

The CATALOGUE MEN IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Who were the 'Catalogue Men' pre WW2? I thought of Albrecht Buschke and Meindert Niemeijer in the 1930's. Another was Adrian Gambet of New York. Then Wayne Komer was successful with some of his bids on old catalogues in a recent Lund auction (Karel Mokry) in September 2020. The descriptions he sent are excellent with many unknown names to me. Here are the items:-

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

The initial bid amount was €30.00.

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

Albrecht Buschke Sale catalogue no.2, July 1940 Chess Periodicals 1836-1938 LN 134

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

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

The initial bid amount was €20.00.

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

Dr. Meindert Niemeyer (Niemeijer) Sale list number 14 November 1935 Ca 150 chess books etc. for sale or exchange Niemeyer (Niemeijer), Meindert: No.14. November 1935.

Wassenaar, self-edition, 1935. Stapled leaves. Mimeographed typescript, 6 leaves printed on rectos only. Size 33.5 x 21 cm. In Dutch. LN 112. The weight 30 grams. Good or better: small traces of horizontal folding, light crease to the bottom right corner throughout. Text is clean with no writings. An offer of about 150 second-hand chess items for sale.

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

The initial bid amount was €20.00.

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

University Place Book Shop, NY Sale catalogue no. 6 (1936 or 1937) 248 chess entries

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

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

The initial bid amount was €15.00.

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

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

5. Hedewigs Mitteilungen no.29, 1926

The initial bid amount was €10.00.

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

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

6. Hedewigs Mitteilungen no.32, 1929

The initial bid amount was €15.00.

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

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

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

The initial bid amount was €15.00.

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

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

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

The initial bid amount was €20.00.

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

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

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

The initial bid amount was €10.00.

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

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

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

The initial bid amount was €10.00.

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

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

11. Hedewigs Mitteilungen no.10, 1912

The initial bid amount was €26.00.

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

Hedewigs Mitteilungen no.10 Leipzig 1912 Sale catalogue, ca 310 items Curt Ronniger (publisher, bookseller): Hedewig's Mitteilungen ueber Schachliteratur. Nr.10. Leipzig, Ronniger, 1912. Stapled booklet. 16 pages. Size ca 23 cm. In German. LN 70. The weight 30

grams. Good or better: light horizontal centre fold, light general signs of use, paper usually browned by age, text clean with no writings. Sale catalogue, described in detail are ca 60 new titles of various publishers and chess equipment. Also 174 second-hand books and the list of desiderata - ca 80 wanted old books

12. Bell and Sons - Sale catalogue ca 1927

The initial bid amount was €12.00.

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

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

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

The initial bid amount was €10.00.

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

Curt Ronniger, Leipzig: Interessante Schachliteratur fuer alle Schachfreunde. Sale catalogue ca 1933 Curt Ronniger (publisher, bookseller): Interessante Schachliteratur fuer alle Schachfreunde. Leipzig, self-edition, no date (ca 1933). Stapled booklet. 16 pages. Size ca 17 cm. In German. LN-. The weight 20 grams. Very good: light signs of use, no flaws, text clean with no writings. Sale catalogue, described are ca 70 chess books. The youngest item is Ranneforth's Schachkalender 1933 (code 9153).

14. Alois Reichmann, Wien. Katalog 95: Schach, 1928 (235 entries

The initial bid amount was €20.00.

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

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

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

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

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

Potential Cost about \$500 Canadian!

Items Won by Wayne

1. Hedewigs Mitteilungen no.29 Leipzig 1926 Sale catalogue, 500+ items Curt Ronniger (publisher, bookseller): Hedewig's Mitteilungen ueber Schachliteratur. Nr.29. Leipzig, Ronniger, 1926. Stapled booklet. 36 pages. Size ca 23 cm. In German. LN 70. The weight 40 grams. Lacks the last leaf with an order form (Bestellzettel), else Good to very good. 15E

2. (Hedewigs) Mitteilungen no.32 Leipzig 1929 Sale catalogue, 500+ items Curt Ronniger (publisher, bookseller): Mitteilungen ueber Schachliteratur und Schachutensilien. Nr.32. Leipzig, Ronniger, 1929. Stapled booklet. 40 pages. Size ca 23 cm. In German. LN 70. The weight 40 grams. 25 Euro

3. Veit and Comp., Leipzig: Sale catalogue ca 1916 Veit & Comp. (publisher): Fuer Schachspieler. Leipzig, Veit & Comp., ca 1916. Stapled booklet. 24 pages. Size 15 x 11 cm. In German. LN-. The weight 20 grams. Very good: light signs of use, no flaws. Text is clean with no writings. Publisher's catalogue with ca 80 chess titles described in detail. 48 Euro

4. Alois Reichmann, Wien Katalog 95: Schach (1928) with 235 second-hand chess entries Alois Reichmann (bookseller): Katalog 95: Schach. Wien, self-edition, 1928. Softcover. 8 pages. Size 24 cm. In German. LN 100. The weight 20 grams. Good: stamp of Wiener Schachzeitung on page 1. Small pen note and signature of Czech composer/collector Ilja Mikan on page 1. One small crayon underlining on p.1, otherwise text OK with no writings. Sale catalogue with 235 mostly second-hand chess books and magazines. 27 Euro

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

section (picture 3), otherwise text is OK. Sale catalogue with 546 mostly second-hand chess books and magazines. 20 Euro

6. University Place Book Shop, NY Sale catalogue no. 6 (1936 or 1937) 248 chess entries
University Place Book Shop (booksellers): Books on Chess. Catalog No 6. New York, self-edition, no date (1936 or 1937). Softcover. (8) pages. Size 23 cm. In English. LN-. The weight 30 grams. Good or better: pages with light traces of crease, text OK with no writings except a few erasable pencil ticks. Sale catalogue with 248 mostly second-hand chess books and magazines. 24E & 159E in total.

A good result. Wayne had been getting Dr. Niemeijer's lists since 1967 but missed items 2 & 8. He had met some of the old Catalogue Men:-

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

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

Quite interesting to see good prices for the old catalogues and also the heavy demand. The auction bidding was intense.

From Gaige, Walter Goldwater was born and died in New York (9 July 1907-24 June 1985) There were obituaries in Chess Life 1985 p.658/9; New York Times June 28 1985 p.D16; and an article in Who's Who in Education 1974 p.307. He was Mr. University Place Bookshop.

I have no details on Hedewigs, Walter de Gruyter, Curt Ronniger, Veit & Co, Bell and Sons. I noticed a Frank Hollings catalogue ca 1931 in Chess Book Chats 2016. His address was 7 Great Turnstile Holburn London. I threw a red herring across this fellow some years ago when I found a Frank Hollin in New Zealand but it looks like they are different people. Karel Mokry added some detail on the old dealers in his sale:-

Karel Mokry

Tue 29/09/2020 3:33 PM

Dear Bob,

That's an interesting subject. Unfortunately, I have no closer knowledge of pre-war dealers. You might find something in those catalogs I sold, but they're now practically all sent to the buyers.

As for those you wrote about - the firma Veit and Company was established sometime in the first half of the 19th century, and its successor after World War I was Walter de Gruyter. You may be familiar with the Wikipedia article, which is only in German:

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moritz_Veit

I don't know, unfortunately, when Hans Hedewig passed into the hands of Curts Ronniger, but as far as I know I never had a book published by Hans Hedewig. It has always been "Hans Hedewigs Nachfolger Curt Ronniger." Also these „Hedewigs Mitteilungen“ were published by Ronniger.

I don't know anything about Alois Reichmann except for that catalogue I had at auction:

<http://www.chesslund.com/detail.asp?id=22980&n=Alois-Reichmann-Wien-Katalog-95-Schach-1928-235-entrie>

He was probably general second-hand dealer and the chess catalog was occasional.

Similarly like Kende:

<http://www.chesslund.com/detail.asp?id=22897&n=Antiquarian-bookshop-S-Kende-Wien-Sale-catalogue-1892>

Best regards, Karel

From Google:-Lexicon Der Österreichischen Provenienz Forshung

Alois Reichmann, originally from Bohemia, founded the book and antiquarian bookstore Alois Reichmann in Vienna 4, Wiedner Hauptstrasse 18-20 with his wife Emilie, née Löwy. The company with a focus on natural science, art and humanities topics and old prints quickly developed into one of the largest antiquarian bookshops in Vienna with a warehouse of around 400,000 books. In 1927, their son Felix Reichmann joined the Open Trading Company as a partner and, after the death of Alois Reichmann on September 27, 1936, continued it together with his mother Emilie Reichmann.

After Austria's "annexation" to the National Socialist German Reich, the Reichmann family was exposed to Nazi persecution due to their Jewish origins. Karl Günther, who has been with the company since 1922, denounced his superior Felix Reichmann and Hans Edelmann, who had been with the company since 1929, to the Gestapo. Then Edelmann was arrested and in March 1938 Felix Reichmann was deported to the Dachau concentration camp, from where he was to be transferred to the Buchenwald concentration camp in February 1939. [Karl Günther](#), member of the NSDAP since 1934, took over the provisional management of the Reichmann company in April 1938. He immediately initiated the first relocation and sale of valuable book stocks and had the Gestapo sift through and partially confiscate the remaining books (including Judaica, socialist and psychoanalytic literature). [Johannes Katzler](#) received the approval of the [property traffic office \(VVSt\)](#) for the "Aryanization" of the company on October 26, 1938 at a "purchase price" of RM 27,350. [Günther](#) left the company as acting administrator on December 2nd, 1938; Alois Reichmann was deleted from the commercial register on November 18th, 1940. [Katzler](#) relocated to the Alois Reichmann warehouseHoldings of the confiscated bookstores owned by [Richard Lányi](#), [Moritz Perles](#), Josef Kende, Max Breitenstein, Carl Wilhelm Stern and Heinrich Saar. After his release from Buchenwald, Felix Reichmann fled to

the USA, Emilie Reichmann to England. After his release from "protective custody", Hans Edelmann initially managed to escape to England, where he was interned and then transferred to Australia and interned again. His wife Helene, who from the perspective of the Nazi regime was not Jewish, stayed behind in Vienna and was banned from working.

After the war, the Wieden Police Department secured the bookstore, it was reopened in September 1945 and from October 1945 was under public administration by Elvira Grosz, daughter of the late Josef Kende, and Otto Kerry, a long-time employee of the Reichmann company. On October 12, 1946, Hans Edelmann, who had returned from Australia and was authorized by Reichmann to manage the company, replaced Kerry as public administrator. Edelmann and Grosz tried to identify their former books by going through the remaining holdings. However, this turned out to be unproductive due to the lack of records of the book stocks brought together from the various "Aryanized" warehouses and because of the large losses caused by deportations and sales. Only a small part of Reichmann, Stern, [Perles](#), [Lányi](#) et al. Books that can be assigned and returned to the heirs can be found on the lists drawn up after 1945. [Günther](#) was found guilty of denunciation (Section 7 of the War Crimes Act) by the Vienna People's Court on June 7th, 1947 and sentenced to three and a half years in prison. He was released in January 1949. The "Aryanization" of the Reichmann company was the subject of a pending people's court case against Katzler, which in May 1947 led to a sentence of 18 months' imprisonment and financial collapse. a. for improper enrichment (Section 6 KVG). Emilie Reichmann, who returned to Vienna from England in 1949, had already submitted an application for restitution of the company and the goods in September 1947 under the Second Restitution Act. She died on July 21, 1950 before the end of the proceedings. Felix Reichmann, his sister Lisbeth, married Danbury, and Hans Edelmann received a notification from the Financial Directorate for Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland returned the bookstore Alois Reichmann on April 26, 1951. Hans Edelmann and his son were to continue to run the company at the location they founded in 1896 until 2011.

[Walter Mentzel](#), May 29, 2020 (A wonderful write-up by Walter Menzel- I am reminded of that great movie 'Woman in Gold' starring Helen Mirren. It is all about restitution in recent years.BM)

Perhaps we should go further back than Pre-War, which War, you ask? Well, if one believes Jim Tyrrell in 'Old Books, Old Friends, Old Sydney' 1952 that may mean the Boer War! And one of his cohorts at Angus & Robertson's book shop in Sydney was Fred Wymark. He was one of the great 'seekers and finders' for the shop in the 1890's and he was mercenary as shown by this story:- *Fred once having such an item to dispose of, gave it and the buyer he had in mind much thought. The item was unique; in fact there was only the one buyer for it at the price it would have to be, which Fred after due consideration, fixed at £200. With that settled, Fred went out to wait for a steam-train, still turning over in his mind the price and the kind of item he had to sell. "This item," thus Fred told me his thoughts ran, "Is something unique. Two hundred pounds: No; it's well worth £300."*

There was no sign of the tram. Also, it had occurred to Fred that since the buyer lived at an address he, with all his singular knowledge of Sydney's byways, had never visited, it would be better to go by cab. There was no cab in sight, either, so Fred took a stroll all the way round

Hyde Park, still thinking over the price of the item he was carrying. By the time he had hailed a cab this had leapt to £500.

Upon reaching the address, Fred told the cabby to wait, while he went inside and displayed his treasure. They came to the question of price.

"It's a thousand pounds," said Fred- a price, he told me, that had not occurred to him till that instant. The buyer, quite satisfied, wrote his cheque. (p.99 'Old Books...')

Hmm, we collectors may think, how could he get away with that? Easy really, as the item was unique and he knew his mark. I'm not sure the 'item' is a book. I liked Fred and wrote of him before for what he did to ensure rare items remained in the public domain. Also he disliked those who didn't know the value of material found by them in their old buildings and not studied. He called them all 'damned fools. who should be in Callan Park! The lot of you!' That should have awakened the city to the value of old wares and stopped the burning of them. It seemed that old wares were considered rubbish by many! (Callan Park was an asylum in Sydney-BM)

The Angus & Robertson store at 89 Castlereagh Street was still there in the 1950's and I visited it a few times as a teenager. It wasn't far from St. James Railway Station and the huge David Jones store and very easy to find. I never found any chess books that I liked but it was nice to ramble around the books.

I would have been much keener had I known of Tyrrell and Wymark then but that didn't come until the late Bill Morris of Gosford educated me in the 70s & 80s. Berkelouw's Books of 19 Oxford Street Paddington was the bookstore of note in the 90s and in there on 3 Nov. 1998 I saw a lovely copy of 'Old Books..' with a nice dust cover and a dedication from Frank Clune , the historical writer, to one of his friends for \$35 and so have 2 copies. The one I mentioned in 'Bert' for \$66 and the better one for \$35.

In Bendigo Vic. in 2001 I bought for \$9 "History of Libraries in the Western World" 2nd ed 1970 by Elmer D. Johnson (The Scarecrow Press Inc. Metuchen NJ-521 pages) It had been previously owned by Yola Collins. This green hardback was 50 years old now and it was pointed out to me by the bookshop owner off the main street when we talked about interests. Elmer J. is American and has done justice to the subject in the 24 chapters with additional reading at the end of each chapter. Collectors have been there from the start and the Dead Sea Scrolls prove that. Elmer J wrote:-*organized archives existed in both Egypt and Babylonia before 3000 BC.* It is a scholars book way above my head but apart from the libraries which are described up to 1970 his chapter 14 is "Private Libraries in Modern Europe" where EJ states that *as there is no "public" to serve, the private library can be built to a point nearing perfection. Unfortunately the death of a book collector often results in the sale or dispersal of his library...*

At the time of Benjamin Franklin's death in 1790 he owned more than 4000 volumes on a wide range of topics. Willed to his grandsons, Franklin's books were scattered, with many of them

coming on the market in 1801, when they were sold by a Philadelphia dealer. Fortunately many of Franklin's volumes were recognizable as such, and about 1000 of them can now be located in various libraries. Thomas Jefferson was almost as significant in library history as Franklin and we know he was a chess player too. The nub of all this is that the library of Ben Franklin a very early chess great, ended up with a dealer.(This from Elmer J.)

Here are the details of Will Lyons from Gaige:- William Henry Lyons born 13 Feb. 1849 Cincinnati, died 1 Oct. 1932 Newport KY There are good articles in the American Chess Bulletin 1923, p.179; 1928 p.112; 1932 p.146 and the NY Times Oct 4, 1932 p.21.

Michael Clapham in his nice Chess Book Chats Oct 2016 article on Will Lyons shows a scan cover of the No.7 Catalogue of 1897 in which he states he had customers in Australia! Claimed to be the "largest dealer in Chess Goods in the world and carry a larger stock than can be found anywhere else". He also said he had paid out more than received. It was 80 pages and 1000 items. His Cat 10 came out in 1909 and he dealt for 30 years. He called himself a "Purveyor of Chess Goods". He is probably the pre War biggie.

BCM 1927 p.15:-*We much regret to record the death of Mrs. W.H. Lyons of Harvard, US, at the age of 77. The name of Will H. Lyons must be familiar to most of our readers: he has been the American agent for the B.C.M. for over 40 years and his knowledge of chess books is probably unique*

Very bad luck for Will losing his wife.

BCM 1932 p.489:-*Some years ago, following a false report, we had actually set up in type an obituary notice of our old subscriber William H. Lyons, of Newport, Kentucky. Fortunately. However, we were able to cancel this as untrue. Now there is, unhappily, no doubt as to the truth of the announcement published by Dr. P.G. Keeney in 'The Cincinnati Examiner' that he died at his Newport home on October 1, aged 83, his health had been undermined by influenza early in this year.*

Born at Cincinnati in 1849, "Will" Lyons lived most of his life at Newport, where he made a name all over the world as a collector and dealer in chess books. A fair player of the game, a problem-composer of repute, and an editor in the past of various columns, he specialized in collecting and distributing books on the subject, of which he had a very fine collection, sold about five years ago to Herman Helms of 'The American Chess Bulletin'.

Writing to us in 1925, when his business was pretty brisk, Mr. Lyons said:- *I am always in the market...Chess business is' jumpy'. An abominable week, and then several days of big orders. The average is satisfactory. The queer thing is how many people want something you are just out of. You may in a stock, and they no longer want it, but something else. I bought 15 copies of an out-of-print book once, sold two or three copies, then none for 10 years. All at once something started, and I sold all but one copy....The chess public can only digest a certain amount, and the rest are like pork to a dyspeptic.*

In 1894-6 deceased served two terms in the Kentucky Legislature, and he held various public posts.

(Some of this was in Bert p.46. Likewise Frank Hollings p.47 His shop was bombed TWICE during WW2. It was occupied then by a Mr.W.E.Redway.) Please see Edward Winter's 'Chess Notes' for an in depth look on Hollings. This is a false name. His real name was James Francis Hollings Shepherd (b.1844) Michael Clapham has good material in his Chess Chats too on FH.

Back on Baruch H. Wood (born 13 July 1909 in Sheffield-died 4 April 1989). I have now been through my fairly complete set of CHESS looking for the 23 chess book catalogues which were referred to in that April 1950 CHESS magazine and it is clear that he found second hand chess book sales good for dealers.(Dec. 1950 has a "Sale of Rare and Second Hand Books" list.) Here is a general list of interesting items:-

1. 4 Oct 1935 Vol.1 and ad by E.G. R. Cordingley who I mentioned in Bert as a dealer.
2. 14 Oct 1936 . Frank Hollings ad
3. 14 March 1937 An ad for Foyles Books. A general book dealer.
4. 14 June 1937 A very good Paul Morphy centenary number.
5. 14 Nov. 1937 A Fred Reinfeld teaching ad.
6. May 1938 An ad by D & M Davis Chessmen buyers and dealers
- 7.Feb. 1939 An ad by the wife of R.J.C. Walkers selling his chess book collection.
8. Oct. 1939 A University Place ad New York and Dr. Buschke wants to buy chess ephemera.
9. May 1940 B.H. Wood's Law Suit on Staunton chessmen.
10. Nov.1940 The destruction of the new National Chess Centre (photo) The bomb took out the BCF Library, the City of London CC library and the trophies in Oct. 1940
11. July 1940 "Chessmen" by D. Liddell (1879-1958) half price.
12. August 1940 Albrecht Buschke ad.
13. Jan. 1941 Many Christmas Series books for Sale plus Frank Hollings Chess Salon ad
14. Feb 1941 "Let us make an offer for Your Chess Library" ad
15. May 1941 A List of 2nd Hand Books
16. April 1941 A nice ad by Dr. Albrecht Buschke advising his Catalogue No.1 Jan. 1940 with 670 items was out plus No.2 July 1940
- 17.Dec. 1941 A new list of 2nd Hand Books plus as by G.Bell & Sons Ltd of York House Portugal Street London
- 18 July/August 1942 2 pages of books "Among These Mates" ad.
19. June 1943 14 Christmas Series books for sale. The dearest by a long way was H. Weenink's 'The Chess Problem' 1926 at 11/-

I will include some scans and can only conclude the prior 23 catalogues to the 1950 "24th" are unnumbered. The last two pages of most magazine issues contained books for sale. A short paragraph on BHW's 2nd hand book sales is needed in the Wikipedia website.

When one starts to think about collectors and dealers all over the world I went back to Bert and noted Albert Cohn (1827-1905) of Berlin dealing in 1887.(See the terrific article on Google

‘Asher Rare Books’ which mentions Cohn). Another dealer was van Mercier in London in 1855 and in 1857 Daniel Willard Fiske gathered a large collection ca 1856/7 and one wonders did part of W.H. Russ’s collection end here as he died at this time, and then of H.J.R. Murray’s correspondence p.19+ in Bert especially Section 168 where he seems to write of dealers. That reminded me of M.V. Anderson’s dealings with book sellers which is in Bert 2. And did the great 19th century collections mostly get dispersed as Ben Franklin’s did or were the key books bought by the next generation collectors in bulk? It is logical that this happens.

On remoteness in the 19th century the collectors such as Samuel Saunders of Warwick Queensland managed to build very fine libraries (he subscribed to ‘English Chess Problems’ by the Pierces in 1876) As his collection was sold in 1898 one can assume he bought at least over the period 1876-98 from various suppliers just like I have. It was much easier for me but back in his day, postage would have been tremendously slow and his dealers were clearly European, mostly English I would think. But perhaps “Will” was there. How did Paluzie y Lucena in Spain build his collection? The other question is the chess catalogue dealers are very different to general dealers and auctioneers. Should they be inclusive?

HOW DO COLLECTORS BUILD THEIR COLLECTIONS?

Here is an opportunity to examine the way Magnus Victor Anderson (d 1966) (MVA) built up the State Library of Victoria Chess Collection (see Bert2 p.189+). There were 46 folders similar to that in Bert for the Bodleian on Murray’s correspondence. It is alphabetical and here ONLY deals with dealers, not his Q&A.

P.B. Anderson(ca1911-1973) Scots Champion 6 letters in 1952 of books for sale then 46 letters 1964-66.

British Chess Magazine 53 letters 1958-66 Chess orders & booklist (No.2 & 3 1952)

British Chess Problem Society 10 letters 1966 re copies of ‘The Problemist’

Spencer Broughton Qld 6 letters 1956/7 re collecting chess books.

Albrecht Buschke New York 132 letters 1950-66 Anderson described AB as “...a scholar, an authority on chess, who also sells books”. AB is return saw Anderson as “one who is still one of the real collectors”.

Canadian Chess Chat (Divinsky) 5 letters 1962-66 re the Magazine.

Chess (Cutton Coldfield) B.H. Wood 54 letters 1958-66 + 1959-61 book lists.

Chess Player Nottingham 12 letters 1964-66 Book lists.

Chess Review New York Al Horowitz 20 letters 1962-66 re book orders.

Chess World Sydney Purdy 257 letters 1949-66-purchase of books plus many subjects

A. Curtis Surbiton, Surrey 3 letters 1952-57 List of books

M.Diamont Rose Bay Sydney 11 letters 1965/6 re purchase of his library.

Foyle , London 8 letters 1966 re books on Art & Shakespeare

Frankel, Wellington NZ 39 letters 1963-66 re NX Chess material

Galloway J.J. Ipswich Surrey (Dealer) 11 letters 1958-64 re book purchases M.E. Goldstein

Lindfield Sydney 5 letters 1963-66 re disposal of his library.

W.Goldwater (University Place NY) 40 letters 1960-64 book purchases

Herbert R. Gratz Leipzig 29 letters 1963-68 re book purchases

Will. Grove North Belmore NY (Grove Books) 5 letters 1963/4 book purchases

Julian Guisle (Libraire Guisle) 123 letters 1961-6 Book purchases
 Frank Hollings London (dealer) 127 letters 1957-66 book lists, purchases
 Bernie Johnson Chess in Australia and The Australian 22 letters 1963-66 re Bernie's columns
 George Koltanowski San Francisco 10 letters 19602 re books and pamphlets
 Vasily Lapin Qld 26 letters 1960-66 problem magazines
 Lastra G.J. Buenos Aires 150 letters 1961-66 re book purchases/exchanges, collecting & Bib'y
 Linde, Uno Goteborg 89 letters 1963-66 re books purchases/lists
 Heinz Loeffler Bad Neuheim 240 letters 1958-67 book purchases & lists
 Maggs Bros London 10 letters 1964-66 orders and purchases
 New York Public Library 6 letters 1961-66 re books for exchange
 Meindert Niemeijer Wassenaar 136 letters 1959-66 book purchases swaps, bib'y history
 A.S. Pinkus Mohegan Lake NY 20 letters 1957-60 book purchases/lists
 Kurt Rattman Hamburg Dealer/bookseller 1960-66 orders/lists
 L.R. Reitstein 41 letters 1961-66 re South African Chess Player/history
 Sahovska Naklad Zagreb 19 letters 1963-66 re "Teoreski biltem etc
 Lothar Schmid Bamberg 61 letters 1961-66 exchanges
 Skakhuset Copenhagen 12 letters re book purchases nd
 V.Sneiders Leipaja Latvia 83 letters 1960-66 book purchases and exchanges
 Sotheran Booksellers London 1 letter 1964 re chess books
 Jack Spence 42 letters 1957-66 Book purchases lists
 H.R. Stevenson H.R. PNG 14 letters 1958-60 re his library
 Ken Whyld Nottingham 52 letters 1961`-66 re books for the library
 Fred Wren Maine 63 letters 1961-5 book purchases/exchanges
 Severin Woinarski Vic in Box 13 6p list of books bought from him.

There are many boxes the most important being the Accession Register and Catalogues of the collection in 10 folders (Box 4) The late Ken Fraser sent me this list which is probably on the slv website and it shows how like Niemeijer, Anderson was. There are so many sellers of chess books in just this fairly minor period of the late 1950s to 1966 when MVA died. And so now we know how a great library does it. I would like to browse Dr. Niemeijer's but not being able to read Dutch I will not. His correspondence must be enormous. It seems if the money is there then the sellers are! So many names I don't know and this is post-war mostly

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4. 14 June 1937 Just for the Morphy fans. Some unhappy remarks by BH Wood about HS.
5. 14 November 1937 Fred Reinfeld & University Place ads.
6. 14 May 1938 D & M Davis Chess Set ad. And Feb. 1939 R.J.C. Walker Library sale
7. & 8. Oct 1939-Albrecht Buschke War ad . May 1940 general ad page + chessmen repairs.
9. Nov. 1940 The Destruction of the John Lewis Building. The 'X' marks the loss of the National Chess Centre, and the great chess libraries. This was on the sixth floor.
- 10 & 11. July 1940 The ½ price sale of Donald Liddell's "Chessmen "book & August 1940 Dr. Albrecht Buschke ad. Note his 2 Catalogues.
12. January 1941 Australasian Chess Review Magazine Sales.

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No chess-player has ever captured the imagination of the public so completely as Paul Morphy. Of Spanish and French extraction, he was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, his father being a High Court Judge of that State.

At the age of thirteen he had reached chess's front rank, having proved himself the better of J. Löwen-thal, one of the leading world-masters, in a short match. At the age of twenty he could speak four languages fluently, had made himself a first-class lawyer, and had (in his spare time) consolidated his chess abilities to a surpassing pitch.

Studious players will rejoice to be reminded that he devoted extensive study to books on chess. No entirely untutored genius produced his success in the first American Chess Congress, a success so overwhelming that "it was considered no presumption" for him to offer pawn-and-move to any member of the New York Chess Club immediately after.

He came to Europe with the supreme intention of playing a match against

Staunton. He played practically every other contemporary European of any note, but could not obtain a match with Staunton.

It is strange, in the light of time, to reflect that the latter has lost infinitely more caste since, and even in his own lifetime, by his sedulous avoidance of a match against Morphy, and his underhanded belittlement of him, than the most crushing defeat could have involved. Obviously he was convinced of Morphy's superiority. Starting with such an impediment as this conviction of inferiority, even as good a player as Morphy would have had a poor chance. Staunton was not as good a player, on a critical comparison of their games.

Give Staunton his due. He allowed Morphy one chance of meeting him in single combat. He had put off his challenger week

after week, finally departing for Birmingham, where the British Chess Association congress was to be held, leaving unanswered a letter in which Morphy had offered to leave the choice of terms for the match entirely in his hands. Arrived in



Acknowledgments to the "Reading Observer"

PAUL MORPHY

Birmingham, he suddenly changed his previously-announced decision not to compete. The promoters wired the news to Morphy, who had entered provisionally. By now Morphy was suspicious of Staunton's motives. The contest was a "knock-out," in which Morphy and Staunton, though both participants, might never meet; and Morphy feared his rival might refuse a match on the excuse that this tournament had furnished an adequate estimate of their relative strengths—an estimate that would, in fact, be questioned for ever. So he withdrew.

A sad decision! It made "Morphy v. Staunton" as ridiculous an anachronism as "Reti v. Philidor," or "Anderssen v. Alekhine." Staunton's conduct had been unsatisfactory enough to annoy anybody. Making all allowances, however, one feels that a more happy-go-lucky person than Morphy might have seized even such a relatively disappointing chance of getting what he had travelled thousands of miles to obtain. The young American's emotions, it seems to us, were already tinged with a little of that perverse misanthropism which was to make him revel in his world-mastery of a game he despised, and was destined to degenerate into a persecution-mania making the closing years of his life a misery.

Harrwitz behaved almost as badly as Staunton. Anderssen and a host of lesser players treated him with delightful respect and in the States he received, from the beginning, the honour which was his due, his greatest rival, Paulsen, being amongst his most fervent admirers.

1869 was the end of his chess career and the start of his madness. The remaining fifteen years of his life were spent in mournful seclusion. Zukertort met him. Steinitz paid him a visit—but Morphy insisted stringently that chess should not be alluded to throughout the meeting!!

Those who are interested in Morphy, and who have not seen P. W. Sergeant's "Morphy's games of chess," one of Bells' famous series, might well invest in a copy. It is a very fine work.

The fact that generations of annotators, unsparing of the midnight oil, have succeeded in picking a few holes in his games stands for nothing. He was twenty years ahead of his time in realising the uselessness of trying to make bricks without straw . . . of trying

to plan attacks without adequate development. What is now an elementary principle was then a great discovery . . . that millions live in the land which Columbus discovered does not detract from the glory of the pioneer enterprise.

New Orleans is planning civic celebrations of Morphy's centenary. Already grateful tributes to his memory have appeared in the Press and elsewhere. Lajos Steiner, speaking over the radio in New Zealand, said "Paul Morphy came like a comet to the chess world . . . his sparkling games have delighted and *Deutsche Schachblätter* published three weeks in advance of the anniversary a accepted place," they wrote, "In the phraseology of chess the simple term 'Morphy-combination,' than which there is no higher praise."

The forthcoming match for the women's world championship between Miss Vera Menchik and Miss Sonia Graf is of outstanding interest. Not only because the two contestants stand so obviously head-and-shoulders above all their feminine competitors; not only because they have lifted women's chess to a higher level and are unquestionably the two strongest women chess-players of all time. But especially because of their striking contrast in manners, dress, temperament and, particularly, style. Euwe might well have dispensed with the first chapter of his new book, in which he attempts to differentiate "Strategy" from "Tactics," referring his readers instead first to Miss Menchik's play with the remark: "This is strategy," then to Miss Graf's "This is tactics."

Both err. Miss Menchik is a little too cautious, too inclined to let the position play itself. She does not seek for deep combinations, she hesitates to try to infuse into the position any new meaning. Miss Graf goes to the other extreme. She is constitutionally incapable of "playing quietly." She may enter on an ending two pawns to the good, but she *must combine*, taking risks and giving her opponent chances quite unnecessarily. Miss Menchik likes a close game, Miss Graf an open. A pawn down in an equal position, Miss Menchik would rarely escape loss. A pawn down in an equal position, Miss Graf is no more likely to lose—than if she were a pawn up! Needless to

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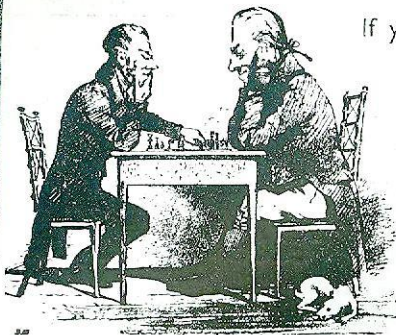
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From the ALAIN C. WHITE Christmas Series.

Over a stretch of some thirty years, Alain C. White, the millionaire Chess Problem enthusiast, published a series of books on chess problems which he distributed as presents to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. These books were beautifully produced, in stiff bright red boards with gold lettering. Most of the books in the series have been for years out of print, but the following are available at the moment, and we can supply by return of post; add 6d. for postage and packing charge, whatever the number of books ordered.

- Weenink : "The Chess Problem"** 11s. 0d.
Undoubtedly one of the finest chess books ever written. Sumptuously produced (316 pages, 374 diagrams, 31 pictures featuring the world's leading chess problemists of the last century). Part I is a review of the historical development of the chess problem, tracing the influence of the various "schools" with carefully selected examples of problems to illustrate every conclusion. Part II, the major portion of the book, provides a "Bird's-eye view of problem themes," again illustrated by hundreds of beautiful problems. An index of composers and birth-year register, and a general index conclude the book. The book reads as easily as a novel but explains chess problems from A to Z.
- Alain C. White : "The Properties of Castling"** 3s. 9d.
A most readable book, which rambles on through one hundred curious problems into which enter, every time, either "O—O" or "O—O—O."
- Alain C. White : "Running the Gauntlet"** 4s. 6d.
A study of the capture of pawns *en passant* in chess problems, with hundreds of examples of this extraordinary type of play. Also contains an historical review of the development of the "e.p." rule.
- Keeble : "An English Bohemian"** 5s. 6d.
A tribute to the late B. G. Laws, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of all English composers, giving an appreciative biography and 113 of his problems with solutions and notes.
- Henneberger, Hume and White : "Alpine Chess"** 4s. 9d.
A survey of Switzerland's contribution to the world of Chess Problems, with 200-300 problems with solutions and notes, and several pictures.
- Dawson and Pauly : "Asymmetry"** 3s. 9d.
A review of that curious type of problem in which an apparently symmetrical position leads to quite unsymmetrical play.
- Alain C. White : "Conspiracy"** 5s. 0d.
A selection of help-mate problems, *i.e.*, problems in which White and Black conspire together to bring about the mate. Of all the ramifications of Fairy Chess, this is probably the most acceptable to the ordinary problemist.
- Kipping : "The Chessmen Speak"** 5s. 6d.
The Problem Editor of CHESS selects 147 from among the thousands he had composed at the time of publication (1932), and adds a foreword, solutions, notes, etc.
- White and Hume : "Valves and Bi-Valves"** 5s. 6d.
An examination, with 127 examples analysed in the illuminating manner characteristic of the series, of the type of problem in which the point is the move of a piece which opens one line and closes another; and the duplication of the theme by two Black pieces.
- Alain C. White : "Problems by My Friends"** 5s. 6d.
In 1930, Mr. White reached his fiftieth birthday, and cables, telegrams and letters poured in on him from all parts of the world. Many of the tributes took the form of specially-composed problems dedicated to Mr. White, and these he collects together in a very happy little book. Every type of problem, from two-mover to thirty-niner, from orthodox to "Fairy."
- Hume : "Changing Fashions"** 3s. 9d.
An autobiography and 150 problems by the late George Hume, with solutions and notes.
- Shinkman : "The Golden Argosy"** 7s. 6d.
A beautifully produced book, 288 pages, 672 diagrams! 600 problems by one of the greatest of all American composers, W. A. Shinkman, with foreword, biographical introduction and copious notes.
- Havel : "Bohemian Garnets"** 6s. 6d.
500 Chess Problems by M. Havel, with biographical introduction, solutions and notes.
- Alain C. White : "More White Rooks"** 4s. 6d.
Although this book is the sequel to another book now out of print, it is of extraordinary interest, to ordinary chess-players as well as problemists, for it represents an examination, and a very exhaustive one, of the possibilities of play that exist in problems containing no other white pieces but two rooks.

CHESS SUTTON COLDFIELD ENGLAND

It's time for some great writing and who better than Daniel Willard Fiske then 26, and in his prime and the first year of 'Chess Monthly, Sept. 1857? I put a small portion of this article in Bert but having re-read it, here is all of it:-

BIBLIOTHECAL CHESS

The multitudinous pleasures of a book-collector's life can only rightly be estimated by him who has experienced them. So intensely absorbing does the accumulation of works illustrative of a favourite study or branch of knowledge finally become- growing with one's growth and increasing with its pursuit – that it has received the appropriate name of *Bibliomania*. The true Bibliomaniac is often an enviable being. If unmarried, his books are to him a family and he learns to love them with a strong and earnest affection. If married, the contents of his shelves occupy a place in his heart only second to that filled by his wife and children. Every new addition is a new delight, if it be a great rarity, and only obtained after much difficulty and great expense, his joy is doubly enhanced. Even his longings for a particular author are accompanied by no sadness, for they are always tempered by hope. Poverty is the only thing that can diminish his happiness. To find a book earnestly desired and long-sighed for, but beyond his pecuniary reach, causes indeed a pang of the severest pain. But he who has the means to buy, and whose purchases are guided by the judicious prudence of education, need ask for no mode of life more productive of keen and unending pleasure than that of a confirmed bibliomaniac. What is his friends laugh at his enthusiasm and style it madness? What if the economical shrug their shoulders at his readiness to exchange the all-powerful gold and silver for simple paper and leather? What if the ignorant ridicule and wonder at him? If he be not independent in thought and action and indifferent to both their advice and sarcasm he can cite, as his predecessors, a host of scholars, kings, dukes and statesmen who have been touched by the gentlest of diseases.

Even our Chess has had its bibliographical devotees. Men have spent money and devoted time to the acquisition of chess books, and we cheerfully fill a few pages of our Monthly with a brief account of their collections. This account we are aware, will be lamentably imperfect, but it may be full enough to incite some of our readers to an imitation of these ancient lovers of chess literature-these zealous collectors of chess treasurers.

Mr. Francis Mercier, an English player of considerable force, but who rarely or never exhibited his chess-skill after the rising of M'Donnell's sun, formed a fine chess collection. It was not an *omnium gatherum* but consisted mainly of real gems. It was sold at auction, after Mercier's death, with other books, on the sixth and seventh of August 1855. In the early Italian and Spanish writers the library was complete and all the old English books were there. But the collectors seems to have made no effort to obtain the German and French treatises. Some of the prices paid at the sale were very large. Lucena, one of the rarest of chess books, brought twenty-one pounds; Caxton's wonderfully scarce work, and the first production of the English press, was sold for more than sixty pounds. *Scaecspel* by Gheraert Leen a black letter book of 1479, went for over five pounds. Gustavus Selenus, Actius, Middleton and others, were also bid in at high prices. Mr. Mercier's books were all finely bound.

The large library of the celebrated astronomer of Altona, H.C. Schumacher, was sold by Asher of Berlin in 1855. Schumacher was a warm friend of our royal sport and many of his games have

been published. His library contained about seventy-five volumes of good books on chess, but only a few rare ones.

Frederic Alliey is a magistrate residing at Tournon, Department de l' Ardecne in Southern France. We first hear of his collection in the third volume of La Bourdonnais; Palamede. He has spent many years in getting it together and seems to have used it much and studied it carefully, for his interesting translations and scacco-bibliographical article are scattered throughout the Palamede and La Regence. We learn from his own pen that, in 1845m his Library was composed of more than two hundred original works and between twenty-five and thirty translations, which, with some other works treating more or less of chess, formed a collection of at least three hundred printed volumes in various languages. Alliey prepared with great labor a complete account of the literature of chess under the title *Bibliographie sur le jeu des echecs, ou recueil complet analytique et raisonne de tous les ouvrages qui ont paru dans tous les pays sur le jeu des echecs*. This treatise however, for want of a publisher, still remains in manuscript. The author intends ultimately to bestow both this manuscript and his collection upon some large public library.

Perhaps the most ardent and successful of Caissan book-buyers was Dr.L.E. Bledow, one of the best known members of the famous Berlin school and the founder of Schachzeitung. His collection was a stupendous one to be made by the mathematical *Oberlehrer* of a German gymnasium, paid as that class generally is. It contained seven hundred and thirteen numbers – the largest number of works on chess which were ever, as far as our knowledge extends, gathered together in one place. All these treasures, after the decease of their lamented owner, were offered to London for five hundred dollars. They were finally purchased for the King's Library at Berlin and now make a part of that vast and growing collection. A somewhat detailed notice of the Bledow library may be found in Nathan's review of Schmid's *Literature des Schachspiels*, published in the Schachzeitung for 1848 (pp 49-68). We translate a portion:

It contained Actius 1583, Aquila 1516, Barbeyrac 1709 and 1737, Covarrubias 1561 and 1562, Carrera 1617 and on large paper 1822, Cessolis 1483 and 1493, Cozio 1766, Damiano in the first and second editions, Ducchi 1586 and 1697, Greco 1714 and 1774, Huarte 1603, Lolli 1763, Lopez 1561 (Spanish), 1584 (Italian) and 1603 (French), Marinelli 1722, Mennel 1520 and 1536, Piacenza 1683, Ponziani 1782, 1801, 1812 and 1820 (English), Publicius 1490, Ringhieri 1580, Salvio 1604,1634 and 1732, Severino 1690, Selenus 1616 and 1647, Souterius 1622, Stamma 1737, 1741, 1770 and 1840 in French, 1745 and 1819 in English, 1764, 1804 and 1840 in German, Twiss 1787 and 1805, Verci 1778, Vergilius 1590, Vida 1581 and 1604 in Latin, 1586 in Italian, Weickhmann 1664 and a multitude of others.

Before leaving Germany let us mention the libraries of Mr. Franz of Berlin and of von der Lasa. They are both very extensive, the former exceeding the latter by some fifty volumes only. Von der Lasa has kindly promised us a list of his collection, and we shall therefore, probably, recur to this subject again. In the first volume of the Schachzeitung occurs one of the best of von der Lasa's articles, entitled *Schachbibliothek in Wien*, full of accurate bibliographical matter. In it he mentions the library of the son of the deceased Court-Physician, Carabelli, of Vienna. 'This contains,' he says, 'towards a hundred volumes, some of them of the rare works, as Selenus 1616, Lolli 1763, Cozio 1766, and other works.' The Palamede, speaking of Alexandre's chess-travels through Germany, notices a 'vaste bibliotheque d'echecs' belonging to Mr. Lamberger of Munich. The Berlin *Schachgesellschaft*, or Chess Club, is also said to possess a library which, although small, numbers some very infrequent and valuable books.

Besides Mercier, two Englishmen have, to our knowledge, made large collections, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Walker, the widely-known and prolific chess-authors. Of the former we have been unable to obtain any reliable information. The articles of the latter gentleman, 'Ma Bibliotheque d'echecs', published in St. Amants Palamede are chiefly essays devoted each to one author (Allgaier, Gruget, etc) and were discontinued pretty early. The introductory paper (vol.1 pp. 155-166) is one of his pleasantest. In it he says that he had been collecting at that time (1841), for fifteen years, and that he wanted but a few volumes of a complete library. It amounted to somewhat over two hundred printed works on chess. He adds a good story:- One of his friends took it into his head to turn chess author. Seven years after the publication of his book, he boasted to Walker of the extent of his *Chess Library*; it consisted of one thousand volumes, minus eighteen! The fact was that eighteen copies of his book had been sold, the rest of the edition remaining on his hands. Walker lent and lost his Damiano, and he swears a terrible oath that he will never lend another chess book. He used to be a book-seller, and appears by the title-page of the Philidorian, to have been associated with his father.

So much for Europe. And although it is of course to the old world that we naturally look for these great literary store-houses yet, we shall find that our own country bids fair to rival, at no distant day, the bibliothecal labors of our transatlantic brothers. The Chess Library of Judge Fiske, of Newburgh, which was brought to the hammer, in New York, some four or five years ago, contained about one hundred and fifty volumes. Two somewhat smaller ones have been sold, at auction, in the same city, within the last year. The collection of Professor H.R. Agnel, of West Point, author of the *Book of Chess*, comprises over one hundred well-selected works. The Editor of the Chess Monthly has succeeded in bringing together, during the last eighteen months, a collection of chess books which in point of numbers and value is only excelled by one other in the country. He recalls, with a warm gratitude, the assistance which he has received from the only source, upon this side of the Atlantic, which could have rendered it so largely and so liberally.*

*Among the authors in the collection of the Editor are Alexandre, Aquila, Bilguer, Boden, Brown, Bryan, Carrera, Cazenove, Cochrane, Douce, Greco, Gustavus Selenus, Hindenburg, Hunneman, Jaenisch, Kenny, Kling, Labourdonnais, Lamb, Lange, von der Lasa, Lewis, Lowenthal, Madden, Massman, Mauvillon, Middleton, Montigny, Oettinger, Philidor, Pohlmann, Ponziani, Pratt, Reinganum, Sarratt, Saul, Schmid, Stamma, Staunton, Stein, Tressan, Twiss, Vida, Vogt, Wahl, Walker (G).. Walker (W>G>), Weickhmann and others. There are also several volumes of periodicals though the set are far from complete. He has an almost complete collection of the books printed in the United States from 1802 to 1857. It is also proper to state that Mr. E.B. Cook, of Hoboken, Mr. Marache, Mr. Hazeltine and Mr. Wightman, of the New York Club, Mr. Hammond of Boston, and Mr. Rees of Utica, all possess collections of Chess books although none of them we believe exceed fifty volumes.

By far the largest and most valuable Chess Library which has ever existed, outside of Europe, is that collected and owned by Mr. George Allen, Professor of the Ancient Languages, in the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia. In less than four years Professor Allen, aided by an extensive and constantly increasing knowledge of Caissan literature, has been enabled to fill his shelves with more than four hundred volumes devoted to the history, theory and practice of our game. In books published during the last half century the collection is nearly complete. In periodicals it contains everything except the second and third numbers of Marache's *Palladium*. We regret that we have space for little more than an alphabetical list of the more important works in this fine library.

Alexandre is represented by his two quartos of 1837 and 1846. Allgaier is to be found in the editions of 1795-96, 1823 and 1841. Of the excellent treatise by the Amateurs there are the

French editions of 1775 and 1786 and the German translations of 1780 and 1797. Here is Anderssen's book of 1842 and 1852, the rare Aquila of 1516, the Azevedo of 1833 and Balde, 1729, 1818, 1820, 1824 etc. The curious Barbier, 1673, Basterot, 1852 and Bertin 1735, in which occurs the first mention of the Three Pawn's Gambit, are on Professor Allen's shelves. There are Bilguer's works of 1839 and 1840, Bilguer and von der Lasa's Handbuch, 1843 and 1852, Bledow 1835 and 1843, Brown 1844, Bryan 1845, *Buke of ye Chesse* 1818, Cancellieri 1817 and 1824, Carisien 1832, Carrera 1617 and the large paper Lewis 1822 (with Lewis' autograph) and Cerutti, 1834. We have too, Cessole 1829 in Italian, Christie's curious book of which only forty copies were printed in 1810, with the autograph of Grosvenor Bedford, Southey's dearest friend and correspondent, Ciccolini 1820, with the authors autograph, Cochrane 1822, the folio Costa of 1484, and Cozio 1766. There is the first edition of Damiano in Roman letters, without any date but certainly printed before 1512. Further down we find the *Divertissemens innocents* 1696, Dollinger 1806, Douce 1793, Ducchi 1607, the Edinburgh Report of the match with London 1829, and Firmas Peries 1815. Here are the *Game at Chess* 1643, a remarkable political pamphlet, Gianutio 1587 and Greco in the various editions and translations of 1656, 1689, 1713, 1741, 1742, 1750, 1784, 1795, 1819 and 1833. Then follow Gustavus (a Dutch writer) 1848 and 1849, the folio Gustavus Selenus 1616 and 1617, Guyot 1772, Heinse 1815, Hellwig 1780, Hindenburg 1784, Hirschel 1784 and 1795, Horny 1839, the little book of Hoyle on chess of 1761, and Hunneman 1820. The learned and erudite Hyde 1694 and 1767, the fine works of Jaenisch 1837, 1842-3 and 1854. Kafer 1842, Kieseritzky 1846, Kling 1849 and 1851, the voluminous Koch 1801, 1813, 1828 and 1834, Kuiper 1845, La Bourdonnais 1833-34 and 1842, Lambe's entertaining historical work 1765, and von der Lasa 1843, 1848, 1852 and 1857. We find every publication of the fertile Lewis 1812, 1818, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1832, 1835, 1837, 1838, 1842, 1843, 1844 and 1846, the book of Lichtenstein 1847 and the great folio of Lolli 1763. The Spanish priest, Ruy Lopez, appears in the Italian of 1584, in the French of 1686 and in the English of 1813. The *Ludus Latrunculorum* 1650, Madden 1832, and Marino 1697 are rare all of them and curious. Massman's History of German Chess 1839, Mauvillon 1827, 1829, 1831, etc., Meir 1844 and Mendheim 1832 are rarely met with in this country. Professor Allen has a fine copy of Middleton's strange chess comedy printed early in the seventeenth century in quarto, Montigny (Stratagemes) 1802, 1817, (English), 1818, 1820 (German), Orell 1840 and 1852, D'Orville 1842, Penn 1842, and in du Peyrat 1608. Of that great master, Philidor, we see the original French of 1749, 1754, 1777 (with Bartolozzi's portrait) and 1845, the English of 1750, 1762, 1777, 1790 and 1791, German of 1764, 1771, 1797 and 1840, the Dutch of 1819 and a host of abridgements and later editions. There are Pohlman 1819, the gentle Ponziani in Italian 1782, 1812 and 1829, in English 1820 and in German 1822, Portius 1846, 1854 and 1856, Pratt 1799, 1810, 1814, 1817, and 1825, Preti 1856, Pruen 1804, Reinganum 1825, Ringheir 1551, Rio 1831, Robiano 1847, Rocco 1817, Roman 1807 and the curious 95 *Satze* 1827. We find this gallant Neopolitan, Salvio, in the edition of 1723, Sardenheim 1784, the various books of Sarratt 1808, 1813, 1817, 1821, and 1822, Schmid 1847, Severino 1690, Silberschmidt 1826, 1829, 1845 and Slous 1856. Stamma exists in the English of 1745 and 1819, in the French of 1777 and 1833, in the German of 1764, 1771, 1784, 1795, 1804, 1812, 1817, 1823, 1827, 1840 and 1856. There too, are the rare and celebrated *Trevangadacharya Shastree* printed at Bombay in 1814, the amusing volumes of Twiss 1787-89 and 1805, and the work of Abbe Vetu, published about 1850. It was the classic and elegant *Schacchiae Ludus* of the poet of Cremona which originally awakened Professor Allen's interest in chess and chess literature. Vida was his first chess book and the editions of the Alban Bishop's works he seems to have collected with a singular zeal and

love. He has the *Editio Princeps* of Rome 1527, the famous Oxford edition of his Poems 1722, the London edition 1732, and the best edition Patavii 1731 (2 vols. 4to), Frobel's miniature edition of the *Scacchiae Ludus*, Rudolstadt 1820. Morozini's Italian version 1822, Hoffman's German version (with Text) 1826 and Erskine's English translation 1736 and other versions. Lastly we meet with Villot 1825, Vogt 1848, Wald (Gunther) 1798, Walker's numerous publications 1832, 1833, 1835, 1837, 1838, 1841, 1844, 1846, 1850, etc., W.G. Walker's M'Donnell 1836, Weickhmann's folio 1664, Williams 1845 and 1852, Willis on the Automaton 1821, Wunsch 1824 and Zuylen van Nyeveld 1792.

Every one, in any manner acquainted with the bibliography of our game, will see that this collection, which is rapidly increasing both in size and value, already does much honor to our western world. It does not compare unfavorably even with the private collections now existing in Europe. Many of the copies are especially interesting from the associations connected with them, having, often, the autographs of distinguished players or writers. Several are from the collections of Lewis, Mercier and Schumaker. To this Library, and to the kindness of its learned professor both the readers and the editor of the Chess Monthly are indebted for much information which could have been drawn from no other source on our side of the ocean*

*Not the least merit of this largest of America chess libraries is the beautiful dresses in which the owner, with the liberality of an enthusiastic *Bibliophile*, has clothed the works of the *Caissan men of letters*. These are chiefly owing to the skill of those ingenious craftsmen, Pawson and Nicholson, the well-known Philadelphia binders.

Bibliomania?! I guess anyone reading Fiske's article has it. He sure did. I've never read such enthusiasm and passion for a chess book as on that first page. And late in his life he got the passion back for Iceland. But was it true bibliomania? Wouldn't a true maniac love the books more than the family? He's guessing a bit there as he married late. What would he know about a twenties marriage as he married Jennie McGraw when he was almost 50. True, he visited George & Mary Allen a lot and saw their early love which carried through with the chess collection.

He was right about poverty. I hated pulling up from buying because I had no spare money. He never had that problem. And being wealthy in 18 months he put together a great library which he described in the article. Nowhere near as big as Allen's but 2nd to him in the USA and that in the early to mid 1850's. How did he do that? His good friend George had amassed 400+ rarities in 4 years and some came from the collections of Lewis, Mercier and Schumaker from which I'm sure the duplicates went to Fiske. Allen had plenty of time to contact dealers in Europe. It was sad that George Allen's library so lovingly rebound by the two great Philadelphia binders Pawson and Nicholson should end up in a backwater for \$2,500 in 1884 in the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Public Library where it went rapidly out of date. Many more public libraries have suffered the same fate and today their relevance is limited. What is the use of a Public or University Library holding a large chess library today? I can't see a use even with back-up money. They would be better sold up on the private market to collectors. That said Fiske and Allen bought some very great books. We find another dealer in Herr Asher of Berlin and this is probably Adolf Asher who bought Ludwig Tieck's library in Feb. 1849 for the War losses and evacuation of the Berlin Library to Krakow ca 1850. Asher had sold Schumacher's collection. And on reading about Frederic Alliey the French collector who Jean Mennaret chided me for not including in Bert. He was right, FA used his library to bring out translations & c. Perhaps Fiske

was in contact with him. Bledow's library was clearly the largest and best in its day at 713 items and the quality of the early books. Of those mentioned by Fiske I have but 9 and the same number 9 for Fiske's own collection. He has E.B. Cook at 50+ in those early days but when 'Memories of my chess board' by Alain White came out in 1909 it had become massive. As for Allen's collection it was a treat to read the book titles and appreciate how few I knew let alone owned. He was a serious buyer and his array of Philidors proved it. I bet he knew some dealers.

From The American Chess Magazine 1897/8 p.522 Chess Libraries

"In Bro. Seguin's obituary article on Mr. Gilberg's decease, which, by the way, is one of the best, he says that : "Mr. G. informed him not very long since that his chess library had reached far over 2000 volumes." Bro. S. also corrects the error of some slipshod writer who asserted in effect that John G. White's collection was but little, if any larger than Mr. Gilberg's by saying: "The wonderful collection of Mr. W. must now approximate 4000 volumes, and stands, of course, unapproached."

Of Baron v. Heydebrand's library he says: "It perhaps exceeds Mr. Gilberg's slightly in numbers, but assuredly by no great margin. If at all. It is questionable indeed, if any chess collection surpassed his in the rarity and uniqueness of its contents.

J.A. Leon has no doubt the largest chess library in England, and is, we apprehend, particularly rich in everything pertaining to the classical days of chess in Italy and Spain. Mr. L.'s contribution to the *British Chess Magazine*, from the treasures of his library, were the gems of chess literature for 1894. We should be pleased to know the extent of his collection.

Whether Dr. Van der Linde's large and valuable collection is still unbroken, we do not know; nor do we know its extent. Certain it is that, like von Heydebrand, he made voluminous use of his treasures for the benefit of the chess public. Mr. Gilberg, too, had entered upon the same generous path, as witness the last numbers of AMERICAN CHESS MAGAZINE.

Of the Catalogues of Chess Collections mentioned on p.viii of Professor Allen's great catalogue, we fancy there are but two unbroken and still growing. The chess library of Prof. Geo. Allen, Esq., L.L.D., 1878, was the admiration of all lovers of chess learning and literature in its day. This library is described as comprising about 1000 printed volumes plus 250 autograph letters and fifty engravings and photographs. The Catalogue is an imperial 8vo, splendidly printed, pp.viii plus 1-89. The library, as beautiful in exterior as valuable in contents, we believe is still intact, and preserved in a public institution. Will some Philadelphia friend tell us in what one-if that is correct. Its sale was once authorized, *en bloc*, for \$3000.

Of working chess editors, Bro. Seguin undoubtedly stands first. If we remember rightly, he told a correspondent a while ago that his chess library reached some 1200 numbers. Miron probably comes second.-*Clipper*.

William Borsodi's 'American Chess Magazine' is a lovely item with beautiful paper, printing and photographs. The first volume 1897/8 had 664 pages. I had to repair my volume as it was too heavy for the binding but the paper is pristine. It once belonged to Thomas Harlin and was donated by his wife to the Public Library of Victoria on the 6 March 1914. BM. Miron Hazeltine was the NY Clipper Editor from where this article came.

Bert p.11 Munich Dealers Karl und von Faber sold part of von der Lasa's library in 1935 and still operating in 2020. The original partners George Karl and Curt von Faber started the company in 1923. It conducts Fine Art Auctions today.

History of book collecting From Wikipedia

In the ancient world, *papyri* and scrolls (the precursors of the book in [codex](#) form) were collected by both institutions and private individuals. In surviving accounts there are references to bibliophile book collectors in that era. [Socrates](#) was reported by the historian [Xenophon](#) to have criticized a rich young man seeking to outdo his friends by collecting the works of famous poets and philosophers. [Seneca the Younger](#) deplored ostentatious book collecting, asking: "What is the use of possessing numberless books and libraries, whose titles their owner can hardly read through in a lifetime?"^[1]

In 1344 the English bishop [Richard de Bury](#) wrote [The Philobiblon](#) in which he praised the love and appreciation of books.^[2] [Philip the Good](#) brought together a collection of "about six hundred manuscripts in his possession at the height of his reign",^[3] which was the largest private collection of his day.

With the advent of the [printing press](#) invented by [Johannes Gutenberg](#) in the 15th century, which resulted in cheaper and more abundant books, and with the contemporaneous economic, social and political changes of the [Renaissance](#), book collecting received a great impetus. [Jean Grolier](#), the Treasurer-General of France, was an important bibliophile and book collector of this period.^[4] Grolier owned a library of 3,000 volumes and was known for his love of the Latin classics and of richly decorated bookbindings. He was a patron of the [Aldine Press](#) that had been founded by the prominent Renaissance printer, typographer, editor and publisher [Aldus Manutius the Elder](#).

During the [Reformation](#) many [monastic](#) libraries were broken up, and their contents often destroyed. There was an English [antiquarian](#) reaction to [Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries](#). The commissioners of [Edward VI](#) plundered and stripped [university](#), [college](#), and [monastic](#) libraries; so to save books from being destroyed, those who could, such as [Archbishop Matthew Parker](#) and [Sir Robert Cotton](#), began to collect them.

By the late 17th century, millions of printed books were in circulation and auctions devoted to books began to occur and printed catalogues devoted to books began to be issued by book dealers and by auction houses in Europe and America,^[5] leading to a growing popularity of book collecting with the increasingly literate public.

With the advent of the [Romantic era](#) in the 18th century and its focus on the past, book collectors began to show an interest in old books, antiquarian editions and manuscripts. This new emphasis was nourished by the flood of old books onto the market following the dissolution of monastic and aristocratic libraries during the [French Revolution](#) and the [Napoleonic Wars](#).^[6]

The British Whig politician [George John, 2nd Earl Spencer](#) (1758-1834) collected tens of thousands of volumes. Strengths of his collection included first editions of the classics; works produced by important early presses, and notably an almost complete collection of [Aldine editions](#); and many Bibles.^[7] In 1812 he founded the bibliophilic [Roxburghe Club](#).

[Sir Thomas Phillipps](#) (1792-1872) collected 40,000 printed books and 60,000 manuscripts.^[8] He was "the greatest collector of manuscript material the world has ever known".^[9] His zealous collecting efforts, which were termed [bibliomania](#) by [Thomas Frognall Dibdin](#), resulted in the preservation of much historical material, particularly manuscripts, that would otherwise have been destroyed.

The increasingly wealthy United States during the 19th century saw the appearance of "titan" book collectors such as the railroad magnate [Henry Huntington](#) and the financier and banker [J. Pierpont Morgan](#).^[10]

This excellent article infers that book auctions started in the late 1600s.

Brief History of Book Auctions

By [Matt Reimann](#). Mar 4, 2015. 9:00 AM.

Topics: [Book Collecting](#), [Book History](#), [History](#)

While the book has been around for millennia, the practice of selling them at auction is relatively new. By most accounts, the first book auctions occurred in the Low Countries in the late sixteenth century. To understand why the rise of the book auction happened at this time, it is essential to remember that the printing press was invented the century before. While the onset of book auctions saw its fair share of detractors, the practice has continued through today.

We know about early book auctions through surviving book catalogs. A Dutchman named Lodewijk Elzevier was among the pioneers of the book auction, and from men like Elzevier, the business model spread to England and beyond.

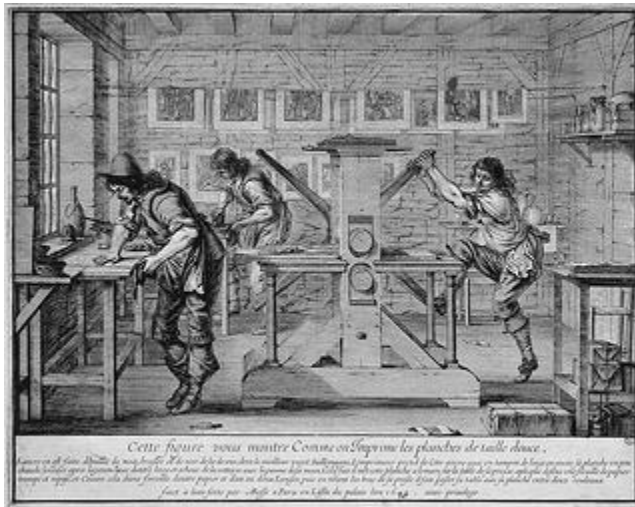
The printing press had much to do with the ascendance of the book auction. The most obvious reason was that the press made books more widely available. Other propitious circumstances which contributed to a favorable climate for book auctions included a growing number of literate people, a shortage of libraries, and many families who were willing to part with their collections for a quick sale.



The first catalog in Britain dates to 1668. There were about one hundred auctions in Britain from 1676 to 1700, which, according to John Lawler in *Book Auctions in England in the 17th Century*, meant a sale of 350,000 books to a revenue of 250,000 pounds.

Book auctions came at a time when the book industry in Britain was experiencing a slowdown. The King had imposed regulations on the book trade (such as price caps) that had hurt business. The auction provided a way for booksellers to connect to customers in new ways. Because booksellers could now circumvent certain unpleasant customs, there were some tensions between officials and book auctioneers. Outraged, or officials

whose job it was to auction property confiscated through bankruptcy and legal action, felt especially undermined.



A lack of regulation led auctioneers to begin supervising themselves. Customers who failed to pay were recorded. Sellers began to crack down on other sellers who used "setters," or people whose

purpose was to inflate the price during bidding. Many auctioneers did lie. Some exaggerated the value of their stock. Others drummed up enthusiasm by attributing the books to the library of a learned man, when in truth the books were merely unsold inventory.

Auctioneers themselves became known for their personality, charisma, and salesmanship so that sellers and buyers would take note of an effective auctioneer. Auctioneers were not required to know their product especially well. One auctioneer claimed all books in an auction dated from the earliest era of press-printing, when many books were far from so old. Another enthusiastic auctioneer's reading of books for sale resulted in delay of their catalog and impediments to business.

With the exception of some auctions that took place in the house of the owner of the collection, auctions were often held in public spaces such as halls and coffeehouses. The book auction made the general reader's access to books and information much wider than it had been before, when finding books was slower and dependent on the libraries of friends and close relationships with booksellers. Book auctions were occasions for readers to assemble in public. Thus, they encourage debates, wider readership, and learning. In this way, the book auction not only connected buyers with sellers, but readers with the vast (and priceless) world of stories and ideas.

History of Auctions Wikipedia

The word "auction" is derived from the Latin *auctum*, the supine of *augeō*, "I increase".^[1] For most of history, auctions have been a relatively uncommon way to negotiate the exchange of goods and commodities. In practice, both [haggling](#) and sale by set-price have been significantly more common.^[3] Indeed, before the 17th century only a few sporadic auctions were held.^[4]

Classical antiquity [\[edit\]](#)

See also: [Auctions in ancient Greece](#)

Nonetheless, auctions have a long history, having been recorded as early as 500 BC.^[5] According to [Herodotus](#), in [Babylon](#) auctions of women for [marriage](#) were held annually. The auctions began with the woman the auctioneer considered to be the most beautiful and progressed to the least. It was considered illegal to allow a daughter to be sold outside of the auction method.^[4] Attractive maidens were offered in a [forward auction](#) to determine the price to be paid by a swain, while in the case of maidens lacking attractiveness a [reverse auction](#) was needed to determine the price to be paid to a swain.^[6]

During the [Roman Empire](#), after a military victory, Roman soldiers would often drive a spear into the ground around which the spoils of war were left, to be auctioned off. Later slaves, often captured as the "spoils of war", were auctioned in the Forum under the sign of the spear, with the proceeds of sale going towards the war effort.^[4]

The Romans also used auctions to [liquidate](#) the assets of debtors whose property had been confiscated.^[7] For example, [Marcus Aurelius](#) sold household furniture to pay off debts, the sales lasting for months.^[8] One of the most significant historical auctions occurred in the year 193 AD when the entire Roman Empire was put on the auction block by the [Praetorian Guard](#). On 28 March 193, the Praetorian Guard first killed emperor [Pertinax](#), then offered the empire to the highest bidder. [Didius Julianus](#) outbid everyone else for the price of 6,250 [drachmas](#) per guard,^{[9][10][11]} an act that initiated a brief civil war. Didius was then [beheaded](#) two months later when [Septimius Severus](#) conquered Rome.^[7]

From the end of the Roman Empire to the 18th century, auctions lost favor in Europe,^[7] while they had never been widespread in Asia.^[4] In China, the personal belongings of deceased [buddhist monks](#) were sold at auction as early as seventh century AD.^[6]

CHESS BOOK AUCTIONS – A HISTORY

Three good articles but research on chess book auctions was not so helpful. When was the first chess book auction? It could be the 19th century yet possibly the 18th. Matt Reimann gives a 1668 date for the first British book catalogue but that was not specifically for chess. His date for the Low Countries is 100 years earlier. And auctioneers back then sold everything. Bearing in mind the loss of favour for auctions in Europe, the 18th century looks a likely candidate.

Who were the big chess collectors of the 18th century? That is, the 1700s. There are many candidates such as the aristocracy who frequented Parsloes in the 1780's. Philidor himself may have had a library back in France but he was in England at his death. And when their estates were wound up the chess books would be sold along with the estate. Three of these 18th century gentry were the Right Hon. Henry Seymour Conway, Lady Caroline Howe, Count von Bruhl. Seymour and Bruhl were friends of Philidor and Lady Howe was a friend of Ben Franklin. I wrote a lot about the aristocracy in my ms of Philidor and it is on Edward Winter's website 'Chess Notes'. This group would mostly have had great libraries with their chess passion. What happened on their demise? Well, hopefully their books were bought by others of like mind.

An early auction in which "chess papers" owned once by George Atwood were offered for sale was at the late Joseph Wilson's auction in 1833. Wilson and Atwood were friends and the latter recorded some of Philidor's games. Was there a catalogue? Doubtful.

Michael Clapham has helped there with a catalogue of Will Lyons dated 1897. Will produced 10 catalogues from the 1880s to 1909. I have a suspicion Sam Saunders of Warwick dealt with Will.

Frank Hollings, a London bookseller put out his 28th Catalogue on chess, draughts and whist in 1899. When was the first? 1892-see Edward Winter's 'Chess Notes'

Another early one was by Simpson the bookseller in 1863 also H. MacDonald's library catalogue was produced "for private circulation" in 1876. And Count Salimbeni's catalogue of 1888 produced by the bookdealers Vicenze and Nipoti of Modena.

Bob Meadley 7 October 2020