



# White Knight Review

Chess E-Magazine

Interactive E-Magazine

Volume 2 • Issue 1

January/February 2011

## CHESS THEMES IN MUSIC

**Computers and Chess**

**Turk, Ajeeb, Mephisto:-the great Chess Automaton**

**Women and Chess**

*The Jerome Gambit*

**Commander in Chess** - Presidents Who Played Chess

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# My Move

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## editorial -Jerry Wall



I was recently sitting in the airport in Puerto Rico waiting on my flight when I noticed a nice family sitting by and saw that the father and son had a miniature chess board set up and were playing a game of chess to pass the time. I quietly watched until the young boy (perhaps 12) shouted "checkmate" and the father smiled and shook his head. About this time I approached and introduced myself and asked capriciously who the chess master was. The father shrugged and said of his son "He's three for three".

When I told them about the magazine the mother piped up. "Good, maybe you can settle an argument between the two", at which point the father said that his son insists that you can move the king and rook right after each other in a certain move. I laughed a bit and explained to them about castling. The mother asked "Is it true that you can get another queen if your pawn makes it to the end of the board. "Yes" I said and told them about En passant and a few other basic rules of chess.

It was good to see such an interest in chess even when the basic rules weren't quite understood. Even more amusing was seeing the son teaching the father and the mother just as curious about the game.

Chess is not losing interest. It is being played in airports, coffee shops, on chess sets and smart phones and e-book readers as well as on computers and online.

The purpose of this magazine is not just to educate and train and show the strategic side of chess, but to also make chess fun and interesting as well.

Chess is a great pastime for young and old and perhaps another great way to bring a family together even if it's for a short time in an airport.

Jerry Wall  
Editor

*Let us know what you think of the magazine. Perhaps you have some suggestions for future articles or have other comments.*

*Let us know and drop us a line at:  
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## History

# Turk, Ajeeb, Mephisto- the great Chess Automaton

By Bill Wall

Chess automatons are machines that play or appear to play chess. The first chess automaton was called the Turk. It was constructed and unveiled in 1769 by Wolfgang von Kempelen (1734-1804). He built a maple wood cabinet mounted on wheels. Behind it was a life-sized model of a human head and torso dressed in Turkish robes and a turban. Its left arm held a long Turkish smoking pipe while at rest, while his right arm lay on the top of a large cabinet. Von Kempelen called the mannequin "the Turk." In 1770 the Turk was exhibited in Vienna (Schoenbrunn Palace) at the court of Maria Theresa (1717-1780), the Empress of Austria. The illusion took the form of a man in Turkish costume seated at a desk with a chess board in front of him. Three doors and panels were opened up (but not all at the same time) to show no one was concealed in the desk. Inside were mechanical wheels and pulleys that made it look like the inside of a clock. A drawer was opened to reveal a red and white ivory chess set. The Turk was then wound up and set in operation to play chess. Against all comers, it would play chess with its left hand and win 99% of the time.

The first person to play the Turk was Count Ludwid von Cobenzl, an Austrian courtier at the palace. He was quickly defeated, along with other players that day. The Turk usually won its game in 30



**The Turk Chess Automaton Hoax**

minutes or less.

The Turk went on tour all across Europe over many years and interest in the chess automaton grew across Europe. Kempelen, however, became interested in other projects (steam engines and machines that replicated human speech) and started avoiding exhibiting the Turk. He would make excuses for not demonstrating the Turk to prospective challengers, saying that the automaton was under repair.

In 1780, Kempelen dismantled the Turk entirely, but in 1781 he was ordered by Emperor Joseph II (1741-1790) to reconstruct the Turk and deliver it to Vienna for a state visit by the Grand Duke Paul of Russia and his wife. The duke

liked it so much, he suggested a tour of Europe for the Turk.

In April 1783, the Turk began its European tour at Versailles, then in Paris in May. There, it was displayed to the public and played a variety of opponents. The Turk then played several games at the famous Café de la Regence as well as at the Academie des Sciences, where it played the strongest chess player of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Francois-Andre Philidor. Philidor won its match from the Turk, and Philidor's son commented that his father called the match one of the hardest games he had ever played.

In June 1783, Benjamin Franklin, who was serving as ambassador to France from the United States, played the Turk and

lost when it was exhibited in Paris.

Following the tour in France, Kempelen travelled to London and exhibited the Turk daily for five shillings. After a year in London, Kempelen travelled across the European continent, stopping in various cities on his way to Leipzig, then to Dresden, then to Amsterdam. Kempelen was then invited to the Sanssouci palace in Potsdam to demonstrate the Turk to Frederick the Great, King of Prussia.

In March, 1804, von Kempelen died and the Turk remained unexhibited for several years. In 1808, Johann Maelzel (1772-1838) bought the Turk from Kempelen's son for 10,000 francs. Maelzel was a musician (he patented the metronome) and added a voice box, allowing the automaton to say "Echec!" (French for check) during games. In 1809, the Turk defeated Napoleon Bonaparte at Schoenbrunn Palace during the Wagram campaign. Before the game, the Turk (Johan Allgaier being the hidden operator) saluted Napoleon prior to the start of the match. The Turk was supposed to have White, but Napoleon wanted to make the first move, which Maelzel allowed. During the game, Napoleon tried to make an illegal move, but the Turk returned the piece to its original square. During the game, Napoleon continued to make illegal moves until the Turk finally swept his arm across the chess board, knocking all the pieces off the board. Napoleon was reportedly amused, and played a second game before losing in 19 moves.

In 1811, Maelzel went to Milan for a performance with Bonaparte's stepson, Eugene de Beauharnais, the Prince of Venice and Viceroy of Italy. Beauharnais later purchased the Turk for 30,000 francs simply

to learn how it operated (hidden operators). Maelzel used some of the money he was paid to help Beethoven compose music.

In 1815, Maelzel bought the Turk back from Napoleon's stepson, but was soon in debt and

until the 1820s by the Londoner Robert Willis. In 1821, he wrote a book called *An Attempt to Analyse the Automaton Chess Player*. It was full of diagrams and pictures on how an operator could be hidden inside the automaton.

Maelzel returned to America in 1825 and exhibited the Turk in New York in 1826. Maelzel then did exhibits in Boston and Philadelphia.

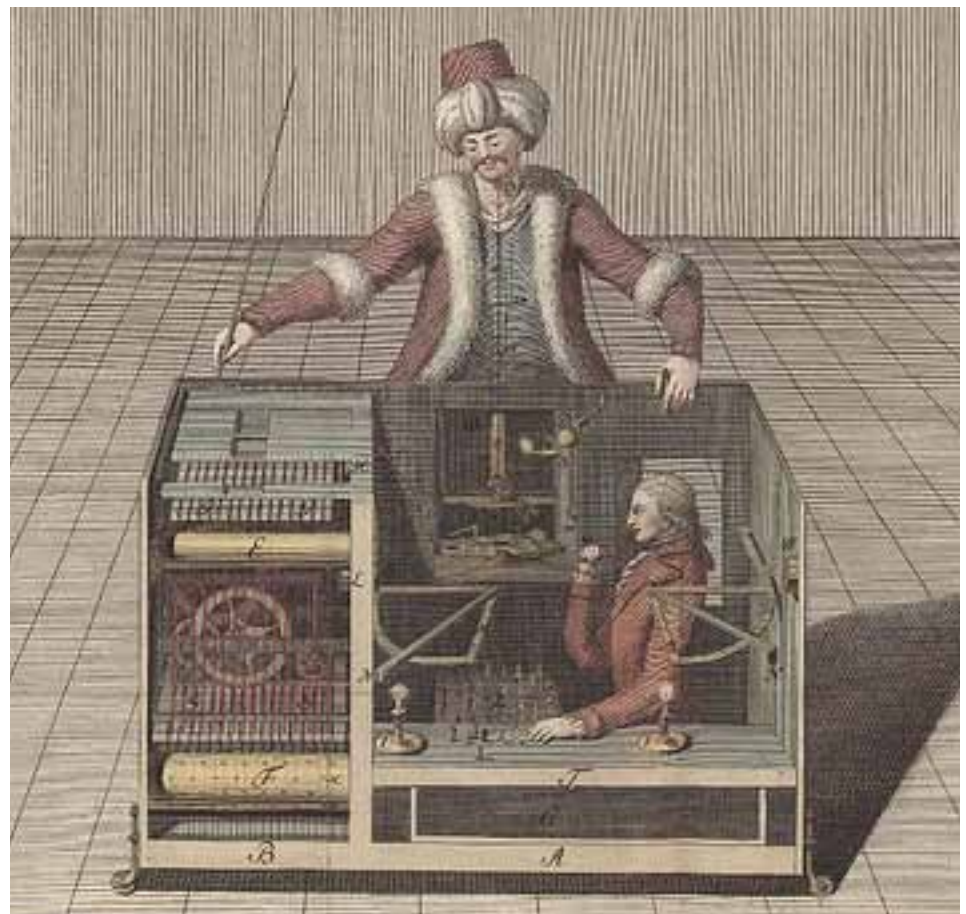
The Turk became so popular in Philadelphia that the first chess club in America, the Franklin Chess Club, was formed in Philadelphia due to the Turk. One of the Turk's opponents was Charles Carroll, one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1835, the Turk was on display in Richmond, Virginia and Edgar Allan Poe saw it and took an

*"Tis a deception! granted, but such a one  
as does honour to human nature;  
a deception more beautiful, more surprising,  
more astonishing, than any to be met with in the  
different accounts of mathematical recreations."  
[Karl Gottlieb von Windisch 1784]*

was sued by Beauharnais for his failure to pay off the installments of 30,000 francs which Maelzel owed back to Beauharnais. He fled to America to escape his debts and lawsuits. Maelzel then traveled to Britain and displayed the Turk for 5 shillings.

Although many people suspected a hidden operator inside the Turk, the hoax was not revealed









*By Bill Wall*

- **In 1945** Alan Turing (1912-1954) used chess-playing as an example of what a computer could do. Turing himself was a weak chess player.
- **In 1946** Alan Turing made his first reference to machine intelligence in connection with chess-playing.
- **In 1947**, Alan Turing specified the first chess program for chess.
- **In 1948** the UNIVAC computer was advertised as the strongest computer in the world. So strong, that it could play chess and gin rummy so perfectly that no human opponent could beat it.
- **In 1948** Turing challenged Donald Michie (1923-2007) to see who could first write a simple chess-playing algorithm.
- **On March, 9, 1949** Claude Shannon (1916-2001) described how to program a computer and a Ferranti digital machine was programmed to solve mates in two moves. He proposed basic strategies for restricting the number of possibilities to be considered in a game of chess. Shannon was an avid chess player. He first proposed his idea of programming a computer for chess at the National Institute for Radio Engineers (IRE) Convention in New York.
- **In 1950**, Alan Turing wrote the first computer chess program. The same year he proposed the Turing Test that in time, a computer could be programmed (such as playing chess) to acquire abilities rivaling human intelligence. If a hu-

man did not see the other human or computer during an imitation game such as chess, he/she would not know the difference between the human and the computer.

- **In 1950** Shannon devised a chess playing program that appeared in the paper "Programming a computer for playing chess" published in Philosophical Magazine, Series 7, Vol. 41 (No. 314, March 1950). This was the first article on computer chess. Shannon published two types of search strategies for computers, which he labeled "Type A" and "Type B." Type A programs use the "brute force" approach, examining every possible position for a fixed number of moves. Type B programs employ a quiescence or selective search, only looking at a few good moves for each position.



- **In November 1951**, Dr. Dietrich Prinz (1903- ?) wrote the original chess playing program for the Manchester Ferranti computer. The program could solve simple mates in two moves and could examine every possible move until a solution was found. It took about 15 minutes to solve a mate in two moves.
- **In 1952** Alick Glennie (1925-2003), who wrote the first computer compiler, defeated Alan Turing's chess program, Turbo-Champ. He was the first person to

beat a computer program at chess. Turing never finished his chess-playing program.

- **In 1953** Turing included an example of his chess program in action in chapter 25 (Digital Computers Applied to Games) of the book *Faster than Thought* by B. Bowden.

- **By 1956** experiments on a Univac MANIAC I computer (11,000 operations a second) at Los Alamos, New Mexico, using a 6x6 chessboard, was playing chess.

This was the first documented account of a running chess program. It used a chess set without bishops. It took 12 minutes to search 4 moves deep. Adding the two bishops would have taken 3 hours to search 4 moves deep. MANIAC I had a memory of 600 words, storage of 80K, 11KHz speed, and had 2,400 vacuum tubes. The team that programmed MANIAC was led by Stan Ulam (1909-1984). MANIAC was used to design nuclear bombs and Ulam invented nuclear pulse propulsion and co-designed the first H-bomb with Dr. Edward Teller.

- **In 1957** a chess program was written by Alex Bernstein at MIT for an IBM 704. It could do 42,000 instructions per second and had a memory of 70 K. This was the first full-fledged game of chess by a computer. It did a 4-ply search in 8 minutes. Bernstein was assisted by Arthur Bisguier, who became an IBM employee and a



## Computers & Chess (cont)

grandmaster in 1957. International Master Edward Lasker played the program, winning with ease. He commented that the program played a 'plausible amateur game.'

- **In 1957** Herbert Simon said that within 10 years, a digital computer would be the world's chess champion.
- **In 1958** the alpha-beta pruning algorithm for chess was discovered by three scientists at Carnegie-Mellon (Allen Newell, John Shaw, and Herbert Simon). Here is how it works. A computer evaluates a move and starts working on its second move. As soon as a single line shows that it will return a lower value than the first move, it can terminate the search. You could now chop off large parts of the search tree without affecting the final results.
- **In 1958**, a chess program (NSS) beat a human player for the first time. The human player was a secretary who was taught how to play chess one hour before her game with the computer. The computer program was played on an IBM 704. The computer displayed a level of chess-playing expertise greater than an adult human could gain from one hour of chess instruction.
- **In 1959** some of the first chess computer programmers predicted that a chess computer would be world chess champion before 1970.
- **In 1959**, freshman Alan Kotok (1942-2006), Elwyn Berlekamp, Michael Lieberman, Charles Nissen, and Robert Wagner started working on a chess-playing computer program while students of Professor John McCarthy (1927-) at MIT. They started with Bernstein's program, then added alpha-beta pruning to minimax at McCarthy's suggestion to improve the plausible move generator. They wrote the program in Fortran, and a single move took about 20 minutes to complete. Their program ran on an IBM 7090 mainframe

computer.

- **In 1962** the first MIT chess program was written. It was the first chess program that played regular chess credibly. It was written by Alan Kotok for his B.S. thesis project, assisted by John McCarthy of Stanford. The program ran on an IBM 7090, looking at 1100 positions per second.
- **In 1963** world chess champion Botvinnik predicted that a Russian chess playing program would eventually defeat the World Champion.
- **In 1965** the Soviets designed a chess program developed at the Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics (ITEP) in Moscow. ITEP's programming team was led by Georgi Adelson-Velskiy.
- **On November 22, 1966** a USSR chess program began a correspondence match with the Kotok-McCarthy MIT chess program. The match lasted 9 months and was won by the Soviet computer, with 3 wins and 1 loss.
- **In 1966** -The first chess computer to play in a tournament was MAC HACK VI (DEC PDP-6) written at MIT in assembly language (MIDAS) by Richard Greenblatt. The computer entered the 1966 Massachusetts Amateur championship, scoring 1 draw and 4 losses for a USCF rating of 1243.
- **In the spring of 1967**, MacH-ACK VI became the first program to beat a human (1510 USCF rating), at the Massachusetts State Championship. By the end of the year, it had played in four chess tournaments. It won 3 games, lost 12, and drew 3. In 1967 MacH-ACK VI was made an honorary member of the US Chess Federation. The MAC HACK program was the first widely distributed



*John McCarthy*

chess program, running on many of the PDP machines. It was also the first to have an opening chess book programmed with it.

- **In 1968** International Master David Levy made a \$3,000 bet that no chess computer would beat him in 10 years. He won his bet. The original bet was with John McCarthy, a distinguished researcher in Artificial Intelligence at Stanford. The bet was made at the 1968 Machine Intelligence Workshop in Edinburgh University.

■ **In 1970** the first all-computer championship was held in New York and won by CHESS 3.0 (CDC 6400), a program written by Slate, Atkin and Gorlen at Northwestern University. Six programs had entered the first Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) North American Computer Championships. The event was organized by Monty Newborn. The other programs were DALY CP, J Brit, COKO III, SCHACH, and the Marsland CP.

- **In 1971** the Institute of Control Science, Moscow, created KAISSA using a British computer to play chess.
- **In 1971** Ken Thompson wrote his first chess-playing program.
- **In 1971** CHESS 3.5 wins the 2nd ACM computer championship, held in Chicago.
- **In 1972** CHESS 3.6 wins the 3rd ACM computer championship, held in Boston.
- **In 1973** CHESS 4.0 wins the 4th ACM computer championship, held in Atlanta.
- **In 1974** World Correspondence Champion Hans Berliner wrote his PhD dissertation on "Chess Computers as Problem Solving."
- **In 1974** KAISSA (ICL 4/70) won the first world computer chess championship, held in Stockholm with a perfect 4-0 score. It was programmed by Donskoy and Ar-



## Computers & Chess (cont)

lazarov. 2nd place went to CHESSE 4.0

- **In 1974** RIBBIT wins the 5th ACM computer championship, held in San Diego.
- **In 1975** Grandmaster David Bronstein used the endgame database in KAISSE to win an adjourned game in a tournament in Vilnius.
- **In 1975** CHESSE 4.4 wins the 6th ACM computer championship, held in Minneapolis.
- **In 1976** CHESSE 4.5 won the Class B section of the Paul Masson tournament in Northern California. The performance rating was 1950.
- **In 1976** a computer program was used to make the chess pairings at the chess olympiad in Haifa.
- **In 1976** CHESSE 4.5 wins the 7th ACM computer championship, held in Houston.
- **By 1976** all legal moves of castling were established by a chess computer.
- **In 1977** the first microcomputer chess playing machine, CHESSE CHALLENGER, was created. The International Computer Chess Association (ICCA) was founded by computer chess programmers. It has about 400 members.
- **In 1977** CHESSE 4.5 won the Minnesota Open winning 5 games and losing one. It had a performance rating of 2271. Stenberg (1969) became the first Class A player to lose to a computer.
- **In 1977** SNEAKY PETE was the first chess computer to play in a U.S. Open, held in Columbus, Ohio.
- **In 1977** Michael Stean became the first grandmaster to lose to a computer; it was a blitz game.
- **In 1977**, BELLE was the first computer system to use custom design chips to increase its playing strength. It increased its search speed from 200 positions per sec-

ond to 160,000 positions per second (8 ply). Over 1,700 integrated circuits were used to



*Ken Thompson with Belle*

construct BELLE. The chess computer was built by Ken Thompson. The program was later used to solve endgame problems. The cost of BELLE was \$20,000.

- **In 1977** CHESSE 4.6 wins the 8th ACM computer championship, held in Seattle.
- **In 1977** CHESSE 4.6 won the 2nd world computer championship, held in Toronto.
- **In 1977** the International Computer Chess Association was founded.
- **In 1977** David Levy played his first computer, KAISSE, as part of his bet. He won.
- **In 1978** SARGON won the first tournament for microcomputers, held in San Jose. David Levy collected his 10 year bet by defeating CHESSE 4.7 in Toronto with the score of 3 wins and one draw. The drawn game was the first time a computer drew an international master. Computer chess experts predicted that a computer would be world chess champion in 10 years.
- **In 1978** BELLE wins the 9th ACM computer championship, held in Washington, DC.
- **In 1978** David Levy defeated MacHack in 2 games.
- **In 1979** CHESSE 4.9 wins the 10th ACM computer championship, held in Detroit.
- **In 1980** CHAMPION SENSORY CHALLENGER won the first world microcomputer championship, held in London.
- **In 1980**, Edward Fredkin created the Fredkin Prize for Com-

puter Chess. The award came with \$100,000 for the first program to beat a reigning world chess champion.

- **In 1980** BELLE wins the 11th ACM computer championship, held in Nashville.
- **In 1980** BELLE won the 3rd world computer championship, held in Linz.
- **In 1981** CRAY BLITZ won the Mississippi State Championship with a perfect 5-0 score and a performance rating of 2258. In round 4 it defeated Joe Sentef (2262) to become the first computer to beat a master in tournament play and the first computer to gain a master rating (2258).
- **In 1981** BELLE wins the 12th ACM computer championship, held in Los Angeles.
- **In 1982** BELLE was confiscated by the State Department as it was heading to the Soviet Union to participate in a computer chess tournament. The State Department claimed it was a violation of a technology transfer law to ship a high technology computer to a foreign country. BELLE later played in the U.S. Open speed championship and took 2nd place.
- **By 1982** computer chess companies were topping \$100 million in sales.
- **In 1982** BELLE wins the 13th ACM computer championship, held in Dallas.
- **In 1983**, the first chess microcomputer beat a master in tournament play. BELLE became the first chess computer to attain a master's rating when, in October, 1983, its USCF rating was 2203.
- **In 1983** CRAY BLITZ won the 4th world computer championship, held in New York.
- **In 1984** a microcomputer won a tournament for the first time against mainframes, held in Canada.
- **In 1984** CRAY BLITZ won the

## Computers & Chess (cont)

ACM computer championship in San Francisco.

- **In 1985** HITECH achieved a performance rating of 2530. It was the first computer to have a rating over 2400.
- **In 1985** Kasparov played 15 of the top chess computers in Hamburg, Germany and won every game, with the score of 32-0.
- **In 1985** HITECH won the ACM computer championship in Denver.
- **In 1986** BELLE won the ACM computer championship in Dallas.
- **In 1986** CRAY BLITZ won the 5th world computer championship, held in Cologne.
- **In 1987** the U.S. Amateur Championship became the first national championship to be directed by a computer program.
- **In 1987** CHIPTEST-M won the ACM computer championship in Dallas.
- **In 1988** DEEP THOUGHT and Grandmaster Tony Miles shared first place in the U.S. Open championship. DEEP THOUGHT had a 2745 performance rating.
- **In 1988** HITECH won the Pennsylvania State Chess Championship after defeating International Master Ed Formanek (2485). HITECH defeated Grandmaster Arnold Denker in a match. HITECH became the first chess computer to rated Grandmaster strength.
- **In 1988** Grandmaster Bent Larsen became the first GM to lose to a computer in a major tournament - the American Open.
- **In 1988** DEEP THOUGHT won the ACM championship in Orlando.
- **In November 1988**, DEEP THOUGHT had a rating of 2550.
- **In 1989** DEEP THOUGHT won the 6th world computer champi-

onship in Edmonton, with a 5-0 score. DEEP THOUGHT defeated Grandmaster Robert Byrne in a match game. DEEP THOUGHT can analyze 2 million positions a second. In March 1989, Garry Kasparov defeated Deep Thought in a match by winning 2 games. Deep Thought easily beat International Master David Levy in a match with 4 wins. Deep Thought Developers claimed a computer would be world chess champion in three years.

- **In 1989** the first Computer Chess Olympiad was held in London.
- **In 1989** IBM started working on 'Big Blue' and later Deep Blue.
- **In 1989** HITECH won the ACM championship in Reno.
- **In 1990** World Champion Anatoly Karpov lost to MEPHISTO in a simultaneous exhibition in Munich. MEPHISTO also beat grandmasters Robert Huebner and David Bronstein. MEPHISTO won the German blitz championship and earned an International Master norm by scoring 7-4 in the Dortmund Open.
- **In 1992** Kasparov played Fritz 2 in a 5 minute game match in Cologne, Germany. Kasparov won the match with 6 wins, 1 draw, and 4 losses. This was the first time a program defeated a world champion at speed chess.
- **In March, 1993** GM Judit Polgar lost to Deep Thought in a 30 minute game.
- **In 1994** WCHESSE became the first computer to outperform grandmasters at the Harvard Cup in Boston.
- **In 1994** Kasparov lost to Fritz 3 in Munich in a blitz tournament. The program also defeated Anand, Short, Gelfand, and Kramnik. Grandmaster Robert Huebner refused to play it and lost on forfeit, the first time a GM has forfeited to a computer. Kasparov played a second match with Fritz 3, and won with 4 wins, 2 draws, and no losses.

- **At the 1994** Intel Speed Chess Grand Priz in London, Kasparov lost to Chess Genius 2.95 in a 25 minute game. This eliminated Kasparov from the tournament.
- **In 1995** the 13th World Micro Computer Chess Championship (WMCCC) was held in Paderborn, Germany in October, 1995. It was won by MChess Pro 5.0 (by Marty Hirsch) after a playoff with Chess Genius (by Richard Lang).
- **In 1995** the 8th World Computer Chess Championships were held in May, 1995 in Hong Kong. The event was won by Fritz, after it won a playoff game against Star-Socrates.
- **In November 1995**, Kasparov beat Fritz 4 in London with a win and a draw. He then played Genius 3.0 in Cologne and won the match with one win and one draw.
- **In 1995**, the 6th Harvard Cup Human Versus Computer chess challenge was held in New York in December, 1995. The Grandmasters won with a score of 23.5 to the computers 12.5 score. The computers scored 35%, a slight decrease in performance from 1994. Joel Benjamin and Michael Rohde had the best human scores with 4.5 out of 6. The best machine was Virtual Chess (I-Motion Interactive) with 3.5 out of 6.
- **In February 1996**, Garry Kasparov beat IBM's DEEP BLUE chess computer 4-2 in Philadelphia. Deep Blue won the first game, becoming the first computer ever to beat a world chess champion at tournament level under serious tournament conditions. Deep Blue was calculating 50 billion positions every 3 minutes. Kasparov was calculating 10 positions every 3 minutes. DEEP BLUE had 200 processors.
- **In April 1996**, The 11th AEGON Computer Chess Tournament (Mankind vs Machine) was held on April 10-17, in The Hague, Netherlands. There were 50 masters, International Masters, and Grandmasters and 50 computers (most playing on HP Pentium-166



## Computers & Chess (cont)

machines with 16MB of RAM). Yasser Seirawan won the event with 6 straight wins and no losses. The best computer was QUEST, with 4.5/6 and a 2652 performance rating. The machines won with 162.5 points versus the humans with 137.5 points.

- **In 1996**, the 14th World Micro-computer chess championship was held in Jakarta in October. It was won by SHREDDER, followed by FERRET.

- **On May, 1997**, DEEP BLUE defeated Garry Kasparov in a 6 game match held in New York. This was the first time a computer defeated a reigning world champion in a classical chess match. DEEP BLUE had 30 IBM RS-6000 SP processors coupled to 480 chess chips. It could evaluate 200 million moves per second. In 2003, a documentary was made about this match called, Game Over: Kasparov and the Machine.



*Kasparov vs Deep Blue*

- **In November, 1997** Junior won the 15th World Micro Computer Championship. The event was held in Paris.
- **In 1997**, the Allen Newell Medal for Research Excellence went to several people involved in computer chess. Ken Thompson and Joe Condon won for their pioneering work on Belle, the first master in 1983. Richard Greenblatt won for having developed MacHack VI in 1967, the first Class C chess computer. Lawrence Atkin and David Slate won for developing CHESS 4.7, the first Class B and first Expert chess computer from 1970 to 1978. Murray Campbell, Carl Ebeling, and Gordon Goetsch won for developing Hitech, the first Senior Master computer in 1988. Hans Berliner won for all his work in computer chess. Feng

Hsu won for developing Deep Thought, the first chess computer that performed at a Grandmaster level in 1988. Thomas Anantharaman, Michael Browne, Murray Campbell, and Andreas Nowatzyk won for their work on Deep Thought in 1997. Murray Campbell, A. Joseph Hoane, Jr, and Feng Hsu won for their work on Deep Blue which defeated Garry Kasparov in 1997.

- **In 1997** the \$100,000 Fredkin Award went to the inventors of Deep Blue - Feng Hsu, Murray Campbell, and Joseph Hoane, of IBM. Their program defeat Kasparov.

- **In 1998**, Rebel 10, a chess program running on a commercially available workstation, defeated Viswanathan Anand, the 2nd highest rated player in the world after Kasparov. The program won 5-3.

- **In 1988**, the highest rating obtained by a computer in

human competition was Deep Thought, which obtained a 2551 USCF rating. FIDE, the world chess federation, does not accept human-computer results in their rating lists.

- **From June 14, 1999 to June 19, 1999**. The 9th World Computer Championship was held in Paderborn, Germany. The winner was Shredder. This was also the 16th World Microcomputer Chess Championship, won by Shredder.

- **In 1999** the highest rated chess computer is Hiarc 7.0, followed by Fritz 5.32, Fritz 5.0, Junior 5.0, Nimzo 98, Hiarc 6.0, Rebel 9.0, MChess Pro 7.1, Rebel 8.0, and MChess Pro 6.0 (based on SSDF ratings as of Jan 28, 1999).

- **In August 2000**, Deep Junior took part in the Super-Grandmaster tournament in Dortmund. It scored 50 percent and a perfor-

mance rating of 2703.

- **In 2000** the 17th World Micro-computer Chess Championship was held in London. It was won by Shredder.
- **In August, 2001**, Deep Junior won the World Micro Computer Championship. The event was held in the Netherlands.
- **From May 13 to May 18, 2002**, a match between Grandmaster Mikhail Gurevich and Junior 7 was held in Greece. Junior won with 3 wins and 1 draw.
- **On July 6-11, 2002**, the 10th World Computer Championship was held in Maastricht, Netherlands. The winner was Deep Junior after a playoff with Shredder.
- **In October, 2002**, Vladimir Kramnik drew a match with Deep Fritz in Bahrain with a 4-4 score. Kramnik won games 2 and 3. Deep Fritz won games 5 and 6. The rest of the games (1, 7, and 8) were drawn.
- **From January 26 to February 7, 2003**, Kasparov played Deep Junior 7 in New York. The match ended in a draw. Kasparov won game 1. Deep Junior won game 3. The rest of the games (games 2, 4, 5, and 6) were drawn. This was the first time that a man/machine competition was sanctioned by FIDE, the World Chess Federation. Deep Junior took 10 years to program by Tel Aviv programmers Amir Ban and Shay Bushinsky. It can evaluate 3 million moves a second, and positions 15 moves deep.
- **On November 11-18, 2003**, Kasparov played X3D Fritz in New York. The match was tied 2-2. Fritz won the 2nd game. Kasparov won the 3rd game. Games 1 and 4 were drawn. It was the first official world chess championship in total virtual reality, played in 3-D.
- **From November 22 to November 30, 2003**. The 11th World Computer Chess Championship was held in Graz. It was won by Shredder after a play-off with

## Computers & Chess (cont)

Deep Fritz. 3rd place went to Brutus, which evolved into Hydra.

- ❑ **In 2003** the top chess computers were Shredder 7.04 (2810), Shredder 7.0 (2770), Fritz 8.0 (2762), Deep Fritz 7.0 (2761), Fritz 7.0 (2742), Shredder 6.0 (2724), and Chess Tiger 15.0 (2720).
- ❑ **from July 4 to July 12, 2004.** The 12th World Computer Chess Championship was held at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, Israel. It was won by Deep Junior (programmed by Amir Ban and Shay Bushinsky). Shredder took 2nd place, followed by Diep. Shredder won the 12th World Computer Speed Chess Championship. Crafty took 2nd place.
- ❑ **In 2004**, Hydra defeated GM Evgeny Vladimirov with 3 wins and 1 draw. It then defeated former FIDE world champion Ruslan Ponomarev (rated 2710) in a 2-game match, winning both games.
- ❑ **In 2004**, a team of computers (Hydra, Deep Junior, and Fritz) defeated the human team of grandmasters Veselin Topalov, Ruslan Ponomarev and Sergey Karjakin.
- ❑ **In June, 2005**, Hydra beat Michael Adams, the 7th ranked chess player in the world. Hydra won 5 games and drew one game. Hydra was a dedicated chess computer with custom hardware and 64 processors.
- ❑ **From August 13 to August 21, 2005.** The 13th World Computer Chess Championship was held at Reykjavik University in Iceland. It was won by Zappa (programmed by Anthony Cozzie). 2nd place went to Fruit. Shredder won the speed championship, followed by Zappa.
- ❑ **In 2005**, a team of computers (Hydra, Deep Junior, and Fritz) beat Veselin Topalov, Ruslan Ponomarev, and Sergey Karjakin (average rating 2681) in a match by the score of 8.5 to 3.5.
- ❑ **From May 24 through June 1,**

**2006.** The 14th World Computer Chess Championship was held in Turin, Italy. It was won by Junior, rated at 2800, with a score of 9 out of 11. 2nd place went to Shredder (2810), followed by Rajlich (2820).

- ❑ **In December, 2006**, world chess champion Vladimir Kramnik was defeated by Deep Fritz, which won with a 4-2 score (2 wins and 4 draws). In one game, Kramnik overlooked a mate in one move.
- ❑ **In June, 2007**, the 15th World Computer Chess Championship was held in Amsterdam and sponsored by the International Computer Games Association (ICGA). The winner was the USA program Rybka ("little fish"), programmed by International Master Vasik Rajlich, with a score of 10 out of 11 (defeating Shredder in the last round). 2nd place went to the USA program Zappa, programmed by Anthony Cozzie with 9 points. 3rd place went to Loop, with 7.5 points. Defending champion Junior, nor Fritz, did not participate. The German program Shredder won the blitz world championship.
- ❑ **In June, 2007**, the "Ultimate Computer Challenge" was held in Elista. Deep Junior defeated Deep Fritz with the score of 4-2 (2 wins, 4 draws).
- ❑ **In August, 2007**, Grandmaster Joel Benjamin played a match with Rybka in which Rybka played without one of its pawns (pawn odds). Rybka won the match 4.5 - 3.5 (2 wins, 1 loss, 5 draws for Rybka).
- ❑ **In December, 2007**, Hiarc won over tiebreaks against Rybka, with a score of 5.5 out of 7 at the 17th International Paderborn Computer Chess Championship.
- ❑ **In January, 2008**, Rybka defeated GM Joel Benjamin with a 6-2 score. Joel had White in every game. Also, every draw was scored as a win for Benjamin.
- ❑ **In March, 2008**, Rybka and Dzindzichashvili drew 4-4 in their match. Rybka won 2, lost 2, with

4 draws. Dzindzichashvili had White every game and Rybka played without one of its pawns in every game.

- ❑ **In September, 2008**, the 16th World Computer Chess Championship was held in Beijing, China and won by Rybka.
- ❑ **In 2009** The 17th World Computer Chess Championship was held in Pamplona, Spain and won by Rybka.
- ❑ **In 2009**, Pocket Fritz 4 won a chess tournament (Copa Mercosur) in Buenos Aires with the score of 9.5/10.
- ❑ **In 2010**, the 18th World Computer Chess Championship was held in Kanazawa, Japan and won by Rybka.
- ❑ **During the 2010** world chess championship, Veselin Topalov had access to the Blue Genie supercomputer with 8,192 processors capable of 500 trillion floating point operations per second.
- ❑ **In 2010**, a new computer tournament was held during the same time as the 18th World Computer Chess Championship. The World Chess Software Championship would be competing chess programs running on machines with identical hardware specifications. The 2010 winner was Shredder.
- ❑ **In November 2010**, the Open Dutch Computer Championship celebrated its 30th edition. The winner in this 20-computer event was Rybka, winning 8 games and drawing one game and scoring 2.5 points ahead of the 2nd-4th place finishers.. Tied for 2nd-4th with 6 out of 9 were Spike, Deep Sjeng, and Hiarc. Rybka ran on a cluster of machines containing 248 Intel i7 cores at 2.93 GHz. Rybka's estimated Elo (FIDE) rating is 3200.



Deep Blue





**Book Review**

by Bill Wall

**White King and Red Queen: How the Cold War Was Fought on the Chessboard**

By Daniel Johnson

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company  
in November, 2007. 368 pages.

The full title of this interesting book is *White King and Red Queen: How the Cold War Was Fought on the Chessboard*. It is a colorful history of chess and the Cold War and how chess provided a “mega-mataphor” for psychological war in the Soviet communist society. The book has 16 chapters on the rise and fall of chess in the USSR: From Baghdad to St. Petersburg, The Recreation of the Revolution, Terror, The Opium of the Intellectuals, The Emigres, The Patriarch and His Progeny, The Jewish Factor, The American Way of Chess, Bobby’s Odyssey, An Achilles without an Achilles Heel, the Death of Hector, The Machine Age, Defying the Evil Empire, the Yogi versus the Commissar, Soviet Endgame: Kasparov vs. Karpov, and After the Cold War.

Chess started out in Russia as a pastime of Russian intellectuals (Prokofiev, Pasternak, Nabokov, Shostakovich) and revolutionaries (Marx, Lenin, and Trotsky were all avid chess players). Ordinary Russians became involved with chess as one of the few areas of intellectual activity not censored by the Communist state. Chess was then later adopted by the Communists as a symbol of Soviet power. Chess became one of very few officially sanctioned areas of intellectual freedom. Chess did not have to be conducted according to rules and theories set by the authorities. Johnson’s conclusion was that chess became the opium of the people. The history of the USSR and the Cold War is seen through the prism of chess, sometimes distorted.

The Communist state invested heavily in chess from the 1920s through World War II. After World War II, the Soviet chess team smashed the U.S. chess team (as well as the British chess team). Their top player, Botvinnik, was given a car, perhaps the only private car in the USSR, when he took 1st place at Nottingham in 1936. Stalin cabled the winning Soviet chess team, “Well done, lads,” after it had defeated the USA in a team match in 1945. From this period until 1972, when Fischer defeated Spassky in Iceland, the Soviets dominated chess in every event, from chess Olympiads and major tournaments to world chess championships.

The Soviets became so closely identified with chess that the Soviet male stereotype was a serious-minded, logical, scientific, calculating person. Chess fitted perfectly with the official serious, logical, scientific image and the USSR wanted to export this image around the world. And it was an affordable ambition, not like trying to land a man on the moon and the space race. From 1948 through 1972, the USSR produced an unbroken line of 10 world chess champions.

The first chapter gives a brief history of chess. There is an account of Ivan the Terrible, the first ruler of Russia to assume the title of Tsar, died at the chessboard in 1584.

Chapter two showed that the revolutionary years of 1789, 1848, and 1917 sent chess players, among others, into exile. In 1789 Philidor was exiled from France and lived much of the time in London. After the failed revolution of 1848, Karl Marx was exiled and lived in London, where he played chess. Lenin’s exile to Finland, Berlin, Paris, and Switzerland gave him time to play chess in the cafes. After his return to Russia in 1917, Lenin gave up chess. Author Johnson wrote that “He was able to use real people as pawns instead.

In chapter 3, the author writes that the Soviet Union excelled as only two things: war and chess. In 1920, Alexander Ilyin-Genevsky organized an All-Russia Chess Olympiad,

which became the first Soviet championship. Alexander Alekhine won the event. Ilyin-Genevsky wrote “Chess cannot be apolitical as in capitalist countries.” By the 1930s, the Soviet government adopted chess as an “instrument of intellectual culture.”

In chapter 4, the author writes that “In a state where Church was brutally suppressed, it was not religion but chess that became the opium of the people.” Chess was deemed to be classless, untainted by bourgeois ideology. Thus, it was suitable to teach socialist values to the new proletarian cadres. A 1926 study by Soviet scientists showed that chess was “a powerful method of self-discipline and self-development, which brings benefit not only to those who are capable of becoming masters, but also to those who do not possess such gifts; chess furthers the development of educationally valuable qualities.”

The next few chapters are on Lasker, Alekhine, and Botvinnik. Then the author writes a chapter on Jews and chess. In the Soviet Union, Jews made up less than 2% of the population, but dominated chess. The author points as an example to anti-Semitism, the case of Natan Sharansky, a brilliant scientist, chess player, and expert at cybernetics who wanted to emigrate to Israel in 1973. His application was refused on the grounds that he had access to classified materials, which was not true. Sharansky had been working on endgame theory, computers, and cybernetics. When the Soviet Union lost the 1972 world championship to Fischer and the Americans, they had become ultrasensitive about chess. In particular, the study of endgames in cybernetics could have possible military applications. But the Soviet Union turned Sharansky into a refusenik due to anti-Semitism. He was arrested and given 13 years. He said he survived by playing chess, even when he was placed in solitary confinement. He was released after 9 years in prison.

The chapter on the American Way of chess covers the career of Morphy, Pillsbury, Fine, and Reshevsky. The next chapter covers the career of Bobby Fischer. The Russians called Fischer an Achilles without an Achilles heel. A chapter is then devoted to the 1972 World championship match between Fischer and Spassky, as well as his 1992 match with Spassky.

A chapter follows on chess computers and its history, with an emphasis on Soviet efforts at chess and computers. There is some good coverage on the Russian KAISIA program, which won the first world computer chess championship.

The next chapter deals with some of the Russian defectors in the 1970s and 1980s such as Viktor Korchnoi, Lev Alburt and Gata Kamsky. Much of the chapter deals with Korchnoi-Karpov during this period as the defector challenges and plays chess with the perfect communist player.

The chapter on the Soviet endgame deals with the rise of Kasparov and the five Kasparov-Karpov world championship matches.

The final chapter, *After the Cold War*, covers Kasparov’s chess career and his political involvement after chess. It also looks at the politics of FIDE and its president, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov.

The final paragraph sums up the author’s thoughts. “The attempt...to make chess serve the purposes of the totalitarian state came close to success, but in the end it was chess that heralded the impending collapse of communism. The West, for all its inequalities and insecurities, proved to be more resourceful because it fought for freedom and lived in truth.”



# Chess Themes in Music

The first musical connection with a chess theme occurred in 1607. A ballet with a chess theme was written and performed for Louis XIV of France. It was called Ballet des Eschecs (Chess Ballet).

In 1810, the first opera with a chess theme was performed. The opera, Das Schachturnier (the chess tournament), was composed by Traugott Ebnerwein (1775-1831).

In 1910, Leevi Antti Madetoja composed the suite Shakkipeli (Chess Game). It was composed for a play called the Chess Game by Eino Leino.

In 1924, Peter Petrovich Saburov composed a Love Symphony for a big orchestra. One of the pieces was called Simultaneous Games of Chess. The composition was first played in Monte Carlo in May, 1924.

In 1927, Henri Rabaud composed a musical piece called The Chess Player for a film with the same name, directed by Raymond Bernard.

In 1937, a 50-minute ballet called Checkmate was performed at the Paris World Exhibition. The ballet was composed by Sir Arthur Bliss and choreographed by Ninette de Valois.

In 1945, Vittorio Rieta composed Chess Serenade: suite for two pianos, four hands.

In 1947, an operetta, The Sea Captain, was performed in London which presented a game of living chess.

In the 1950s, Bohuslav Martinu composed the ballet, Chess of the King.

In 1953, the first ballet on ice with a chess theme was performed. Called Sinbad the Sailor on Ice, the skaters played out a chess game on ice. The work was composed by Reginald Charles Noel-Johnson.



Jerry Wall





# Chess Themes in Music

CONTINUED

**In 1957**, Jean Absil composed Chess, Suite for Piano, op. 96.

**In 1960**, Wayne Shorter composed The Chess Players on the album The Big Beat by the band called Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers.

**In 1964**, Bob Dylan released Only a Pawn in Their Game on his The Times They Are a-Changin' album. It was more of a chess metaphor than actually about chess.

**In 1965**, Paul Reif composed Philidor's Defense: a musical chess game.

In 1966, Grace Slick sang White Rabbit for the album Conspicuous Only In Its Absence by the band Great Society. In 1967, the song was recorded for the album Surrealistic Pillow by the Jefferson Airplane. The song has several references to chess ("When men on the chessboard get up and tell you where to go," White Knight, and Red Queen).

**In 1968**, a ballet called Pawn to King 5 was performed in London. The music was provided by Pink Floyd.

**In 1970**, Black Sabbath released the album Paranoid. One of the songs, Luke's Wall/War Pigs has a line, "treating people just like pawns in chess."

**In 1971**, the group Yes composed Your Move, which was included in The Yes Album. The lyrics were written by Jon Anderson. There are several chess references (white queen, black square, captured piece, etc).

**In 1971**, Ladivalv Simon composed Chess Queen. It was a blues piece for a jazz orchestra.

**In 1971**, Elton John released Madman Across the Water. One of the songs was Levon, which has the line, "He was born a pauper to a pawn on a Christmas Day."

**In 1973**, a band called Flash wrote several songs with chess themes. The songs included, None the Wiser (King), Farewell Number One (Pawn), Man of Honor (Knight), Dead Ahead (Queen), and Bishop. The album was called Out of Our Hands.

**In 1974**, a band called Gryphon composed the album Red Queen to Gryphon Three. The album consists of instrumental pieces called Opening Move, Second Spasm, Lament, and Checkmate.



# Chess Themes in Music

CONTINUED

**In 1975**, Elton John released *Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy*. One of the songs was *Someone Saved My Life Tonight*. It has the lines, "I'm strangled by your haunted social scene, Just a pawn out-played by a dominating queen."

**In 1978**, Dusty Springfield (1939-1999), released a song called *Checkmate* on her album *It Begins Again*, with several references to chess (I'm a queen to your king).

**In 1979**, Sten Hanson composed *The Chessmen of Mars* for his *John Carter Songbook*.

**In 1980**, Aerosmith released *Aerosmith's Greatest Hits*. The song entitled *Draw the Line* has several references to the queen and checkmate (Checkmate, honey; Checkmate, don't be late).

**In 1986**, the musical *Chess* was produced, with lyrics written by Tim Rice. It was the most expensive musical play ever put together, costing over \$4 million. The music was composed by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus (both formerly of ABBA). The musical was inspired by the 1972 Fischer-Spassky World Championship match. The most famous song from the musical is *One Night in Bangkok*.

**In 1990**, a ballet called *Ana* was performed based on Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*. It included a chess game being played.

**In 1990**, the heavy metal band *Defiance* released the song *Checkmate* (the kings and queens send their pawns off to war.)

**In 1992**, R.E.M. released *Automatic for the People*. One of the songs, *Man on the Moon*, mentions the game of life, monopoly, twenty one, checkers, and chess.

**In 1993** the Wu-Tang Clan released *Enter the Wu-Tang*. One of the songs was called *Da Mystery of Chessboxin'*. (The game of chess is like a sword fight, you must think first, before you move). In 2005, Wu-Tang's GZA released "*Muggs vs. GZA: Grandmasters*." GZA has several songs with chess references in them.

**In 1993**, Akinyele, an American rapper, released *Vagina Diner*. One of the songs was *Checkmate* (I play you like a game of chess).

**In 1993**, Annihilator released *Set the World on Fire*. One of the songs on the album was *Knight Jumps Queen*, with many chess references.





# Chess Themes in Music

CONTINUED

**In 1997**, They Might Be Giants, a band from New York City, released *Then – the Earlier Years*. One of the songs on the album was called Chess Piece Face.

**In 1997**, Metallica released *Reload*. One of the songs is *Where the Wild Things Are*. It has the line "Toy horses start the charge; Robots, chessmen standing guard."



**In May 1999**, Slick Rick, a British-American rapper, released *The Art of Something*. One of the songs on the album is *King Piece in the Chess Game*.

**In 1999**, Will Smith released the album *Willennium*. One of the songs, *Freakin' It*, mentions chess (Every time I shoot I score, so many awards I can start a Grammy chess board). Will Smith is a chess player.

**In May 2000**, Dr Feelgood, a British pub rock band, produced an album called *Chess Masters*.

**In 2001**, B.G., an American rapper, released an album called *Checkmate*.

**In 2001**, John Mayer released *Room for Squares*. One of the songs on the album was called *My Stupid Mouth*, which has a line, "I played a quick game of chess with the salt and pepper shaker."

**In 2003**, the Red Hot Chili Peppers released their *Greatest Hits* album. One of the new songs was *Fortune Faded*. The first line is "They say in chess you've got to kill the queen and then you made it."

**In 2005**, Papoose, an American rapper, released the album called *Chess 12"* with the title song called *Chess*.





Jerry Wall

# Commander-in-Chess

## Presidents Who Played Chess

by Bill Wall

*Many U.S. Presidents have played chess or supported it. Here is a list of U.S. Presidents who were involved with chess.*

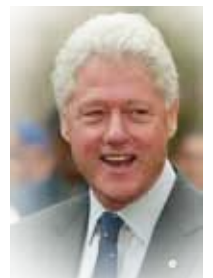
**John Adams** played chess. He wrote in his autobiography that his evenings in France was devoted to music, cards, chess, and backgammon. He may have been exposed to chess from Benjamin Franklin, an avid chess player.

**John Quincy Adams** played chess and collected chess sets. One of his chess sets is now displayed at the Smithsonian Museum of American History. When he took long sea voyages, he played chess to kill time. He may have learned chess from his father.

**Jimmy Carter** played chess. After he left the White House, he bought several chess books and a computer chess program. He hand-carved several chess sets and auctioned them for charity.

**Grover Cleveland** played chess and was a patron to the 1893 New York Chess Congress. He presented a gold medal to the winner of the tournament.

**Bill Clinton** played chess while at Georgetown University and was on their chess team in 1968. He taught his daughter, Chelsea, how to play chess.



**Calvin Coolidge** played chess. In his diary, he mentioned playing chess and winning every game.



# Commander-in-Chess

## Presidents Who Played Chess (Continued)

**Dwight D. Eisenhower** played chess. He described himself as an indoor man who found relaxation in playing a game of chess. He acknowledged he received a chess set from a political supporter.



**Millard Fillmore** played chess, but did not encourage it. He did not want his son to waste time playing chess. He thought chess was too sedentary and that sitting all day playing chess would make you crooked.

**James Garfield** was perhaps the strongest chess player who became President. A Philadelphia chess column once described him as a first-rate chess player.



**Ulysses S. Grant** was a chess player who may have learned the game while he was at West Point. He played chess at his army outposts and sometimes traveled 10 miles from his post to find a game of chess. There is a photograph of him playing chess with a Mrs. W.B. Dinsmore.

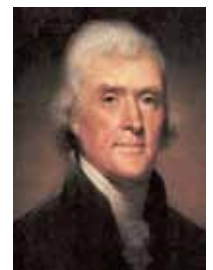
**Warren Harding** played chess. He died across the street from the Mechanics Institute Chess Club, which was hosting the Western Chess Championship (U.S. Open) in 1923. A rumor circulated that Harding was poisoned by one of the chess players.

**Rutherford B. Hayes** was a strong chess player. His mother taught him and his sister how to play chess. In his diary, he wrote, "Sometimes my faculties are so dull that nothing but chess seems to excite the attention." His chess set is on display at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Ohio.

**Herbert Hoover** played chess as a boy. He was described by an acquaintance as an introspective lad who played chess and checkers.

**Andrew Jackson** was a chess player who once played against the Turk chess automaton. When house guests played chess, he frequently directed the moves for one side or another.

**Thomas Jefferson** played chess and he considered it one of his favorite games. He owned at least 6 chess sets. In his diary, he wrote that he gave a friend some money to buy a chess set for Jefferson. He collected chess books as well. Jefferson told friends that he was equal in strength to Benjamin Franklin when it came to chess.



**Andrew Johnson** played chess and checkers. He once compared a congressional bill to Maelzel's automaton chess player, as deceiving no person save those wishing to be deceived.

**John F. Kennedy** may have played chess. In 1962, he received a very nice chess set as a

# Commander-in-Chess

## Presidents Who Played Chess (continued)

birthday gift from a close friend. His son, John F Kennedy, Jr. did play chess. He once played a game of chess at the Moscow State University Chess Club during a visit.

**Abraham Lincoln** played chess. One of his chess sets is displayed at the Smithsonian. Another set, purchased for his son, Tad, is on display at the National Museum of American History.

**James Madison** played chess, often with Jefferson or John Quincy Adams.

**James Monroe** was a chess player and bought several chess books from Jefferson. The James Monroe Museum in Virginia has a chess set that belonged to Monroe.

**Barack Obama** plays chess, learning the game from his grandfather and Indonesian stepfather around the age of 9.

**James Polk** wrote about chess in some of his correspondence.

**Franklin D. Roosevelt** played chess. He sometimes invited Henry Ford over for lunch and they would play chess during that time.

**Theodore Roosevelt** played chess during his hunting trips. In 1906, he invited the foreign masters that played in the 1906 Cambridge Springs international tournament to the White House.

**William Howard Taft** played chess as a child. He taught his son, Robert, how to play chess, and he became a strong player.

**Harry S Truman** played chess as a child. He learned chess from his uncle. In his speeches, he sometimes compared international relations to a chess game in which each nation tried to outwit and checkmate each other.

**Martin Van Buren** may have played chess and taught his son. His son, John, greeted and toasted Paul Morphy on Morphy's successful return from Europe. John Van Martin toasted Morphy, proclaiming him chess champion of the world.

**George Washington played chess.** One of his ivory chess sets is housed in the U.S. National Museum in Washington, D.C. Not all the pieces are there, so a position is set up on display with the remaining pieces.

**Woodrow Wilson** played chess. One of his chess sets is at the Smithsonian. He and his father were enthusiastic chess players.





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## Biography

# Oh Thank Evans for Chess

*Editor's note: U.S. Grandmaster Larry Evans died November 15, 2010. He was 78 and was one of the top chess players in America.*

Larry Melvyn Evans was born on March 22, 1932 in Manhattan, New York City. He learned chess at the age of 12 and joined the Marshall Chess Club at age 13. At age 14, he tied for 4th-5th in the Marshall Chess Club championship. In 1948, at age 15, he was the champion of the Marshall Chess Club, becoming the youngest Marshall champion at that time. He also finished equal 2nd in the U.S. Junior Championship.

Evans won the Marshall Chess Club championship in 1948, 1949, and 1950.

At 16, he played in the 1948 U.S. Chess Championship, tying for 8th place.

In 1949 he tied for 1st place with Arthur Bisguier in the U.S. Junior Championship.

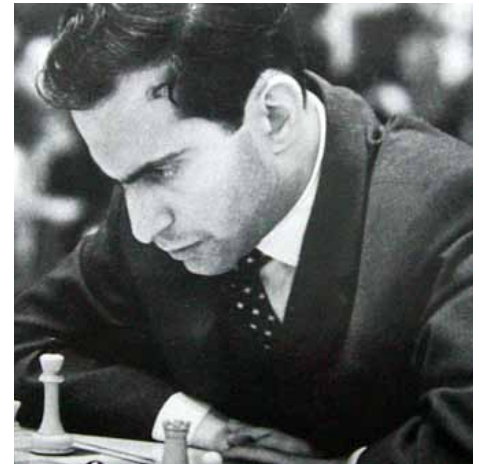
By age 18, he had won a New York State championship and was a gold medal winner in the Dubrovnik Chess Olympiad of 1950. He scored 90% (8 wins and 2 draws) on 6th board for the USA team.. He had the best result of the

entire Olympiad.

He represented the USA in 8 Chess Olympiads. He won the gold medal in 1950, the silver medal in 1958, and the bronze medal in 1976. Team USA, in which he was a member, won the gold medal in 1976 and silver medal in 1966.

In 1950, on the first US Chess Federation rating list, Evans was ranked 8th in the nation, with a rating of 2384. Reuben Fine was ranked the highest at 2817, followed by Samuel Reshevsky at 2770. By 1951, Evans was the 3rd highest rated player (2660), behind Reshevsky and Fine.

In 1951 and 1952 (defeating Herman Steiner in a match – the last U.S. championship match), he won the U.S. Championship. He also won it in 1961-62, 1967-68, and



match.

In 1955, Evans was the 2nd highest rated player in the U.S. at 2629. Reshevsky was ranked 1st at 2766.

In 1956, the U.S. State Department appointed him a “chess ambassador.”

In 1956 and 1966, he won the Canadian Open Chess

Championship on tiebreaks over Bill Lombardy. Evans drove Bobby Fischer to this tournament, where Bobby took 10th-12th place.

In 1961, he was the chess editor of American Chess

Quarterly, which ran from 1961 to 1965.

In May-June 1964, he took 14th place in the Amsterdam Interzonal. There were 24 players. It was a four-way tie for first place between Smyslov, Larsen, Spassky, and Tal. Evans was paid \$500 for playing in the event, which was better than the 1st place prize - \$250.

In 1967, Evans was the 3rd highest rated player in the U.S., rated 2593, behind Fischer at 2762 and Benko at 2595.

In 1968, his peak USCF rating

*Larry Evans was one of the earliest card counters in playing blackjack, and the first noted chess master to be evicted from all the Nevada casinos.*

1980 (joint).

He won the U.S. Open Chess Championship in 1951, 1952, 1954, and 1971.

In 1951, at the age of 19, Evans had won the U.S. Open Championship, the U.S. Closed Championship, and the U.S. Speed Championship.

In 1952, he was awarded the International Master title from FIDE. He was awarded the Grandmaster title in 1957.

In 1954, he beat Mark Taimanov 2.5-1.5 in the USA-USSR radio







was 2631. He was the 2nd highest rated player in the U.S., behind Fischer at 2762.

In 1968, Evans got married to a painter and moved to Reno, Nevada to try his skill at blackjack. Larry Evans was one of the earliest card counters in playing blackjack, and the first noted chess master to be evicted from all the Nevada casinos.

In 1969, Evans collaborated with Bobby Fischer to help write Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games*. Evans wrote all the introductions to the games in Fischer's book.

In 1970, he tied for 1st with Arthur Bisguier at the National Open in Sparks, Nevada.

In 1971, he won the first Lone Pine tournament (Statham masters tournament) in Lone Pine, California and tied for 1st at the American Open.

From 1971 until 2010, he wrote his nationally syndicated chess column, *Evans of Chess*.

In 1972, he covered the Fischer-Spassky world championship match

for Time and ABC's *Wide World of Sports*.

In 1977, his peak Elo (FIDE) rating was 2555.

In 1982, Evans tied for 1st place with John Curdo in the U.S. Senior Open championship.

In 1994, he was inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame.

In 2000, he was awarded the USCF's Chess Journalist of the Year.

In 2006, the U.S. Chess Federation notified Larry Evans that his question-and-answer chess column, *Larry Evans on Chess*, was being cancelled in *Chess Life* magazine. As measured by reader surveys, it was the most popular column in the magazine for many years.

On November 15, 2010, Evans died from complications following gallbladder surgery in a Reno, Nevada hospital. He is survived by his wife Ingrid Evans, and two stepsons.

He wrote or co-wrote more than

20 books on chess. This included: David Bronstein's *Best Games of Chess, 1944-1949* (1950), *Vienna International Tournament 1922* (1950), *Championship Chess and Checkers for All* (1953), *Trophy Chess* (1956), *New Ideas in Chess* (1958), *Modern Chess Openings*, 11th edition (1965, with Walter Korn), *Chess Catechism* (1970), *Modern Chess Brilliances* (1970), *What's the Best Move* (1973), *Evans on Chess* (1974), *The Chess Opening for You* (1975), *An Unbeatable White Repertoire after 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3* (1976), *How to Open a Chess Game* (1988), *Lessons with the Masters* (1989), *How to Get Better at Chess* (1991), *Ten Most Common Chess Mistakes – and How to Avoid Them* (1998), *Test Your Chess I.Q.* (2001), *Chess Endgame Quiz* (2002), *How Good is Your Chess* (2004), *This Crazy World of Chess* (2007)

Evans – Bisguier, New York 1963, Queen's Gambit, 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 c5 5.cxd5 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Be7 7.e4 Nc6 8.Qe3 exd5 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.exd5+ Ne7 11.d6 Qxd6 12.Bb5+ Bd7 13. Rd1 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Qxd1+ 15.Kxd1 Bxb5 16.Nf3 O-O-O+ (16...Bc4) 17.Kc1 Nc6 18.Qc5 Bd3 19.Ne5 Rhe8 20.Nxf7 (20...Rd7 21.Nd6+, winning the exchange) 1-0



# Chess Daffynitions

**ALEKHINE:** type of battery for digital chess clock

**ALGEBRAIC NOTATION:** A way of recording games for those who can't describe them.

**ATTACK:** a short, sharp-pointed nail.

**BAD BISHOP:** another Catholic caught in a sex scandal

**BAROQUE CHESS SET:** Unrepaired chess set.

**BIRD'S OPENING:** a small hole in the side of a coop.

**BISHOP PAIR:** strange bed fellows.

**BISHOPS OF OPPOSITE COLORS:** a very strange couple.

**BOARD:** What chess widows are at chess tournaments with their husbands

**BUST:** bad opening when playing a well-endowed female

**CENTER COUNTER:** small table in the middle of a room.

**CHECK:** what chess players hate to hear at a tournament or restaurant

**COLLE:** opening for dog lovers

**CORRESPONDENCE CHESS:** the check really is in the mail

**DANISH GAMBIT:** opening for pastry lovers.

**DISCOVERED CHECK:** one that fell behind a desk long time ago.

**FOOL'S MATE:** A chessplayer's spouse.

**FRENCH DEFENSE:** a Maginot line.

**FRIED LIVER ATTACK:** a form of indigestion.

**GRECO GAMBIT:** opening for wrestlers,

**ILLEGAL:** a sick bird.

**KNIGHT ENDING:** dawn.

**MAROCZY:** A chess master who always got in a bind.

**MAROCZY BIND:** an unusual form of constipation.

**MATE:** spouse.

**MINORITY ATTACK:** a civil rights revolt.

**SAM LOYD:** An endgame composer always causing problems.

**SELF-HELP MATE:** a bigamist.

**SIESTA VARIATION:** taking a nap before noon.

**STALEMATE:** a spouse who keeps repeating the same old jokes.

**WOODPUSHER:** lobbyist for the timber industry.

**FIANCHETTO:** Pinnochio's last name.

**RICE GAMBIT:** Gary Hart's favorite opening.

**ZUGZWANG:** German for "constipated." The term is used when it hurts to move.



## Chess News

## chess news from Around the world

**Antakya, Turkey** – From Dec 2-21, 2010, the Women's World Chess Championship was held. It was a knockout event. The final winner was 16-year old Hou Yifan of China, who played fellow Chinese player Lufei Ruan in the final knockout round. Lufei Ruan, 23, is a doctoral student at the Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business. Hou Yifan is the youngest ever world chess champion, male or female.

**Arco, Italy** – The 20<sup>th</sup> World Senior Championship was held in October-November, 2010 and won by Anatoly Vaisser of France on tie-break over V. Jansa, V. Dydyshko, and Larry Kaufman.

**Atlantic City** – Gata Kamsky and Loek Van Wely tied for 1st at the first Atlantic City International.

**Burdur, Turkey** – The World Youth Olympiad was held in November-December. Armenia took 1st place, followed by India and Russia.

**Lake Buena Vista (near Orlando), Florida** – The 2010 National K-12 Championship was held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort on December 10-12. The 12th Grade Champion was Raven Sturt (2298) of New York.

**Leiden, Netherlands** – The 30th Open Dutch Computer championship was held in November. The winner was Rybka, followed by Spike, Deep Sjeng, and Hiarcs.

**London** – From Dec 6-15, 2010, the 2nd London Chess Classic was held. The event was won by world number 1 player Magnus Carlsen, who won the event last year. World chess champion Vishy Anand shared 2nd place with Luke McShane of England. Hikaru Nakamura of the USA took 4th place.

**Los Angeles** – The 46th American Open was held in Los Angeles November 25th-28th. The winner was Josh Friedel on tie-break over Enrico Sevillano and Melikset Khachiyan.

**Moscow** – The 63rd Russian Chess Championship was held in December. 20-year-old Ian Nepomniachtchi was the winner after beating Sergey Karjakin in a playoff. The 60th

Russian Women's Championship took place in November. The winner was Alisa Galliamova. The World Blitz championship was held in November and won by Levon Aronian.

**Philadelphia** – The National Chess Congress was held in November. The event was won by Sergey Kudrin on tie-break over Alexander Shabalov, Aleksandr Lenderman, and Giorgi Kacheishvili.

**Reno, Nevada** – Grandmaster Larry Evans, born March 23, 1932 died at Washoe Hospital in Reno on November 15, 2010, at the age of 78.

**Saint Petersburg** – The Chigorin Memorial was held in October-November and won by GM Eltaj Safarli.

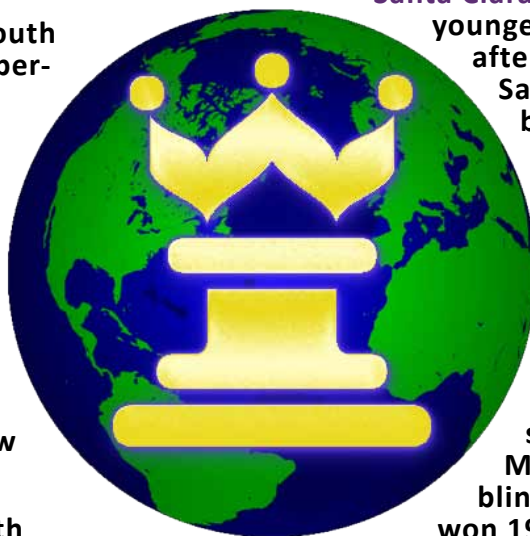
**Santa Clara** – Samuel Sevian became the youngest-ever chess master in the U.S. after playing in a tournament in San Francisco in December. He beat the previous record-holder for youngest chess master, Nicholas Nip, of San Francisco by 11 days. Samuel was also the youngest person to earn an expert rating when he was 8.

**Sonthem, Germany** – A new European chess record was set in November 2010 when Marc Lang played 35 opponents blindfolded simultaneously. He won 19, drew 13, and lost 3 in 23 hours.

**Tel Aviv** – Grandmaster Alik Gershon set a world record on October 22, 2010, when he played 523 opponents simultaneously, winning 454 games, drawing 58 games, and losing 11 games for an 86% winning record. Gershon is a former Israeli champion and twice former world junior champion.

**USA** – The US Chess League final took place in November, 2010. The New England Nor'easters won 3-1 against Miami.

**Warsaw** – The European Blitz Championship was held on December 17, 2010. The winner was Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, ahead of Vassily Ivanchuk. The European Rapid Championship was also held in Warsaw. Zoltan Almasi won on tiebreak after a 6-way tie for 1st place.





# Women and Chess

By Bill Wall

In the September 1, 1894 New York Times issue, an article appeared that a Women's Chess Association of America was formed. The article states that in the spring of 1893, a few women met informally and organized the *Women's Chess Association of America*. In January, 1894 they elected their officers and had 75 members. They mention that the honorary members include English women's champion Mary Rudge (1845-1919) and Irish women's champion Mrs. Thomas Rowland (Frideswide Beechey) (1843-1919).

In the December 6, 1894 issue of the Fort Wayne newspaper, an article appeared called Two Queens of Chess. It states that Mrs. Jackson W. Showalter has long been considered the lady chess champion of America. On November 5, 1894 she began a 7 game match with Mrs. Harriet Worrall (1836-1928) of Brooklyn.

In the December 26, 1896 issue of the Newark Daily Advocate, there is an article called A Ladies Chess Congress. It mentioned Harriet Worrall as Brooklyn's best woman chess player. It announces a chess congress arranged by the British Ladies' Chess Club during the spring of 1897.

In the March 22, 1897 issue of the Arizona Republican, there is an article on the international chess congress for women players. It began in London with 20 women representing 9 different countries.

Here is a list of who's who in women's chess.

Elena Donaldson-Akhmilovskaya, born in 1957, is a Woman Grandmaster of chess. She won the Women's Candidates tournament and in 1986, played a match against Maia Chiburdanidze for the Women's World Chess Championship, but lost. In 1988, she was the number two woman chess player for the Soviets at

the Chess Olympiad in Thessaloniki, Greece. During the tournament she defected and eloped with American International Master John Donaldson, captain of the American chess Olympiad team. They later moved to Seattle, Washington. She won the U.S. Women's Championship in 1990, 1993, and 1994. She is now married to IM Georgi Orlov. In 2010, she was awarded the title of FIDE Instructor.

Anna Markovna Akhsharumova, born in 1957, is a Woman Grandmaster. She won the Soviet Women's Championship in 1976 and 1984. In 1987, she won the U.S. Women's Championship with a perfect 9-0 score. In 1983, she should have won the Soviet Women's title again when she defeated Nana Ioseliani after Anna won on time forfeit. However, Nana filed a protest alleging a chess clock malfunction. Anna refused to re-lay the game and was awarded a loss instead. She is married to Grandmaster Boris Gulko.

Nana Alexandria, born in 1949, was the USSR Women's Champion in 1966 at the age of 17, the youngest ever. She was also champion in 1968 and 1969. She was the Women's World Championship Challenger in 1975 and 1981.

Mary Bain (1904-1972) was the Women's World Championship Challenger in 1937 and 1952. She was US Women's Champion from 1951 to 1953. She was the first American woman to represent the U.S. in an organized chess competition.

In 1882 Frideswide Beechley-Rowland (1843-1919) became the first woman to win a prize for chess composition. She was also the first woman to write a chess column. She

authored several chess books in the 1880s.

Edith Baird (1859-1924) was the most famous female chess composer. She composed over 2,000 chess problems.

Anjelina Belakovskaia won the U.S. Women's championship in 1995, 1996, and 1999. She has also won the Women's Championships of the Soviet Union and the Ukraine.

Jana Malypetrova Hartston Miles Bellin, born in 1947, was a top British woman player for many years. She won the British Women's championship in 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, and 1979. She is a medical doctor who specializes in anesthesiology.

Clare Benedict (1871-1961) was the first woman chess patron. She sponsored team chess tournaments in European countries in the 1950s. She was the granddaughter of James Fennimore Cooper.

Elisabeth Bykova (1913-1989) won the first women's Candidates tournament and became the 3rd women's world champion from 1953 to 1956. She was also world champion from 1958 to 1962.

Ruth Cardoso (1934-2000) won the South American Women's Championship in 1966, 1969, and 1972. She won the Brazilian Women's Championship 8 times in a row.

Chantel Chaudé de Silans (1919-2004) was a French player and countess. In 1934, at the age of 15, she won the ladies' championship of France. She was the first female to play in a men's chess Olympiad (Dubrovnik, 1950).



Mary Bain

Maya Chiburdanidze, born in 1961, was an International Master at 13, USSR women's champion at 16 and world women's chess champion at 17, the youngest of any world champion in chess until 2010. In 1978, she became women's world champion.

Pia Cramling was born on April 23, 1963 in Stockholm. From 1983 to 1985, she was the world number one female chess player. She became a Grandmaster in 1992. She is married to GM Juan Bellon of Spain.

Rachel Crotto, born in 1958, played in the U.S. Women's chess championship at the age of 13. She was U.S. Women's Chess Champion from 1977 (age 17) to 1979. She gave up the game in 1986.

In 1986 Miss Leigh Strange won the British Ladies Correspondence Chess Championship. Later, it was discovered that Miss Leigh Strange was actually Nick Down, a former British Junior Correspondence Chess Champion. She (he) was banned from the British Correspondence Chess Association.

Esther Epstein, born in 1954, was USSR Women's Vice Champion in 1976 and US Women's Champion in 1991 and 1997. Her husband is GM Alexander Ivanov.

In 1933 Miss Fatima won the British women's chess championship. She was a servant to maharaja Sir Umar Hayat Khan. Also in 1933, the British men's champion was Mir Sultan Khan, also a servant of Sir Umar Khan.

Ursula Foster (1927-2004) was a very active chess player in California and had been ranked among the top female players in the country. She was a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust. She was a classmate and friend of Anne Frank. Her older brother died in the gas chambers at Auschwitz.

Jennie Frenklakh, born in 1980 near Chernobyl, was a USCF master at 16. She won the US Junior Championship for players under 13 in 1993.

In 1977 Nona Gaprindashvili of Soviet Georgia became the first woman to take first place in a men's chess tournament when she tied for first place at Lone Pine, California. In 1978 Nona Gaprindashvili became the first woman to be given the men's International Grandmaster title. She had a perfume named after her. She was 5-time Women's World Chess Champion from 1962 to 1978.

Ellen Gilbert (1837-1900) was known as the Queen of Chess in the 19th century. She was a strong correspondence player.

Rusudan Goletiani, born in 1980, won the 2005 U.S. Women's Championship. She is a Woman Grandmaster. At age 9, she won the Soviet Junior Championship for Girls Under-12 in 1990. She was the winner of the 19th annual Frank P. Samford chess fellowship in 2004.

Sonja Graf-Stevenson (1908-1965) was the Women's World Championship Challenger in 1937 and 1939, losing to Vera Menchik. She shared the U.S. Women's title with Gisela Kahn Gresser in 1958-59 and won it in 1964.

Gisela Gresser (1906-2000) was the first woman in the United States to achieve a master rating. She won the U.S. Women's Chess Championship 9 times from 1944 to 1969. She won the 1969 U.S. Women's Championship at the age of 63.

Lina Grumette (1908-1988) was a popular chess organizer in California who ran The Chess Set in her Hollywood home. She competed in the US Women's championship in the 1940s.

Anna Hahn, born in 1976, was the US Women's champion in 2003. She was Latvian women's champion in 1992. She is an expert in kick boxing.

Hoang Thang Trang, born in 1980, won the 1998 Girls' Under-20 championship. She is a Woman GM from Vietnam.

Hou Yifan, born in 1994, became the youngest ever female in history to qualify for the title of Grandmaster. In 2008, she was awarded the Grandmaster title at the age of 14 years, 6 months. In 2007, she became China's youngest ever National Women's Champion. In 2008, she became the youngest ever finalist for the Women's World Championship title. In 2010, she became the youngest ever women's world champion. She was the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed in the Women's World Chess Championship knockout, held in Hatay, Turkey. She beat Ruan Lufei in the final knockout round to take the title.

Humpy Koneru is the youngest to win the British Ladies Chess Championship at the age of 13 years, 4 months. In 2002, she became the first woman chess player from India

to receive the Men's GM title, at the age of 15 years, 4 months, and 27 days. She is the youngest female GM.

Barbara Hund, born in 1959, is Germany's 1st Woman GM. She won the German Women's Championship in 1978. She now lives in Switzerland.

Harriet Hunt is the strongest British female chess player. She was World Girls' Champion Under-20 in 1999. She is an International Master.



*Nana Ioseliani*

Nana Ioseliani, born in 1961, was the USSR Women's Champion in 1981 and 1982. She is a former World Women's Championship challenger.

In 1989 Carol Jarecki became the first woman to serve as chief arbiter for any world chess championship cycle match (Karpov-Hjartarson world championship quarterfinals). She is a former anesthesiologist and avid aircraft pilot.

Mona May Karff (1914-1998) played in 3 women's world championships. She won the US Women's Chess Championship 7 times (1938, 1941, 1943, 1946, 1948, 1953, and 1974 at the age of 60). She became a millionaire playing the stock market.

Carmen Kass, born in 1978, is a super model and the President of the Estonian Chess Federation.

Alexandra Kosteniuk, born in 1984, has been called the Anna Kournikova of chess. She won the 2005 Women's Russian Chess Championship. In 2004, she won the Women's European Championship and was world champion from 2008 to 2010. She was a Woman Grandmaster at the age of 14.

In 1993, Irina Krush, at the age of 9 (born Dec 24, 1983), beat a chess master, the youngest girl ever to beat



a chess master in a rated game. In 1995 Irina Krush played in the U.S. Women's chess championship at the age of 11. She won the U.S. Women's chess championship in 1998 at the age of 14, the youngest-ever holder of that title. In 1999, she tied for 1st in the female section of the World Junior Championship. In 2010, she won the U.S. women's championship.

Alla Kushnir, born in 1941, was USSR Women's Champion in 1970. She was Women's World Championship Challenger in 1965, 1969, and 1972.

Kateryna Lahno, born in 1989, won the European Girls' Under-14 championship and became the youngest Woman GM in history at the age of 12 years and 4 months.

In 1962 Lisa Lane withdrew from the Hastings Reserve tournament because she said she was in love and could not concentrate. She was the U.S. Women's chess champion from 1959 to 1962, and 1966. She appeared on the cover of the August 7, 1961 issue of Sports Illustrated. She married Neil Hickey and runs a metaphysical store.

Diana Lanni qualified for the U.S. Women's Championship and used chess to beat a drug addiction problem and suicidal tendencies. In 1982, she represented the USA in the Women's Olympiad in Lucerne. She now teaches chess to kids.

Ingrid Larsen, born in 1909, won the Danish Women's championship 17 times.

Agnes Lawson-Stevenson was 4-time British Ladies' Champion and married to Rufus Stevenson, editor of the British Chess Magazine. On the way to play in the 1935 Women's World Championship, she left the aircraft to complete a passport check. She returned to the aircraft from the front and ran into the propeller and was killed.

Irina Levitina, born in 1954, won the USSR Women's championship 4 times. She is now a professional bridge player.

Alisa and Mirjana Maric are twin sisters and both are women GMs. They are the only twin GMs in history.

Beatriz Marinello, born in 1964, was USCF President from 2003 to 2005. She was the Women's Champion of Chile when she was 16.

Vera Menchik was women's world chess champion from 1927 to 1944.

She defended her title 6 times and only lost one game, while winning 78 and drawing 4 games. In 1937, she married Rufus Stevenson, editor of the British Chess Magazine and later secretary of the British Chess Federation. She was killed in Kent, a county in southeast England, when a German V-1 rocket hit her home. Players who lost to Vera Menchik became known as members of the Vera Menchik Club. It included Albert Becker, Max Euwe, Sammy Reshevsky, Mir Sultan Khan, Sir George Thomas, C.H.O'D. Alexander, Edgar Colle, Frederick Yates, William Winter, Lajos Steiner, Frederick Saemisch, Milner-Barry, Harry Golombek, Karel Opocensky, and Jacques Mieses.

Elisabeth Paehtz was World Junior Champion for Girls in 2005.

Jacqueline Piatigorsky, born in 1911, was a woman chess player and patron. She played in several US Women's championships.

Judit Polgar became an International Master at the age of 12 - younger than Fischer or Kasparov. At 13 she was the World Under-14 Champion (played

against boys) and FIDE's highest rated woman. She won the U.S. Open in 1998, the only woman to ever win it. In 1999

she was the first and only woman to be a FIDE World Champion quarterfinalist. For the past 20 years, Judit has been the world's highest rated female player, but has never competed for the women's title. She only plays in men's events.

In 1989 Sofia (Zsotia) Polgar achieved the highest performance rating ever recorded when she scored 8.5 out of 9 at an international tournament in Rome. Her performance rating was over 2900.

In 1981 Susan (Zsuzsa) Polgar was the winner of the first Women's Cadet (under 16) chess championship. She was the Women's World Chess Champion from 1996 to 1999. In 1999, Susan had given birth to her first

child and requested that the world championship match be postponed. FIDE refused, and eventually set up the world championship match between Alisa Galliamova of Russia and Xie Jun of China. The winner was Xie Jun.

In 1948 Edith Price won the British Ladies Championship at the age of 76, the oldest player ever to win a national championship. She won the British Women's Championship 5 times.

Adele Rivero won the 1st U.S. Women's championship in 1937.

Alexey Rudolph Root won the U.S. Women's championship in 1989.

In 1963 Mrs. Edvige Rubinstein of Milan, Italy was the first woman to divorce her husband because he played chess. The court ruled that she was entitled to the divorce and custody of the children because her husband was so obsessed with chess that he refused to work and support their two children.

Olga Rubtsova (1909-1994) was the 4th women's world champion from 1956 to 1958. She became the first Women's Correspondence Chess

Champion in 1972. She is the only chess player to become world champion at over-the-board and correspondence chess.

Ludmilla Rudenko (1904-1986) was the 2nd women's world champion from 1950 to 1953.

She was an economist and former swimming champion. She became the Odessa swimming champion in the 400 meter breaststroke.

Mary Rudge (1842-1919) won the 1st Women's International tournament in London in 1897. She was age 55 and the oldest of the 20 players.

Elaine Saunders, born in 1926, won the British girls' under-21 title at the age of 10. She won the British women's championship at the age of 13.

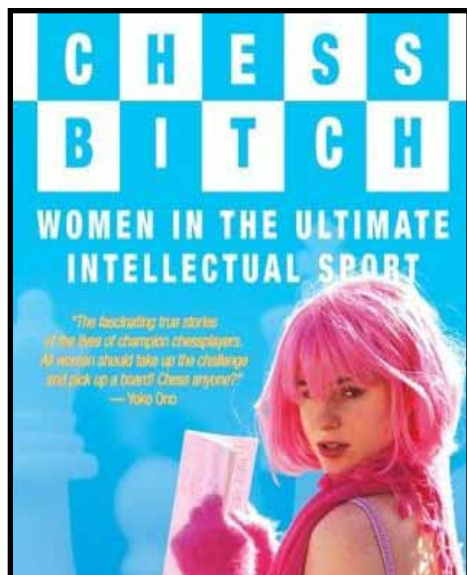
Diane Savereide was the U.S. Women's Chess Champion 6 times, from 1975 to 1984.

Jennifer Shahade, born December 31, 1980, is a Woman International Master and a two-time U.S. Women's Champion (2002 and 2004). She is the



*The Polgar sisters*





author of Chess Bitch. In 1998, she became the first and only female to win the U.S. Junior Open.

Antoaneta Stefanova, born April 19, 1979, won the FIDE Women's World Championship in 2004. She was awarded the GM title in 2003.

Anne Sunnucks, born in 1927, was British Women's champion in 1957, 1958, and 1964. She was an officer in the British Army.

Eileen Trammer (1910-1983) won the British Ladies' Championship with a perfect 11-0 in 1949. She won the British Ladies' Championship four times. She was a musician, but then became deaf and then took up chess.

Xie Jun, born in 1970, was women's world champion from 1991 to 1996, and again from 1999 to 2001. In 2000, a knock-out event was the new format of the women's world championship, won by Xi Jun.

Xu Yuhua of China won the Women's World Chess Championship in March, 2006. She is a Woman GM. She was pregnant during the championship and played, unlike Judit Polgar and Zhu Chen years earlier.

Anna Zatonikh, born in 1978, won the 2006 U.S. Women's championship. She is a Woman Grandmaster. She won the Ukrainian Women's Championship twice.

Zhu Chen, born on March 16, 1976, became the 11th Women's World Champion in 2001 when she defeated Alexandra Kosteniuk by the score of 5-3. In 1988, she won the World Girls' Under 12 Championship, becoming the first Chinese chess player to win a gold medal in an international event.

She won the World Junior Girls Chess Championship in 1994 and 1996. She became a Woman Grandmaster in 1998. She did not take part in the Women's World Championship in 2004 (won by Stefanova) due to pregnancy. She is married to Grandmaster Mohammad Al-Modiakah of Qatar.

In 2008, Alexandra Kosteniuk of Russia won the Women's World Chess Championship.

In 2010, 16 year old Hou Yifan of China won the Women's World Chess championship after defeating Ruan Lufei. Hou Yifan becomes the youngest women's world champion.

In 1927, FIDE, the world chess federation, established the Women's World Championship as a single tournament, held alongside of the 1927 Chess Olympiad held in London. The winner was Vera Menchik, who won the event in 1927, 1930, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1937, and 1939.



### The FIDE Women's World Champions have been

Vera Menchik	(1927-1944),
Lyudmila Rudenko	(1950-1953),
Elisabeth Bykova	(1953-1956),
Olga Rubtsova	(1956-1958),
Elisabeth Bykova	(1958-1962),
Nona Gaprindashvili	(1962-1978),
Maia Chiburdanidze	(1978-1991),
Xie Jun	(1991-1996),
Susan Polgar	(1996-1999),
Xie Jun	(1999-2001),
Zhu Chen	(2001-2004),
Antoaneta Stefanova	(2004-2006),
Xu Yuhua	(2006-2008),
Alexandria Kosteniuk	(2008-2010),
Hou Yifan	(2010- )

### Women with the men's grandmaster title are

Nona Gaprindashvili	(1978),
Maia Chiburdanidze	(1984),
Susan Polgar	(1991),
Judit Polgar	(1991),
Pia Cramling	(1992),
Xie Jun	(1994),
Zhu Chen	(2001),
Antoaneta Stefanova	(2001),
Koneru Humpy	(2002).

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## Annotated Game

by Bill Wall

### The Jerome Gambit

The Jerome Gambit, 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Bxf7!? is an offshoot of the Giuoco Piano where White can sacrifice two pieces to expose Black's king. There are a lot of traps in this opening, and if Black does not know how to defend properly, he will most likely get mated or lose quickly. I started playing this gambit in early 2010 after seeing Rick Kennedy's blog (<http://jeromegambit.blogspot.com/>) on the Jerome Gambit, which he calls the duck-billed platypus of chess openings. I have now played it 55 times as White, with 2 losses, 2 draws, and 51 wins on the Internet (FICS and [www.chess.com](http://www.chess.com)). Rick Kennedy has a free database of thousands of games with this opening and has written and researched the Jerome Gambit for the past several years. The gambit works fine if you know it and can surprise a player who has never seen it and does not know how to defend against it. Perfect for blitz or Internet play at faster time controls.

Alonzo Wheeler Jerome was born on March 8, 1834 at Four Mile Point, New York. He started playing this opening after the Civil War and sent some of his games to the Dubuque Chess Journal, edited by O. Brownson. An article appeared about the opening in the April 1874 issue of Dubuque Chess Journal, calling it Jerome's Double Opening. The July 1874 issue carried the first Jerome Gambit between Jerome and William Shinkman.

In 1876, Alonzo played a correspondence game with the Jerome Gambit against Lt. (later Colonel) Garland Whistler (1847-1914), who was secretary of the Lexington Kentucky Chess Club. Whistler's brother was the famous James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) who painted Whistler's Mother.

Jerome contributed to the American Chess Journal, sending his Jerome Gambit games. The editor, W.S. Hallock, referred his gambit as "Jerome's Absurdity."

Jerome became a printer and patented a method to form letters for a printing machine. He later moved to Springfield, Illinois and worked as a guide in the state capitol building.

In September, 1899, he wrote a 23-page souvenir booklet for those

he escorted through the state capitol building. He title it, The Great Debate: A Platform Scene in the Seven Joint Discussions between Lincoln and Douglas, which covered the debates between Lincoln and Douglas.

Jerome died in 1902 at the age of 67.

In the late 19th century, Henry Blackburne played against this opening and wrote, "I used to call this the Kentucky opening. For awhile after its introduction, it was greatly favored by certain players, but they soon grew tired of it."

Here are a few of my Jerome Gambit games.

Bill Wall – David Gorodertsky,  
[www.chess.com](http://www.chess.com), 2010

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 [Black's best alternative is 3...Nf6] 4.Bxf7+ [the Jerome Gambit, which may not be sound at the higher levels of chess, but the opening is full of traps with the Black king exposed] Kxf7 5.Nxe5 [White sacs another piece for quick development] Nxe5 6.d4 [more common is 6.Qh5+, but this move pins two pieces] Qh4 [with threats of 7.dxe5?? Qxf2 mate or 7...Qxe4] 7.O-O [looks the best to protect the White king from attack] Qxe4 [or continue to develop with 7...Nf6] 8.dxc5 Nf6 9.Nc3 [White needs to develop quickly] Qc6 10.Re1 [or 10.Qd4 to protect the c5 pawn] d6 [Black could also play 10...Qxc5, and White continues to develop with 11.Be3] 11.cxd6 Qxd6 [11...cxd6 may be better] 12.Bf4 [attacking the knight with two pieces and threatening the c7 pawn later] Nf3+? [Black throws away a piece. Black should play 12...Qxd1 and 13...Nc6] 13.Qxf3 Qb6? [this square is bad as White can attack the queen with his knight. White



should try to trade queens, but 13... Qc6 14.Qxc6 bxc6 15.Bxc7 wins another pawn] 14.Nd5! [threatening 15.Nxc7 or 15.Re7+, and if the Black knight takes, then White has a discovered attack on the Black king] Nxd5 15.Bxc7+ Qf6 16.Qxd5 Be6 17.Qxb7 Rhe8?? [Black should play 17...Kg6 and get out of the discovered check] 18.Bd8+ [winning the queen or the rook if 18...Rxe7 19.Bxe7, then threatening 20.Qxa8, winning the other rook] and Black resigns 1-0

Bill Wall – Ian Joshua, [www.chess.com](http://www.chess.com), 2010

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Bxf7+ Kxf7 5.Nxe5 Nxe5 6.Qh5+ Ke6 [probably the best move for Black. Other moves allow 7.Qxe5] 7.f4 [this may be better than 7.Qf5+ Kd6] Nf6? [7...d6 or 7...Qf6 looks better for quick development and help protect the king. Now White wins the two pieces] 8.Qxe5+ Kf7 9.Qxc5 Qe8 10.Nc3 [White needs to develop his pieces quickly] Nxe4?? [This loses a piece and gives White a chance to attack the Black king.



Perhaps 10...c6 to prevent 11.Nd5 is best] 11.Qh5+ [better than 11.Nxe4 Qxe4+ and 12...Qxf4.

White could also play 11.Qd5+ getting two pieces on the Black knight] g6 12.Qd5+ Kf8 13.Nxe4 [now White is materially up a piece and a pawn] Qe7 14.O-O c6 15.Qd4 [threatening the rook] Rg8 16.f5 [threatening to open up the position and get the White rook into the game and attacking the Black king] c5 17.fxg6+ Ke8 18.gxh7 [or 18.Nf6+] cxd4 19.hxg8=Q+ and Black resigns 1-0





# Ask Bill



**Bill Wall**

*bill\_wall@bellsouth.net*

**From Mary S.**  
*What chess set do you recommend?*

**Mary.** Chess sets can be cheap or expensive, for play or for show. If you are going to play chess in tournaments, you want a Staunton design chess set, which is the traditional chess set and the only design approved by the United States Chess Federation and FIDE (the world chess federation). The pieces are usually made of plastic or wood. They are often black and white, or dark wood and light wood. The height of the king should be 3.4 to 4.1 inches. The diameter of the king should be 40% of its height. The sizes of the other pieces should be in proportion to the king. The pieces should be well balanced, and preferably weighted at the bottom with felt. The size of squares on a chess board should be 1.25 to 1.3 times the diameter of the base of the king, or about 2.25 inches for the squares. The darker squares are usually brown or green and the lighter squares are off-white or buff. You can get a roll-up board or a solid wooden board or a board that folds in half. You may also want to get a magnetic chess set for travel. You may also want a bag or carrying case for all this.

**From Victor S.** *Do you know of any good chess puzzle books and are they helpful?*

**Victor.** There are several good chess puzzle books. Chess puzzle books full of tactics and books on chess traps in the opening are the best type of books to improve your chess play.

In 1999, grandmaster John Nunn published John Nunn's Chess Puzzle Book. John Nunn has selected 250 chess positions to test your tactical and positional skills. Each chess position challenges the reader to find the best move, either tactical or positional. There are hints to help you out, especially when some spectacular combination may really lead the reader into a trap. The positions are harder and less predictable than other puzzle books. The book ends with a series of tests to measure the reader's skills against those of other players.

In 2000, John Emms authored The Ultimate Chess Puzzle Book, full of tactical positions. Tin this 239 page book, here are 1,000 chess positions that contain some tactic to help win the game.

In 2001, Garry Kasparov published Garry Kasparov's Chess Puzzle Book. Kasparov selects 90 of the best chess combinations from grandmaster play in the 1990s, and presents them in a test-yourself format.

Jon Speelman authored Jon Speelman's Chess Puzzle Book, based on themes such as stalemate, the pin, the skewer, pawn promotion, mating attacks, bank rank mate, knight forks, etc. There are 300 positions in this book.

Zenon Franco, a grandmaster from Paraguay who now lives in Spain, published The Giant Chess Puzzle Book. There are 1,001 chess puzzles with solutions, starting with easy positions and ending with extremely tough positions.

In 2010, John Shaw published Quality Chess Puzzle Book, featuring a variety of chess positions from recent games. There are 735 positions.

There are also a number of online chess puzzle sites and many sites have a chess puzzle of the day.

**From Harvey W.** *Does chess make you crazy like Bobby Fischer and others? Do criminals play chess?*

**Harvey.** I don't think chess makes you crazy. Chess does have its eccentric players, and some may have been mentally ill. Fischer may or may not have been mentally ill. He appeared to be paranoid and anti-Semitic. There may have been mental illness in Paul Morphy or William Steinitz. Harry Pillsbury may have become mentally ill, but he was infected with a venereal disease that may have caused that. Tony Miles, one of England's greatest players, suffered from mental illness and was hospitalized for a few months. As far as criminals, some played chess while in jail, like Sirhan Sirhan, Charles Manson, and Al Capone. Hitler may not have played chess, but there is some evidence that he supported it. Mussolini was a chess player. Lee Harvey Oswald played chess, which was mentioned in the Warren Report on the Kennedy assassination. For every insane player, there must be thousands of sane players.

**From Enis B.** *I am researching the widespread influence of chess in the USSR before its collapse in 1992. How did chess get so popular in the USSR and how many chess players were there in the USSR?*

**Enis.** When the Bolsheviks seized control of Russia in 1917, they wanted to remake society along socialist lines, and chess was used to promote literacy and social discipline. The numbers of registered chess players that I have seen are: 1923 - 1,000; 1924 - 24,000 players; 1928 - 140,000 players; 1929 - 150,000 players; 1934 - 500,000 players. 1960 - 2 million players; 1966 - 3,540,000 players; 1981 - at least 4 million registered players. The breakup of the USSR and subsequent economic difficulties in its former republics has caused a large decrease in the numbers of registered chess players. Many of the top former USSR players moved to other countries, but Russia remains a center of excellence in chess.

**From Jessica -** *How do you read chess moves and how do you know if it is White or Black who made the move?*

**Jessica.** Chess moves are usually written algebraically, from left to right on a chess board, a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h. and from bottom to top of the board 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8. The notation is always from the White point of view. There is usually no indication for a pawn. The knight is represented with a N. The Bishop, Rook, Queen, and King are represented by B, R, Q, K, respectively. So if you see a move that says 1.e4, then you assume it is White that moved, and he moved his pawn to the e4 square, or Pawn to King Four. If it were Black's move, it is usually written with the additional ... added to the move number. So 1... Nf6 means that Black moved on his first move of the game (or the first move of a position), and he moved his knight to the f6 square (White point of view) or Knight to King Bishop 3. Moves usually come in pairs after each move number. So 2.e5 Nd5 means that White played his pawn to the e5 square and Black moved his Knight to the d5 square. If you see something like 3.d4 exd4 or 3.d4 ed, that means that White pushed his pawn to the d4 square and Black took the pawn with his pawn, from the e square (e5 square). An "x" means capture.

**Nathan -** *What is the Scotch Game and is it playable?*

**Nathan.** The Scotch Game is a chess opening that begins with 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4. It was first mentioned in 1750, but got its name from a correspondence match in 1824 between Edinburgh, Scotland and London. It was played in the 19th century, but lost its popularity in the 20th century as White could not control the center which allowed Black to equalize. The opening gained some popularity back when former world champion Garry Kasparov started playing it. It was used as a surprise weapon to avoid the more analyzed opening like the Ruy Lopez (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5) or the Italian Game (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4). After 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4, Black usually takes the pawn with 3...exd4. White can now play 4.Nxd4, the main line, or 4.Bc4, the Scotch Gambit, or 4.c3, the Goering Gambit. The Scotch game is playable as it gets a pawn in the center quickly, followed by minor piece development and eventually, castling to get the King to safety. It is a good open game with lots of possibilities for tactics and combinations. I even wrote a book on it, 500 Scotch Miniatures.





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Author Bill Wall's  
Chess Resource Site



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