria (SLV) and knew it back to front. He sent me a copy in February and having read it again I will place it in this update to Bert in a separate chapter as it gives a history of why and how a collector decides to give his collection to the nation. I told him then I liked it. And then came the John Chapman Auction Sale next week. Would the library bid? The estimate price on the 1868 p amphlet was \$2/3,000.

(The library bought it. Cost well over \$2000 I think) He also sent me photocopies of 'Our Chess Club' 1885 in the Melbourne University Review.

I bought some minor items from Tony P out of his great hardcopy catalogues. He was the last hardcopy dealer as Barrie Ellen was online fully. The BCM Index 1880-1930, The Metropolitan Chess Club, The Guinness Book of Chess GM's.

Here is Leonard Reitsteins reply to my congratulatory letter on 'A History of Chess in South Africa:-

"27 Dennekamp Salisbury Road Kenilworth 7700. February 26th, 2004

Dear Bob, I was most pleased to receive your letter and make your acquaintance. Thanks for your complimentary remarks about my History – it is most gratifying to learn a labour of love over many many years is appreciated!

The items on Jacobsen and Flinders are most interesting. I much regret I did not know the S. African connection of either. I am planning to write an appendix to my History wherein all information received and discovered since its publication will be included. Historically incorrect statements will also be listed, such as the caption to the photo of Lasker (page 64) where I wrote he was champion to 1920 instead of 1921. I will then disseminate the appendix gratis to all known purchasers of the History. The references to Jacobsen and Flinders will certainly be included.

Unfortunately I have sold over the past 10 years or so almost my complete library (+-2500 items), and this included my bound volumes of BCM from 1885 to 1980. I missed the reference to Jacobsen in the February, 1898 BCM.

Is it possible to get copies of Australian Chess Lore Vols. 3 & 4? I am quite prepared to buy them. Do you collect chess books? If so I can supply you with S. African chessbooks. Including copies of 'The S.African Chessplayer' which I edited and published monthly from August, 1953 to June, 1986. I also have hundreds of loose issues of Magazines from the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s & 1980s, emanating from round the world, which may interest you. Let me know!

*If you have e-mail you can reply to joancohen@new.co.za, and let me have your email address. All good wishes, I look forward to your reply!!
Most sincerely Leonard Reitstein."*

I sent him gratis the two missing volumes in his ACL set and asked him for the price of The S. African Chess Player but he never replied. Perhaps it was my lack of email that caused it. I sent a copy of his letter to the SLV.

Chris Ravilious wrote very good letters and here is his 1st March,2004 reply:-

"1 Goodwood Close, Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex UK BN20 9JF

Dear Bob, Thanks for your letter, which has numerous points of interest. I was particularly

impressed by the further progress you have made on the Lewis chessmen, especially the link with the Book of Kells. I hope you will get a satisfactory reply from the BM, and will feel able to pull all this diverse material together into an article along the lines already mentioned.

I'm glad you managed to get hold of the LRB article on Zweig. I too find this a peculiarly haunting story – all the more so as it so clearly reflects the authors state of mind at the time of writing, and foreshadows his very sad demise. On a quite different level of interest, I happen to have two different translations of the novella, the original one by Huebsch and a much later one by Jill Sutcliff (1981), and it's an interesting exercise to spot the various differences between the two and to make comparisons between them and the Zweig original. For example, in explaining Czentovic's presence on shipboard, Zweig tells us that he has seen off ("abgeklappert") the US, coast to coast, in a series of "Turnierspielen," literally tournament games. Huebsch, perceiving this as improbable, substituted the more plausible "coast-to-coast exhibition tour." Sutcliff, more concerned to reflect what Zweig wrote, has the world champion working his way across America "playing tournaments." And so on.

Leonard Reitstein's book seemed to me to have a whole lot of points of interest, of which the mention of a proposed Southern Hemisphere championship is certainly one. I imagine this will be new to readers in both hemispheres, and it probably earns at least a brief mention in a future Q&Q.

The Purdy quote regarding Morphy and the "Painting in the Louvre" is intriguing, but I think not finally persuasive. There's some quite convincing evidence that Morphy's encounter with the Retzsch work occurred in Virginia (see the enclosed piece by John Campbell, which I came across minus the illustration referred to, at a Virginia chess website). It seems rather improbable that Morphy could have been involved in two such incidents, first in Paris and then in Richmond, VA, and I'm inclined to think Purdy's version has no basis in fact. Two other points, both fairly obvious, strike me. First, if there was such a painting in the Louvre it would surely figure prominently in recent books on chess images and artefacts. Second, the picture, 'if' it exists, would seem not to be the one by Retzsch, since if Ken Whyld's reconstruction is correct White doesn't 'have' a bishop to move to bishop six! It's an intriguing reference none the less, and perhaps worth a note in Q&Q, albeit it with a slightly skeptical cast!.
Regards Chris."

We were all enveigled by Paul Morphy, one way or another. The late Jas Duke said paraphrasing James Joyce that "Morphy was the happy hunting-ground of all chess minds that have lost their balance." Jas was pointing at me! I eventually sent a CD to Chris he responded that Duke was "an impressively equipped historian." I should also have followed up his suggestion that I send a disc to Vlastimil Fiala but I had sympathy on him and did not.

The article on chess libraries in chesscafe.com Bulletin Board 488 1-9 was very good and defined the views of 'weeding' one's library. It was brutal and the heading was 'The Old Heave-Ho' 488-3 struck a chord with me at the comparison between a whole carload of Books and chess equipment and whether chess was worth a whole carload. This chap Adam Wells was a teacher and suggested keeping the most beaten up and dog-eared books and taking those that "you have been meaning to get to but never have" to the local chess club and sell them at

reasonable rates. Adam had a copy of Fischer's '60 Memorable Games' and would not sell this first edition cheaply. He thought opening books should be the first to go, then the instructional ones and maybe some games collection. I will stop here as there are pages and pages or should I say 'images'? The final comment I would like to make is how this article flushed out people with large collections! There are a lot more than you think or there were in 2004. Some were massive! 488-8 for example.

When you visit a library such as the SLV as we did in 1978/94/01/07, you wonder how it started - which rooms or buildings was it in? Ken Fraser provided me with that answer:--

9th April....Now to your questions about the housing of the collection. There have been 5 locations altogether, I think. When MVA looked after it himself it was in a room at the back of the Research Dept. off the Domed Reading Room and was not a public area. It was then shifted up into a part of the stacks known as "The Grill" which is where I first looked after it. In those days there was one poky little table tucked under a window for the few people who dared seek permission to venture up to it. It then went to the balcony of the Art Library, where you first saw it in 1978. That was really the first location where there was ready access to it. When the various redevelopments of the library were taking place it was transferred to the Latrobe St annexe (the North-East wing) and now that they are practically finished it is back in the main building and used much more than it ever was. At least there are a lot more games played. – whether people use the books I don't know.

The chess books that the public have immediate access to now are basically the chess books dating from about 1960 onwards. In a sense what is on open access in the chess room is the sort of stuff that MVA called 'the ordinary collection'. It would roughly be the size of the material on open access at Latrobe Street Level 3 – perhaps a bit less. It has all the modern standard works, the books on openings, end-game and the rest of the various divisions of the game as well as the latest issues of periodicals. The sort of material that researchers use is house in the stacks of the Rare Books collection or in the off-site storage at Abbotsford. For example the 'Chess Players' Magazine' that you have asked me to look for Falkbeer's articles in is at Abbotsford. I will be getting it in next week to do the work on it for you and Robert Johnson.

The 'good old days' when you could browse the whole collection in one place are gone. MVA's idea of an 'ordinary collection' and a 'research collection' seems to have arrived. Without deliberate planning but I personally think it is a pity that the research part is not altogether in one place in the library. The periodicals (apart from the latest 12 months issues) and the tournament reports are now all off-site. It makes it all so much more difficult to check just one fact when you have to send out for it. As you yourself know, half the time you don't know which periodical it would be in. It is made even harder when a large number of periodical titles are still only in the old card catalogue and have yet to make it to the computer catalogue (the database). The shift off-site was made with just a week's notice, but I managed to make a list of the titles that were what we now call "uncatalogued" – i.e not on the database. The Chess Players' Magazine is one of them, but fortunately when it comes in next week it will be catalogued on to the database. So you and Robert Jonson have done the OZ chess world a favour

.....

*MVA's correspondence occupies a full drawer in the filing cabinets. Sorting it all out is to be part of the next job I am to do for the library. I will be trying to concoct a listing of **all** the manuscript material in the Anderson Collection and the correspondence is only a part of it. There is also the other papers like those of MCC,ACF,VCA, Gaius McIntosh and the rest. Anderson's correspondence has been partially sorted out years ago into the various letters of the alphabet with a few files for some of his major correspondents, and yes, Niemeijer is one of them So is Lothar Schmid and Leonard Reitstein. But the job was never completed and the whole lot needs to be put into a decent order with a listing of the people involved. Until that is done it is hard to get a handle on it. As you will have seen from the article I managed to dig up some basic information on the development of the collection from his correspondence but there is a lot more to be dug out yet....."*

Very good description by Ken. My 2014 article on him is on the ozproblems.com website and gives more detail and a few photos.

Ned Munger and his wife rang from the USA 2nd April and their voices changed the relationship when a written link became a vocal one. Ned had recovered from a stroke and was greatly helped by his wife who did most of the talking. The 4th book of his great series Cultures, Chess and Art' was 90% complete which was great but we know it didn't appear and the 3 volumes await the last. Maybe one day. I sent some material on chess sets namely the Cowra Breakouts sets and the Matthew Flinders chess set in the SLNSW. It was great to hear from them after 4 years. Ned was 83 now.

The Sydney Morning Herald of 26th April exposed the sale of thousands of NSW Parliamentary Library old books to dealers at discount prices. The 2 investigations carried out were not released but some news leaked on the second by John Hargray a former magistrate and was damning. It founds "a litany of irregularities including alteration of sales records, discounts and credit sales and the favouring of particular buyers as well as dealers. 60 books have never been found. The librarian Rob Brian disagreed with the investigations and called them "The New Inquisition." There was an underling staff suicide at the time. It was distressing reading when 59 books were sold to a dealer for \$9482 and then readvertised by that dealer for \$31,200 - a 200% markup. If the Herald article is sound it appears that too much haste and not enough time was taken with the rare books to ensure top value. The librarian was exonerated.

Ray Kuzanek sent me a very rare review of Edge's book on Morphy. This review was a solid 5 pages and was called 'A Chess Phenomenon' and appeared in 'The Living Age' 5th October, 1859 taken firstly from "The Critic.' The final paragraph hoped that 'he will live to play the more serious and important game of life as wisely and as skillfully as he has the noble and ancient game of chess.'" Sadly, that was not to be.

Chris Ravilious wrote that Ken Whyld's library had been sold to Le Musee Suisse du Jeu at La Tour-de-Peilz. There was much debate about the new site and the loss to the UK. But it was a private library.

Tony P's latest catalogue No. 38 saw me ordering the Hamburg Schachclub 1982, Kiefer Des Schachspiel, Kieler Schachkatalog 2000 and Moores's 'A Collection' along with Karpov's

‘Disney’.

The Goldstein manuscript was returned to the SLV by registered mail as one of the family wanted to see it with a proposal to publish. This was a sore point as the SLV had promised to publish. It had been too long and I had to shoulder the blame for that in not hurrying it along but today it is on the ozproblems.com website. Friends like Jim Jones had not lived to see their work in the public arena but it did finally appear. The other matter of the Charles Leskie auction of Railway memorabilia owned by the Pomeroy estate which contained the Esling material was dealt with in the Local section.

Ken sent me the 5 part article by Falkbeer “on the present state of Chess in Germany” a copy of which went to Robert Johnson for his Anderssen book. It was very good of Ken to do this as one part had been misfiled but he got it done. It seemed that Germany got very close to holding the first world congress at Trier in 1843 but they pulled out and Staunton and England got there with the 1851 tourney. Falkbeer had a nice humour and told the anecdote of David Hillel a strong player at Stroebeck where he was told if he beat the locals at chess, they would beat him with a cudgel! His game was faltering until he was told it was a joke! (The Chess Player’s Magazine 1863)

Bert decided to argue with the Greek traffic in Athens and was recuperating in Vienna. The family went to the beautiful Belvedere Castle which in Italian is bel vedere or ‘beautiful to see’ and the PC proved it. I told him we had morning tea with Inge van Manen at the Port Macquarie Retirement Village and she was well.

Natalie & Dennis Hale came to Blackheath to have some time with us in their holiday home. It had been 18 years - the last time was at Nigel and Dawn’s wedding. No chess this time just plenty of touring and then we were soon saying our good-byes at the Railway Station.

By July 24th Ken Fraser was back on track after his health and home repairs were sorted. I was relieved as chess articles on Victorians could not be written if he was out of action. He sent a lot of material on Charles M Fisher and I started writing it. Fisher (1845-1890) defeated Goldsmith in that 1875 match. He died of a stroke in Europe and was a financier by profession.

I asked Norma if her genealogy guru Nancye Fletcher of Dubbo could help with some Fisher family mysteries. And she came up with the goods and the article was completed. I sent it to Ken for his approval and then had to get library OK’s for the sketches.

We went to the funeral of George Andrews an old railway workmate and chess fanatic. In fact for a man who took the game up at age 52 he was really something. We wrote many letters to each other after I left to go into Local Government and he was a father figure of sorts during my railway apprenticeship as an electrical fitter. He was a very successful share investor and horse punter. The two seem unlikely allies but he was successful at both. Take the punting back in the 1940’s when he shut down 3 bookmakers at Randwick with his winnings. He took the profits and paid off most of the newly weds home loan with it. On investing he was brave and one day in the 1990’s he told me he was getting nowhere with their money and took \$300,000 out and invested in blue chip shares. I was aghast! He stood firm, doubled his money then returned it to

term deposits. He was well in his eighties at the time. I decided to type up his letters for his family and that was done. At the Leppington Lawn Cemetery near Camden Norma and I were walking around just before the service on a windy day and found some 'Hell Bank Notes' blowing around. Chinese leave this money for the deceased relatives and I noticed one had a print value of \$18,000 so sent it to Ken Fraser. (see p.42)

When 'Kieler Schachkatalog' 2000 arrived I was stunned. A hardback of 600 pages worthy of the name. Kiel is near Hamburg and the collection, similar in size to the MVA was in the Landes Bibliothek and had been amassed by two private collectors Wilhelm Massman a judge (1895-1974) and Gerd Meyer a banker (1929-1984) I noted my Whyatt book in there plus the word 'false' after the ISBN number. That was thorough by the librarians to discover the Whyatt ISBN was no good. I intended to check it but Norma told me there was a fee so that ended that. The editors of the book Horst Luders and Christine Mohle deserve great credit for this fine book which could be a model for future bibliographies.

Chris Ravilious was very keen on chess portrait galleries as was I. We were discussing Edward Winter's in Chess Café. Chris thought indexing "as the best way of facilitating access to a really wide range of chess portraits". His other worry was permanence:-
"Will it still be around, and readily accessible in 20 years time? A point which could be made regarding many web databases. And finally what exactly is the copyright status of these images?"

He sent me a fine article from The 'Guardian' 28th August on 'geographic anglophilia' in Australia and though in the Gazetteer 3/4s of the words are derived from the indigenous there were a lot on 'English' words. The author David Fickling made some funny comparisons between towns of the same name in the two countries. It was a good list but 'Hyde Park' had been missed and this is Sydney's main park.

Bert wrote 19th September that he was now working in London 3 days/week and already had found a Quaritch catalogue of the Rimington Wilson sale in 1928 and as well some end game books from Jens Enevoldsen's collection in a Danish bookshop. One was 'Studien & Probleme' by Behtong 1930 a very uncommon item. The family news was that Odilia had been accepted into Medicine at Rotterdam University. Bert was looking after his old age when his dear daughter could diagnose his ills and ails. Is Bibliomania a disease that Odilia could treat? Very good news for the Corneths.

A copy of 'Squares' the Chess World's Picture Magazine from Thinkers Press Vol.1 No.1 for Spring, 2003 was misfiled as I got it last year from Clive. There was a good article by Ken Whyld on 'How to Write a Chess Encyclopaedia' with good photos of himself at the lectern in 2000 for the Chess Co Festival and a super one of Barden, Horne, Penrose, Hooper, Golombek and Milner Barry n.d. The friendship of David Hooper and Ken was on display. The sketch of the 'The Gambit Club Chess Library' on p. 28 was enjoyed and I liked Andy Ansel's article on 'Chess Antiques.' It was nice to see ACR get a mention alongside Helms 'American Chess Bulletin' and BCM but sadly 'The Chess Amateur' was not, but I agreed that 'collecting' is a 'dynamic pastime' that allows one to enjoy the reading as well as learning chess history. The surprising article was Hammond/Tykodi correspondence. A series of letters between John

Hammond (1909-1997) and Ralph Tykodi which led to the republication of many of Cecil Purdy's books. It also solved a current quest for the anonymous author ZUGZWANG who wrote a series of articles called 'The Evolution of Chess Theory' in the last years of Chess World. John Hammond was the author. The John Hilbert article by Bob Long made good reading also.

As a result of Ken's further research the Fisher article was altered and I told him McCombe & Burns would be next and easier as I had a lot of material. We were going to the National Museum of Australia in Canberra next month to examine the Esling material. And Peter Wong's 'Parallel Strategy' came out with 200 copies. Another Australian problem book.

Maria Luczak wrote me of Count Ladislav Zamoyski (1853-1924) who had owned Kornik Castle and the Zakspane state in the Tatras Mountains. He had a great trip to Australia representing France at the Sydney World Exhibition in May 1879. This fantastic building measuring 244m x 30m x a dome 64m high was designed in a few days built in 9 months and burnt down in 5 hours! More than 1 million people went through and sadly the arsonists were descendants of convicts who wanted to give their families a clean slate. (They did a good job as there are huge gaps in the records. AND today everyone **wants** a convict in their family tree - BM) The Count liked Australia and stayed two years. There is an 'Australian Collection' in Kornik Castle. Anyway he returned and his uncle Count Jan Ozialynski (1829-1880) named Ladislav as his successor.

The large chess collection of the Baron von der Lasa was transferred to Kornik in 1945 after which the collection was open to the public. Jean Mennerat and his wife would have gone here Maria also sent the musical score 'Paolo Morphy' for Piano-Forte by Loierali and I sent a copy to Ian Shanahan our top recorder player here and asked Bert if he wanted one for Regina to sing to him.

There are many chess characters all over the world and we have 'Chess George' or George Berger as he was. I told Maria of him:-

George was 74 and lived at Lightning Ridge the opal town in northern NSW near Walgett. He had lived a hard life as he had parted from wife and family long ago and he dug for Opal at the Ridge. He was building a bottle house and many of the bottles would have been from George's excesses! He stayed with us a couple of days and we gorged ourselves on chess - honours even. He was an amateur naturopath and as well as teaching many Ridge schoolchildren to play chess and he grew various plants for their medicinal value. I received some stinging nettle seeds and dandelion for my hands. He grew up in Austria near Brunau on a farm, his mother died when he was 10 and his father was hard. The Anschluss came and he spoke kindly of the Nazis. He saw some awful sights in WW2 but survived and had been in the Ridge since 1974. He had a very kind manner and a true love of chess. We met him firstly in the 80's in the Ridge and then he had an Alsation dog named Joachim who responded in German, Austrian and English. A glorious dog a bit like the TV Rex. A miner needs a dog as thieves raid one's claim and take opals. He went to Manaus in Brazil some years earlier on a gold prospecting trip which really should be published. I have that letter. Haven't heard from George in many years and he may be in Opal Heaven.

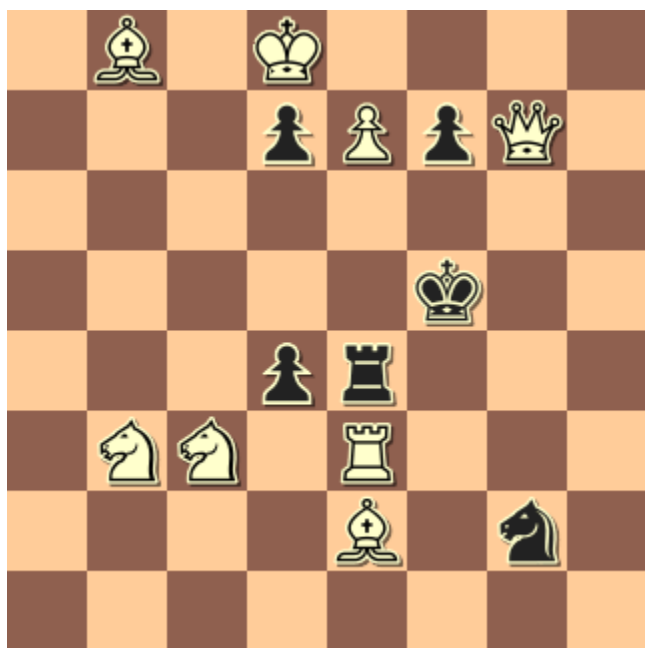
Bert sent me the Saavedra position which amazed him and me. I had forgotten it, OCC features Fernando Saavedra (1847-1922) a Passionist monk who worked in Australia for some years ca 1900.

The trip to Canberra to the National Museum of Australia Repository and the National Archives on 14th October produced a good result. We examined Esling's material with our white gloves on at the NM Repository including:-

- The trowel which was presented to him by staff on his laying of the last brick of Flinders Street Station Building 29th April, 1909 (pearl handle silver blade)
- The 9 carat Gold Watch inscribed FKE and given to him by friends and associates of the Railways 13th April, 1917.(This was close to his resignation date)
- A photo of Esling signed "To Beth and Edwin with kind wishes from Granduncle F.K. Esling."
- The 49 page manuscript "Some Memories" written in 1947 when he was 87 which we audiotaped in part.

We were there about 1½ hours. We did not see any letters or documents.

At the National Archives I saw the 13 manuscript items on chess and I sent a list to Ken Fraser. There was nothing of real comment there. Our time at the National Library concentrated on the Adelaide Observer – Henry Charlick's column and here is a splendid 2-er by John Brown of Bridport. Adelaide Observer, January 5th, 1901 p. 35 (8x6)



Charlick called it 'one of the most beautiful two-movers extant'
 Not easy but the key is
 1..Bf4 threat 2.Qxf7 If
 1..KxB/RxB/NxB;2..Rf3/Bg4/Re5
 Or
 1..Ke6/f6/Rxe7;2..Nxd4/Qg4/Qg5
 Or 1..Re6;2.Qg5 It is in Brian Gosling's book on Brown and also Barry Barnes 'Pick of the Best Chess Problems'.

Norma found the 'Western Herald' (Bourke) but it was out on loan and she found other good items. We had some time with Carol & Jim Jones at the library and sadly Carol was in early dementia and Jim was upset by it all but brave to come and see us. He had forgotten most of our chess problem work.

Ken sent his 'Art & Chess' article with illustrations on 12th November and it was close to publication in the Latrobe Journal. It looked really good with all the new facts on M V Anderson.

Had to laugh when Ian Barkla (my Esling auction scout) wrote that he could hardly read my last letter and to send Norma out for a new ribbon! I add that Ian used a manual then too. Ken thought we were both 'delightfully 20th century.' Ian's request was a tough one as ribbons were impossible to buy. I actually re-inked a couple but it's not perfect.

Chess poetry is one of my loves and Chris Ravilious the Q&Q BCM Editor was no exception. Here is an extract from his 17th November letter:-

"On women and chess clubs, no-one yet has come up with hard evidence for 'lady members' before Bristol in 1872, but Jackie Eales (wife of Richard and sister of Ray Keene) has found a reference to two female players. 'Mrs Saunders' and 'Miss Watson' turning out for Bath in a 47-player match against Bristol in November, 1871. She suggests on the basis of this that Bath may have been the first club to admit women members, with Bristol following in the next year. Against this, it seems a little odd that John Butt should have claimed for the Bristol club the distinction of being the first to admit women members if the two women in the Bath team were subscribing members of the Bath club – possibly they were no more than Bath residents with a strong interest in chess, and perhaps with male relatives who were members of the club. The jury, in short, remains out....."

The part of your letter which interested me most was the paragraph on chess poetry. I too have always admired Lord Dunsany's verses, the ones on Capablanca and Hastings as well as the one you cite. I'm not sure what other chess poetry he published, but these are certainly worth a place in any anthology. Among more recent work in this area I like Elizabeth Jennings's "A Game of Chess" (you probably know this) and one that I only came across recently, John Fuller's 'The Most Difficult Position' published originally in 'Lies and Secrets' (1979) and subsequently in his 'Selected Poems 1954-1982' and 'Collected Poems' 1996. It's quite a substantial piece (18 pages) on the theme of Staunton's relations with Morphy, and shows (in my view at least) considerable insight into the personalities of both men, as well as some deft use of chess imagery. I like, for example, Staunton's comment on the pressures under which he was working at the time of Morphy's visit:

*But time's my tyrant, as you know, my dear.
If I could queen my hours into years.*

Also Morphy's evocation of the atmosphere of the Chess Association's congress at Birmingham:

Can you imagine an afternoon in the north of England

*In a flat damp August, sticky enough, but more dirty than sticky,
Walking across the Queen's College, Birmingham's brown narrow lawns?
On one side your true representative of modern American manners.
On the other the 'large doyen' of large British Chess, Mr. Staunton,
And as umpire Lord Lyttelton trotting, perspiring a little.
Blotting his face with a large chequerboard kerchief cover with pawns?*

I'm not sure whether the pawn-covered kerchief is authentic!

John Fuller is a son of poet Roy Fuller..... On the subject of chess verses, you may be slightly amused – though not, I suspect, greatly impressed-by one of my own attempts in this line:

VILLANELLE

I'm playing a five-minute game on FICS*
Web mastery – that's what it's all about.
Some people will do anything for kicks.

Logon, seek, play, takeback. Old dog, new tricks.
The jargon's something I could do without.
I'm playing a five-minute game for kicks.

I castle long- a few well-practised clicks,
then feel the first tremors of self-doubt.
Some people will do anything for kicks.

What to do next? The on-screen timer ticks.
Too soon the electronic sands run out.
I'm playing a five-minute game on FICS.

My centre's shafted, my kingside hit for six.
All my grand strategy's gone up the spout.
Some people will do anything for kicks.

A queen sac with forced mate completes the mix.
Enter *resign*, extend congrats, logout.
End of one more five-minute games on FICS.
Some people will do anything for kicks.

*FICS-Free Internet Chess Server (www.freechess.org) Regards Chris.”

Actually pretty good I thought. The game would have been interesting but Chris took a hit anyway by versifying.

Ken let me know about the visit of Mike Darlow to the SLV to present his book ‘Turned

Chessmen.’ A great book and I soon got one from Mike.

In Tony P’s letter of 16th November:-

“For your interest Southeby’s in London tried to sell a copy of Damiano, Libro de Imparare (5th edn, c 1530), a good copy bound in 18th century calf, from the Library of the Earls of Macclesfield removed from Shirburn Castle. The estimate was £12,000 - £15,000(!) but it did not reach the reserve and was bought in. I notice in the Bloomsbury auction in July 03 a copy of the 4th edition (Reginald Hennessey’s copy) was sold for £11,163 including premium to Jurgen Stigter the Dutch collector. The only other chess book in the Southeby’s sale was a 1713 French edition of Greco lacking a leaf at the end, which was also unsold. A couple of months ago I met Bert Corneth in London during a lunch break from his work and we caught up with chess news etc., and I sold him a few volumes of L’Echiquier.”

The SMH article 2nd October. on the 500 year old crime and the British Library’s role much later was good. Here are the facts:

- The Sforza ‘Book of Hours’ 1490 was commissioned by Duke Galeazzo Maria Sforza for his wife Bona of Savoy. It contained 64 full page illustrations & 140 text pages with miniatures by Giovan Birago.
- A friar Johanne Jacopo from the Convent of San Marco in Milan stole 28 of the illuminated pages.
- Margaret of Austria inherited the book and commissioned the Flemish artist Gerard Horenbout to paint 16 new miniatures. Filling some of the gaps.
- The British Museum was presented with the book by a Scots collector in 1893.
- BM acquired 4 of the missing pages and finally acquired another page recently for £191,000! Still some to go. There is a glorious photo of the book in the SMH.

Tony P’s catalogue 40 arrived and I ordered 4 QCH volumes. He asked how many copies of the 1561 Alcala Lopez were around. I told him I had done the 1617 Carrera research and estimated 50 copies of that existed. He had bought an Alcala Lopez for £4560 at a London auction. Jurgen Stigter had paid £4700 for a copy last year.

As the year ended the mighty move by Google to see the great libraries on the web started with Harvard. 15 million books. Then Oxford & c.

One job I liked doing as a very amateur book binder was the repair of the 1906 First Council Minute book. A large tome structurally sound but very old leather gone at the hinges. I got some leather from a Saddler in Dubbo and repaired it. No sewing was needed. The Hi Flex glue is a modern miracle.

Inge van Manen had a fall and was now in a nursing home. Her Dutch was very good, her English not so, and I sent Bert her phone number. Ken Fraser ended the year with Charles M Fisher’s birth certificate for which I owed him \$17.50. A good bloke was KF.

2005:

Ken wrote after last Christmas that he had survived the three days and three feeds of Xmas Eve to Boxing Day without too much damage and had spent the last 2 days recovering. His New Year's Resolution will be to go bush next Xmas!

He sent the La Trobe Journal No.74 which contained his article 'Art and Chess: The passions of a Library Donor.' It was great and would go in the 'Addendum to Bert.'

Jean Mennerat and Maria Luczak sent nice Christmas Cards-a pleasure to get. I said to Jean that my interests in Australian Chess History were to the fore now and I hoped the ghost of John van Manen agreed. I suggested that Maria get the La Trobe Journal No.74 as she was the curator of the Baron's collection as Ken had been in Melbourne.

Ned Munger (Edwin) wrote 5th January to say Vol. 4 of 'Cultures, Chess and Art' was almost finished thanks to help from friends at Caltec. He had picked up a set in Kholmogory in the White Sea representing the Russians vs the Sami, an indigenous Arctic people. It was on loan to the Getty museum where he had photographed it for his book. I looked Ned up on Google and he was a very eminent man and a good poker player as he financed his first overseas trip from the winnings. He died 15th June, 2010, aged 88 and it does not look like Vol. 4 appeared.

The tsunami in Indonesia really was awful at end 2014 and 150,000 people were killed by the wave caused by an earthquake. Even our little town sent \$10,000 through the Lions Club Appeal.

Tony P told me of a 1617 Carrera available for \$20,000US or £10,400 where in 2003 one had sold for £6,100. I bought Finkel's 'The Lewis Chessmen,' Marilyn Yalom's 'The Birth of the Chess Queen,' Henri Serruy's 'Chess Ex Libris Catalogue'.

Chris Ravilious' excellent letter dealt with two overhanging chess tasks of the late Ken Whyld. One was an update of Paul Richman's 1978 lists of chess articles in non-chess serials and the completion of the White/Lasa letters. I had a photocopy of Paul's book obtained from the Newcastle University Library (above Sydney) where John de Gravio was Archivist. I liked Paul's book with its lovely dedication to his wife Miriam and son Evan? John was a good fellow to deal with and sent me the photocopies for some help in finding out an unknown benefactor.

I loved Irving Finkel's book on the Lewis Chessmen and had seen this happy man on many television programs. Irving was certain Sir Frederick Madden (1801-1873) talked to the chessmen and here is that paragraph:-

"When he was safely alone with them in his room he was apt to address them directly, and had been doing so for so long that a reply from one or another would not have astonished him at all. "I'm going to make you famous," he confided, "We'll have a proper paper for the Antiquaries, likenesses and all, and everyone will appreciate you at last." Naturally the chessmen are able to hibernate readily but they discuss much of the 'human' doings with vigour."

Top stuff, Irving! It was a good thing I hadn't read this when I was 10 as instead of partial

captivation by chess, it would have been complete.

Tony P sold a nice copy of Salvio-the 1634 double volume of Il Putino and Trattato for £3000. It was a super copy coming from George Walker's collection, then into Rimington-Wilson's, then sold at Sotheby's in 1928, bought by Quaritch and in the 1929 catalogue. Tony and I loved 'provenance' copies. He also bought a green cloth 'Among These Mates' 1939 by 'Chielamangus' (Cecil Purdy). Quite a coup as I had never seen the cloth edition.

Ken Fraser sent the list of collectors/historians/correspondents who had been in contact with M. V. Anderson. That limits them to 1966 but there were 46 folders the names out of which are now included as was done for the Bodleian in 'Bert' But first:-

Individual Collections:-Gunnar Gundersen, M.E.Goldstein, Thomas Henderson, Clifford Nash, Christopher Ogle, Severin Woinarski.

Individual Papers:-James Duke, Alexander Goldstein, Gaius McIntosh, Henry Tate, John van Manen

Associations and Clubs:- Australian Chess Federation, New South Wales Chess Association 1901-1913 (Photocopy), South Australian Chess Association, Victorian Chess Association, Melbourne Chess Club, Townsville School of Arts Chess and Draughts Club 1903-8.

Correspondence Boxes 1-3 The correspondence is arranged alphabetically in a series of 'general' and individual folders. A, B, C, 'general' etc. are interspersed with the folders for a particular individual. The correspondence deals principally with chess bibliography and history, the purchase of books for the collection and requests for information from it.

Box 1 Correspondence A-F, 12 Folders.

1.1 'A' General

Ian H. Abbott, Cheltenham, England. 2 letters :1963 re Three Dimensional Chess
R.Aickin, Edgecliff, NSW :7 letters 1961 re New Zealand chess magazines
Eugene Albert, Davis California CP 1930-: 2 letters 1966 re Ideal Mate chess problems.
Hans Allik, Ozone Park, New York :7 letters 1964-66 re Eesti male
John E. Almond, Hayward California :9 letters 1961-2 Principally re 'Chess in action'.
American Chess Bulletin, New York: 1 letter 1963 Sub. returned due to death of editor .
American Chess Quarterly, Cambridge, Massachusetts: 2 letters 1965 re Sub.
P.B. Anderson (Scot); CP Scottish Champion ca 1911-1973 General correspondence between two collectors a) at Glasgow: 6 letters 1952-3 (lists of books for sale)
b) at Cronberry, Cumnock Scotland : 46 letters 1964-66
Australian Chess Federation.at Salisbury, Sth Aust. Receipt for £1/1/- 1965 Play-off

1:2. (BA-BRIS).

Ken Balfour, Balgownie NSW: 2 letters 1958 Dutch Defence moves after 7. Q-B2!

B.F. Barnard, Tuakau NZ: 1 letter 1961 Ref. to tourney game Kilkhos

J.N. Baxter, Hobart, Tas. CP 1930-1979: 8 letters 1966 Tasmanian chess history, early clubs, identity of F.J.Y.-F.J. Young & his relation to "Hobart".
 Note: A copy of the BCM 'Guide to the openings' (1898) is annotated by F.J.Y. and was used to identify "Hobart" Cf. BCM 1978 p.30-31

J.L. Beale, North Brighton Vic; (Chess Column Editor) CP-1891-1972
 4 letters 1960-61, Australian chess magazines

Beck Book Co. Adelaide S.Aust: 3 letters 1962-63 3p list of books for sale.

Sir Irving-Benson, Elsternwick, Vic. Chairman of the Library Board
 3 letters: 1958-9-1958 a) Visit to MVA's home-comments on his chess library and Shakespeariana. b) Notes on John Smethan; arrival of first part of chess library, 1959. MVA's gift of a print of a Smethan drawing.

B. Berger NSW. CP IM 1931-
 3 letters: 1966 seeking biographical details for chess encyclopedia with Berger's reply.

R. Berry. Melbourne Vic (Bookseller) 2 receipts 1965-66

E.G. Blamires. Fairfield NSW 1 letter: seeking info on Botvinnik-Capablanca game.

J.C. Bloodworth, Dartford Kent 5 letters: 1964 re Correspondence chess, incl request for Purdy's games in World CC championship

Edward Bonner, Glasgow Scot 2 letters: 1966 re books for the Collection.

John Bradley, Adelaide S.Aust: 12 letters 1961-63 Chess players in antiquity; philosophy history; games from Avro 1938.

Denis L. Brennan, Condell Park NSW: 1 letter 1966 re game from Varna 1962

F.W. Brennan, Gosford NSW: 1 letter 1966 re game from Varna 1962

Alfred Brinkmann, Kiel Germany IM 1891-1967 2 letters 1966 re 2 Alekhine games; Reply in German.

Mrs D. Bristol, Hamilton Vic (not chess) 1 letter n.d. MVA writing as an accountant.

1:3 (BRIT-BUCH)

British Chess Magazine, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex (B. Reilly, Manager)
 53 letters: 1958-1966 (1966-27 letters) Chess orders and invoices, with a few early booklists (No.2 & 3, 1952). Includes MVA's full statement of account 1961/2-1964/5

British Chess Problem Society, (G.W. Chandler, Sec.) Sutton, Surrey
 10 letters: 1966 re copies of 'The Problemist'

British Correspondence Chess Association, London 1 letter 1966 re Ass'n Yearbooks.

British Universities Chess Assoc.: 1 letter nd offering pre-1947 copies of Schweizerische Schachzeitung and issues of La Strategie.

Spencer Broughton, Brisbane, Q'ld: 6 letters 1956-7 re collecting chess books.

Julius Buchwald, New York: 6 letters 1966 re 'US Problem Bulletin.'

1: 4-5. Albrecht Buschke, New York 132 letters: 1950-1966 (1966-60 letters)
 Note: the correspondence with Buschke is divided into two parts. The first part covers 1950 – 1965; the second part holds 1966 only. In a letter dated 18 May 1966 Anderson described

Buschke as "...a scholar, an authority on chess, who also sells books", whilst Buschke saw Anderson as "one who is still one of the real collectors" (7th April, 1964). Their correspondence covers a wide range of chess history, bibliography, collectors and collecting. In an undated letter (filed at the front of 1:5) Anderson refers to "...your suggestion that I may become the custodian of the Russian chess books you have treasured for so long." The letter containing that suggestion by Buschke has not been identified.

1-6 (CA-CHAR)

John Cain, Snr (Premier of Victoria) 1 letter 1952 Re MVA's offer of hon. public service.
California Chess Reporter, San Francisco, California 3 letters 1966 re magazine and sub.
A. M. Cameron, Brisbane Q'ld (not chess) 1 letter 1960 MVA writing as accountant.
H.P. Campbell, Epping NSW 1 letter 1963 A thank you note.
Canadian Chess Chat, (Dr. Divinsky ed.) 5 letters 1962-66 Re Magazine & predecessor
J.W. Carr, (1914-) Katunga NSW 1 letter nd re: moves in the English Opening played in
a correspondence game Carr-van Perl.
Charles Edward Champion, Melbourne. Press clipping. Transfer
Peter P. Charles, Waratah, NSW 1 letter 1966 re 1st number of 'Gambit Chess Club Bulletin

1:7 Chess (Sutton Coldfield) 54 letters 1958-1966 Orders & invoices + 1959-61 bk lists.

1:8 (CHESS ASS-CHESS REV.)

Chess Assoc. of Queensland, Brisbane. (F.L.W. Pugh, Sec.) 2 letters 1965 re mag. Sub.
Chess Charts. San Diego, California 10 letters 1964-66 re (USA); re var. issues of series.
Chess Forum. New Haven, Connecticut 2 letters 1964-66 re : the magazines 'Chess
Forum;' 'Opening Adventures;' 'Shakhmaty'
Chess Life New York 2 letters 1959, 1966 re subscription.
Chess Player, Nottingham: 12 letters 1964-66 Book lists; orders for books.
Chess Review, New York (Al Horowitz, ed) 20 letters 1962-66 re: book orders and sub.
Note:- In a letter dated 27 Feb 1964 Anderson refers to a query in the magazine "When did the
rules change so that White moved first?" He then essays an answer (4p.). The essay was
commented on by Horowitz, and passed on to the enquirer. For further details see
correspondence with W.Slater.

1:9-10 CHESS WORLD, Sydney, NSW (C.J.S. Purdy, proprietor) 257 letters: 1949 - 1966

Note:- The letters are divided in two parts. The first part of the correspondence (1:9) covers
1949-1962; the second part (1:10) contains 1963-66. As well as the purchase of books and
periodicals for the collection and subscriptions for Anderson's correspondents, the
correspondence covers chess history, chess personalia, bibliography, classification and indexing
of the collection, and Australiana. On 8th June, 1963 Anderson describes the way in which the
collection 'seems to be serving a useful purpose'.

1:11 (CHI-CUB)

Chick, A.C. Hooksett, New Hampshire, USA 2 letters 1966 re: 'King's Korner'.
Cook, Roger, Ryde, NSW 2 letters 1965: request for games.
Correspondence Chess (W. Munn, Clarkston, Renfrewshire UK) 1 letter 1966: re 1955 vol
Correspondence Chess League of Australia (D.J. Fraser, Sec.) 4 letters: 1963-66

1963-re CCLA booklets'1966 Request for advice on auditor for the League. MVA accepts
Cozens, W.H. (1911-1984) Ilminster Somerset 1 letter 1965 Thanks for copy of 'Knights
and Bishops' sent on behalf of Ken Whyld.

B.B. Credits, Eastwood NSW ("Bob") 1 letter 1960 re: gift of the Collection and its
cataloguing

Curtis, A. Surbiton, Surrey 3 letters 1952,1957

1952 –List of books for sale (with reply) 1957- loss of mail order.

1:12 'D' General

Dennis. T. Seaford Vic 2 letters:1966 (* not chess) A letter from a 15 year old girl writing
to MVA as Registrar of the Hairdresser's Board of Vic, with MVA's reply

Diamant, M. Rose Bay NSW 11 letters: 1965-66 re purchase of books from his library.

Dugan, F. Boca Raton, Florida 1 letter 1968 re: expiration of sub. To Blackmar-Diemer
Gambit

Durkin, R.T. (1923-)(USA) (USO All Services Postal Chess Union)

1 card 1960 re Durkin's books Nightmare 1 & 2;

1 letter 1966 re visit to Melbourne of US Naval chess players.

Dutch Chess Centre, Bergen op Zoom (Neth).

February, 1952 'Communication No.6' Note:-The text of the
'Communication', which is in poor English with corrections in Anderson's hand, is
accompanied by a typed copy in idiomatic English.

1.13 'E' General

Eccles, Exmouth Devon 1 letter 1963 re Tartakower's view on hypermodern chess.

Elo, Arpad E. (1903-1992) Brookfield Wisconsin 1 letter 1961 re USCF rating system

Ely, R.G., Toowong Brisbane 4 letters 1965 re. a Bisguier-Petrosian game; Four Pawn's
Attack; Irregular Queen's Gambit Declined.

Europe Echecs, Paris 1 letter 1966 a letter from MVA, in French, correcting a note in the
magazine on the size of his collection

Evans, G.A. Ashbury NSW 1 letter 1963 re back issues of NSW Chess Bulletin

1:14 'F' General

Foster, P.M. Mt.Yokine W.Aust 9 letters 1964-66 re: 'WA Chess Bulletin'; WA chess
columns; variations in chess stories.

Foster, W. Bassendean, W.Aust (Treasurer of WA Chess Association) 5 letters 1965

Re. WA chess records. Note:- "I am desirous of obtaining for the chess
collection in Melbourne items of historical interest for preservation".

Foyle, Messrs W & G., London 8 letters 1966 re books on art and Shakespeare.

Note: "As well as his collection of chess books, Anderson had substantial collections on art and
Shakespeare. His art collection is now in the public library at Ballarat as the M.V. Anderson
Collection of Art History. The whereabouts of his collection of Shakespeariana is not known.

Frankel, Z. Wellington NZ 39 letters 1963-66 re: NZ chess material, chess magazines and
tournaments.

Frost, John S. Brisbane, Q'ld 4 letters 1959-62 re Correspondence chess game;
Shakhmatni Biulletin and Shakhmaty

Box 2 Correspondence G-M 13 Folders

2.1 'G' General

Galloway, J.J. Ipswich, Surrey (Dealer) 11 letters 1958-64 re purchase of books
Gambit' (see. J.L. Beale Vic)
Gambit Direct Sales S. Aust (E. Koshnitsky) 1 letter re 'SA Chess Bulletin'
Glasgow Art Gallery, Glasgow 5 letters 1965-66 re: 'Scottish Art Review'
Glasgow Chess Club Scot 1 letter 1966 re: purchase of Westminster Papers
Gliddon, Alan H. Hollywood W. Aust 13 letters 1964-66 & 4 letters 1973
Re: translations and arrangements of A.Nimzowich's 'Die Blockade'
Meine System and Meine Praxis. Note:-The manuscripts of these items by Gliddon (and W,
Leonhardt) and in Box 13:1:2. Those by Gliddon were checked by Anderson in 1966.
Goble & Simmons P/L Melbourne Vic. 1 account re: binding
Goe, William. Portland, Oregon 1 letter 1960 re collection; duplicates of ACR 1929/30
Goldstein, M.E. (1901-1966), Lindfield, Sydney 5 letters 1963-66 re disposal of his
library; his memories of Alekhine.
Goldwater, W. (1907-1985) (University Place Book Shop, N.Y.) (USA); 40 letters
1960-64 re purchase of books and magazines.
Grant, Newton New Orleans Louisiana 2 letters 1966-re-request for game scores
Gratz, Herbert R. Leipzig 29 letters 1963-68 re purchase of books; 3 lists 1962-64
Greenbury, J. Toowoomba Q'ld 13 letters 1966-67 re requests for game scores.
Grob, Henry (1904-1974) Zurich 1 letter 1961 re Correspondence chess books.
Grove, Will, North Belmore, NY (Grove Books) 5 letters 1963-64 re book purchases
Guisle, Julien (1908-) (Libraire Guisle) 23 letters 1961-63;1966 re books & mags.

2.2 'H' General

Hachberg, B. New York (Dealer) 1 letter request for Hachberg's catalogue + MVA wants
Hamilton, Douglas (1941-) Melbourne Chess Club 1 letter 1966 request for scores of his
games against Purdy.
Hammond, John. Beecroft NSW 13 letters 1966 re chess history.
Harding, A.P. Nth Rockhampton Q'ld 1 letter 1966 re request for game score.
Harding, C.C., Wilmington Delaware 2 letters 1964 re return of books.
Hart, B.A. (Brett), Auckland NZ 18 letters 1965-66 re game scores
Hayden, Bruce (1905-) East Mulesey, Surrey 4 letters 1966 re errors in recorded games.
Herczegh, Pal. Debrecen, Hungary 6 letters 1966 re Alekhine's games.
Hollings, Frank. London (Dealer) 127 letters 1957-66 re book purchases, book lists, inv.
Holloway, C. Long Jetty NSW 7 letters 1964 re postage stamps
Homburg, Bill. Ararat Vic 1 letter 1959 re game score.
Hope R. 'The Australian', Canberra ACT 1 letter 1965 re the paper's chess column.

Horowitz, Al. (1907-1973) see 'Chess Review' (NY)

2:3 (INT-LAP)

International Correspondence Chess Federation-Playing Rules;

Johnson, B.H. (1918-1985) Belmore, NSW (Chess Editor. The Australian & Chess in Australia)

22 letters 1963-66 re proofs of chess column; Australian chess material etc

Jones, David L. (Wales); a letter to CJS Purdy forwarded to MVA for reply;

Jugoslanenski Sahovski Glasnik see: Sahovska Naklada

Kampars, N. Milwaukee, Wisconsin 3 letters 1964 re 'Opening Adventures';
'Blackmar-Diemer Gambit'

Karch, Robert A. New York, (US Army Postal Chess Club) 5 letters 1966
re 'King's Korner'

Keesing, A. Sydney, NSW 16 letters 1961-66 re Russian chess magazine

Koltanowski. George (1903-) San Francisco, California 10 letters 1960-62
re Books and pamphlets

Korn, Walter J. (1908-) New York 2 letters 1957 re errors in MCO;FIDE journals etc

Koshnitsky, G. (1907-2000) Sydney & Adelaide, 8 letters 1959-66.re ACF constitution
& FIDE journals etc

Lapin, Vasily, Mt Gravatt, Q'ld 26 letters 1960-66 re problems mags ; Russian transl's.

2:4 (LAS-LED).

Lastra, G.J. (1910-1978) Buenos Aires Argentina 150 letters 1961-66 (editor/bookseller)
re purchase and exchange of books; collecting; chess bibliography.

Law Institute of Victoria; 1 letter 1966 re lawyer descendants of Sir George Stephen.

Learner, Mark, Pty Ltd Melbourne 1 letter 1966 re chess books

Leaves of Chess –see Southard O.

LeDain, D.M. (1900-1978) Montreal Canada (ed of Montreal Gazette)
6 letters 1964-66 re file of columns

Ledger, R. Neville. Burnie, Tas 1 letter 1965 A letter from Purdy to Ledger

2:5 (LIN-LIT)

Linde, Uno, Goteborg, Sweden (Dealer) 89 letters 1963-66 re books purchases/lists

Little, Paul (1915-1987) Chicago Illinois 2 letters 1964 re Alekhine's games

Littlewood, E. Skyness, Lancs 2 letters 1966 re Varna 1962 game cited as Littlewood- Bilak.
Identified by MVA as Brinck-Claussen.

2:6-7 (Loeffler-Low)

Loeffler, Heinz (1907-1981) Bad Neuheim, Germany (Dealer) 240 letters 1958-67

Note The letters are divided into two parts 2:6 1958-62,2:7 1963-67 plus lists.

Low Frank, Chatswood NSW 12 letters 1966 re games scores; Indian rules; MVA coll'n

2:8 'M' General

- Mackie, Prof. W.S. Cape Town, S. Africa 8 letters 1961-1965 re earliest use of chess terms 'Zugzwang' and Combinations
- Maizelis, I.L. (1894-1978) Moscow 4 letters 1961-62 re Lewis' 'Oriental Chess'; tournament books and discusses books available. His letter of 12th January, 1962 is "my first letter in English";
- Maggs Bros, London 10 letters 1964-66 re orders and purchases
- Malitis, A. (1929-) Canterbury Vic 1 letter 1965 re games Aust. Junior Ch'ship
- Manuel, R.A. Cronulla, NSW. 1 letter 1965 re request for game score
- Mason, W.A. Stockton-on-Tees, Durham. 1 letter 1965 re request for game score.
- Matanovic, A (1930-) Belgrade. 1 letter 1964 re correspondence chess
- Matters, J. Hawthorn Vic (President Melbourne Chess Club) 2 letters 1966 re Suggestion to make a formal call at Melbourne Town Hall as President of MCC; display of Chess Club's records at library.
- Meissenburg, Egbert (1937-) Winson/Luhe Germany 10 letters 1963-66 re chess biblio.
- Melbourne Chess Club (A. Learner, Pres.) 1 letter 1960 re letter addressed to Melbourne Public Library about access to the collection.
- Memory and Concentration Studies, Marple Cheshire. 1 letter 1965 re 'small book' order
- Miller, Mr. (no address) (Bookseller) 3 letters 1965 re duplicates sent to Miller + orders
- Monson, C.A. Mordialloc Vic 1 letter 1965 re King's Gambit
- Morgan, D.J. (1894-1978) a) London; b) Aberdovey, Wales; c) Aberystwyth Wales. 14 letters 1955-1966 re games and chess history.
- Moss, Moe (1914-) Montreal Canada (chess ed. Montreal Star) 27 letters 1962-66
Re chess columns; Canadian & Australian magazines; tourney bulletins, etc

Box 3 Correspondence 'N'-'Z' 9 Folders

3:1 'N' General

- Newman, Maurice, Bellevue Hill NSW 14 letters 1960-66 re games and chess history
- NSW Chess Association (Sec. K.M. Organ) 2 letters 1963 re NSWCA '*Chess Bulletin*'
- New York Public Library. 6 letters 1961-66 re books for exchange
- Niemeijer, Dr. Meindert (1908-1987) Wassenar (Neth)
136 letters 1959-66 re books for the collection; bibliography; history.

3:2 'O-P' General

- Ohio Chess Assoc. (Rea B. Hayes Sec/Pres.) 8 letters 1964-66 re Ohio Chess Bulletin
- Partridge, B.B. Glasgow Scot 22 letters 1963-66 re Glasgow High School games & bulletins,
- Patchett, J.H. Auckland NZ 2 letters 1966 re request for game scores.
- Petrovic, Nenad (1907-1989) Zagreb 1 letter 1966 re Problems
- Pinkus. A.S. (1908-1984) Mohegan Lake NY (Book seller) 20 letters 1957-60
re book purchases and lists.
- Plunkett, Ron. Prospect S. Aust. 1 letter 1966 re request for game score.
- Polden, Les. Croydon S. Aust. 13 letters 1959-65 re SA Chess; chess openings.
- Popovic, Dragoslav, Belgrade 2 letters 1964 re 'Teoreski bilten'

Print Collectors' Society, London 1 letter 1966 re annual sub for prints Ballarat Fine Arts Gallery
'Puzzled'. c/-SA Chess Bulletin. See Riches L.J.

3:3 RATTMAN, Kurt (1906-) Hamburg (Bookseller) 156 letters 1960-66 re orders/lists

3:4 REES-RUSH.

Rees, R. Sioux City Iowa (Sec. Correspondence Chess League of America)
Reitstein, L.R. (1928-) Cape Town S.Africa. (ed. 'South African Chess Player')
41 letters 1961-66 re South African Chess Player; chess history.
Reston, J.A. Frodsham, nr Waningham, Cheshire 10 letters 1965-66 re stamps; Australian
change to decimal currency
Riches, L.J. Greenacres. S. Aust. ('Puzzled' c/- SA Chess Bulletin. 4 letters 1965
Re Queen's Gambit Declined.
Riley, Maurice. Moama, NSW 5 letters 1959 re Correspondence Chess
Royal Library, The Hague Netherlands 8 letters 1958-61 re errors in the catalogue of the
van der Linde-Neimiejer Collection.
Royal National Institution for the Blind UK 6 letters re 'Braille Chess Magazine'
Roycroft, A.J. (1929-) London UK 4 letters 1966 re sub to 'E.G.'
Note Roycroft describes Anderson as 'the first Australian subscriber'.
Rush, J.F. Bassendon, W.Aust - 8 letters 1961-66 re games and programmes for the MVA

3:5 S-SLAT

Sahovska Naklad, Zagreb -19 letters 1963-66 re 'Teoreski bilten' etc
Salm, Max (1919-) Annerley, Q'ld 5 letters 1962-66 re game scores; c. c. games
Sandilands, C.W. Kindenup, W. Aust. 3 letters 1966 re game scores
Schmid, Lothar Bamberg (1928-2013) 61 letters 1961-66 re collectors' interests,
bibliography, exchanges etc.
Schroeder, J. Cleveland, Ohio 4 letters 1964-65 re 'Ohio Chess Bulletin'
Sendak, M. (aka M.Sendel), Newcastle NSW 5 letters re correspondence chess
Shahaf, E. (1922-) Tel Aviv Israel 4 letters re '64'; 'Shahmat' (Russian & Hebrew
Magazines); stamps; duplicates.
Shakhmaty-in-English, Woodmont, Connecticut 2 letters 1966 re subscription.
Skakhuset, Copenhagen, Copenhagen 12 letters re purchase of books
Slater, William. New York 5 letters 1964 re origin of the rule that White moves first.

3:6 SNEIDERS, V. Leipaja, Latvia 83 letters 1960-66 re purchase of books; Soviet bloc
tournaments; reports and books for exchange; duplicates

3:7 SO-SP

Sotheran Booksellers, London 1 letter 1964 re chess books
Southard, Ordway. (1911-) New York later Honolulu 10 letters 1961-64
(ed. Leaves of Chess);

Spence, Jack (1926-1978) Omaha, Nebraska (Bookseller) 42 letters 1957-66
Re purchase of books; lists and invoices.

3:8 ST-SZ

State Library of Victoria 1967 Correspondence and files relating to MVA's death.
Steiner, Lajos. (1903-1975) Sydney 1 letter 1966 re bio details for Sunnuck's encyc.
Stern, George North Hobart 12 letters 1960-66 re E. Lasker's 'Kampf/Struggle'.
Stevens M.W. West Marrickville later Dulwich Hill, NSW 12 letters 1960-66
Re game scores
Stevenson, H.R. Port Moresby PNG 14 letters 1958-60 re game scores; his library.
Sunnucks, Anne (1927-) Chester, UK 17 letters 1966-67 re proposed 'Encyclopedia of
Chess. Note: MVA made a significant contribution to the Article on Alekhine (which Sunnucks
had sent to him for comment) and offered help with other masters.
Szobolotzky, Edgar, Elwood, Vic 4 letters 1962 re use of the collection

3:9 T-Z

Tasmanian Chess Association (R.N. Ledger);
A. Thomas (Q'ld).
US Chess Federation, New York 6 letters 1964-66 re subscription to 'Chess Life'
University of Tasmania, Hobart 1 letter 1966 re attempt to identify a graduate
correspondent
Vaughan, Les. Sydney NSW 4 letters 1957-64 re his collection of games; need for
accurate indexing of games; management of the collection. Note The
Vaughan Collection is now in the State Library of NSW

Verlag Zeit im Bild Dresden 1 letter 1965 re its booklets 'Learning German'

Weekend News Perth WA 2 letters 1966 re its chess column
Wellman, Arthur J. Warrnambool, Vic 1 letter 1955 re correspondence chess
West of England Chess Unions (various Secs - E.G.Walker, J.B.Ward, F.S. Wayling, C. Welch,
A.Wilson Osborne) (UK) 13 letters 1962-66 re reports of its tourneys.
Whyld, Ken (1906-2003), Nottingham 52 letters 1961-66 re books for the collection
Wilkinson, A.L. Christchurch NZ 1 letter 1966 re NZ tourney 1966/67
Williams, T.W. Pillerton Priors, Warwick, UK 4 letters 1964 re back issues of 'CC'
Wilpert, Arno von, Augsburg, Germany 13 letters 1964-66 re Australian chess history.
Woodhams, Michael (1948-) Wembley, W.Aust. 3 letters re game scores
Wren, Fred M. (1908-1978) Perry, Maine 63 letters 1961-65 re changes to 'Chess Life';
purchase and exchange of chess books; back issues of var. mags.
Wright, Ken T. Southport Q'ld 1 letter 1963 re game scores; magazine addresses.

Zvers, Juris Milwaukee, Wisconsin 1 letter 1965 re Opening adventures.

I have contacted the SLV regarding post1966 letters, and emails and accessibility. Some of the
above are worth investigation. Arno von Wilpert for one and then the dealers.

There is much more but just headings from now on:-

Box 4 Accession Register and catalogues of the Chess Collection 10 folders.

Box 5-7 King's Indian Defence

Box 8 Miscellaneous papers of MVA

Box 9 Dealers' Catalogues (All the dealers here are given in the correspondence.)

Boxes 10-13 Papers about various Individuals Box 10 is nearly all Alekhine

Box 11 is Gunnar Gundersen, Thomas Henderson, Emanuel Lasker, George Marco, Egbert Meissenburg (translation by H.K. Smith of 'Die Gesichte fer Fernschachspiele bis 1800.')

Box 12 Clifford Nash (1882-1949) (openings analysis)

Box 13 Aaron Nimzowitsch; Christopher Ogle, Rudolk Spielman, Heinrich Wagner (1880-1957) Includes 6 p list of books bought by MVA from S. Woinarski

Of the Manuscripts Anderson's own chess papers, plus Jas Duke, Alexander Goldstein, Gaius McIntosh, Henry Tate & John van Manen

Associations & Clubs:- ACF Minutes 1935-98; Melbourne Chess Club Minutes/Reports 1866-1984; NSWCA Minutes 1901-1913; SACA Minutes 1945-1978; Townsville School of Arts Minutes 1903-8; s 1938-ca 1980

The chess columns collected by MVA have been microfilmed.

I thanked Ken greatly for this list and have included this material here though it is probably on the SLV/ MVA website. I offered him the CD's on Richman and White/Lasa which had arrived from Chris. He had received the La Trobe Journal No.74 and said Ken's article would go in Q&Q (BCM)

It was hard not to be ecstatic about the Lasa/White CD as I learned of the book swapping, copying, catalogue completion and name dropping taking place between the two. There was good contact between E.B. Cook, van der Linde, C.A Gilberg, Henry Russ and Pro. G. Allen. A lot of the detail was over my head. The friendship between the Baron & J.G. White survived the loss of the Charleston Philidorian and thankfully copies had been made. Lasa's comments at midnight July 26th, 1886 at Trondheim as he read White's remarks on his Postcard on the classical Italian chess style were lovely. They were rivals and gave no quarter at the Cohn sale when bidding for the Vansittart items but the Baron had the advantage as the late Alice Loranth wrote to me:- White was of "thrifty New England Stock" and so the Baron got most of Cohn's big numbers.

And they loved showing off their victories:-White stole a march when in 1890 he acquired all those Turkish Ms and the Baron trumped him when he later got the Bonus Socius Ms. They boosted each other with their rivalry. Instead of being loners they revelled in their loose partnership. One sad feature was their trenchant criticism of Brunet's book which had been on my wants list for years and it is still on despite it. And Lasa met Fiske in Florence. I'll bet that was a meeting! The CD's went to KF.

Now Fuller's 12 page poem "The Most Difficult Position" arrived from Chris and here is the

Morphy/Staunton section:-

*“But time’s my tyrant, as you know, my dear.
If I could queen my hours into years!
I have my public and my publishers
Hot on my neck; the endless correspondence,
Friendly analysis of my past games
With Anderssen (the gross presumption of it!)
Offers to play, requests for information,
The search for books, the endless annotation,
Feeding the ‘Illustrated London News’.
My all-devouring column, queries from Routledge,
Hints of the advance and long delay.
It never stops. Look at this letter here.
It came this morning. No, you didn’t see it.
You had that letter from your Indian cousin
If you remember. The New Orleans Chess Club.
I quote: ‘The undersigned committee has
The honour to invite you to our city
And there meet Mr Morphy in a chess match.’
(Do they think I could take the boat tomorrow?)
‘We see no valid reason why an exercise
So intellectual and ennobling is
Excluded from the generous rivalry
Found between the Old World and the New.
In every branch of human industry.’
(Pompous asses!) ‘It unfortunately happens
That serious family affairs prevent
Mr Morphy from entertaining, for the present,
The thought of visiting Europe.’ (Mummy won’t let him!)
The amount of stakes, on either side, to be
Five thousand dollars, ‘Five thousand dollars?
Really, my dear, it is intolerable.
Does the boy think that life all over Europe
Can grind to a halt merely to give him the pleasures
Of sitting and facing his elders and betters over
A Lilliputian army of carved ivory?
You smile, do you? Am I unreasonable?
You think I should be gracious and consent?
That I am world champion and can afford to?
Am I world champion, then? Am I indeed?
Don’t you imagine that Mrs Anderssen
Is saying just the same thing to him
And over the very same letter? Oh yes, I know
That I was out of practice when he beat me,
The grinning schoolmaster from frozen Breslau!*

*'Poor Staunton was out of practice' It was a mistake
 And I shall not repeat it. I am a scholar
 And my work comes first. Five thousand dollars!
 Someone somewhere hopes to make some money!
 Morphy's games are very pretty but
 They will not bear the test of analyzing.
 (My cigar is out again) He's just a child!
 A child beginning a career of conquest!
 More like Barnum and Bailey's three ringed circus
 With General Tom Thumb and other wonders.
 What does the drumbeat and the billboard say?
 That Morphy played in the cradle; scorned his books,
 Guessing the gambits as Newton knew his Euclid,
 By intuition; beat Lowenthal at thirteen
 And Paulsen in New York last year; recites
 Unflinching from his memory
 The entire Civil Code of Louisiana,
 And what not else? With such politeness too,
 The newsmen marveling: "Mr Paulsen never
 Makes an oversight; I sometimes do'
 A circus! Am I to put on the greasepaint then
 And tumble for the eager multitude?
 Would you like me to? You think it is important?
 You see me as your valiant Percival?
 Important? My dear, consider. Please don't mistake me.
 The game of chess is supremely unimportant:
 As we shall say, a trellis of climbing roses
 Watered and cut by a sweet and gloveless lady
 (Now, now! Don't hide it! Give me your tender scratches
 So I may make a handy sandwich of them.
 There, hidden in mine and healed by love!
 I thrive upon such spiritual dining).
 The game of chess is unimportant as
 The exercise of dogs or whisker-wax...."*

And there we leave Fuller. Great stuff, if one sees both sides. Howard must be writing to his beloved Frances when he speaks of 'Mrs Anderssen.' Adolf's mother? A chess player? Perhaps. But he never married yet maybe the poet thought he did. Frances missed a wonderful opportunity to query Howard about an idyllic sea voyage to the tropics and why didn't he wish to take her for a second honeymoon? The days could be filled with chess as Howard sorted out little Paul on the boat trip, she would enjoy the company of female travellers as they promenaded, and the nights could be filled with romance although Frances was well versed in that area having had 8 children to her first husband. Yes, romance is a little strong.

And then there's the money. Howard could have replied to the New Orleans Chess Club that he would LOVE to come BUT the stakes were unsatisfactory. This would be a match of the Old

World versus the New. A match for honour only. No stakes BUT a sum of \$3000 plus fares and accommodation would be paid to Howard and Frances no matter what the result. If that had occurred Howard would have ended with some monies at his death, Routledge could have deferred the arduous Shakespearian articles until his return after valiantly defending the Old World. A Front Page story if ever there was one. And the history of chess would have been changed; Paul would have won and perhaps made a later trip to Paris and everyone would have been friends. Ah well.....

I wrote to Ned Munger 2nd March thanking him for the slide return of Lord Brassey's chess set in the Powerhouse Museum Sydney. I owed Ned some money for an item sent in an earlier letter the contents of which went 'astray' (the letter arrived though) The Australian PO paid me \$100 Oz after 3 years. Ned wanted to publish Vol.4 of his series as he finished his letter with "*You know how it is with professors-publish or perish. I chose the former.*"

Here is Ken's super letter re the Baron's CD:-

"25-27th February. 2005

Dear Bob,

For each one of your 19th century eye-poppers I have a markedly different response – and one of the responses is causing me a bit of trouble. So I'll start with the good one first.

Whoopee! And Cheers! Massina's 'Australian parlor and club room games' has survived There are two copies in the State Library and at least another one in the Mitchell Library – and you will be pleased to see that among the attachments I have provided a photocopy of the cover, the title and contents pages, and the section on chess. So now you know what it looks like.....

So far, so good – but when I read your letter an eye-brow also popped and I knew I had to reserve my judgement on 'Melbourne Chess Congress 1888' until I found out precisely what it was that the Baron said and when. Apart from dates your letter was silent about this, but immediately I read it the warning bells began ringing loud and clear.

The reason for my concern is partly explained in one of the photocopies that I have included. It is part of F.W. Miscamble's column in the 'Journal of the Bankers Institute of Australasia for March 1889. Miscamble himself might not be top rank but he quotes Charlick's column from the 'Adelaide Observer' and there you really are dealing with one of the big boys. Both of them say quite definitely that the Committee of the Congress had decided not to publish a pamphlet on the Congress. Or, worrying thought, is it just Miscamble quoting Charlick? (Miscamble was a bit rough on Charlick in the column; the book on Adelaide 1887, although dated 1888, apparently didn't appear until early 1889.)

It is now 20 years since I wrote about the Centennial Chess Congress in my article on the Victorian Chess Club. (ACL 4, p. 32-33). Because there were no exact references in the article I had to revisit the Congress over the past few days to find out, among other things, where I got the idea that Burns thought it was a fiasco. It comes from the 'Leader' 20th October, 1888. The

Congress was notable for the lack of the top Victorian players and Burns commented “It cannot be denied that the Melbourne players themselves are largely responsible for the fiasco.” From then on he was constantly criticising the quality of Congress games he published. I have searched the ‘Leader’ up to August 1889, but I could find no reference to the existence of a Congress pamphlet, or a decision not to publish it. So then I checked out Harlin in the ‘Australasian.’ In the table of contents for 24th November, 1888 (p.1168) the paper says that the chess column on p.11`87 includes -

“Solutions of problems, etc. – Games from the recent Congress –End Games- The Pierce Gambit - Chess Congress Committee.” I thought that if the statement that the Committee decided not to publish a pamphlet were going to be anywhere, it would be there – on p.1187. But it was not my day – the bloody page was missing. I gave up after that.

So it seems that I was relying completely on Miscamble/Charlick for my statement that there was no pamphlet. Hence my interest in exactly what the Baron said and when. When, because of the time lag getting news to Europe. March news here was May news there. So I’d appreciate it if you would send me a copy of the relevant quotes and dates so that I can get a handle on all this. And while you’re at it could you please explain what you mean by the numbers after the titles (7310 for the Congress and 7041 for the Parlor games). I didn’t recognize them at all, but I did wonder if they were a reference to what I presume is the update of the catalogue (L/N 47). The Chess Collection doesn’t have that item, and there is no red dot against it in Anderson’s marked copy of the Hague catalogue. (The red dot was his way of saying ‘I’ve got that’). If you have a copy of the update I’d like some information on it. The catalogue has the Baron’s 1887 catalogue (L/N 46) because Kornik sent a reprint.

By the way you might notice that I refer throughout to ‘the Baron’. I was a bit confused by your use of ‘vdl’ since I could well imagine J.G. White at that period writing to either van der Linde or von der Lasa. It wasn’t until you mentioned Kornik that the fog lifted.

And now for a 19th century find of my own – found on Friday! – which very neatly raises the question “What do you mean by an Australian chess item?”

I was hunting the Library’s catalogues and shelves to see if, lurking around the place, there was anything like ‘Australian parlor...’ when, Lo! And Behold!, I ran across a copy of Professor Hoffman’s ‘Hoyles games modernised’ published in Melbourne in 1899 or 1900 by E.W. Cole of ‘Coles Book Arcade’ fame. Coles Book Arcade was a famous institution here in Melbourne, run – with a large dose of flair – by an eccentric entrepreneur. Local book-buffs can get quite excited by an E.W. Cole item, but, is this particular issue of ‘Hoyles games modernised’ really an Australian chess item? After all, old Hoyle has been around in some form or other since the middle of the 18th century.

It becomes very interesting when you compare Cole’s Hoyle with Massina’s book because on one level Hoyle and Massina are the same sort of thing. They are both books on games published in Australia with a section on chess. But there the similarity ends.

- *The input for Massina’s work was provided by local authorities, and in the case of*

draughts, the visiting Scots (?) expert James Wyllie (the Herd Laddie). It was compiled in Australia – Cole’s Hoyle was not. It was an English compilation which just happened to have had an Australian publisher. There was no specifically Australian input.

- *Massina’s ‘Australian parlor...’ came about because as the publisher’s preface puts it, “an Australian Book on Games was urgently required.” Cole’s Hoyle had a quite different origin. To get a quid E.W. Cole had simply added his own title-page and binding (Cole’s Reference Library) to the imported sheets of an already existing English book.*

*To show you what I mean by all this I have added yet another photocopy. This time it is a copy of the title page and the last page of Cole’s Hoyle. The title page has a Melbourne imprint – **but** – look at the last page (p.434). At the bottom is the colophon saying where it was printed – “Printed by Ballantyne, Hanson & Co., London & Edinburgh”.*

So there is a nice little problem for you, Bob. Is an overseas compilation, which has no Australian input but just happens to get issued in Australia, either

- a) ‘A 19th Century Australian Chess Item.’ And/or*
- b) worthy of an entry in ‘The chess literature of Australia’?*

On that subject, just as a matter of interest, I include a copy of some of the pages of the MVA manuscript on ‘Books on chess.’ (It is now numbered 8:2 in his ‘Miscellaneous papers’ and I’ve added the relevant page from the draft listing of the chess manuscripts).

It is a very interesting if rather strange document and I think that, like me, you might reckon that MVA had a pretty strict view of what was a chess book. It is positively awesome that he should plough right through the entire Hague catalogue, assess every single entry and then work out the number of how many ‘real’ chess books it had. It seems to me to be devilishly complicated, and after a bit of a look at what he said I think I might prefer to use the much more relaxed term ‘a chess item’.

But look at what he thought about Hoyle. There are the Hoyles which are on chess alone (L/N 520-21, 616 and 640) and then there are the Hoyle’s in which chess is only one of the games (L/N 3492-3523 and 3614). According to his notes on the Hague catalogue it appears he would say ‘yes’ to the first group, but scrub the second one entirely – so hard cheese to the Hoffman Hoyle I turned up. Incidentally, it looks as if it would be a variation on L/N 3521 (MVA would have made it 3521.2 or something in his collection).

What MVA is doing is very much along the lines of what we librarians do when we classify a book. We would put the first lot of Hoyles under the specific heading for ‘chess’ (794.1) but pop the second lot under one of the broader terms like ‘board games’ – just straight old 794 without any of the little subdivisions shown by a decimal point. That was where I found Cole’s Hoyle on Friday, and where we also have ‘Australian parlor.’ Hidden. Perhaps we cataloguer-librarians are just another version of accountants. MVA in drag!

A quick return to your two eye poppers. I’ve checked out the Cleveland catalogue and found

that it lists Massina's 'Australian parlor..' but not 'Melbourne Chess Congress 1888'. Neither of them is in the Hague catalogue. But it does look as if all the games of the major tournament of Melbourne 1888 are in the van Manen collection of Australian games. One up for John!

Now for the rest of the matter in your letter.

a) *The 50th anniversary of Anderson's donation of his chess library is only about three or four years away and I think it might be worth celebrating. I mentioned it to the La Trobe Librarian yesterday and she thought it could also be a good opportunity to involve M.V. Anderson & Co.*

b) *Anderson's correspondence occupies about half a metre on the shelves and is fairly heavily on the side of the dealer/buyer. I recognize that just listing 193 names is not very satisfactory and leads to a lot of questions such as 'is there any meat?' The list as it stands probably needs to be made a little bit more specific – **but** – I will not be doing a complete descriptive list of the contents. Firstly because it would take me too much time – and at 77 my time is now running out – and secondly because we have to leave something for researchers to discover. I might try and give some brief indication of how many letters there are for each name and a very rough idea of their contents, but that is about all. MVA's material occupies only 2 shelves and I have at least another 15 to go.*

c) *I've glanced at Yalom and thought it looked interesting, but I haven't yet had the time to get stuck into it enough to make any intelligent comments.*

d) *Thanks for the extract from Chris's letter. I've passed on his remarks about the La Trobe Journal to Sandra Burt, the assistant editor, and I'll certainly look out for Q&Q.*

e) *I was very impressed with the brochure you sent on Penny's house. It's a positive mansion, and I reckon Ray White Dubbo could give the local agents a few pointers on describing a house. All those details at the bottom are much more to the point than the local boys "inner city lifestyle" or "close to Kensington's cafes and shops." As for the price of \$109,000 – cor! You couldn't get a one-bedroom 3rd floor walk-up flat for that round here.*

I'll close with a nice little anecdote in which you might see the humour. I have had to root around in the Chess Collection a couple of times in the past week and on both occasions someone asked me if I'd like a game. Me! I admit it was a bit awkward to explain that I don't play – and in a way rather embarrassing – but I did thank them for asking me.

I was thinking about it later and realised that the change to the new location has had an effect that I hadn't encountered before in the old location, and which I don't think was anticipated for the new. Apparently some players are now going to the Collection because they have already arranged to meet there, or because they hope to find someone to play against. Apart from the frequent student use of the chess tables there is now a small group of regular serious players in there of an afternoon. I've noticed them often through the week, but they were even there on Sunday. Des tells me that the students are now fronting up to the older guys and asking if they want a game – and getting one. There is so much chess being played in the Collection that it is

*taking on something of the air of an informal 'Anderson Chess Club.' And I'm sure old MVA would love it.
Regards Ken."*

Great letter and the venue of the MVA room was very classy, modern and attractive. It is all being changed again as I write and it doesn't open until the end of 2019.

Tony P's catalogues were a tough assignment for someone away from the kill as I was. My 3 bids for the Gottschall Anderssen, Linder's Schumov and Expertus's 'Chess Whimsicalities' were out. The Europeans got them all. Tony got an Overbrook 'A Century of Two Movers'.

I came up with a theory in my reply to Ken's letter above about the "Pamphlet" on the 1888 Congress in Melbourne that the Baron claimed to have. It was that Esling or Burns sent him cuttings which he combined into a booklet. They had the time as neither played in the Congress. Was it a solution? Ken replied March 14th and was pleased with the CD of the Baron/White correspondence to 1892. He felt the Baron was 'red-hot on abbreviations.' He also sent a copy of Albrecht Buschke's letter to MVA dated 16th June, 1966. It confirmed MVA was buying various items including 'Crumbs from the Chess Board' by Gilberg. Buschke was very 'anti' the Hague Catalogue of 1955 by Brummel as was MVA. It was an unpleasant letter about Dr. Niemeijer and lamented the fact that the Cleveland Catalogue at \$125 was cost prohibitive and still hadn't appeared. When it did he would not buy it.

Ken liked Buschke's letters as he put 'meat' in them and they weren't "just orders and invoices. Dreary work" he wrote.

That said I thought MVA & Buschke had become chess 'friends' and were writing letters as well as orders for books. If one wrote a letter it was usually replied to in my view. Ken started to describe the MVA letters given earlier and I will now incorporate them with his descriptions. (from p.176)

I actually liked the Hague catalogue and as I was unable to buy the Cleveland Catalogue so relied on it. There was little feedback in 'Bert' about the total number of chess books and the area of 'What is a chess book' may well be boring also but would make a few comments on "when is a chess book not a chess book? When it's a chess item?" I thought that a Bibliography should be interesting today. It should be descriptive and should have all the items/fields so that it can help a newcomer/researcher/collector know what is available. Betts was a very good book. Lusi (1969-88) was good as chess items boomed. Some of the modern one country Bibliographies like Romanian Marian Stere's 'Ro-ABC, and Belgian by Henri Serruys & Guy van Habberney along with Yugoslavia by Dusan Drajić are excellent. Karle Mokry's Czech Bib & Australia's are OK too! As is Alessandro Sanvito's Italian job, KWA can be thanked for this.

Spencer Broughton was an interesting collector and compiler of chess games and had a very fine collection of chess masters and enthusiasts letters. He was in contact with MVA 1956-57 and details of certain collectors were in those letters:

1. Dr. Bruno Bassi of Luthagsesplanaden 1.A iv Upsala Sweden. He had 1000 volumes in 1947 and a 1561 Lopez.
2. Gordon W. Thayer. Librarian of the J.G. White collection in Cleveland was taking care of 90,000 volumes including chess, folklore, orientalia Mediaeval Literature and Checkers.
3. F.L. Vaughan of GPO Box 2441 Sydney “has 40,000 games of chess compared with your over 70,000” (Writing to MVA)
4. Walter Arpad Foldeak “my good friend” of Petroczy Utca55 Budapest has one of the most beautiful libraries in Hungary.

One of Spencer’s delights was writing and receiving letters from people the world over. The Broughton family were leaving Wynnum Central in Brisbane for England and in his letter of 23rd Februry, 1957 he wrote about the 1953/4 Australian Antarctic Expedition led by John Bechervaine who told him of ‘The Southern Ocean Tournament’ played by radio between Australia (Heard Island), The French on Kerguleen Island, and the South Africans on Marion Island. John also sent details of his grandfather Robert Mayston who was a prominent member of the Melbourne Chess Club and the Mayston Cup played for annually. Mayston was also a problemist with many published in ‘The Leader.’ The family settled in Cheltenham Spa Gloucestershire. An unusual collecting area. Spencer made a request for others in Chess World 1 956 p.240

MVA and Broughton swapped poetry and here was one sent by MVA:-

*The qualities rare that we meet in a bee
In an epigram never should fail
The body should always be little and sweet
And there should always be a sting in the tail.*

His 27th April ‘bombardment’ letter included some good advice on searching the web which I quote:-

“I will try and get you some information on Boolean searching. All I could find was a handout at the Library ‘How to use the catalogue’. It gives a few brief hints on pages 3-5 but I think you might like more than that. I’m a raw amateur at this Boolean searching myself because I’m not computer literate and I’ve only begun to learn how to do it this year, but it does throw some interesting combinations at times. It will pick up words anywhere and, from what I understand, it’s how Google and the other Web searchers work. The trouble is that it also throws up one helluva lot of rubbish. To give you an example I’ve enclosed part of the result of my attempt to get dates for Christopher Ogle. I got 9200 results and still didn’t get his dates. Sure, the first entry was an interesting one about Christopher Ogle, a chess ‘patron’, taking Alekhine and Capablanca to a show in London in 1922 but it was the only one about him. The rest concerned

every known reference on the Web to 'Christopher', the genealogy of half the world's Ogle families, or the various ways it is possible to 'ogle'.

The trouble with searching catalogues for 'Chess' and 'Australia' and '19th century' all at once is that it is basically an historical approach coming, as it were, from after the event. For searching purposes it is too broad. What we really need to do, it seems to me, is to get right into the middle of it all and be a bit more specific – as specific as possible. We need to put ourselves back into that period and say, for example, "Show me what was published about Chess in Brisbane between 1878 and 1893" It was by adopting that approach that I found out about the three items at the National Library. I knew that the publisher I was looking for was operating in the 1870s so I didn't use the date approach. What I did was to search the National's catalogue for what a particular 19th century publisher 'Thomas' had printed in 'Melbourne' on 'Recreations'. Bingo. Three new items for your bibliography."

Tony P had an 1883 London by Minchin for sale with a great Australian dedication:-

ADELAIDE CHESS TOURNAMENT

1886

SPECIAL PRIZE

Presented to Mr. L.H.Bereurs by

H.Charlick for the best score

Against the prizetakers.

A very fine copy and £160 but not my area so I declined. He had attended the Bloomsbury chess auction in London and the best book was Stamma's 'Noble Chess' 1745 only a fair copy for £1100. He had recently sold the first English edition of Philidor 1750 for £700.

Bert had some interesting info on Early Ladies in Dutch Chess Clubs (4 May):-

"..I tried to find evidence of women admitted to Dutch chess clubs earlier than 1872. I am certain there were none. The two sources I used were:

H.J.G.M. Scholten "Het loopt ongenadiglijk mat"/ Het schaakleven in Nederland in de 19 e eeuw (= chess life in the Netherlands during 19th century). A doctoral thesis, published in Bilthoven, 1999 xvi+ 635 pages, clothbound.

R. Kruk and others: Dame aan zet/Queen's move. Woman and chess through the ages. Published by the Royal Library, Den Haag, 2000 163 pages wrapper.

Two ladies ms De Lelie (Amsterdam) and ms Ter Haar (Voorburg) became members of the Dutch Chess Association, when this was founded in 1873. This was more because of family relationship with the founders. The first lady that became a member of a real (male) chess club, was ms. S.M. Splinter, on October 31st, 1900. The club was Palamedes, in Leiden.

There was talk about the founding of a female chess club in the Netherlands, as early as

1864, but not sure whether there were any members. The papers ridiculed the idea:

“One sees many curious things these days. Were this not a leap-year you would not believe it. In our towns (=The Hague) there has been founded, guess what? – a ladies chess club.” Etc.

On the antiquarian chessbook front it is very quiet this year. Only a handful of items so far. The most interesting two are a fine specimen of the tournament book of Podebrady 1936 (Alekhine participated), and (a small treasure) the booklet of the chess match between England and Holland held in London in April, 1912 (L/N 5055). The latter is a very scarce item, privately published, and much sought after, because it was the first match of the Netherlands against another country, and they won!! (two years later they were beaten up by the English, in the revenge match in 1914). Found it by co-incidence in a second hand bookshop, while shopping in Utrecht. I had never seen a copy for sale or listed before, but I am certain that 25 Euro (30USD) was well worth it. Enclosed was as well a letter of the author. I was in Leiden recently and saw the book of the first two German chess congresses, Leipzig 1879 and Berlin 1881, re-bound, otherwise in excellent condition, famous provenance (small stamp on title page): Josef Halumbirek, Vienna. Price 225 Euro. I did not buy it, I am master of the books!! Maybe I will regret it.”

Bert very much liked Karel Mokry's chess book shop as the books may be cheaper there. His service is professional and very friendly. I agreed with those last two words.

Tony P's Catalogue No.42 always had bibliographic value. I did not know the 1955 Hague catalogue was reprinted in 1988 in a limited run of 750 nor the Robert Braune reprint in the same year. He had an Overbrook 'A Century of Two Movers' for sale at £100. I only bought 'ABC for Book Collectors' by J. Carter. He also had Kling & Horwitz's 'The Chess Player' 4 volumes for £550 and a most interesting French work called 'Bibliographie Anecdote du Jeu des Echecs' by Jean Gay 1864 for £600 but the French proved fatal for me. It was my kind of book.

It was sad to read of Gerd Geibel's passing. I received a note from his friend Pedro Costa Neto and I replied that Ian Shanahan was the problem editor in 'Australian Chess'

Ken was pleased to get my thanks for his work on the Anderson letters for he was the 'former' chess librarian who no longer does front of house stuff'. He also expanded the chess papers for Duke, MVA, Tate, Goldstein and Whyatt and was working on McIntosh. They would be descriptive lists. He also sent me a 'teaser' about 'someone' doing a Ph D in chess. He had heard from the inter-library section that 100 books had been sent to Queensland. As Ken wrote: "I hope the colleague up north earns his pawn-pushing doctorate. Sounds like good fun! I never found out the person's name.

In telling Ken about Jean Gay's 1864 work he replied that there was a 1981 reprint and added that 260 copies of the 1864 original were printed and 300 of the 1981 reprint. Again in French. There was no doubt in having Ken as a friend I was a step in front with research. I then asked him about Gay's book and could he send the "Table Des Matiers" (Book stories on chess). He did and the chapter headings were enticing. Take p.215 about 'echecophobes.' They are chess-haters and St. Bernard was one. It seemed that Abbots hated chess because all the monks were

playing and not praying and thus wasting candles.

Ken sent the three pages of ‘haters’ but they were all ancient.

Back on the Ph D aspirant, the subject was “how one goes about beating a computer at chess.” Well, good luck with that as Kasparov couldn’t. The borrowing went up to 400 books so no one could doubt the earnestness. Reading those or even browsing them makes one hope the Ph D was awarded.

Bert’s children or young adults now were going well. Erik was 17 and wanting to work internationally and Odilia passed her first year Medicine. That good news surely allowed Bert to sneak a look at his chess books and he met Alessandro Sanvito at the KWA Congress and other collectors from Belgium and Sweden. He bought ‘Philosophie de Schach’ by Junk 1918 in a book market at The Hague and in a second hand bookshop in Utrecht picked up; The ‘1906 Jubilee book of Akademischer Schach Club Munchen’

Tony P sent Vol.2 of the ‘Best of Chess Life & Review’ which I had been after for many years. And told me of the massive prices for some old books :-1584 Lopez £2500 at Sothebys a Greco 1689 for £1900 at Klittich. Even the Christmas Series were all about £60 and the rarities up to £300.

Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and I wrote Ray Kuzanek about that. My Narromine friend said it must have affected the St. Louis Cemetery where the Morphy Mausoleum was but that was minor to the effect on the people.

An unusual request came from a Dr. Harold Thimms of Alberta Canada who asked KF about a ‘Lam’s’ Chess set. We thought it probably was G.R. Lamparter (1900-1984) and pre WW2. He was a German who settled in Australia in 1930 and went into business in Melbourne. A strong chess player and Victorian champion in 1933. The chess set was tough and it went back and forth before Ken solved it. He had filled in the gaps and importantly found another person involved William George Lambert. It seemed that the two linked in making the ‘Chess Direction’ sets and references in ACR 1939 p.176 pointed that way. Ken also made the clever suggestion that ‘Lam’s’ chess set may be a double whammy referring to Lambert an engineer on the Vic. Railways & Lamparter

I was lucky in Tony’s 43rd Catalogue getting the Pauly by Stere which was simply outstanding. The author Marian Stere had created one of the finest chess problem books ever published. Others bought were ‘A Hour with Boden’ by Fisher, also his ‘Pindar’ book, ‘The Buke of Chess’ and the 7th Anniversary of the Yorkshire Chess Association.’

John van Manen’s chess papers took up Boxes 27-45 in the MVA collection and his correspondence with others from 1961-1982 and mine from 1975-1993 were known to me, the Miscellaneous Papers that included photocopies of ‘historical’ letters especially Viners were very interesting. His Tournament Tables took up 3 boxes, Score Sheets 6 boxes and Tournament Record Cards 4 boxes. An impressive collection and with 13 boxes in the ‘play’ area these were major areas in which John and I were not compatible.

One book that did not make it into 'The Chess Literature of Australia and New Zealand' was 'The Chess Players Bible' by James Eade published Dec. 2004-256 pages. Ringbound with hard covers and published by the ABC! And produced by Quarto Publications, The Old Brewery, 6 Blundell Street, London, N& 9BH. Why wasn't it? Well, I have just found the note in my 2005 file. I still haven't seen the book.

It was always enjoyable to rescue ancient chess books and bring them 'home'. One item found in a Blue Mountains bookshop was 'Saxon's Everybody's Guide to Chess and Draughts' by H. Peachey (nd but 1896) It was battered and had children's doodlings throughout but a 28 page problem section. I liked the 'Preface' which said "this is not meant to be an ambitious book."

I also bought Irving Finkel's 'Games-discover and play 5 famous ancient games' 2005 British Museum. The games were Duodecim Scriptorum, Ur, Senet, Parchisi and Snakes and Ladders. It was a very pretty thing. I also bought a Sam Loyd '15 Puzzle' at Selwins Science and Puzzles shop at Hazlebrook but was saddened to see Sam was not acknowledged. It is a beauty and very well made, I can recommend it,

Morphy made a good link between Chris Ravilious and myself and I wrote him 9th November, about 'Madam Castel's Lodger' by Frances Parkinson Keyes. The Lodger and Morphy were related as the Lodger was the Civil War General Pierre G.T. Beauregard. And when Mrs Keyes rented this home in New Orleans she found out the history and decided to buy it and renovate it. It took her 18 years and is owned by The Keyes Foundation today and still called Beauregard House. Ray Kuzanek visited it some years ago.

What was eerie was how I got the book as next to Norma's aunt's property on the Culgoa River, 500 miles NW of Sydney was a deserted and dilapidated house owned then by the Johnston family who were related to Norma's aunt. In the early 1980's there were some terrible floods and we were out there just before the first and during the early part. We went to the old home which was on the river bank and saw the water just starting to come in and the book was one of a few rescued. It was damp but dried out OK.

Tony P was a wonderful dealer and his latest buys and at the Bloomsbury auction some were from the Birmingham Chess Club Library. Condition not so good and repairs and rebinds were needed with some. He saw an Actius 1583 £1600, Hunneman's 'Selection of 50 Games by the Automaton' £700, Greco's 'Chess Made Easy' 1750 £800, Lambe's 'History of Chess' 1764 £420, Severino's 2 in 1, 1690 for £1300 but he didn't get any! Oh well he offered me The Shumov by Linder 1959 but I passed this time as foreign language books were just too hard. He bought a lot from Barrie Ellen who was closing his shop. Barrie and his wife were retiring and very nice people. His latest list showed the Carrera 1617 reprint for £50.

I sent Chris R my best wishes for 2006 and told him that Norma said I had no shame about being a Luddite and when I was in a smart Dubbo store trying to buy typewriter ribbons, the young Miss said "No Sir, we haven't got those any more." I could see Norma smiling out of the corner of my eye but this Luddite T Rex then asked "Do you have any ink for stamp pads?" To which she said they did and so I reinked the ribbon. 1 for Bob.

KF told me there was a high borrowing rate from the SLV from other libraries but that older chess books were rarely requested because:-

1. There are few chess researchers in our neck of the woods and
2. The Internet has made a vast difference in the way people research now.

Ken lists were to be added to the catalogue and would hopefully encourage readers to use the collection. There was not much use and requests for information were 1/month. The Tate material was monstrous and great to read the excerpts of Tate's problems and stories of this lovely man. Henry Tate (1873-1976) was a poet and Geoff Foster sent me Tate's collection in a book bought from The Cornstalk Bookshop Glebe. Kind of Geoff.

It was good to get Christmas cards from Maria Luczak at Kornik and Jean Mennerat.

2006:

Esling's 'Some Memories' were sent on CD to Harald Ballo, Jean Mennerat and Maria Luczak to repay some of their kindnesses over the years. Harald had sent 'Die Ausstellung' and 'Geschichte des Deutsche Schachbundes,' 1861-1945 - lovely books.

Jean replied that he wasn't buying more books because he didn't have space! He had been ill for 2 years and was not well.

The wife of the late Problemist Alex Goldstein passed away on 6th January. Sophie was 88. The obituary notice said it all *Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, France, Australia - Dressmaker, Chef, Survivor. Now at peace after a long life. Humourous, independent, admirer of world literature, multi-lingual. To sit at her table full of delights was an education and a pleasure.* I sadly never met her on my only visit to their apartment in January, 1978.

Some nice web photos of various KWA members and Bert was in all of them. One with Michael Negele, one in front of his 'treasures' and the third with chess friends Alessandro Sanvito, Bernd Ellinghoven, Norbert Freiburg and Hans Jurgen Fresen.

Chess book collecting was alive and well.

I sent KF my drafts of A.G. McCombe and A. Burns for correction and contact with Greg Wilson and his partner Daphne was made through the University of Newcastle's Archivist John di Gravio, an old chess friend. This was to be the start of the hunt for Newcastle Chess History. (Newcastle, NSW)

The Pratt Philidor Vol.1 £35 and the Robert Braune facsimile £15 were bought from Tony P. He bought quite a few items in the last Klittich Auction and a collection of a former member of the Hampstead Chess Club. Tony was thinking about cutting out hard copy catalogues. Understandable and in some ways helpful for distant members, as we all had a chance digitally.

Paul Dunn had polished John van Manen's 'Bibliography of Australian & NZ Chess Literature' and it was now ready for the ACF website. His index was excellent.

I contacted Bob Moore in the USA as he was selling the late Edgar Holladay's collection for his widow and bid for the Gilbert Dobbs Overbrook's 'A Chess Silhouette' at \$120 US.

The BIG BOOK SCAN was on and Oxford University Library and the New York Public Library were underway. It was expected Google would take 6 years to complete the 32 million books. Peter Martin in his Herald article 29th December, 2005 wrote :-

".....Just about every book ever written in the English language."

Could that be right? Microsoft was scanning The British Library books out of copyright but Google was scanning EVERYTHING unless instructed not to do so. The court cases started.

Ken sent Norma a get well card which she liked. Her problem of sciatica would not get better.

Bert sent a very interesting letter 16th April, part of which is below:-

"Did you hear or read of the two important chess history discoveries during last year? The less important being the find of the score of the missing game (2nd game out of the four) from the match Nimzowitsch vs Bogoljubov, 1920. Peter Holmgren discovered an envelope with original score sheets of games played by Spielmann, Nimzowitsch, Bogoljubov, Reti and the strongest Swedish masters of the time. Among these was the long missing 2nd game of the match. The second discovery sounded to me like the discovery of the holy grail. A manuscript version of the Vicent book (1495), the allegedly missing link between old and new chess. Found in an Italian library. I understand there will be a publication in English by end of this year. I quote from a KWA message:-

"On last November 7th, our KWA member and friend, the great chess historian Jose A. Garzon, presented in Valencia his last book "El regreso de Francesch Vicent. La historia del nacimiento y la expansion del ajedrez modern" ("The return of Francesch Vicent. The history of the birth and expansion of modern chess") ...After five centuries, the author "locates" Vicent 1495 book in an Italian manuscript. Also discovered, slightly unexpectedly, is a new treatise by Vicent and clarifies the real link that exists in the books by Vicent, Lucena and Damiano.'

Towards the end of last year I was very fortunate to find some old bibliographical works in a second-hand bookshop -

Oettinger's 1844 Bibliotheca shahiludii (LN 15), alas, without covers, but a very uncommon edition.

The 1875 catalogue of van der Linde's collection (LN 30), still in its original boards. I learned afterwards that it is one of the rarest Dutch chess related works.

The 1878 catalogue of the chess collection of the late George Allen (LN 37), with the original

covers bound in.

Ritaukaskra landsbokasafnsins 1901, with Fiske's chessbooks on pp. 9-28 (LN 63). I acquired them for very reasonable prices."

What a coup! And, who owned them before Bert? Astonishing but those that seek sometimes shall find.

David Lovejoy visited the MVA and read a lot of material on Savielly Tartakower as Ken was informed. And so, David's great journey on the ST book had started.

Tony's Cat No.42 was a high and low point for me. There was Vol.9 of CPC and GHDG's 'Text Book' and 'Complete Chess Guide.' Was I excited! As Vol. 9 had been the gap existing for 30+ years since I bought the other volumes from Fred Wilson in the 70's. Moral-never get too excited until the book(s) are in your hand. I MISSED IT!

One non chess item very relevant to chess in Australia was Pam Baragwanath's book "If the Walls could talk." A Social History of the Mechanics Institutes of Victoria. KF sent me some Pages - they were terrific as a lot of chess was played in those places in the 19th century as in the UK where they started and NSW. The School of Arts and Mechanics Institutes were the birthplaces of organized chess. Ken also made a good discovery in the MVA correspondence which "prior to the mid-fifties are light on." MVA became a passionate collector after that. I will tell a story against myself here as a cautionary tale of the stupidity of late teenagers/early twenties, myself mainly. I wrote to MVA using a pseudonym 'R.D. Jones.' I even have chess books won in solving tourneys with that name on them. I said to mum "Have you seen a letter from the State Library of Victoria, Mum?" "Oh yes" she said, "I saw that letter addressed to someone named Jones and returned it to the postman." That was as close as I got to contacting the great Magnus Victor Anderson. KF laughed like anything when I told him.

The Melbourne Library talk with Ken made me think of Cecil Purdy's beautiful reply in Chess World p.80 April, 1951 when the Melbourne Chess Club was kicked out of the Athenaeum:-

"No longer will Collins Street be able to bask in the glamour of the royal game. And the Athenaeum despite its classic name, must perforce sink to the level of the other plebian buildings in that thoroughfare, no longer hallowed by Caissa. But Flinders Lane -what a metamorphosis! It has crossed the invisible dividing line between the mundane and the picturesque. A denizen of Flinders Lane may now hold his head up proudly - like the inhabitants of Montmartre who identifies himself with art because art students congregate in the neighbourhood.

*For he on honey dew hath fed,
And drank the milk of paradise."*

See Chess World November, 1950, p.254 for the Court case which removed the MCC from Collins Street to Flinders Lane.

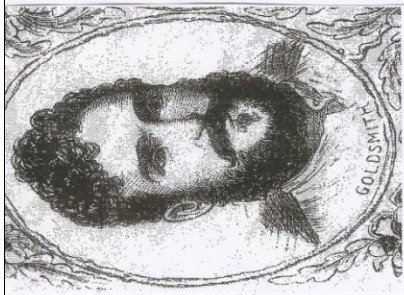
A new enthusiast of Bert from Texas, Wayne Wyllie responded to my snail mail thanks. It started a correspondence.

Bert's postcard from Eguishem was lovely but no chess books!

I ordered Cazeau's 'The Anatomy of Chess', The Return of Francesche Vicent by J. Garzon, "Kings Commoners and Knaves, and 'Chess Facts and Fables' by E. Winter from Tony's Cat 46.

There was a very nice 4 page article in Better Homes and Gardens, February. 2003 on outside chess sets worth building.

And Ken inspired me with the strong Prussian chess player Edward Thonen who lost his life defending at the Eureka Stockade near Ballarat in 1854 with some great material on this struggle between the miners and the Government. I decided to write an article for Australian Chess. I had another 'go' at the 1873 engraving/sketch mentioned earlier in these notes as it gave an opportunity to put faces to the early chess players via the hour glasses. Victoria had defeated NSW in the telegraphic match +4-2=1 and I called it 'The Hour Glass Puzzle'. Ken was kind enough to say my guesses were good ones but not perfect. There were some assumptions and I include it as the article has not been published. I had given it my best shot. Here it is -



1872



STANLEY 1888



FISHER? →

BURNS? 1885



↑ INTERCOLONIAL CHESS MATCH.—MELBOURNE PLAYERS IN THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE.—SEE PAGE 562.

- ↑ GOLDSMITH
- ↑ HEAR
- ↑ STANLEY
- ↑ BURNS
- ↑ 1873
- ↑ STEPHEN
- ↑ PHILLIPS
- ↑ SEDGWICK

THE HOUR GLASS PUZZLE

MATCH THE NAMES OF THE CHESS PLAYERS TO THE FACES

The sketch from the *Illustrated Australian News* 4 December, 1873 may be the earliest likenesses of the top Victorian chess players of that era.

It is worthwhile attempting identification from the details available.

The Intercolonial match between Victoria & NSW was an annual event held on the Prince of Wales birthday 10th November, 1873. The board positions were:-

Board 1. L.Goldsmith (1846-1911) White pieces vs F.J. Gibbes of NSW

Board 2. W.R. Stephen (1826-1899) Black pieces vs C.M. Fisher

Board 3. H.Heap (?-?) White pieces vs W.Crane

Board 4. S.W. Sedgfield (1837-1883) Black pieces vs R. Smith

Board 5 A. Burns (1831-1901) White pieces vs T.Ryan

Board 6 J.S.Stanley (1846-1928) Black pieces vs C.G. Heydon

Board 7. L.S. Phillips (1846-1891) White pieces vs P.B. Walker

The finishing order of the games was 1.Board 4 win Vic in 26 moves; 2.Board 5 win Vic.22 moves; 3.Board 2 win NSW 44 moves; 4.Board 1 win Vic 46 moves; 5.Board 6 draw in 54 moves; 6. Board 3 win NSW in 41 moves & 7. Board 7 win Vic. 56 moves. Giving a final result of a win to Victoria of +4 -2 =1

FACTS/EVIDENCE/SPECULATION

There are 3 players 27 years of age Goldsmith, Stanley & Phillips.

Board 1 Goldsmith is clearly sketched on the far left hand side second from the rear.

Evidence from a cricket photo when he played for Victoria supports this claim.

Board 5 Burns wore glasses in an 1896 photo and other sketches such as the Blackburn simul and in this 1885sketch and the 1873 sketch appears of fair complexion. The claim is solid if not complete. That is him with glasses in the centre of the sketch.

The other two 27 year olds are not simply identified.

THE HOUR GLASSES- When a glass is laid horizontal it indicates the game is over. The sketch shows 3 hour glasses in that position with perhaps others that cannot be seen. Note that Goldsmith's glass is still recording time. As his game was the fourth to finish a fair claim is that the sketch was drawn after the first 3 games finished to enable the sketcher to draw all the players before they left. This shows that ONLY 3 hour glasses were horizontal and speculation can proceed on trying to place names to faces.

As Sedgfield (36) and Stephen (47) were finished before Goldsmith that must be them in the front of the sketch because their hourglasses are laid flat. The older player appears to be on the left. So that is possibly Stephen and the right hand player is Sedgfield.

This leaves Heap, Stanley & Phillips. Heap is the mystery man, This was his only game for Victoria and he does not appear in any other tourney records. Based on that fact he is probably the furthest player from the sketcher. That is him behind Goldsmith. Vanity plays its part and would not the more prominent chess players want to be sketched? It is also clear this player is older.

The other players not recognized are the two 27 year olds. Stanley & Phillips. From a sketch at the 1888 Australian Ch'ship the player on the left rubbing his beard could be Stanley. He does look older than 27 with receding hair but the later sketch shows him almost bald. And this leaves Phillips as the right hand player with the prominent forehead.

It would be nice to use the colour of the pieces in the sketch to help identification but it is not possible. For example Stanley & Sedgfield both had the black pieces and that is difficult to determine from the sketch even though their boards are at the front. I also played through the games and the sketcher has not drawn legitimate game positions.

The players did not sit in board rank. Burns sits in solitary isolation which seems sound as he was the champion. The two 27 year olds sit together. Heap as the least known is at the rear. Sedgfield & Stephen were prominent in chess circles and are at the front. One might also speculate that as their games were finished they may have been 'posing' for the sketcher. Burns also gives that impression.

Bob Meadley Friday the 13th !! October 2006

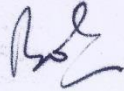
Dear Ken, we showed some judgement not coming to Melbourne this weekend. It is terrible here so early and leaving our garden to our dear neighbours would have been bad form. Jack Cale is a great chap but he's on walking sticks now yet keeps his own vegie garden up yto speed. I drove some steel posts in for him a few days ago to help him hold on as he gets around. Very good tomatoes by the looks of it. His wife is away looking at gardens in Berry on the coast. A bus tour by the Garden Club. Britons all.

My copy of Vicent is on the way from TP.

Have puzzled over the sketch for quite a while until the hourglasses hit home. Yes they could just be artistic but a case has been built up for what could be THE FIRST chess sketch of the earliest top players. I know I have been on this before but am now happy that it has had my best shot.

My Aunt Kathleen turns 100 on 22/10 in Hull.

Regards Bob.



P.S. Do you know of ANY OTHER SKETCHES OF THOSE PLAYERS?

CHess NOTE.

Chess has included amongst its celebrated votaries the following celebrated men:—Burton (Anatomy of Melancholy), Earl Chatham, Helvetius, Commenius, the grammarian; Conde, the French General; Cowley, Denham, Lydgate Poets, Sir W. Jones, Leibnitz, Charles XII. of Sweden, Sir Walter Scott, Raleigh, Rousseau ("Jean Jaques"), Voltaire, Frederic the Great, S. Warren, Warton, Benjamin Franklin, Buckle, the historian; Tamerlane, Richlieu, Edmund Burke, Wollaston, Chamfort, St. Foix, Marmontel, Grim, Marshal Saxe, Philidor, the musical composer; Dr. Roget, the mathematician; Ferdinand of Arragon, Holbach, Diderot, D'Alembert, A. Jaubert, Duc de Bassano, Murat, Marshal Berthier, Eugene de Beauharnais. Most of Napoleon's Marshals were chessplayers. In philosophy, science, and art it claimed such representatives as Lord Bacon, Euler, Schumacher, Wolff, and Tomlinson. The eminent astronomer, Mr. R. A. Proctor, is known as a chess problem composer. Robespierre, the French revolutionist, was very partial to the game. Henry I., of England, was a chess player. So was each of the following great names:—Charlemagne, Sebastian, King of Portugal; Philip II., of Spain and his favourite prelate, the celebrated Ruy Lopez, the chess bishop; the Emperor Charles V., Catherine de Medicis, Pope Leo X., Henri Quatre, Queen Elizabeth, Louis XIII., Louis XIV., James I of England, William of Orange, the witty Sydney Smith, General Haxo, Mery the poet, Lacretelle the naturalist, Flaxman the sculptor, Sir W. Jones, poet and linguist; Vila, the Latin poet; the late eccentric Duke of Brunswick, who was a strong player and liberal patron of the game; the late Howard Staunton, whose knowledge of Shakespeare and Elizabethian literature was as great as of chess; the late Mortimer Collins, poet and novelist; Cunningham, the historian; Kempelen, the mechanician; Staudigl, the opera singer; Hyde, Douce, Barrington, Sir F. Madden, Professor D. Forbes, Orientalist; Admiral Tchichakoff, who opposed Napoleon's passage of the Beresina; Sir John Harrington, the learned and brilliant godson of Queen Elizabeth. The late Lord Lyttelton was a strong chessplayer, and was President of the British and Counties Chess Associations. Baron Rothschild, of Vienna, one of the wealthiest men in the world, is a lavish supporter of chess; and so was the late American millionaire, Commodore Vanderbilt. M. Grevy, the eminent French statesman and late President of the Versailles Assembly, is a skilful chessplayer. Coming nearer home, we find that the Hon. Graham Berry, the Protectionist premier of Victoria, is also the premier player of Geelong. Lord Lytton, the Viceroy of India, has a strong liking for the game; and the two Princes Ouroussoff, of Russia, are players of the first grade. The Duke of Wellington was a chessplayer of more than the moderate skill of his great rival—Napoleon. The late lamented Prince Albert cultivated the princely pastime. Her Majesty the Queen also plays chess, and H.R.H. Prince Leopold distinguished himself at Oxford as an excellent player. The late Napoleon III. patronised the game, and gave a trophy, known as the "Emperor's Prize," at the Chess Congress in Paris in 1867. The Emperor Francis Joseph imitated his example at the Chess Congress in Vienna in 1873.—OBSERVER.

1/12/1877 p 933.
SYDNEY MAIL.

The Sydney Mail of 1st December, 1877 p. 933 was in this file and had a chess note on all the famous people over the centuries who had played chess such that it was scanned and is on the previous page. Some good names were on it.

The Vicent by Garzon arrived and Norma called it 'a modern printing classic' It was a truly lovely historical hard back beautifully printed. Neville Ledger ordered 3 from Tony who told me of a very fine review by Gareth Williams in Chess (UK) 2006, p.18/19

Bob Moore sent me his fine article on the J.G. White Collection which is repeated here. He was the dealer involved in the Holladay sale. Here it is:-

John G. White and his Wonderful Legacy by Robert Clyde Moore

The average person knows the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is at Cleveland but does not know the John G. White Collection, which holds by far the largest and most comprehensive chess collection in the world, is also there. This unique collection of chess, folklore and orientalia, representing over seven thousand dialects, exists because of a remarkable Cleveland attorney, who lived from 1845 till 1928.

As a boy, John G. White was left with a kind bookseller, who let him read any book, while his mother shopped. Since John wanted to finish the book while in the shop, he learned to speed-read which led later to his habit of easily reading four or five novels a day.

By the time John reached Western Reserve College, his rugged individualism and character were already noted. He liked the library and literary societies, and disliked textbooks and fraternities. From debates in literary societies, John learned to think better on his feet than with a pen in his hand. He studied the classics, mathematics, science, Greek and Latin; much from these subjects was learned outside the curriculum. John taught himself to read German, French, Italian and Spanish. When his knowledge became so extensive, he found some errors in the textbooks. John said he was more interested in what he made of himself than the marks he received. As the salutatorian at graduation, John delivered his commencement speech in Latin.

After graduation John read law for three years. In those days admission to the bar was by oral examination. Because John's qualifications were superior, his examiner asked him only to state the first duty of a lawyer. John's answer was "To collect his fees." (John was noted for his sense of humor. When the 'Reserve Weekly' mistakenly published his obituary, John scolded the editor about the short space, and signed his letter "The Astral Spirit of John G. White" with return address as Heaven. He also joked that his English ancestry gave him "the God-given right of the Englishmen to be wrong, with excuse.")

John was a brilliant and vigorous attorney with a forceful personality. He tried all kinds of cases and prepared them with dedication and skill. John became an expert in municipal law, admiralty, church, real estate, and common law. On a tour of a great cathedral in England, John displayed extensive knowledge of church history and law. His guide, consequently assumed he was of high ecclesiastical rank and then escorted the party through parts of the cathedral previously restricted to royalty and church dignitaries. After this incident, his friends called him 'Bishop'

Because of his great success in trying cases, John eventually became unofficial dean of the Cleveland bar. He never became a judge because of one provision of the ABA, which stated members could not be critical of judges. John criticized judges for misconduct and incompetence and actively worked to get them removed. (Once during a trial John told a judge if he would just listen to him, the judge would learn more about the case.)

John's father was also an attorney and a chess enthusiast; they played sightless chess on walks. John played some friendly games with Zukertort during the 1880s. Although he lost most of the games, his performance was considered creditable. John's chess correspondents included the foremost chess historian Harold J.R. Murray, the great problem patron Alain C. White, and the problemist Eugene B. Cook.

When John inherited his father's chess library in the 1870s, he pitched into book collecting with the same energy and enthusiasm devoted to his law career. He started collecting each and every varied edition of books relating to chess. John eventually learned to read 29 languages and dialects to varying standards to learn more about his chess books. Between 1899 and 1928 he donated about 77,000 books to the public library; the library was bequeathed his world-famous personal library on chess and checkers, about 12,000 volumes, in 1928. John's personal fortune was used for books and an endowment, the total value was well over a million dollars. What a legacy from Cleveland's most prominent citizen for over fifty years!

The fantastic collection of chess ranges all the way from 12th century Arabic manuscripts to contemporary works. Literature in Europe dates back to the 13th century. The collection is well developed from works in medieval Spain, medieval Italy (manuscripts of *Bonus Socius* and *Civis Bononiae*, 14th – 16th Centuries), and 17th Century France and Germany. The works of numerous important authors appeared in great numbers in Western Europe in the 18th Century: holdings include most editions. The 19th Century is richly represented by works from Great Britain and Germany. (As a single example, there are 36 works shown on chess by George Walker, including four of his manuscripts).

Holdings became very comprehensive by the last decade of the 20th Century. Between 1986 and 1990 there were about 345 titles, 675 volumes added annually. Regarding 1996 statistics:

“The chess/checkers collection includes 34,300 volumes of books and serials, including 6,644 volumes of bound chess/checkers periodicals.” One analysis showed 80% of beginners' books were written in English while 90% of advanced books were written in European and Slavic languages.

The comprehensive material relating to the problem world in part includes: rare to contemporary literature (manuscripts, books, periodicals); chess column collections; indispensable information for historians and researchers (correspondence and documents of composers. Indexes, biographies, obituaries). Most importantly, there are about a million problems (including fifty-one boxes arranged alphabetically by composers)!

The chess composer can find many treasures. (I will never forget holding the chess composition sketchbook of George E. Carpenter.) Magazines include the first chess problem magazines

published in Holland: 'Sissa', (Wijk bij Duurstede, 1847-74).

Some manuscripts and book treasures include:

Montigny's original manuscript 'Les Stratagemes des Echecs' (3 vols. n.d.) 'American Chess Nuts' (1868); Miron J. Hazeltine's manuscript 'Chess Autographs', End-games and Problems (s.l.: 1891); 'A Century of Two-Movers' (1941); 'A Sketchbook of American Chess Problematists,' 2 vols., (1942); and Alain White's famous Christmas Series classics include 'Sam Loyd and his Chess Problems' (1913); 'The Good Companion Two-Mover' (1922); 'Bohemian Garnets' (1923); 'The Chess Problem' (1926) and 'A Genius of the Two-Mover' (1936).

Grandmaster Toma Garai wrote to me that the John G. White Collection would be a 'central piece' in Europe. It should be a recognized special exhibit in America!

List of References

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The Chess Collector, Volume VI, Number 2, April, 1997

This article was published in the July/September, 2001 issue of 'Strategems'.

I thanked Bob for the above article as I had been an admirer of J.G. White ever since starting collecting. And I mentioned the need to be 'on guard' no matter what sort of second-hand book shop or Charitable shop or old wares shop one was in. Not long before I retired I went into 'Battler's Mate' our little towns tourist shop and my trainee Mark said to me "Why are we in here Bob. He doesn't sell food?" I nodded as that was true and when he saw me slipping through the old books he replied 'Bob, you won't find any chess books in here". I nodded and kept on looking where I eventually found 'Searching for Bobby Fischer' by Josh Waitzkin for \$3. A book I wanted but had never bought. It was in among old early 20th century novels and had just been jumbled in there. My son-in law Graeme has made some amazing pick-ups in charity shops. He bought me the 2nd edition of 'Chess Made Easy' by Purdy & Kosh 1943 - the army edition for \$2. I had paid much more for later issues. He also picked up 'Bobby Fischer Goes to War' which I was reading at the time I wrote to Bob. We could say Franco Pratesi really dug deep when he found that Vicent Ms in the Biblioteca Malatestiana in Cesena Italy. I wish I'd been a fly on the wall when he did. We have read of Bert giving out a cheer at a book coup but Pratesi

The year was nearly ending and I wrote to Chris Ravilious about David Lawson's adamant view (p.322 of 'Pride & Sorrow') that Morphy had not played F.H. Lewis when he arrived in England

in summer 1858. There was enough in Hoffer's Chess Monthly 1889 p. 322 to indicate that they did. It sure was eerie that p.322 in two different books gave opposite opinions. Lewis was well respected, a lawyer and born 1834-1889). He and Morphy were similar ages, same profession and would have had a great chat.

2007:

Bert was playing chess solidly and finished 3rd in a blitz tourney at Laandgraaf. On chess acquisitions "nothing spectacular" He was very interested in David Lovejoy's Tartakower project.

An English relative of Alexander George McCombe of 'Chess Frauds' fame contacted us and was rewarded with the McCombe article published in December, 06/January, 07 issue. A really weird coincidence

Chis Ravilious was back on Morphy and his early opponents in England on arrival June, 1858. I was certain there would always be mysteries about that as there was about his best friend Charles Maurian who married Marie Meffre Rouzan in February just before the occupation of New Orleans by the North in April, 1862. Was Paul Morphy at it? Surely.

Tony's early 2007 catalogue arrived and I bid for GHDG's 'Chess Players Pocker Guide' £25 and 'Sammlung von Schachaufgaben' by Gottschall £30 and the Luneberg Variation. Got them all and really enjoyed Luneberg.

One of the McCombe researchers, Cousin Avril, turned up at the MVA on a Ken free day but the system handled it. I sent Ken a short family tree of the McCombes including the new material from the descendants.

Ray Kuzanek sent me copies of the 15 Edge/Fiske letters and I started to transcribe them. Some had never been in the public arena and they were not great copies. Fortunately the Library had a good magnifying glass in Norma's room and though a 100% transcription was just not possible, we made good progress and the result was sent to Ray about a month later along with a CD of the White/Lasa letters. This was the year of the von der Lasa Seminar in Kornik-the second and we hoped to go and see Ray there as well.

I decided to write two articles for Kornik on the Baron called "The Baron's Great Rival" and "vdl/jgw2" and asked Chris R if the two had ever met as it looked like it. He agreed that they had.

Tony (27th April) made a comment on Bert which follows:-

"I recently read through your "A Letter to Bert" again. It would have been good if some other collectors had put their experiences to paper like yourself. Regarding the Christmas Series, recently a couple of people have been selling their individual volumes on ebay, several each week, and some of the prices have been amazing. Even the later, more 'common' titles are going for about £60, and some of the early ones over £150.

Most have been in very good condition which increases the price. You mentioned in "Letter"

about 36 volumes sold at auction in October, 1999, on which Bert was a lower bidder. I actually bought those and then sold on as a lot to a good Spanish customer. He now has a complete set except for the Robert Braune title I have never had another opportunity since to buy such a collection!

Interesting to read also Brandreth's comment to you in 1974, after having been dealing in chess books for about 5 years, that "demand is heavy these days." That certainly applies now even more Dale is still active in the US and I sometimes buy from him as the pound is very strong against the dollar (now £1=\$2, about 5 years ago it was only \$1.50. A customer of mine visited Dale last year and said that his stock and collection is vast, and a large amount probably uncatalogued. I suppose over the years he has bought so many collections in the US..."

My new chess correspondent Wayne Wyllie of Texas' mum passed away around this time. She was a grand age of 90 but I knew how Wayne would feel as my mother passed a few years ago.

I got Karel Mokry's 'Ceska Sachova Literature' and Calvin Olsen's 'The Chess King's' from Tony and he replied:-

"Olson's work seems quite a good book, more detailed than many other books which cover the same field, and the bibliography could be useful. Mokry's work is obviously very specialist but another valuable addition to chess bibliography."

There were 47 Lots at Bloomsbury 30th May auction. The star item was Philidor's 1750 English edition, Estimate £500-700. One volume of Purdy's ACR 1937 estimate £100-150, Fiskes 'Chess in Iceland' £150-200 and PHW's 'Chess Chatter and Chaff' which was scarce £50-70. Tony asked if I had written a Supplement to Bert and here it is 12 years later! 2019.

Ray Kuzanek had visited New Orleans and sent some details on Brennans Restaurant (the old Morphy home at 417 Royal Street). The building was erected in 1795 and today has 12 dining rooms. Owen Brennan's family opened it in 1956 as he had died in November last. The photo of the courtyard is on the web and allows one to imagine it in Morphy's day.

I finished the Edward Thonen article and wrote a limerick to entice Ken to contribute as his new position at the library (volunteer back room cataloguer) meant I had to keep him interested as he did the library research I could never do. Here was mine:-

The lemonade maker Ted Thonen
On the goldfields put up with some groanin
His cup was quite filling
But it cost a shilling
With sixpence a cert to stop moanin.

There was another problem with the stored material off-site at Ballarat and the non-computerised chess periodicals linked to MVA's card catalogue. Ken had re-catalogued the MVA books to the Dewey system but not the periodicals and helpers could not find them in storage. That problem was to be solved but he wouldn't compose a limerick! He sent extracts from 'The French

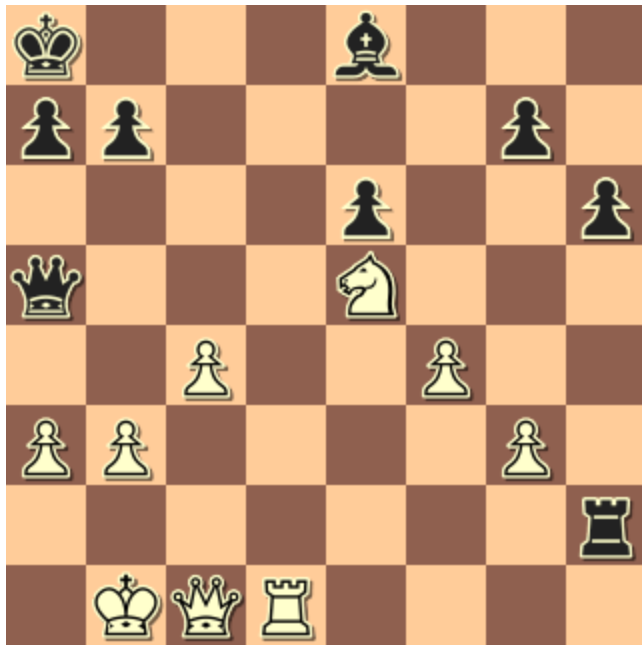
Consul's Wife: the memoirs of Celeste de Chabrillon in gold rush Australia' and these were incorporated in the article which went to 'Australian Chess.' This woman became a very strong player in the early 1850's and it reminded me of the strong chess playing women at that time as Bert had found in Holland though later. She took 3 months to learn the game her husband had played all his life and then she beat him whenever she wished! He didn't take kindly to it. I think Paulsen's sister was good too.

Kornik and Poland were out for us as my poor wife could not walk distance. Chess was still exciting as Greg Wilson kicked a massive goal in the Mitchell Library Sydney when he found two 1870 letters in the Selwyn Papers (A376) dealing with the NSW Chess Association and Reverend Selwyn in Newcastle who was urged to set up a chess club. The letters were signed by Vincent Brown and C.G. Heydon for the NSWCA, and the NSW match against Victoria by telegraph.

As for the material sent from Maria Luczak in Kornik a 43 move game between the Baron and G.A. Russell in Sydney was sent. This was a first not known until Maria got on the trail. Here is the game Russell playing White 24 Nov. 1887 Baron vdl Black:-

1.e4..d5;2.exd5..Nf6;3.Nc3..Nxd5;4.Nxd5..Qxd5;5.d4..c5;6.Be3..cxd4;7.Qxd4..Qxd4;
8.Bxd4..Nc6;9.Bb5..Bd7;10.Nf3..f6;11.0-0-0..e5;12.hRel..a6;13.Bxc6..Bxc6;14.Bb6..Be7;15.Nh4
..Kf7;16.f4..exf4;17.Nf5..hRe8;18.Bc7..g6;19.Nh6+..Kg7;20.Bxf4..Bf8;
21.h4..Rxe1;22.Rxe1..Bxg2;23.Rg1..Bc6;24.h5..g5;25.Nf5+..Kf7;26.Bd6..Ke6;
27.Bxf8..Kxf5;28.Rf1+..Ke6;29.Bg7..f5;30.Re1+..Be4;31.h6..g4;32.Kd2..Kd5;
33.b3..g3;34.c4+..Ke6;35.Ke3..Rd8;36.Bd4..Kf7;37.Bg7..Rd3+;38.Ke2..f4;39.Kf1..f3;
40.Rxe4..Rd1+;41.Re1..g2+;42.Kf2..Rxe1;43.Kxe1..g1=Q wins

There were some opening variations tried between the two on 26th November at Hunter's Hill a harbour suburb and a lovely place to visit and obviously where Russell lived. He had invited the Baron to his home via a harbour boat trip. No bridge then and a great sight for him. The Baron also included the game position between himself and Charles Maurian at New Orleans played 8th March, 1888 which was added to his letter alongside the openings played with Russell. It's probable this game is given in full in one of the USA papers but here is the position:- (see also p. 59)



(9x9) Maurian (white) to move. I can see Qc3 (if QxQ;2.Rd8++) And so Qb6 or c7 which is not written in the moves given by the Baron. Qc7 looks best. And White then plays Qd4 which wins. Perhaps Qb6? White then attacks with c5 and Black is in trouble. There are some moves given but I cannot work them out. The Baron lost this game anyway. The full game would be most interesting.

The Bloomsbury prices Tony gave me were the Purdy ACR 1937 failed to reach the reserve and bidding stopped at £75 yet a 1935 bound volume sold on ebay for £115. The 1750 Philidor English edition £900 and at Klittich a 1762 English Philidor made about £500 I got the Valerie Beim ‘Morphy A Modern Perspective’ and ‘The Weekend Problem Book’ by Phillips in Cat 49.

Bert & Regina were in Sicily; a beautiful part of the world judging by a recent TV program I saw (Alex Pollozi Sicilian Islands 2019). Again no chess books.

Universities across the world were going digital and storing the books. I did not know of the outcry several years ago here when the University of West Sydney and Macquarie University wanted to landfill all their old volumes. I wonder what happened but there should have been an attempt to sell. This article by Gerard Noonan was in the Herald of 24th September, 2007 called ‘Libraries turn page to the future.’

Local lady Liz Irvine in New Orleans sent me details on 417 Royal Street:-

417 Royal St had recently been a society hot spot known as The Patio Royale. The building dates to just after the fire of 1794 and was built by Vincent Rillieux, the great grandfather of the Impressionist painter, Edgar Degas. The Banque de la Louisiane was housed here from 1805-1820. Then it was the home of the Martin Gordon family who lavishly entertained the visiting General Andrew Jackson in 1828. Once known as the Paul Morphy house, Brennan’s building as it is now called was for a time the home of the Creole chess prodigy with a fetish for ladies shoes Young Paul Morphy was America’s first chess hero considered the World Champion in 1856 at age 15. Morphy once played 8 simultaneous games, blindfolded. Under a carpet of one of the upstairs dining rooms, now the Rex Room, is a chess board painted on the wood floor where Paul reportedly used his servants as living chess pieces! Brennan’s Restaurant moved into the Building in 1954. (Obituary Cocktail-the great saloons of New Orleans)’

Liz continued:-

“As far as we can find out, Paul’s grave is OK. We went to St. Louis 1 cemetery but the gates were chained up...there was no water in that area.” This was a post Katrina visit and I wondered at the damage. The city was a mess but a work in progress, Liz said.

Ray Kuzanek was preparing for Poland and would arrive in Warsaw 15th October to tour for a few days then to Poznan 21st October and the conference. He was to prepare for an Oral presentation on the transcribed Fiske/Edge letters. The program sent kindly by Maria was very filled with 23 speakers, a simul by Robert Hubner, 2 wonderful dinners and a visit to Kornik Castle and the Baron’s grave. Maria and her colleagues had done a great job.

One wonders where Andrew Burns the champion Victorian chess players art collection is today. He exhibited 5 of them at the Victorian Jubilee Exhibition in 1884:-

1. The Green Lanes of London –E.Wake Cook.
2. Farm at Batterleigh Devon-J.H.Mole
3. The Rehearsal-B.Gioja.
4. The Toilet-L. Tannert
5. On the Yarra near Heidelberg-L.Buvelot. A very fine artist well known today.

We went to Melbourne and Canberra for 2.5 weeks. We met Paul Dunn at the National Library in Canberra and Ken Fraser at the State Library of Victoria. I actually wrote a short article called ‘A Half-Day at the MVA’ The research was all in Charlick’s SA ‘Observer’ column in 1887 and part 1888 dealing with the Baron’s visit. Vlastimil Fiala had done research in this area also as he was a keen der Lasa fan. It was great that Charlick placed all this der Lasa material in his column I sent this to Maria 24th October -

1. 3/12/1887 “A distinguished visitor”
2. 25/2 1888 The Baron analyses the Charlick v Gossip game from the Australian Ch’ship and Charlick disagreed with his views. Quite lively argument.!
3. 3/3/ 1888:Quoting from the New Orleans Times Democrat on the Baron’s visit here.
4. 10/3/1888:-The Baron v Mr. H. at San Francisco 1/1/1888. He won.
5. 3/6/1888 The Baron v Senor Vasquez at Havana. He won.
6. 14/7/1888 The Baron’s courteous refusal letter to the Boston Chess Club as he leaves for Europe the next day. A lovely letter quoted from the Boston Weekly Post of April 6th. He even gives an inscription that he wrote in the first edition of the Handbook of copies given to his friends and which I quote: Ad docendum parum as impellendum satis. The Baron stated this became his motto through life.
7. 20/10/1888-The Chess Libraries of Cook, White and The Baron. A short comparison.

Maria told me the motto was from Cicero. (Note the middle date is the month.)

Some incredible prices paid for ACR’s on ebay 1931- £340; 1937-£206; 1935-£115; and then £70 each for 1936/7/8. (Tony P)

Bert did well getting “Platov Studies’ 1914 and The Chess Euclid” Horwitz 1849, He wrote:-
“The Chess Euclid I bought in particular because of the early endgame study compositions I was expecting to find in there, but I was a bit disappointed. They could be counted on the fingers of one hand. All the other diagrams were problem compositions. And unlike yourself, that is just not my specialty. Anyway both were beautiful items in original decorated covers. The first (Platov) being one of the limited number of luxury copies (most were in paper covers) in bland stamped purple cloth with copper colour lettering, “Endspielstudien” on front cover. Then later a subscriber copy (for W.Dawson Esq. Boston). Could be Harrwitz’ own handwriting but I am not sure.”

Odilia was 4th year med. student and Erik in physiotherapy. Regina crushed Bert’s secret desire to expand his library into their vacant rooms at home! Well, Bert, even Jean Mennerat ran into that problem. Odilia did let dad put modern chess works on one of her shelves and that looks like danger for you Bert. A formidable chess playing daughter.

The terribly sad news delivered by Francois Mennerat was that Jean had died 21st September, 2007. I guess he is Jean’s son and I replied to Francois mentioning a Christmas card his father sent me 20 years ago when he had 9000 books and how it had grown to 26,000! He was a good fellow full of years.

There was a nice article called ‘Checkmate’ by prominent journalist Leigh Sales (The Monthly November, 2007). An Interview with Ian Rogers on his retirement from top chess. Ken also sent one from ‘The Fridge’ an inhouse email newsletter about 2 chess opponents in their 70’s who met 2 or 3 times a week in the Chess Room at the MVA. They had first met in 1966 at the Melbourne Chess Club.

I was very pleased to get the abstracts on talks given at Kornik as a book was not published. Ray Kuzanek had 2 pages for his transcript talk.

The finding of our Esling film of Walhalla decided my 2008 project. I was upset we had lost them but they were in the car ashtray and as we don’t smoke that’s where they stayed until a clean-out.

Ken’s Christmas Card talked about his right eye cataract op and that now when he ate salmon he couldn’t believe how pink it was!

2008:

We had lunch with Ken Fraser twice in Melbourne. He turned 80 in January, 2008 and was still volunteering at the SLV. He sometimes wheels his oxygen cylinder in on a trolley taking various lifts to get to the Swanston Street level.

I ordered the ‘Curse of Kirsan’ by Sarah Hurst and David Shenk’s ‘The Immortal Game.’ I have read the latter at least 3 times and once when in the train from Narromine to Sydney. The 7 hour trip passed nicely.

One interesting but dear book I didn't bid for with Tony was the 20 page 'Antiquarian Chess Books in the English Language 1475-1900' by M. Clapham. I wanted it but decided the £15 was too much. I noted Tony's 50th catalogue had a 1913 Murray's 'A History of Chess' but was it the Gilt Knight Cover or plain Knight? It was a great effort to put out 50 catalogues in hard copy.

When we were in Canberra at the National Library of Australia I noted my dear late friend's name was indexed as Joynton not Johnson. This was Bernie Johnson the editor of Chess in Australia and I talked to the librarian Jutta Crosthwaite who asked me if I had any biographical material on Bernie and I sent her some from Australasian Chess Lore 5 & 6 on a CD when we got home. She replied thanking me and indexed Bernie's surname correctly so that future researchers would find out more on this lovely man who gave his life to chess.

Tony told me Barrie Ellen had passed away aged 65 and that he had bought books from Barrie as a young fellow. Barrie had produced 52 catalogues before going on line. The news that Bloomsbury's had closed their chess sales was a surprise and their specialist Luke Honey moved to Bonhams. Tony had just bought Cathy Chua's brother Chris De Pasquale's book and I recalled her clever pun "all mistakes are the fawlt of the author!"

Tony sent me Marion Ellen's address and I wrote with my sympathies. Tony mentioned *"Yes, she was very pleasant and I usually saw her at the back of the shop with Barrie whenever I called in. They had very cramped quarters dealing with orders, packing and making refreshments etc. The shop had narrow aisles and shelving up to the ceiling and barely room for two people to pass at once! It was a pleasure to search high and low for an unexpected find. Of course you probably know that chess books formed only a portion of his stock which was generally second-hand books, and always very reasonably priced. In the whole Southend area there is only one similar second hand bookshop left now, and they only have one shelf of chess books. You mention Jean Mennerat in your 'Letter to Bert' and I wonder if you noticed on the KWA website the 'In Memoriam' article about him, as he passed away back in September, 2007. His 27,500 collection was donated to the City of Belfort and it is hoped they will be able to cope with the massive size of it! KWA also refers to an article about Mennerat in 'New in Chess' No 5 2005. I can provide a photocopy if you don't already have it."* He asked an amusing question about a buyer of chess books on ebay Australia who used the nickname 'Jessiegummie shark.' Apparently a seller once addressed him as 'Dr. John' He never replied to Tony's email.

Lots of things to ponder about from Tony:-

1. The loss of bookshops - the loss of browsing.
2. The great advantage of buying books online especially for distant buyers - the lack of touching the book and examining it until you have bought it.
3. How is Belfort City Library dealing with Jean's collection and where is Belfort?
4. Who indeed is 'Jessiegummieshark' or 'Dr. John'?

Once the shops are gone people cannot meet there and have a cup of coffee and talk with each other. I called at the Pelican bookstore in Coffs Harbour some years ago and noted the fantastic

Science Fiction collection and the owner passionately talking to a prospective buyer about SF. I would have loved to have stayed and joined the conversation but was under order from she who must be obeyed. His shop had a poor location but a dealer in a better location told me to go there. I think in tourist areas such mixed shops will survive and I hope so. As for 'Jessiegummieshark' I know the wobbegong shark on the East Coast below Sydney and it is harmless to man but it swims with others! It turned out his name was Dr. John James but I didn't know him.

I told Marion Ellen that I started buying from Barrie in August, 1982 and I mentioned my cowardly behavior in not calling when we were in London in 1990. It is something today I still have guilt about and have to live with. But we all have chess guilt and that was a minor guilt to other promises I have made over the years. More in 2016 on that. Marion told me Barrie was happy in his last two years selling books from home and often said it was because there were no worries of running the shop. She hoped he could hear all the nice things said about him.

I wrote to Ken about his former boss Brian Hubber who I had met at the SLV in 2001, I think, and that he was now Director and Curator of the Norfolk Island Museum and told him of the launch of David Lovejoy's book at the Sydney International on 27th March by Ian Rogers. Also that Tony P had send me gratis the Illustrated London News page for 17th September, 1870 about 'The Great Chess Frauds' between A.G. McCombe and A. Burns.

He replied with a definition of 'gentry' second sons of whom came to Australia to get some of the free land. This was how Victoria's Western District was settled and those that followed founded Melbourne. He wondered if Tasmania held the early key to Australian chess history. A good point that I had not thought about. I asked him if 'The Austral' had been digitised.

Maria Luczak sent me "Sammlung von Schriften uber des Schachspiel" by the Baron and the reprint by Moravian Chess was good. I sent her David's book and also a copy to Wayne Wyllie in Texas.

Whilst researching in 'The Field' for Robert Johnson and his proposed book on Anderssen I discovered an obituary of Howard Staunton by Steinitz which was very critical. (See 4th July, 1874 Field)

Tony missed the Hyde at Sotheby's in March. It went for £1625 but he bought a Greco Jeu des Eschets 1689 for £480. He was still playing well in tourneys. I did like his Cat. 51 and bid for the Carrera Riposte, the Fiske, Weinreb, Whyld & Hibbert. I missed the Fiske which almost rhymes but got the rest.

Ken was indexing a rather boring set of Spiritualism pamphlets from the 19th century and said chess made a good break for him. He wrote an educational paragraph on German for me so that I would not be depressed at the big words:-

The German in the excerpts you sent was fairly straightforward. "Zeitung" means a 'newspaper. "aus" is 'from' or 'out of', and "Schnitte" is from the word to 'cut,' so in typical German logic you put it all together and get Zeitungausschnitte' which means 'cuttings from a newspaper.'

And then he gave me the bad news:- 'The Austral' was a long way from digitization.

Ray Kuzanek had been to New Orleans on April 28th and back 2nd May. Here is his fantastic letter. I wish I'd been with him:-

*“Hello Bob,
On April 28th, I flew to New Orleans for a series of meetings regarding my work. I flew back on May 2nd. I dined at Brennan’s Restaurant on two occasions and toured the Beauregard/Keyes house. My digital camera and camcorder were active at both locations!*

Searching the New Orleans phone directory, I found two Morphys: Paul III and Sylvia. I phoned Paul. He indicated that he was the great, great, great, grandnephew of Paul Morphy. He said he had no knowledge of his ancestor other than that in books. I asked if he had any memorabilia, and he said no, but an aunt had donated articles to a local museum.

I visited the museum during my lunch break the next day. I was told that Fleming donated items. They had no knowledge of Paul III’s aunt. In a display case, I was shown the 1891 bust of Paul referenced in Lawson’s book, a laurel wreath and presentation stand inscribed “New York Chess Club” 1859, a box of wooden chess pieces, a folding chess board (leather cover, approximately 2 feet square), and a small photo of Paul (my first impression was that it was not Paul; the face seemed slightly elongated and the individual older than Paul would have appeared at the stated date of 1859). I was not allowed to take photos (even without flash), but I am proceeding to order photos. There was also a hand-written unpublished manuscript entitled “The First and Last Days of Paul Morphy” by Constant Beauvais. Beauvais is the pen name of Mrs Leona Queyrouze Barel. I was shown a 1938 newspaper article advising of Mrs. Barel’s death, the intended publication of her book, and mention that she had a chess board which was found upon Paul Morphy’s death with pieces assembled in a position he was playing against himself. I am making arrangements to purchase a photocopy of the manuscript.

The manuscript is noted in Keyes bibliography. In one of your letters, you noted difficulty in obtaining one or more of the books which could have provided source material for Keyes regarding Morphy’s possible involvement in espionage during the Civil War. I have recently purchased and await delivery of “John Slidell and the Confederates in Paris”(1862-65) by Beckles Wilson, and “John Slidell” by Louis Martin Sears. The two books, along with the manuscript, should provide a reveal if there is any documentation for the espionage story. The guide at the Keyes home indicated she took ‘poetic license’ in her stories.....”

A wonderful forensic letter indicating what can be done by a collector such as Ray who, on a work task, spent his off work time at his hobby chess history and collecting. Great stuff and the manuscript by Queyrouze was icing on the cake.

Tony acquired another copy of the ‘missed Fiske’ and I bought it at £160. I love Fiske and I love Horatio White the author who honoured his literary task so many years after Fiske’s death. Tony worried about the labels and names on the book covers but I didn’t as it was provenance. He had discovered one owner was Timothy Shaler Williams of Long Island who ended up President of Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company (railroads) and who lived 1862-1930 spending some of that

time in a lovely Long Island home with a fine library of books (no chess). Well done Tony, that is provenance. There were poor prices for the books at the Bonham's auction but the chess sets sold well. He had recently bought a large collection which would keep him busy.

Clive Lane was back in business in Australia and I told Tony. I also sent my 3rd copy of David's Tartakower book to Romania and so the 3 books did have a scatter on with Texas and Kornik for the other two.

Chris Ravilious replied to my findings of 'Morphy Gleanings' that the typo mistakes in the original had still not been corrected in the Dover 1973 reprint. He agreed that Staunton could be 'testy' in his ILN column and he had worked his way through 30 years of the column noting many put downs. I include the sample he sent me and sadly they are mostly about would-be problemists!

"An Amateur"- Is it possible you can believe such childish efforts deserving of publicity? A Cambridge Undergraduate" - The second of your Enigmas is not only difficult, it is impossible. Some piece or pawn has been omitted.

"W.N.B."- A player of a week's standing would see through your Enigma at a glance.

JS-You cannot seriously intend the diagram in question for a Chess Problem.

W.M, Leamington - It is an abuse of terms to call such things Problems. Pray content yourself, 'for the present'; by solving the compositions of others, and don't attempt to construct yourself.

J.P.- is referred to our previous notice in the number for March 26th. The positions he sends, 'for the fiftieth time,' are utterly destitute of everything required to constitute a fine Chess Problem. Of the positions you call a 'problem' the less said the better. It will be quite time enough for you to attempt the composition of Chess Problems when you have played the game five years instead of only five months.

W.Lewis, it is plain, does not yet know the moves of the men. His attempt to compose a chess problem is, without exception, the most deplorable we have ever had the trouble to examine."

Tony P had kindly sent Jean Mennerat's collection article from New in Chess 2005 No.5:

"A French collector's *shining* for chess books

As so often before it all started with our dear Francois-Andre Danican. At 12 years of age little Jean inherits Philidor's famous book. At 88, Dr. Jean Mennerat is France's greatest collector of chess books. Of a Gallic bent, somehow. Even when the tigers Karpov and Kasparov came to France in 1999 to play as guest stars in the French championship held just a few miles from his home, the French doctor stayed in his paper fortress, surrounded by his 27,500 books. Competitive players don't know of him, yet he has followed and studied more than four centuries of chess publications.

Christophe Bouton visited the 'collectionneur par excellence' in his home somewhere in France.

"Remember 'The Shining?' Jack Nicholson's car slides along endless mountain roads. The helicopter films stunning landscapes. The gifted son is already wriggling his little finger. The

mother laughs stupidly. But back to reality. It's a misty day and I am driving in le Doubs, a region in the east of France. My name is not Jack Torrance. I have no Wendy beside me, just a chess friend. Nor is there an infant on board. I am not going to be the warden of a haunted hotel. Nevertheless, I have some writing projects to tell you the story of an outstanding chess collector. Whose blue eyes will transfix me when he receives me. That's where the comparison ends. There will be no killing. No axes.

From behind the misted windows the view is as surreal as in a Stanley Kubrick film. The forests impose themselves and I have trouble finding my way. 'Ah, you are looking for...?'

(Mr. Mennerat prefers not to disclose the name of his village-CB) "Never heard of it, but it must be there somewhere across the river".

A tractor passes. A dog gets up noiselessly. A pretty woman looks down her nose at us and gets back on her trike. Finally a group of walkers will give us the key to this strange treasure hunt. They are all amazed to come across this Paris registration car looking for 'the smallest village of the departement'.

There is no gigantic hotel to guard when we arrive. The big building is an old presbytery. The stones are ancient. The air is humid. This is where Mr. Mennerat, his wife and thousands of chess books are living. There are a lot more dead villagers than live ones; eight inhabitants now. A few metres from the presbytery is the cemetery, spread out at the foot of the church, as in so many French villages.

The man opens the door. He is a big, spry 88-year-old with keen blue eyes. Jean Mennerat is an old physician. Competitive chess players do not know him, yet his name has circulated around the planet of chess book collectors for more than 30 years. There are 25 steps to climb. Follow the guide. In the bend there are medical encyclopaedias and books of paintings. Not one square centimeter is wasted. And this is just for starters. Ali Baba's cave is on the first floor. Here, a hygrometer is no luxury. Radiator-like devices for absorbing the humidity are sitting on the ground.

'Please come into my office.' The doctor curses his old carcass. He has to take a seat. Not so long ago he was still driving to the market in his car, some 40 kilometres from here, in the capital of the 'departement' Besancon. Under the sloping roof, surrounded by many thousands of books, Mr. Mennerat reminiscences.

His first book: Philidor...in descriptive notation

His first chess book comes from a deceased uncle. He is 12 years old and it was 1929. It was the 'Philidor' published by Garnier in descriptive notation. I took it up again in 1936 and I told myself that I should try to understand something. There wasn't a single explanatory word about the descriptive notation, nothing. But I finally found a book to help me decode it all.

From that point on I started buying other books. The little Parisian became a medical student, and he had no more time. But his passion reasserted itself. He 'scours' the 'bouquinistes,' these second-hand booksellers along the quays of the Seine where you can buy chess books for next to nothing. This is where he acquires countless copies of the 'Greco'. Yet his passion undergoes some transformations. He is an incidental guest at the Philidor club, but his studies leave him

with too little time. His collecting 'career,' a veritable detective's game, really takes off after World War II, in 1945-46. He receives piles of couriered lists. He is starting to spin his web at international level. He writes to those names he has spotted in magazines. Together with another physician – Dr. Schlesinger- he starts 'L'Echiquier de Paris', with offices in the chambers of his colleague, who has a printing press installed there. In 1947 their collaboration comes to an end. The journal is renamed 'L'Echiquier de France'. Eventually, in 1958, to give birth to 'Europe Echecs'.

Chess trips: from auctions to libraries

Mr Mennerat waxes eloquent when he speaks about the past. But make no mistake, he doesn't ramble. He is a straight and quick thinker. And he looks at you the whole time while he talks. His character is made of tempered steel. Journalists? He stays away from them. Our first encounter goes back to 1989, outside the place where the books of Andre Muffang (1897-1989) were auctioned off in Paris. Muffang was a great collector and a strong player; he beat Alekhine and Capablanca in quickplay games – 'Active Chess' would have sounded ridiculous in those days. The dialogue coarsens slightly. A recent experience has confirmed him in his ideas. Despite his wishes, he found his photograph published in a local magazine. His plan to donate his books to the city of Belfort was made public, which made him furious. Mr Mennerat has now definitely burnt all his bridges and withdrawn into his paper fortress altogether.

At 88 years of age, he is a past master at dodging people. And he knows as much about human nature as about medicine. He only receives a handful of chess visitors each year; mainly collectors through correspondence has left him with great souvenirs. It is in this way that the doctor has garnered the bulk of his collection. And the Dutchman Cierod in Gouda, another great collector, who died a couple of years ago, became his friend. 'Each year I booked a Bed and Breakfast for two weeks in winter, and then I took the train to The Hague to visit the chess collection of the Royal Library. The staff knew me, so I could spend hours in the chess library. I went in through the "artists entrance," which was only for staff use. I was able to photocopy the titles of all the French books from the 18th century that I didn't have. That was a great time. Now you have to wait hours to get one book. Scandalous.' Because of his frequent visits to Holland he decided to learn the language. He already spoke German and made quick and easy progress. Nowadays he is a fluent reader of Dutch, and as regards the spoken language, 'I know enough to argue with the cops.' One negative memory centres on the car that, despite a prominently displayed 'invalid' sign, was towed away during a visit to an Amsterdam museum. Who said that the French are moaning all the time?

Time and again he undertook these kinds of journeys to do research in libraries big and small, both in France and in the rest of Europe. All this could only happen after his retirement, of course. But he let nothing stop him. Yet in this world of great collectors, in which the enmities are as strong as the passions, he regards himself as 'a very small fish' All his books have been indexed. Roughly 27,500 entries comprise books, brochures, 230booklet and library catalogues. Double copies are not counted, the magazines are counted as 'one for a complete volume.' Throw in between 70 and 80 books of newspaper cuttings and your head is likely to start spinning very quickly, especially when you climb a stepladder and start leafing through a book.. like a true kibitzer.

The office below boasts two computers, two printers and a photocopier. An engraving of the match Staunton-St.Amant hangs on the wall. In this room Mr. Mennerat reads his emails every day. Yes, he has become an internet adept as well. Despite this modern approach, the traditional method remains the most efficient one: the entire collection has been put on cardboard cards in a rotary file by hand. He will find any book you care to mention, and its place, within seconds. ‘Dreihundert Schachpartien?’ Yes I have all the editions, but which one do you want? Philidor? Forget it. All languages are represented, even the most unlikely ones.

When the collector turns historian.

Thanks to his network, Jean Mennerat even managed to unearth the forgotten manuscript of a French author, a certain Chapais. Chapais- ‘Essay analytique sur les Echecs – Paris 1780. ‘He was a magnificent endgame player; in 1855 or 1856, Von der Lasa, who was working in the embassy at the time, probably bought this manuscript in Paris when he came there to play. Possibly because of the very personal and ‘diabolical’ notation by the author (similar to the Manoury notation of draughts –CB) the manuscript was never published. It packs 523 pages of endgames and studies in fine, dense handwriting. It has to be transcribed into algebraic notation in order for people to be able to appreciate it. I have done 100 pages or so, but it’s donkey work. Von der Lasa left the manuscript in his castle in Prussia, in the region of Poznan, which is in Silesia these days. With the help of Polish friends I managed to get a copy of the original Manuscript.’ (More about Chapais can be found both in French and in German on the collector’s website: www.ballo.de/chapais_franz.htm) The fervent collector has transformed himself into an historian. He is one of the 122 members of the Ken Whyld Association, which was founded two years ago at the initiative of the Dutch collector Dr. Jurgen Stigter (www.kwabc.com)

After all these veritable odysseys undertaken for the sake of this beloved past of chess manuscripts Mr Mennerat retains the enthusiasm of a young man. He reminisces about some discussions with Tartakower as if it was yesterday. He quickly continues back to earth again with his physician’s take on the hygienic circumstances of the life of the brilliant champions. Then he returns to the 21st century: ‘Writing in red in Word? But tell me, how to do, Monsieur Bouton?’

This exquisite mixture of malice and politeness is typical of the doctor. Even when he assures us that he has studied the problem of the ‘wives’ of chess players.’ His own has been ‘remarkable’ in that she allowed him to chase all over Europe pursuing a passion that was ‘really’ all-pervading.

Barely two hours have passed, and we already have to go back. Although you wouldn’t think so, Mr Mennerat is always on his guard when confronted with journalists. A final jab, on the threshold; What is the psychology of a collector? ‘Touche’

Silence, Dr Mennerat is not the villainous Dr No. He thinks for moment, and then his reply is like a confession: ‘It is like a defence’.”

And Tony followed up with Luca Pacioli –De Ludo Schachorum- circa 1500
Collectors Corner by Gareth Williams. From CHESS May, 2008

“Until recently the mathematician Luca Pacioli (ca 1455-1517), a friend and associate of Leonardo da Vinci, was simply known as an author of a lost book on ‘New Chess’, the period when the Arabic ‘firzan’, a weak male minister next to the king, only able to move one square diagonally at a time, was miraculously transformed into a female warrior with the courage of Boudicca, the guile of Elizabeth I and the power of Queen Isabella, (1451—1505).

Isabella is believed to be the real inspiration for the authority bestowed on the humble chess ‘firzan.’ This new ‘la rabiosa’ (the mad queen) has ruled the chequered boards of chess ever since Isabella, wife of Ferdinand, king of Castile and Aragon, shared equal power as joint monarchs over an expanding Spanish Empire.

Five hundred years passed without any clues as to the existence of the Pacioli manuscript believed to have contained chess problems illustrating the new powers of the queen, bishop and pawn. A few historians began to doubt if a manuscript had ever existed. When Pacioli’s lost manuscript was discovered, resting in the State Archives of Gorizia, Italy, it created tremendous interest among historians, especially the chess bibliophiles of Italy and Spain whose research on renaissance chess has over the past decade uncovered so much about this intriguing period.

Luca Pacioli’s manuscript has already been the inspiration of two recent books. One is a review of the manuscript by Jose A. Garzon, author of ‘The Return of Francesch Vicent - produced as a paperback entitled ‘Estudio del Tratdo Ajedrecistico’ and printed in Spanish in a limited edition of 99 copies. It has 56 pages, 56 diagrams of chess positions and 6 facsimiles from the original manuscript. The page size is 16 x 23cm.

By way of example, a composition demonstrating the new status of the queen, fairly simple by 21st century chess standards but imagine the excitement of composing new problems for the first time and the thrill of rewiring the mind to solve such a masterpiece.

From New Chess ca 1500:- 4K3/8/2N5/8/2Rbk3/4qIRQ/4rp2/2B5 (6x5) 2-er Key 1.Qe6+
Jose A. Garzon’s book is published by Libreria Antocuararia Rafael Solaz c/- San Fernando, 7. 46001 Valencia Spain. Email: - libreria_rafaelsolaz@hotmail.com

The more impressive publication, titled ‘Luca Pacioli-De ludo schachorum’ is a beautiful facsimile of the original manuscript and is produced by Aboca Museum Edizioni, via Niccolo Aggiunti 75, Sansepoliero AR Italy.

The facsimile is presented in a special case made from the wood of a centuries old oak tree and the engraved cover is made from hand-dyed goatskin. The spine of the case is printed with 15th century characters. The pages have been folded and cut by hand and the stitching is done using satin stitch. The book is presented in a slipcase to further enhance this very rare historical publication. The size of the facsimile is 12 x 16cm and the price 115 euros. Information on this interesting production can be obtained at www.abocamuseum@aboca.it “

And finally a very interesting article ‘Leonardo’s Ludo by H.T. Dearden from CHESS May, 2008 which led to speculation that Luca Pacioli and Leonardo da Vinci collaborated with Leonardo designing the diagrams.

Tony found a Vol. 2 of Pratt to match the Vol.1 he had sent me earlier. They are not a separated pair as Vol.1 was from the Rimington Wilson collection and had detached covers. Vol. 2 was a very good copy but not related to Vol. 1. I spent some time with these books doing Philidor research now on Edward Winter's 'Chess Notes' site No.10876. I put the covers back on Vol.1 and made the book sound.

One book I liked was 'The Book of Games' by Jack Botemans. 700 page hardback some chess but great illustrations. \$38 was very reasonable.

Bert was sending lovely postcards with unlovely notes. The Prague PC of the Charles Bridge was great but he wrote 'Enjoying a relaxing week in Prague with no chess books.' Maybe Regina was watching?

My sister was in London and found the Lewis Chessmen and sent me a nice card. She writes well:-

"Yes, I really did see them in the British Museum. Just as cheeky as in real life. I must say the variety of chess sets around the world as you pass shop windows is worth a book on its own. Saw a lovely set of Alice in Wonderland in Sth England."

Well, Ned Munger would agree. The PC of a Knight, Bishop and Berserker was great and Peter Stringer was clever the way he positioned them for his 2007 photo.

Ken Fraser wrote one of his good letters about distance and the internet, 1st July:-

"Paul Dunn's article really hits on what I think is the main problem with early Australian chess and that is the hoary old theme of "The Tyranny of Distance". However I don't agree with Paul that "the distance problem shouldn't have stopped a colonial championship." I wonder if we realise just how major a problem mere distance was at that time. But the problem is more than distance - it is also isolation. I recall when "young Higgs" made it to Melbourne in the 1880's to play in a tournament he couldn't do his best because he wasn't used to a crowd of people looking in while he played - and by that time he was one of the best Victorian players outside Melbourne.

The other thing was...the things we have lost on the chess scene because we have overcome the distance problem. When postage, telegraph and radio were the goers the local chess columns had a ball telling us all about what the locals were up to. But they had their day when the internet arrived. It has all become international and world championship chess. I don't know what it is like interstate, but the local 'Age' chess column bores me stiff. I never seem to hear a word about what is going on locally. It can give detailed comment on a game played in the Ukraine last week, but nary a word of local happenings. I contrast it with the Bridge column in the same issue where I am just as likely to hear what Cathy Chua has been up to.

Thank God for the chess collection. It is 'chess at ground level'. Yesterday was the first day of school holidays and kids were there having a game, the rusted on 'clubbies' were competing with one another as they do everyday - and there on the shelves if they needed it was the top literature on the subject. It is a much more realistic chess scene than the columns display and

the latest addition to the collection is absolutely spot-on – even though it is in Danish. It is a book by Henrik Mortensen, a Dane who I gather regularly turns up in Australia. He called his book “Skak et sjovi” which translates as “Chess is fun.” He even provides a page on “Australia chess humor....”

I replied 14/7 :-...

“Yes, distance and isolation were major factors of life in 19th century Oz but lack of interest is up there with them re the first Australian Chess Ch’ship tourney in Adelaide in 1887. The loss of top players (No Crane, no Fisher & no Burns) was quite sad and as it was the first tourney one would have thought they made the effort. It ended up OK but the 4th June, 1887 Adelaide Observer column is particularly harsh on the “partial support” of neighbouring colonies and gives England a real ‘spray’ for their disinterest after the great tributes to Wisker’s wife etc. The 11th June column gives the sad list of those who won’t be playing in the tourney. Henry Hookham the NZ champ made the effort and he was 7 years older than Burns! No excuse really for Crane, Fisher & Burns. But SA chess & Charlick raised the bulk of the money and carried away the spoils. Good for them.

When one remembers the shambles of NSW’s attempts to hold a Congress in 1890 I shudder in embarrassment. Remember too the poor field at Warrnambool in 1897. Distance and disinterest - a lot of the latter - but I guess work won’t stand aside for a chess event.”

As I write this in February, 2019 I recall the 1888 event in Melbourne where F.K. Esling and Burns would not play in their home city for this Centennial Event after the 1st Fleet came to Australia in 1788. Esling’s reason was work and we know Burns was a nervous man who could not take a loss. Charlick came over from Adelaide and William Crane came down from Sydney and he won in a close final.

I opened my copy of ‘Earlier Chess Problems’ by Eustace Eighch (nd but 1923) and found pages 85-100 missing and that was embarrassing as the late Bill Morris gave me his copy in 1975! Did the MVA have it and could they send photocopies ? Ken rang 17th July - No, they didn’t have it. The 3rd greatest public chess library in the world and zippo. It turned out that MVA the person, disliked problem books and sold them all or gave them away! Ken did know that Newcastle University and the SA Library had a copy and I wrote John di Gravio at Newcastle and he scanned their copy and sent it. It was likely the late Brian Tomson’s copy. I fitted the pages in with pleasure and sent John a CD of the Australian Chess Bibliography. (See p.64)

Tony sent me the double Tartakower Games books so that I could examine his games after the research done on David Lovejoy’s book. Not really my cup of tea but David had inspired me to play through some of T’s games. He also sent ‘The Poetry of Chess’ and asked if I’d seen Simpson’s in The Strand when we were there in 1990. He always seemed to nail my errors as I had blithely walked past it without noticing it! And on pre WW2 Simpsons, the old movie ‘Saboteur’ starring Sylvia Sydney and Oscar Homolka, directed by Alfred Hitchcock, has Simpsons inside filmed from the 21st minute to the 24th No chess but shows the décor. It looked like the real thing and not a movie set.

Two very nice PC's of Kornik Castle came from Maria Luczak and she thanked me for David's book and told me of the grant from the Polish Ministry of Learning and Higher Education that would be used to publish the Baron's 1882/3 trip. She was very happy to be working on this project and "to bring it to fruition has given me much joy". I sent her 2 PC's of a kookaburra and sheep, as Narromine was a fat lamb area.

I got the Batsford Book of Chess Records & QCH 14 from Tony plus 'Staunton's City' which was rather good. He didn't go to the Klittich auction but saw a Stamma on ebay for £1400. He sent me Jurgen Stigter's 'For the Love of Books' by Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam from New In Chess 2008 No.5. It was good that NIC published these great stories like this one and Jean Mennerat's. I don't know Jurgen but he & Jean had the Dutch language in common and I hope they had some good collecting times together over the years. Jean was a medical doctor and Jurgen's degree was in AI. Perhaps they had this in common.

FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS by Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam NIC 2008 No.5

What is the most practical way to write a bibliography of all chess books ever published? Following in the footsteps of his eccentric countryman Antonius van der Linde, Dutch collector Jurgen Stigter felt that having them at hand would be a useful step to begin with. After years of frantically buying and exchanging, the realization of his bibliographical dream remains far off, with numerous technical obstacles complicating the project, but in the meantime the co-founder of the Ken Whyld Association has collected between 20,000 and 25,000 chess books and built a private library that leaves little to be desired – although that's a very silly thing to say to a collector.

"Jurgen Stigter lives in a stately four-storey mansion in the most attractive part of Amsterdam, Oud-Zuid, in between two cultural temples, the Concertbouw, where he regularly attends concerts, and the Rijksmuseum. When he moved here, some 10 years ago, from a smaller house in Delft, he was relieved that he no longer had to elevate his bed to create room underneath for boxes with books. Finally he had space enough for his ever-growing collection. Or that's what he thought. Now he knows this is an illusion. 'It's always too small', he says in a resigned tone.

Stigter occupies two and a half of the four floors (the ground floor and part of the first floor is occupied by a friend of his and his family) and briefly considers that he might have enough space for his books if he had the entire house, some 400 square metres, to himself. But he quickly dismisses the thought. 'Maybe, but only for awhile.' He should know. Not so long ago he bought a shop elsewhere in Amsterdam where he stores thousands of doubles. This brought some relief, but in the meantime he's been forced to rent additional storage room. Space is a serious problem for serious collectors. He tells of his American colleague Dale Brandreth who has 'one house for his books and one for his wife', and recalls the way Ken Whyld consoled his friend Tony Gillam when he got divorced: 'Now at least you've got more room for your books.'

Stigter's own house can be described, without any exaggeration, as one big library, with books everywhere you look. Or a collection of libraries. On the first floor he has, by my rough estimate, some four thousand non-chess books. A guest room is filled with literature, while the biggest

room contains his scientific library, with an emphasis on mathematics, another of his passions. He studied logic and the foundations of mathematics and several years after he graduated from Amsterdam University he obtained a doctorate in Artificial Intelligence. However, our chess tour of the house starts on the second floor, in what looks like the living room. The first part of his collection he shows to me are the tournament books, chronologically arranged and starting, not with the book on the first international tournament in London in 1851 (although this classic is obviously there in various editions), but with the book of a tournament in Amsterdam three months before, a rarity that he was delighted to acquire. Centrally positioned in the back room on this floor are the biographies and games collections of the greats of past and present. Monographs on the lesser gods are kept here in boxes. In a corner there is a mountain of books on the middlegame ('I haven't decided yet how to arrange them'). The shelves are also richly filled with books about the endgame, studies, 'belles lettres,' curiosities and problems. Amid these latter books there's a complete set (of course!) of the famous White Christmas series. For the uninitiated, Alain Campbell White was an American problem composer who from 1905 to 1936 privately published problem books that he sent as a Christmas gift to friends. Owning the complete series is a benchmark for collectors, as some of them are hard to find, particularly the one published in 1914 about Robert Braune. This one is very rare, because most copies were lost on board the 'Lusitania,' which was sunk by the Germans in 1915 on its way from New York to Liverpool. Stigter completed his set some seven years ago, when he bought the Robert Braune from Laszlo Polgar. He is happy with the series but is quick to point out that he also has a complete series of 'Soukops'. The Czech problem composer Miroslav Soukop imitated White's idea of a Christmas series for friends, but published them in much smaller number. The first volume is extremely difficult to find, but this missing, too, was completed recently. Ken Whyld continued the tradition with his yuletide publications and after his death Stigter started to publish the KWA yuletides which are given as presents to members of the Ken Whyld Association.

The main room on the third floor is largely filled with chess magazines, most of them bound in long rows filling endless shelves. 'Le Palamede', 'Shakhmatniji Listok,' 'Deutsche Schachzeitung,' Steinitz's 'The International Chess Magazine,' it doesn't matter what I mention, it's all there in complete runs. And, as on the other floor, there's stacks of books (e.g. heaps of beginners books) and boxes everywhere that fill you with curiosity and make your head dizzy. When we descend the floors again, I suggest that it's maybe a good moment to sit down and talk, partly because I think it is a good idea and partly because I feel I've had an overdose of chess books in too short a time. Jurgen Stigter gives me a puzzled look, "Don't you want to see the best part?" he asks worriedly. "You haven't seen any Damiano, Ruy Lopez or Lolli? Don't you want to hold a Philidor?" Indeed, how could I forget about these early treasures? I am forgiven and he leads me into a side-room. Here a couple of bookcases are filled with reference works, bibliographies and assorted chess subjects such as chess pieces and automatons, but on the shelves that catch the eye the names of the first writers of our game can be read on the backs of countless leather-bound volumes. Do I want to hold a Philidor? Well, take your pick, there's several meters of Philidors! As if it's the most normal thing in the world. Stigter hands me books from the sixteenth and seventeenth century to make sure that I'll know how it feels to hold a Carrera, a Salvio, or an original Damiano (true, I was asked to wash my hands when we started our tour). He also wants to show a recent acquisition that filled him with delight – the first original (there are older translations such as Kersteman's Philidor from 1786) chess book ever

to be published in Dutch, a manual by Van Zuylen-van Nyevelt that appeared in 1792 and contains a paper board and pieces for practice at the back.

When we return to the living room, our talk is further delayed when he points at a couple of new arrivals sitting on the table. One of them is the catalogue of the biannual Klittich-Pfankuch chess auction in Braunschweig that he attended a couple of days ago. If you have a collection that counts some twenty-five thousand chess books, it's not easy to find something you don't have, but much to his satisfaction he managed to buy an off-print of the 'Chemnitzer Wochenschach', published between 1924 and 1932. The bidding started at 450 Euro for the three volumes. "I was very keen to have it, so the price went up, as there were other bidders." Of a completely different nature is the beautifully produced catalogue of the chess collection of David DeLucia, possibly the finest collection in the world. The second edition that has just come out is available in blue, green and black. Not surprisingly I am shown two variants (and later he informs me that he also has specially bound copies). Next he hands me another new book that he is proud of, as it was made with the support of the Ken Whyld Association. Two of its members, Ralf Binnewitz and Hans-Jurgen Fresen, assembled 'Obliged to Tradition', a Bibliography of the Commemorative Publications of German Chess Clubs founded by 1914. If you're interested, check the website of the Ken Whyld Association, www.kwabc.org. But easily the most interesting thing he wants to show me is a folder holding authentic documents, some hand-written and many signed, pertaining to the world championship match that Bogoljubow played against Alekhine in Wiesbaden in 1929. With shining eyes he points out curiosities, including postcards written by Mrs Alekhine. Great material to write about, he says, but he has no idea when he will have time.

An unexpected gift can be seen as the starting point of Jurgen Stigter's career as a collector. When he was 17, a classmate's grandfather who had about 100 chessbooks died. The books were given to Stigter and another friend with whom he used to play blindfold chess in class. "They were mainly Dutch chess books, but there was also a Mieses/Dufresne from 1908, in Gothic German, which I learned to read. I had always had an interest in books and I played chess. For instance, I had scrapbooks with newspaper clippings about the Candidates' Tournament in Curacao in 1962 or the Botvinnik-Petrosian match in 1963. This gift whetted my appetite and I began to buy more. I got interested in Lasker and started to collect everything I could lay my hands on. The books of all the tournaments he played in and his philosophical and mathematical works. His 'Encyclopaedia of Games,' which is not easy to find. The German edition, 'Brettspiele der Volker,' is much more common. In later years I also obtained letters and manuscripts. He wrote an awful lot and always made various versions. DeLucia has the best part of his manuscripts, I only have the left-overs, mainly mathematical papers, which I find interesting. And I began to buy older books. A second edition of Greco and a second edition of Philidor. At the first auction I went to I bought a 'Bilguer', the 8th edition by Schlechter, but I paid too much." When in 1980 he had collected some 500 chess books he felt the need to make a catalogue. He started to describe his books and filled a steadily growing number of card index boxes. Five years ago he gave up on that. He simply didn't have the time. The books arrived in such numbers that it was physically impossible to describe them all. His original wish had been to write a bibliography of the entire chess literature, a wish that in the end led to the foundation of the Ken Whyld Association. In November, 2002 Stigter invited a group of leading collectors and historians to his house and explained his ambitious plan. That same day the idea of the 'Amsterdam group' was born, its name being inspired by the Konigstein Gruppe of Thomas

Thomsen, which was formed in Konigstein, Germany, and focuses on the history and origins of chess. Among those present at that first meeting of the Amsterdam group were Ken Whyld, Yury Averbakh, Michael Negele of the Lasker Gesellschaft in Berlin and Harold van der Heijden of endgame study fame. One year later they had a founding meeting in Amsterdam and as Ken Whyld passed away in the meantime, Stigter proposed the name Ken Whyld Association. One of their aims is to make the complete chess literature accessible to anyone interested. At present the KWA has 163 members from all over the world.

Yet creating a bibliography of all chess literature proves harder than expected. The problem is not to obtain the data, but to design a uniform way of describing the books. You don't want to have a hundred different descriptions of one and the same book. 'We've made our own model, but for many people it is too complicated. And you need momentum, you need to get the project rolling, but unfortunately nobody seems to have enough time.'

Among the KWA members there is growing pessimism about the feasibility of the project, but Stigter prefers to remain optimistic, although he is not blind to its complexity. He has pinned his hopes on scientific progress and believes the bibliography has a realistic chance as a web application. It should be similar to Wikipedia, but without the possibility of everyone writing something. There should be two levels. One on which everyone can enter their data, and a higher one on which experts give their approval.

The bibliographic project may look less promising than he had hoped at the foundation of the KWA, but it certainly had far-reaching consequences for his own collection. After all, it was his dream of an all-compassing bibliography that turned him into a chess collector who 'simply wanted to have everything and drastically intensified his acquisitions in the past 10 years, when books no longer arrived by the dozen, but complete libraries were bought. When he sums them up, I am struck by the geographical diversity of its origins. 'The most recent acquisition was the library of Willem van den Berg from Delft. Other libraries that I bought were Zichichi's in Rome, a Russian library of a director of the Moscow Conservatory, his son is a world expert in optics but not interested in chess, a library in Sweden with a fine choice of Scandinavian literature, a library in Regensburg containing about all German magazines, the things that were not there are very rare, but in the meantime I have managed to get some of them, and a library of Polgar in Hungary. With Polgar you never know how much he has. We went to a house with a chess library and that was the one I bought. I am looking for libraries that add something to my collection, as inevitably you get a lot of doubles this way. And I also bought part of Eliskases' library in Argentina, which also contained a gold-plated cigarette case that Alekhine presented to him for his help during his second world championship match against Euwe.'

The first time I met Jurgen Stigter was at the Calvia Olympiad in 2004. I knew who he was, but as he was wearing a T-shirt, shorts and sports shoes and carrying a ruck sack (filled with chess books of course) he didn't exactly fit the image of one of the leading chess collectors of the world. And, to be honest, I've never ever seen him in different attire, although sometimes the shorts would be replaced by casual trousers. When I mentioned his sports clothes, he reassures me that he looks more formal when he goes to the opera, but on the whole he doesn't care about outward appearance and prefers to wear clothes that he feels comfortable in. And he likes to do a lot of sports, such as ice skating, football, hockey and cycling – which begs the question where he got

the money from to build such an impressive library. He is a partner in a small consultancy firm, but this can hardly be the source of his wealth, given the amount of time he dedicates to chess. The answer is that the mother of his father was a daughter of the founder of Kluwer, a legendary publishing house in the Netherlands. As he speaks of his inheritance, he turns around to his books and says with a smile, 'Yes, this is all Kluwer.' Cashing shares that he inherited certainly gave his collection a boost. 'I was always short of money to buy books. Now I no longer had these worries and there was less of a limit to my spending'.

The world of chess book collecting is a competitive one, but Stigter prefers not to think of rivals or competitors. He clearly prefers to bring people together to realize ambitious projects in a common cause. When I refer to the size of his collection he immediately mentions other substantial libraries, such as those of Meissenburg or Littorin and, of course, Lothar Schmid, the undisputedly largest private collection in the world. Together with a number of fellow members of the KWA he once visited Schmid's house in Bamberg 'I saw that he has many special items, but it was impossible to get a real impression of everything he has'. Much to his regret they were only allowed a short peek into the room where Schmid kept his doubles. 'There was little light in the room, but one of the first things one of us spotted was a Vida (Vida was a 16th century Italian humanist whose poem 'De Ludo Scaccorum' was widely admired and copied. It appeared in some 150 editions, the first one in 1527 preceded by a pirate edition in 1525-DJtG) But before we knew it Schmid had closed the door again and ignored our pleas to see more.' Stigter also regrets that there is no catalogue of Schmid's library, which he sees as an obligation of any collector. 'At some point he hired two students to write a catalogue, but when he could not find back a Stefan Zweig letter he accused them of having stolen it and refused to let them into his house again. That was the end of the project.' In the past months it has been rumoured that Schmid, who celebrated his 80th birthday on May 10th this year, wants to sell his library and is looking for a bid of more than 5 million euro. Which, Stigter believes, is too high a price. 'According to the calculations I have seen he is asking too much. I wouldn't mind buying a part of it. It might be an idea to buy it with a group of people and divide it. It's very difficult to say what it's worth, especially in the absence of a catalogue. He has many unique manuscripts. Maybe he has 20 copies of Selenus, who knows? But if they come on the market the price will go down drastically. My impression is that he doesn't want to sell it at all, but that his family, who owns part of it, urges him to do so. That's why he is asking such a high price, hoping that he won't find a buyer.'

It is tempting to see Stigter in a line of prominent Dutch collectors, the first one being the 'impossible' Antonius van der Linde (1833-1897), who quarreled with each and everyone but also wrote the most important 19th century bibliographies of chess books, and the second one being Dr. Meindert Niemeijer, who gave his huge collection to the Dutch state in 1948 on condition that his books would be merged with the collection of Van der Linde that the Dutch Royal Library already owned to form the Van der Linde/Niemeijeriana Library in The Hague. Yet, Stigter doesn't see them as examples. 'No, I've never thought about that. I don't have any examples that I follow, although there is a similarity from the bibliographical point of view. Van der Linde also built up a collection because of his wish to write a bibliography.'

Still, it is impossible not to see a link with Niemeijer as well. At the end of our talk Stigter is looking for the title of a book and gets up and fetches a copy of Niemeijer's famous 1955

catalogue of the Van der Linde-Niemeijeriana collection, all the books in the collection up to 1954. When I ask him if this is his bible, he answers, 'No, this is my catalogue', and shows that with small dots he has marked which of the books in the catalogue he owns. There aren't many items that are not marked. 'I have a large part. The important works I have almost all, except for medieval books and manuscripts.' Which are the gaps in his collection that he would like to fill? (After a long think) 'Well, I'd love to have the tournament book of Nijmegen 1858. And from Italy a Gianutio from 1597. When it was offered to me I thought it too expensive. It was only 2000 pounds, but at the time that was too much. Now I would buy it immediately. That's a pity. It's a general problem with such old books and curiosities. What are they worth? How can you judge that if you only run into them once in a lifetime? Do you buy it or don't you? If you don't, you may regret it for the rest of your life. But if you do buy it, you may have paid too much. And more often than not you come across another copy at a much better price. In such cases I tend to buy that copy too, because it's so cheap.

Has he thought about what he would like to happen with his library when he is no longer here? 'I haven't made any concrete plans, but the idea of the Max Euwe Centre appeals to me, but with a broader set-up. Because of lack of space they don't keep variants or different editions, which is not what I'd like to see. A friend of mine cherishes a secret wish to have an art museum. If he realizes this dream, he's told me, there will be room for my chess books as well. Who knows. And if not, I'll have to find another solution.

The next day Jurgen Stigter sends me two files by email. One is the catalogue of the Van der Linde/Niemeijeriana collection, which to a large extent is also 'his' catalogue. The other one is the catalogue of the collection of Willem van den Berg ('which I now also own'). The Van den Berg catalogue contains a witty and at times fascinating introduction describing the collecting adventures and vicissitudes of the previous owner. In the first time he gives a firm warning in his capacity as a true-breed collector (he gives a long list of all the things outside of chess that he's collected in his life): 'My advice to any beginning chess collector is to stop now!' And he continues 'Collecting chess literature, no, collecting chess books, don't do it! A more expensive and more comprehensive addiction doesn't exist. One life is not enough to handle it! Not even with all the money in the world!' In the next 18 pages he describes his collector's life, which he concludes with a visit to Wijk aan Zee in summer. In all his life he's never been to the famous tournament and now, under a cloudless sky and with the sun blazing, there is not a trace of the chess festival. Yet he feels his collector's blood starting to boil, as it does everywhere he goes. 'This feeling that you can find something special, wherever you are. What is hidden in all those attics? Underneath all those roofs? I wish I had never given in.'

Very good and wonderful to have this viewpoint from a great collector. Quite a contrast to Jean Mennerat's story but the latter was gathered in 2 hours. The question of where the Jurgen Stigter collection will end up is doubtless something being considered today as Jurgen is now 66. But his collection is one of the very few in the world of this size. He could do something like David Scott Mitchell did before he handed over his unique Australiana collection to the State of NSW. He required a building to house it in. Today that building with all its marble interior and domed reading room is one of the treasures of Sydney. All because of a private collector.

2009:

Bert was going to Johannesburg South Africa with his job with Shell:-

"I stayed two weeks on my second visit and as a consequence I managed to visit what is allegedly the largest antiquarian bookshop in the Southern hemisphere: Collectors Treasury, in the centre of town. It was indeed huge. I did find a few interesting chessbooks as well (what else would I be looking for): a nice copy of the first chessbook in Afrikaans: Kom ons speel skaak-'n Handleiding tot die spel van konings, written by van Tonder in 1953. Not mentioned in L/N. And a first edition (USA published) How to play chess endings, 1940 by Znosko-Borovsky.... Then to chess again. Due to the job I did not visit any auction and overall bought the lowest number of antiquarian items ever since the beginning of collecting. But then...the shelves in my house are full so not much space anyway. Still some gems and fortunate finds. I already mentioned the finds in Johannesburg. That bookshop visit was a risky adventure in itself. Due to the number of car high-jackings (ten on average per day) and robberies taking place in bright daylight, I had to let myself drop off at the doorstep of the shop, of which the entrance was guarded by an iron gate and cameras, remotely controlled.

Through internet I found in Germany a beautiful specimen, originally bound, of the first edition Berger: Theorie und Praxis des Endspiele (1890) and in UK a nice copy of Horwitz' Chess studies and endgames, the 1884 edition in which Horwitz does not mention at all Kling's contributions to the first part of the book which was in fact a re-print of their 1852 book. Further more the richly decorated sixth edition of the Bilguer, and a few small very rare items: The statutes of the Neusser Schachverein (1901) and another small German booklet from about 1905 with songs for chess clubs. (Lieder fur Schachvereine, again published by the Neusser Schachverein) So far I could not find these two items mentioned in any catalogue or bibliography.

David Lovejoy's book on Tartakower is now for sale in the Netherlands, but I get the impression that it is not selling very well. It is more a story, part fiction. I glanced through it in the bookshop but did not buy it.

The KWA book about commemorate publications of the older German chess clubs is a beauty. Maybe you have seen a copy? It is bi-lingual, thick A4 size and has colour copies of all publications inside. Also many interesting black and white photographs and portraits.

Tim Harding, the English/Irish author of many chessbooks and former editor of Chess Mail will defend the thesis for his PhD (the subject is correspondence chess) somewhere this month I understand. Apparently I will be mentioned as well, because of the re-discovery of the earliest Dutch individual correspondence chess tournament. I look forward to the publication.

As for chess itself, I played more games for Shell in London (London Commercial Chess League) than games for my club in the Netherlands. I am still surprised that my level of play remains the same even improves a bit if I can believe my BCF grade (with a peak of 189) and ELO rating. But I do enjoy it whenever I sit at the chessboard. I managed to win my group in the Christmas

tournament of my chess club in The Hague. Erik is also playing now, says that it is good for his concentration and sometimes joins me when I visit the club. In blitz games he already defeats me regularly. I barely won a match yesterday 4 against 3. But I blame the French wine for that."

I wondered if searching for chess books in strange cities helped keep Bert keen OTB. Sounds like one needed to be on the ball in Jo-burg. On Bert's comment about David's book, NIC had bought the remainder of stock so that was good. There were no photos in the book because of production costs.

Ken replied 12th January:-...*I was interested in your comments on the importance of Charlick's column in the Adelaide Observer. I'm sure you are right. Those old time editors were in constant touch with their counterparts world wide and used to send each other copies of their columns, usually in batches of several months at a time. (I know that because there are a couple of examples of the swaps in MVA). Two examples of Charlick and the Observer spring to mind. The first is the identity of Hobart, whom Charlick identified as F.J. Young when he reviewed the BCM Guide to the Openings in his column. The other, which you might remember, was the plea from the man in Ohio who was researching a particular American opening and wrote to the ACF to see if anyone knew what connection Charlick had with it. I found C's comments in one of his columns where he published an example of the opening and expressly identified it as an American invention. I found it in the only collection of the column we hold which is in a small book called the Observer Miscellany. It was a collection of the weekend magazine of the Observer for 1876-1879. They had intended to publish it regularly but there was only ever the one issue. Fortunately it contained Charlick's column and answered the Ohio man's request. He sent a very excited "thank-you for this important discovery".*

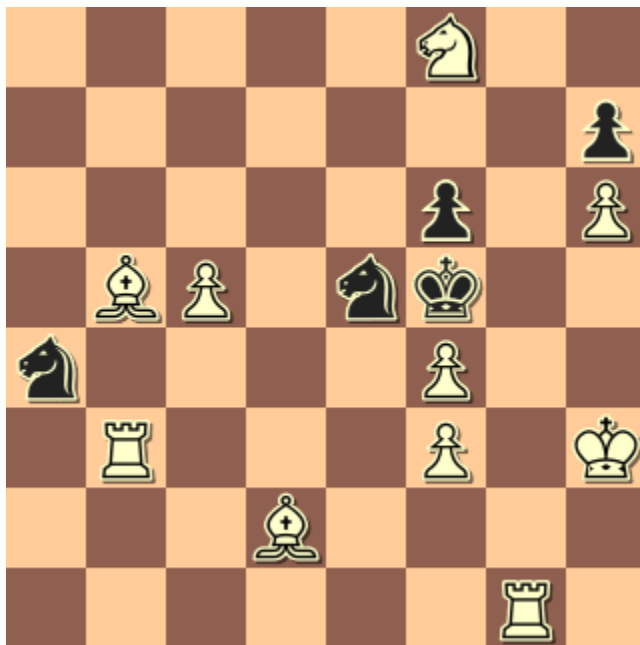
I was rather surprised to read your suggestion about holding a meeting of Australian chess historians in Melbourne so that I could attend. I appreciate your thoughts but although I am still interested in the subject I have been out of the game for so long now that I would feel very much out of place. One of the conditions of returning to recatalogue the MVA collection was that I did no work at all on material published after 1992. Consequently I have had very little contact with chess works after that date. The only research I have done since I retired 16 years ago was almost always work I have done for you, except for the listing of the chess manuscripts and the recent effort with the NZ Manley letter. The other aspect of my concern is that my health (and memory) is steadily deteriorating and I always have to cart oxygen with me. So thanks for the thought but, even though I was pleased to hear that a meeting might be in the air and hope it succeeds I would seriously ask that it not include the now very out-of-date me."

This was as a result of a suggestion by Greg Wilson that a meeting be held in Melbourne which was a good idea that did not happen. It was a pity as when people get together it strengthens bonds. There were 7 people I thought may be interested:- Ken, myself, Greg, Paul Dunn, Cathy Chua, Robert Johnson and Tony Wright. Melbourne was the right venue as 3 of the 7 lived there. I suggested an agenda but it died on the vine.

I bid for Chess in Wales by Griffith, The Anatomy of Chess by Cazaux, (I think a duplicate copy!) Sinister Gambits by Peyton and The Life and Games of Tal by Tal in Tony's Cat 54. Got them all.

Michael McDowell sent me a lovely article by John Keeble given at St. Brides Institute, London 27th January. 1939. He died of a stroke 2 days later and TRD and others were upset. The Last Lecture was about J.H. Blackburne and his problems. Blackburne had told Keeble he had composed about 100 and 8 were given in this article. Here is No.1 (A) with its amazing key from The Household Chess Magazine January. 1865. I will include the 3-er below. At the time the Narromine Parish had a visiting priest named John Keeble and I asked him if he knew of the John Keeble of Norwich UK. He showed a total lack of interest! The first Keeble was one of my heroes.

I was making good progress with the fully blown biography of Esling and it would still be some time before it appeared but I was over the hump.



White mates in 3 (10x5) J.H. Blackburne -Household Chess Mag. Jan 1865. Key 1.Ra1

If 1...Ne5any;2.Bd7++

If 1..Nxc5;2.Ra5!..Ne6;3.Bd3 or 1...Na else;2.Takes N etc.

Blackburne was making 1/week in 1861 and publishing them in the Manchester Express. 28 problems appeared in his 1899 book of which about 3000 copies were sold. That first edition was a beauty

A bolt from the blue snail mail letter came from J. Ken MacDonald of Toronto :-

“61—8—Front Street, East Toronto, Ont., Canada MSE IT4 30th January, 2009

“Dear Bob,

No! You don't know me! I asked Bob Moore if he knew how to get in touch with you and he gave me this address. Brian Thew confirmed you still live in Narromine. I hope this reaches you. I am also a chess publication collector. Not only of chess problem books and magazines, but a few of the other genus also.

I am writing you for two reasons, the main one being the ‘Christmas Series’ and the lesser one to tell you how much I enjoyed and appreciated your ‘Letter to Bert.’ I have read it twice and

after printing it out from www.chessbookshop.com I even bound it in HC. It is now a proud book on my shelves. I am not well known in “chess problem collecting” and this would be because of my wishes! If you could email me, I would send back a “catalogue” of my collection in an Excel file FYI. I am sure you watch ebay as I do. If not, I can tell you that ‘Retrograde Analysis’ went for \$822 US recently and it was not a great copy. Of course, I have never seen a copy of ‘Braune’ I am curious, what would you guess a copy of ‘Braune’ sells for these days. I managed to buy a copy of ‘Roi Accule’ recently through a friend on ebay. Only \$113US, but it was a mess and had to be rebound, so not a true edition. Are you still collecting? Adding to your collection?

I am 63 and am struggling with what would happen if I passed on! My wife/son have no knowledge of chess or chess publications. Libraries seem uninterested in Canada. Maybe you have some thought on this matter. Maybe I will hear from you! My email address jkm@iprimus.ca.

Best wishes Ken

PS My home address is at the top of this letter regardless what is on the envelope I spend winters in Florida.”

I replied by snail mail telling JKM that the Braune raised a query about the sinking of the Lusitania and the loss of the book. It could only have been if the European printer sent the books to A.C. White in America and he sent a large batch back to Europe via the Lusitania as it was travelling from New York to Europe. As for the book it has brittle pages and should not be chased at extreme prices. Any problem researcher would be unwise to chase it as it could not be used for research and I bought a copy of the reprint for \$40 for that purpose. It was way better than the original. Collectors always want to fill gaps and perhaps Jurgen Stigter’s advice about buying duplicates meant that if they were cheaper to chase them for awhile. I suggested contact with Canadian libraries re tax advantages for his estate but now in 2019 I wonder if libraries are interested as they go increasingly digital. In 2009 I thought a deal like that may be possible here but I don’t think so now. The problem researchers have as explained by Jean Mennerat is that ‘browsing’ days in libraries are over. It may be possible for a respected researcher to get access to store stacks but that would be a special case. It was now 1 book per order and sometimes a day or more wait. The great public chess libraries are no longer ‘research friendly’ This is because of storage. I told JKM that I’d spent \$32,000 buying my collection.

He followed up with an email reply 23rd February:-

“Hi Bob, Thank you for your nice letter. Cataloguing my collection was a dull, dreary chore that I had to hire someone to help with. I have over 5000 items (an item is a book or a complete year of any magazine so I have over 128 volumes of BCM, as an example) It still requires considerable work to clean it up. I really needed a catalogue because I was buying duplicates! I am sure you have done that occasionally. Or, maybe not as you have obviously good records. If you ever need any little research done, let me know. Also, I would send you my catalogue if you wish, but with a huge file, your wife could never print it out to bring home. But, do let me know if you want it.

Alas, I have no records as to where I obtained and how much I paid for most of my books. I do recall placing an ad in “The Problemist” somewhere around 15 years ago asking for complete years of that magazine. Out of nowhere one Friday evening, I received a call from an elderly

gentleman/problemist called Onyschuk who lived in Toronto. It took me all of 5 minutes to get going, leaving my visitors to fend for themselves(!) I took a bunch of cash out of the ATM and drove to his place. He helped me complete my "The Problemist" series and had a whack of White's Christmas Series before they were stupidly expensive. He even had a pile of older Canadian magazines I was looking for. One never knows when stuff will pop out of the wood work. Since I lack only 2 copies of the Christmas Series I would be one of those who would bid stupidly. I have never seen a copy of Braune for sale, but would happily bid \$2,000 for it. I doubt I would get it at that rate. If Retrograde can fetch \$822 for a weak copy, imagine what a Braune would fetch! Those are the only 2 books I need for the set.

Since I am worried about the disposition of my collection, I am almost at the end of my collecting and bid rarely now. I have a really deep collection of Correspondence Chess books and especially magazines. You would see me on ebay as "jkmjkm." I am determined now to start disposing of the collection when I turn 65.

Your comments regarding libraries in Canada wanting the collection may not be as simple as you think. I thought the same and I was considering donating it. When discussing it with the head of Special Collections at the Toronto Reference Library, I clearly got the message that it would most likely be sold. I don't think I can get a usable tax receipt for a donation to a foreign library either. Are you able to tell me what Clive would have paid you for your collection, not as \$, but as a percentage of what he netted on the sales? I have always liked him as he was quite nice when I bought from him.

What your collection cost you is amazing. You were patient and started on these before I did. I had a minor collection which I sold in 1977 and then started all over again in 1988. Thanks for your kind letter

Best Wishes Ken

Sunday 22nd. A few further thoughts...

One of the gems of my collection is a full run of Fairy Chess, the supplement to the Problemist which I had bound in leather in two volumes. I also have The Chess Problem from 1887 with a letter from Frankenstein (I think to Miles) advising about the subscription list and then the book is signed by Frankenstein (one of the authors). Some of this is from memory as I spend the winters in Florida and can't put my hands on it now. I obtained some stuff from Bob Moore who told me he sold something to you. It came from the estate of Edgar Holladay for whom Bob was the executor. I often buy private problemists, books and ask for a signature. OK enough for now! You have enough to read for awhile. Ken."

I congratulated Ken on his 5000 catalogue job. Boring it may have been but it was done. The problem of donating in Canada was a surprise as the bequest policy here is helpful to those who wish to donate their collections. Clive's suggestion was tentative about buying my collection and I told him no. Ken had a fine collection of problem books.

The letter from Sir Jeremy Morse of London 11th February was a surprise on Eric Duncan McQueen who featured in Jeremy's 'Tasks and Records.' He wanted to know more about the man and even included Eric's birth certificate which showed Eric was born 16th May, 1908 in

Ilford to Duncan McQueen (master mariner) and Mary Fletcher. I smiled at his PS:- “Sorry I am not on email.” Music to my ears. Being in contact with the former No.2 person in England as he was Chancellor of the Exchequer I mentioned the GFC but his replies were on McQueen and his life. We ended up making a fair story thanks to Ken Fraser and Geoff Foster, contacting McQueen’s married daughter thanks again to Jeremy and it was clear he was a good researcher. It all ended up in a Problemist article.

The fires were pretty bad in Victoria and I contacted Ken Fraser to find out more. He was unaffected in the city but told me of the home built by his father at Flowerdale in 1939 - he had built a log cabin opposite King Parrot Creek which had “a ripper of a swimming hole” where Ken had many great times.”

Chess took a back seat for us when floods of all things swamped Norma’s aunt’s home on Coffs Creek for the 2nd time (1996-2009). We went over and pulled out the carpets, pressure cleaned the walls and threw out the damaged stuff. There were 3000 cars lost in the city and her aunt got back into her villa many months later.

J. Ken MacDonald replied 1st April that he had received 7 binders of Edgar Holladays notes and that he had purchased many books from the estate. He was happy to see Clive back on ebay and someone called Phil’s books. He had bought a whack of BCM in Australia and some problem items from Arthur Willmott. He had just bought ‘200 Games of CC by Fraser’ and a 1935 Shakmaty CCCP and only lacked 1924 to have them all. He saw a volume 1 of BCM for around \$870 US on ebay.

I replied on book ‘smells’ as a subject mentioned discreetly in Bert but very much so in Holbrook Jackson’s ‘The Book about Books’ where he wrote about the ‘The Five Ports of Book Love: Hearing, Seeing, Smelling, Tasting and Touching. Hard to believe someone could write 7 pages on that but he did. It seems our olfactory nerve is connected to the intellectual part of the brain.

‘With open nostrils from afar your scent
The faint aroma of the rich Levant.’ (Book Lore by Halketh Lord)

I hadn’t heard of ‘Phil’s Books’ but then I didn’t use ebay.

Ray Kuzanek sent me the sad details of Frank Skoff’s passing March 3rd, 2009 at 92. He had been an English teacher for 30 years and loved discussing G.B. Shaw and Shakespeare. Ray gave the eulogy of his friend who was also a fine chess historian. Frank had a lively debate about Morphy and Staunton in Edward Winter’s 1980s ‘Chess Notes’.

Inge van Manen passed away on 11th April 3 days short of her 97th birthday.

I ordered “The Genius and Misery of Chess’ by Zhivko Kaikamjosov, The reprint of 1857 New York, and Hilbert’s ‘Essays on American Chess History’ The author of the first ZK stated on p.29:-

“In 1867, Morphy embarked for Paris for treatment. The most prominent French psychiatric specialists tried hard to help him but without any success. The only lasting effect was the emptying of his pockets which soon led to his return to America. When he came back, his mother and sister discovered new peculiarities in his behavior....”

We tried hard to follow this up. The author ZK died just after Ray contacted him. And we wrote to a French historian who was unable to help. It was clear there were good psychiatric facilities that early in Paris but the French historian dismissed ZK's views.

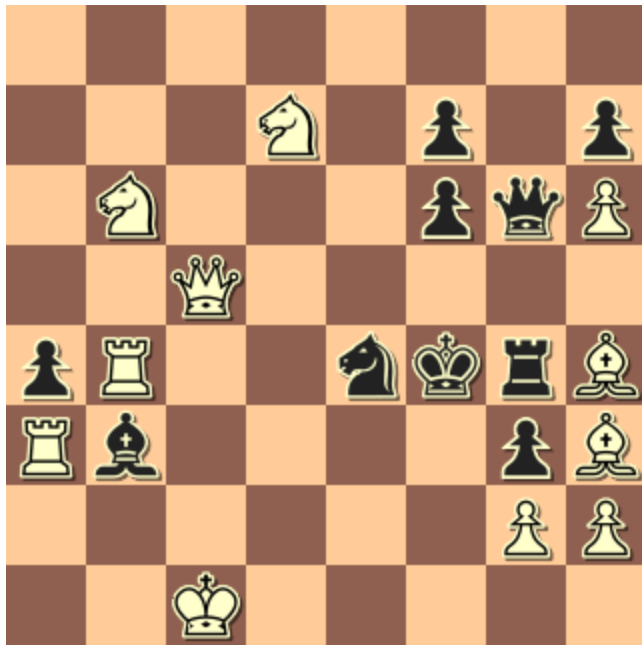
Jack Good (1916-2009) who won the 1939 Cambridge chess championships worked with Alan Turing and Hugh Alexander for nearly 2 years at Bletchley Park. He was asleep on his first nightshift which annoyed Turing such that he refused to speak to him until he showed how an essential trial and error method of attacking Enigma traffic could be accelerated. He was consulted by Stanley Kubrik for the movie '2001 A Space Odyssey' which featured Hal the chess playing computer.

The Herald had a great photo of 37 year old Hasan Alhabysi playing chess on Sydney Hyde Park open chess board. At one time a Russian GM played there with Hasan watching. Not sure who the GM was, maybe Karpov

On Esling research I had made a bad blue on his grave and I wrote to Ken Fraser that I was nearly finished but that I had missed the Esling headstone. Out of the blue on one of Melbourne's coldest winter days he went up and saw the headstone and gave me details to get a scan from the cemetery office. He took a while to thaw out and I owed him one.

The grave was in Lutheran C No.509 and there is a fine Elvis Presley Memorial in Melbourne Cemetery also. A fascinating place even when one fails. Ken also found some 1861 items on Esling's father's gold mining claims in the 'Creswick and Clunes Advertiser'.

The fine problemist Denis Saunders died in June, aged 78. I had an article on him in the January, 1987 Tasmanian Chess Magazine and there was also the book 'The Wizard of Oz' by Geoff Foster in 1999. Denis was a very late bloomer taking up composition in late 1981. Here is a 2-er of his that the solvers loved.



The Problemist Nov. 1984
 & Chess in Australia March
 1985 White mates in 2
 (11x10) Key 1. Qc2
 waiting If
 ..gxf2/Bxc2/f5/Rxf4/Qg5;
 2.Qf2/Rf3/Qd2/Qd2/Qxe4
 and 1..Kf5;2.Qxe4. Denis
 was a geography lecturer at
 Queensland Uni and a very
 fine photographer. He had
 many trips to the BCPS in
 London to see old problem
 friends.

I sent the Esling CD to Chris Ravilious as I had not been in contact for awhile but he had resigned from BCM midyear.

Tony's Cat. 56 was here and I bid for 'Blindfold Chess' by Hearst and Knott, 'From Morphy to Fischer' by Horowitz, 'Secrets of the Chess Machine' by Lohr, 'The Human Tragedy of Chess' by Ree and 'Four Decades of Chess Adventures' by Benjamin and told him of Ken Whyld's 'A History of Chess corrections and additions' 1994 where 2000 printed in 1913 but 'relatively few were bound at the time.' Later the Lewis Knight on the front cover lacked gilt and then 1000 were pulped in the 1931 recession. (A bad move with hindsight) but how many had the gilt knight and were the first edition?

The centenary event for Melbourne was coming next year. 2010. It was 100 years since Flinders Street Railway Station was built, with the first Australian Chess Champion Frederick Karl Esling in charge. A book was written by Jenny Davies to celebrate:-

'Beyond the Façade' but did not feature Esling as chief engineer. I sent a copy of my CD to the Architects of the 1990 Conservation study, Lovell and Chan and also Jenny to ask for support and recognition for Esling's work. After all there was a trowel in the National Museum of Australia honouring Esling's laying of the last brick. The CD's fell on deaf ears. The builder of the Station Peter Rodgers was congratulated for good building work but Esling was 'air brushed' out by all including Leo Harrigan who wrote the 1962 work 'Vic Railways to 62.' If anyone wishes to know more it is on all ozproblems.com which features many historical articles. Ken Fraser sent me some outstanding material on the Station. It was very political and changes made were sometimes unauthorized. Esling must have had nightmares years after trying to keep everyone pointed to the goal of completion. It is a pity he resigned in the midst of WW1 and being of German descent may have added to his problems He never worked again and at age 57, did not get his superannuation pension until he turned 60.

Bert's PC from Dillenberg was a beauty and the Dutch monarchy had its origins here. An active holiday walking was the Corneths holiday but "no chess books to be found anywhere near." I told Bert my son in law Graeme said of the 4th edition of the Australian Chess Bibliography that it needed 'brightening up' A polite chap when he meant it was boring! Mind you, Bibliographys tends to be like that and so I added a lot of photos of books in my library plus some new ones of the late Inge and John van Manen.

The other major project I told Bert about was started by the National Library of Australia called TROVE-the digitization of our newspapers. It proved a boon as the first chess club in Australia turned up missed by all of us. 1832 in Hobart Tasmania. It didn't last long but the Apple Isle was first and in that year Melbourne was still on the drawing board.

J Ken MacDonald wrote 14th August that he liked Whyatt and "It is the way books should be not simply diagram after diagram..." He wanted a hard copy of Esling but I wasn't going there and sent him a CD. He had visited Bob Moore the executor of Edgar Holladays estate last year in Oklahoma and noted some nice material still to be sold.

Chris Jones the President of the BCPS wrote a nice letter in reply to mine. He was a good 2 move helpmate composer and commented:-

"When composing you're sometimes thinking of a solver, and how he will respond – and the fact that it takes him time to find the solution but that he enjoys it when he does is I think the best outcome!"

Ken Fraser rang me and told me the No.1 platform at Flinders Street Station is known as 'Esling's Platform.' It was at one time the longest in the world.

I sent a copy of the Esling CD to Maria Luczak as Germany in the 1870's (The Baron's time) featured. These were the years Esling received his higher education and then university training as a civil engineer.

The red dust storm video went all round the world and a lot of the dust was from the west of Narromine in the red country. Some said even Lake Eyre. We were in Sydney for my brother's son's wedding and stayed at the Mint Apartments near Wynyard Station. I had the window open and woke up with a mouth inlaid with dust!

We had the problemists reunion on 24th September, all 4 of us! At the Ryde/Eastwood Services Club and on the way down to Sydney we met Fred Hawes' daughter Amy, who let me borrow her father's problem book. We left the car at Dennis Hale's holiday home at Blackheath and went to Sydney by train. On getting back to the car after the week it was covered with red dust thickly smeared on. Took a while to make the car driveable. Sydney-ites called the dust storm 'The Big Red.'

Bert was having an 'Australian Year' acquiring Vol.1 of the 'Australian Chess Lore' through ebay USA. "Very proud to have the series complete now, after about 15 years," he said. He also got the Purdy/Koshnitsky 1934 Match booklet which was a good pickup as I didn't have it. Bert's dad passed away in June. A sad time for them and David's book was on sale in Holland for \$40.

Ray Kuzanek had been in Croatia where his family came from. He had read the two Civil War books on John Slidell the Confederate Commissioner in Paris and felt that the family had such high connections “there would be little need for a ‘spy’ such as Paul.” He did know that Jules Arnous de Riviere had a brother Henri who was trying to obtain a ship for the Confederates. Henri was a soldier of fortune and killed by the Black Flags near Hanoi May 19th, 1883. I made a discovery in the NY Clipper 28th December, 1868 :-

“Hon. J. P. Benjamin, a member of the British Chess Association was present and honoured with a toast at the recent Westminster Chess Club.”

He was Secretary of War for the Confederates in the lost Civil War and the North tried hard to capture him in the Florida Everglades but he escaped. It was clear he was a strong chess player and being related to Morphy would have opened doors for him. The question is which doors? I doubt that has been researched. Benjamin had a very successful legal career in England postwar and Mrs Keyes in her book, knew how smart he was.

There was a new Q&Q editor in BCM Phil Hughes. I never heard why Chris Ravilious resigned and sadly Phil had only a short life with Q&Q.

I bought the Romanian Bibliography by Marian Stere, the De Lucia Library 2 vols, Binnewitz' & c, “Obliged to tradition-the German Chess Club,” Blackburne by Graham the Dover reprint and Schillers ‘Encyclopaedia of Chess Wisdom’ from TP.

Tony sent me a fine article on Baruch H. Wood from Chess by his son marking the 100th anniversary of Wood’s birth. He was my first overseas dealer in 1967. Klittich was dear for English dealers due to the exchange rate so Tony was out of the game. Also it had been a long time since a London chess auction had been held. We all knew the GFC was to blame. Another customer of Tony’s “recently spent a week going around Wales, Hay-on-Wye the book town and found hardly any old chess books for sale.”

I CD/scanned Fred Hawes problems from his book lent by daughter Amy to Ken plus another CD on my ‘rough’ ‘Australian Chess Problem History’ and a short article on John Kellner my hero from yesteryear. Arthur Willmott enjoyed the problem history. I told Ken, Bert had been restricted to the Sheraton Hotel in Karachi for his week’s work there. I understood the safety aspect but somehow the bookshops had to be seen or at least contacted. Someone at the Hotel could have helped as this was an opportunity missed. Safety is paramount, I know but.....

The ‘Sydney Magazine’ a lush insert in the Herald now sadly extinct had a glossy paper article encouraging people to use libraries. The photo of librarian Kiersten Fishburn with her young son midst all the books on shelves was a beauty. She had managed an increase in visits as she said “Libraries are no longer just about borrowing books. They’re more like community lounge rooms. We want people to come in and read a book, listen to music, borrow a DVD, use the internet or just sit and talk.” The new Surry Hills library got 1200 people at the opening. The other articles by Steve Cannane, Kate Mayo, Alan Tasker and Richard Barclay are terrific and the article is a collectors item. It is called ‘Shhh’ and must be late 2009. Sorry no date.

Jenn Davies sent a fantastic photo of the Victorian Chess Team which Ken then got from The Weekly Times June 8th, 1907 with all the Victorian players and officials-19 in all there “Was Esling there?” Jenny asked. No, I don’t think he played. I could recognize faces – Gundersen, Grant, Witton but 10 played and 9 helped. It is an early beauty requiring some detective work.

I have just found Bert Corneth’s Introduction Card when he was at Brunei. That’s a few years ago!

“QUIET PLEASE I’M DREAMING” (SMH 14th November. Books p.39)

Great article by Paul Ham on the plans to make the SLNSW a literary paradise. Externally contrasting the Architectural styles and the interior. Worth reading if it can be dragged up in Trove. I liked the author’s friends description of a library being the ‘living room of the city.’ Some work was done in 2018 but not what the article suggested.

2010:

Ken rang and told me of his visit to the 100 year celebration of Flinders Street Station where he met Jenny Davies. Nothing on Esling in the displays which was disappointing. It will be a tough task to gain him any recognition.

I sent a thank you to Sue and John Beasley for their 17 years tending of the BCPS library. John was turning 70 and still active in chess.

Bert & Regina were enjoying Siberian conditions on the Dutch east coast. No skating but a thick layer of snow, gale force winds and - 15° temperatures. “Best conditions to play chess” wrote Bert.

I bid for Frere’s ‘History of NY City Chess’ and Thorpe’s ‘The Bury and West Sussex Chess Clubs in Tony’s Cat. 58. Item 1 in that Catalogue was a run of The Chess Collector’s magazine from 1993-2009. (Vol.3 No.3 – Vol.18 No.2) I had never seen this magazine but the price took away any temptation. It wouldn’t have a decade ago. Was I really in charge now? The really good rain we had was like that. We hadn’t had it for a decade.

I was curious as to how the ACF in 1950 being in existence since 1922 could retrospectively grant the Australian Championship title to F.K. Esling from a very unfinished match with GHD in 1885. We knew Esling turned 90 in 1950 and had carried out a campaign for many years wanting recognition as the first Australian champion. It appeared to me an emotional decision for all the right reasons but was it legal? For example, 10 years earlier the Fisher/Goldsmith match of 1875 was held to the end. Fisher was ‘unofficial’ NSW Champion and Goldsmith was Champion of Victoria. Fisher won and was named Champion of Australia by the Australasian newspaper. Why isn’t this the first championship match? I wrote to Ken about it and Peter Wagg had the first query.

Jenny Davies produced another rare photo of ‘someone’ standing on the Flinders Street Station Viaduct ca 1913 and she asked if it was Esling! Like Cathy Chua this woman always asked questions that were hard to answer. It looked like him. He was athletic when young. It could be? See ozproblems.com for the photo in Esling.

Ken replied with 'Turning Points in Australian History' by M. Crotty. There were indeed some anti German campaigns in Australia and 7000 Australians of German birth or descent were interred. Perhaps this played a part in Esling's employment and his resignation from Vic Rail in mid 1917. I included it on the Esling CD.

The death occurred of Anatoly Dobrynin in April, 2010 aged 90. He was Russian Ambassador to the US 1962-1985 and named 'one of the ablest diplomats of the 20th century.' Best of all he was a very good chess player and took most of Kissinger and Bryzinski's money and wine!

The SLV sent me the missing issue of the Australasian Chess Magazine so I could wrap up who was the problem editor. Turned out to be Dr. J.J. O'Keefe until the last issue when Fred Hawes took over.

I ordered 'Jacques Chess Sets' by Fersht, QCH15, 'Finding Fischer' by Geuzendam and Whyld's 'Chess Reader' from Tony's latest.

Norma spotted 'Chinese Chess' by Robert Lin 1991 in a Coffs Harbour shop. The book was published in Sydney. Many of the game's champions were named:- Wu Wing Hua (11x), Yang Goonlung (4x) and Li Lai Quan (3x). The women's champion was Xie Si Ming (3x) but the most amazing was the centenarian champion Xie Xia Xun. I'm not sure if this is a man or woman. An 84 page book for \$1. I bought it.

Ray Kuzanek sent 'The Beauregard-Keyes House' by Samuel Wilson Jr. 1993. A lovely 68 page book by the architect author, chock full of photos. Wilson restored the home with his partner Robert Koch working with owner Mrs Keyes until her death in 1970 and donated the firms services. He had given gifts to the home for 60 years. The builder in 1826 was James Lambert for Joseph Le Carpentier, Paul Morphy's future grandfather. There are nice images of Beauregard's two wives, Laure Villere and Caroline Deslonde. The General lost his 2nd wife in 1864. A very nice book to own. Ray also sent pages 255-276 from 'John Slidell and the Confederates in Paris' by Beckles Wilson. There is a lot about Henri de Riviere in those pages.

Vlastimil Fiala's QCH 15 had a nice comment about chess columns in Australia and New Zealand in the 19th century calling it "a paradise of chess journalism". He was right.

Phil Hughes the new editor of Q&Q in BCM placed Frank Ravenscroft's poem 'Fit calm employment for advancing years' in the September Q&Q BCM 2010. It was nice to see it reappear after it was in Whyatt in 1979.

Ray sent me a copy of 'Romance in New Orleans' by Harnett T. Kane from the American Weekly April 9th, 1950. The story of Paul Morphy's unhappy love for Marie, the daughter of a wealthy Creole family in the city. She was his age and on his return from Europe he proposed through an intermediary. She rejected his offer with the words "*But who would want a chess player for a husband?*" Paul accepted her rejection and later found her engaged to a well to do doctor. She is said to have cried at his death but went on with her duties as a mother. Kane (1911-1984) wrote 26 books of fiction and non-fiction, mostly about the South. His book "Spies for the Blue and Gray" would be an interesting read.

He was a graduate of Tulane University. I concluded that we needed to know a lot more about Judah P. Benjamin for starters and I re-examined Mrs Keyes non-disclosure of the woman's family as given in her book 'The Chess Players' 1960. It was simply because she lived in New Orleans and did not wish to upset any of her fellow townspeople. Kane's story has the ring of truth though I realise David Lawson would frown at that.

I wrote to Dr, Fiala (20th July) about his article in QCH15 on "How to proceed with research into chess history." Isolation was a factor, as he wrote and we, (myself included) followed our own objectives but teamed up when work required it. I loved working with John van Manen and Ken Fraser and we definitely 'springboarded' ourselves higher as a result. I wished VF had included chess problemists and endgamers in his article. I note he apologises for not doing that but in an 11 page article there was room. Also what about chess novelists such as Nabokov? These people add to the popularity of our game. There are many hybrid chess lovers and they should have been included in his article.

Geoff Foster sent me some endings of Ernst Pogogyants (1935-1990) who had composed 6000 studies mostly during the nights. He had criticized the Russian Government and was placed in 'treatment.' Such that when he came out he couldn't sleep and so composed endings and poetry. OCC does not mention the 'treatment' but states he was a maths teacher and an International Grandmaster for Chess Composition (1988). In the year 1984 he composed 984 problems and studies. A curious number. Vladimirov in OCC writes of him 'as highly energetic, inventive, full of wit, constantly writing sketches and aphorisms, also enjoying life to the full despite illness, loss of sight, and poverty in his last years, when he eked out a living on the small fees paid by newspapers for his compositions. It is a sad story that an artist of his skill wasn't granted some form of pension to enable him to have a life at the end. 55 was too young but Pogogyant's story is not known fully to me (see ending p.71)

Catalogue 60 had an Antiquarian Supplement with the 72 page Catalogue. I bid for 'White King and Red Queen' by Johnson, Stamma by Varadini, Anderssen by Gottschall, Lipschutz by Gillam and Sto Lat Polskiej...by Wrobel. Tony included an item on the BCF Library (now English CF) and called the National Chess Library. It contained 5 original collections Clarke, Croker, Diggle, Golombek and Jordan plus the English Chess Federation Collection. Others added included Dunleavy, Ravilious, Wade and Whiting plus the Tinsley notebooks and Gillam magazines plus small gifts still being catalogued.

There was a comment by the American rare book dealer Rick Gekoski in The Australian of 22nd May "*There are already too many books. If half of them die, that's good.*" He and Nicholas Pounder of Sydney agreed that e-books were an unpleasant way to read a book but good if you didn't want to keep them. "*It will become harder and harder for the big publishing companies to publish quality things for niche audiences. But people are already hiving off and starting up small independent presses, which will start to create quality books for niche markets. I am very concerned about 20-year-olds, who are used to e-books and reading on iPhones, and do not have a communal reading life.*"

Collectors of first editions of important books tended to be middle aged men and these may disappear. There was a long and very fine article in The Australian Literary Review, Vol.5,

Issue 5th June, 2010 called 'No Technology is Innocent' by Alberto Manguel. Too long for here.

Robert Silverberg was a great SF writer and his article 'The Assassin' 1957 was similar to the sad story of Morphy and love. I wrote 'Pride & Sorrow' based, or rather plagiarising Silverberg in a tale of time travel where a Morphy admirer invents and goes back in his machine to change Morphy's love life. He fails. Ray liked it and rang me from Chicago to say so. He had enjoyed Poland and the Baron's conference, shared a meal with Averbakh, met Sanvito and Lissowski and Maria Luczak and was shown the castle by one of her helpers. As for New Orleans he loved the meals at Brennans and walked up the steps to where the Morphys' lived. Ray's father was Croatian and his mother was Polish. He hoped to go back to Croatia. We came to an agreement that he would pay for the late Jas Duke's share of Morphy research carried out almost 20 years ago. Jas died and I paid in full. Not a lot of money and worthwhile putting a trained researcher on the job. She was great and her name was Mary White. I scanned all the material onto CDs and sent them to Ray.

It was astonishing what some people who one never knew asked of one. Ray got a phone call about the Paul Morphy silver service from the 1857 tourney by an appraiser for insurance purposes. It was not for sale but what was it worth? He asked me and I was still relieved the service was still around. It could have gone the way of Paul's chess set. The service was a one-off and the photo and description on p.73/74 of Lawson's book showed what a nice item it was and valued then at \$300 in 1857. It was pure silver and consisted of a salver or tray, a pitcher and 4 goblets all inscribed. Value today?? \$1 million seemed fair.

Ken sent some indexes from the Adelaide Observer Miscellany 1880-1908. They were detailed and valuable for research. The amusing false obituary of Paul Morphy in 1883 was there plus the real one the next year when he died. I was intrigued by one item on the Darling River p.475/1885. Could be chess on a riverboat or chess in the wild? Only my view. The index faded from 1887 onwards and did not include the game players names. A pity.

Ray sent two astonishing articles from 1858/9 on Henri de Riviere. In the first he fought duels in New Orleans and Mobile was wounded in the latter befriended the family that helped him recuperate, was arrested in Hoboken NY and there were earlier charges in France in 1856. A true soldier of fortune and his help with the Confederacy was real.

Phil Hughes column in BCM Quotes & Queries was culled from November making BCM an all players magazine. He sent his unpublished columns to Chess Notes but it was the end of my sub as I liked stories and facts not games.

I bid for Chess Periodical by Di Felice and Champions of the New Millenium by Kopec and Browne in Cat 61.. I'd played the latter at Grace Brothers in 1971 and got mauled.

Ray sent me a photocopy of 'The First and Last Days of Paul Morphy' by Leona Queyrouze Barel and I read it twice to get a feel for it. Some new material worthy of publication and Harry Grondijs got there with his 50 copy 20008 publication. I had never heard of it and so started to transcribe it:-

Page 26:- “Paul’s father refused the lad’s attendance at the International Chess Congress of 1851!! What a sensation that would have been had he played at age 14. There were other surprises such as playing chess in Paris in 1867! As for physique Paul was under medium height, brown hair and eyes and taciturn. Charles Maurian was fair haired, blue eyed, tall and sturdy and spontaneous. Page 47 stated “*It is not probable that he was ever in love.*” I finished a transcript though there were missing words and sent it to Ray.

Ken’s Christmas card revealed he’d been in hospital for a week with pneumonia but OK.

2011:

Bert bought a 1st Edition Bilguer 1843 in a shop in Linz Austria with the half leather binding. A very good pick-up by one of the best travelling chess book buyers.

It was sad to read Leona Queyrouze Barel’s attempts to publish her manuscript in France. It was rejected there in 1888 by Numa Preti. It then got lost and she completed an English version in 1895 and it was rejected by New York publishers. Harry Grondijs published it though there were some modifications by Leona and her brother Maxime. I am unsure whether his publication took those in but assume it was the original. This made me re-read Jas Duke’s letters and made me more certain we were poorer for his loss and that he made most of the running with all his Morphy questions.

Ray Kuzanek then found ‘A Dissertation of Leona Queyrouze (1861-1938), French Creole Poet, Essayist and composer’ by Donna Meletio. And then Ken added that Donna M was making this dissertation for her PhD 2005 and he’d found it on the web. That gave Norma the lead she wanted and she came home with the whole article on a thumb drive. It made good reading (270 pages) and perhaps Morphy went to Leona’s salon. I had asked Ken what RUEB meant related to Harry Grondijs book and he said Rijswijkse Uitgerery Ergen Beheer, the local municipal publishing firm. Harry’s book was titled ‘The First and Last days of Paul Morphy’ by Leona Queyrouze and other Morphyana.

Ken usually always typed his letters and said of his own handwriting “Octogenarians and decent handwriting don’t go together.” But it was quite readable I thought. He sent BCM 1886 Morphy items by Fuller (ex Ledger editor) and Wayte. The former didn’t give the deceased Morphy an easy ride nor did Rev. W. Wayte. They both thought Morphy a genius at chess and a dullard at life. I sent Ken a CD on my Leona transcription and noted on the second read how many more of the hard words I’d managed to decipher.

A CD went to Ray also showing my transcription mistakes and also Harry Grondijs. There were 45 mistakes in transcription from the original manuscript. I should add that I wished I owned a copy of Harry’s book. It was very good.

Peter Gvozdjak sent me a note on Cyclone 2 his problem book and so I ordered it. I well recalled his first with the lovely childrens drawings front and back.

Ken sent the obituary of Greg Hjorth (14th June, 1963 – 13th January, 2011) at age 47.

I didn't know Greg or the details. It was sad that a very strong chess player had died so early.

I ordered 'Great Chess Books' by Dunne and 'Chess Don' by Schultze from Tony's Cat 62. He was not optimistic about the future of printed books as many of his customers were older people 50+ and with many second-hand and new bookshops closed internet was the reason and the way to go. The antiquarian market was still strong. As for Alex Dunne, he had a terrible family tragedy with this book. (See 15 in Dealer's Notes.)

Tony told me of two Bobby Fischer items sold at a New York auctions recently:-

1. One of the chess sets used in the 1972 Fischer/Spasky match for Game 3. \$76,275
2. Copy of 'My Seven Chess Prodigies' by John W. Collins signed 'To Adorable Zita from Bobby September 9th, 1991' + 3 1993/4 letters by Bobby to Zita \$9,887.

Ray bought a copy of 'Paul Morphy Confederate Spy' by Stan Vaughan who was World Federation Chess Champion. I asked Tony if he could buy it for me.

In Cat. 63 I bought 'Notes on Howard Staunton' by John Townsend, a new historian. Also Brady's 'Endgame' and 2 volumes of the Yugoslavian Bibliography by Drajić. Tony mentioned the additional attractions bookshops had to include to survive including a coffee bar, gifts and souvenirs. There were only two second-hand shops in Southend and one was open only 3 days per week. In the High Street was a large Waterstones, W.H. Smith and a publisher's remainder shop for new books.

John Townsend's book was excellent and he went a long way to indirectly solving who the first Australian chess champion was in that first tourney in Melbourne, Australia in 1856. A London player named William Watts. He replied 31st July after I had sent him Ken Whyld and David Hooper's theory about Staunton's early days. That his original name was James Stanton but John was not impressed. He found the Jas Duke CD 'interesting.'

Ray K (13th August) gave me his assessment of the Vaughan book though his expectations were low based on his internet investigation. Here it is:-

"The book begins in 1862 and 117 pages later Paul arrives in France. With so many pages devoted to his journey to Cuba, Spain, and then to Paris, one could anticipate many details which are unusually glossed over in the Morphy story. Well, one gets details, but they resemble a travel log.

As Morphy visits a city along the route, there are 8 to 10 pages of detailed descriptions of architecture and paintings. Morphy is a tourist, which he might have been in real life, but with southern soldiers simultaneously dying on the battlefields it does not support the author's comment on the back cover indicating "Few people realize the key role played by world chess champion Paul Morphy throughout the American Civil War."

The story portrays Paul meeting a "who's who" of 19th century society in art, literature and

politics. Paul predicts the death of specific individuals. He is asked by Benjamin for his opinion on law. The alleged impact by a Polish rebellion on Russian foreign policy thereby influencing the foreign policy of England and France is also detailed. (I have never read about this theory in any history course I have taken).

The book concludes with Paul giving a substantial sum of money to a Confederate agent. One of the irksome things about this book is the number of typos. After a few dozen pages I began making marks in the margins to flag them. There were over 50. Many were regarding spelling while others were words that made no context of the paragraph. I have never read a book in which I encountered such a deficiency in proof reading. I had hoped that the author's research for the book would turn up the names of some individual worth targeting for further investigation regarding Paul. I was curious about one individual in Cuba, but an internet search indicates the author overstates his role. We'll see regarding others...For me the litmus test for Vaughan's research was the question how he dealt with a possible relationship between Morphy and De Riviere's brother. Here too, I was disappointed. While expressing my views, I hope I have not been so detailed as to suppress all your enjoyment for the book.

Tony sent me the Stanley Kubrick article out of Chess September, 2010 also Michael Stoop July, 2010 and the obituary of Lilienthal from the July issue. The write up on Kubrick showed what a keen chess player he was.

I ordered the Batsford Book of Chess Records by Damsky, Vladimir Petrovs by Petrovs, Przepiorka by Lissowski and Chess Psychology by Dunnington from Tony's Cat. 64.

I sent KF my 'chess graves' CD but it wasn't very thorough. I told him the KWA publication of the Australian Bibliography was complete and had been sent to Paul Dunn.

Tony sent the Vaughan book and I reviewed it and wrote Tony about the plagiarism. He decided to 'steer clear'. I then completed a 3+ page private review for Ray. Briefly Stan Vaughan lifted large chunks of Frances Parkinson Keyes book 'The Chess Players' (120-141), (355-357), (367-410) and (428+). I later found chunks of 'Iberia' by the great US novelist James Micheson and a slice out of a Spanish Tourist book. It was the lack of acknowledgement to FPK that really annoyed. This was her greatest book and Vaughan just siphoned off the pages and gave no credit. The book was nominated for the Pulitzer and other awards. I wonder what the judges thought? I later sent my review summary to the Beauregard-Keyes house in New Orleans but no reply.

The review started me on some 1863/4 research in The Field, ILN, The Era, Bells Life in London and the NY Clipper with my big conclusion that the French newspapers held the key, were a primary source that was untapped, and we needed to get in contact with a French historian. That was done, but more to do with the Morphy visit of 1867 to Paris.

Tony's 65th catalogue was a good one and I ordered Drajić Vol.3, QCH 16, Sergeant's Morphy's Games, & Gosling's John Brown. I was pleased to see Brian Gosling's book as I admired John Brown the composer of lightweight 2-er & 3-er problems. He had a tough life and died of TB before he was 40. I sent Tony a CD on Wisker research finalized in Sydney for Hans Rennet.

Tony wanted “A Chess Miscellany” 1979 but they were all gone. I smiled at my last copy-dear old foolscap size and gestetner pages mixed with photocopy! Does anyone remember the gestetner? My padded bag sent air mail to Tony took 6 weeks and obviously went sea mail. It restored my faith in the Post Office-as it got there.

The year finished with Christmas Cards from Ken Fraser and Bert. He had been in Lisbon where the antiquarian shops had hardly any chess books. But then again I thought Bert nearly had them all!

2012:

Tony was pleased to get the Wisker CD and copied it for Gordon Cadden and Owen Hindle. I later had some correspondence with Gordon on Philidor after his great series of articles in BCM 2016.

Paul Dunn sent me an amazing BCM CD of the first 24 years that he'd bought on ebay! Very useful for the missing years in my collection that I would never fill-the 1880's. Strangely this CD does not have 1894 but was a good way for collectors who wanted facts of those rare years in digital form. For many years I looked for the 1884 BCM as it contained Morphy and Wisker's deaths. Now I have them digitally. It seems to have been done when the great libraries were digitized and the New York Public Library stamp 261746B is there indicating part of the Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundation 1942. There was nothing new in the Morphy obituary except that Moncure D. Conway remarked that Morphy was ashamed of his interest in chess. I let Ray know of the BCM CD and he sent back 'Lawson on Morphy' by Albrecht Buschke. This review was 7 pages long and raised a few points:-

1. Buschke was unhappy he is not mentioned in the Acknowledgements.
2. The phrase 'pompous book' was an unfortunate result of 1.
3. Spelling differences obsessed Buschke especially Lowenthal's name.
4. The book is pro Morphy.
5. German translation was poor according to Buschke. Von der Lasa's full name for one.
I found it a disgruntled review of Lawson's book which was a class act.

Tony sent the books mentioned late last year and I loved the provenance of the Sergeant 1915 Morphy's Games which was "To Father with love from his loving daughter Myrtle Xmas 1915." USA or UK provenance? Not sure,

I gave Ken all John Townsend's details on the London Chess Club player William Watts and Ken tried to pin down his shipping entry to Australia. John T came back again with 1841 census material on William Watts of West Street Smithfield, aged 36 a Merchant. He was born in the County of Middlesex (London).

I sent Ray my article "Morphy's Mythical? Spanish Excursion Nov/Dec., 1862" as there had been criticism of the time he took to get to Paris if he was involved with the Confederacy. But he had Charles Maurian and his wife Marie Meffre Rouzan with him. They had married in

February, 1862 in New Orleans, the North took over the city in April and the four left for France in October. Some may argue Maurian didn't have his wife with him but to leave her behind in a hostile New Orleans made no sense. True she may had commitments in that city at home with family but the odds were she went with her husband and so the trip was a belated honeymoon.

Ray replied telling me there was ANOTHER book on Morphy by a University Professor Thomas Aiello and he also told me of Frank Skoff's friendship with Sam Ennis who was in contact with David Lawson and Albrecht Buschke and Ray thought the Buschke review came from Ennis.

We were quite fit this year and intended going to Kornik if the Baron's 5 year conference was on. What we didn't know was that Marie Luczak had died in 2011 and I didn't find out until much later. That was quite sad as she was not old but it led to discussion on which French newspapers would contain Morphy material from 1858/9. Ray discovered a lot of free digitized French newspapers and as well as the one mentioned in Edge, ones worth pursuing were Figaro (1821-1942), La Presse (1836-1935) and le Siecle (1836-1932). Ray liked the Australian Trove site and used it.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives.

Professor Aiello was teaching history at Valdosta University Georgia and the book was a new edition of David Lawson's book with some new material. Ray accused me of giving him late nights with all the digitized newspapers!

The 5 copies of the Australian Chess Bibliography arrived in February from Paul Dunn and it was great to see and feel. There were 250 copies. Ken Fraser had it and was examining it and John Townsend's latest on William Watts.

Emails came on on 9/11/13 February from Ray. They weren't short and I was beginning to appreciate how contact was 'stepped up' once one used it. I wasn't all that keen liking time between contact. They were too quick and not considered but exciting? Yes!

I gave Ray info on the MacKenzie Judd match in St. Louis March/April, 1881 and the postponement when MacKenzie had to go to New Orleans. On 30th April he played his final game with Judd at St Louis winning +7-5=1. Had anyone examined the New Orleans paper for early 1881 to see if MacKenzie met Morphy? There was a great rivalry between Brentanos and BCM in 1881 both being new boys on the block. And, was Morphy badly beaten by Anderssen before their match as Alphonse Dellaonoy claimed? AD confirmed it was true! But was it? MacKenzie had played a 16 game simul at the New Orleans Chess Club in February, 1881. Brentanos was great but it died too soon.

I was disappointed with Stan Vaughan and started reading the 1000 page 'Iberia' by James Michener in early March where the alarm bells soon started ringing when Michener reached Toledo. I had read this before but where? Stan was 'slippery' with Michener extracts and it wasn't simple plagiarism like when he used Keyes. I knew copyright was a big deal in the USA.

Tony sent a fantastic antiquarian List on March 12th and though I only bid for two the Mortimer and the 1848 Vol. of CPC, there were great buys:-

Alexandre £250; Bingham £200; Fiske 1857 £250; Greco 1714 £450; Lewis var. £200; Sarrat on Damiano, Lopez and Salvio £200; Chess & Chess Players £350; Staunton 1851 £200; The Philidorian 1838 £450; Tomlinson's Amusements £200 and this was a few of the high priced items there were stacks of lower priced books. They were owned by an English academic who needed the money.

Ray found Trevor Kennedy's review of Vaughan's Morphy book. TK had pinged Stan on Michener and also a tourist book "DK of Spain." How he caught him was he noticed various phrases in Vaughan that rang a bell and he googled the phrases and up it came catching out Vaughan. Kennedy would not finish his review nor did he wish to make a fuss. I guessed that the exposure was great but TK hadn't even finished reading it! He got to page 63 and then put it down and wrote "I do not know if I will pick it up again. Pity I was just getting into the story. I wonder how things turned out in the end?" To be fair to Stan it was a novel but was it his? He wrote Stan won an award from www.henschelhaus.com. But I couldn't find it.

Tony was pleased with the sales of the antiquarian books and he told me about Part 2 of Steinitz's 'Modern Chess Instructor' which was very scarce. The MVA had given me a duplicate of that.

On plagiarism the Hungarian President Pal Schmitt was caught out when 17 of his 215 page thesis were copied from a German Academic and 180 pages showed "partial similarity." It was a big deal in Europe.

Bert's globetrotting jobs were over for a time and he went to Beijing, Madrid, London, the Middle East where "...many chess books eg the Russian book of the Tournament of St. Petersburg 1909" came his way. I was building bookcases to ease the strain. I told him I had bought Vol. 8 of CPC closing a 35 years gap.

In Cat. 67 I bid for Katz-History of chessmen, Foldeak on Steiner and Pickard on Loyd. Tony had sent me the Lewis DVD from the National Museum of Scotland and I ordered further 'Eminent Victorian Chess Players' by Tim Harding. Tony was to reduce his printed catalogues as the majority of his customers received updates by email or direct order from his website.

Bert's 38p updated catalogue showed he had close to 2000 items in the pre 1960 category He was tempted by Tony's antiquarian sale but home renovations stopped him. He had started collecting in 1988-very impressive. He sent too a lovely photo of Odilia and Erik.

My sister sent me a cutting from her local Sydney paper when the big dry burst in April, 2012. Some characters had stored 5kg of cocaine in a marble and wooden chessboard. They got caught.

Ray and I were discussing the new Morphy book by Professor Aiello. This book does not mention Stan Vaughan, or Harry Grondijs or Leona Queyrouze or Donna Meletio. We thought he should have acknowledged pre and post Lawson items in his book. But in the excellent

editorial introduction he infers Morphy may have been a spy, he ignores Morphy's father's death in 1856, he does not mention the law suits of the 1870/80 period but he provides a good Lawson biography, tells of the fire at Spring Hill school where Morphy attended, notes Lawson and Keyes were in contact and gave no Morphy games. He states that Lawson's letters in Cleveland Library are not accessible but includes new photos of Morphy after p.183 and before p.199. He missed the Buck reprint but writes usefully of US politics of the 1860's on p.244/5. The editors Notes to the Lawson bio are disappointing and the editor's 'Selected' Annotated Bibliography is weak. It was a genuine 2nd edition of Lawson and parts are very good but not as good as the 1st edition. His use of the word 'crazy' on page IX could have been toned down.

Bert was arriving in Melbourne in October, 2012 and would look at the SLV treasures with Des Cowley. His April 30th letter did not mention the visit but the good news was:-

"I am sending you enclosed a specimen of my latest catalogue and a recent photograph of Odilia and Erik. The catalogue does not yet (as you suggested) mention the origin or provenance of the books. Just a shortlist, maintained- believe it or not- since 1990, but very useful for myself to avoid buying a book I already have. I do not buy many books anymore, even started selling some duplicates and modern books that I do not need anymore. (eg books on openings that I do not play anymore). Since the compilation of this catalogue I think that I only bought one item which is Najdorf's only production; his two volume work on the candidates tournament in 1953. So I am trying to create some space, because I have currently quite a number of my books in boxes, and of course you cannot enjoy them in such hidden condition. Also we are going to do some refurbishing on our house, my library will then come down from the second floor to the first floor.

Even that beautiful list from Tony Peterson I did not react to, although I was probably the first person to open his mail as I was at my computer when his mail arrived. But I decided I will focus this year on setting up the supporting 'infrastructure' for my collection, i.e the bookcases, and how they are spread over the house.

But I did go last November to the Klittich auction in Braunschweig, accompanied by Erik whom I wanted to introduce to my fellow members. Erik made the show there, managing in his own way to get two books autographed personally by Lothar Schmid who was also attending. On the eve before that auction there was a regional meeting of the KWA, during which three new publications of the KWA were presented. One of them the bibliography of chess literature of Australia and New Zealand, of which you are co-author. It is a very nice production...

Erik meanwhile has become quite a decent chess player himself, his rating has already exceeded mine. He plays in Utrecht (where he lives) with the chess club Oud Zuylen. Last season, when he joined, he played in their 5th team, and towards the end of the season he occasionally was substituted in team 4. He scored something like 7 out of 9, and therefore started as player of team 3. Meanwhile he has also substituted in team 2, where he scored 2.5 out of 3. Overall 9 out of 11 this season so far. His aim is to become a member of their first team which played in the second division if the Dutch national league. That is the highest level that I played in my best days.

My travelling for work since mid 2009 was still once in two weeks, mainly mid-week to London (3 days per trip), but this is coming to an end as well and I am quite happy about that. Additional trips I made to Beijing and Dubai and a couple of less exotic places. Once a month to London looks the maximum now, Regina is very happy with that as well."

A great letter, one of Bert's best. He was winding down. I wonder did he book-hunt in all those exotic places?

Bert sent a nice PC from Koningsenschloss Neuschwanstein and wrote of the culture and chess history in Bavaria but books nowhere to be found. Beautiful scenery. I told him I liked Emile Katz 1963 work 'History of Chessmen' as it was unusual.

"Sunday brunch at Brennan's in New Orleans can be a theatrical experience" wrote The Australian 2nd July. "Go to 417 Royal Street!" I would like to go there but in 1856 just before Alonzo's death. Can anyone oblige?

Ray bought a Staunton letter dated 2nd July, 1858. It was to Fiske wishing more English chess games were published in the US Chess Monthly. Hard to read but we got most of it. Just thinking:- were there reasons for that? Morphy had just arrived and it is as though Fiske and Staunton were not close.

Here is Ray's 27th August letter on his visit to New Orleans and the Aiello book:-

"I have looked over all of Aiello's editorial footnotes, the Lawson biography, and visited the sections of the second edition of the Morphy volume ("PM2") which addresses questions which you and I have discussed. The descriptions of the book had only mentioned the Lawson information and the photos of Lawson so my expectations for new insights were not great. Therefore, I was not surprised that no significant facts were disclosed although it is disappointing given the time which passed since the first edition.

I wonder how much research Aiello has done? His summary of material appearing since PM1 would suggest he is on 'top of things', but as you point out, his omission of Grondijs and Queyrouze are interesting. Of course, it was luck that enabled me to discover G & Q; the phone call to Paul during my visit to New Orleans, his mentioning the museum with Morphy material, and the curator's mentioning of the unpublished manuscript. Later, on ebay, I came upon G. (I was outbid twice but a seller with whom I have dealt with contacted me saying he had another copy).

The photo on page 185 is attributed to The Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC). This is the museum which I visited. When I was shown the photo at that time, my immediate reaction was to say "This is Paul Morphy?" What do you think? I vaguely recall the curator saying it was a photo from 1859, but to me it looks like a much older man. In other PM photos, I thought he had a full face, somewhat square. This new photo impresses me as being rather oblong. Perhaps, it is a photo taken some years later, when his appearance changed? Or could it be Edward (my initial thought when seeing it)? I note his tie is not tied that way in any other photos.

I doubt that Aiello visited the THNOC. When I did, the curator escorted me to a small room off to one side. It was perhaps six feet in width and ten feet long. There were display cases against the right and left walls. Two shelves on right wall (perhaps extending for four feet) were devoted to Morphy memorabilia: the 1891 bust (whereabouts unknown) per note on page 329 (of Aiello BM) the laurel crown (owned by Samory, page 330), Paul's chess set, and the photo of page 185. Paul's cane and the cast of his hand are owned by a Connecticut collector, David Delucia. Towards the end of my visit to THNOC, the curator did a search of the computers inventory and went to a storage area. When he returned, he was holding Paul's chess board (evidently the one that went with the pieces in the display case). It was about two feet square, folded in the middle, thin like cardboard but covered in leather with black and grey squares.....

Dale Brandreth acquired and sold several of the 3/5 size busts which L. noted had arrived in New Orleans in January, 1859. Frank Skoff told me that one had been destroyed in the Chicago Fire, and one in New Orleans as L. describes. To the best of my knowledge, Brandreth still has scoresheets from the 1857 tournament (when I asked him about their potential sale, he said he wanted to inspect them to verify there were no signatures by participants). (Edge said secretaries recorded the scores). He also has the board on which Paul learned to play chess (back cover of Chess World 1964) and Maurian's notebook in which he recorded his games with Paul.

On page 191 there is an undated photo of Paul with a lady. This is in fact one of a pair of such photos constituting a stereo view image. There is a variant with the lady's hand away from her face. Note that the background in the photo is identical with the Lowenthal photo on page 193 which is indicated to have been taken in London in 1858. The odds certainly favour the same date for the lady's photo. It is unfortunate that I don't recall any London lady appearing in the history of Paul's stay in London.

On page 281, there is the story of Paul playing chess "against the devil." It would have been nice to see Aiello interject that in the last few years, a Virginia family came forward with a painting which their family tradition says was the one Paul saw when he visited the residence of their ancestor.

I have never visited Dale Brandreth. During the luncheon with Frank Skoff, Ken Whyld noted that Dale's place was crowded with stacks of books that could easily be misplaced. Frank had said that once he had purchased a book from Dale. Dale said in a phone conversation that he had looked for it over a few days before, but then said he could not find it! Frank took this to mean that Dale had changed his mind about selling it.

Contact Aiello? Unlikely. He doesn't raise questions that need clarification much less add new data. Perhaps, he did not consider it the function of an editor....."

A great letter and Ray did Paul Morphy fans a service with his research in New Orleans. It was the photo on p.185 that was astonishing to Norma and I such that on 28th August, I commented:-

1. The Brady photo of M is of a short man. Not so THNOC.
2. M was right handed. Would he hold a walking cane in his left hand?

3. M has no chin dimple in Brady but does in THNOC.
4. Noses are different. In Brady M's nose is wide, in THNOC thinner.
5. Brady's M is all head, in THNOC M looks normal.
6. In Brady M's face is rounder in THNOC M's face is longer.
7. Norma noted the distance between the bottom of the nose and the top lip is larger in THNOC than Brady but she also said "Who could believe the 4 faces on the next page are of the same man?"

And on the photos in Aiello is it too long a bow to say that on p.196 Paul is playing against Queen Victoria?

Ray was a generous fellow and sent mail tubes of photos to Thomas Lissowski whom he had met at Kornik and myself. He contacted Spring Hill School and was told they had 38 photos of Morphy but they were all in Lawson. We were discussing names and provenances and I gave him that one of Myrtle where she wrote on 'Morphy's Games of Chess' by Sergeant in 1915 to her father. Ray replied:-

"I must admit that I have yet to encounter a Myrtle however there are cycles in names and I was recently surprised to learn that Caleb is one of the most popular for newborns in America so a Myrtle may be just around the corner. (If you recommend a Myrtle as a good match for me, I promise to give her serious consideration!) The Morphy photos he sent in the tube were greatly appreciated."

Bert's trip to Melbourne was firming up to late October and here's his 21st October email-
"I arrived safely in Melbourne and used yesterday to start adjusting to the different time zone. Even been to the state library briefly and seen the M.V. Anderson collection again (well, the modern part) great that the library is open all day during the weekend as well, wish we had that in Netherlands! I arrived in time to get to a post office to send off the book "Catalogus van de schaakboekerij van Dr Niemeijer" to you. Did that by registered mail.

Bob, if I remember correctly this book is L/N 110. It is exceptionally rare and much sought after by chessbook collector. The reason for that: It was published in Rotterdam late in 1939 and most of the books were still with the publisher when WW2 hit the Netherlands in May 1940 and the centre of Rotterdam was bombed. Only an estimated 200 specimens (those that had been sold or gone out already) had survived. Not sure if there is a copy of this book in Australia already.

Only a few weeks ago Karel Mokry offered me a copy on eBay, and the hammer-price was 580US\$. Your copy is nicer, a near mint specimen. How I got a duplicate? Well I bought my first copy in orig soft covers, many years ago from Jacob Feenstra, while I was in Brunei. Then, last year, Jacob offered to sell me his own copy, which is one of the very few originally clothbound specimens. Again in near mint condition. I bought it, thought first that the price was a bit high, well, now I know better.

You should receive yours in the next few days. I am sure you will look after it well, you have known Dr. Niemeijer personally. Please let me know when you have received it...."

I had a long phone chat on the Saturday night and we talked ourselves out. He found time to play at the Melbourne Chess Club weekend Allegro and visit the library where Des Cowley showed him the treasures of the SLV. I offered him my duplicate “Good Companions Bonus Socius” ms by Jas Magee 1910. Bert later found a copy of ‘How Euwe Won’ on the US internet and it was sent by the owner. That filled a 30 + year gap and was very good of him. A Purdy book from pre WW2 and difficult to buy.

We went to Sydney where Norma was researching Brewarrina history (our first home town near Bourke) for John George, one of the organisers of the 150th birthday for Bre. They put out two good books that week and we went out for it. I was doing research on another hero of mine Charles Gilbert Marriot Watson an Australian chess champion and strong problemist. This was the fellow with the nickname ‘Lethe’. The library was being refurbished and looked good.

The big news was our daughter, husband and our 2 grandchildren decided to leave Narromine after 13 years and go to Brisbane, Emma had finished Year 12 and it was the right time but BOY! it shook up the ship!

Moves were happening everywhere. Tony Peterson was off to Littlehampton in Sussex with new partner Janet. His Cat 68 had 3 items and I bid for Hilbert’s “Writing Chess History,” Harding’s “CC in Britain and Ireland” and Utterbeurg’s Psychology book which I missed. I told Tony this would be my last order from his hard copy cats. and I sent him the Watson CD as a parting gift and wished him well. Reality was I just wasn’t doing the books justice.

Ray had been astonished by ‘The Genius and the Misery of Chess’ by Zhivko Kaikamjov and his claims re Morphy’s 1867 visit to Paris for psychiatric help. I told him that Neumann had been helped at Saint Anne’s.

I found the Watson historian in December. Reg Watson was his name, a Tasmanian, and he had put out a book about the Watsons. My CD filled some gaps for him.

My letter to Ken Fraser on 17th December included photos of the F.K. Esling glass beer stein given by the family to Jenny Davies for her book ‘Beyond the Façade’ and I told him Frank Crowl’s son in Dunedin had wanted info on his dad which I had sent. I enclosed the Watson CD. He had 20 years volunteering at the SLV in January!

I wrote to Bert 28th December to confirm if Maria Luczak had passed away and thanked him again for ‘How Euwe Won’ which arrived that day. It had a good provenance coming from Dana Brannan who had bought it October 17th, 1936 from Helms. I presumed that to be Herman Helms shop but wasn’t sure.

2013:

Ray sent a great photo from the 1893 Harper’s Weekly of the Intercolonial Chess Tourney at Manhattan. GHDG was in it and it was good to see the Morphy painting on the wall behind the players.

Our daughter and our son in law put the internet in our home 10th January, 2013. Norma was very keen! It was a parting gift.

Ray was very concerned our family had gone but we were OK. He sent a stereoscope to which we could use the 3D photos he had sent of Morphy. It was an interesting instrument invented in 1832. Queen Victoria was a great fan. I reread Aiello and concluded that all the Morphy family problems started after Alonzo's death in 1856. I reminded Ray that FPK had sussed that and for him to reread from p.169 onwards in 'The Chess Players.' It took a woman and mother to get it right.

There was an auction by Dale Brandreth of Morphyana in March with a reserve bid of \$550 for the 41 items. There was a lot of Xerox or photocopy material and probably worth the money and Ray was giving it some thought. I wasn't interested and there were no bids and it was put out at \$600 fixed. I thought the Morphy market was predominantly a US market and I hoped it went to a sympathetic owner and Morphy fan.

Ken Fraser was retiring from the library and this happened in June 2013. His home was sold and he was living in Mercy Place, Parkville No.1 William Street Room 18 by the end of September. I have written Ken's life in chess and the library and it is on the ozproblems.com website. He had gradually nudged me into being a DIY operator.

We went to Coffs and then onto Brisbane but I bought a 'History of the Confederate Navy' by J. Thomas Scharf at Readmore Books on the highway at Coffs - \$15. How did that book end up here but many politicians were US Civil War Buffs - Kim Beasley & Bob Carr for two, so why not the public? A massive reprint 1996 at 824 pages. There was little on France/England/Confederate ships. Scharf was certain the US Navy won the Civil War and there is an excellent 24 page article on the taking of New Orleans.

Ray was amused by my words 'a stroke of luck' in picking up the Confederate Navy book and thought I'd had a stroke! He was relieved when he read further "Wheew" was one word he used. Really though it is a wonder we both didn't have one at ANOTHER NEW MORPHY BOOK! called 'The Knight of New Orleans, the Pride and Sorrow of Paul Morphy' by Matt Fullerty, Matt was a chess player so that was good.

Can one imagine an admission card to the US National Chess Congress in 1857 signed by Fiske and Mead to Thomas Frere for \$475? It did. So also a letter from Regina Morphy- Voitier to Jas F. Magee dated July 27th, 1922 for \$600! And finally a letter from Pillsbury to the Hoboken Chess Club President dated February 28th, 1898 for \$1450! Ray didn't bid for any and he was considering retiring but we were discussing the great dust cover on FPK's 'The Chess Players' and though it looked easy to pick who was who - it wasn't.

Tony sent Cat. 69 in July and I ordered the Fullerty book and the final Drajić on Yugoslavian Chess Bibliography. Didn't take me long to weaken!

I told Ray about retirement after 13 years of it, and a little knowledge as small country towns are very different to cities like Chicago. I had many boring days in hot summers and reminded him of the joke about the person who knows they are getting old when he looks forward to a dull night at home. Of course one could minimize the dull days and nights with keeping an interest. My wife has been a volunteer at the local library since 1999 3 days per week. That is her big interest - local history records. She is still there in 2019, or 20 years.

The new Morphy book arrived 6th August and I did a 4 page review for Ray that I won't inflict on anyone here but a few words:-

1. How can two authors such as Stan Vaughan and Matt Fullerty write books on the same person 1 year apart? (I won't mention Aiello)
2. In the Acknowledgements Matt leaves out FPK and that turned me against him immediately.
3. It is an excellent and amusing read in parts. Some of his descriptions of New Orleans activities are terrific.
4. Paul's love for Clara Young was the best of his fictional romances.
5. There are 92 factual errors and typos. Yes, I know it's fiction.

I read it again and was just pleased and I wrote Ray that I just liked the fiction to fit with the facts. To be fair FPK erred on that score too.

Ray had been back to visit a friend in Croatia and on returning sent me another list of Dale Brandreth Morphyana which included more than half on Bobby Fischer. It was actually one item - a scrapbook owned by James J. Barrett the Morphy historian. \$425. He also told me of a reproduction Morphy chess set on ebay for \$587. There were 1859 'repros' but this was a modern one. I didn't really collect chess sets. (Roman v Barbarian) Norma and I did some research and concluded that though a nice set it was not like Morphy's original as shown in Lawson p.208/9. Peter Parr owned a Roman v Barbarian set for \$200 (Italian) but he was gone now and his shops contents scattered. The \$587 set had a board and was owned by Jackie Caswell of Bristol. The research in Keats, Mackett-Beeson and Liddell was enjoyable. Ray sent photos of two Morphy sculptures he owned. I was astounded.

It was interesting that Napoleon III (a chess player) decided to create a psychiatric hospital in Paris at Sainte-Anne Farm called 'Asile Clinique'. Hausmann, Prefect of the Seine Departement and rebuildler of the city to what it is today, was in charge. Inaugurated 1st January. 1867 with the first patient admitted May 1, 1867. I could not take it further. I later contacted French historian Dominic Thimognier but he lived 200 ks out of Paris and could not help. Did the admissions register still exist? Perhaps Zhirko Kaikamjosov was on the money? Lawson wrote Morphy's 15 months in Paris was a blank.

Ray sent another tube/cylinder with some great photos of Blackburne, Lasker, Steinitz, Harper's Weekly 1904 Czar v Emperor, Morphy Cigars and I wondered again how the non-smoking Paul agreed to the latter as he didn't smoke. He also included an article from Chess Life November,

2013 which analysed 3 Morphy games using Rybka, a computer program. Paul's opening moves of 150 years ago were excluded and Rybka took over after Paul left the book. His moves agreed with 94% of Rybka's choices. His rating was higher than Capa, Alekhine and Fischer. The author Alex Dunne (who had the early family tragedy) wanted to know what it all meant. It was limited but he decided to leave it to the chess philosophers and mathematicians.

Ray had sent the 1867 visit of Morphy to Paris and ZK's inferences to Edward Winter but nothing new came out. As for ZK's book review Stan Vaughan liked it but Edward Winter did not. ZK passed in early 2014.

2014:

Marian Stere of Romania sent a nice email 3rd January, 2014 to keep in touch and I sent him my details and interests. Their site is www.stere.ro-History of Romanian Chess. Clearly Byzantine Chess, Bulgaria and Romania seemed a logical chess flow to Russia via trade routes. It would be great to see what an active Romanian chess history search turns up.

I emailed John Townsend on 10th January to tell him Ray Kuzanek and I were researching Paul Morphy and were good friends. John replied that he was busy with his next book and wished us well with our research.

Norma discovered the 1850 US Federal Census for New Orleans Municipality on Ancestry.com and there was the Morphy family:-

Alonzo 51, lawyer, Thelcide 43, Eduard 15, Paul 12 and Helena 10. J.D. Sybrandt 28, merchant was married to Malvina nee Morphy 21. She was the eldest child of Alonzo and Thelcide.

I sent it to Ray and also mentioned Emma my grand daughter, 19, had just returned home from Paris but I was not allowed to 'order' her to the Bibliotheque National for Morphy research. Her mother and my wife vetoed it! Clearly no love of chess there. Ray's two Morphy busts had on each rim the words 'Paul Morphy- Eugene Lequesne 1858.' One had its neck broken prior to Ray's purchase after restoration. He thought purchasing pricey documents was the only way to satisfy curiosity as they were 'held hostage.' Hopefully they hold their value.

Wayne Wyllie of Texas responded 14th February and he had been rummaging at a garage sale and found a Philidor plus a real crocodile doctor's bag in Fredericksburg Texas. He also admitted he had a lot of chess books to study - "*and I'm sure if I did so my game would improve.*"

Very funny Wayne - of course it would. As for the Philidor he sent a Xerox of the cover and it was a 'Philadelphie' edition by J. Johnston. I said not to hurry selling it and to contact Tony P or Dale Brandreth. I thought it was probably the 1821 Montigny and condition was important.

Ray had just bought 'Poems and Prose Sketches.' With a biographical memoir of Paul Charles Morphy by Louis Albert Morphy' a reprint at \$9.36 but first published 1921. It wasn't very helpful but Louis did write that it was very hot the day Morphy died (90°) and humid. The story

that a lady had spurned Paul as “just a chess player” may have been a joke although she may not have been congenial. Louis was not a chess player.

I really liked ‘The Immortal Game’ by David Shenk and his Chapter 7 on ‘Chunking and Tasking’ that chess talent was earned by hard work and not by being a prodigy hit a chord. David made a strong case for the 20,000 hours needed from ages 8 to 18 but one had to be specific. Alonzo Morphy died when Paul was 19 and during the 8-18 years we knew Paul played little chess at St. Joseph’s College Spring Hill and when he returned home his father would have had legal pressure on his son. Very good book.

John Townsend had finished ‘Historical Notes on some chess players’ - a limited edition of 100 copies. I quickly ordered one and noted on its arrival that John had been “an old book dealer”.

Ray K. didn’t like forms - he filled 3 tax returns in for friends, then his own retirement form, then his tax form. Retirement Day for Ray was May 2nd, 2014. He was looking forward to ‘Many Books,’ a possible pilgrimage to the White collection (He asked if I had the double volume of 1964. He always asked tough question and the answer was NO! but not for lack of trying). I wished him well in his honeymoon period and told him that roosters can become feather dusters if not careful. And on April 18th I sent him an 8 pager that was all about Morphy. Norma had changed her mind about the p.185 photo in Aiello’s book and thought it ‘might be’ Paul Morphy. She felt the photo may have been reversed which would put the walking stick in his right hand and his waistcoat would be buttoned up right over left. Good points.

I then decided to do a Review 50 years after Purdy’s review in Chess World March, 1962 of FPK’s ‘The Chess Players.’ Mine was 7 pages and I learned a lot more even though I’ve read it 4 times. Some people say why read a book twice or thrice? Well, it is for enjoyment and to recheck facts. Also readers grow as they read other books and that may make a new assessment possible. It was interesting having a mini debate with John Townsend about whether Howard Staunton had influenced Paul Morphy not to play at Birmingham. John could not see any contemporary evidence to support that remark. This issue always caused angst between the pro Morphy and pro Staunton groups and I stayed out of the debate in Edward Winter’s ‘Chess Notes’ of the 1980’s on that matter. John did not know why Edge and Morphy fell out but he did write that Edge passed time in prison later.

Ray sent a list for ‘Gardener’s Directory’ of New Orleans for 1866. The Morphys listed did not include Paul. He was also trying to find out who may have been Paul’s love Interest - a tough task. He sent some great photos inside the Keyes house and of New Orleans from his trip and added to his research there in his 15th May letter:-

“This is Part 1 of my transmission of photos of Paul’s home, Brennan’s Restaurant. I went there twice, both times spending over \$70. That is not my usual life style, but it was Paul’s home... I HAD TO DO IT.

The Louisiana State Supreme Court is across the street from the restaurant. There is a plaque on the front of the restaurant. Going inside, one immediately sees the famous staircase branching to the left and right. During both visits I asked to be allowed upstairs. The first time I was

accompanied by one of the waiters.

As you climb the stairs you see the large brass chandelier overhead. Arriving on the second floor, you note that the hallway is blocked off about 20 feet ahead due to remodeling. Turning to the right, I entered a room with a fireplace; Mardigras posters (some are decades old) decorate the walls. Still inside the room, to your right, a doorway leads to another room with portraits on the wall and a chandelier. The waiter explains the portraits are of a former owner who discovered his son (one of the portraits) was having an affair with the owner's new wife (the third portrait). The owner killed them both, and hung himself from the chandelier.

A doorway on the right leads back into the hallway behind the stairwell you just climbed. Across the hall is a larger room with tables that are sometimes used for dinner. You cross the room and exit through a door that opens on a veranda that continues to the right and then left around the outside of the rooms you were barred from due to construction. From the veranda you overlook the courtyard 'below where a private reception is being held. On the right side of the courtyard are glass windows. I would later find that my dinner table would be on the other side of the windows. The veranda is open to the sky, sunlight streaming in, and is set far back from the street (two rooms between you and the street). You could imagine Paul sitting there in the shade on a warm day enjoying the quiet.

Retracing my steps, I return to the hall and go down the stairs I am escorted to the right past a wine/bar, through a dining area (no wall decorations, just rows of tables) and to the left along a single row of tables by large glass windows adjacent to the courtyard,

Part 2 will follow. Sorry it took so long to provide the photos. I took photos and used my camcorder during both visits and I wanted to sort them in order for my narrative. I will next sort the photos from the Keyes house and consider how to copy my dvd.

15th May Attached are Part 2 of the photos from Paul's home. I have located the Ewart article, The Devil and Paul Morphy. I must brush up on my scanning so I will send by conventional mail.

*The other night I found that someone had calculated Paul's star chart. I know absolutely nothing about astrology so by default, you, have "seniority" in this area. Here is the link:-
<http://www.astro.com/astro-databank/Morphy>.*

I retired May 2nd. It has been an unusually hard winter so my first reaction to retirement has been to get outside for some running, raking, mowing of lawns, and planting. Rain and colder temperatures for the next few days, but there are promises of sunshine for the weekend. Ray."

Great letter for Morphy fans following Ray around Morphy's home. FPK's book has some internal sketches that may help. I sent a hard copy to Ray of my FPK Purdy review 15th June and I sent a letter to Ken Fraser in Mercy Place Parkville with some William Watts information from Jack Townsend's new book. I knew chess was not in his mind anymore and the activities of his retirement centre were.

Ray sent a book parcel 24th June that contained 'Sportsmen and Gamesmen' by John Dizikes

1981 plus 'The Devil and Paul Morphy' by Bradley Ewart from Chess Life June, 1984 and 'America Remembers Paul Morphy' Chess Life June, 1984. I had no idea this was coming and as the items were over 30 years old but xeroxes and I had not heard of Mr Dizikes a "young professor of history at the University of California at Santa Cruz. This is his first book" said the Jacket cover. The book had belonged to Westmont Public Library and retailed at \$15. The author had researched at Cambridge Uni in UK, The Library of Congress, the New Jersey and New York Historical Societies, the New York Public Library, the Bancroft Library at the University of California Berkeley, and the McHenry Library at the University of California Santa Cruz. This was serious research pre the internet. The article- 'Paul Morphy Against the World' is only 33 pages of this 350 page book which deals with 10 other Sport & Games men.

There is one woman Adah Menken (1835-68) an erotic actress.

Something I missed in 2014 was that Dizikes did not know of Lawson's book 'Paul Morphy The Pride and Sorrow of Chess' 1976. He cited 'Chess from Morphy to Botvinnik' by Imre Konig 1977. It can only be he wrote the article much earlier than 1976 when Lawson's book appeared as he mentions Fiske's 1859 book, Edges Book, Buck, Louis Morphy, and the Regina Morphy-Voitier books. It would not be possible to write this article in 1981 as Lawson's book was a great book known by all. In his Notes p.327-331 he states Edge's book was 'the unvarnished truth' and he liked Buck too which Lawson didn't and on Morphy's family, the mother Thelcide was Paul's main concern after his father died. It could be Alonzo kept his wife in check but on his death her class attitude came to the fore as the family were 'High Creole.' These were things I had not considered. Were they really snobs? The severe financial crisis in 1857 almost wrecked the First American Chess Congress but they got there. Was Paul really "aggressive and impetuous" ? - that knocked me for six. I took him to be the Clark Kent type. Dizikes wrote Edge's "admiration was limitless" (until Jan. 1859! BM) and did Edge return with Morphy to the US? (I don't think so BM) Did his mother make him ashamed of chess? Would more physical exercise have helped Paul?

It was a pity Paul didn't take the family to Paris permanently after the Civil War as Whistler and Guiraud did and why didn't he? asks the author. John Dizike's couldn't answer that but he did write that Paul was "a tragic enigmatic joke". A bit harsh but the rest of his life was very sad. We all feel for him and there are two questions:-

1. Did the family have enough money to live in Paris?
 2. Did Paul have a disastrous love affair? Something besides the Civil War damaged him.
- John Dizikes wrote a good summation of Paul Morphy and if I have one regret it is that he never read Frances Parkinson Keyes book.

Bradley Ewart couldn't solve 'The Devil and Paul Morphy' that dealt with the engraving by Moritz Retzsch and neither could BCM in 1993 p.443 and 506. Ewart was a terrific writer and I have great admiration for his book 'Man vs Machine'

The final article sent by Ray was the tributary one to Paul Morphy on the 100 years since his death in 1884. Chess Life did good work putting Ewart and Frank Elley's stories in the June,

1984 Chess Life. This is another good article apart from the typo of 'Stanley Fink' as Rousseau's opponent in the 1845 match in New Orleans (it was Charles Stanley) and his friendship with Charles Maurian was well before they attended Spring Hill School in Alabama as they were at school together in New Orleans. What makes Elley's article good is that apart from whether it was the Staunton affair or the loss of his father's guidance that sewed the seed for his later life, the inclusion of Paul's farewell speech in England was an excellent finish. I don't know how many times I have looked at Paul's final words and tried to read between the lines. A nice 4 page 'life' of one of America's great chess players.

Ray replied 7th July that he too *“liked Dizike's efforts to gain a feeling for the times in which Paul lived. His repeating of Paul's daily routine was an interesting tool conveying the impression that his struggle to find his niche in his environment was finished, the die was cast, his fate sealed.”*

Nigel Netheim was pleased we were on the internet and emailed 10th July with part of a book catalogue that contained chess problems. Peter Wong sent it to him. The auction by Dreweatts & Bloomsbury had some nice problem items:-

4 named German problem books - 120 Schachprobleme von Samuel Loyd by Meyer, Wonderland des Schachproblems by Ramin 1958, 101 Ausgewahlte Schaufgaben by Hoffman 1886, Das Schpiel und Seine Abarten by Neumann 1867, Leitfaden fur Anfanger im Schachspiel with inscription of Meyer 1865 “and 32 others.”

An astonishing description but there it is Estimate £300-£400 (pretty good buy I would have thought - 37 books in all if I have it right. BM)

Cien Problemas ed Dos Jugadas by Ellerman 1913
Nordiske Skakproblemer by Sorenson 1879
100 Problemi de Scacchi by Valle 1878
Bibliotheca van der Linder-Niemeijeriana by Brummell 1955 Est £300-£400

Seven Hundred Chess Problems by Baird 1902
The Twentieth Century Retractor by Baird 1907 £200-£300

The Christmas Series by White 64 vol. 1905-36 £600-£800. Incomplete states the auctioneer and there aren't 64 volumes anyway but 44. A typo maybe.

Stratagems of Chess by Montigny 1817
Cochrane on the Game of Chess by Cochrane 1822
Chess Rendered Familiar by Tabular Dem by Philidor nd
The Beauties of Chess by Alexander 1846 £300-£400

Ray was considering coming to see us in December. That was brave, for western NSW is a hot climate for a Chicago lad. It's not quite as hot as January and February but can be murderous as I told him (14th July) but that he was welcome to come anyway. It's rare for two people to have a chess history interest such as Paul Morphy. He sent me an article on the Paul Morphy cigar

made in St. Paul by Adam Fetch (Saint Paul Globe September 11th, 1885)

I sent Ray the article about the Battle of New Orleans where Andrew Jackson defeated the British in 1813 and made the speech in the New Orleans Great Hall :-

“It was the women and Nuns and young girls of New Orleans, who devoutly saying their rosary beads and begging the Almighty for victory, that turned the tide in our favour. I thank you ladies, the whole garrison thanks you. Because of you we can sleep safely tonight.”

I also told Ray why Paul Morphy loved Paris after I'd seen the movie 'Midnight in Paris.' Yes, very different eras. I asked Ray if he was able to travel back in time to 1858 would he go?

And then came the very sad news of Ken Fraser's passing on 16th September, aged 86. There was to be a meal at Pepper Flemington at midday 20th September wrote the Herald-Sun on the 17th. His ashes were scattered on the Campaspe river near Echuca not far from where his niece Narelle lived. A very good innings and it is all on ozproblems.com the Australian chess problemists website conducted by Peter Wong. My friend of nearly 40 years had joined John van Manen.

I wrote to the Bibliotheque Nationale de Paris about 'Le Charivari' and 'Le Moniteur' for 1858/9 during Paul Morphy's visit as mentioned in Edge. If I wanted to go to Paris the news was great. It was all there for general viewing but not digitally. Specific requests were OK and so I asked Ray.

We had been to Sydney researching at the SLNSW and I met a very helpful librarian named Ben in the Mitchell who showed me how to access Trove overseas. It was very good for English research. But it did seem if we hired a Bibliotheque librarian/consultant we could make progress. Here is Ray's reply:-

“You have been a busy fellow! 50/50 on research costs is of course acceptable.....I have no knowledge of French, but Google translation capability opens the door to many possibilities.

Recently, I participated in an ebay auction of a Morphy-Lowenthal stereoview card, the only one of the 4 Morphy cards which I do not have. With two minutes remaining in the auction, there was only one bid, and the initial minimum bid showing. The bidder had a high rating of 3798 so I knew he was probably a dealer. Then a bidder with a rating of 68 started bidding. He bid 21 times, finally taking the lead. With 8 seconds remaining, I bid, taking the lead. The 68er bid again 5 seconds later, but failed to outbid my maximum so I won! The card arrived this week. I will make a copy for you and send it along with a couple of other chess related stereo views in my next tube mailing. I will be sure to include an enlarged Morphy cigar trade card which I think Norma will appreciate. (You showed great foresight in marrying a librarian; excellent strategy!; my Italian barber says the most beautiful women are in Australia).

In answer to a prior query, I know nothing about paranoid schizophrenia.

I subscribe to Netflix and therefore was able to view 'Midnight in Paris.' Yes, time travel has a particular lure, although I would probably have the same reaction as the main character who thought he would miss modern medicine etc. Also, most of the romance of "going back" disappears when considering the possibility of not being in the upper 1% of the social stratum which is usually portrayed in film."

Ah me, Ray's not a romantic after all. He wanted money and medicines before he went back in time. In my opinion if we ever 'go back' it will be as 'observers.' We can't change the present as it is happening and so we can only go back and look. That sort of makes me unromantic too I know. And on books Fred Wilson sold a Morphy book in his 1978/9 catalogue. It was the L'Abbe Durand et Jean Preti "Strategie Raisance Des Portis A Advantage, Suite et Fin De La Strategie Raisance Des Overtures De Jeu D'Echecs 1863." This book was unopened and signed by "A Monsieur Paul Morphy/Souvenir/Jean Preti" Given to Paul when in Paris in 1863 thought Fred. \$500.

And then came the next blockbuster from the Lowell Daily Journal and Courier 24th July, 1858:-

".....Times relates the following:- Mr Morphy, who arrived out by the Africa, quietly walked into the St. George's Chess Club, one night last week, and after beating Mr Lewen, who is a recognized champion, with the greatest ease, offered a challenge to Mr Staunton, the British Coeur de Lion of the noble game. Mr Staunton accepted the proposition, sat down, went to work, almost cleared the board in some twenty moves, and was about withdrawing in contempt, when he was arrested by a "check," which in three moves more grew into a "mate." You may imagine the consternation of the hero and the lookers on.

"May I ask your name, sir?" said Staunton." Certainly, sir," replied his young antagonist "My name is Morphy" "Oh! Of America!" "Yes, sir." "Ah, then I am sorry, but I am not 'quite in play' just now, and I would rather not risk another game just at present."

And so Mr Staunton withdrew. The event has excited quite as much sensation in the world of chess as was bred in the world of yachtsmen by the victory of the America; and Morphy has made up a match with Andersen, the Hungarian, upon which all England that playeth chess will, of course, be vehemently betting in the course of a fortnight. You may regard this as a set-off, perhaps, against the defeat of Mr Ten Broeck's horses - though it should be remembered that the battle even there is not yet given up.

I was stunned. Had Morphy played Staunton or was it a beat-up? I emailed Ray and he replied 24th November.

"Regarding the article in Lowell, see page 112 of Lange's book of Paul's games. Lange writes: _ "The anecdote in question, is one of the many fabrications about Morphy's sojourn in the Old World, published by several American papers; and owing to the so called 'correspondents' having no connection whatever with Chess circles, being reduced to invention." On the bottom of the pages there is an additional note: "It is well known that Mr. Staunton has not been for years in the Cigar Divan."

That may be so but the Lowell Daily Journal and Courier quoted the St. George's Chess Club! Perhaps this was a later version of a 'beat-up'? One thing was certain Anderssen was not Hungarian and this early there was no contact with him until after Morphy arrived in Paris in September. It was probably Lowenthal the Hungarian. The most interesting name in the beat-up was LEWEN and whilst many disclaim Morphy's games with F.H. Lewis the lawyer in London, it is probably this person with his name misspelt to avoid any legal fracas. The Chess Monthly (Hoffer) wrote at least twice that Lewis had played Morphy very early. As for the "Times" from which the Lowell took it, it is probably the New York Times. Yes, I think it's a beat-up.

Paul Dunn wrote offering sympathy at Ken Fraser's death. He kindly sent me a book on Simpson's Divan. I had run out of Australian Bibliographies and wanted to send one to the Mitchell to thank 'Ben' as they didn't have one. I sent Paul my CD on Ken Fraser later once the family had examined the first copy. Ken's niece Narelle was happy and out it went.

2015:

Bert wrote 2nd January - . Erik was.... teaching chess. His Elo rating was 1900. Bert was top board in the Den Haag Club and undefeated in 2014. As for his pre 1960 catalogue sent with his letter it was now 42 pages and had a nice index. A collection and a half! Regina was a free-lance consultant but the recession was tough.

Here is the chess part of his letter:-

"The first auction sale of the duplicates of the chess library of Lothar Schmid, at Klittich auction house in Braunschweig in June last year, was quite an event. Erik and I went there, and we bought a few very interesting items:

Ponziani 1782, the best edition. The book was bound in contemporary half-vellum, and at the end of the 19th century belonged to von der Lasa. It has his armorial bookplate, and his handwritten catalogue numbers. Clean and beautiful as well inside. Also I acquired the 4 volumes work by Salvioli (1885-1888), of which the third volume is the best endgame written until that day. I was very pleased that the hammer price for this set was not more than 100 Euro, even more pleased as the set was bound uniformly in contemporary half calf (4 volumes bound in 3).

At the auction we observed an increased interest from Russian buyers. Old Russian language books went away for high prices, only to be offered on eBay again within a week for triple those amounts, and were successfully sold there. Some of these items I saw on the internet soon after, in the advertisement for the new Chess Museum in Moscow, shown during the breaks of the live broadcasting of the match between Carlsen and Anand. I think that I bought my nice specimen of the Kiev 1903 tournament book (by Chigorin) at an internet auction just in time. The second sale of Lothar's duplicates, in November last year, I did not attend. Prices were generally a lot higher.

Rumour has it that the real collection of Lothar will go to the United States. I got that from Harry Grondijs, who is normally well informed. I can only think of two persons then who might

buy this phenomenal library: Either Siqufield or David Delucia. And I was surprised that none of the 'nouveau-riche' Russians bought the library."

Great info letter Bert! He hoped to come to Australia and had enjoyed the complete reduction of travelling in 2014. One trip to Hamburg then London next January.

There was big trouble with Ray's cylinder/tube with all the valuable contents as it had gone missing. Could be caught in the Christmas backlog. And the French Library wrote back "the maximum time allocated to searching is 1 to 2 hours per answer. Unfortunately to research what you asked for is too big." That was a pity as I had worked out the research area was October, 1858 to February, 1859 and 1867 for the Sainte Anne's psychiatric admission register.

Tony P wrote 9th January about his good buys at Klittich for the Lothar Schmid duplicates including the Christmas Series. He asked if I wanted Peter Monte's 'The Classical Era of Modern Chess' 2014 and I ordered it. I had not realised Lothar Schmid had died. The Monte book arrived 2nd February, nicely packed by Tony (or was it Janet). Lovely item. The cost of book draughts was now \$30 and way too dear. Another way had to be found non-electronic.

Ray replied 1st March very disappointed that his cylinder/tube had not arrived. It was sent standard mail and uninsured. He wasn't that worried but I was as valuables missing taints everyone. I went to our PO and filled in all the forms and gave them one Ray had completed. What a saga this turned out to be. I had sent a valuable letter to Ned Munger years ago that was 'lost' and now Ray. I had enjoyed reading 'Enigma' by Andrew Hodges and the amount of chess played at Blethley Park during WW2 was good to see.

I sent Ray one of the best chess excuses from the BCM 1893 p.75. John Owen was the man as told to BCM article writer J.G. Cunningham:-

"In 1858 he played 4 games even with Morphy, the score being M-3 and O-1, although at one time Mr Owen had an undoubted superiority in a second game, which however he ultimately lost. A little later, however, Morphy beat him badly in a match at odds of Pawn and move owing principally to Mr Owen not understanding the odds, and further having just taken to himself a wife, in consequence of which the young husband had not so much time for chess, as otherwise he might have had..." and so it goes.

I bought a lovely Paris Boulevard Saint Denis Post Card with horses buggies and Carriages every where. No mechanical vehicles that I could see. When I got home and put my big magnifying glass on it there was a hated motorised vehicle! Very small but there. The PC was not old and ca 1900-1910. No sweat for \$2.

Bert sent a PC from Madeira 27th August – it sure was a beautiful place. Bert wrote:-
"...spectacular views here but no chess books in sight." Very nice Bert.

Ray 3rd September made two very interesting discoveries:-

1. 1. An openings article “Analyse de la Defense Philidor’ by P. Morphy and Arnous de Riviere (La Nouvelle Regence December, 1863 No.12) It seemed to have been written just prior to Paul’s return to New Orleans.
2. An 1899 Lasker interview in ‘Israel’ August, 1899 No.3 Vol.3 This was a 2+ page article in this English magazine and Lasker explains the Steinitz principles and their defects. Very good find indeed and he sent it to the KWA.
He received some information on Maria Luczak’s death in 2011. She had a brother and did not talk of her illness during 2010.

I wrote to Ray 5th October about the Post Office when I found out by chance that goods lost coming from America to Australia must be claimed from America and not vice-versa as I had done! If I hadn’t contacted them I would never have known that I had made a basic error and the application was null. This closed down the Morphy French research for awhile.

One book I bought in Brisbane was Bill Price’s ‘The History of Chess in Fifty Moves’ A lovely hardback, very modern and great illustrations \$25.

Came across the spurious game between Fred Deacon and Paul Morphy played 19th April, 1859 whilst researching in the Chess Amateur August, 1912 p.176. It is a good game but so un-Morphy-like with a first Queen move on move 31 (that must be a record!). Fred Deacon won in 46 and it was a fight whoever played it. A King’s Gambit-Deacon White

1.e4..e5;2.f4..exf;3.Nf3..g5;4.Bc4..Bg7;5.d4..d6;6.0-0..h6;7.g3..g4;8.Ne1..f3;9.c3..f5;
10.Qb3..Ne7;11.Bf7+..Kf8;12.Bh5..d5;13.exf5..Bxf5;14.Nxf3..gxf3;15.Rxf3..Kg8;
16.Qxb7..BxbN;17.RxB..bNc6;18.Bf4..Rc8;19.Bf7+..Kh7;20.Be6..Rb8;21.Qa6..Rf8;
22.Qd3+..Kh8;23.bRf1..Rb6;24.Bxh6..BxB;25.RxR+..BxR;26.Rf7..Bg7;27.Qf3..Ne5;
28.Qh5+..Kg8;29.Rxe7+..Rxe6;30.Rxe6..Nf7;31.h4..Qd7;32.Qg6..Nd6;33.h5..Kh8;
34.h6..Bf8;35.Rf6..Qe7;36.b3..Qe3+;37.Kg2..Qe2+;38.Kh3..Qe7;39.c4..c6;40.c5..Ne4; 41.Rf5..
Qd7;42.Kg2..Qd8;43.Rf7..Ng5;44.Rg7..Be7;45.Rh7+..NxR;46.Qg7++

Tony P asked about print runs for Purdy books. I found 1000 for ‘Return of Alekhine’ and now I see I missed ‘Among These Mates.’ ‘How Euwe Won’ and ‘the 1934 Purdy v Koshnitsky match’ not known.

Ray found it hard to believe a top player like Morphy in his alleged game with Deacon did not move the BQ until move 31. He was keen on finding out if Morphy had treatment in Paris in 1867. The only way was by research.

2016:

I went through Dizikes again ‘Paul Morphy Against the World’ and found 46 points of interest. Must say the title doesn’t grab me. Was he really? I sent it to Ray on 2nd January.

Tony P wrote 4th April about an edition of ‘Chess Made Easy’ by Purdy & Koshnitsky that he had. The first edition was advertised in ACR February, 1942 p.19. The ‘Completely revised

edition' appeared in ACR July, 1944. Tony's copy doesn't have "A.A. Amenities Service" on the cover. I thought that stood for 'Australian Army Amenities Service' but unsure. There is no date on his copy but it does state Koshnitsky was Australian Champion. He won it in 1939 until Steiner won in 1945. So that covered a few years but I was inclined to early 1945. There were "many thousands of copies of the 1942 edition and in view of its rarity they must have gone to soldiers and then lost in the war. There is more detail on the back cover of February, 1942 ACR issue but the cover is removed on binding and is gone.

John Townsend 16th July sent an excellent research article on William Watts the probable first champion of an Australian colony. In the Post Office London Directory 1839 Watts was a merchant in 'The Jerusalem Coffee House' Cornhill. This place was in Cowper's Court where the London Chess Club was based and of which Watts was a member. The Jerusalem Coffee House was given over to merchants with trade in China, India, and Australia. It was certainly firming up that this was our man. Thanks John.

Bert's job was shaky and he would know for sure later 2016. He sent a nice PC from Detmold (Teutoburger-Wald) having a short break with Regina. I replied that I was ready to send the Magee 'Bonus Socius' book to him for all his past kindnesses with chess books. And I was enjoying Nabokov problems and writings. Here is part of his 21st August letter:-

"Nabokov's chess problems. Probably just like you, I could only find a few of his problems on the net. I starting with googling for 'Nabokov chess problem' and checked with some friend, but so far only a few problems, certainly not the 18 that Wikipedia claims.

I have made a real effort of refining my library, sold many duplicates. Last month I brought a big sports-bag with 42 (mostly 1960+) opening books to a friend who owns an antiquarian books and print shop and received a small amount, which made it a win-win situation for both of us. Regina accompanied me, as she wanted to witness the event and that I really got money for them. I reminded her several times of the phrase that I learned from you: I am master of the books, rather than the books being master of me.

So therefore I would now be very happy to receive the book you suggested to me after my visit to Melbourne. I have freed up the space for it. But no hurry.

One of the refining measures already taken a few years ago is to stop collecting problem composition books. I know it is your trade and specialty, but I simply have little affinity with the topic. I am going to sell them, with the exception of pre-WWI publications and the Christmas series. If there is any problem composition book that you are still looking for and that you spot in my catalogue, let me know and if I have not sold it yet I am happy to turn it over to you. Also, since there comes a lot on the market these days and prices have come down significantly. I can help to find other chess books that you are looking for

Next: From the book by Katz (Solitary Life, 1958) in my catalogue I have enclosed a copy of the 'chess' chapter. The book is an English translation of the original 'Einsames Leben' published in 1936 and reprinted a few times. It is about a journalist who retreats in the Alps and writes about several aspects of his life there. Enjoy reading.

The saga of Lothar Schmid's collection. Not sold yet. From an insider I learned that David Delucia made a bid but this was not accepted. Allegedly the widow in particular wants a much higher amount. I also learned that some of the books owned by Schmid that were sold at Klittich auction in 2014 were not duplicates at all, among them my 1782 Ponziani with impressive provenance. It was already strange that this was considered a duplicate, but anyway I have legitimately bought it, and I thoroughly enjoy that book. Meanwhile I acquired two more Ponzianis, and I now have:

The 2nd Modena edition (the nicest of them all) of 1782, vellum-backed, from the library of von der Lasa with his stamps and handwritten catalogue number inside.

The 2nd Venice edition of 1801, very good in the original paper covers(!), uncut, bought via Internet from an Italian source.

The 3rd Venice edition of 1812, in contemporary half leather. (This was my first Ponziani and for more than 10 years my only).

The 1st Rome edition of 1829, very good in original paper cover, from the Rimington Wilson collection.

Potentially the most exciting find this year so far is the 1803 Montigny edition of the Philidor book. Apart from the fact that it is in excellent condition, complete with the frontispiece portrait and all the plates (=diagrams), it is special in several ways:

- *It is the first Philidor edition published in France after Philidor had left France.*
- *It is the oldest chessbook I have ever seen with colour orienting. The black fields of all (dozens) diagrams have a green shade, and the white pieces are printed in red.*
- *It is 'dated' "AN XI" meaning year eleven. The atheist revolutionists introduced a new year counting where 1792, the year of the execution of the last king, was year zero, hence 1803 is year 11. This was only the second chess book that I saw with this counting, the first one several years ago being the very small sized 1st edition of 'Stratagemes...' also by Montigny, from 1802 (= an X). Guy van Habberney brought that to the Klittich auction in June, 2014 and sold it within 60 minutes for 600 Euro.*
- *It uses the algebraic notation! (The first game starting with e2-e4). Montigny was a strong promoter of efficiency in notation, following the footsteps of Stamma, but it took awhile until the rest of the chess world appreciated this."*

What a great letter. Thank you Bert for all the new chess facts.

On 21st September Ray sent 4 more photos of Paul. He had a great collection of 19th century American chess photos. Here is his 21st September letter:-

"...the first two are cartes de visites. On the left is the image of Paul which appears on the back dust jacket of Lawson's original book. On the back of the card is the inscription "Published by E. Anthony 510 Broadway New York FROM PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVE IN BRADY's National Portrait Gallery."

The card on the right I initially thought was also in Lawson, but perhaps I mistook it for the Saintin miniature on page 332. On the back is the inscription "CARTES DE VISITE D. APPLETON & CO. 443 & 445 Broadway N.Y. A.A. TURNER PHOTOGRAPHER." Paul looks more youthful than in the Brady photo.

The third photo is a copy of the hand-coloured stereoview photo which I previously sent to you. I am sure that when Norma sees it she immediately noted that it was not the same photo as on page 109 of Lawson. She instantly observed there were no captured pieces off the board and Lowenthal's left leg was extended in contrast to the page 109 photo. I included this third photo because I have now obtained a copy of the page 109 photo which is photo#4 thereby providing a side-by-side contrast.

The 4th photo is so clear that I thought it deserved a separate scan on higher resolution so I include that as PM cards 2. It should provide a print sharper than any you could see in a book...."

I was just about getting back into normal research after finishing 3 books on Goldstein, Mangalis and Heydon (2 were 'guilt jobs' over 2 decades but now done!).

I wrote to Dominique Thimognier re the Morphy research in Paris and asked him for his hourly rate. He replied in a very nice letter 26th September that he had to decline as he lived 200kms out. He told me the Charivari and Moniteur Universal are not online for 1858/9. The only way to do it was at the Bibliotheque and spend some hours there. He had more to say on our requests re Morphy, psychiatry and 1867 as he was a psychologist. He strongly doubted that Morphy was ever treated in France. He included a Xerox of Morphy's letter (In French) from the Hotel Breteuil, 8th October, 1858

I sent Ray a copy and he was disappointed but always positive and said he had noted the Charivari for sale and he was looking for bound volumes for the period!. He made the great point "one never knows when an interesting sliver of information will arise from unexpected sources." True but I was thinking of Ray, who can't read French with the Charivari and coming to an interesting Morphy item he couldn't read! But then he was becoming clever at Google translate so maybe it was me who was slow.

It was an interesting time for Bert and Regina! Would he be at home and under her feet? Norma was very worried about that and she started the local history room in our town library as a volunteer to get away from me 3 days a week. Shame on you Norma. They would work it out. We did, and after 50 years I can say Norma is still a mystery. I sent Bert the Magee book. He liked that and it inspired him to buy a few more old problem composition books (Czech) at the Klittich auction in Braunschweig and the Christmas Series 'White to Play.' They sent a lovely chess Christmas Card to end 2016.

2017:

We sent email Christmas messages this year so even an analogue man can join the digital world one day. Bert's comments about selling his problem books in his 21st August, 2016 letter was a logical thing if one has no love for problems. M.V. Anderson was the same and sold all his problem collection such that until 1966 at his death the Melbourne Chess Collection was behind the eight ball but today has a good holding. I recall many years ago in the mid 1980's the late Brian Tomson editor of the Chess in Australia problem column asked who had the most problem books in Australia and after the private collectors had their say, in came Ken Fraser over the top to blow us all away. The MVA was No.1 in problems as well as chess play. That said when the OCC wrote on p.155 2nd edition that the 'Our Folder' magazine was "devoted wholly to problems" the remark didn't do problem or chess play history any favours. That magazine put out by the Good Companions Chess Problem Club from 1914-1924 ca included some of the best historical articles ever published on everything but chess problems! The articles on Philidor and his music, Paul Morphy, Benjamin Franklin and many others were outstanding and as the magazine was printed on glossy paper the pages have not aged. There were plenty of chess problems as well but if I was forced to guess the article on Parsloes Club may have been the best one but that is my opinion. It was interesting that the index for the years was printed on terrible acid paper and is brittle and awful. Our game only goes forward when all branches play their part and there are many chess hybrid enthusiasts who like more than one field.

I told Bert this in my 4th January reply. Of course collectors don't have to buy everything on chess. It would be impossible and specialist collections are the best. And along came his 2016 catalogue on 3rd February with its 48 glorious pages and up again on the 2014 catalogue. I noted the Magee in there now and if he decides to sell all post WW1 problem books excluding the Christmas Series that part will drop from 125 items to less than half. But the sales will enable other books to be bought. His Philidors were fantastic and I was interested from David Lovejoy's proposed novel to which I was helping with research. I was very impressed by Gordon Cadden's research into Philidor's grave featured in BCM, 2016.

Bert and I briefly debated the 1749 games in Philidor's book - were they real or composed? Bert thought they were composed, but I wanted more proof from a GM and I was almost convinced the 9th game - the 54 mover was a Stamma v Philidor game. I mean who were Philidor's opponents in the late 1740's? More later.

I wrote to Ray Kuzanek 3rd February that on examining James Mason's book 'Social Chess' 1898 for Philidor anecdotes I turned up some terrific Morphy anecdotes which I sent to Ray. Mason was caustic of Morphy sniping at chess and it made riveting reading as to why Morphy did not succeed at law. Mason said he wasn't robust enough to be a good lawyer and he was sure Morphy thought himself far more than a chess player. Yet he was a failure at law whereas he had unrivalled skill at chess and nothing more. I noticed pages 77 & 78 missing and half of 79/80 likewise. And I will get those pages and fit them in as this book is a small but beautiful hard back and I can recommend it as a very nice item.

He replied with a photo of Paul Morphy Jr from 1967 standing in front of an 1833 portrait by Vaudechamp. The photo was to be sold on ebay but I don't know the subject in the painting.

In Bert's 15th March email he told me of his Massman 1839 bought at Klittich in November, 2016. It was the top on his want list and when it came up, no one bid on it such that he thought he had mixed up the lot numbers. He realised he hadn't, made the one and only bid and it was his! He had bought a Philidor 1790 in February, 2017 from Geurt Gyssa who has a very large chess library and was arbiter at the K/K matches. He was making a point that the 1790 edition gave names in the games and all his opponents were known. These were real games and that was NOT SO in the early editions of 1749 and 1777 and Bert thought those games artificial for no other reason that there were no players in France or the Netherlands able to play at a high level. It is a good point as to who the opponents may have been in the 1749 games if they are real. I made a case that English players could have been some of his opponents and I really thought Philip Stamma in that 9th game was one. I put more detail in 10876 of Edward Winter's Chess Notes.

Back on Morphy Research Norma found some great sources on Ancestry:- the 1830/40/50/80 US Federal Census, US City Directories 1822-1995, and New Orleans Records index for 1804- 1949. I've never used them but some look very useful.

Ray made a point in his 18th August email that he "wondered why Alonzo's friends did not take Paul 'under their wing' welcome him into a prominent firm and "show him the ropes." Perhaps the world of upper echelon southern society was so fractured after the war that the 'Old Order' was shaken to its foundations". Good point but I agree with Mason. Paul was not cut out to be a lawyer. There was some cutting remarks made by a New Orleans lawyer on that score that he just didn't have it. Compare that to Judah P. Benjamin who though much older, got over the war because he was much tougher. FPK gets it right with some of the talk between Beauregard and Benjamin with Paul. They spoke gently to him when one needs to be tough to be a good lawyer. The loss of his father wrecked his law career and then there was the war when he was undecided which side he was on. We also debated Creole Society but couldn't conclude anything.

Correspondence started with Gordon Cadden on Philidor in April when he gave me his views on the 1847/8 DSZ article by vdl. Unfortunately this was about the time David Lovejoy decided to put his Philidor novel on hold and so research there changed. I continued on with it but in the fields I liked.

1st May - Ray had found another trade card for the Paul Morphy Cigar which had cats in it. We also wondered who the editor was of the US Chess Monthly in 1861 as Morphy and Fiske's names were removed from the cover. He asked me who had made that decision and why? I didn't know but felt Fiske was still there and perhaps he had unpublished articles from 1860 that could go in. There was some good material published in 1861 especially the bio of Count Bruhl. The editor tried to flush out Stamma's bio but failed.

I bought Sergio Boffa's book on Philidor 11th June from Tony P. Excellent book and though I couldn't read it as it is in French I could read between the lines. I placed a review in Philidor.

Ray was in Philadelphia at the Public Library with a copy of Charles Willing's catalogue. It was a good idea to have such an item with one to enable sifting through it and borrowing any of the

books in Willing to examine.

27th July - Bert and Regina were at Tromso where the chess Olympiad was held in 2014. A great chess part of the world was Norway.

Ray wrote romantically at times and here is part of his 9th August email:-

“Regarding the post-war Morphy world , it was definitely a time when the foundations of society were shaken. So much of what one had known was destroyed, not only in terms of human life and property, but values were being tested and changed, and one’s position in society was very uncertain. One can imagine drawn curtains keeping out the “new” and darkened rooms within which the past is preserved. (The end of ‘Great Expectations’ is brought to mind).

The architecture of New Orleans, with cloistered patios set back from the streets, surrounding swamps, and fabled cemeteries, could provide an atmosphere conducive to a desire to resist change by invoking the spectre of a life form transcending mortal elements and thus offering “hope” of life for that which is threatened to become only a memory.”

24th August. We discussed the removal of statues in the USA - Robert E, Lee for one. Out here they were throwing paint on Captain Cook’s statue in Hyde Park, Sydney, viewing him as an invader. It was a terrible Civil War in the US, depicted well by the TV series of John James called ‘North and South’ and the Ken Burns series. Ray said the statue of a Southern general conjured slavery but the death of 600,000 soldiers and others, more than WW1 & WW2 combined for a nebulous reason transcended slavery. Neither side, Lincoln or Davis, seemed capable of compromise and so it went on. Paul Morphy certainly had a quandary. His brother Edward fought for the South as did his powerful relatives and he didn’t think Louisiana should have seceded! He was caught in two worlds and had no friends in either because he was a fence-sitter. One astute commentator wrote he should have stayed in France until the war ended. Wise idea except they may have lost their home and all their money by doing that.

Ray helped greatly with Philidor and his translation from DSZ 1847/8 on the von der Lasa article were used. His other articles found in American magazines made the Philidor Manuscript much better. (20th August.)

By 7th September we had both read ‘the Feast of All Saints’ by Anne Rice as it gave a great description of Creoles and 19th century life in New Orleans. Was Paul really like Marcel St. Marie or Richard Fermontant or neither? There are some parallels on Richard a white man who loved the Creole woman Marie and Marcel’s sister a Creole.

Ray wrote:-

“Last night I concluded communications with Anne (Rice). It was an emotional experience. There was considerable crying, confessions of confusion, and extremely detailed descriptive phraseology, but I persevered, and concur that it was a rarely encountered portrayal of southern caste society.”

Ray was next to read a two volume ‘visit’ with Robert E. Lee.

2018:

Bert had a Brunet y Bellet in his catalogue and I asked him to tell me a little about it as it had been on my wants list for many years. He did better than that and included some scans that showed what a beautiful item it was. His latest catalogue December, 2017 was great and consisted of 81 pages. His historical section of 45 items was of great interest as was the 26 item Bibliography. If the collection has a weakness it is in periodicals but he was working on that. His Matches and Tournaments sections were the largest.

My Hull friend Roger Noble had done a terrific job on the Hull and District Chess Association book, "Rank and File" He dedicated it his parents and his American Grandfather Percival Noble and to all the chess players in the "District past and present for without them we would have no history." It is a gloriously produced book excellent photos on nearly every page. His prose showed his knowledge of chess in the area. He had to do it in 3 months for the British Championships. He claimed in a note to me that he wasn't an author but he is now. Very well done Roger. I did like the very tricky photos puzzle on page 86 and sent him my thoughts. I can recommend it to all who like chess history and faces. It arrived here 13th September.

One embarrassing discovery I made on 13th July, as I am unskilled on the computer was the Silk Road article by Horst Remus which awoke me to David Li's 'The Genealogy of Chess' 1998 and then began the task of reading it. I priced it on all the usual websites and found it was a very expensive paperback at \$200 Aust. Could it be borrowed? The library book finding website led me to the SLV! And they had a copy which they kindly lent to me for 3 weeks after which I reluctantly returned it but only after making plenty of scans. I enjoyed it very much and wrote a long review which is now on John Elburg's Book Review site. I couldn't find many reviews due to the twenty years since publication Mr Li who has turned 90 makes a good case for his claim that the General Han Xin invented the game of chess ca 200BC. It was based on Eyles Irwin's report of the late 18th century and made me bid for that report in a copy of Bingham's "The Incomparable Game of Chess" 1820 by Domenico Ponziani and translated by J.S. Bingham who we know now to be Captain John Smith, a relative of James Cook. I wrote about that in Philidor. I have mentioned my purchase of a Xiangqi board and men and now I had the history of the game which is surely a candidate for our game's origin. I wrote to David but perhaps my letter went astray. The Bingham from Tony P was \$460. A beauty.

In October I contacted the Columbia University in New York regarding Frank Altschul's papers as he was the publisher/printer of the Overbrook Series and ended up buying a copy of his chess file which contained some helpful items regarding the series. There is more in the 'Gathering' article. And I will give a resume of the file next page.

Frank Altschul (1887-1981) is in Wikipedia and founded Overbrook Management Corporation to manage and protect the assets of the family. It was later opened to institutions and wealthy investors. His grandson Arthur is now chairman. The Altschuls were very philanthropic and in 1924 helped found Yale University Library Associates. Frank graduated from Yale.

His chess file is No.33 in the Subject File Catalogue and covers the years 1937-1966 and this was the file Columbia University copied for me.

The Overbrook Foundation was established in 1948 taking its name from Overbrook Farm which was the Altschul Family home in Stamford Connecticut. The Foundation supports human rights and the conservation of the environment.

Frank was a strong player and made a draw against Frank Marshall in a 1938 simul. Edward Winter's Chess Notes 7171 has the game and a separate group photo.

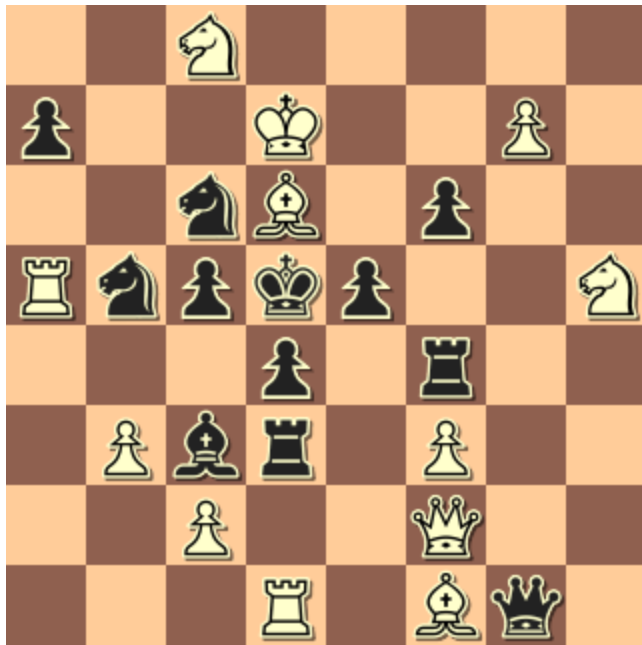
The price of Overbrook Press publications varies and 20 volumes of Overbrook Press 'keepsakes' & c sold for \$35 in 2003 well below the estimate. The Press was established in an outbuilding on the farm by Frank who was a bibliophile of high standing.

File:- One of the pleasing things to see were his comments on No.669 problem in the New York Evening Post that Frank had trouble with. I sympathized, as it was by our C.G. Watson who was a devious problemist. The editor wrote of it as "one of the most amusing task problems which we have ever had the pleasure of solving." It is given overleaf.

He was keen to see Albrecht Buschke's library and wrote him in September, 1938. They met at least twice and Buschke started offering chess books to him. Buschke was having an exhibition 'Chess in Science and Art' at Baltimore in 1939, and FA asked him about the Falk collection. FA wanted to build a large chess library and part of the Falk collection was lost (2 cases) and Maggs Bros were involved. This seemed to cause Frank to lose his enthusiasm for a large collection.

I am unable to clarify this matter and it is of great interest as the Falk collection and 'Monsieur X' feature in Bert and it was a surprise to read this in Frank's file. I should say that this file is a mish-mash and not structured in a decent question and answer way.

Sometimes the questions are not answered. This file is more a gathering of bits and pieces on chess and disappointing.



C.G. Watson New York
Evening Post. 2-er
(12x12)

The key is 1.Qxd4+

If

1..bNxQ/cNxQ/BxQ/QxQ/dRxQ
fRxQ/cPxQ/ePxQ

2.Rxc5/Ne7/c4/g8=Q/Bc4/Nxf6/
Rxb5/Nxf4

The task must have been
maximum captures by a Black
force trying to stop mate.

Correspondence resumed with Buschke in June, 1944 and Buschke wanted to buy 3 copies of each edition of the Overbrook Mansfield and 1 copy of A Sketchbook. We then move to October, 1964 when Buschke had a blurb on the Wichman book 'The Story of Chess Pieces.'

Frank also had another dealer in the wings-Adrian Gambet in 1939 and asked him for offers. Gambet sent them but Frank queried the price. Later Gambet offered him a 1745 Stamma for \$17.50 with a treatise on Piquet bound in. It was a truly glorious copy but I don't know if Frank bought it. He should have. It was followed by a Ringhieri 1551 \$25 then a Severino 'L Philosophie' 1690 bound in with 'Dell'antica Pettia' 1690 \$12.50 and a Brunetti 1754 'Dialoghi' bound in with 'Arimetica' 1746 \$25, then a Van der Linde 'Geschichte' from the Rimington Wilson Collection no price. It seems Frank bought the Severino and Brunetti for \$27.50. Gambet then sent 'Chess Made Easy' by Franklin Philadelphia 1802 \$55 and a Forbes 1860 History for \$7.50 and a 1913 Murray \$18 which was the purchase price AG wrote.

Gambet also gave him the offer of the Silas Howland Collection 1939. There was no further correspondence on book offers. Gambet wrote good letters.

Walter Goldwater started corresponding in 1952 and offered him 1000 items for Yale Library in 1951. He argued that Havard now had Howlands, Princeton had Gilbergs, both were dormant and his offer included full sets of BCM, Wiener Schachzeitung, Chess UK Chess Review US and a very fine collection of tournament books that once belonged to Alfred Pray of LA. \$2,700. That appears to be the end of the book buying by letter.

My own feeling is that Frank was a tough bargainer and whether Yale got that collection I will try and find out. When you think about it, what was the point of a University library such as these buying massive chess book collections? The students were there to learn life skills.

Although I can see arguments from the humanities especially people like the late Ned Munger of Caltec! But that is a lot later and relevant.

Frank appears to have been friendly with Frank Marshall and there was an exhibition of rare and antique chessmen belonging to Gustave Pfeiffer at the Marshall Chess Club October, 194? There was a good 3 page review of 'A Century of Two Movers' the first Overbrook by G. Mott-Smith who was a fine composer. The review is laudatory.

The letter from the Illinois Chess Association 12th July, 1943 to A.C. White wanting to reprint 'A Sketchbook' was given to Frank as copyright holder. Approval? doubtful.

There are catalogues from University Place (546 items) and Frank Hollings. No dates. One copy of 'Chess Made Easy' by Franklin 1802 was on sale for \$40 (UP). The 6 page article by Buschke on 'Chess Libraries and their Formation' from a Princeton journal was there, Buschke's 1947 catalogue included a series of Overbrooks. Mansfield's rag paper was \$15. A few newspaper clippings, some really good photos of various Russian Chess Players in Amsterdam 1939 from 'People' and 70 ca chess problem books, dearest was Loyd's 'Chess Strategy' \$25 by American Chess Bulletin I think for sale. End File.

Bert sent a lovely chessy Christmas card and photo of all the family at a christening. They all looked great and Bert & Regina were very pleased with life by the looks of them and so they should be as they all worked hard.

2019:

Ray Kuzanek sent a nice email on how chess gathered him in, 1st February. He wrote:-

"I recall my own introduction to chess. I was a little boy watching the western TV show "Cheyenne". In that episode, the cowboy Cheyenne, is lost in the desert. He is found by an Englishman who takes him back to his nearby chateau to nurse him back to health. During his recuperation, they play a game of chess. Cheyenne moves a piece and says 'Checkmate'. The Englishman is very impressed. I said to myself "What is this Game? It is a serious activity and you win respect by demonstrating your skill at playing it". Shortly thereafter, my mother bought my first chess set for me (Florentine design, plastic with elephants carrying towers and knights on noble steeds). Sources of inspiration may appear in surprising places."

Well written Ray and that set looks the goods. I hope you still have it as it could be a collector's item.

Brian Kiss of Yale University Library Quick Search replied to my email 16th February. He could not confirm or deny if Frank Altschul had given those 1000 items offered to him by University Place in 1952 for \$2,700. There were 2269 items in Yale's Chess Catalogue-91 pages. I asked Brian about chess book use and he stated "I have found many books on chess scattered about the

undergraduate library here called Bass Library. And that was just at the beginning of the week.” Here are my selections from the first 20 pages:-

1. Twiss 1787/9, Lusia 1991, Chess Tales Fiske 1912, Chess Lyrics 1905
2. Chess Monthly US 1857-60. Chess Review US 1933-1969
4. Philidor 1791/1787/1773/1762/1750
5. Chess Made Easy 1802 many copies
8. The Chess Amateur 1906-30
15. 50 Games of Chess-Lewis 1832
19. Overbrook Press Chess Problem Books-1 page Dec. 1944
20. Noble Game of Chess-Bertin 1832, Damiano 1597

I looked at every page and there are many non-chess books in the latter pages. Also lots of Alice in Wonderland, Xiangqi books on Chinese chess, audio books, videos and the ‘Chess’ record label gets in here also but that said No.1780 by a Mr John Porter a ms from 1445-1485 with 40 chess problems seemed new and unknown. I also noted the sale of the Earl of Besborough’s paintings & c in 1801 by Christies No.1391 had a painting by Titian ‘The Chess Players’ and this came up again in No.1553 for 1810 when the painting was sold again. I’ve not seen it. I also was stunned to see No. 2004 ‘Ivory Vikings’ by Nancy Marie Brown 2015, 280 pages on ‘The mystery of the most famous chessset in the world and the women who made them’ Now there’s a cat among the pigeons. I will have to get this. The chess collection had many modern books and appears to be up to date. I don’t think Frank Altschul bought the University Place 1000 book collection for Yale in 1952. No.2123 was ‘Bibliomania’ by Dibdin 1811. It’s an ancient illness.

And Yale chess books? There are a lot less than 2269, more like half but some real treasures. You name it and it seemed to be there. Even a 1474 e book of Caxton.

We have come to the end. As for finding treasures in libraries, one would not think that Australian libraries had many secrets until the ‘Australian’ of 16th February publicised the University of Sydney find of a red-chalk drawing by Giorgione inside a 1492 edition of Dante’s ‘Divine Comedy.’ It’s a blockbuster but not chess. So they are still out there waiting to be found.

The following article concludes Bert 2 and is by Ken Fraser my late friend who put a lot of work into it. The State Library of Victoria is being upgraded and due to reopen at the end of the year. If planning a visit contact them first.

And what can I write about Ken Fraser and John van Manen my recently departed chess friends? There are many more in this article and all have helped make it fuller than it would have been without them. Ken holds pride of place as he did the Victorian research that I could not have done and helped in so many other areas. Chris Ravilious and Maria Luczak were a pleasure to know as was Ken Whyld, Jean Mennerat, Barrie Ellen, Brian Tomson, Ned Munger, George

Andrews and Anne Purdy. They were good correspondents and I did meet Ken, Brian, George and Anne face to face. George over many years. I write of those no longer with us. Equally those still with us have been more than helpful.

I have enjoyed this 20 year browse of my files which has been good for the memory. My apologies for the mistakes that will be in the material. As before there is no copyright and I hope others will research our great game and publish on the web. All the best in the years ahead. There will be no update of Bert 2. This is it. Thank you and goodbye.

Bob Meadley
3rd April, 2019

Part of the Game of Chess printed by Caxton. vid. Annot. p. 59.

Herbert. p. 76.

no date

The second tractate / the first chapter treateth of the forme
of a kynge of his maners & of his estate Capitulo primo



The kynge must be thus maad .for he must sytte
in a chayer clothed in purpure / crowned on his heed
in his right hond a ceptre and in the list hond an apple of
golde / for he is the most grettest and hest in dygnyte as
loue al othe and most worthy . And that is signyfyed
by the corone .for the glorie of the peple is the dygnyte of
the kynge / and aboue al othe the kynge ought to be re-
plenysshed with vertues and of grace . and this signyfieth
the purpure . For in like wyse as the robes of purpure ma-
kieth fayr and enbelisseth the body . the same wyse vertues

Page from Jacobus de Cessolis, *Caxton's Game and Playe of the Chesse*, published in 1483.

Sticht Collection.

Ken Fraser

Art and Chess: The Passions of a Library Donor.

ONE OF the pleasant surprises for the State Library since the opening of its various new reading rooms has been the public reaction to the new location of its Chess Collection. What was previously known only to aficionados is now located in an easily accessible area where at almost any time of the day it is common to find several games of chess in progress.

The Chess Collection was the gift of a man with a deep enthusiasm for the game, but it was not his only passion. Magnus Victor Anderson (1884-1966), a successful and wealthy Melbourne accountant, was a lover of art as well as chess. In 1958-59, when he was in his mid-seventies, he gave his private library of books on art to the Ballarat Fine Arts Gallery, and during the same period the State Library received his even larger collection of books on chess. When he died in 1966 both the Gallery and the State Library were among the major beneficiaries of his will.

This article looks at both of these donations, and in particular, at how Anderson's chess library became one of the world's major public chess collections.

Art ...

When the Ballarat Fine Arts Gallery issued its annual report for 1959 it listed among the year's donations 'M.V. Anderson, Esq. Art Library'. The donor was no stranger to the Gallery. The accounting firm of M.V. Anderson & Co. had a branch in Ballarat at the time, and Anderson's name had previously appeared several times as a donor of drawings and etchings – but books were something new.

In *A History of Ballarat Libraries* (Ballarat, 1978) Austin McCallum recalls how, after a series of discussions with the Art Gallery Council, Anderson agreed that the collection would be more appropriately housed in the Ballarat Library (which was then just behind the Gallery, in Camp Street). The collection was therefore re-gifted, and over the next few years – in what McCallum called 'a never ending stream of books for the library' – Anderson made a significant number of additions to it.

McCallum gives a delightful description of what he calls 'the ritual for the receipt of the Anderson collection':

When called, the librarian would drive to Anderson's office in King Street, then walk with him to the State Library and wait just a few minutes while he looked for information he needed from a volume or periodical in the chess collection. Then off to his Toorak residence; first tea and scones, next the handing over of the books - one at a time, each one described and checked off in three

voluminous catalogues - one subject; one author and artist, one title. When darkness fell, the station wagon was hard on the springs and the road home slow and hazardous. (p. 51)

His art library, now known as the M.V. Anderson Art History Collection, is one of the special collections in the 'new' library at Ballarat. The result of some 60 years of collecting, it contains almost 2000 volumes ranging from the standard encyclopedias of art, art journals and works of art criticism, through to books on jade and cartoons. Although it has a wide range of subject matter, the main thrust of the collection is on painting, drawing, and etching.

It has its beginnings with the books of a young man of about twenty whose interest in art would, a year or so later, be strong enough for him to join the night classes in painting at the National Gallery of Victoria's Art School. He was a student there from 1906 to 1908, but the collection begins a little before that.

Among the books is a 1905 catalogue of the National Gallery of British Art (a forerunner of the Tate Gallery, London) which has the signature 'M. Victor Anderson, '05' on the flyleaf. Apart from the record of his birth, this is the first reference so far found to him. 'Victor', his middle name, was the one by which he was known to his family and friends, but it was only in the first few years of collecting that his books were signed that way – his later signature is usually the essentially private 'M.V. Anderson'.



Unidentified photographer. Portrait of M.V. Anderson [n.d.]. M.V. Anderson Chess Collection.



Games being played in the new location of the M.V.Anderson Chess Collection.

This use of the name Victor allows us one of the few personal glimpses we have of him. He was descended from a fishing family in the Shetland Islands and, although he rarely used it, his first name came from his grandfather. The elder Magnus Anderson was born in Shetland and arrived in Melbourne, via Durham, with his wife and young family on the *Sir John Franklin* in July 1857. He established himself as a 'tent and tarpaulin maker' in Elizabeth Street and he and his family lived in Carlton.

The younger Magnus was born in Carlton in October 1884 as the first child of John James and Emily Anderson. A few months later his father, a tobacco-worker, bought a small timber cottage in what was then the newly developing area of Laura Street, Brunswick. It was to be the family home until 1905 and so the place where young Anderson and his sister Ada grew up. As yet we know nothing of the first part of his life, but it is possible that his early education was at the Central Brunswick State School in Albert Street, just a few minutes walk from his home.

That 1905 catalogue, however, puts us on firmer ground, and from then on it becomes possible to get some picture of him and the nature of his lifelong interest in art. A number of the books in the Ballarat Library come from his art student days. They include John Ruskin's *Elements of Drawing and Perspective* (London, 1907), and, from the same year,

Masterpieces of Titian. We also know that in April 1908 he visited the *Exhibition of the British Art Gallery* held in Melbourne's Exhibition Buildings because the exhibition catalogue, with his dated signature, is in the collection.

It wasn't all high art. During his student days he was evidently interested in the work of the well-known artist and cartoonist Phil May. In addition to a number of cuttings of drawings and cartoons culled from various sources, the collection at Ballarat holds at least five volumes of May's books. Two of them, *A Phil May Picture Book* and his *Sketches from Punch* (both 1903), were bought by Anderson in 1906.

That interest in drawing and cartooning was still there fifty years later because in 1957, when David Low's *Autobiography* was published in instalments in the *Bulletin*, Anderson cut and pasted them into a separate volume for his art library. It is just one of the collection's 20 or so carefully organised volumes of cuttings put together over 30 years.

When his time as an art student was over Anderson was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Royal Australian Artillery in August 1909, and was to spend almost 15 years as an artillery officer. After a brief spell at the Victorian headquarters in Queenscliff he went to Western Australia in 1912 and spent the war years there, serving in the coastal batteries in Albany and Fremantle. In Perth in 1914 he married Lucy Butcher, the daughter of the former Albany Harbor Master, and returned to Victoria with her in 1923. He transferred to the Army's Reserve List in 1924 and then, at the age of 40, began his career as an accountant.

Although, as McCallum somewhat ungraciously puts it, 'he admitted to being a failure as an artist', the fascination of art remained with him. Throughout his life, whether as a student, artillery officer or accountant, he continued to collect art books.

The largest individual section of the Ballarat collection is some six or seven hundred volumes on painters and painting. It includes most of the major artists up to his time, with a particular emphasis on British painters. One of the more unusual features of Anderson's collection is the way in which he was almost instantly able to lay his hands on a reproduction of any particular painting. He had compiled a meticulously detailed work that he called *Catalogue and Index: Coloured Prints in Various Publications*. In 140 leaves (280 pages) of closely written manuscript it gives the precise location in his collection of the works of hundreds of artists, famous or otherwise, from C.A. Abbey to Francesco de Zurburán.

The two hundred books on etching in the collection have a special significance in discussing Anderson's interests. One of the books, which comes from his time in Western Australia, is a work entitled *On Making and Collecting Etchings*, edited by the awkwardly named E. Heskith Hubbard. Signed on the cover 'M.V. Anderson, Nov. 1920', it was an early indication of what would become one of his major interests and one which would later be of considerable benefit to the Ballarat Fine Arts Gallery. An indication of the nature of his donations of etchings and drawings to the Gallery over the years can be seen in the list of his final bequest in 1967.¹

McCallum reports that the library had made some additions to the collection but it is relatively easy to distinguish them from Anderson's books. After his return to Melbourne Anderson himself rarely put any identifying mark in his art books but there are the occasional clues: a slip of paper tucked between the pages with some notes in his distinctive hand, a twopenny tram ticket used as a bookmark, or a lightly penciled annotation on the rear flyleaf, such as the one in *Art and Commonsense* which reads: 'p. 100 – Cezanne, potentially a great artist ; actually a very bad painter.'

The additions made during a re-organisation of Ballarat's reference collections in the 1960s, on the other hand, usually have the pencilled note 'B. ref. move to MVA' on the flyleaf, whilst books published after Anderson's death are quite obviously additions. In neither case did the additions change the basic characteristics of the collection. The practice of adding to the collection ceased when it was moved to the boardroom of the old library in 1977. There was no longer any room for expansion.

Although Anderson's twin collections of art and chess went their separate ways in 1958-59, they were briefly seen together again in his centenary year of 1984-85 when the Australian Chess Championship was played in Ballarat. On that occasion, most of the first floor of the old library was given over to an exhibition from the M.V. Anderson Chess Collection in Melbourne and next to it, in the old boardroom, was the M.V. Anderson Art Collection. Uniting both chess and art, as the centrepiece of the exhibition, was the State Library's original 15th century woodcut from Caxton's *Game and Playe of the Chesse*.

... and Chess

For many people the game of chess has an extraordinary fascination, whether it is played simply as a pleasant game between friends or in the strongly competitive atmosphere of an international tournament. With a literature going back over a thousand years to the Arabic writers of the ninth and tenth centuries, and a history extending back even further to sixth or seventh century India, the game exerts a strange appeal. Anderson, the founder of the State Library's internationally recognised Anderson Chess Collection, was one of the people to have been captured by it.

Some idea of the significance of his collection can be seen in the entry for 'Libraries' in *The Oxford Companion to Chess*. 'Three outstanding collections exist in libraries open to the public. The J.G. White collection in Cleveland, Ohio and the van der Linde-Niemeijer collection in the Royal Library at The Hague are of comparable size and have no rivals. The Anderson Chess Collection in Melbourne, Australia, donated by M.V. Anderson, is probably the largest chess library in the southern hemisphere.'

Anderson's chess collection began in Western Australia at the end of the First World War when, as Captain Anderson, he was the Commanding Officer of the Royal Australian



Gioachino Greco, *The Royall Game of Chesse-Play*. 1656. *S 794.1 G79R. Rare Book Collection.

Garrison Artillery at Fremantle. He gave his own account of the beginnings of his collection in the introduction to his *Numerical List of Books*:

This list was commenced in 1949. The books were listed as they stood on my bookshelves and comprised 528 items, – from my first purchase in 1918.

My first book was Staunton's *Chess Player's Handbook*, purchased Nov. 1918 after a holiday in Yallingup, W.A., where I received some advice on study. I had learned a little chess in 1902, but not systematically.

In 1949 I purchased the late Professor Gundersen's books from Hall, the bookseller, and, a little later those of Mr. (later Judge) Woinarski.

From the Gundersen collection I sent the books on problems, and the duplicates from both, to Hollings and A.S. Pinkus, receiving other books in exchange...

In the year he commenced his list Anderson, at 65, was moving towards retirement. Although he maintained his city office and continued some professional activities, it was then that his interest in chess became a major activity in his life and he developed into an enthusiastic collector of chess books.

In May 1959, ten years after he began his list, he wrote to Meindert Niemeijer (then the driving force behind the great Dutch chess collection at The Hague)

I think I am the only serious chessbook collector in Australia. I know several men with small numbers of books – say a hundred or so. Mr. Koshnitsky has a number of books which he uses in

an "Academy" and Mr. Purdy has a number but he sells those he does not wish to keep.²

The chess section of my library now numbers over two thousand items and I am presently in process of transferring them to the Melbourne Public Library as a gift. (Anderson correspondence, Rare Books Collection, State Library of Victoria)

The gift to the Library had been initiated in January 1958 when the Chief Librarian received a letter from M.V.Anderson which asked:

Would your Trustees welcome the offer, by bequest or earlier gift, of my chess collection?

The collection consists at present of nearly 1700 books (in various languages) ...

They occupy nearly a hundred feet of shelf space...and comprise the largest collection of the kind in Australia.

About 6000 games, published in newspapers, are separately indexed, and there is a collection, in three large volumes, of about 2000 games played in one variation, with its own separate index.

As many of the books are of a special character -Tournament books, and are impossible to replace - I have in mind the establishment of a research centre, apart from your ordinary collection of chess books...

I would be prepared to keep the collection up to date, and to endow it with such an income as would allow additions as I have made them, and to enable binding and repairs to be done to ensure that the collection would be in good shape in the future.

(Anderson correspondence, Rare Books Collection, SLV)

The offer was made partly because Anderson was having difficulty in finding space in his home for his growing collection. He made a reference to this difficulty a few years later, in September 1963, in a letter to Gregorio J. Lastra, a fellow-collector in Buenos Aires (with whom he frequently corresponded): 'I sympathise with you on the lack of space in which to hold your collection. I was faced with the same difficulty and gave my whole collection to the Victorian State Library.'

Once the Library accepted his offer, Anderson had both the space and the personal wealth to set about building his chess library into a major collection. By the time he died in 1966 he had added another 5000 volumes to the original gift of 1700 books. The last entry in his own hand in the *Numerical List of Books* reads: '6767-6768 - L'Eco degli Scacchi. \$11.25'³

With his death in December 1966 the responsibility for the collection passed to the State Library. The Library already had what Anderson had termed the 'ordinary collection of chess books', but it proved neither practical nor desirable to keep the two collections separate and up-to-date. When the two were united in 1972 it was found that a surprisingly large number of items in the 'ordinary' collection (some 70%) were actually new additions to a collection already very strong in material from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The collection originally held only a few early works. When Anderson donated his collection the earliest work it held was Phillip Stamma's *The Noble Game of Chess* (London, 1745). He had concentrated his attention on the modern period of 'tournament chess' which began in London in 1851, but during 1963-65 under the influence of Holland's Dr. Niemeijer he had purchased a small number of works of the sixteenth – eighteenth centuries. When the

chess items in the Library's other collections were placed alongside his own the outlines of a collection of significant early works began to emerge.

The Sticht Collection, for example, contained a single illustrated leaf from Caxton's 1483 *Game and Playe of the Chesse*. In the Rare Books Collection there was a copy of the first edition of Marco Vida's much-admired poem on chess *De ludo scacchorum* (Rome, 1527). It also held the collection of openings and games by the important seventeenth-century Italian player Gioachino Greco published in London in 1656 as *The Royall Game of Chesse-play*.

When to these were added Anderson's 1745 copy of Stamma, his first edition of A.D. Philidor's very influential *L'Analyse des échecs* (London, 1749) and Richard Twiss's 2-volume anthology *Chess* (London, 1787-89), the groundwork for a representative collection of early chess books had been laid. It was a good basis on which to build, and by the mid-1990s the Library had acquired original copies of almost all of the major chess authors to the end of the eighteenth century.

Among the significant items it acquired were the works by two of the leading players of the sixteenth century whose names are commemorated in the Damiano Gambit and the Ruy Lopez – two chess openings well-known to modern players.

The first of them, Damiano of Odmeira, was a Portuguese player whose *Questo libro e imparare giocare a scachi e de le partite* (Rome, 1512), with its text in both Italian and Spanish on the same page, was the first chess book published in Italy. The Library now holds a copy of the 1528 printing of it (the 5th ed.) as well as a facsimile copy of the original 1512 version.

The second author was Ruy Lopez de Segura, a Spanish priest who discovered Damiano's book when he visited Rome in 1560 and decided to write his own. In Alcala, in 1561, he published *Libro de la invencion liberal y arte del juego del axedrez*. The Library celebrated the centenary of Anderson's birth in 1984 by purchasing an original 1561 copy of Lopez de Segura's book.

As a brief aside, one might add that a couple of years ago these two books provided one of the highlights of a young Canadian backpacker's visit to Melbourne. A keen player who had stumbled upon the chess collection, he was thrilled to be able to handle the original works written by two players he felt he already knew.

After nearly 40 years of continuous addition by the Library, Anderson's chess collection today, with about 15,000 volumes, is able to provide most of the important texts spanning the six centuries of the game from Caxton in the fifteenth century to the computer age of the twenty-first.

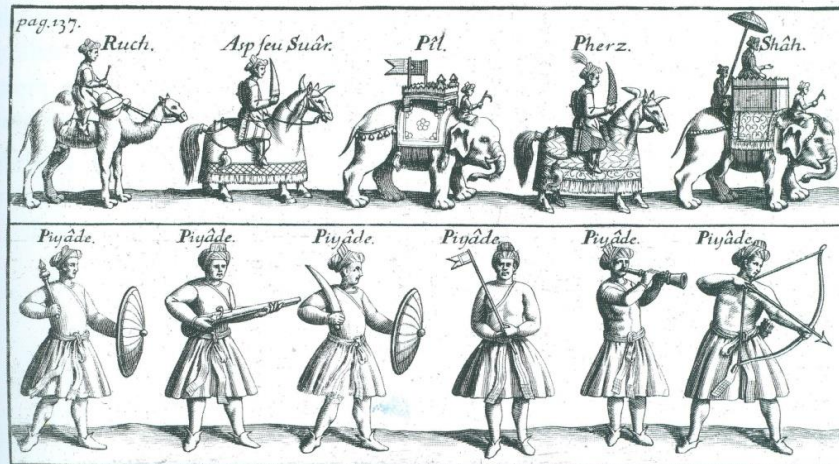
'I have in mind the establishment of a research collection...' In 1958, when he wrote to the Chief Librarian, Anderson hoped that his library would become a research collection. Given the astronomical number of possible moves on a chessboard, it is not surprising that the serious chess player needs access to a very large body of games. To meet that need, Anderson not only gathered together the collected games of all the great modern players, he also acquired

more than 600 individual chess periodical titles and several thousand tournament reports. With their international scope they constitute the research heart of the collection.

But the collection also aims to meet the needs of those wanting to research the various aspects of Australian chess history and literature. A problem for local researchers is that the information about the people, the clubs, and the games of Australian chess up until the mid-twenties, is confined almost entirely to chess columns in newspapers. So in response to the need for reliable information the Library has produced a complete listing of all nineteenth-century Victorian chess columns and their editors, and from the contents of the columns has itself been able to produce articles on nineteenth-century Victorian chess.

The collection also holds some important manuscript materials, among them the records of the Melbourne Chess Club from its beginnings in the 1860s. Before the formation of a national organisation the Melbourne Chess Club was a pivotal part of Australian chess; and Anderson, as a former secretary and committeeman, managed to deposit the club's records in his collection. More recently the Library has been able to add to those club papers a significant number of the records of the Australian Chess Federation, the governing body of Australian chess, as well as those of its stable mate, the Victorian Chess Association.

A major researcher into Australian chess, who both used the collection and became an important donor, was John van Manen (1922-2000). He was a Dutch actuary who migrated to Australia in 1961 and became, in the words of the English chess historian Ken Whyld, 'the guardian of Australian chess history'. Van Manen is best described in his own words as 'a chess data collector', but he organised his data into a form that made Australia's chess history much more accessible to those who came after him.



The first scholarly account of the history of chess, which concludes that the game originated in India. Thomas Hyde, *Mandragoria seu Historia shahiludii*. 1694. *S 794.I H98M. Rare Book Collection.

One part of his work has become a very important addition to the collection. It is a 23-volume manuscript collection of some 10,000 Australian games gathered while he was preparing his *Records of Australian Chess*. The van Manen collection, a chronological record of the games of Australian chess championships, matches and tournaments dating from the middle of the nineteenth century to near the close of the twentieth, is in frequent demand.

Chess Literature of Australia and New Zealand, another outcome of van Manen's data collecting, involved the Library in an extensive correspondence with him. From his researches emerged the fact that only a bare dozen nineteenth-century Australian chess items have been identified. Life for Australian researchers is made a little difficult when two of them have failed to survive, and six exist only in single copies - with one of those in Germany. Fortunately, three of the singles are among the Melbourne Chess Club papers, and of the others there are photocopies of all but the German one. To round off this brief account of Australian rarities, one might mention one of the earliest survivors, *The Games of the Intercolonial Chess Match, Melbourne versus Adelaide* (Melbourne, 1868), of which only a few copies are known. The match was played 'by means of the electric telegraph', and what was possibly the finest copy of the pamphlet was in the hands of a Melbourne collector interested in telegraphy. His collection was auctioned earlier this year and the Library was able to purchase his copy - after waiting nearly 20 years to get it.

Although Australia is not a major chess-playing country, occasionally requests for information on Australian chess come from overseas researchers. Among them have been the editors of *The Oxford Companion to Chess* asking for information on the Charlick Gambit, an opening named after a nineteenth-century Australian champion; a researcher in Ohio wanting the earliest Australian game using an American-invented opening; someone wanting to know whether the notoriously self-promoting player G.H.D. Gossip brought his wife and children with him from England; and an English chess journalist e-mailing for details about 'Chesschat', Melbourne's unique weekly 2-hour radio chess program. Fortunately, in each case, they got their answer - including a Gossip child they had missed.

In looking over Anderson's gifts to the public of both art and chess, one is reminded of an annotation in the file that the Commonwealth Investigation Branch set up in 1928 when his name appeared in *Dun's Gazette*. Penned by an unidentified official it read:

'I know Anderson & he may be useful to us some day.'

Notes

1. M.V.Anderson's final bequest to the Ballarat Fine Arts Gallery, 1967 consisted of the following works:

Fred Britton	'Head of a Man'	(pencil drawing)
George Lambert	'Married and Marred'	(brush and sepia ink, watercolour)
Tom Roberts	'At Phillip Island'	(etching)
John Goodchild	'The Split, Sydney'	(etching)
Thomas Friedensen	'A Sunlit Canal, Venice'	(etching, aquatint)
A.E. Warner	'A Bush Road'	(etching)
Herbert Rose	'The Sugar Mills'	(drypoint etching)
J. Goodhart	'The Tasmanian Club'	(etching)
Penleigh Boyd	'The Edge of the Bush'	(drypoint etching)
Penleigh Boyd	'The Haystack'	(drypoint etching)
John Mather	'Bush Hut near Healesville'	(etching)
Herbert Rose	'Rue des Tamis, Tunis'	(etching)
Henri van Raalte	'The Sentinel, Torrens Gorge'	(drypoint etching)
Penleigh Boyd	'Wattles by the Water'	(oil on board)
Fred Pegram	'Two figures embracing with another looking on'	(pen and ink)
Fred Pegram	'Two men tossing dice'	(pen and ink)

(Information from Ballarat Fine Arts Gallery)

2. Garry 'Kosh' Koshnitsky, MBE (1907-2000) and Cecil Purdy, AM (1906-1979), both former Australian chess champions, were important figures in twentieth century Australian chess. Each was awarded his honour for services to chess.

3. All entries in Anderson's *Numerical List* include the price paid. Every so often, as one might expect from an accountant, there is a running total of expenditure. By the time of the changeover to decimal currency in 1966, the year of his death, he had spent \$12,136.18.

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Narromine is about 500kms north west of Sydney on the Great Western Plains. It was settled ca1883 when the Great Western Railway line came through to Bourke. Driving from Sydney on the Great Western Highway one travels through the Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange, Molong, Wellington, Dubbo and Narromine. The highway is close to the Macquarie River from Bathurst where the river starts, to Narromine and then the river moves away to the East to the town of Warren eventually joining the Barwon/Darling River between Brewarrina and Walgett and then to Adelaide. Our town has about 3500 people and is 40km from the city of Dubbo. It is irrigation country and many crops are grown here as well as sheep and cattle. The climate is hot in the summer at around 40+°C to 0°C in winter. It is very flat land.

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Page 24 Mike Sheahan, Rosemary Shiel, Barrie Ellen, Ross Burnet, Neville Ledger, Tony Peterson, Dale Brandreth.

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Page 26 Bernie Johnson, Tonnoirs, 'The Doeberl Cup' by Bill Egan, Jim Jones, Australian Chess Enterprises (ACE Brian Jones), Greg Wilson.

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Page 30 Goulburn Books, Bob Gould, Brian Tomson, Stan Vaughan

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