

THE CHESS CATALOGUE MEN

There is a Chess Catalogue woman in this gathering! And the wives and helpers who ensure their men get the books packed and sent, keep records, answer letters and find books.

It is great if the dealer and collector strike up a written rapport. It doesn't have to always be money up, books sent, but sometimes that is the way it is. Strictly business.

1. One of the first dealers I dealt with was **Baruch H. Wood**, a busy man who still found time to send a letter. Here is his first:-

Chess, Sutton Coldfield, England, 28 June 1967

Robert Meadley Esq. 1 Church Street Brewarrina, N.S.W. Australia

Dear Mr. Meadley:

In reply to your letter of May 22nd (apologies, by the way for the delay in replying but the luxury of a three weeks absence in the Faeroe Islands, though I registered the best international success of my career, has played havoc with my correspondence)... I fear that the three old books you mention went long ago, but I shall see if I can pick up a copy of any of them over the next few months.

Of the "Chess Amateur" we have been fortunate in picking up three lost during the last few weeks after not having seen any at all for some years. We can offer the following and shall hold them for three weeks only, after that we shall be offering them in our Chess Book Auction at higher prices. As you probably know this magazine started in October 1906 and the volumes ran October to September, rather like CHESS.

Volumes 1 to 5,7,14 to 19 (September 1925) in a very smart uniform new maroon cloth binding. 50s. stg. Each. All the gilt-tooled on spine.

In an exceptional milk-chocolate brown quarter-leather and cloth binding: Volumes 1 to 5 at 70s. stg. Each. (gilt tooled on spine). Perfect condition.

In green cloth, gilt-tooled on spine and front, good condition: Vols. 2,6,8 to 11 and 13: 40s. stg. Each. Also Vol.2 same but fair condition only 30 s. stg.

Vol.17 in new green cloth bdg., with index loose. Gilt tooled on spine, very good condition. 30s. stg.

In very sturdy heavy black full leather, gilt-tooled on spine. Fair condition Vol.1 35s. stg.

In various cheap bindings, fair to good condition, untooled. Vols 15 to 18,20,21,23,and 24 to end of the magazine in June 1930. 25s. stg. Each.

If you buy ten or more on a cash order, we should be happy to make an overall reduction of 5%. Post free throughout. Trusting the above is of interest. Yours sincerely, B.H.Wood.

He also sent the ad from CHESS in which these would be sold at 10% higher prices. I bought all the years to make up as complete a set as possible which left missing Vol.12 & 22 which took me many years to eventually acquire. I missed a Vol.12 in one auction but eventually photocopied the missing months from the original in the Fisher Library Sydney. It was all then added to 4 months bought from George Campbell and it is still unbound. But what a nice letter which went on to other letters and the purchase of 'American Chess Nuts' and a lot of the A.C. White 'Christmas Series' See Baruch Wood's rare book auction for Mid October 1966. Only first 2 pages but fantastic buying prices. SCAN 1

Baruch Wood's "World-wide Postal Action" started in 1966 and was an auction with a difference. Bidders could bid higher or lower than the suggested price. BHW included the best of the fixed price world and the auction world. When a collector buys off a dealer the fixed price is normally the accepted price. In an auction one bids and rebids for the book until the highest bid secures the book. BHW's 'suggested price' was a sort of reserve price except that one could bid lower and 'subject to a reasonable reserve price' the highest bid would secure the book.

Clearly BHW had his profit percentage and one could conclude that if he had paid 2,500 pounds for 4 complete libraries and part of another that he had his cost price and just had to mark-up his sale price to cover the cost and make a profit. BHW wanted cash up front that that was a priority over offers. He stated further that he would be listing at least 1000 titles (i.e. £2 pounds ten shillings or 50 shillings/title) There are very few books below 50 shillings on those two pages in the scan.

He had been thinking about this auction for some time. For example in June 1966 his editorial wrote "*We desperately need a new building on land we already rent, to house our office staff away from the distraction of the machines. Inflation continues. Wages rise. Paper, postages, power are going up all the time.*" He was asking people to subscribe 'in advance' and that if 5 years subs were paid (8 pounds) or 10 years (fifteen pounds) and he had raised 4,146 pounds bringing in 10,000 pounds of new machinery and clearing his debt before the end of 1964. This was his "Expansion Fund" further mentioned on the March 1966 cover issue. He then listed all those who were paying extra and gave photos of all the workers at 'CHESS' in the February issue:-Margaret Roberts (23 years service), Mavis Farley (20 years), Irene Miller, Susan Wilkins, Dorothy Kearsey (subs), Eileen Franks (the packer of books!) Judith Whitticase (phone), Andrea Knight (canteen), Barney Johnson (carver of ivory, bone and plastic), Ronald Elwell Smith (clocks), Ernest Rawsthorne (filing clerk), Irene Britton (binding), May Medd & Dorothy Woodland (stapling and dispatches), R.H. Wilson (monotype), Peter Robinson (apprentice) and John Smith (Heidelberg printing machine). I counted 18 people and that is a fair wages bill and finally he named all the 'friends' of CHESS with a Christmas/New Years Card. I roughly counted 150 names there including M.V. Anderson (of the State Library Victoria) and Dale Brandreth in our collecting world. He was a mighty man was B.H. Wood and I well remember his great article in CHESS on Botvinnik's visit to England. It is not often an owner/editor like

BHW feature a long article on the workers who produced the magazine in the magazine. Good to see as they were the engine-room with BHW the captain.

2. At that time I was also buying from the **British Chess Problem Society** secretary Guy Chandler and he was more than kind price-wise. Quite formal and we never progressed from 'Dear Mr. Meadley' in the many years until his death in 1980. The BCPS put out occasional catalogues over the years and Peter Fayers (1997) and Bob McWilliam (1990) were good bookmen to deal with and we enjoyed our visit to Lil and Bob on the Isle of Wight. Later they decided to sell books without prices and I drifted away. I dealt with Bob in the transaction to buy Alex Goldstein's 'Robert Braune' and 'Retrograde Analysis' which Alex had willed to the BCPS as outlined in Bert. It is fair enough to sell by auction and the Glasgow Chess Club did something similar with their old BCM's and I almost got them but was outbidded. Douglas Finnie the secretary of the Club at the time was good to deal with but one had to realise the Club wanted as much money as they could get. (1970s)

My finest book was Alexander's collection of problems from the 1840's. It was bound by Kaufmann a French binder and is my best book still today. Guy Chandler sold it to me. Like Frank Ravenscroft, these older men had perfect copperplate handwriting. And just to reinforce that point Frank was the NSW Education Department's "Mr. Copperplate". We smile today with texting etc but it was another world back then. The very familiar blue aerograms that Guy Chandler sent are a nice memory of a man who encouraged me to finish off the Whyatt book. I wanted to call it 'Bill Whyatt's Chess Problems' but he would not hear of it and it had to be 'W.A. Whyatt's Chess Problems', which it was. SCAN 2

3. Around this time I had two kind letters from **Alfred Sharp** of the UK and the best detail he gave was **Dale Brandreth**'s address. I never bought anything from Alex but owe him a debt for his letters. Here is his first letter:- 23 Wimbourne Drive, Pinner, MIDDX England 11th April 1970

"Dear Mr. Meadley,

Delighted to hear from another enthusiast, but sorry I cannot help at the moment.

My small ad in 'CHESS' was to dispose of a few duplicates, and they were all snapped up in a few days. At the moment I cannot spare any more, and in view of the loss of purchasing power of the £, and high postal charges, I could not expect to receive the true value I place upon them, so I am now buying-not selling.

As a matter of interest you might like to know some of the items in my bookcase:-History & Miscellanies:-Lambe's History, 1764; Bertin's "Noble Game" 1735;"Chess" (Twiss) 1787/1789/1805; Verney's 'Eccentricities" 1885; Kennedy's "Waifs & Strays" 1876; MacDonnell's 'Chess Life Pictures' 1883; Walker's "Chess & Chess Players.

Problems:- Baxter 1883; Pearson 1883;Thursby; Taylor, 1880; Pierce, 1873& 1876 & 1888; Miles, 1878 & 1882; White,A.C. 1905 & 1912 & 1920; Rayner 1890; Kotre & Traxler 1910-etc

*Should I wish to dispose of any of these in the future, I will bear you in mind. With kind regards ,
Yours sincerely*

Alfred G.Sharpe."

It was nice to hear from Alfred who I have called Alex in all my writings. Apologies . I also added an 'e' to his surname which was wrong:- Sharp not Sharpe. He wrote again 21st November 1970:-

"Thanks for your news-it was good to hear from you, and many congratulations on your set of CHESS MONTHLY-they sound great.

Sorry I cannot help with the A.C.White's. You must continue to keep in close touch with Mr. Chandler. "The Problemist" No.6, just issued, again refers to the books donated by Dr. Zepler. No details but an open invitation to send him your list of wants.

There is a dearth of old books in this country now, and I think they go to Holland and America. I know several collectors in the States, but they are reluctant to sell. Your best chance is with Dale Brandreth, whom I expect you know, but just in case, his address is :- P.O.Box 6144, Stanton, DEL., 19804 USA Wit kind regards Sincerely

A.G.Sharp".

Alfred had a fine collection some of which I don't have today. Alfred died pre Nov. 1979

3. It took me 4 years to 'get around' to writing to **Dale Brandreth** and in late 1974 I did. I have written about these letter exchanges (1974-86) in another article. His catalogues varied from handwritten in the very early days (I think he started in 1970) to gestetner type foolscap pages with information absolutely crammed onto each page and then later a better typed catalogue. I have all of them that he sent. Dale's death in September 2019 was the end of an era. His collection is being sold in the USA via a Delaware friend.

I had many of Dale's early lists in his handwriting but photocopied. SCCA,AGGB, many with red pencil through an item indicating 'sold' SGGC,SGGD,SGEA,MAG 7, MAG 9, AX-1 (Jan 75),JOJO,KOKO, LOLO, MOMO, NONO,POGO all typed. TMB 22 was handwritten and then came EXEN! Which I bailed into getting the Stamma and the Salvio. Typed lists were the norm now on aerogram paper. There was a lot with MISC titles.

I found 79 Chess Lists in a later Brandreth file. Firstly there were genuine catalogues with multiple pages and then there were 'lists' of individual pages with a letters and a number heading. There were no 'rolls royce' catalogues or llsts bound nicely. They were all serious businesslike pages and the compilations of a very busy man who, in his spare time outside his

full-time job as a chemist conducted a full time, spare time job as a chess book dealer. The pages were stapled with fair paper only. As for the headings :-MISC (probably miscellaneous), POT POURRI (mixture of openings, games with draughts, tourney books, magazines), MAG (magazines), PROBEG (Mostly problems) O& R 1 (facsimiles) and then weird ones like:- GENBU, ELDX, G.MAR, MULX, ESPEC, LACA, GAMCOL, PR&EG and many more. EMAR was interesting as Dale had some comments on corruption in US Post. The best catalog I saw was EXEN (see scan) and that was back in 1974 and it contained his 'blue moon' list meaning books one only sees in a blue moon. I copied that list and sent it to many in Australia. Peter Parr the big Sydney dealer was fascinated with the books that were older than the Australia as far as white settlement was concerned. . Item 15 is not on the scan as it was partially missed. Here are the missing lines: *_IL GIUOCO DE GLI SCACCHI DI RUI LOPEZ, SPAGNOLO, Venice, 1584, the first Tarsia translation with the word "Gomito" appearing twice on page 133, from the Rimington-Wilson Collection, bd. In leather with raised bands, gilt lettering, covers sl. Worn, some water staining, ancient marginal notes on some pages. \$280.00. Item 32:-CHESS FOR BEGINNERS, W.Lewis, London, 1846, third ed., with colored plate frontispiece, bd in original red cloth binding, contains other colored plates as well, \$17.50; a nice copy.*

4. Fred Wilson of New York was a prolific writer and a great cataloguer. He liked the rare and early books. I recall when he bought Jim Gates collection somewhere around 12,000 in the late 1970's and this was a busy time for all. His book 'A Picture History of Chess' appeared in the late 70's and was a success as there were only photos and no games. And it was unique. He researched all those photos in the pre computer days the hard way. It is a popular book today. His catalogue book descriptions were detailed and enticing. He sold me a set of the 'Our Folder' magazine which is a very underrated magazine containing far much more than chess problems.

His first lists came my way in 1975 No.2/3/4/Special List A/5(Feb 1976)/No.6 (1 of 12)/No.7 (1 of 15)/8/9 (1 of 16). I never got No.1 but 2-7 appeared regularly for those of us in the first batch. The Philidors were gone when I got my copy but there were still wonderful items at good prices. Philidor 1817 \$40, Ponziani 1829 \$30. His Special List A had some early problem books some under \$10. When Fred sent No.5 he wrote a funny note on top: *-Bob, please don't be cross but I just haven't had time to write...* It was nice to get a couple of lines to personalize the catalogue.

'Chess Literature Number Ten came in June 1978. Some books were very rare and dear. Back then Bertin's 'The Noble Game of Chess' 1735 was \$500 US. His headings in one catalogue were:-

Part 1-Early and/or otherwise remarkable items

Part 2- General Treatises, Games Collections and Openings

Part 3-History, Bibliography, Fiction etc

Part 4- Tournament and Matches

Part 5-Periodicals

This was a nice split for collectors who were only interested in certain sections. Another good feature was he put a line through any book that had been sold pre-catalogue and wrote 'Sold'. It is annoying to bid for a book and find out it had been sold yonks earlier. I ended up with 15 catalogues over 1978-1984 mostly foolscap, the rest quarto size. They are wonderful to re-read so many years later and remember all the regrets at missed books, the pleasure of books bought and the wistfulness of books too dear to bid on. There is no doubt Fred loved Part 1 and his nice descriptions of these early books were helped with personal comments and opinions. In one catalogue he included de-accessioned duplicates from the George Allen Collection at the Library Company of Philadelphia. Allen wrote the wonderful Philidor book. I managed to get a Sarratt and a Magee. One book I couldn't afford was Trevangadacharya Shastree 1814 for \$1500. I could imagine Allen browsing through this one. It also was Albrecht Buschke's copy after Allen. My copy of Carrera was there at \$1750 and Fred let me pay it off at \$200/month. What a book, once owned and looked through by members of the Berliner Schachgesellschaft in 1827. It came to Lothar Schmid, then Jim Gates and to me where it still is 40 years later. He even had a complete run of the Christmas Series in Cat. No.14 for \$1500 and also No.1 in that Cat. was 'Lopez de Sigura, Ruy, 1561 for \$10,000. That one went to Melbourne bought with money from the family of M.V. Anderson . What good memories. Good bloke Fred and I liked that video of his shop. I wonder did he give up smoking? My best guess is his wife forced him to! All thanks to Alfred Sharp in the UK! His shop video as given in the ACF Newsletter is excellent. SCAN 4

5. John Rather was an American rare book dealer and his catalogues were choice. I am looking at Cat. 97-B: CHESS .1998 A lovely later 8 p. catalogue with his e-mail address. This was a Catalogue of mostly chess problem books. He had \$200 on American Chess Nuts 1868, George Walker's copy of Fred Healey's 1866 book of problems which had later come from the Rimington-Wilson library \$100. The dearest book was 'A Sketchbook of American Chess problematists 1942 Overbrook Series by Alain White, \$300 and this gap in my Overbrooks was filled. The exchange rate was not so good and it cost \$474 Aust. I doubt if this problem catalogue has ever been bettered. His first Cat was sent in 1988. SCAN 5

6. I never dealt with **Albrecht Buschke** who was still dealing then (late 1970's) . His article on early chess collectors and collections was a good read. **Oscar Shapiro** sent me one catalogue 1988. Pity as I was almost burnt out money-wise.(1980's) He wrote a nice reply to my letter. His Catalogue is the most beautiful of all the Cats received from this Washington dealer. The cover has a lovely b&w mediaeval painting of 2 men and 2 women at chess. On the back cover are sketches/skits from the 1883 International Tourney at which Rosenblum was DOP. Zukertort, Steinitz, Minchin, Mortimer ,Rosenthal, Mason, Bird, Winawer , Blackburne feature alongside Mackenzie's 'Pencil' (all chewed at the end) and other funnies. Inside is a newspaper page of Morphy in the ILN and a Blackburne Lithograph all for sale at fair prices. The dearest item was No.20 the Cozio 1766 @ \$2,750 US, a Lolli @ \$425 and a full set of Le Palamede 1836-1847 \$2,500. I see so many nicely priced books that my eyes are watering but in 1988 I averted my eyes! There are 120 items presented impeccably. Oscar was a member of ABAA (Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America).SCAN 6

7. **Clive Farmer** of the UK sent Cats in 1989/90 with advice that he would bind any of the unbound magazines bought at 'sensible prices'. There is no doubt that bound material stays in better shape than unbound PROVIDED the covers are bound in. His dearest was the 1656 Beale again without the Charles I portrait at 390 pounds and it was for sale at 350 pounds in his next 1990 Cat. Very clearly printed booklets with space between the items. Easy reading. 18 pages in the 1990 Cat. SCAN 7

8. It was around 1975 that I started writing to **Dr. Meindert Niemeijer** of The Hague Royal Dutch Library. He was mainly interested in swaps for books The Hague did not hold but whilst I couldn't help him he did send me some lovely items at very fair prices I suspect out of sympathy but also I suspect as I was like him interested in chess problems. I recall Cecil Purdy got a pre war catalogue from him with hundreds of items. He occasionally sent a few lines on answers to my questions but mainly kept on the job.

I have lists 114 to 135 from the good Dr. And that solved one mystery as to which dealer produced the most catalogues. I think the good Dr. won the prize having started pre war. List 114 was sent November 1975-12 A4 pages. The headings were Periodical publications; Tournaments and matches; Bibliography, history, memorial books, psychology, belles lettres etc; Openings; Biography; Collections of Games, combinations; General works, text books; Organisations ,varia, etc; Books on card-games; Problems and end-game (studies); Chess magazines (odd numbers) 425 items and finally the list of desiderata. This list shows how the Royal Dutch Library at The Hague was No.2 in the world of public chess libraries. Dr. N kept them up to the mark. It may be at that time it was as big as Cleveland. Most of the desiderata were items too hard for me but 'The Australian Problemist 1962, No.5' was one I could help with later yet in the next issue 115 it was gone so someone had swapped with him. 'Desiderata' were now called 'The wants list' but now Dr. N wanted all 'Chess In Australia', all 'The New Zealand Chess Magazine' and "The New Zealand Chess News' plus many other non Australian and New Zealand items.

Here is the first page of 114 with buyers/swappers to write him at that famous address Backershagenlaan 54, Wassenaar, Holland. They are wonderful catalogues, clearly typed. Perhaps by word processor. The Catalogue No.135 March 1987 is exactly the same. Of the antiquarian books in 114 No.264 A 1773 Philidor was for sale at \$37.50US. I bid for that but missed out as did many at that price. Dr N's prices were great for buyers. Clearly he saved the choice items for swaps. He was kind to me over the years and Dutch chess bibliography lost when he passed on.

Here is Dr. N's April 27 1980 letter:-*Dear Mr Meadley, Having been ill for some time and afterwards on holiday in order to recover, I could not reply to your letter of March 3 before now. I regret very much that I have to disappoint you this time, having received many interesting offers of exchange and you know I am preferring exchange above selling. I can send you only the undermentioned titles (so next week these will be sent directly by the Royal Library at The Hague to your address).*

No.26 Chess. Pl. Chr the lot \$29.50; 243 Forbes \$50.00; 26? Taylor \$1.75 = \$81.25. Please send me 5 copies of Whyatt's Chess Problems and deduct the amount I am due for them from \$81.25. I was a great admirer of Dr. O'Keefe's skill in constructing, but-alas I've never been in touch with him. A copy of the translation of Dr. Chicco's article would be of course very welcome. Will you be so kind as to excuse my bad handwriting? I'm suffering from arthritis-that is why Sincerely Yours MN (My handwriting has gone off too-BobM)

Dr. Chicco's article was about the early Roman date for the Venafrò chess men which I adopted enthusiastically and was later proved very wrong by Alessandro Sanvito's research and later radio-carbon dating by Naples Museum. I will quote Ken Whyld's letter of that time as he was never convinced of that early date. As for the Forbes 'History of Chess' when it arrived and had the stamps of the Melbourne Chess Club inside as well as a dedication to someone in the Club dated May 23rd 1870 (name scratched out-pity) I was staggered!! Of course I told John van Manen about it as the book had obviously been in Holland for many years and replaced by a better copy in the 1970's such that Dr. N sold it to me being an Australian. It was in bad nick and coming apart with a ruined spine. I decided in the last few years to do a repair keeping as much of the original as possible. I rebacked the binding and fitted it back into the covers making it usable. The red cloth spine looks out of place with the dark brown covers which are lovely and have a golden chaturanga board and men on the front cover and a golden standard board and men on the rear cover. The red spine can be covered over by a brown cloth if needed. The amusing feature of the original back cover is that the pieces are set up with a brown square on h1.! The real conundrum is how did Holland get this copy? SCAN 8

9. George Campbell was a Scottish dealer who put out wonderful catalogues in the late 1970's. I bought many BCM volumes from him. His address was 498 Union Street Aberdeen Scotland and the Cats were produced during the 1970's. The first one I have is List 5 March 1974 which consisted of 1 foolscap sheet printed on both sides. The dearest books were Kagan's 'Carl Schlechter' and 'Longman's 1883 & 1889 at offers above 7 pounds. The old BCMs were offers above 5 pounds with unbound 1 pound 65. I asked George to send me some of his early catalogues which he did. They were called 'The Chess Bookman' and when I was buying I received No.12-16 1977-79. The four earlier that he sent were of foolscap size stapled:-List 6 Oct. 1974, List 7 March 1975 List 10 Sept 1976 and List 11 April 1978. I have 9 of the 16 published. He had some amazing books for sale. One in List 10 was 'Hypnerotomachia Poliphili 1499' for 7,250 pounds!. Most were reasonably priced at between 15 & 55 pounds. For example No.952 1836 & 1837 Le Palamede 2 years bound in 1 41 pounds. I don't know what the number 952 stands for but a number was on the books. Another was No.364 Charles H. Stanley 'American Chess Magazine' 1847 55 pounds. In List 11 he offered 'Xerox Reproductions' of famous books at very cheap prices. No.2279 was 'The Catalogue of the Chess Library of Dr. Albrecht Buschke' 1938 for 40 pounds. Many others were much cheaper. His 'Special List' was very impressive. One, for instance was No.2249 1714 'Le Jeu des Eschets/Traduit De L'Italian de Giochimo Greco, Calabrois, Paris 343 pp. Complete and bound in leather 75 pounds. The Catalogues had lovely covers as shown on scan. George started to wind down his dealing in 1979

and if memory serves his health was the reason. I had one difference of opinion with George as I wanted him to sell me his set of The Cleveland Chess Collection Catalogues (2 books) put out in 1964 but he would not. I should have indexed George in Bert. He was a good fellow. CAT SCAN 9

10. Michael Ehn and Peter Hoffman and Jens Enevoldsen sent a Cat but I bought very little in Europe. I think Jens catalogue was sent to me by John van Manen. Here are 2 SCANS 10

11. Michael MacDonald-Ross (MMR) was the best of the English dealers for letter content. I bought some books from him and he loved writing and wrote well. I liked him for that. His stories about rare buys not only in the chess field were good reading. Here is a scan of the Hyde from one of his Cats which usually contained 100+ items. His wonderful collection of books and sets was sold by Phillips 26 March 1987. I bought a Greco 1750 Chess Made Easy with Rimington Wilson's signature 30 pounds. The dearest item was No.8 a Jacques Staunton Ivory Chess set 3,400 pounds. The dearest book was the Gianutio 2000 pounds. He told me Alfred Sharp had died which was sad for me. In my first letter to MMR I bid for 2 early Philidors and 6 other quite rare books but all were gone. Michael wrote a nice reply 13 Nov. advising that he would send out his next list earlier to give me a chance. He also told me about Alfred Sharpe and that George Campbell had no antiquarian stock any more. *"The main problem in a business where demand outstrips supply is of course the supply of stock"* wrote Michael I told him I was by early 1980 only interested in filling wants and doing research rather than collecting. SCAN 11

12. Mike Sheehan was another business before pleasure dealer. I bought many books off him during the 1980's but there was little gossip. His catalogues were useful solid booklets and he bought at many overseas auctions. Two Cats I have at hand are Autumn 1990 & 1996/7. Very hefty with 40 pages in 1990 (21mmx15mm). His listings then were :-

1. Antiquarian Books;
2. Bibliography, Reference, Literary;
3. Games Collection by Player;
4. Games Collections;
- 5 Tournaments and Matches;
6. Openings;
7. Middle Game Books;
8. Endgames, Studies, Problems;
9. Bound Magazines and periodicals;
- 10, Unbound Mag's;
11. Addenda. There were 56 Antiquarian and 1-19 was a 1656 Greco without the Charles 1 portrait at 450 pounds. In the Bibliography was 2-7 "Burmese Chess Guide" 1924 by

Schweigyn + 3 others for 950 pounds. According to Mike it was the only book devoted to Burmese Chess ever published. Amazing item of 216 pages. The author was a retired Education Officer. I wonder where that ended up?

His 1996/7 Cat of 64 pages stapled, size as before had 127 Antiquarian items the dearest was 1-109 Vida Opera 1558 576p. Plantin Press 450 pounds. There were 12 Philidor editions earliest 1790 and I think Mike bought these in a European auction. SCAN 12

13. Ken Whyld sent some Cats during 1981. Here is Chess List 36. Prices were low and they went quickly. Living in Australia made it hard to buy. Here is his 17 May 1980 letter regarding the Venafrò chessmen:- *“Dear Bob, many thanks for your letter. First of all, re Q&Q 3939 I agree with your friend. I took it from ‘64’ and may have misunderstood the Russian text. Re 4000, yes I have accepted completely J.Smith (although the ‘B’ was not in Ken Fraser’s letter. Subsequent discussion in Q&Q is really about why Ercole del Rio, and which edition Smith used as his source.) I would like to be able to say in Q&Q that the ‘Cook’ set has been found, even without identifying its owner, but cannot do so without the approval of David Hafler if the owner stays anonymous.*

I no longer have The Chess Monthly (used to have a fine set), so I was glad of your long extract. I have used it down to Q.2 in August or September (these months are already with Reilly as he goes to France for about three months each summer, and does the non-topical stuff before he goes.) In May or June, I forget which, I have put in a plug for the Cleveland microfilm, and also mentioned the ‘Morphy’ problem along with the information that it is fact by Cook.

Chicco’s article did not entirely convince me. I have not seen it in English, but I read Italian fairly well. Also I have the Olga Elia article. It is curious that almost ten years passed between the excavation and her findings being published. The Venafrò set looks to me to be a typical Muslim set of 8th-9th c. I can tell you that I have been in contact with both Chicco and AERE with a view to dating the men, but so far it would be too destructive. AERE expect quite soon to be able to test on quite small samples. There is some growing evidence that chess was played in Scandinavia in 11th c., and quite possibly Cnut did play. I have spent quite some time trying to form an opinion about Bidev’s claim that chess originated in China, but this would not explain ‘Indian’ chess pieces in Venafrò. Murray only said that there was no evidence to date chess earlier than 6th c., and some negative evidence against an earlier date (documents that would be expected to list the game if it existed). Personally I think we may get back a couple of centuries at the most, but not more.

Did I ever thank you for Flash? The author seems to have been Fritz van Seters (1913-1976), Dutch born, but became Belgian. He played for Belgium in Olympiads for example. Perhaps the book was written in Dutch and then translated into English, which would account for odd phrases like ‘quality’ for what we call the exchange, and the odd spelling of Chigorin (Also why Dutch is one of the four foreign languages whose equivalent names of pieces is given!) As you say, it is in a class of its own. Such a vast amount of information in so few pages! The history can only be

called sketchy(!) and I am not sure that the Wiesel/Weigel game on p.133 is 'famous' and I can only think that the word GROUP in vocabulary is a mistranslation, but these are more than offset by its witty style (for us, perhaps not for the novice).

It seems that Campbell really has stopped. So does that mean we shall never see part II of your article on the Anderson collection?

By the way, going to your latest letter again, I was reading the British Museum Quarterly of about 1927 almost a month ago, on the Witchampton find, and also several articles on other finds. It is quite obvious that any gaming piece which is dug up and is not disc shape is called a chess piece. Some of the ones discussed (I can't remember whether the Witchampton ones were in this category) are clearly hnefatafl men.

Ages ago Chris Feather asked me for your address, so I guess he has been in touch. He is a most agreeable fellow. Best wishes yrs Ken.

This was one of his best and 40 years later some items are vague. One is AERE but it must be Atomic Energy R (Research, E(?) as this paragraph is about radio-carbon dating. Ken was proved right and the Venafro pieces were NOT from the Roman Era. The other is 'Flash' . The title of the book is "a guide to chess" a tiny (10.5cm x 11.6cm) 160 pages paperback, 1969. A product of Marabou Flash, published in Liechtenstein. Terrific cartoons priced at 40 cents. It took KF's fancy and mine. Showing its age but usable. SCAN 13

14. Barrie Ellen was very good. I bought from him 1982-2000. His Cats started as A4 and finished book size (21x15mm) and this new format allowed Barrie to place a chess photo/sketch on the cover and they were nice productions mostly by printers. He included draughts books from Cat 12. He gave mini reviews of the new books in each Cat and there were over 1000 items in Cat 12. I have all of them from 12-52 (his last). No.12 was produced by his new computer . Prior to that I don't know. Barrie received hundreds of orders in the first week and shut his shop down for that period whilst he serviced the orders. Here is a scan of No.52 showing Harry Golombek at simul. It would have been useful to have the names of the people featuring on the covers. Barrie's wife Marion was a great book-packer. SCAN 14

15. Peter Parr was the Sydney chess book dealer who put out catalogues chock full of items such that it was a hard slog to read them. But one must. He was generous to me on more than one occasion and especially when he gave me 'Bett's Bibliography' and told me to send the money when I got home which I did. His main strength was the sale of chess computers and whilst his books were ample at the Campbell Street shop they were chaotic. I took Bert Corneth there on his only visit to Sydney in the late 90's and he immediately found a bargain whilst pointing out to me Vidmar's 'Golden Schachzeiten' unfortunately in German which I bought for friendship knowing I couldn't read it. Peter was a terrific supporter of Sydney Chess and it was always a thrill to descend those steps into his shop and head for the books after we had nodded to one another. There was a chess set of Prime Minister Bob Hawke for sale there at about \$100. Foolishly I did not buy though Hawkie was my favourite PM. SCAN 15

16. Neville Ledger of Tasmania was a keen dealer and book seller in Burnie which is near Bass Straight on the north of the Island just below Melbourne. He was a strong player who branched into books and was helped by his wife Nell. I bought many from him and from his catalogues. He often sent a letter about a new chess book that he thought I may be interested in. I usually was. SCAN 16

17. Chess World 1970 Catalogue. As it is a neat 50 years, mention must be made of Cecil Purdy and Rosemary Shiel's Cats. Cecil sold Chess World to Rosemary around this time and I placed a lot of info in my article 'Cecil Purdy's Chess Shops' some of which was published in a recent ACF Newsletter. This Cat was printed by O'Loughlin Bros of Sydney and being professionals, it was a very well done 36 page booklet. It contained a nice Table of Contents featured in the scans. The dearest book was Murray's "A History of Chess" 1962 for \$17.10. It weighed 4 lbs yet postage was 35 cents. Ah me, those were the days. I think I paid 5 pounds in 1963 from Cecil in those balmy pre decimal days. The Cat. even included an SAE. What's that I hear you thinking? Well, it was a self addressed envelope. Postage paid of course. By the way I sent a USB port 1/9/2020 to England and it cost \$25.20. All to do with corona and the need to hire planes to take mail freight. Oh yeh. SCAN 17

18. My only dealer these days is **Tony Peterson** who has just put out Catalogue No.88. There are not many who have got this far. Perhaps Dale Brandreth and Meindert Niemeijer are two in front of him. Their years in selling must put them over 100 (Niemeijer 135) but for a recent starter Tony has done well. But I think Dale might be numero uno as I have all his catalogues and they are quite formidable. But they are difficult to tally as his lists and catalogues were in together. Tony's first catalogue sent was No.35 and a beauty it was being a special catalogue of Antiquarian Chess Books Aug/Sept 2003. The dearest item was No.61 the Lopez Tarsia 1584 at 1450 pounds in the 137 choice items listed. I bid for Brunet y Bellet and the Greco Hoffman but missed out. This catalogue was the start of many. Tony said in a very recent email that these early books like the Tarsia are now bid for by both dealers and collectors! SCAN 18

19. When **Jacob Feenstra** moved from Holland to New Zealand he put out 2 excellent catalogues in 2000 and they contained some choice items that were part of his collection which must have been a beauty. Bert had bought off him back in Holland and I rather liked Jacob as he mentioned non-chess items in his letters. I was surprised to read he was going into building! His purchase of the Otago (Dunedin) Chess Club's library was a coup. I bought a few books from Jacob including some rare NZ chess items. SCAN 19

20. Time Booksellers-Maureen Fraher of Frankston Victoria sent an occasional chess catalogue which were well done, alphabetical by author. I did get one book by Botvinnik "Fifteen Games and Their Stories" 1982 for \$10 and liked buying that as it was by the not so wordy Mikhail. Robert Johnson, the author of the Anderssen book published mid 2020 gave my name to Maureen. Very nice catalogues but mostly books on chess play/tourneys etc. The first had 365 items ca 1990 and in her Cat 27 there were 420. SCAN 20

They were good days when one came in the mail but it is mostly e-catalogues today. A sign of the times and fair enough when one considers postage costs. Just imagine how much those Chess Amateurs sent by BHW would cost for postage today! Catalogues are no different when considered in bulk. I have read enough about Cecil Purdy's postage charges to know how they bite in to battling publishers of short run magazines like Chess World. Our son John who deals in 'old wares' finds postage one of the big imposts on e-bay. But what can one do if one wants an item?

There are some dealers lost in the mists of time. Will Lyons of the USA (see Michael Clapham's 'Chess Chats' for some nice material on Lyons), Adrien Gambet of the USA and some of his dealing with Frank Altschul ca WW2 are given in Bert 2. I feel his help in the setting up of J.C.J. Wainwright's collection at Cleveland was a good thing and I apologise to the European dealers who I just don't know. Bob Meadley 7 September 220

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CHANDLER, G W & FLOOD, C R & MATTHEWS, R C O: A Tribute to G F Anderson	1974	18/-	PC,CG	2.00
CHLUBNA, F: 64 + 100	1996	46/164	LC,CM	9.50
CSÁK, J: 115 Chess Problems by János Csák	1992	35/115	PC,CM	6.50
DAWSON, T R: Retro-Opposition (reprint)	1990	24/-	PC,CM	3.75
DICKENS, A S M & EBORT, H: 100 classics of the chessboard	1983	217/100	HC,CM	7.75
DICKENS, A S M: A Guide to Fairy Chess	1967	68/122	LC,CG	5.50
DRIVER, J E: Chessay 4 - Prize-winning chess problems	1988	16/200	PC,CG	2.00
FASHER, E: Joseph Goldschmidt: Chess Problems	1980	86/166	SC,CG	4.50
FEATHER, C J: Black to Play	1994	200/293	LC,CM	17.50
FEATHER, C J: Hatchings	1995	6/27	PC,CM	0.80
FEATHER, C J: Moultings 01	1990	7/36	PC,CM	0.80
FEATHER, C J: Moultings 02 - 12 (each)	1991-1993	5/24-27	PC,CM	0.80
FEATHER, C J: Pluckings (2nd edition)	1991	15/99	PC,CM	1.50
FEATHER, C J: Pluckings 2	1995	22/78	LC,CM	6.00
FEATHER, C J: Pluckings 3	1996	22/73	LC,CM	6.00
GARAI, T: Chess Problems of the Same Kind	1994	84/208	PC,CM	7.25
HARKOLA: World Chess Solving Championship 1977-1996	1997	108/-	PC,CM	5.00
HARLEY, B: Mate in Two Moves	1944	216/174	HC,CG	5.50
HARLEY, B: Mate in Two Moves (reprint)	1970	216/174	SC,CG	5.50
HARLEY, B: Mate in Three Moves	1943	198/-	HC,CF	5.50
HOLLADAY, E: 100 Sheppard two-movers	1961	-/100	PC,CG	3.00
HOLLADAY, E: Wurzberg Artistry	1974	64/200	PC,CG	4.30
HOLLADAY, E: Hassberg Ingenuity	1978	64/168	LC,CM	4.30
HOWARD, K S: 100 years of the American 2-move chess problem	1962	100/212	LC,CG	6.00
HOWARD, K S: Chess problem gems by 8 eminent American composers	1972	102/160	LC,CM	6.00
HOWARD, K S: Classic Chess Problems by Pioneer Composers	1970	109/-	SC,CG	6.50
HOWARD, K S: How to Solve Chess Problems	1961	171/112	SC,CM	8.50
HOWARD, K S: Spectacular Chess Problems	1965	117/200	SC,CG	5.00

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1. STRATEGEMS OF CHESS, (Montigny), L/N 2158, London, 1818, Fourth ed, bd. in 3/4 leather with paper boards, some foxing (mainly on the frontispiece plate), very nice contents, cover somewhat worn, \$37.50
2. STRATEGEMS OF CHESS, (Montigny), L/N 2159, London, 1826, fifth ed, bd in 3/4 brown cloth contents and binding excellent, \$36.00
3. THE NOBLE GAME OF CHESS, London, 1745, the first English ed, 2 vols in one, L/N 427, h, a very fine copy bd in 3/4 morocco from the Rimington-Wilson Library, signed by Stamma, \$200.00
4. IL GIUOCO DEGLI SCACCHI DEL DOTTOR ALESSANDRO SALVIO, Naples, 1723, bd in the original limp vellum, from the Whatman Collection with his bookplate and signature, foxing and light water stains, sound binding, \$175.00 L/N 385
5. IL GIUOCO DEGLI SCACCHI, M. Colombo, Padova, 1832, p, front cover loose, L/N 585, very good, \$25.00
6. ESSAI SUR LE JEU DES ECHECS, Stamma, La Haye, 1741, L/N,422, bd in full calf, front cover cracked at hinge but can be safely opened, raised bands and gilt lettering, complete with the 2 fold-out sheets, nice, \$150.00
7. LE JEU DES ESCHETS, Greco, Paris, Chez Denis Mouchet, 1714, with the 2-p "Privilege du Roy", full leather with raised bands, lower edge of spine and corners of covers worn, gilt letters, a nice copy, \$115.00.
8. GIANUTIO. LIBRO NEL QUALE SI TRATTA DELLA MANIERA DI GIUDICAR' A SCACCHI, CON ALCUNI SOTTILISSIMI PARTITI, Turin, 1597, h, russia gilt, rebaked, sl. waterstained, front cover detached, a very fine looking copy, from the Rimington-Wilson Collection, this was George Walker's copy, has the bookplate of Jos. Parkinson; bd. in at the end is an early 19th century MS transcript of the introduction in a beautifully fine hand, \$500.00 (signed by George Walker).
9. STUDIES OF CHESS: CONTAINING CAISSA, A POEM, BY SIR WILLIAM JONES, A SYSTEMATIC INTRODUCTION TO THE GAME; AND THE WHOLE ANALYSIS OF CHESS, BY MR. A.D. PHILIDOR, London, 1808, in 2 vols, bd in 3/4 leather and plain boards, slight cracking of hinges on the upper right hand corners of both vols., contents very clean throughout, gilt lettering, \$60.00 the set.
10. CHESS ANALYSED: OR INSTRUCTIONS BY WHICH A PERFECT KNOWLEDGE OF THIS NOBLE GAME MAY IN A SHORT TIME BE ACQUIRED, A.D. PHILIDOR, 3rd ed, London, 1773, printed for J. Nourse & P. Vaillant, Victorian rebinding, h, bd in 3/4 leather and marbled boards, some chipping of leather and the upper right portion of pages are sl. ink stained, but not affecting text, \$60.00.
11. IL GIUOCO INCOMPARIBILE DEGLI SCACCHI, Ponziani, Rome, 1829, h., bd with soft calf spine and marbled boards, contents excellent and clean, with the nice chess bookplate of Reginald G. Hennessey, \$50.00.
12. LIBRO DA IMPARAREA A GIOCARE A SCACCHI CON BELLISSIMI PARTITI, & MOLTE SUTTILITA, Venice, 1564, h, in original limp vellum, from the J.W. Rimington-Wilson Collection, inscribed "G. Walker copy from his chess Library", somewhat soiled and has 4 worm holes in the title page causing loss of the letters "Chi" in the word Scacchi and the letters "tit" in the word partiti; this is van der Linde's 8th edition, MS note on the fly leaf says "the scarcest edition", \$850.00.
13. TRATTATO DELL INVENTIONE ET ARTE LIBERALE DEL GIOCO DI SCACCHI DEL DOTTOR ALESSANDRO SALVIO, Napoli, 1634, h, very nicely rebound (probably Victorian era) with calf spine and marbled boards, very nice binding, pages stained sl (water stains), last four pages very neatly repaired with sl. loss of text on last sheet at top corner. The second volume (bd separately) is IL PUTTINO AL TRAMENTE DETTO, IL CAVALIERO ERRANTE DEL SALVIO, Napoli, 1634, h. bd uniformly with the other vol., binding excellent too, 4 pages neatly repaired with no loss of text, \$400.00 the set.
14. A TREATISE ON THE GAME OF CHESS, W. Lewis, London, 1822, h, bd in 3/4 morocco, raised bands, gilt letters, a very nice copy, \$44.00.
15. IL GIUOCO DE GLI SCACCHI DI RUI LOPEZ, SPAGNUOLO, Venice, 1584, the first

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16. THE CHESS EUCLID, KLING, LONDON, 1849, h, very nice copy, from the Rimington-Wilson Collection, line inscription by R.W. on flyleaf: "G. Walker's copy, with autograph notes and corrections, from his chess library-his subscription copy". Walker's notes on many of the diagrams, \$70.00.
17. A TREATISE ON THE GAME OF CHESS, J.H. Sarratt, London, 1822, bd in 3/4 leather with marbled paper boards, beautiful gilt lettering and design on spine, bookplate of Thomas Adam, a very fine copy, \$55.00.
18. Same as #17, but in the original plain boards with paper label on spine, hinges cracked but still attached; pages are untrimmed, \$35.00.
19. NOUVEAU TRAITE DU JEU DES ECHECS, L.C. De La Bourdonnais, Paris, 1833, h, bd in soft calf and marbled boards. Large chip of leather missing from upper right hand corner of front cover. Some foxing, but a nice clean copy, \$37.50.
20. PRAKTISCHE ANWEISUNG ZUM SCHACHSPIEL, A.D. Philidor, Gotha, 1779, bd in 3/4 calf and boards with raised bands and gilt lettering. Contains the engraved frontispiece; a nice clean copy, \$65.00. Has the Hennessey chess bookplate.
21. BECOEFFENDE ONDERWYZING IN HET SCHAAKSPEL, A.D. Philidor, the first Dutch editios, circa 1780, bd in 3/4 leather and boards, some chipping of the leather and worn corners; a nice clean copy. Has the Niemeijer and Hennessey bookplates, \$80.00.
22. A TREATISE ON THE GAME OF CHESS, J.H. Sarratt, Professor of Chess, London, 1808, 2 vols. bd in 3/4 leather and boards, covers detached in both vols, contents exceptionally clean and well preserved, \$55.00.
23. A TREATISE ON THE GAME OF CHESS, John Cochrane, London, 1822, with nice engraved frontispiece, from the Rimington-Wilson Collection, bd. in 3/4 leather with raised bands and gilt lettering, a truly fine copy, \$100.00.
24. AN EASY INTRODUCTION TO THE GAME OF CHESS, no author given, Philadelphia, M. Carey & Son, 1817, bd in the original paper boards with paper label on spine, both covers detached, pages untrimmed on all edges as originally issued, except for the detached covers, a very nice copy, \$35.00.
25. THE ELEMENTS OF CHESS: A TREATISE COMBINING THEORY WITH PRACTICE, AND COMPRISING THE WHOLE OF PHILIDOR'S GAMES, (W. Blagrove), Boston, 1805, h, bd in full calf with original front cover missing, foxing on most pages, lower section of frontispiece cut off (engraving not affected); this is an extremely rare book and is of interest because o it is the first original book on chess printed in the United States. See Hagedorn, p. 51 (BENJAMIN FRANKLIN & CHESS IN EARLY AMERICA, U. OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS, 1958, h, mint, \$4.50). It is also interesting because the author advocates a renaming of the pieces with King becomming Governor, Queen becomming General, Pawns Pioneers, etc., pages are nice and crisp, \$300.00.
26. A HISTORY OF CHESS, H.J.R. Murray, h, very good, Oxford, 1913, the first edition, 900p, the great classic on the game's history, this copy is the variant with the gilt-stamped imprint of one of the Lewis Chessmen on the front cover, \$70.00.
27. LIBRO DA IMPARARE GIOCARE A SCACHI, Damiano Portuguese, (Rome, 1518), FACSIMILE, Nieuwkoop, 1967, h, mint, a beautiful reproduction with fine paper and binding, gilt lettering, \$20.00.
28. LONDON 1899, London, New York, Bombay, 1900, h, the original edition, only 500 copies were printed, very good, pages uncut in about 3/4 of the signatures, \$30.00.
29. LONDON, 1883, J.I. Minchin, h, first edition, very good except for 1/2 inch snipped off top of spine, gilt lettering, 371 p., \$40.00; Also available is the (abridged) BCM paperback reprint of the second edition (308p), mint, \$8.00
30. MORPHY'S GAMES OF CHESS, London, 1909, h, binding worn, has the very nice frontispiece engraving of Morphy, J. Lowenthal, 486p, one page torn and neatly repaired, some pencil marks on pages, \$25.00.
31. ANALISIS DEL JUEGO DE AJEDREZ, A.D. Filidor, traduccion de D.C. De Algarra, Paris, 1870, h, good, calf spine and mottled paper covers, binding worn at corners, \$15.00.

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33. ANALYSIS OF THE GAME OF CHESS, Philidor, London, 1790, 2 vols bd together, this is the third edition, nicely rebound (with old marbled boards retained), pages sl. foxed, signed on verso of table of contents by C. Sanson in his flowery hand, \$60.00.
34. AMERICAN CHESS NUTS, Cook, Henry, & Gilberg, New York, 1868, 627p, h, bd in 3/4 leather, decorative gilt spine, corners sl. worn, contents excellent, this has an interesting 10-p introduction by Cook on American chess problems, and about 2400 problems plus about 30 endgame studies, a nice copy, \$50.00.
35. CHESS SHORT-HAND, by an Amateur, London, 1843, scarce, p, 16 p, corners chipped (text not affected), describes a new chess notation system, \$20.00.
36. CHESS EXEMPLIFIED, W.J. Greenwell, Leeds, (1890), h, covers worn, foxing on most pages, 142p, 132 games with notes from 1826-1890, with some clippings paged in, \$10.00.
37. THE GAMES OF THE MATCH AT CHESS PLAYED BY THE LONDON AND THE EDINBURGH CHESS CLUBS BETWEEN THE YEARS 1824 and 1828, W. Lewis, London, 1828, h, front cover loose, spine strip gone, \$30.00.
38. INTRODUCTION AL NOBLE JUEGO DE AJEDREZ, 2nd part, Bilbao, 1888, p, 158p, \$4.50.
39. THE AMERICAN CHESS CODE, revised ed., N.Y., 1897, 64p, with stamp of the New Orleans Chess, Checkers and Whist Club (now defunct), h, covers sl. marked \$6.00.

.....

41 Fifth Avenue,
Narromine.
21st April, 1975.

Dear Sir,

I enclose with this roneod letter a list of chess books that have been offered to me by Mr. Dale A. Brandreth, Research Chemist and Chess Book Collector of P.O. Box 6144, Stanton, Delaware, 19804, U.S.A.

Since last September I have purchased \$1,500 worth of books from him and have had no trouble receiving these books insured by surface mail. These latest lists are beyond my resources excepting for a few of the smaller items, but I send them to you mainly because I believe books of this quality apart from the investment reason only, (books I have purchased in 1970 are worth now 3 times what I paid for them), are important for Australia's heritage. There is a shortage of books of this calibre in Australia and this is the reason for the letter.

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If you are interested in any book on these lists send an airmail letter to Mr. Brandreth at the above address and try to reserve it for yourself. He will confirm your reservation by air mail and it is then necessary for you to send a bank draft for the book's.

I hope between all chess interested persons that some of these books can come to Australia.

It is essential not to delay with the reply to America as the lists have been sent to other collectors all over the world by Mr. Brandreth. Prices are in U.S. dollars, i.e. 3/4 of Aust. dollar approx.

Yours faithfully,

R. Meadley

R. Meadley
Chess Problem Editor

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PART I - EARLY CHESS LITERATURE

"the great personality with whom the theory of the Openings of the modern chess commences"--v.d. Lasa

1. LOPEZ DE SIGURA, RUY. Libro De La Invencion Liberal Y Arte del juego del Axedrez, muy vtil y prouechosa: assi para los que de nueuo quisieren deprender a jugarlo, como para los que lo saben jugar. Small 4to, 1/4th 19th century calf & marbled boards, 8 unnumbered + 150 numbered leaves. En Alcala en casa de Andres de Angulo, 1561. First edition. v.d. Linde I, pp. 347-348; L/N 363; Murray, A History of Chess, pp. 813-818. Edges of binding are perhaps just a trifle rubbed, but a fine copy of one of the most important books in the entire history of chess. EXCEEDINGLY RARE. \$ 10,000.00
2. DAMIANO. Libro Da Imparare A Giocar a Scachi, con bellissimi Partiti, & molte Suttilita. Revisto, Et Corretto, con summa diligentia, da molti famosissimi Giocatori. In Lingua Spagnola, & Taliana, nuouamente Stampato. 12mo, original limp vellum, blank leaf+ 62 leaves + final blank leaf. In Venetia, Appresso Steffano Zazzara, 1564. EIGHTH, DATED EDITION. v.d. Linde I, page 342. Not in L/N Catalogue. Manuscript note on verso of front blank states: "George Walker's Copy/ From his Chess Library." Also, this is a copy from the famous RIMINGTON-WILSON COLLECTION (see Quaritch Catalogue No. 428(1929), item # 393). A manuscript note on the front pastedown states this to be "The Scarcest edition," though, while this is certainly a rare book, the rarest editions are really the virtually unobtainable first edition(1512), and the very rare second and third undated editions(i.e. 5 & 6th editions). Title-page(& upper portions of first 10 leaves) lightly stained, small wormhole on title-page obliterating perhaps 6 letters on 3rd & 4th lines of title, upper portions of many other leaves lightly stained, especially leaves nos. 49-62(though all leaves are still crisp & sound). Despite the staining, a sound, attractive copy of this rare work, illustrated throughout with charming wood-engraved chess diagrams. \$ 1,250.00
3. HYDE, THOMAS. De Ludis Orientalibus Libri duo... viz. I, Historia Shahiludii Latine: deinde 2, Historia Shahiludii Heb. Lat. per tres Judeos. Liber posterior continet Historiam Reliquorum Ludorum Orientis. Thick 12mo, contemp. vellum(old, handwritten title on spine), collates: 36 leaves + 184pp.+ 2 leaves + 71pp.+ 8 leaves + 278pp.+ 3 engraved folding plates. Oxonii, E Theatro Sheldoniano, 1694. v.d. Linde I, pp. 88-89; L/N 173; "aucta" 491; Murray, A History of Chess, page 841. A GREAT WORK, which according to Murray is "the first really scientific contribution to the history of chess." First few leaves lightly browned, occasional very light browning(as always), but A CRISP, SOLID, REMARKABLY WELL-PRESERVED COPY OF THIS HANDSOMELY PRINTED BOOK. This copy has been "extra-illustrated"(as it were) by a former owner with the inclusion of the large, handsome engraved frontispiece-portrait of Hyde from Syntagma Dissertationum(Vol. I, 1767), folded and tipped-in on the front pastedown. \$ 900.00
4. ACTIUS, THOMAS. De Ludo Scacchorum In Legali Methodo Tractatus. Small 4to, original limp vellum, blank leaf + 4 unnumbered leaves + 108 leaves + 18 unnumbered leaves + final blank leaf(with a nice portrait of author on recto of 3rd unnumbered leaf at beginning). Pisauri: Apud Hieronymum Concordiam, 1583. v.d. Linde II, p. 421; L/N 4137. Portion of bottom margin of title-page very neatly restored(no text effected), some extremely faint staining to perhaps 30 leaves, but overall a crisp, very sound and attractive copy in its original binding. \$ 450.00

No.4 Fred Wilson- front page only

LIST 97-B: CHESS

John C. Rather * P.O. Box 273 * Kensington, MD 20895-0273 * 301-942-0515

e-mail: ratherjc@pipeline.com

PROBLEMS

1. **Aarsskrift for Dansk Skakproblem Klub, 1938.** Copenhagen. L/N 5928. 23 p. port. wrps. (lightly soiled). Vincent Eaton's (hereafter VLE) copy, signed by him and with his marginalia. 52 problems. Scarce. 20.00
2. Alexandre, A. **Collection des plus beaux problèmes d'échecs...** Paris, 1846. viii, 344, 68 p. 28 cm. L/N 2382. Bd. with original wrps., including those for English ed. (cf. Betts 32-1); uncut. 2,020 positions. A landmark book. 175.00
3. **American chess problemist.** Milwaukee. Betts 42-14; L/N 6432. v. 1-3, no. 1. June 1949-July 1951. No more published. 11 issues, first 10 have 8 p., last in small format has 20 p. 50.00
4. **A tribute to G.F. Anderson;** compiled by G.W. Chandler [et al.]. [s.l.], British Chess Problem Society, [1974]. 18 p. port. self-cover. Slight water damage at tops of pages. 112 of his problems. 15.00
5. Authier, G. **L'anti-dual;** ou? quand? comment? pourquoi? [Melle, 1953]. 149 p. L/N 2971. wrps. Backstrip repaired; yellowed. 166 problems. 27.50
6. Babson, J.N. **Pleasant hours at the chessboard.** Montreal, 1892. [16] p. Betts 33-4; L/N 2513. Lacks wrps. (title was on cover). 15 problems (no solutions). A prospectus for a book never completed. Scarce. 40.00
7. Barth, G.A. **Staten Island chess nuts.** [2d ed.]. Staten Island, NY, 1903. [121] p. port. 18 cm. Betts 33-7; L/N 2519. wrps. Old leather, worn; backstrip missing; inscribed by the author. 100 problems. 37.50
8. **Chess problems by the late C.M. Baxter.** Dundee, 1883. 202 p. front. (mounted photographic port.). Betts 33-7a; L/N 2456. Covers a bit worn, soiled; lightly yellowed. 147 problems + 27 by his cousin who edited the book. Extremely scarce. 100.00
9. Bennecke, H. **Selection of problems entered in the First International Problem Tournament of "Bahn Frei!"** New York, 1891. 87 p. 15 cm. Betts 32-19; L/N 2510. wrps. (damaged, laid in). Rarer issue: folio nos. on p. 58 & 63 out of alignment. (VLE note on t.p.). 71 problems. 50.00
10. **Dr. Birgfeld, 1887/1937;** zu seinem 50. Geburtstage von seinen Problemfreunden herausgegeben. [s.l.], 1937. 145-166 p. port. self-cover. Some VLE notes. 141 problems. 15.00
11. Blumenthal, O. **Schachminiaturen;** eine Problemsammlung. Neue Folge. Leipzig, 1903. vi, 458 p. L/N 2551. Covers worn. 400 problems. 50.00
12. Boros, S. **100 válogatott feladványa.** Kecskemét, [1937]. L/N 2791. wrps. VLE's copy with his informative marginalia. 25.00
13. Bowater, P. **A few chess problems.** San Marino, 1938. 35 p. 14 cm. Betts 33-10; L/N 2719. 35 of his problems. 12.50
14. British Chess Federation. **Awards in problem tourneys.** no. [1]-136, 1929/1930-1973/1974. Betts 32-29; L/N 2716. 2 v. A handsome set with no. 137-142, 1974/1975-1978/79 and six two-page reprints from The tablet laid in v. 2. 80.00
15. [Brown, J.]. **Chess strategy;** a collection of the most beautiful chess problems composed by "J.B. of Bridport." London, 1865. vi, 118 p. Betts 33-11; L/N 2409. Minor cover wear; yellowed. Mark correcting diagram error on p. 9. 174 problems. 65.00
16. [Brownson's] **Chess journal;** games and problems with solutions. Dubuque, IA. no. 95-106, Jan.-Dec. 1887. Betts 7-14; L/N 6392. Some light foxing o/w a nice copy. 60.00
17. **Erich Brunner;** ein Künstler und Deuter des Schachproblems; von H. Kluver. Berlin, [1958]. 200 p. port. 300 problems. Covers slightly soiled. Has bookplate of Feenstra-Kuiper. 22.50
18. Bull, C.A.L. **Sonatas in chess;** 136 three-move problems; assembled and often annotated by D.G. McIntyre; with an introduction by Alain White. [Cape Town, 1960]. 159 p. Betts 38-9. Covers slightly rubbed. Scarce. 45.00
19. **Calculorum gemmae from the Detroit Free Press;** [compiled by O.A. Brownson]. [Rockdale, IA, 1887]. [114] p. Betts 32-14. 113 problems. A nice copy of a scarce item. 70.00
20. Cheney, G.N. **110 skákdæmi eptir George Nelson Cheney;** [edited by D.W. Fiske]. Reykjavik, 1901. 24 postcards (10x15 cm.) in a printed envelope. L/N 2545. Lacks cards 1 and 2 for which xerox copies are supplied. Extremely scarce. With small clipping of two other problems by Cheney. 60.00
21. Chicco, A. **Il problema di scacchi.** Firenze, [1943]. 75 p. 18 cm. L/N 2860. wrps. Backstrip damaged at ends. 155 problems. Scarce. 27.50
22. **Compositie-wedstrijd, oud-jong, 1941.** [Eindhoven, 1941]. 28 p. L/N 2844. wrps. (discolored at one edge). Results of a match(!) between old and young Dutch composers with 42 problems from the competition plus 6 others. Scarce. 20.00

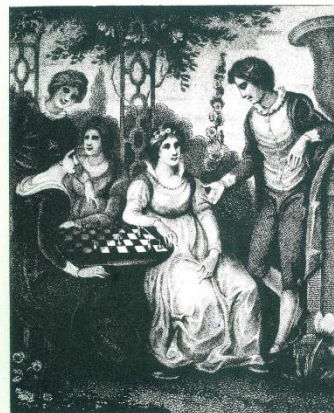
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References

Betts = Betts, D.A. Chess: an annotated bibliography of works published in the English language, 1850-1968.

White = Cleveland Public Library, John G. White Department, Catalog of The Chess Collection.

Hagedorn = Hagedorn, Ralph K. Benjamin Franklin and Chess in Early America.

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1. (By An Amateur). THE CHESS HANDBOOK: Teaching the Rudiments of the Game, and giving an Analysis of all the Recognized Openings. Exemplified by appropriate games actually played by Morphy, Harrwitz, Anderssen, Staunton....and many others. Philadelphia: Butler & Co., 1859.
256pp., cont. cloth, faded and rubbed, tips of backstrip frayed, front hinge weak, but a solid copy.
Hagedorn, 50. \$50.00
2. Alekhine, Alexander, (1892-1946). MY BEST GAMES OF CHESS, 1924-1937. London: Bell & Sons, 1939.
Portrait, (5) 285pp., 8vo, cloth.
Betts, 29-13. \$15.00
3. Alexandre, (Aaron), (1766-1850). COLLECTION des plus beaux Problemes D'Echecs au nombre de plus de deux mille....Paris: Dufour et Cie, 1846.
viii, 340, 68pp., 4to, cloth, occasional light spotting, a good solid copy.
White, I, p. 14. \$95.00
4. Allen, George, (1808-1876). THE LIFE OF PHILIDOR, Musician and Chess-Player. Philadelphia: Butler & Co., 1863.
x, 156pp., 8vo, recent cloth back and boards, library stamps. Very good.
Hagedorn, p. 69. \$35.00
5. Allgaier, Johann, (1763-1823). NEUE THEORETISCH-PRACTISCHE UNWEISUNG ZUM SCHACHSPIELE. In fünf Tabellen Bearbeitet. Mit einem Kupfer und Sechs Tafeln. Wien: Rotzl und Kaulfuss, 1811.
Diagram, title, (2), 133pp., (2), 6 large folding plates at the end, 8vo, original grey paper wrappers.
White, I, p. 15. \$125.00
6. Bachman, Ludwig, (1856-1937). SCHACHMEISTER STEINITZ. Ein Lebensbild des ersten Weltenschachmeisters dargestellt seiner Partien. Ansbach: Brugel & Sohn, 1910-1921.
4 vols. xiv, 418pp; iv, 232pp., (1); (8), 482pp; xviii, 391pp., 8vo, original printed boards, various fading and rubbing on the covers; vol. 4 has a small piece of the top of backstrip torn off and hinges separated between pages 16 and 17. Vol. 3 has front and back hinges weak. Contents solid and clean.
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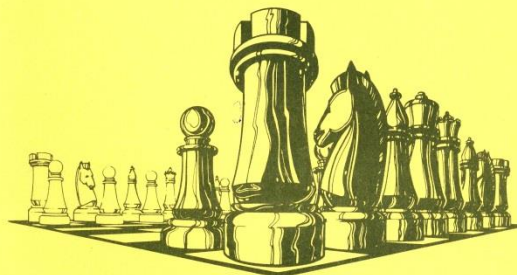
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No. 15-16

Double Number
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Murray: Murray EJR A History of Chess. Oxford 1913
vd Linde: van der Linde A Das Beste Jarztausend der Schachliteratur (1850-1880). Berlin 1881 or Yorklyn, Delaware 1979 (Gaines limited ed repr)
Walker: Walker G The Art of Chess-Play. London 1846 4th ed Appendix: Bibliographical Catalogue (3rd ed also has this appendix)

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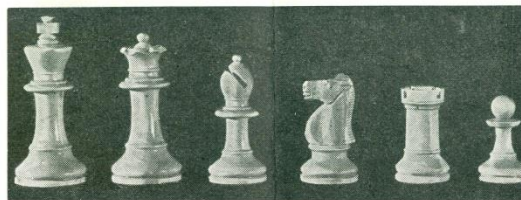
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