



White Knight Review

Chess E-Magazine

Interactive E-Magazine

Volume 2 • Issue 2

March/April 2011

Chess in the Middle Ages



Speed Chess

ALL IN THE Family

- Family Members who play Chess

The Art Of Chess

- Henri-Robert- Marcel- Duchamp

African American Chess Players

Chess and the Brain

CHESS BLOGS

White Knight Review

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My Move

jerry_wall@comcast.net

editorial -Jerry Wall



I thought chess was supposed to be somewhat civil. I recently picked up a copy of Wired Magazine and to my surprise I read about a new sport called Chess Boxing. The article, entitled "Knight Decks Pawn" explains the sport which alternates between three

minute rounds of punching in a checkerboard ring and four minutes of heart-pounding (pardon the pun) chess. Matches end after 11 rounds, a knockout or whoever wins with checkmate. It started in France (I thought they didn't like to fight) and now Chess boxing clubs are sprouting up all through Los Angeles (now that makes sense). Whats next? Drive-by chess moves?

Either the chess players are trying to improve their bodies or the athletes are trying to improve their minds but I would think either way that after about 5 rounds I probably couldn't tell the difference between a pawn and a queen. In this issue we do an article on chess and the brain and how it improves your cognitive skills, memory, intuition and spatial processing. I would think that a couple blows to the head will probably nullify that. Seems like there is a contradiction here. Whereas chess improves your brain, boxing can turn it into a pool of jello. But who am I to judge.

Chess has always been about combat. Our article on chess in medieval days show how the Muslims during the crusades adapted the chess moves to the strategy of combat even noticing that the knight on horseback could jump over the infantryman (sound familiar?). Too bad we can't just settle our differences over a nice board of chess. Then again it looks like now if we find ourselves like in a losing position, we can always hope for a knockout.



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 me a line at:
editor@offthewallchess.com*



White Knight Review

Chess E-Magazine

Executive Editor/Writer

Bill Wall

bill_wall@bellsouth.net

Publisher /Editor/ Creative Director

Gerald Wall

jerry_wall@comcast.net

Production/ Marketing

Steve Wall

info@offthewallchess.com

For Subscription

subscription@offthewallchess.com

For Advertising Rates

advertising@offthewallchess.com

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By Bill Wall

Jerry Wall

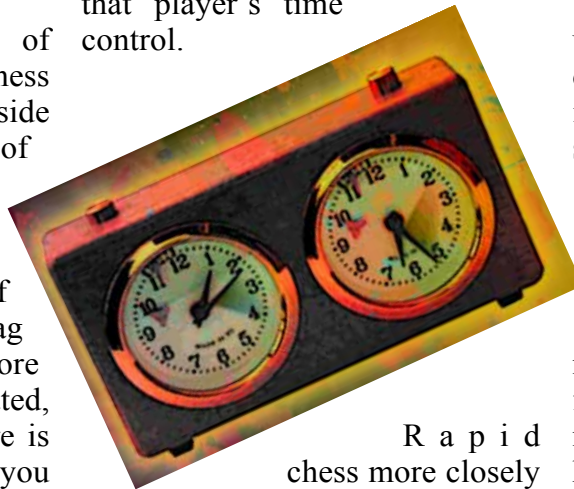
Before the invention of chess clocks, chess was played at a slow rate. Normal chess time controls are one to three hours per player. But speed chess, or fast chess, is played at faster time controls. There are even different names to distinguish the maximum duration of a game. All regular chess clocks have a special device, usually called a “flag,” that indicates that time control was met when the flag falls.

Before the common use of digital clocks, the regular chess clock was set to 5-minutes per side (10 minutes total) for a game of sudden death (no increment) blitz chess (also called 5-minute chess; blitz is the German word for lightning). If you ran out of time and your flag fell on your chess clock before you checkmated, stalemated, got a perpetual check, or there is insufficient material to mate, you lost on time. Before the popularity of blitz chess, there was “rapid transit” chess in which a referee would call out “move” every 10 seconds. If a player did not make a move at the end of 10 seconds, when the referee said “move,” he would lose.

Blitz chess seems to be the most popular type of speed chess among experienced chess players who are playing for fun.

Rapid or quick chess soon

became popular in tournaments with faster time controls. The chess clock was set at 15 minutes to 60 minutes per player (blitz chess was any time control less than 15 minutes). Later, digital chess clocks included a feature that allowed a player to play rapid chess with a small time increment per move. For example, after every move by a player, the clock would add 10 more seconds to that player’s time control.



Rapid chess more closely resembles a regular, slower game of chess. There is more time to make proper plans and play more carefully with less blunders and more calculation, rather than rely on intuition and tactical cheap tricks. These time limits in rapid chess are often used in one-day chess tournaments with 5 or 6 games played in one day.

With digital clocks, blitz chess could be played at 3 to 5 minutes per side, with an additional small increment. Usually, the time

control for blitz chess with newer digital clocks would be 3 minutes with a 2 second increment added after every move.

Lightning chess is a general term for extremely fast chess. Time control could be from 1 minute to 3 minutes per side. Usually, the term is reserved for 2-minute chess.

Bullet chess is sometimes the term for 1 minute chess games.

An Armageddon chess game is usually one speed chess game that determines the match or tournament instead of a tie-breaking point system. Usually Black has draw odds (if the game is a draw, Black wins) in Armageddon chess.

To compensate, White gets more time on his chess clock.

Common time controls are 6 minutes for White and 5 minutes for Black (or 5 minutes and 4 minutes, respectively). This is also known as “time odds” chess.

In some tournaments, the final results of the players may be resolved by a series of speed games with shorter and shorter time controls as tie breaks.

In speed chess, it is a common rule that if a player makes an illegal move, the player’s opponent may point out the illegal move and claim a win. For example, if a player leaves the King in check, the other player may claim the win, or just take the King and win.

In speed chess, each player

must press the clock with the same hand that moves the pieces (in regular chess, either hand can press the chess clock). When castling, a player may use both hands to move the rook and king. When capturing a piece or pawn, or completing a promotion (i.e., substituting a Pawn for a Queen), both hands may be used if it is clear that the chess clock is pressed after the move is determined.

In speed chess, players do not need to record the moves.

In 1897, perhaps the first speed chess tournament was held at a London chess club. The time control was 30 seconds a move.

In 1970, Bobby Fischer won the Herceg Novi, Yugoslavia Blitz Tournament (5-minute chess) with the score of 17 wins, 4 draws, and 1 loss to win the unofficial "Speed Chess Championship of the World." Mikhail Tal took 2nd, followed by Viktor Korchnoi, Tigran Petrosian, and David Bronstein. The tournament had four world chess champions competing (Smyslov took 8th place). Fischer finished 4.5 points ahead of Tal in second place. According to one report, Fischer spent no more than 2.5 minutes on any one game.

In 1971, Fischer played in a strong Manhattan Chess Club blitz tournament and won 21 games, drawing one game, and losing none.

In 1988, the first World Blitz chess championship was held. The winner was former world chess champion, Mikhail Tal.

In 2001, the first World Rapid chess championship was held. The winner was world chess champion Garry Kasparov.

Many chess players play speed chess to help them improve their

regular game. Speed chess helps you think quickly and you are able to practice more openings and total games in a short period of time. There is little time for deep thought. Internet chess sites have speed chess time controls that automatically track the time elapsed for you and most record the game as well.

"blitz chess"

(also called 5-minute chess)

"Blitz is the German word for lightning."

Speed chess is more about reflexes, intuition and quick decision rather than making long detailed analysis and lots of calculations. Speed chess is a good time to practice tactics, since recognizing chess patterns is a crucial ability once you have less time on the chess clock.

Speed chess includes games full of blunders and overlooked moves. Most of the games are lost on time rather than a checkmate, stalemate, or draw. Speed chess is a good testing ground for opening ideas and tactical play.

For Internet chess players, some feel that speed chess is the real test of chess prowess. Slower games may be played by an unknown opponent with a chess engine, but speed chess, especially bullet chess, takes away the likelihood that someone is using a chess computer. It is just too fast for someone with a chess engine to input the moves and wait for the computer to respond, then make the move. Strong chess masters and grandmasters dominate the Internet rating for speed chess (blitz or bullet chess).

For street hustlers, speed chess is the preferred game of choice. A

speed game is generally played for money, usually a 5-minute game with no increments.

For speed chess, the player must play much more quickly of course. A player will go from making 2 or 3 moves every 10 minutes in a regular game to making hundreds of moves in 10 minutes time. The speed player must be more physically alert. Once a move is decided, which is usually in a few seconds, he then must move quickly and also quickly hit the chess clock.

One needs good preparation to play speed chess. A player must know the hand movements for capturing pieces, castling, and promoting a pawn to another piece before the move happens. If a player is about to promote a pawn, he better put a piece (preferably a Queen) ready in the other hand on his opponent's time so that he won't waste valuable seconds on the chess clock looking for a piece to promote. When capturing, it is best to move your own piece with one hand and pick up the opponent's piece with the other hand in a single fluid motion, then hit the chess clock with the bottom of the piece you just captured so that you don't waste any time putting the captured piece down, then hitting the clock.

Opinions vary whether speed chess is good for your general chess at regular time controls. Some feel that playing a lot of speed chess leads to superficial thought processes and rushed decision-making. Others say that speed chess helps with recognizing tactical play and awareness. Speed chess helps a player at making quick decisions, which is helpful when a player is in time-trouble in longer games.



Biography

The Art of Chess

Henri-Robert-Marcel Duchamp



By Bill Wall

Henri-Robert-Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968) was a renowned French artist whose work is most associated with the Dadaist and Surrealist

movements of the early 20th century.. He came from a family of artists that enjoyed cultural activities. One of these activities was chess, along with paint-

ing and music. Marcel probably learned chess from his older brothers when he was around 11 years old. His older brother, Jacques Villon, etched *La Partie d'echecs*, featuring 17-year-old Marcel Duchamp playing chess with his sister, Suzanne.

In his early twenties, Marcel began painting chess players playing chess. One canvas shows his brothers playing chess in their garden while his two sisters look on. He created a series of at least six drawings and two Cubist paintings of his brothers playing chess. His *Portrait of Chess Players* (*Portrait de joueurs d'echecs*) showed overlapping frames and multiple perspectives of his older two brothers, Raymond and Jacques, playing chess. The oil on canvas painting hangs in the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

In 1912, Marcel painted one of his most famous paintings, *Nude Descending a Staircase, No. 2*, in which motion was expressed by successive superimposed images. He entered



Duchamp-Art of Chess (cont)

the painting at the 28th Salon des Independents exhibition in Paris, but it was rejected. It was too radical at the time. He later entered his *Nude Descending a Staircase* at the 69th Armory in New York City. It was viewed by 100,000 visitors during the month long exhibition.

Marcel moved to New York he began playing chess with New York art patron and collector Walter Arensberg. He also joined some local chess clubs and played chess there frequently. He was about master strength.

While in New York, he created his first readymade, a coat rack nailed to the floor. He named this *Trebuchet*, or trap, after a chess jargon for a pawn placed so as to trap an opponent's pieces. Soon, Marcel gave up painting and was becoming more of a chess addict, playing every day.

Duchamp's official last painting was made after World War I. He moved from New York to Buenos Aires and spent most of the time playing chess, joined a local chess club, and took chess lessons from a local master. He carved his own chess set from wood, with the assistance of a local craftsman who made the chess knights. He remained in Argentina for 9 months before moving to Paris in 1919, then back to the United States in 1920. Marcel once observed "I am still a victim of chess. It has all the beauty of art - and much more. It cannot be commercialized; Chess is much purer than art in its social position."

While in Buenos Aires, he started two games simultaneously by cable with art collec-

tor Walter Arensberg in New York. He invented a code for transmitting the moves so that costs would be minimal. He also designed a set of rubber stamps for recording chess positions. In a letter he wrote to the Stettheimer sisters (Carrie and Florine), "My attention is so completely absorbed by chess. I play day and night, and



nothing interests me more than finding the right move.... I like painting less and less." Marcel also designed a chess set with a traveling foldaway table and a board that has two stopwatches for timed games.

Marcel returned to New York in the 1920s and joined the Marshall Chess Club, which was then located above the Pepper Pot Restaurant on 8th Street in Greenwich Village. He played there every evening and lived close by the chess club. In 1921, Duchamp took 2nd place in the Marshall Chess Club championship, behind Bruno Forsberg. He also participated in the Metropolitan Chess League and was on the winning team (Marshall Chess Club). He also played world champion Jose Capablanca, who was giving a 21-board simultaneous exhibition. Duchamp lost, but that motivated him to study chess harder.

Marcel moved to Brussels,

Belgium in 1923 to study chess and played in the Belgium chess championship. He score 7.5 out of 10 and took 3rd place. He then went back to Paris. He now devoted most of his time to chess, abandoning his career as an artist. He was a member of the Rouen chess club in France and one of its strongest players.

Marcel was very active in organized chess events. He played in the 1924 World Amateur Championship in Paris (scoring 6 out of 14), four French championships from 1925 to 1928, and four Olympiads from 1928 to 1933. He tied for first place at Hyeres 1928 and won the Paris championship in 1932. In

1924, he won the chess championship of Upper Normandy. He then played in the 2nd French Chess championship in Strasbourg. The event was won by Robert Crepeux and Duchamp placed high in the standings.

In the mid 1920s, Duchamp appeared in a scene from René Clair's short film, *Entr'acte*. He is seen sitting on the edge of a roof playing chess with Man Ray.

Marcel designed the poster for the 3rd French Chess Championship held in Nice from September 2 to September 11, 1925. He played in the event, with 3 wins, 3 losses, and 2 draws and taking 6th place. He was awarded the title of chess master by the French Chess Federation (Federation Francaise des Echecs). The event was won by Robert Crepeux, who won it in 1924.

Marcel married Lydie Sara-

Duchamp-Art of Chess (cont)

zin-Lavassor in 1927. It may have been a marriage of convenience. She was the daughter of a wealthy automobile manufacturer, and her marriage contract was to have supplied him with a steady source of income while he painted and played chess. During his honeymoon, he went every day to a chess club in Nice. When he returned, he spent several more hours studying chess positions. His marriage lasted only six months because of his obsession to chess. He spent most of his time playing chess around Nice, France. One story (told by his friend Man Ray) is that his bride was so frustrated at him for playing chess that she glued all the chess pieces to the board while he was asleep. They were divorced on January 25, 1928.

Marcel participated in the 5th French chess championship, held in Chamonix in 1927. That event was won by Andre Cheron. In 1928, he shared 1st place at the Hyeres chess tournament with Vitaly Halberstadt and J.J. O'Hanlon. He then played on the French team at the 2nd chess Olympiad in The Hague in 1928. He played Board 3 and won 1 game (defeating Vladimir Petrov of Latvia), drew 11, and lost 4. He lost one game, to



Hans Mueller, in 10 moves, the shortest game of the Olympiad.

Marcel played in the 6th French championship, held in Marseilles in 1928. That event was won by Amedee Gibaud. In 1929, he defeated George Koltanowski in 15 moves in a Paris tournament. He also drew with Vera Menchik, the women's world chess champion from 1927 to 1944, when she died from a German bomb during World War II.

In the 1930s, he played his greatest number of tournament chess games. He played in an international tournament in Nice in April. In May, he played in an international tournament in Paris. He played on the French

**He once observed
"I am a victim of chess. It has
all the beauty of art - and
much more. Chess is much
purer than art."**

team at the 3rd chess Olympiad in Hamburg in 1930. He played board 4 (Alexander Alekhine played board 1, winning 9 out of 9). He won 1, drew 6, and lost 8.

Marcel played the reserve board for the French team at the 4th chess Olympiad in Prague in 1931. He won 1, drew 3, and lost 5. He was also a member of the board of the French Chess Federation and was a delegate to FIDE until 1937.

Marcel was also involved in correspondence chess and won several correspondence tournaments. He also became a chess journalist. He wrote weekly newspaper chess columns for the Paris daily newspaper, *Ce Soir* for several years. From 1934 to 1939, he played in the first correspondence Olympiad, and went undefeated.

Along with Vitaly Halberstadt (1903-1967), Marcel wrote



L'opposition et cases conjuguées sont reconciliées (Opposition and Sister Squares are Reconciled). It was published in a limited edition of 1,000 copies by L'Echiquier, Edmond Lancel, in Brussels around 1932. It is a study of some king and pawn endgames, including one that arose from Emanuel Lasker vs Gustavus Reichenheim in 1901. Using enneagram-like charts (9 sided star polygon), that fold upon themselves, the authors demonstrated that in this position, the endgame is a draw if Black

moved first. It was written in French, English, and German.

Marcel won the 1932 Paris Championship, ahead of Eugene Znosko-Borovsky, a strong Russian chess master living in Paris. He then played on the French team at the 5th chess Olympiad in Folkestone in 1933. He played board 4. He won 1, drew 2, and lost 9 for a 16.7% winning percentage. His total Olympiad result was 4 wins, 22 draws, and 26 losses. Afterwards, he won the Internationaler Fernschachbund, the European correspondence chess championship.

By the 1940s, Duchamp realized that his ambition to be a great chess player was hopeless. Duchamp's good friend, Henri-Pierre Roche, wrote that "Duchamp needed a good game of chess like a baby needs a bottle." Marcel settled permanently in New York to avoid

Duchamp-Art of Chess (cont)

the hardships of World War II in Europe. He had a studio on 14th Street. Duchamp and George Koltanowski formed the Greenwich Village Chess Club in 1942. During this time, he designed a pocket chess set with a leather wallet, celluloid pieces and pin attachments, which he called 'Rectified Readymade.'

Marcel organized an Imagery of Chess exhibition at the Marshall Chess Club and the Julien Levy Gallery in 1944. The gallery exhibition was called "Through the Big End of the Opera Glass." He invited artists to redesign the standard chess sets or create works that explored the symbolism of chess. Duchamp designed the catalog and was the arbiter in a blindfold match given by Koltanowski on 6 boards, played in January, 1945.

Marcel joined the London Terrace Chess Club in New York and was still a member of the Marshall Chess Club. He took 1st place in the preliminaries of the 1948 New York State Chess Association. The event was won by grandmaster Larry Evans (1932-2010). He then went 6-0 in the preliminaries of the New York State Chess Association in Rochester. The event was won by chess master Max Pavey.

Marcel played in the 1950 New York State championship in Binghamton. He won 5 and lost 4. The event was won by master Eliot Hearst. The next year, he participated in the New York State championship in Syracuse, New York. He won 4, lost 4, and drew 1. The event was won by international master James Sherwin.

Marcel gave a speech at a banquet during the 1952 New York State Chess Association annual meeting in Cazenova. He said, "Beauty in chess is closer to beauty in poetry; the chess pieces are the block al-

phabet which shapes thoughts; and these thoughts, although making a visual design on the chess-board, express their beauty abstractly, like a poem...

From my close contacts with artists and chess players, I have come to the personal conclusion that while all artists are not chess players, all chess players are artists." He participated in the 1952 New York State Chess Championship, won by John Collins. Duchamp took 16th place. The next year, he played in the New York State championship in Cazenova. Duchamp took 15th place.

In 1954, he married Alexina "Teeny" Sattler Matisse (1906-1995), who was also a chess player (unlike his first wife). She joined the Marshall Chess Club, where they lived directly across the street, and she became an enthusiastic player. She

was the former wife of Pierre Matisse, son of Henri Matisse. Marcel became a naturalized citizen of the United States the next year.

In the mid-1950s, Irish playwright Samuel Beckett wrote a play called Endgame based on Duchamp's endgame work. It was around this time that Marcel made his acquaintance with Bobby Fischer. Marcel was also a member of the board of directors of the American Chess Foundation.

Marcel played in the 1957 New York State championship in Binghamton. The event was won by August Rankis. Duchamp won 4, lost 4, and drew 1. The next year, he won the London Terrace Chess Club Championship at the age of 71. He won the event again in 1959 at the age of 72.

In the early 1960s, Duchamp,



Duchamp-Art of Chess (cont)

who lived in Greenwich Village, played a chess game by telegraph with a small team of Amsterdam school boys during an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in Amsterdam called *Bewogen Beweging* (Moving Motion). A move a day was sent. Duchamp eventually won in 31 moves. He was 74. The Dutch players included future international master Hans Ree, Tim Krabbe, Herman Grimme, and Hans Lauring. During an interview, he was asked what chess was. He said, "Chess is a sport. A violent sport. This detracts from it most artistic connections."

In 1963, at a retrospective exhibition, he played chess with a nude woman at the Pasadena Museum of Art. A very famous photograph of this exhibition appeared around the world of Duchamp playing chess with a naked lady. Later, a French movie was made called *Game of Chess* with Marcel Duchamp. There is a long interview with Duchamp about chess. The movie won the grand prix for the short subject category at the 7th Annual Bergamo Film Festival.

In the mid-1960s, he organized a chess exhibition called *Hommage a Caissa*. He produced 30 'ReadyMade' chess sets and sold them at the Cordier & Elkstrom Gallery in New York. In this exhibition, he played chess with Salvador Dali, and Andy Warhol had the band Velvet Underground sent to provide the background music. Duchamp raised over \$32,000 to support the American Chess Foundation. Duchamp founded a Marcel Duchamp Chess Endowment Fund to support American chess.

In March, 1968, he played a chess game with avant-garde composer John Cage (1912-1992) in Toronto, at a concert entitled "Reunion." Aleatoric music (chance music) was produced by a series of photoelectric cells underneath each square of the chessboard as the chess pieces moved about the board.

He died on October 2, 1968 in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, a suburb of Paris.

Some of his chess quotes are as follows:

"Chess has no social purpose. That, above all, is important."

"Chess is purer, socially, than painting, for you can't make money out of it." - New York Times, 1956.

His four most famous chess paintings are:

The Chess Game (1910)

The Chess Players (1911)

Portrait de joueurs d'échecs (Portrait of Chess Players) (1911)

King and Queen Surrounded by Swift Nudes (1912)

In 2009, Francis Naumann edited a book called *Marcel Duchamp, the Art of Chess*. Also in 2009, an exhibition called "Marcel Duchamp: The Art of Chess," was held at the Francis M. Naumann Gallery in Manhattan.



Hans Mueller - M. Duchamp, 2nd Chess Olympiad, The Hague 1928

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Ne4 8.Bxd8 Nxc3 9.Nxc6 Nxd1+ 10.Nxb4 1-0

S. Gudmundsson - M. Duchamp, Olympiad, Hamburg 1930

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.e5 d4 6.exf6 dxc3 7.fxg7 cxd2+ 8.Bxd2 Bxg7 9.Qc2 Qe7+ 10.Be2 Be6 11.Nf3 Nc6 12.O-O O-O 13.Bd3 h6 14.a3 Rad8 15.Rac1 Ne5 16.Be4 Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 c5 18.Rfe1 b6 19.Bc3 Bd4 20.Bg4 Qf6 21.Bxe6 fxe6 22.Re2 e5 23.Rce1 Qf5 24.Qxf5 Rxf5 25.Kf1 Rdf8 26.f3 h5 27.Rd1 h4 28.h3 Kg7 29.Re4 Rf4 30.Rxe5 Bxc3 31.bxc3 Ra4 32.Ra1 Kf6 33.Re3 b5 34.Ke2 Rg8 35.Kf2 Kf5 36.Re7 Rd8 37.Ke2 a5 38.Rh7 Kg6 39.Re7 Rd5 40.Re4 Rg5 41.Rxa4 bxa4 42.Rg1 c4 43.Kf2 Rb5 44.g3 Rb3 45.gxh4+ Kh5 46.f4 Kxh4 47.f5 Rb5 48.Rg4+ Kh5 49.Rxc4 Rxf5+ 50.Ke3 Kg6 51.Rxa4 Kf6 52.Re4 Rd5 53.Rd4 Rg5 54.Rg4 Rd5 55.Rf4+ Ke5 56.Re4+ Kf5 57.Rd4 Rc5 58.Kd3 Ke6 59.h4 Kf6 60.c4 Rh5 61.Re4 Kf7 62.Kd4 Rf5 63.a4 Rf1 64.c5 Kf6 65.Kd5 Rd1+ 66.Rd4 Rf1 67.Kd6 Rb1 68.c6 1-0

Frank Marshall - M. Duchamp, Olympiad, Hamburg 1930

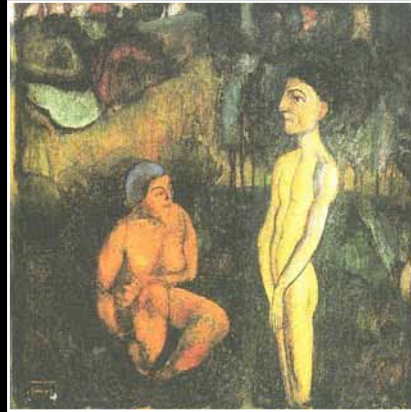
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 3.c4 e6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nc3 Bb7 6.Qc2 d5 7.e3 O-O 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Nxd5 Bxd5 11.Bd3 h6 12.a3 c5 13.dxc5 Rc8 14.b4 bxc5 15.Rc1 Nd7 16.Ba6 Rc7 17.e4 Bb7 18.Bxb7 Rxb7 19.bxc5 Qxc5 20.O-O Qxc2 21.Rxc2 Kf8 22.Rfc1 Ke7 23.Nd4 Ke8 24.f4 Rab8 25.e5 Nf8 26.Rc5 Rb1 27.Rxb1 Rxb1+ 28.Kf2 Rb7 29.Rc8+ Ke7 30.Ra8 Ng6 31.g3 Kd7 32.a4 Ne7 33.Nb5 Nc8 34.g4 Rxb5 35.axb5 Kc7 36.g5 hxg5 37.b6+ Kb7 38.Rxc8 Kxc8 1/2-1/2

Duchamp - Art of Chess (cont)

THE ART OF Duchamp



Nude descending a staircase(2)
1912



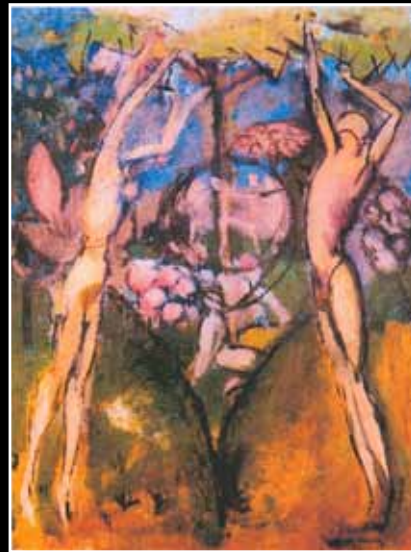
Paradise
1911



Sad young man in a train
1911



The King and Queen Surrounded by
Swift Nudes- 1912



Young man & girl in spring
1911



Portrait of chess player
1911



Bride
1912



Landscape
1911



Portrait of Dr. R. Dumouchel
1910



Book Review

by Bill Wall

Endgame by Frank Brady

Endgame was recently written by Frank Brady and published by Crown Publishing. Brady previously wrote two editions of *Profile of a Prodigy*, which chronicled Bobby Fischer's life in the 1960s and in the early 1970s when Bobby won the world chess championship title in 1972. When Brady published the first biography of Fischer in 1965, he was a friend and confidant of Bobby.

Fischer's match against Soviet grandmaster Boris Spassky in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1972 was part of the Cold War propaganda of the USA vs. the Soviet Union. Spassky had the backing of the entire Soviet chess organization and the government. Fischer had no backing and took on the Russians all by himself with no other support.

Bobby Fischer died in 2008. He was a controversial figure with a fascinating personality. Brady knew him well and is well qualified in writing a biography of Bobby Fischer. Brady explores both sides of Bobby Fischer, the chess player and the man without a country who renounced his citizenship, traveled around the world after being banned from the United States in 1992, getting arrested in Tokyo with the threat of being extradited to the United States, finally ending up in Iceland, where he died at the age of 64.

Brady chronicles his life growing up throughout the United States, finally settling in Brooklyn, addicted to chess, dropping out of high school, and taking on the Russians and the rest of the world over the chess board. In the early years, Fischer and Brady played hundreds of chess games together.

Brady knew Fischer since Bobby was a child. Brady saw this boy, raised by a single mother, rise to prominence in the chess world, especially after Bobby won the U.S. chess championship at the age of 14 and became the world's youngest grandmaster at the age of 15. Fischer had a very high I.Q., attended Erasmus High School, was friends with Barbra Streisand, who also attended. Brady writes that Streisand remembered "Bobby was always alone and very peculiar. But I found him very sexy."

Brady writes that Fischer's first chess coach, Carmine Nigro, was also a professional musician and gave him accordion lessons. Bobby was soon playing the accordion at school assemblies. After a year, he gave up playing the accordion. Fischer said, "I did fairly well on it for a while, but chess had more attraction and the accordion was pushed aside." Fischer eventually dropped out of high school and became a full time chess player. Bobby's mother was Jewish, but he never practiced the faith. Later in life, he had a hatred for all Jews, despite his mother being Jewish.

Brady writes that when Bobby Fischer was born in Chicago, his mother, Regina, was homeless and had to move into a hospice. Bobby had an older sister, Joan, but the hospice refused to provide housing for Regina, Bobby, and Joan. The hospice had Regina arrested for refusing to move out of the hospice. She was given a psychiatric exam and part of the report stated that Regina had a "stilted (para-

noid) personality, querulous, but not psychotic." Regina was also being watched by the FBI as a possible Communist spy and Brady was able to get the FBI records on the Fischer family through the Freedom of Information Act.

Brady does a fine job of tracing Fischer's childhood and his teenage years in Brooklyn. Compared to his earlier books, he had added perhaps 80% new information on Fischer's early life. There is an unresolved question as to who the real father of Bobby Fischer is. Was it the man listed on the birth certificate, Hans Fischer, a Jewish German physicist who never came to America? Or was it Paul Nemenyi, a Hungarian Jewish physicist who may have had an affair with Fischer's mother and has a striking

resemblance to Bobby. Brady writes that Regina Fischer, Bobby's mother, denied that Nemenyi was Bobby's father. However, Brady found a distant relative of Fischer who said that Nemenyi was the real father.

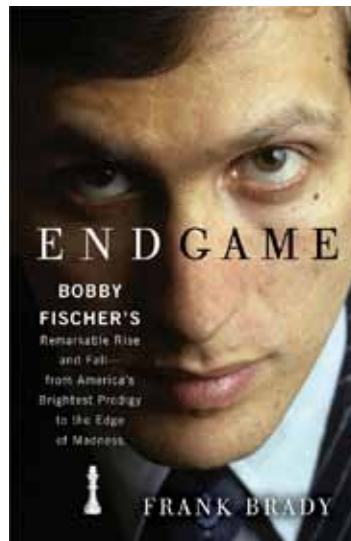
Brady follows Fischer's career as well as documents his strange personality and eccentricities. Brady covers the 1972 world chess championship in great detail. By then, Fischer and Brady were not on speaking terms after Brady published his first book on Fischer. After the world championship match, Fischer stopped playing chess and became a recluse. The second half of Brady's book focuses on what became of him. Fischer became involved in the Worldwide Church of God. His anti-Semitism grew as well as for his hatred for the USA and its political system. Fischer moved to Los Angeles and

was living in poverty on his mother's social security checks.

In 1992, the U.S. State Department threatened him with arrest and big fines if he played chess in Serbia when the U.S. was blocking all travel to Serbia. Fischer defied the order, played chess for millions of dollars, and then ended up living in Europe, the Philippines, and Japan, fearful of arrest by the USA. During the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S., Fischer was being interviewed on radio in the Philippines and expressed his glee over the attacks in New York.

In the late 1990s, Brady interviewed a former friend of Fischer who said that he called the State Department and asked if Bobby Fischer could return to the United States. The State Department spokesperson said, "Of course he can. But as soon as he land at JFK, we'll nail him." Fischer would later accuse the Jewish community of conspiring against him.

Brady concludes that greed and violence played no part in Fischer's genius, and that he left the world gifts of pure artistry in his chess games. Brady write, "We may not – and perhaps should not – forgive Bobby Fischer's twisted political and anti-religious assaults, but we should never forget his sheer brilliance on the chessboard." The book is 416 pages in length with several pictures of Fischer in his early years. The hardcover price is \$25.99. The Kindle price is \$12.99.



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It is not uncommon for more than one chess master in a family, and it is not uncommon that a strong chess player would marry another strong player. Here is a list of relatives and spouses who play chess.

Simen Agdestein is a Norwegian Grandmaster. His brother, **Espen**, is a FIDE master.

Carl Ahues was a German International Master. His son, **Herbert**, became a Grandmaster for Chess Composition.

Elena Akhmilovskaya is a Woman Grandmaster. Her **mother** was a chess master and qualified for the USSR Women's Championship. Elena won the US Women's Championship in 1990, 1993, and 1994. She later **married** International Master **John Donaldson**, divorced him, and **married** International Master **Georgi Orlov**.

Mohamad Al-Modiahki is a Grandmaster from Qatar. He is **married** to former world women's chess champion and grandmaster **Zhu Chen**.



Alexander Alekhine had an older **sister** and older **brother**, **Alexei**, that played chess. Alexander met his fourth **wife** at simultaneous exhibition in which she was a participant. She participated in many chess tournaments.

Zoran and Goran Arsovic are **twin brothers** and both are International Masters from Serbia.



Robin and Leslie Ault were two **brothers** who played chess. Robin was a chess master who once won the U.S. Junior Chess Championship and played in the U.S. Chess Championship, and Leslie was a U.S. Intercollegiate champion.

Sergey Belavenets was a strong Soviet chess master who died during World War II. His **daughter**, **Ludmilla**, won the 4th Women's World Correspondence Chess Championship in 1992.

Juan Bellon is a Spanish Grandmaster. He is **married** to Grandmaster **Pia Cramling**, one of the strongest women in the world. Pia Cramling's **brother** is a Swedish International Master.

Joel Benjamin is an American Grandmaster who **married** **Deborah Quinn**, a strong player from Ireland. She played on the Irish Olympic Chess team.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Family Members Who Play Chess (Continued)

Pal Benko is an American Grandmaster. His **wife** is a chess player who played in the Hungarian national women's championship.

Istvan Bilek was a Hungarian Grandmaster. He was once **married** to one of the top female Hungarian chess players. Both were chess champions of Hungary at the same time.

Julio Bolbochan was an Argentine Grandmaster. His **brother** was an International Master.

Isaac Boleslavsky was a Soviet Grandmaster. His **daughter**, **Tatiana**, married Grandmaster David Bronstein.

Robert Byrne is an American Grandmaster. His **brother**, **Donald**, was an International Master. Both have played in several U.S. chess championships.

Pascal Charbonneau is a Canadian Grandmaster. He is **married** to Woman Grandmaster **Irina Krush**, current U.S. Women's chess champion.

Richard Costigan is an American International Master. His **brother**, **Thomas**, is a FIDE master. They are **identical twins**.

Max Euwe was a former world chess champion. His **mother** once played in the Dutch Women's Chess Championship.

Benjamin Finegold is an American Grandmaster. His **father** was a USCF expert. His **brother**, **Mark**, is a USCF master. His **wife** qualified for the 2006 U.S. Championship.

Glenn Flear is a British Grandmaster. His **wife**, **Christine Leroy**, has won the French Ladies' Chess Championship five times.

Laurent Fressinet is a French Grandmaster and

current French champion. He is **married** to Woman Grandmaster **Almira Skripchenko**.



Anita and Ticia Gara are **sisters** and both Hungarian Woman Grandmasters. Both have won the Hungarian women's championship twice.

Aljosa Grosar is an International Master from Slovenia. His **sister**, **Kiti**, is a Woman International Master.

Boris Gulko is an American Grandmaster. He won the USSR Chess Championship in 1977. He won the U.S. Chess Championship in 1994 and 1999. He is **married** to Woman Grandmaster **Anna Akhsharumarova**. She won the Women's Soviet Chess Championship in 1976 and 1984. She won the 1987 U.S. Women's Championship with a perfect score.

Armenian masters **Gor, Gevorg and Tatevik Hairapetyans** are **two brothers and one sister** that are all International Masters.

Jozsef and Csaba Horvath are **brothers** and both Grandmasters from Hungary. They are probably the world's strongest brothers in chess.

Barbara Hund is a German Woman Grandmaster. Her **mother** played in the 1959 German Women's Chess Championship. Her **sister**, **Isabel**, is also a strong chess player. Her **husband** is editor of a Swiss chess magazine.

Adam and Harriet Hunt are **brother and sister**. Both are International Masters from England. She is also a Woman Grandmaster..

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Family Members Who Play Chess (Continued)

Alexander Ivanov is an American Grandmaster. He is **married** to Woman International Master *Esther Epstein*. She won the U.S. Women's chess championship in 1991 and 1997.

Hans Johner was a Swiss International Master. His **brother**, *Paul*, won the Swiss chess championship 6 times.

Rohini, Jayashri, and *Vasanti Khadilkar* are **sisters** and all are Women International Masters from India.



Gregory Koshnitsky was an Australian International Master. In 1966, he won the championship of South Australia. His **wife**, *Evelyn*, won the women's title.

Nadezhda and Tatiana Kosintseva are **sisters**, Tatiana is a Russian Grandmaster and Nadezhda is an International Master and Woman Grandmaster.

Alexandra Kosteniuk is a Grandmaster and former world women's champion. Her **sister**, *Oxana*, is a Woman FIDE master.

Avrid, Leonid, and Yevgeny Kubbel were all **brothers** and famous Soviet chess composers.

Abhijit Kunte is a Grandmaster from India. His **sister**, *Mrunalini*, is a Woman International Master.

Emanuel Lasker was a former world chess champion. His older **brother**, Berthold, was a strong chess player and was a chess hustler in Berlin in the early 1880s.

Kjetil Lie is a Norwegian Grandmaster and current Norwegian chess champion. His **brother**, *Espen*, is a FIDE master.

Jana Malypetrova is a Woman Grandmaster. She was once **married** to International Master *William Hartston*, then married Grandmaster *Tony Miles*, then married International Master *Robert Bellin*.

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov is a Grandmaster from Azerbaijan. His **sister**, *Turkan Mamedjarova*, is a Woman International Master.

Alisa and Marjana Maric (now *Stamenkovic*) are Woman Grandmasters. They are also the only **twin** grandmasters in history.

Vera Menchik was a former women's world chess champion. Her **sister**, *Olga*, was also a strong chess master who participated in women's world chess championships. Vera **married** *Rufus Stevenson*, the secretary of the British Chess Federation.

Eugene Meyer is an American International Master. His **brother**, *John*, is a FIDE master.

Anna Muzychuk is a Woman Grandmaster and International Master from the Ukraine. Her **sister** *Mariya*, is a Woman Grandmaster and International Master.

Hikaru Nakamura is an American Grandmaster and the number 1 ranked player in the U.S.. His **stepfather**, *Sunil Weeramanty*, is a FIDE master. His **brother**, *Asuka*, is a strong master.



Miklos Orso is an International Master. His **brother**, *Janos*, is a FIDE master.

Ludek Pachman was a Czech grandmaster. His **brother**, *Vladimir*, was a grandmaster in chess composition.

Nicholas Pert is a Grandmaster. His **brother**,

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Family Members Who Play Chess (Continued)

Richard Pert, is an International Master and an identical twin.

Susan, Sofia, and Judit Polgar are the strongest **sisters** in the world. Judit is Grandmaster and the top woman chess player in the world. Susan is a Grandmaster and was the first woman to earn the title of Grandmaster in regular competition. Sofia is a Woman Grandmaster who is **married** to Grandmaster **Yona Kosashvili** of Israel.



Lajos Portisch is a Hungarian Grandmaster. His **brother, Ferenc**, is an International Master.

Cecil Purdy was an Australian International Master, Correspondence Grandmaster, and former world correspondence chess champion. He won the Australian championship 4 times. His **father-in-law** won the Australian championship twice. His **son, John**, won the Australian championship twice.

R.B. Ramesh is a Grandmaster from India. He is **married** to Woman Grandmaster **Aarti Ramaswami**. They are India's first Grandmaster couple.

Akiva Rubinstein was one of the strongest chess players in the world. His **son, Sami**, was a chess master.

Albert Sandrin was an American blind chess master. His **brother, Angelo**, was also a chess master. In 1961, they both tied for 1st place in the Michigan Open.

Yasser Seirawn is an American grandmaster. He is **married** to Woman FIDE master **Yvette Nagel**.

Jennifer Shahade is a Woman Grandmaster. Her

brother, Greg, is an International Master.

Almira Skripchenko is a French Woman Grandmaster. Her **mother** was a Woman Grandmaster. Her **father** was a chess coach. In 1997, she married French Grandmaster **Joel Lautier**. They later divorced.

Vasily Smyslov was a former world chess champion. His **father** was a strong master who once defeated Alexander Alekhine in a chess tournament.

Lajos Steiner was a strong chess master. His older **brother, Endre**, was also a strong chess player. Lajos was **married** to **Augusta Kingston**, who won the New South Wales women's chess championship 6 times.

George Allen Thomas was a former British chess champion. His **mother** was the winner of the first British women's chess championship at Hastings in 1895.

Dragoljub Velimirovic is a Serbian grandmaster. His **mother** was Yugoslavia's first woman chess champion.

Milan Vidmar was a Grandmaster from Slovenia. His **son, Milan Vidmar, Jr.**, was an International Master.

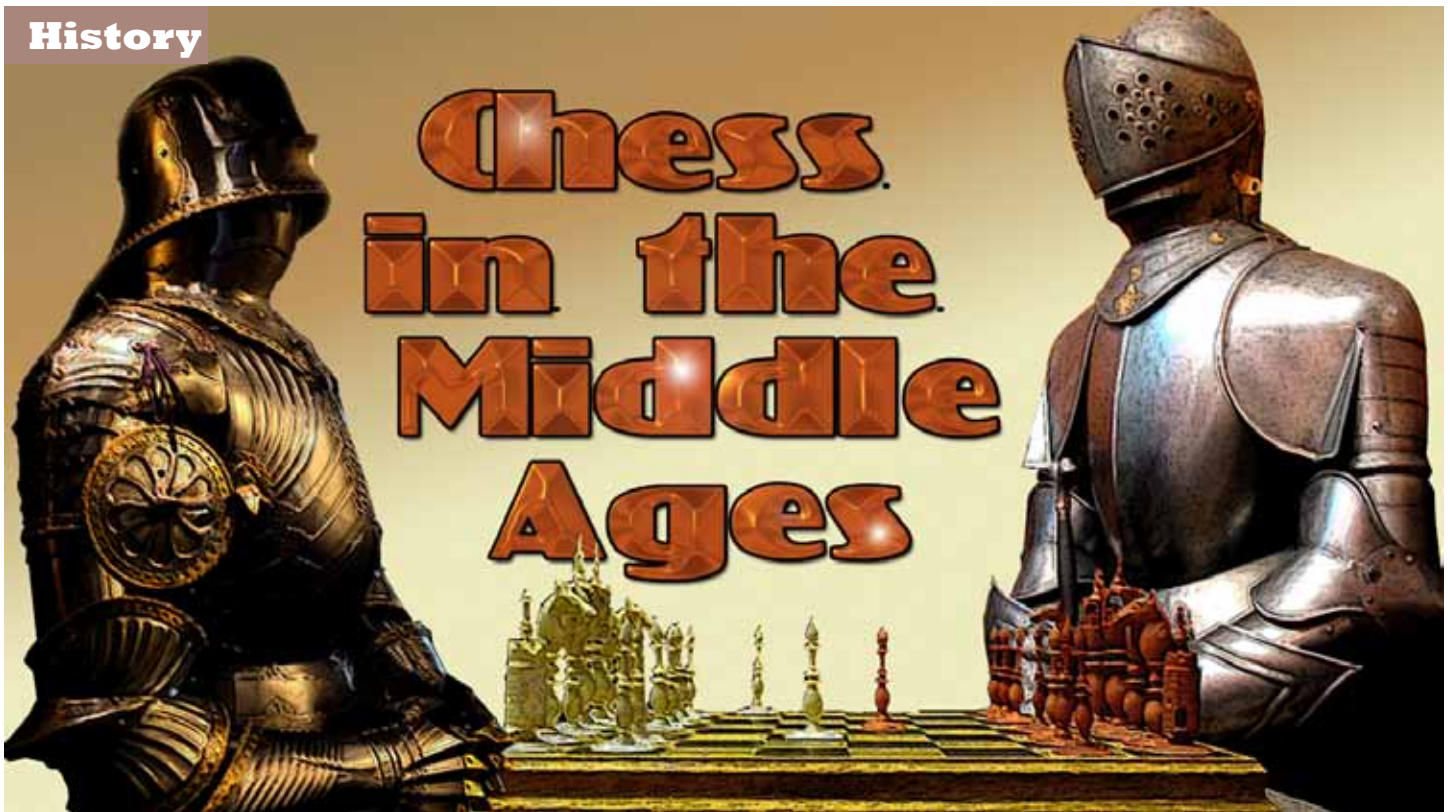
Susan Walker is a Woman International Master. She was once **married** to Grandmaster **Keith Arkell**. She is now married to Grandmaster **Bogdon Lalic**.

Jay Whitehead is an American International Master. His **brother, Paul**, is a chess master who won the 1978 American Open.

Xie Jun is a Grandmaster and former world women's chess champion. She is **married** to Grandmaster **Shaobin Wu**.



History



by Bill Wall

Chess was probably invented during the Middle Ages (500 A.D. to about 1500), but In India (or perhaps China). Chaturanga, the earliest chess precursor, was created around 600 A.D. in the Punjab area of India. Chess then spread into Persia. The game was then known as chatrang, the old Persian word for chess. The Islamic conquest of Persia occurred in the 7th century, and chatrang was then called shatranj by the Muslims.

By the 8th century, Moorish invaders were introducing chess to Iberia and Spain. Chess reached Italy by the 9th century. Al-Rushid (786-809) was the first caliph to play chess in Baghdad. Around this time, it was said that Charlemagne (742-814) and Emperor Nicephorus of Byzantium were introduced to chess. Around 820, chess was introduced in Russia through the Caspian-Volga trade route. By the

10th century, chess was introduced to the Greeks, who called the game zatrikon. When one of the first caliphs, Omar ibn al-Khattab, was asked if chess were lawful, he replied, "There is nothing wrong in it; it has to do with war."

In India, chess was still being played very seriously. Chess players in India

would sometimes wager their fingers and other body parts in chess matches. In 936, Saint Genadio, the bishop of Astorga, became the first saint related with chess. Chess pieces were soon being donated to monasteries.

By the middle of the 10th century, chess was being played on alternating light and dark colored squares on a chess board. Prior to this time, chess was played on a

board with all the squares the same color. Also, a popular variation of chess was to play it with dice to determine the moves.

In the 11th century, the earliest literary account of chess in

Europe, versus de scachis, was written in Switzerland, called the Einsiedeln verses. This poem described chess, its rules, and some of

the basic strategies. This was also a period when chess was soon being banned in Muslim areas. For example, al-Hakim of Egypt banned chess and ordered that all chess sets be burned. Chess was considered idolatry.

One of the earliest references to chess in Europe came from the will of Ermengaud (975-1010), Count of Urgel, where he willed his chess set to a monastery.

When one of the first caliphs was asked if chess were lawful, he replied, "There is nothing wrong in it; it has to do with war."

The current game of chess and its most recent influences come from European Middle Ages and Christianity after the invading Moors brought chess to Europe through

its invasion of Spain. The pieces of the chess set, pawn, rook, knight, bishop, queen and king, became representation of feudal Europe.

Chess was introduced in England through the Viking and Danish invasions in the 11th century. In 1027, Canute (995-1035), King of Denmark, was introduced to chess, perhaps from a pilgrimage to Rome. In 1030, the earliest reference of chess in the German literature was found in the Latin epic *Ruodlieb*, which described the adventures of a medieval knight. Canute's chess set was destroyed in a fire at Hyde Abbey in Winchester in 1148.

During the early period of the Middle Ages, chess was initially seen as an activity favored by the upper classes. Both noble men and women enjoyed the game, and the ability to play was considered to be one of the distinguishing marks of high class. No self respecting gentleman or lady would have appeared without knowing how to play chess.

Cardinal Petrus Damiani (1007-1072) wrote a letter to Gherardo of Florence (who later became Pope Gregory VII) complaining of one of his bishops playing chess rather than preaching. A few years later, the Cardinal wrote a letter to Pope Alexander II explaining that he had imposed a penance on a bishop for playing chess. The Cardinal ar-

gued that the prohibition of certain games of chance (such as dice)

applied to chess. Chess was later condemned by the Eastern Orthodox Church.

John Zonares, an Eastern Church monk, excommunicated chess players from his monastery on Mount Athos.

Around the same time, William the Conqueror (1027-1087) learned chess. In one incident, it was said that William the Conqueror lost a game, then grabbed the chessboard and broke it over the head of his opponent, the dauphin of France. By 1080, the Normans named their financial department "exchequer" after the chess board, which was used as a sort of abacus in calculating taxes and revenue.

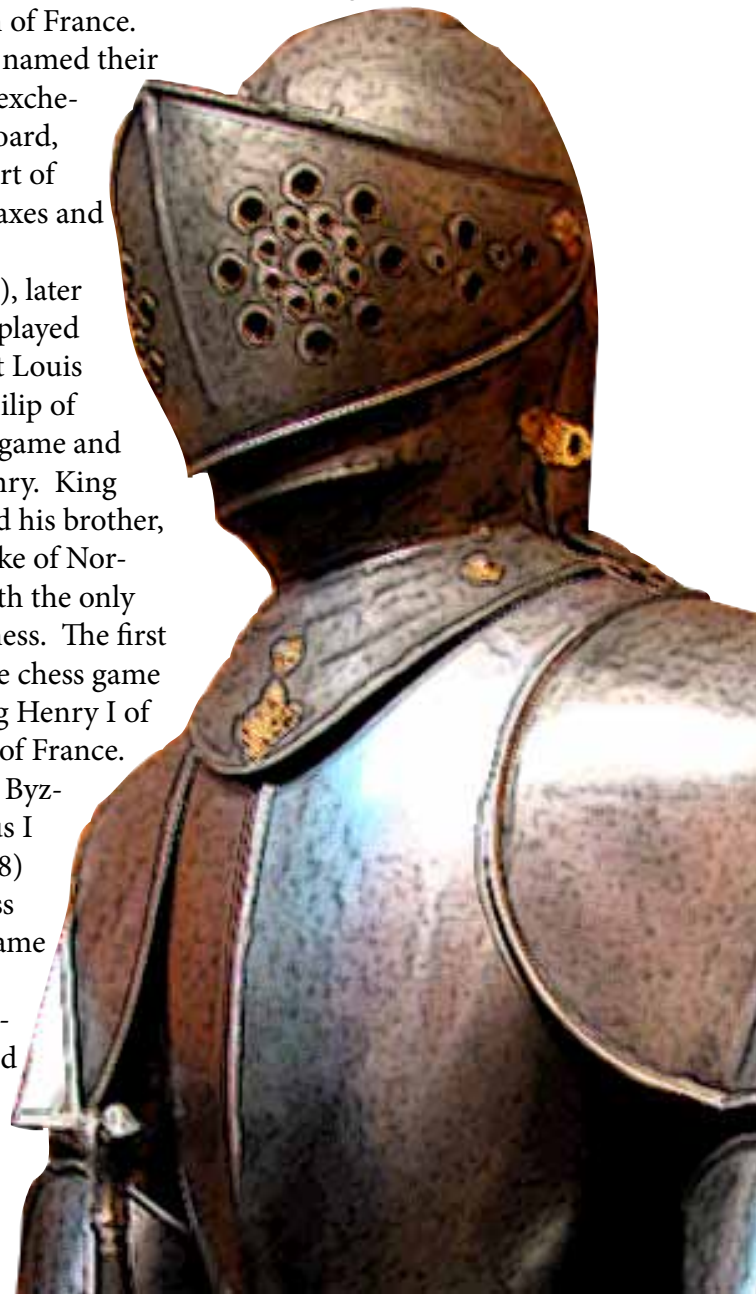
Henry I (1068-1135), later king of England, once played a game of chess against Louis le Gros, son of king Philip of France. Louis lost the game and threw the board at Henry. King Henry later imprisoned his brother, Robert Curthouse, Duke of Normandy, for 28 years with the only activity allowed was chess. The first known correspondence chess game occurred between King Henry I of England and Louis VI of France.

In the 12th century, Byzantine Emperor Alexius I Comnenus (1048-1118) was introduced to chess and liked to play the game with members of his court. By the 12th century, chess was accepted as a regular feature of noble life in Europe. Chess was included in

a list of knightly accomplishments by Petrus Alfonsi in 1106 (along with riding, swimming, archery, boxing, hawking, and verse writing). A 12th century chess set and chess pieces were discovered on the Isle of Lewis in the 1831, making it one of the oldest known chess sets, called the Lewis chessmen. The pieces were made of bone, probably from Norway.

In the 12th century Saint Bernard (1090-1153) forbade the Knights Templar from playing chess. During this time, algebraic notation was being used in a French manuscript on chess. Chess problems were being published in Wales. King Richard I (1157-1199)

The pieces of the chess set, pawn, rook, knight, bishop, queen and king, became representation of feudal Europe.



was introduced to chess while participating in one of the Crusades. John Lackland, later king of England, was a keen chess player.

In the late 12th century, Baldwin IX, Count of Flanders, lost a chess game to his wife. That angered him so much that he beat her up. She didn't forgive him for that. When he was later kidnapped, his wife refused ransom for him. The same thing happened when Ferrand of Portugal lost a game to his wife. He hit her when she won. Later, he was taken prisoner and his wife never tried to obtain his release.

Chess was forbidden to the clergy in some parts of medieval England. Saint Louis IX of France restricted chess to laymen and forbade all games in his kingdom. The Archbishop of Canterbury, John Peckham, forbade chess. Eudes de Sully, bishop of Paris, banned chess from the clergy. Earlier, the rabbi Maimonides included chess among the forbidden games.

Modern chess was shaped by the Muslims in the middle ages. Chess was popular among the Muslims, who played it while defending themselves

during the Crusades of the Holy Lands. The Muslims observed the techniques that the crusaders used to fight, and thus modified the game of chess according to their needs. A basic attack formation involved rows of infantrymen supported by cavalry, which charged through the lines to slash at enemy warriors on either side of their horses. In chess, the knight can jump over pawns (infantrymen), and then attack on one side or the other. A knight on horseback would not attack an enemy head-on. During the Middle Ages, pawns could only move one square at a time. Later during the Middle Ages, the French developed the castling move, which involves the king moving to the corner secured by the castle to increase his own safety.

The first known court case about chess occurred in the 13th century when a chess player stabbed his opponent to death. Another case appeared when a man stabbed a woman to death over a chess game. By now, chess had become a leisure activity of the feudal lords, and the chess pieces began to resemble the aristocracy. Chess was considered a social grace for every genteel and honorable knight. One reason for this was the connection between chess and war.

By the late 13th century, Jacobus de Cessolis, a Dominican monk, used chess as the basis for a series of sermons on morality and wrote *de ludo scacchorum* (On Games of Chess), the most important of all moralities and the most copied. Cessolis capitalized on the popularity of chess to craft his series of sermons revolving around the game. By this time, chess was not seen purely as a war game anymore. Also during this time, the *Libro del Acedrex*, one of the most

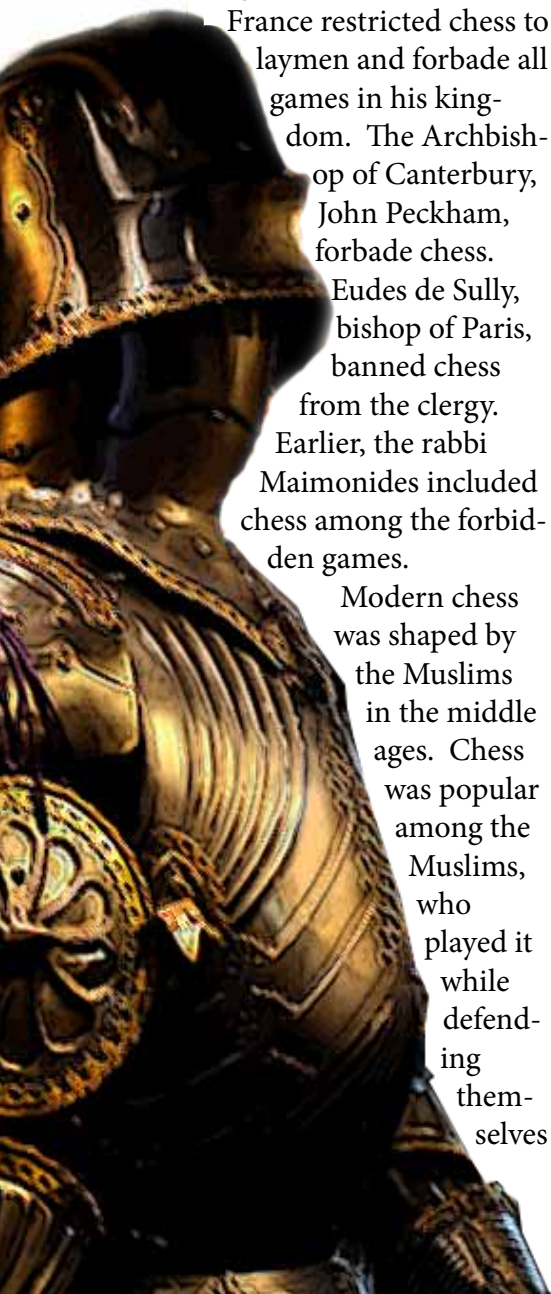
famous and historically important chess manuscripts, was commissioned by King Alfonso the Wise (1221-1284). The option of a pawn moving two squares instead of one on the first move was introduced in Italy. Prior to that, pawns only moved one square at a time.

In the mid 14th century, *Les Amoureux Eschecs* was written. It was considered the best example of romantic allegory and chess. This manuscript was ruined during the firebombing of Dresden in World War II. Chaucer (1343-1400) wrote about chess in his poem *The Book of the Duchess*. Around the same time, Pope Gregory XI (1329-1378) was an avid chess player.

King Charles V (1337-1380) of France prohibited chess, but he played chess himself, usually with the Duke of Burgundy. King Charles VI (1368-1422) also forbade chess. In England, William of Wykeleham, founder of Oxford, forbade chess at Oxford. John Wycliffe (1325-1384) attacked the clergy for going to taverns to play chess.

In the 15th century, John Lydgate wrote a poem of love, *Reson and Sensuallyte*, which he dedicated to the admirers of chess. King Henry V (1386-1422) played chess with John Wolcott and lost. The king awarded John Wolcott with a coat of arms that has three rooks on it. King James I of Scotland was playing chess when he was murdered. King Charles the Bold (1433-1477) was considered the best chess player of his time.

The popularity of chess continued to grow in the late Middle Ages. The lower classes soon became enamored with chess, due mainly to the Roman Catholic Church lessening its objection to the game. Many popes played



chess, as well as many cardinals and bishops, and other clergy. After the Middle Ages, some of the finest chess players in the world were from the clergy, both Catholic and Protestant. Soon, the game became dominant by the Jews.

In the 15th century, the Göttingen manuscript was published. It was the first work devoted to modern chess. It was written by Luis Ramirez Lucena. William Caxton (1422-1491) published the game and play of chesse, a translation of the work of Cessolis. It was one of the first books published in English on a printing press. The beginning of modern chess soon started in southern Europe. The Queen and bishop chess piece was introduced and the moves were standardized. En passant and castling were introduced. The first known modern chess game was recorded around 1485.

In early 1492, King Ferdinand of Spain was playing chess when he was interrupted by Christopher Columbus. The king dismissed him, but soon won his chess game and was in a better mood. He called back Columbus and negotiated the voyage to discover a new route to China (or the New World). If Ferdinand had lost his game and had been in a bad mood, and not summoned Columbus back, the voyage might not have occurred in 1492 or backed by Spain.

The first practical book on chess was published in the late 15th century, a treatise on chess openings. In 1497, the oldest surviving book dealing with practical chess play, *Repeticion de Amores y Arte de Ajredez* (Repetition of Love and the Art of Playing Chess), was published by Lucena. The book was dedicated to King Ferdinand's son, Juan.

CHESS QUOTE

"I prefer to lose a really good game than to win a bad one."

-David Levy

<http://www.chessquotes.com>

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LISTS



Chess Blogs

By Bill Wall

There are dozens of chess blogs on the Internet. Here is a list of some of the more popular chess blogs.

www.susanpolgar.blogspot.com is a popular blog site run by Grandmaster Susan Polgar. It contains daily news and information from around the world. She provides updates on her activities, interests, and chess news with lots of photos. She also provides chess tips and chess puzzles every day.

www.chessninja.com has a Daily Dirt Chess Blog written by Mig Greengard. It contains international chess news and message boards for live chat, discussions, and user polls.

www.chess.com has a chess blog section. I have written dozens of blogs at this site. There are hundreds of bloggers here that contribute their blogs on chess. Anyone can share their thoughts with the chess community at the chess.com chess blog.

The New York Times had a chess blog called Gambit. It is written by Dylan McClain. It recently ended in February, 2011, but articles on chess continue to appear in the Crosswords, Games & Cartoons section of The New York Times Web site.

www.Kenilworthian.blogspot.com is a chess blog called The Kenilworthian, written by Michael Goeller of New Brunswick, New Jersey. A recent blog from this site was a review and webliography of

Frank Brady's Endgame book on Bobby Fischer.

www.thechessmind.net is a chess blog by Dennis Monokroussos. Dennis calls it a blog for chess fans, from a chess fan. It provides updates to international chess tournaments, product reviews, chess videos, and other items of interest.

www.Jimwestonchess.blogspot.com is a chess blog by chess master Jim West. He is a regular at the Marshall Chess Club in New York. He covers chess news and reviews and annotates some of his games on the site.

www.Chessforallages.blogspot.com is a chess blog by Mark Weeks of Brussels, Belgium. He calls his blog, Chess for all Ages, "my place to say things about chess that I can't say in the other places where I say things about chess."

www.Jeromegambit.blogspot.com is a chess blog by Rick Kennedy. It is all about the Jerome Gambit, 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Bxf7 and variations to this gambit. I started playing this gambit last year and have had a few successful games with it as White. Kennedy offers a large database of games with this opening. Every day, he seems to add a new Jerome Gambit game. I have played dozens

of Jerome Gambits and Rick does a good job annotating and featuring them.

www.Kevinspraggett.blogspot.com is a chess blog, Sparggett on Chess, by Grandmaster Kevin Spraggett of Canada. He has some good articles and opinions. He writes, "As the readers of this blog come to realize, I never miss an opportunity to demonstrate my appreciation for the natural charms of genius and beauty." This is evident on his coverage and photos of Anna Sharevich winning the Belarus Championship. He has links to lots of videos and lots of pictures, chess related or not.

www.arcticsec.no/index.php?button=blog is Magnus Carlsen's chess blog. Carlsen is the highest rated chess player in the world. A recent series of blogs covered his participation in all the rounds at the Tata Steel 2011 tournament.

www.boylston-chess-club.blogspot.com is the blog for the Boylston Chess Club in Boston. It features local news of the Bolyston Chess Club

www.chessblog.com is former world women's champion Alexandra Kosteniuk's chess blog. She travels around the world and blogs about her adventures and chess tournaments that she participates in. She features lots of games and videos.

www.goddesschess.blogspot.com is the Chess, Goddess and Everything blog. The first page states, "Welcome to the goddesschess blog. About chess femmes, chess, the goddess,

women, history, archeology, ancient board games, and anything else that catches our fancy. Chess is the game of the goddess. Fight to promote your inner pawn."

www.streathambrixonchess.blogspot.com is the chess blog of the Streatham & Brixton Chess Club in England. It contains good articles, pictures, videos, and annotated chess games and diagrams.

www.chessvine.com is a chess blog containing chess news and opinion, with a daily chess puzzle.

www.chesslodge.blogspot.com/ is a blog of chess news and events.

www.brooklyn64.com/ is the Brooklyn chess blog with chess games, reviews, and chess news from around the world.

www.roman-chess.blogspot.com/ is a chess blog full of games, tips, advice, and chess videos.

www.chessconfessions.blogspot.com is a blog called Confessions of a Chess Novice, written by Blue Devil Knight. The blog is about hunting for chess playing improvement tips to share with others.

www.thechessdrum.net/ is a chess blog (chessblogger) that highlights chess activities among African Americans and within the African communities.

www.chessimprover.com/ is the chess Blog of Grandmaster Nigel Davies of England. He writes on how to get better at chess. Lots of videos.

www.adamporth.blogspot.com/ is the Chess Nut blog by Adam Porth, a high school science teacher in Idaho. He calls his blog "a personal exploration of the chess dimension." He uses the blog to promote scholastic chess and to share with his readers how he had grown and advanced as a chess player.

www.closetgrandmaster.blogspot.com/ is the Closet Grandmaster blog out of Australia. It features chess news, games, diagrams, and a few videos.

www.fpawn.blogspot.com/ is a good chess blog with up to date news, photos, videos, and events. It is written by Michael Aigner.

www.hiphopchess.blogspot.com/ is the Hip-Hop Chess Federation Blog, which fuses music, chess, and martial arts to promote unity, strategy and non-violence. Lots of videos.

www.chessskill.blogspot.com/ is a chess blog called Chess Skills, written by James Stripes. It contains the blunder of the day, other chess diagrams, articles, and annotated games. He has an index of all his articles for several years. I even found one that mentioned me, but one reader wrote about my articles "I would warn all readers that the byline on that page is not a guarantee of quality, rather the reverse in my opinion." Well, I do my best, and correct any misinformation I can.

Look for our upcoming WHITE KNIGHT REVIEW blog page at www.offthewallchess.com



Humor

Chess Jokes

A group of chess enthusiasts had checked into a hotel, and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

Frasier: I can see why she likes the game - "the king is stationary, the queen has all the power".

A chess master died - after a few days, a friend of his heard a voice; it was him!
 "What's it like, where you are now," he asked.
 "What do you want to hear first, the good news or the bad news."
 "Tell me the good news first."
 "Well, it's really heaven here. There are tournaments and blitz sessions going on all the time and Morphy, Alekhine, Lasker, Tal, Capablanca, Botvinnik, they're all here, and you can play them."
 "Fantastic!" the friend said, "and what is the bad news?"
 "You have Black against Capablanca on Saturday."

A passed pawn comes home from work one day driving a fancy new car. His wife is astonished and says "Honey, I don't think we can afford this nice new car on your salary." The passed pawn says "Relax, I'm about to get promoted!"

Three retired International chess grandmasters were playing chess in the park.

The first grandmaster said, "it is windy today."
 The second grandmaster said, "no, it is Thursday today".
 The third grandmaster said, "me too, let's go back inside for a drink"

Two friends were talking on the street and one of them says:

- My wife says that if tomorrow I go to the chess match, she will take my children and she will leave me.

The other friend asks to him:

- And what will you do?

And the other answers him:

- E4, like always!

In a park some people come across a man playing chess against a dog. They are astonished and say:

"What a clever dog!"

But the man protests:

"No, no, he isn't that clever. I'm leading by three games to one!"

Q. What's the difference between a chess player and a highway construction worker?

A. A chess player moves every now and then.

"I've created a chess program that mimics human play" said the computer science major. "So it plays at GM level then?" asks the advising professor. "No, but it does blame its loss on outside conditions!"

Two chess players are playing a correspondence game. White lives at the South Pole. Black lives at the North Pole. The postal service is rather slow and play proceeds at the rate of one move per year. After 15 years of play, white makes a daring queen sacrifice, the consequences of which are by no means clear. A year later, as he sees the postman returning, he is very excited. He thinks "Will black take my queen?", "Is the sacrifice sound?". He tears open the reply and sees "Jadoubé".

What is the difference between a large cheese pizza and a chess Master?

The pizza can feed a family of four.

One friend said to the other "I saw an explosive game of chess the other day...", to which the other replied "How so?"
 "The first move was pawn to c4!"

How many squares are there on a chess board?
 Two plus the spectators.

What do Chess and sex have in common?

They're two things you can enjoy even if you're bad at both of them.

Blindfold Chess
 The real cause of Crop Circles.



Chess News

Chess news from Around the world

Athens – The World Chess Federation (FIDE), headquartered in Athens, released the latest FIDE ratings on February 28. World champion Viswanathan Anand of India leads with a 2817 rating, followed by Magnus Carlsen of Norway at 2815 and Levon Aronian of Armenia with 2808. The rest of the top 10 include Vladimir Kramnik at 2785, Vassily Ivanchuk at 2779, Sergey Karjakin at 2776, Veselin Topalov at 2775, Hikaru Nakamura at 2774, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov at 2772, and Alexander Grischuk at 2747.

Australia – The Australian Open 2011 was held in Cammeray January 2-13. Zong-Yuan Zhao, Vladimir Smirnov and Gregory Canfell all tied for 1st place.

Berkeley – The Berkeley International 2011 was held January 2-8, 2011. The event was won by Loek van Wely of the Netherlands. U.S. Junior Champion Samuel Shankland made a GM norm.

Bermuda – GM Larry Christiansen took first place after a blitz playoff at the traditional Bermuda Open, held February 11-13, 2011.

Gibraltar – Vassily Ivanchuk won the Tradewise Gibraltar Masters tournament with an outstanding 9 out of 10 points. The event was held from January 24, 2011 thru February 3, 2011.

Hastings – The Hastings Congress 2010-11 took place from December 28, 2010 thru January 5, 2011. Deep Sengupta and Arghyadip Das, both from India, tied for 1st place.

Las Vegas – The North American Open 2010 took place December 26-29, 2010. Jiri Stoeck and Giorgi Kacheishvili tied for 1st place. Stoeck won on tiebreak.

Los Angeles – The 3rd Metropolitan FIDE Invita-

tional was held February 26-27, 2011. The winner was International Master Jacek Stopa of Poland.

Moscow – The biggest chess open of the year was the 10th Aeroflot Open, held Feb 7-16. Defending champion Le Quang Liem of Vietnam retained his title by winning on tie-break over Nikita Vitiugov and Evgeny Tomashevsky. The Moscow Open was won by untitled 17-year old player Vladimir Belous.

Reggio Emilia – The 53rd Reggio Emilia tournament in Italy was won by Vugar Gashimov on tie-break over Francisco Vallejo Pons. The event was held December 28, 2010 thru January 6, 2011.

Tallinn, Estonia – Alexei Shirov won the Keres Memorial, held in January, 2011.



Tehran – Ehsan Ghaem Maghami, age 28, broke the world record for simultaneous chess games after facing more 614 chess players in over 25 hours. He won 96% of his games, played at Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University in early February. He won 590 games, lost 8 games, and drew 16 games. He walked around 34 miles between opponents. Chess was outlawed in Iran

in 1981 because it was perceived to encourage betting and gambling, which is forbidden in Islam. But in 1988, Ayatollah Khomeini issued a decree permitting chess as long as no gambling was involved.

Warsaw – Grandmaster Mateusz Bartel won the 2011 Polish championship, held February 12-20, 2011.

Wijk aan Zee – Hikaru Nakamura of the United States won the very strong 73rd Tata Steel tournament, ½ point ahead of World Chess Champion Vishy Anand. The average rating was 2740 (category 20 tournament). The event has held from January 14 thru January 30, 2011.





Black to Move

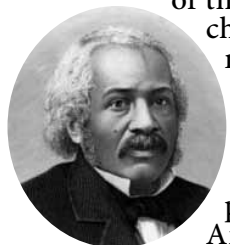
African American Chess Players

By Bill Wall

February was “Black History Month” in the United States, I thought it would be appropriate to look at the history of chess players of African descent.

♟ (665-714) Perhaps the first documented case of a Black chess player was that of Sa'id bin Jubair, a Black player who excelled at blindfold chess in Kufa, in modern-day Iraq. He was the first known player who played chess without looking at the pieces.

♟ **In 1859, Dr. James Smith McCune** (1813-1865), an African-American, was one of the first Black chess players of note and wrote several essays promoting chess as a healthy form of entertainment, published in Anglo-African Magazine. He characterized chess as an art that required work and continual practice. He was also the first African-American to earn a medical degree and to run a pharmacy in the United States.



♟ **In 1874, Theophilus A. Thompson** (1855-1920?), an African-American and freed black slave, put together a book of chess problems called Chess Problems: Either to Play and Mate. It was published by Orestes Brownson Jr., the editor of the Dubuque Chess Journal.

♟ **In 1950**, black chess players

were barred from the 1950 Southern Chess Association, held in North Carolina.

♟ **In the 1950s**, Archie Waters (1918-2001) became the first black member of the prestigious Marshall Chess Club in New York. He was good friends with Bobby Fischer.

♟ **In the early 1950s**, Blacks were denied membership in the Chicago Chess Club.

♟ **In the 1950s**, Blacks were barred from chess playing rooms in Louisiana and were barred from playing in the U.S. Open, held in New Orleans in 1954.

♟ **In 1955**, Black were barred from playing in the Georgia Open chess tournament.

♟ **At the 1959** U.S. Open chess tournament in Omaha, Nebraska, blacks were not allowed to rent a room at the hotel (or other nearby hotels) in which the chess tournament was held.

♟ **In 1963**, **Walter Harris**, age 18, became the first black chess master in America. He won the junior championship of the Marshall Chess Club and was a member of the Manhattan Chess Club and Marshall Chess Club.



♟ **In 1963**, **Kenneth Clayton** (1938-), an African-American, won the 1963 Amateur Chess Championship. His picture appeared on the

cover of the June, 1963 issue of Chess Life magazine.

♟ **In 1965**, **Frank Street, Jr.**, an African-American, won the 1965 U.S. Amateur Championship and became the second Black to earn the master title in America.

♟ **In 1965**, **Ray Charles** (1930-2004), who lost his vision when he was a child, learned chess after a stint in substance abuse rehab. It helped him kick the habit. He became an avid chess player and appeared on the cover of Chess Life and Review in 2002.



♟ **In 1967**, **Ken Clayton** became the third Black to earn the master title in America.

♟ **In 1970**, **Alan Williams** became America's first black FIDE master.

♟ **(1958-)**, **Emory Tate, Jr.**, an African-American, served in the U.S. Air Force and won the U.S. Armed Forces Championship five times. He became an International Master in 2006.

♟ **In 1982**, **Baraka Shabazz** became the first black female to have an expert's rating by the USCF.

♟ **In 1984**, **Kangugi “K.K.” Karanja** (1973-) became the a USCF expert (rated over 2000) at the age of 10, the youngest African-American to do so. He is regarded as the first African-American

chess prodigy. In 1985 at the age of 11, he won the National Elementary Chess Championship with a perfect 7-0, becoming the first African-American to win a national scholastic title and the second African-American to win a national chess championship (Frank Street, Jr. was the first, winning the 1965 US Amateur Championship).



♟ **In 1992**, National Master **Elvin Wilson**, an African-American, won the Texas Armed Forces Championship (I took 2nd) and the Air Force Championship (his only loss was to me; we drew the following year). He won the Armed Forces Championship in 1993 and 1998.

♟ **In 1993**, **Maurice Ashley** (1966-) became the first African-American to be awarded the International Master title. In 1963 he also won the Marshall Chess Club Championship in New York.

♟ **In 1999**, **Maurice Ashley**, born in Jamaica, became the first and only African-American to awarded the Grandmaster title. He is now active in different areas of chess promotion, especially promoting chess with children. In 1991, he coached a team of black kids from Harlem that won the 1991 National Junior High School Championships.



♟ **In 2002**, **Maurice Ashley** became the first African-American to qualify for the US Chess Championship.

♟ **In 2005**, **Maurice Ashley** wrote *Chess for Success*, which I contributed a chapter on

famous people who play chess, including several prominent black celebrities.

♟ **In 2005**, **Tuduetso Sabure** (1982-) of Botswana became the first black woman grandmaster when she won the African Women's Championship.

♟ **In 2007**, **Pontus Carlsson** (1982-), A Black player from Sweden, was awarded the Grandmaster title. He was born in Cali, Columbia. When he was one year old, his entire family died and he was subsequently adopted by a Swedish couple. His adopted father was the former president of the Swedish chess federation who taught him how to play chess. He was the second Black to become a grandmaster.



♟ **In 2007**, **Amon Simutowe** (1982-), a Black player from Zambia, was awarded the Grandmaster title. He took 2nd place in the 2000 World Junior Chess Championships in Armenia (won by Lazaro Bruzon of Cuba). He was named Zambia's "Sportsman of the Year" in 2001. In 2009, he won the South African Open. He was the third Black to become a grandmaster.

♟ **In 2010**, **Justus Williams**, age 12, set the record of the youngest black chess player ever to reach the level of chess master. Prior to this record, Kassa Korley, age 15, was the youngest black chess player to reach the level of chess master.

♟ **As of 2011**, there are three Grandmasters of African descent. They are **Maurice Ashley** of the United States, **Pontus Carlsson** of Sweden and **Amon Simutowe** of Zambia.

♟ **As of 2011**, there are about 50 black chess masters in the United States.

Famous Black celebrities who have played or play chess include:

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Shaun Alexander, LaVar Arrington, Barry Bonds, Kobe Bryant, Jim Brown, Maurice Carter, Wilt Chamberlain, Ray Charles, Lester Conner, Bill Cosby, Fats Domino, Laurence Fishburne, Jamie Foxx, Dizzie Gillespie, GZA, Priest Holmes, Magic Johnson, Lennox Lewis, Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama, Chris Rock, Bill Russell, RZA, Barry Sanders, Will Smith, Wesley Snipes, Latrell Sprewell, and Tiger Woods.

Black chess masters include:

Greg Acholonu (SM), Pedro Aderito (IM), Maurice Ashley (GM), Steve Booth (NM), Ron Buckmeyer (SM), Pontus Carlsson (GM), Ken Clayton (NM), Joshua Colas (NM), Charles Covington (NM), Barry Davis (NM), Morris Giles (FM), Charles Green (NM), Robert Gwaze (IM), Walter Harris (NM), Walu Kobese (IM), Kassa Korley (NM), Irvin Middleton (FM), Vincnet Moore (NM), William Morrison (SM), Tony Randolph (NM), Norm Rogers (FM), Ron Simpson (SM), Amon Simutowe (GM), Kenny Solomon (IM), Frank Street (NM), Andre Surgeon (NM), Emory Tate (IM), George Umezina (NM), Glenn Umstead (NM), Justus Williams (NM), and Elvin Wilson (NM).

*You can find more on black chess players at
www.thechessdrum.net.*



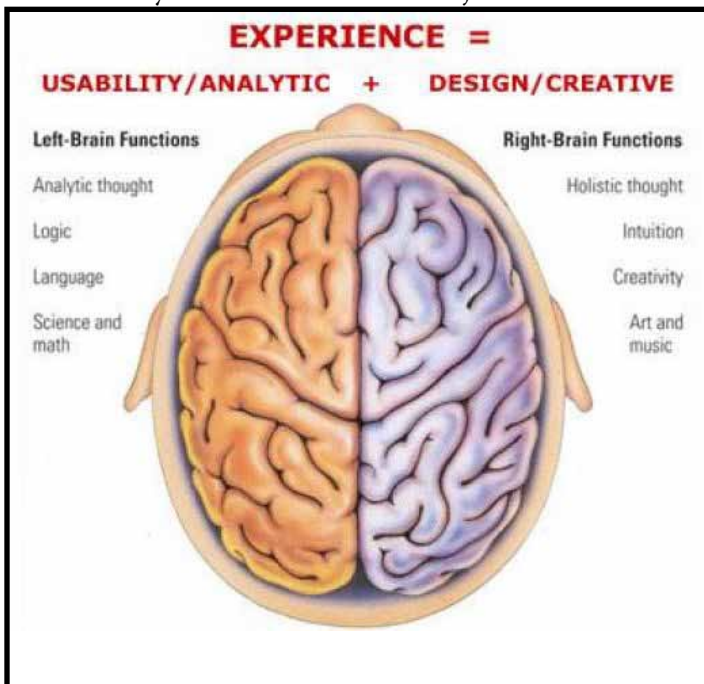
Unlocking the mind of the Chess player

Many scientists are actually using chess to study the brain to better understand how it functions. Recently a Japanese study may have unlocked the secret of how the chess player brains works as he plays and improves.

Tracking blood flow in the brain to detect spikes of activity, researchers found that master players of shogi -- a Japanese game similar to chess -- use two regions of the brain to make critical moves.

Researchers used magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans to compare the brain activity of amateurs and professionals who were presented with various shogi board patterns and were told to think of their next move. During a match they found a flurry of activity in the parietal and occipital lobes, areas not associated with general intelligence.

Merim Bilalic at the University of Tübingen in Germany used fMRI to scan the brains of eight international chess players and eight novices while they identified either geometrical shapes or whether the pieces on a chess board were in a check situation. The expert players were quicker at solving the chess problem, activating areas on both sides of their brains as they did so. The novices used just the left side.



Bilalic had expected the expert players to use a faster version of the processing mechanism used by novices. "But once the usual brain structures were engaged, the experts utilised additional complementary structures in the other half, to execute processes in parallel," he says.

This parallel processing didn't occur when the expert players carried out the geometry task, suggesting that it is limited to practised skills. "It shows that there really is no short cut to expertise," says Bilalic.

When they asked players to mull their next move, experts' brains showed more activity in the area associated with visualising images and episodic memory, known as the precuneus area of the parietal lobe. Unlike amateur players, who use the precuneus area of the parietal lobe, professionals use the caudate nucleus in the center of the brain, "Amateurs use the precuneus only a third of the time.

"Professionals are trained extensively for a long time, over 10 years, hours every day. This extensive training (may have) shifted the activity from the cerebral cortex to the caudate nucleus.

When pressed to come up quickly with a move, activity surged in another region called the caudate nucleus, where goal-directed behaviour is rooted.

"This activation did not occur in the amateurs or when either group took their time in planning their next move," said the study.

'Intuition' comes from caudate nucleus

The researchers said that experts who train for years in shogi are actually perfecting a circuit between the two regions that helps them quickly recognise the state of the game and choose the next step.

"Being 'intuitive' indicates that the idea for a move is generated quickly and automatically without conscious search, and the process is mostly implicit," said the study.

"This intuitive process occurs routinely in experts, and thus it is different from inspiration, which occurs less frequently and unpredictably."

Experts believe the caudate nucleus is responsible for switching bodily movements. "The caudate nucleus is very well developed in rats and mice, while the cerebral cortex is very developed in primates ... by becoming expert, shogi masters start to use all parts of the brain," Scientists are hoping to do more research into the intuitive powers of the Caudate nucleus. Experts use different parts of their brains than amateurs, maximizing intuition, goal-seeking

and pattern-recognition. They found that certain regions of expert brains lit up, while the amateurs' did not. Speed chess uses different brain areas

Chess and Brain (right brain and left brain)

Chess is the only game which activates both parts of our brain. It is the brain booster that actually stimulates the thinking process. Our brain is made up of two halves, left brain and right brain. Each half is responsible for different characteristics of our personality. A person may be right-dominant or left-dominant. Imagination, fantasy, creativity, colors, sense of touch, hearing, feeling and intuition are the few traits of right brain. Right-brain dominant personalities are future thinkers. Since animals are purely right-brained, many considered right brain as animal brain. On contrary, left brain is associated with logical and analytical thinking, reasoning part. Left brain is more complex. Left-brain thinkers are led by logic, not by emotions. And you know, when a well-developed right brain is fully integrated with left brain, we get a genius. Some people think of themselves as a primarily "left-brain" or "right-brain" person. Because you play chess on a regular basis, tell them that you use your whole brain.

What our brain is doing while we play chess.

The brain will first have to separate the color-coded chess pieces, white and black ones (characteristics of right brain). Even for a single move of chess, we have to retrieve all the rules of the game. We must remember the unique manner in which a particular chess piece moves as well the relative value of each chess piece. And then we have to analyze the whole position logically and think analytically keeping in mind what may be the countermoves of your opponent. While playing chess, we have to separate and use all the steps in a single time: separate color-coded pieces in your mind, analyze your each move and countermove of your opponent. We are utilizing the whole brain to make these thinking processes. Not only are we trying to think ahead but we are goal orientated looking for the illusive check-mate. Checkmate judgment activates the right brain with full coordination of left brain

Spatial processing, the key to chess

Spatial processing may be the key to a good chess game. Chess is not necessarily a game reserved for people with IQ scores on par with Einstein. In fact, chess strategy may rely more heavily on spatial processing than on logic and computational skills. The activity comparatively observed in the parietal lobe suggests that this area may be capable of handling complex spatial functions, such as the interaction of memory and incoming spatial information.

"The parietal lobe may have more functions than we previously clearly suspected," says He. And inactivity in another area--the left lateral frontal lobe--raises questions about the role of general intelligence in high-level cognition and problem solving.

When pressed to come up quickly with a move, activity surged in another region called the caudate nucleus, where goal-directed behavior is rooted.

"This activation did not occur in the amateurs or when either group took their time in planning their next move," said the study.

Researchers believe that experts who train for years are actually perfecting a circuit between the two regions that helps them quickly recognize the state of the game and

choose the next step.

Chess is a tool to give users a rigorous mental workout. Scientists claim that playing chess can improve mental age by up to 14 years. Those who play chess move to higher levels as they get better at it. Scientists have shown that playing chess exercises the brain, most notably to help keep Alzheimer's Disease at bay.

It's not as important that you specifically: speed-read, play chess, etc. as much as it is important for you to keep exercising areas of your brain.

The brain is an example of "if you don't use it, you lose it". Scientists have found the neurological equivalent of an untuned body could lead to a drastic dulling of cerebral powers.

Chess and Academia

How does chess affect your studies? Some studies show that chess-playing students show tremendous improvement in their overall academic performance. Students' exposure to chess actually improves the memory, concentration, vocabulary, logical thinking, problem-solving skills, forethought, self-discipline, capacity to take decisions more analytically and logically, and much more. In many countries, chess has been added as the main part of curriculum.

It may take years of hard work to become a chess grand-master, but it gives a real boost to the brain – for working out chess problems, at least. As you pursue to improve your game it looks like you are also improving your mind.



Chess improves areas of your brain across the two hemispheres. Consider:

- (1) Chess involves all levels of critical thinking, including:
 - a) Knowledge, b) Comprehension, c) Analysis, d) Evaluation.
- (2) Chess requires forethought and cultivates visualization skills.
- (3) Chess improves problem-solving skills.
- (4) Chess encourages people to overcome the fear of risk taking.
- (5) Chess teaches concentration and self-discipline.
- (6) Chess enables people to assume responsibility for their decisions.
- (7) Chess rewards determination and perseverance.
- (8) Chess raises self-esteem and promotes good sportsmanship.
- (9) Chess encourages socialization skills that extend across cultures and generations.
- 10) Chess is fun! Stimulating satisfaction.

Annotated Game

by Bill Wall

The Polish Opening or Orangutan.

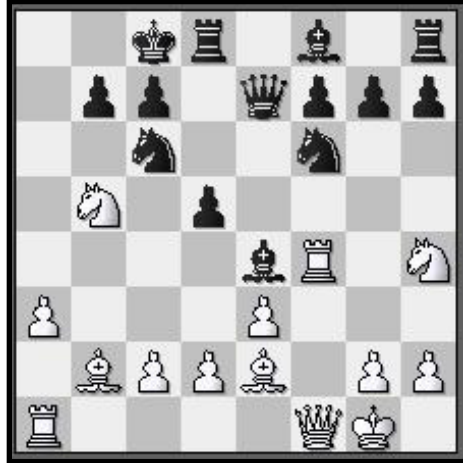
The move 1.b4 is known as the The Polish Opening or Orangutan, or Sokolsky Opening. It is an irregular opening that is usually played to surprise an opponent, who may not be expecting it. It has never been popular among top level chess, but is great for Internet chess or at the club level. The name "Orangutan Opening" originates from a game played in 1924 between S. Tartakower and G. Maroczy. Tartakower played 1.b4 and said he had consulted with an orangutan at the New York zoo the day before as to what to play. The orangutan apparently selected 1.b4 as the opening.

The opening is largely based upon tactics on the queenside. In this game, I attacked from both sides, but Black brought his queen out early and it was eventually trapped. White castled kingside and Black castled queenside

Bill Wall – Dule, Internet Chess Game, April 5, 2010

1.b4!? d5 2.Bb2 a6 3.Nf3 Nc6 [threatening 4...Nxb4. 3...e6 4.a3 Nf6 5.Nc3 is also good] **4.a3 Bf5** [perhaps better is 4...Nf6 5.e3 e6 6.Be2 Bd6 7.0-0] **5.e3 e6 6.Be2 Qd6** [Black should continue development with 6...Nf6] **7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nc3 e5?! [8...Be7 or 8...h6 would be better] 9.b5 axb5 [9...Ne7 10.Re1; 9...Na5 10.Rb1] 10.Nxb5** [the White Knight is now better placed and always has the threat of Nxc7] **10...Qe7 11.Nh4 [11.c4 dxc4 12.Bxc4] 11...Bg6?! [11...Be6; 11...Bc8] 12.f4 exf4**

13.Rxf4 0-0-0?! [13...Qd8; 13...Nd8 14.Nxg6 hxg6 15.Rxf6 gxf6 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Nxc7+] 14.Qf1 Be4? [maybe better was 14...Rg8 15.Nxg6 or 14...Qc5 15.Rxf6 gxf6 16.Bxf6 Rg8 17.Bxd8. Now White can sac his rook.]



15.Rxf6! d4? [15...gxf6 16.Bxf6 Qe6 17.Bxh8 wins for White; 15...Kb8 16.Qf4 looks strong for White] **16.Rf4** [Also playable are 16.Bg4+ Kb8 17.Rxf7 and 16.Rxc6 bxc6 17.Nf5 Qe8 18.Nbxd4] **16...Bd5?** [16...dxe3 17.dxe3 Bxc2 18.Qf2] **17.Nf5 Qg5 18.Rg4** [18.Nfxd4 is also good for White] **18...Qh5??** [Trapping the Queen. 18...Qf6 19.Qf4 Rd7 20.c4]



19.Rg3 and Black resigned as his Queen is trapped 1-0



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Ask Bill



Bill Wall

bill_wall@bellsouth.net

Kevin B – What's the difference between a chess trap, a swindle, and a miniature? And how long

is a game before it is no longer considered a miniature?

Kevin. There is no precise definition of a chess trap. The Oxford Companion to Chess defines it as “an attractive line of play that is less advantageous than it appears and which may have been deliberately set as a temptation by the opponent.” A chess trap is almost always the result of a bad move. A swindle is usually a chess trap that occurs in the middle game or end game. A miniature is a short chess game. Some consider a chess miniature as a game of 25 moves or less. Others consider it a game of 20 moves or less. Perhaps certain well analyzed openings stay in the book longer, so it may take 25 moves before the game is over. When it comes to endgames, a miniature is an endgame of 6 pieces and/or pawns or less. Some people categorize miniatures as between 16 and 25 moves. Games less than 16 moves are sometimes called brevities. I have written dozens of books filled with game collections of brevities and miniatures, brilliant or otherwise. Most are 20 moves or less, but as opening theory expands due to analysis and chess engines, I would like to think that the chess miniature is 25 moves or less. Clark – What is a pgn game or file? Clark. PGN, which stands for Portable Game Notation, is format for recording chess games that have relevant data and the moves in algebraic notation. The format can be written in plain text and many chess programs recognize this format for display and for game databases. The file is an ASCII text file, but its filename extension is .pgn. For example, a collection of my games on the North Carolina Chess Association web site is stored in a file called bill_wall.pgn (<http://www.ncchess.org/viewer/index.html>), which you can download and open up with any editor, or open it up with a chess program that read pgn files, such as ChessBase Light, which you can download for free at <http://www.chessbase.com/newsdetail.asp?newsid=5700>. Other programs like Fritz, ChessBase, Chess Assistant, Scid, etc., can read pgn files. The PGN code begins with a set of “tag pairs” (tag name and value), followed by the movetext (chess moves in algebraic notation with

optional commentary). Here is an example.

[Event "Fischer/Spassky Return Match"]
[Site "Belgrade, Serbia"]
[Date "1992.11.04"]
[Round "29"]
[White "Fischer, Robert J."]
[Black "Spassky, Boris V."]
[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 {the Ruy Lopez} 3... a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8. c3 O-O 9. h3 Nb8 10. d4 Nbd7 11. c4 c6 12. cxb5 axb5 13. Nc3 Bb7 14. Bg5 b4 15. Nb1 h6 16. Bh4 c5 17. dxe5 Nxe4 18. Bxe7 Qxe7 19. exd6 Qf6 20. Nbd2 Nxd6 21. Nc4 Nxc4 22. Bxc4 Nb6 23. Ne5 Rae8 24. Bxf7+ Rxf7 25. Nxf7 Rxe1+ 26. Qxe1 Kxf7 27. Qe3 Qg5 28. Qxg5 hxg5 29. b3 Ke6 30. a3 Kd6 31. axb4 cxb4 32. Ra5 Nd5 33. f3 Bc8 34. Kf2 Bf5 35. Ra7 g6 36. Ra6+ Kc5 37. Ke1 Nf4 38. g3 Nxb3 39. Kd2 Kb5 40. Rd6 Kc5 41. Ra6 Nf2 42. g4 Bd3 43. Re6 1/2-1/2

Ed S – How good is Magnus Carlsen and how did he get so good?

Ed. Magnus was the highest rated active player in the world until this month (March, 2011). He is now the second highest rated active player in the world, behind world champion Vishy Anand. Magnus Carlsen of Norway is just 20 years old. He was a child prodigy. He became a Grandmaster at age 13. When he was 19, he was the youngest chess player in history to be ranked number one on the world. In 2009, he was the world blitz chess champion. You would think he would want to play in the world chess championship, but in November, 2010, he withdrew from the Candidates tournament that decides who plays in the world chess championship. How did he get so good? Well, he started early, playing in chess tournaments at age 8. He had a chess coach that was a grandmaster, and later coached for former world chess champion Garry Kasparov. He has a near photographic memory. He took a year off from elementary school to participate in international tournaments. He finished school and graduated from high school, so he was no drop out like Bobby Fischer. He studies a great deal and uses the latest chess engines and databases, which play at strong grandmaster strength, to help him prepare his games. You can follow his blog at <http://www.arcticsec.no/index.php?button=blog>.

Oliver S – What were the first chess computers like?

Oliver. Not very good. It took many years before they were strong enough to beat a master. Konrad Zuse (1910-

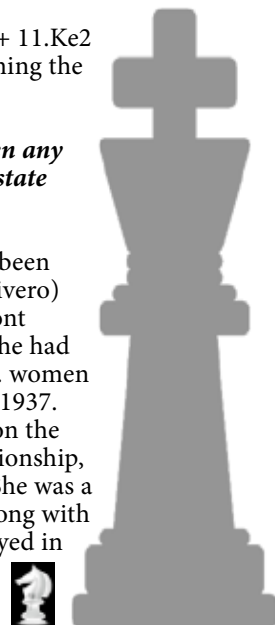
1995) of Germany wrote the world's first chess-playing program in the late 1940s. In 1949, Claude Shannon (1916-2001) presented a research paper on programming a digital computer for playing chess. In 1951, a chess playing program was written to solve simple mates-in-one. By 1956, a running chess program was being played on a 6x6 chessboard. It took 12 minutes to make a move. The next year, an IBM employee created the first really complete chess program, but very weak. By 1962, programs were written that played regular chess that could beat chess beginners. The computers were able to look at over 1,000 positions a second, but still not strong enough to beat experience chess players. The first computers were playing in chess tournaments in 1967. They could now calculate 400,000 instructions per second. By 1977, chess computers were almost master strength. The first master strength chess computer was CRAY BLITZ, which won the Mississippi State championship and had a provisional master rating of 2258. It wasn't until 1983 that BELLE chess computer has the first established master rating. The first grandmaster to lose to a computer was GM Bent Larsen, in 1988. Finally, in 1997, DEEP BLUE, defeated reigning world champion Garry Kasparov in a chess match.

Ripper – I found a mistake in one of your chess games in your book 700 Opening Traps. In the Alapin's Opening, one of the games has an impossible move, or the moves don't make sense. What are the correct moves?

Ripper. You are right. I had a typo. The game you are referring to is Mouillaux - Matisson, French Postal 1985. The moves should be 1.e4 e5 2.Ne2 Nf6 3.f4 Nxe4 (I had 3...exf4) 4.d3 Nc5 5.fxe5 Nc6 6.d4? [perhaps 6.Bf4] 6...Qh4+ 7.g3 Qe4 8.Rg1 Nxd4! 9.Qxd4 Qxc2 [threatening 9...Nd3+ and 9...Qxc1] 10.Nf4 Qxc1+ 11.Ke2 Nb3! 12.axb3 Bc5, winning the Rook

Sarah – Have there been any women that have won state chess championships?

Sarah. Yes, there have been two. In 1945, Adele (Rivero) Belcher won the Vermont State Championship. She had previously won the U.S. women chess championship in 1937. In 1956, Irene Vines won the Louisiana State Championship, held in New Orleans. She was a strong expert player, along with her husband. Irene played in several U.S. women's championships.



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bill_wall@bellsouth.net