



White Knight Review

Chess E-Magazine

Interactive E-Magazine

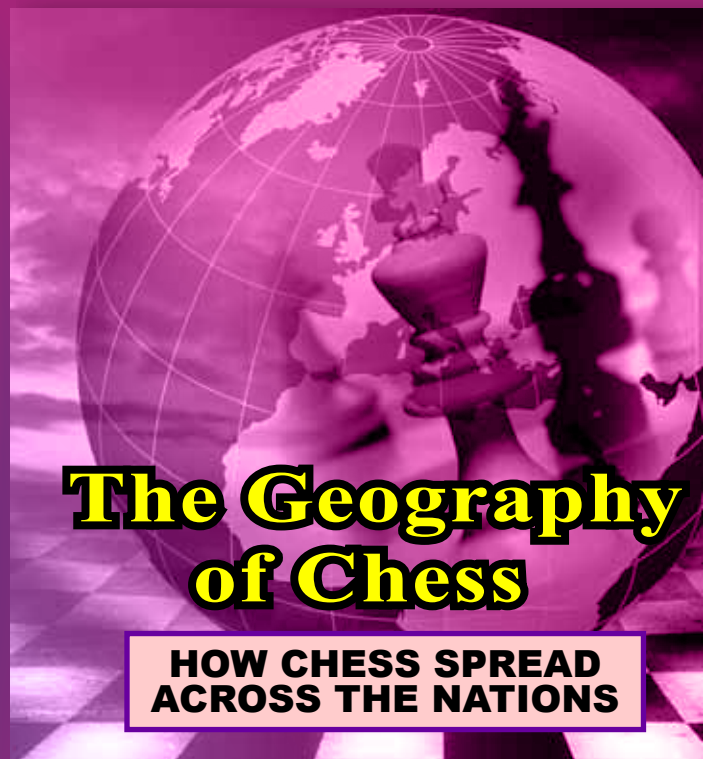
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Arrested Chess Players



Albert Einstein and Chess



The Geography of Chess

HOW CHESS SPREAD
ACROSS THE NATIONS

Chess Tournaments



Isaac Asimov and Chess

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My Move

jerry_wall@comcast.net

editorial -Jerry Wall



The great thing about chess is that anybody can play it. From the very young to the elderly, from the very poor to the affluent. It crosses race barriers, economical status, and even intellectual acuity. It can be enjoyed at any level and in

just about any place you can set up a board. In this issue we explore the realm of chess by those who are incarcerated in prison. Their bodies are behind bars but they are free to challenge one another intellectually. They are still free to think and chess is a great way to exercise their minds, plan strategy and just have plain fun. Prisoners have a lot of time on their hands and what better way of spending it than in working at being prolific at the game. Many have done just so in spite of their circumstances.

We also have a small article on Isaac Asimov, who enjoyed playing chess. He was my favorite science fiction writer and when I was a kid I wrote him and was surprised that he took the time to write back. He was considered one of the world's smartest men and yet discovered he was terrible at chess. He realized it was not based on intelligence but on years of studying patterns and hard work. Yes anybody can play chess and enjoy it but to be really good at it is another story. It is not how smart you or where you are but how dedicated and how hard you work at it. Whether from a prison cell or table one at a top tournament, chess is the rightful pursuit of all people.

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:
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Chess E-Magazine

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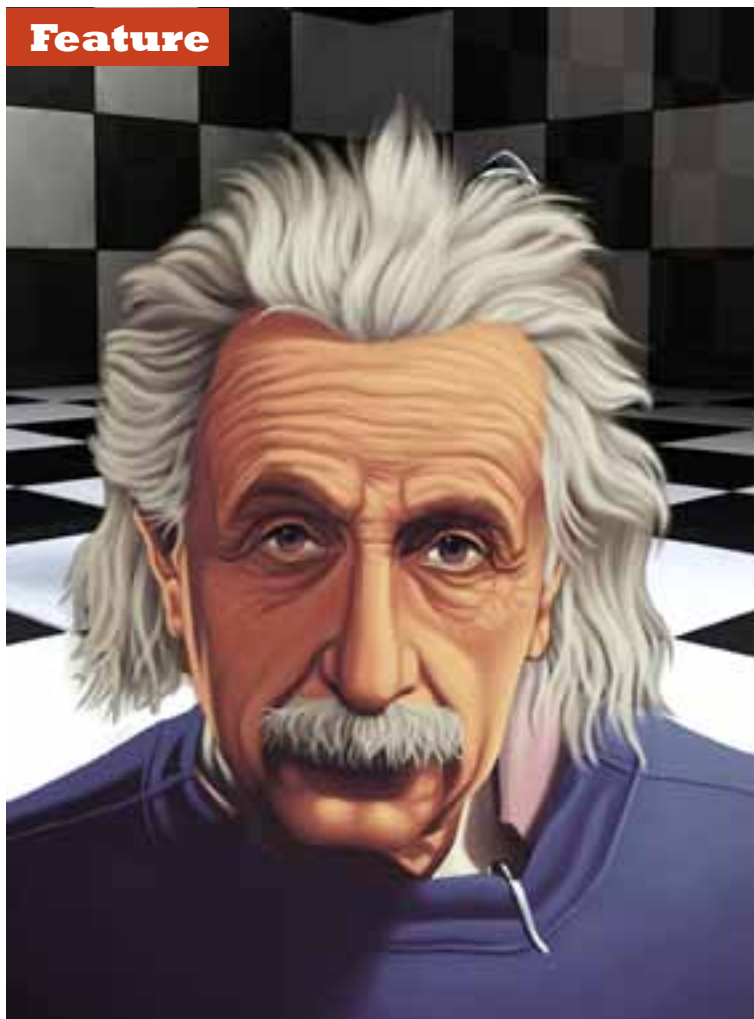
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Feature



ALBERT EINSTEIN

and CHESS

By Bill Wall

Albert Einstein (1879-1955) was born at Ulm in Wurttemberg, Germany, on March 14, 1879. The family moved to Munich in 1880. He may have first played chess in Munich. In 1936, he did tell a reporter that he played chess as a boy. He grew up in Munich, but left at age 15 when his parents moved to Italy in 1894. His parents then sent him to Switzerland to finish secondary school, which he completed in 1896. Einstein found competitive activities traumatic, so he was not so fond of chess,

In 1896 he renounced his German citizenship and enrolled in a Swiss technical school. He graduated with a teaching diploma in 1900 and became a Swiss citizen in 1901.

In 1902 he had an illegitimate daughter (Lieserl) with Mileva Maric (1875-1948), a Serbian classmate and mathematician. Einstein could not find a

teaching post. Someone helped him get a job at the Swiss Patent Office as an assistant examiner.

He married Mileva in 1903. In 1904 his first son, Hans Albert, was born.

In 1905, at the age of 25, he received his doctorate after submitting his dissertation "On a new determination of molecular dimensions." That same year he wrote articles on Brownian motion, the photoelectric effect, special relativity, and energy equivalency. The paper on the photoelectric effect later won him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921.

In 1908, Dr. Einstein was licensed in Berne, Switzerland as a teacher and lecturer. In 1910, he second son, Eduard, was born.

In 1910, Einstein's second son, Eduard, was born in Zurich. He died in 1965 in a psychiatric sanatorium in Zurich, suffering

from schizophrenia.

In 1914 he moved to Berlin as a professor at the local university and became a member of the Prussian Academy of Sciences. He also served as director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Physics.

In 1915 he presented a series of lectures on the theory of general relativity.

In 1919 he divorced Mileva and married his first cousin, Elsa Einstein. At age 43, she was 3 years older than him (he was now 40).

In 1921 he won the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the photoelectric effect.

In 1927, Einstein first met Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941) at the home of Alexander Moszkowski (1851-1934) in Berlin and they became good friends. Lasker was world chess champion

from 1894 through 1921 with a PhD in mathematics. Einstein took many walks with Lasker.

In 1928 Einstein wrote to Dr. Emanuel Lasker, congratulating him on his 60th birthday, calling Lasker a Renaissance man. However, Lasker said he had only met one genius in his life, and that was Jose Capablanca.

In 1930 Einstein received a patent for a new type of refrigerator.

In 1931 a pamphlet was written called One Hundred Authors Against Einstein. One of the authors was Emanuel Lasker because Lasker did not believe the theory of relativity.

Adolf Hitler came into power in 1933 and there was a nationalist hatred of Einstein, accusing him of creating "Jewish physics." Einstein then fled Germany and was given permanent residence in the United States. He accepted a position at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. He was 54 years old when he first arrived in the USA. The director of the Institute was Dr. Robert Oppenheimer (1904-1967). Emanuel Lasker also fled Berlin about the same time that Einstein left. Both of their homes were ransacked by the Nazis.

Einstein was an amateur chess player. He played chess with his neighbors and friends. He always had a chessboard set up at home at 112 Mercer Street in Princeton, New Jersey. He was probably most active in chess in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

In 1934 Einstein visited friends and relaxed with a game of chess. When he met children, he asked them if they liked music or could they play chess. He would occasionally teach a child the basics of chess, then tell that child to practice, then would play that child a game of chess the next time they met.

In October, 1936 Einstein was interviewed by the New York Times. In that interview, he

said, "I do not play any games. There is no time for it. When I get through work I don't want anything which requires the working of the mind." Einstein preferred playing the violin and sailing. Einstein did say he played

age of 76.

Many of Einstein's friends and acquaintances were chess players, including Paul Dirac (1902-1984), Arthur Eddington (1882-1944), Enrico Fermi (1901-1954), Fritz Haber (1868-1934), Werner Heisenberg (1901-1976), Lise Meitner (1878-1968), Patrick Moore, Robert Oppenheimer (1904-1967), Max Planck (1858-1947), Isidor Rabi (1898-1996), Erwin Schroedinger (1887-1961), Leo Szilard (1898-1964), Edward Teller (1908-2003)

"Einstein was an amateur chess player. He played chess with his neighbors and friends. He always had a chessboard set up ..."

chess as a boy.

In 1937, Einstein's second wife, Elsa, died.

In 1938, Paul Nemenyi, a Jewish Hungarian scientist, fled to America and headed to Princeton to consult with Albert Einstein. He found a job working for Einstein's son, Hans Albert, at the University of Iowa's hydrology lab. There are strong indications that Nemenyi is the biological father of Bobby Fischer. He met Bobby Fischer's mother, Regina, in 1942, at the University of Colorado.

In 1939 Einstein met Dr. Edward Teller. Teller was an avid chess player, but there is no indication they played chess.

He became an American citizen in October 1940, at the age of 61. He also maintained his Swiss citizenship.

In 1947, a movie was made called The Beginning or the End. There is a scene in which a group of scientists go to the home of Albert Einstein (played by Ludwig Stossel). Einstein is seated by the fireplace with a chessboard and men on the coffee table.

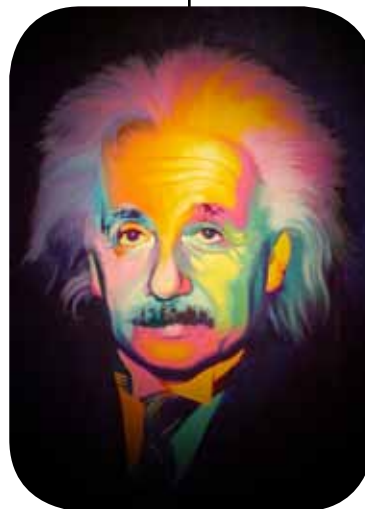
He died on April 18, 1955 at the

Einstein was a good friend of Dr. Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941). Lasker thought Einstein's theory of relativity was wrong and that the speed of light was limited due to particles in space. Lasker did not think there was a perfect vacuum.

Einstein knew Edward Lasker (1885-1981). On one occasion, Edward Lasker visited Einstein at Princeton and gave him an autographed copy of his book Go and Gomoku, written in 1934. Einstein, in return, gave Edward Lasker an autographed copy of one of his papers on relativity. The book given to

Einstein later showed up in a Baltimore used bookstore. When someone told Edward Lasker about this, Lasker replied, "That's all right. I left his relativity paper on the subway."

Einstein thanked Edward Lasker for his book, but then asked, "You are obviously an intelligent man; clearly a great deal of work went into this book. But why for such a trivial and unimportant topic?" Edward Lasker replied, "A friend of mine recently said the following, and I must say I agree with it: 'We are born and we die, and in between these two events of a



lifetime, there is a lot of time that must be wasted. Now, whether it is wasted by doing mathematics, practicing law, or playing games, it is really quite insignificant." Ed Lasker was quoting Clarence Darrow. In 1951 Einstein met a Go grandmaster from Japan and told the interpreter that he (Einstein) did not know much about Go.

Einstein is quoted as saying that "chess grips its exponent, shackling the mind and brain so that the inner freedom and independence of even the strongest character cannot remain unaffected."

Einstein also said, "I always dislike the fierce competitive spirit embodied in [chess]."

In 1952, Dr. Jacques Hannak (1892-1973) published a biography of Emanuel Lasker, called Emanuel Lasker Biographie eines Schachweltmeisters. It was published in Berlin. The book featured a Preface (Geleitwort) by Albert Einstein, who wrote it in Princeton, New Jersey in October 1952. Hannak originally intended the publication of the book in 1938 for Lasker's 70th birthday, but it was delayed.

In 1942, Hannak completed the biography of Lasker and sent the German manuscript to Bernie Winkelman (1874-1978) for translation to English. It was Winkelman who wrote to Einstein and asked for a preface. Einstein wrote back and asked for a few days to prepare a fitting foreword to the book. Within a week, Einstein wrote the foreword in German and sent it to Winkelman, which he translated into English.

In 1944, the book was supposed to be published, with an

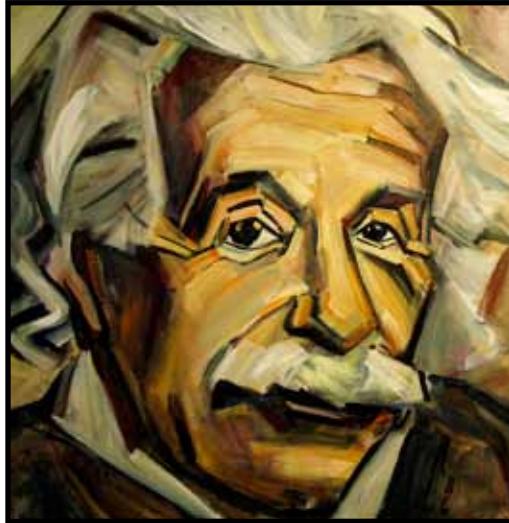
introduction by Dr. Albert Einstein. Bernie Winkelman translated the book from German to English, but a paper shortage prevented an English version to be printed.

In 1955, the English version of Einstein's preface was published in the May 1955 issue of Chess Review in an article called

'Einstein on Lasker.' Einstein had died in April.

In 1959, Heinrich Fraenkel's (1897-1986) English version was published in London, called Emanuel Lasker: The Life of a Chess Master.

Fraenkel's version differs from Winkelman's version.



CHESS QUOTE

"When you see a good move, look for a better one."

• **Emanuel Lasker**

<http://www.chessquotes.com>

Here is Fraenkel's version of Einstein's preface for his book **"Emanuel Lasker: The Life of a Chess Master"**

"Emanuel Lasker was undoubtedly one of the most interesting people I came to know in my later years. We must be thankful to those who have penned the story of his life for this and succeeding generations. For there are few men who have had a warm interest in all the great human problems and at the same time kept their personality so uniquely independent.

I am not a chess expert and therefore not in a position to marvel at the force of mind revealed in his greatest intellectual achievement - in the field of chess. I must even confess that the struggle for power and the competitive spirit expressed in the form of an ingenious game have always been repugnant to me.

I met Emanuel Lasker at the house of my old friend, Alexander Moszkowski, and came to know him

well in the course of many walks in which we exchanged opinions about the most varied questions. It was a somewhat one-sided exchange, in which I received more than I gave. For it was usually more natural for this eminently productive man to shape his own thoughts than to busy himself with those of another.

To my mind, there was a tragic note in his personality, despite his fundamentally affirmative attitude towards life. The enormous psychological tension, without which nobody can be a chess master, was so deeply interwoven with chess that he could never entirely rid himself of the spirit of the game, even when he was occupied with philosophic and human problems. At the same time, it seemed to me that chess was more a profession for him than the real goal of his life. His real yearning seems to be directed towards

Continue

Albert Einstein & Chess

scientific understanding and the beauty inherent only in logical creation, a beauty so enchanting that nobody who has once caught a glimpse of it can ever escape it.

Spinoza's material existence and independence were based on the grinding of lenses; chess had an analogous role in Lasker's life. But Spinoza was granted a better fate, because his occupation left his mind free and untroubled, while, on the other hand, the chess playing of a master ties him to the game, fetters his mind and shapes it to a certain extent so that his internal freedom and ease, no matter how strong he is, must inevitably be affected. In our conversations and in the reading of his philosophical books, I always had that feeling. Of these books, "The Philosophy of the Unattainable" interested me the most; the book is not only very original, but it also affords a deep insight into Lasker's entire personality.

Now I must justify myself because I never considered in detail, either in writing or in our conversations, Emanuel Lasker's critical essay on the theory of relativity. It is indeed necessary for me to say something about it here because even in his biography, which is focused on the purely human aspects, the passage which discusses the essay contains something resembling a slight reproach. Lasker's keen analytical mind had immediately clearly recognized that the central point of the whole question is that the velocity of light (in a vacuum) is a constant. It was evident to him that, if this constancy were admitted, the relative of time could not be avoided. So what was there to do? He tried to do what Alexander, whom historians have dubbed "the Great," did when he cut the Gord-

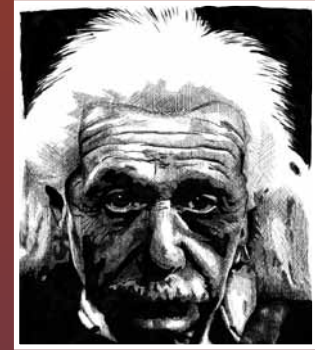
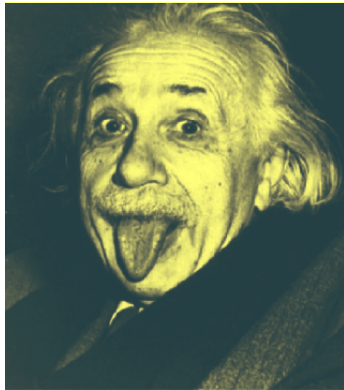
ian knot. Lasker's attempted solution was based on the following idea: "Nobody has any immediate knowledge of how quickly light is transmitted in a complete vacuum, for even in interstellar space there is always a minimal quantity of matter present under all circumstances and what holds there is even more applicable to the most complete vacuum created by man to the best of his ability. Therefore, who has the right to deny that its velocity in a really complete vacuum is infinite?"

To answer this argument can be expressed as follows: "It is, to be sure, true that nobody has experimental knowledge of how light is transmitted in a complete vacuum. But it is as good as impossible to formulate a reasonable theory of light according to which the velocity of light is affected by minimal traces of matter which is very significant but at the same time virtually

independent of their density." Before such a theory, which moreover, must harmonize with the known phenomena of optics in an almost complete vacuum, can be set up, it seems that every physicist must wait for the solution of the above-mentioned Gordian knot - if he is not satisfied with the present solution. Moral: a strong mind cannot take place of delicate fingers.

But I liked Lasker's immovable independence, a rare human attribute, in which respect almost all, including intelligent people, are mediocrities. And so I let matters stand that way.

I am glad that the reader will be able to get to know this strong and, at the same time, find and lovable personality from his sympathetic biography, but I am thankful for the hours of conversation which this ever striving, independent, simple man granted me."



Here is a game attributed to Albert Einstein. The game was first published in Freude am Schach (The Pleasure of Chess) by Gerhard Henschel in 1959.

Albert Einstein -
J. Robert Oppenheimer,
Princeton 1933

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Nf6 6.O-O Nxe4 7.Re1 d5 8.a4?! [8.d3] b4?! [8...Bc5] 9.d3 Nc5?! [9...Nf6] 10.Nxe5 Ne7 11.Qf3 [threatening 12.Qxf7 mate] f6? [11...Be6] 12.Qh5+! g6 13.Nxg6! hxg6 [13...Rg8 14.Nxe7+ Kd7 15.Qxd5+ Ke8 16.Qxg8] 14.Qxh8 Nxb3 15.cxb3 Qd6? [15...Kf7] 16.Bh6 Kd7 17.Bxf8 Bb7 18.Qg7 Re8 19.Nd2 c5 20.Rad1 [or 20.Re2] a5 21.Nc4! dxc4 [21...Qc7 22.Bxe7] 22.dxc4 Qxd1 23.Rxd1+ Kc8 24.Bxe7 1-0

Some (Dennis Holding and Andy Soltis) have attributed the above game to Albert Einstein's son, Hans Albert Einstein (1904-1973), and played at Berkeley in 1945 where Hans taught. But Hans Albert did not play chess. There is no indication that Oppenheimer was in Berkeley in 1945. He was either at Los Alamos, New Mexico or Princeton, New Jersey in 1945. He was at Berkeley from 1929 to 1933.

Andy Soltis, writing in the July, 1979 issue of Chess Life on page 372 in an article called "Science at Play" says this game was apparently played in the late 1940s when Hans Albert Einstein, son of Albert Einstein, and Robert Oppenheimer were both on the faculty at the University of California at Berkeley.



Checkmates Behind Bars

CHESS IN PRISON



by Bill Wall

No prison in the U.S. is more famous than **Sing Sing Correctional Facility** in Ossining, New York. Other than Alcatraz, Sing Sing is probably the best known maximum security prison in the United States. Unlike Alcatraz, Sing Sing is still in use with about 2,000 prisoners and opened in 1826. One of the activities at Sing Sing is chess. In 1913, a chess column appeared in a monthly magazine, *Star of Hope*, written by inmates at Sing Sing State prison in New York. Inmates have been known to play chess in the yard in near-zero weather, just to get out of their cells since they are locked up 21 hours a day. Some of the inmates are playing chess by correspondence through the prison pen pals system. Some of the inmates make a chess set from used toothpaste caps and squares of paper as pieces. They call out their chess moves to other inmates in the cell block. Prolific robber Willie Sutton was sent to Sing Sing and played chess there. In his autobiography, he stated that he found a half-dozen inmates who were enthusiastic players at Sing Sing. When he was caught in 1952, he was reading *How to Think Ahead in Chess* by Horowitz and Reinfeld.

At San Quentin prison just north of San Francisco, prisoners can take part in 12 different sporting activities, including chess. In 1955, San Quentin State Prison in California organized a chess club and edited a chess magazine, *Chess Nuts*, that lasted for

two years. Honorary editor was George Koltanowski. In 1957, George Koltanowski gave a simultaneous exhibition at San Quentin prison. He played 107 prisoners, winning 103, losing 1, and drawing 3. In 2003, Earl Smith, the chaplain at San Quentin State Prison, played a chess match with Charles Manson. Not sure who the winner was. Recently, eight members of the Bank of America chess team have been going to San Quentin to play the inmates in a team match. The team is led through the gym to a sitting area of tables and chairs overlooking the gym below. Usually, the San Quentin inmates beat the visiting teams, so they are pretty good. They beat the Bank of America team with 7 wins and 1 loss.

Rikers Island is New York City's main jail complex. Many of the street hustlers in chess around New York have served time at Rikers Island. One chess hustler, Bobby Plummer, said he learned how to play chess in 1965 on Rikers Island, where he did a six-month stretch for riding in a stolen car. Some volunteers do



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a community service inside Rikers Island, teaching chess to inmates. However, some of the inmates are better than the teachers.

In the early 1960s, **the State Correctional Institute of Pittsburgh** had a strong chess club called the Walled Knights. Members of the Pittsburgh Chess Club used to regularly play matches against the Walled Knights. In 1972, a prisoner failed to return to Western Penitentiary from a chess match at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. A week later, a second prisoner escaped after a chess tournament at Carnegie-Mellon. The warden remarked, "I'm afraid we won't be invited back to the university if this keeps up." Pittsburgh Chess Club member Bobby Dudley visited the prison several times and donated many chess books, magazines and equipment. By 1985, the Pittsburgh Chess Club prison visit program was no more. In Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Center (PICC) offers schooling and various elective activities for inmates under 18. One of those activities is chess.

Leavenworth Penitentiary in Kansas is a federal prison with a maximum-security military prison four miles north. From 1903 to 2005, it was the largest maximum security federal prison in the United States. It is now a medium security prison. Occasionally, the federal prison has allowed guest chess masters to give lectures and play simultaneous exhibitions. In the 1960s, Carl Flood, brother of baseball player Curt Flood, was the prison champion at Leavenworth. The chess master Norman Whitaker spent some time at Leavenworth in the early 1930s. Robert Stroud, the birdman of Alcatraz, spent some time at Leavenworth and played chess.

In 1969, **Claude Bloodgood** (1937-2001) was sent to prison in Virginia for murdering his mother. He had already been in and out of prison since 1962. From prison, he organized the Virginia Penitentiary Chess Program (VAPEN) and played thousands of chess games by mail and thousands of games with inmates. At one time, the prison system paid for his postage



stamps, so he was able to play as many as 2,000 correspondence games at a time (including me at one time). In 1974, he escaped after receiving a furlough to play in a chess tournament. We was recaptured a few days later. While in prison, he played rated chess matches with fellow prisoners. By 1996, his rating was 2702, the second-highest rated player in the

USA. He had manipulated the U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) rating system that was prone to "closed pool" ratings inflation.

From 1972 through 1974, a pilot study was done on the prison chess program at the Powhatan Correctional Center in Virginia. The official news release said "The purpose of the current prison chess program is to build a statistical base which can be used to demonstrate the value of chess in reducing recidivism and thereby reducing crime!" There were 44 prisoners who took part in the chess program. When they were released, only 10 returned to prison after several years, a rate of 22.7% compared to 70% among all prisoners in state custody in Virginia.



The U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) gave free memberships and affiliations to prisoners through its prison chess program until 1979, when they suspended the 200 free memberships. The USCF does have a special discount for USCF memberships for prisoners. At one time, they had a correspondence chess

program for prison inmates. The USCF Patron Program helps support prison chess with chess sets, books, and supplies.

Sometimes there is violence while playing chess in prison. In January 1979, Patrick McKenna, a prisoner in Nevada, strangled his Las Vegas cellmate, Jack J. Nobles, after an argument over a chess game. McKenna has been on death row in Nevada since 1979. In 2010, a chess game between inmates at the Indian River County Jail in Florida led to a fight. Christopher Brown was playing chess with another inmate in the cell block when Christopher O'Neal, who was watching the game, commented about the game on the other inmate's behalf. Brown told O'Neal to shut up, but O'Neal ignored him and continued to discuss the ongoing chess game. The two then got into a fight. It took several detention deputies to break up the flight.

In the early 1980s, I participated with several other members of the Dayton Chess Club in Ohio in matches at the London Correctional Facility in Ohio. We would sign in, take everything out of our pockets, and go through the metal detector. We were escorted by guards and go through several metal doors that closed behind you.

In 2001, Christopher Newton murdered his cellmate, Jason Brewer, over a game of chess in a Ohio prison. Brewer would resign his chess game against Newton every time a pawn was lost or the position looked

Continue

bad. Newton tried to tell him not to give up and play the game out, but Brewer refused. After a month of playing chess and Brewer always resigning early without playing out the game, Newton finally had enough and strangled Brewer.

William Montgomery is an Ohio death row prisoner. His hobby is chess.

James Schroeder was Ohio chess champion of 1950 and 1985. He founded and continues to operate The Prison Chess Fund that purchases chess books and magazines and chess sets for prisoners.

There have been many people who learned chess while in prison. In 1988, *The Grass Arena*, the autobiography of John Healy, was published. It was the autobiography of an alcoholic vagrant who found redemption in prison through chess. He learned the game of chess from a fellow cellmate while at Pentonville Prison in London. He recently wrote a new book, *Coffee House Chess Tactics*.

In 2002, ABC News Nightline featured a profile of Eugene Brown, who learned chess in prison. When he got out he opened up a youth recreation center in Washington D.C., called the Chess House, and made his living by teaching chess. He is Founder and CEO of The Big Chair Chess Club, a non-profit organization that teaches chess to inner-city children and adults.



In September 1996, Heidi Fleiss, famous Hollywood madam, was sent to federal prison. She spent the time in prison playing chess with some of the other inmates. She was released from prison in 1998.

Sometimes chess is prohibited in prison. In 2001, the Oregon Department of Prisons prohibited chess books and magazines in the prisons because it “contained code throughout.” I guess they thought that algebraic notation was secret code. In 2003, an inmate in Utah was prohibited from subscribing to a chess magazine because he was under “intensive management.”

Since 2002, the Princeton University Chess Club had had an annual match with the New Jersey maximum security prison. The New Jersey State Prison has 75 members and over 1,000 inmates of the 2,320 inmate population know how to play chess.

In 2008-2009, Oliver Fluck, a photographer, started taking pictures of inmates playing chess. His series Prisoner Chess Portraits captures the image of an inmate while playing chess. He took most of the

pictures will accompanying Princeton in their annual chess match with inmates at New Jersey State Prison.

In 2006, the first Bulgarian national chess tournament for prisoners was held and won by the Varna Prison inmates. The winners were awarded with television sets and sports equipment. Inmates from all the prisons asked the Bulgarian Justice Minister if he could cut a few months off their sentences if they win a first place in the tournament. The minister said he would consider it.

Many masters and grandmasters give simultaneous exhibitions in prison. In 1960, Bobby Fischer, age 17 and US chess champion, gave a simultaneous chess exhibition at Rikers Island prison. He defeated all 20 prisoners while 2,400 inmates watched the game. In November 1996, Grandmaster Alex Yermolinsky gave a simultaneous chess exhibition at a state prison near Pittsburgh. He had just won the U.S. championship.

Yermolinsky played 20 games, winning 17, losing 2, and drawing 1. In 2007, former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov gave a simultaneous exhibition at the Krasnoyarsk prison in Russia. He repeated the exhibition in 2009. Jude Acers (1944-), a chess master from Louisiana, has given over 100 chess simultaneous exhibitions in prisons throughout the years.

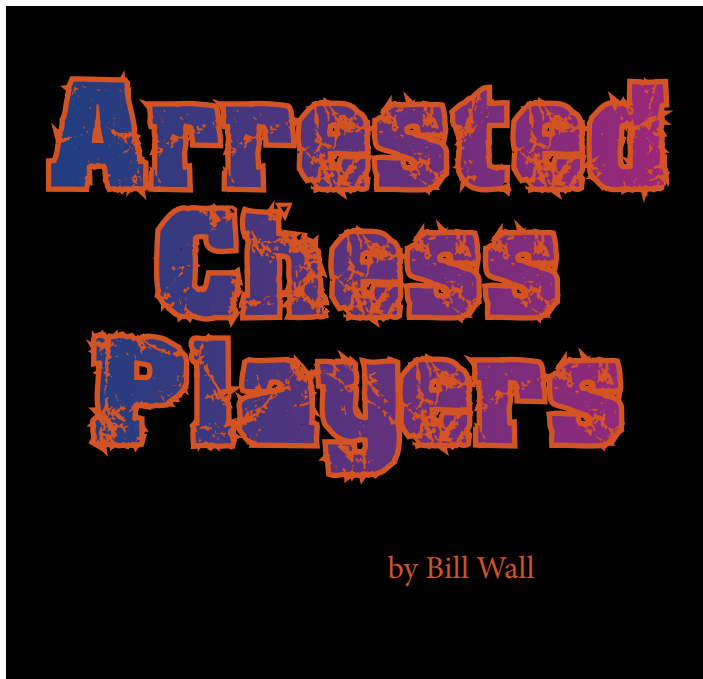
In 2008, two of Scotland’s worst killers, Zeesham ‘Crazy’ Shahid and Jamie ‘Baldy’ Bain, played chess in solitary confinement as they shout out moves to each other as they play on separate cells.

Every prison in California allows chess sets, but many chess clubs have been eliminated due to political interest groups. The state prison at Soledad, California has a chess program and solicits chess instruction tapes. These chess instruction tapes are then broadcasted to three prison facilities simultaneously over thousands of TV sets by the prison’s video system.

In Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Chess Association (MACA) has a fairly active chess outreach to prisons program. Their charter designated the MACA to initiate, promote, and develop chess activities within the correctional institutions of Massachusetts and other states, including the development of chess clubs, tournaments, and instructional program, the promotion of correspondence play, and the coordination of visits by chess teams to these prisons. There is even a Benjamin Landey-Emil Reubens Memorial fund to procure chess equipment, supplies, and other materials in support of prison chess activities.

There are at least 40 prisons nationwide that have chess clubs affiliated with the USCF.





In 1624, playwright Thomas Middleton (1580-1627) was arrested in London after producing a play, *A Game of Chess*, that satirized the proposed marriage of Prince Charles with a Spanish princess. The play was performed in the Globe Theater in London. Its nine performances was the greatest box-office hit of early modern London. After Middleton's arrest, the play was censored and was not allowed to be shown again.

In 1794, Thomas Paine (1737-1809), author of *The Rights of Man and Common Sense*, was arrested in Paris for favoring the exile of King Louis XVI rather than his execution.

Paine was scheduled to be guillotined, but his wife intervened in a strange way. She frequented the Café de la Regence where Robespierre frequented and defeated him in a game of chess. Robespierre challenged her again and promised to grant any wish



if she won again. She again won and asked that her husband's life be spared. Thomas Paine then was released from prison.

In 1832, Alexandre Deschapelles (1780-1847) was arrested for being involved in the French insurrection of June 1832. He was released after writing to the king that he was too old, too infirm, and innocent.

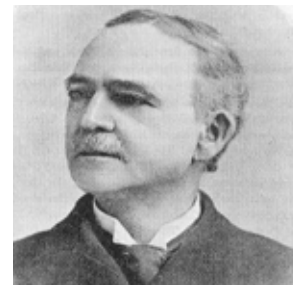
In 1862, chess player Armand Blackmar (1826-1888) was arrested and imprisoned by Union soldiers in New Orleans for publishing Confederate music.

In 1864, George Mackenzie (1837-1891), a former Captain in the Union army, was arrested for desertion from the Union army. He was released in May, 1865, and moved to New York and started playing chess. By 1867, he was U.S. chess champion.

In 1866, William Henry Russ (1833-1866), or W.R. Henry as he was known, shot his adopted daughter four times in the head after he proposed marriage when she turned 21, and she rejected him. He then jumped into a river to drown himself, but the tide was out. He was arrested, but died 10 days later, lacking the will to

live. The woman survived. His book, *American Chess Nuts*, was published in 1868.

In 1875, Albert Ensor was arrested for counterfeiting in New York. In 1873, he was the first Canadian Chess Champion. He was later arrested in Germany for gambling, and in France for forgery.



In 1879, American chess player and journalist James Mortimer (1833-1911)

was arrested for refusing to reveal the author of an allegedly libelous article. Once inside prison, he taught his fellow inmates how to play chess.

In the 19th century chess master **Joseph Blackburne** was arrested as a French spy for sending chess moves in the mail. The British government thought they were coded secrets.

Some sources say that **William Steinitz** was arrested in New York or New Jersey after someone in the telegraph company thought that

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ARRESTED CHESS PLAYERS

his chess moves being sent over telegraph was code.

In 1914, all the Russian chess masters were arrested at the Mannheim, Germany Congress when World War I broke out. The arrested players included **Alexander Alekhine** and **Bogoljubow**. Alekhine was released after 6 weeks.



In 1918, chess master **Ossip Bernstein** (1882-1962), an advisor to rich bankers in Russia, was arrested by the secret Bolshevik police and ordered executed by a firing squad. An officer reviewing the list of those to be shot recognized Bernstein as the famous chess master and spared his life.

In 1921, British chess master **William Winter** (1898-1955) was arrested and imprisoned for 6 months for sedition. He was an active member of the Communist Party.

In 1932, chess master **Norman Tweed Whitaker** (1890-1975) was arrested for attempted extortion in a scheme to swindle \$104,000 from a wealthy heiress by claiming to be in contact with the Lindbergh kidnappers. Earlier in his life, he was convicted of several other crimes, including auto theft, sending morphine through the mail, and sexual molestation of a minor. He served time in Alcatraz and was a friend of Al Capone



there.

In 1936, **Pyotr Izmailov** (1906-1937) was arrested and sentenced to death in the Soviet Union, accused of plotting to assassinate Stalin. He was executed in April, 1937. In 1928, he was the first champion of the Russian Republic.

In 1937, chess problemist **Mikhail Platov** was arrested in Russia after making a derogatory remark about Stalin. He was shipped off to the Gulag in Siberia and died within a year.

In 1937, **Nikolai Krylenko** (1885-1938), Chairman of the Chess Section of the Supreme Council for Physical Culture of the Russian Federal Republic, was arrested in Russia and later executed on orders from Stalin. One of the charges against him was that he had retarded the development of chess in the Soviet Union.

In 1940, the Germans arrested all the chess players that were meeting at the Warsaw Chess Club (Kwiecinski Chess Café), which was banned earlier by the Germans. The Jews were all taken to a concentration camp (Danilowicowskia) and were later killed in a mass execution. This included Polish masters **Dawid Przepiorka**, **Achilles Frydmann**, **Stanislaw Kohn**, and **Moishe Lowtzky**.

In September 1940, **Menahem Begin** (1913-1992) was playing chess with his wife



when he was arrested at home by Russian troops (NKVD). At the time, he was an active member of the Zionist movement.

In 1943, Austrian master **Ladslaus Dory** was arrested for sedition by the Nazis and sentenced to death. He was released from prison by

allied troops in 1945.

In 1950, a chess player in Vancouver, British Columbia, was arrested for assault after cutting his chess opponent in the arm with a knife after he lost a chess game.

In March 1952, **Pal Benko** was arrested and imprisoned for 16 months in a

Hungarian concentration camp for trying to escape from East Berlin and defect to the West. He was accused of being an American spy. When they

searched his apartment, they found mail devoted to his postal chess games. The police assumed that the notation was secret code, and they demanded to know how to break the code.



In 1952, famous bank robber **Willie Sutton** (1901-1980) was arrested by the FBI. At the time, Sutton was reading *How to Think Ahead in Chess* by I.A. Horowitz.

In 1960, a U.S. sailor was arrested in New York for murder after he got in a fight with a spectator who criticized his chess game. The sailor struck the spectator with a broken beer bottle, which struck his jugular vein. The sailor was eventually acquitted of murder and was charged with accidental death instead.

In 1962, **Theodore Smith** was arrested for murder after stabbing to death chess master Abe Turner (1924-1962) at the office of Chess Review magazine. Smith stabbed Turner 9 times in the back, then stuffed his 280 pound body in a safe. Smith had been recently released from an insane asylum and claimed that Turner was a Communist spy and had to be killed on orders from the U.S. Secret Service.

In 1964, chess master **Raymond**

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Weinstein was arrested for murder after he killed an 83-year old man in a nursing home with a razor. He was judged mentally ill and was confined to Ward's Island for the mentally ill.

In August 1969, Grandmaster Ludek Pachman (1924-2003) was arrested and imprisoned for his political activities in Czechoslovakia. He was charged of defaming a representative of the Republic and supporting Dubcek. He was sent to Ruzyn Prison on the outskirts of Prague. He was later charged with subversion and up to 10 years imprisonment. He was released in December, 1970, but was banned from chess in Czechoslovakia. In 1972 he moved to Germany so he could play chess.



In 1970, chess player and organizer **Claude Bloodgood** (1937-2001) was arrested and sentenced to death for killing

his stepmother. His death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in 1972.

In 1971, Trevor Stowe, a chess antique dealer, was charged in court in London for indecent exhibition on display in his window. Each of the 32 pieces showed couples in sexual positions. Stowe had to pay \$132 in fines and court costs.

In 1973, police arrested a chess tournament director in Cleveland and confiscated the chess sets on charges of allowing gambling (cash prizes to winners) and possession of gambling devices (the chess sets).

In January 1979, Patrick McKenna, a prisoner in Nevada, strangled his Las Vegas cellmate, Jack J. Nobles, after an argument over a chess game. McKenna has been on death row in Nevada since 1979.

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In May 1981, Bobby Fischer (1943-2008)

was arrested in Pasadena, California because he matched the description of a man who had just committed a bank robbery in that area. He was held for two days, then released on \$1,000 bail.



In 1982, Boris Gulko and his wife were arrested for protesting at the Moscow Interzonal in Moscow. They were trying to immigrate to Israel.

In 1987, Grandmaster Tony Miles (1955-2001) was arrested at 10 Downing Street in London after trying to get in after midnight to talk to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher about payments owed to him by the British Chess Federation. He was eventually hospitalized for two months from a mental breakdown.

In 1988, International Master



James Sherwin was arrested on stock manipulation charges. The appeals court overturned the guilty verdict in 1991 and he

was released. The U.S. Attorney who prosecuted Sherwin was Rudi Giuliani, who spent over a million dollars prosecuting the case.

In 1989, the LAPD vice officers arrested three men at a chess tournament, citing them for gambling after finding \$1.50 on the table.

In 1991, Arkady Flom, a 64-year-old grandfather was arrested in Manhattan after a young man sat down to play chess with him in the park. The young man played so poorly that Flom would give him pointers in exchange for \$2.

The young man agreed. They played for 20 more minutes and the young fellow paid his money. As soon as Flom put the money in his pocket, four NYPD officers approached him, slapped him in handcuffs and read him his rights. He was arrested for promoting gambling in the second degree and for possession of a gambling device, his chess set. He was jailed for 3 days, his medication was confiscated, and he had a heart attack. Five years later, he received a \$1 million settlement in a false arrest suit against New York City as the judge ruled that a chess game was not "gambling" since it was a game of skill rather than chance and the chess board was not "gambling equipment."

In 1992, Robert Bryan of England shot Matthew Hay over a chess game. Bryan had 'had enough' after losing to Hay and was jailed for 10 years after admitting attempting to murder Mr. Hay by shooting him in the neck with a shotgun.

In 1992, police in New Rochelle, NY arrested a player who refused to put away a chess board and pieces at a library. **Louis Taylor**, 41, was reading a chess book and set up his own chess pieces and board in the library. A librarian told him to put his game away. When he refused, the police were called, who cuffed Taylor and charged him with trespassing.

From 1992 to 2006, Alexander Pichushkin (1974-) went on a killing spree in Moscow. Pichushkin claimed he killed 63 people (48 confirmed) and his aim was to kill 64 people, one for each square on a chessboard.



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ARRESTED CHESS PLAYERS

In 1993, a chess player in San Antonio got so mad at a tournament director for poor pairings and bad tournament conditions at a hotel that he tore down and ripped up all the pairing sheets that were posted for the next day. The police were called and he was arrested.

In 1994, **Martin Wirth** of Fort Collins, Colorado, shot to death Vernie Cox after the two argued over a chess game. Cox died of two gunshot wounds to the chest. Witnesses said that Wirth had lost a chess game with Cox, knocked over the chess board and some furniture, then began to argue with his opponent. Wirth went across the street to his home and returned with a gun and shot Cox to death.

In June 1995, **Gilberto Rodriquez-Orejuela** was arrested in Columbia for illegal importation of 200 metric tons of cocaine over the past 10 years. He was known as "the chess player."



In 2000, **Laurence Douglas** of Puoghkeepsie, New York, stabbed Craig Williams to death over a chess game. Williams had just beaten Douglas in a chess game that had a \$5 wager. Williams took a \$5 bill from Douglas after the game. Douglas then pulled out a knife and stabbed Williams 16 times.

In 2003, **Simon Andrews** of Falls Township, Pennsylvania, stabbed to death Jerry Kowalski during a chess game. Authorities said that Andrews was disturbed by Kowalski's constant talking during their chess games. Andrews then pulled a knife from under a sofa-bed mattress and stabbed Kowalski in the neck. Andrews

was sentenced from 15 to 30 years in state prison.

In May 2003, **Grandmaster Alex Sherzer**, 31, was arrested in Mobile, Alabama for allegedly attempting to solicit sex from a 15-year-old-girl he met on the Internet and who was living at a juvenile detention center.



In July 2004, **Bobby Fischer** was arrested in Japan, accused of traveling on a revoked American passport. He was wanted by the U.S. government on charges of violating a ban to travel to Yugoslavia in 1992, where he went to play chess with Boris Spassky.

In 2004, the FIDE vice president, **Zurab Azmaiparashvili**, was arrested by a group of security agents during the final ceremonies of the 36th Chess Olympiad in Calvia, Spain. He was approaching the stage to get the attention of FIDE President Ilyumzhinov about some awards that had not been given out when the security people stepped in front of him. The Calvia police said that he hit them, so they arrested him.

In March 2005, **British International Master Simon Webb** (1949-2005) was stabbed to death by his son, Dennis, in Sweden after returning home from a chess tournament. His son was arrested after he tried to commit suicide by driving his car into a building.

In 2005, **GM Vladimir Akopian** was arrested at Dubai airport having been mistaken for an individual of the same name wanted by Interpol for murder.

In April 2005, Grandmaster and former World Junior Champion

Maxim Dlugy was arrested in Moscow and charged with attempting to defraud a metals plant in Russia of \$9 million in bonds. He was transferred to a prison in Perm, central Russia. He faced up to 10 years in prison. All the charges against him were later dropped.

In September 2005, chess master **Robert Snyder** was arrested in Fort Collins, Colorado on charges of molesting three chess students of his. Two boys were age 13 and one boy was age 12. He later escaped and was featured on America's Most Wanted in 2009. He was later captured in Belize after someone recognized him from the TV show. He was released from jail in 2008



and was supposed to register as a sex offender, but he never did. He was featured on America's Most Wanted in November, 2009. A girl had recognized him as a chess teacher in her school in Belize and notified the authorities. US Marshals tracked him down in Belize and arrested him.

In July 2006, two chess players tried to smuggle cocaine in a wooden chess set in Trinidad, but were caught and arrested. The cocaine, which weighed 6.8 kilograms, was valued at \$3 million.

In 2007, two players got into an argument at the Village Chess Shop in New York during a chess game. One player was using his piece to knock off the other player's piece rather than using the hands to remove a captured piece. One player then picked up the wooden board and hit the other player in the mouth, which drew blood. The police were called. The player that was hit was pressing criminal charges and vowed to sue.

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In April 2007, Garry Kasparov

was among 170 people arrested during an anti-Kremlin rally in Moscow. He was freed several hours later (some sources say he was in prison for 5 days) after being fined \$40 for public order offenses.



In January 2008, Zachary Lucov was playing chess with Dennis Klien in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, when a scuffle broke out. Lucov pulled out a gun and Klein was shot in the elbow. Lucov was arrested for aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.

In 2008, a man was arrested by Boston police on a warrant of receiving stolen property. He was supposed to have been running an extracurricular chess program for elementary school students, charging \$63.50 per student, but it was a scam.

In October 2008, David Christian of Iowa City got in a fight with

ARRESTED CHESS PLAYERS

Michael Steward while playing a game of chess at the rooming house where they both lived. He was sentenced to up to 10 years in prison for involuntary manslaughter. Christian choked Steward to death



In February 2009, a man killed a friend with a sword after a chess game in Alameda, California. An argument broke out during their game, and the two started wrestling. **Joseph Groom** retreated to his bedroom and returned with a sword, which he used to stab Kelly Kjersem once. Kjersem later died.

In July 2009, Gregory Alexander, an assistant to GM Susan Polgar, was arrested in San Francisco for

computer fraud and aggravated identity theft in stealing email messages between USCF board members.



In July 2010, Oakland school board member **Jumoke Hinton Hodge** was arrested when she refused to stop playing chess at the intersection of Broadway and 14th Streets.

In November, 2010, seven players were arrested for playing chess in a playground in Inwood Hill Park, New York. The chess tables in the park were off limits to adults if not accompanied by a child. The charges were finally dismissed in April, 2011.

In June 2011, a chess coach for a junior chess team in Port Elizabeth, South Africa was arrested in connection with child pornography charges.



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How to Annoy Your Opponent

I think it was my ex-coach Bill Lombardy who said, "In chess, winning isn't everything. It is the only thing!" As you know, chessplayers cannot stand losing a game of chess. Therefore, it is quite necessary to know how to win easily without just mastering the difficult task of playing good chess. The art of annoying your opponent is a must for those who do not have the time nor patience of playing master chess. And that's most of us.

The easiest and most common form of annoying your opponent is **talking**. There are several methods that can be adopted to disturb your opponent so as to distract him from making a good move. One method is to talk directly to your opponent, pointing out his bad moves and letting him know his position is hopeless. By the time he complains to the tournament director, his position will be hopeless. And, of course, you deny ever talking to him. Tell the tournament director it was him doing all the talking.

If your opponent is about to make a good move despite your efforts to talk to him directly, then **yell out "touch move"** just before he moves his piece. Of course he will deny ever touching anything. An argument will result, upsetting your opponent so much that he will have forgotten his original plan or think the almost touched piece was a losing move and make a weaker move instead.

Another effective method is to **talk to spectators about your opponent and perhaps start ugly rumors about him** ("He has AIDS. He voted for Clinton"). People will soon be staring at your opponent, will start to snicker and point at him. This will make your opponent very uncomfortable and will take his mind off of chess. If that doesn't work, discuss your opponent's playing ability or talk about his hygiene habits. This will draw your opponent into the discussion with an argument and he will have forgotten all about his game.

Another common method is to **talk to yourself**. Talking to God or praying out loud are other variations. Mumbling and even laughing at your opponent's moves and getting friends to laugh, also, will surely distract him from making strong moves.

Other methods of disturbances are to **cough, sneeze, and blow your nose loudly during the game**. Spread lots of germs and let your opponent know that you may have some awful disease. If he thinks your disease is contagious, he will leave the board often, unable to concentrate on the game. Have lots of used tissue paper from blowing your nose on your side of the board.

If your opponent is slow in moving, **drum and tap your fingers on the table**. Act very impatient. You should heave a sigh, then yawn; look at the chess clock or your watch often; and finally, groan. Your opponent will be induced to make

hasty moves so as not to appear a slowpoke.

When you exchange pieces, always **put one of your opponent's pawn or piece on your lap or hidden in your other hand**. If your opponent likes to compare the pieces that have been exchanged, he will think he is winning and ease up a bit. If you are a piece up, roll the extra piece in your hands or toss it up in the air a few times. Let your opponent know he is an exchange down and there is no hope for him. Find an extra queen from another board and have it nearby, indicating you may soon queen a pawn.

For the musically inclined, **humming is a favorite nuisance**. Aggressive players can go into a full song accompanied by the gestures of a conductor. Bringing a radio along and occasionally turning it on during critical times of the game works. If your opponent is a sports fan, tune in to some important sports event.

When **smoking** is allowed, it is best to get the foulest, blackest cigars or pipes. A lot of smoke towards your opponent not only obscures the position of the board, but causes your opponent to choke and become blind from the smoke in his eyes.

A method popular among grandmasters for annoying an opponent is to **stare directly and deliberately at your opponent**. Let your opponent know he is being watched and stared at. Of course, if your opponent starts staring back at you during your move, carry a pair of sunglasses with you and slip them on. The mirror reflection type is best just in case your opponent or his guru is trying to hypnotize you.

When you think you have a good position, **rock your chair back and forth**, smile victoriously, and let everyone know you have a won position. Your opponent will lose that much more quickly even if he doesn't see any threat.

With the help of a friend, you can **plan on taking pictures of the game**. Make sure a bright flash can be produced. Just before your opponent reaches to make a move, your friend flashes the camera and blinds your opponent temporarily. He then touches the wrong piece which he must move as there are not only witnesses but a picture of it with a second snapshot.

If you are so lucky, have a **big-breasted gorgeous blonde** sit by you or on your lap. He won't be concentrating on mating with his chess pieces for long. It helps if she has lots of perfume, wears tight clothes, and leans over the board alot.

There is just one more kind of annoyance worth mentioning. Of all the annoyances to an opponent you can make, this is the most devastating of all. Although it is very infrequent in occurrence and almost entirely accidental, it is the most annoying and upsetting disturbance known to chess. It is called **making a strong move!**



Biel – In July, World #1 player Magnus Carlsen won the Biel Grandmaster tournament, followed by Alexander Morozevich, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Alexei Shirov, Fabiano Caruana, and Yannick Pelletier.

Caen, France – Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, age 20, won the 2011 French Chess Championship in August. He won the French championship in 2007 at age 16. In 2009, he won the World Junior Championship. He is currently ranked #22 in the world.

China – the World University Games was held in Shenzhen, China from August 12-23. The chess tournament for top university player was won by Li Chao.

China – Armenia won the World Team Championship in Ningbo, China, followed by China, Ukraine, Russia, Hungary, and USA.

Denmark – Russian grandmaster Igor Kurnosov won the 2011 Politiken Cup in Helsingør, Denmark, held July 30 to August 7. Over 20 grandmasters participated.

Dortmund – In July, Vladimir Kramnik won the 39th Dortmund Invitational, followed by Quang Liem Le, Ruslan Ponomarev, Anish Giri, Hikaru Nakamura, and Georg Meier.

England – Michael Adams won the 98th British Chess Championship in Sheffield.

India – The 50th World Junior Chess Championships took place from August 1-16 in Chennai, India. The boy's title went to Dariusz Swiercz of Poland on tie-break from Robert Hovhannisyan of Armenia. The girl's title went to Cori T Desi of Peru.

Khanty-Mansiysk – The 2011 FIDE World Chess Cup knockout event is taking place in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia from August 28 through September 20, 2011. It started out with 128 players. As of today, only 8 players left: Judit Polgar, Peter Svidler, Ruslan Ponomarev, Vugar Gashimov, Vassily Ivanchuk, Teimour Radjabov, David Navara, and Alexander Grischuk. The top three players will advance to the Candidates stage.

Los Angeles – From August 17-21, GM Michael Adams of England won the 1st Metropolitan Chess International in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles – The 51st Pacific Southwest Open took place on July 2-4, 2011 in Los Angeles. Andranik Matikozian, Roman Yankovsky, and John Bryant all tied for 1st place.

Moscow – Viktor Korchnoi won the rapid seniors Botvinnik Memorial in Suzdal, near Moscow. The event marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik.

Moscow – Peter Svidler won the 64th Russian Championship for the 6th time. The event was played in Moscow. And held in August, 2011.

Philadelphia – Gata Kamsky won the 39th World Open, held in Philadelphia from June 28 through July 4. He beat Michael Adams of England in a play-off as both scored 7 points out of 9 in the event.

Rostov – In August 2011, Women's World Champion Hou Yifan won the 1st Women's Grand Prix of the 2011/12 series.

Russia – In July, Russian grandmaster Semen Dvoirys won the Lev Polugayevsky Memorial in Samara, Russia.

Saint Louis – Former world champion Anatoly Karpov will play in the upcoming Kings and Queens tournament, scheduled in St. Louis on September 9-16. Also participating will be Hikaru Nakamura, Ben Finegold, Jacek Stopa, and Marc Arnold. For the women, it will be Judit Polgar, Kateryna Lahno, Anna Zatonskih, Alexandra Kosteniuk, and Irina Krush.

South Africa – English Grandmaster Gawain Jones won the 2011 Commonwealth Chess Championship, held in Ekurhuleni, South Africa from June 25 to July 3.

Toronto – The 48th Canadian Open took place from July 9-17. Joel Benjamin, Dejan Bojkov, and Walter Arencibia tied for 1st place.



History

Chess Tournaments



By Bill Wall

A chess tournament is a series of chess games played competitively to determine a winning individual (or team for team tournaments). Chess tournaments are the standard form of chess competition among serious players.

In September 1467, the first known chess tournament of Middle Europe was held in Heidelberg, Germany.

In 1575, a chess tournament was held at the Royal Court in Madrid. It was a series of matches arranged by King Philip II. The winner was Giovanni Leonardo Di bona da Cutri (1542-1597).

In January 1841, the first modern chess tournament, in the sense of a structured competition, was in Leeds, England. It was the first time that the word "tournament" was used as a chess term.

In 1843, Ludwig Bledow (1795-1846) was the first person to suggest an international tournament. He intended the winner of the proposed tournament, to be held in Trier, Germany (the oldest city in Germany, founded before 16 BC), should be recognized as the world champion.



In 1843, the first documented American chess tournament was held in New York.

In January 1849, there was a 12-player knockout elimination chess tournament held at Samuel Ries' Chess Divan in the Strand in London. The tournament was won by Henry Thomas Buckle (1821-1862), followed by George Medley (1826-1898) and John R. Medley. The 12 competitors were paired by lot. The 6 players winning two out of three (not including draws) were declared the victors of the First Section of the tournament. The 6 winners were then paired off by lot to form three matches. The three winners then played a match between themselves to determine the winner.

From May 5, 1851 to July 15, 1851, the first international

chess tournament was held in London. It took place during The Great Exhibition of Art and Industry and was a 16-player knockout elimination match-tournament. The tournament was held at St. George's Chess Club, Polytechnic Building, Cavendish Square. It was won by Adolf Anderssen (1818-1879) of Germany (Prussia), who became regarded as the world's best chess player, until he was beaten in a match by Paul Morphy (1837-1884) in 1858. 2nd place went to Marmaduke Wyville (1815-1896). The tournament was organized by Howard Staunton.



In June 1851, there was a one day knockout chess tournament held in Amsterdam with 38 players. The winner was Maartin Van't Kruijs (1813-1885).

From June 6, 1851 to July 15, 1851, a "London Provincial Tournament" was organized for British players not strong enough for the International Tournament. The winner was

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Samuel Boden (1826-1882), followed by Charles Ranken (1828-1905).



From July 28, 1851 to August 8, 1851, a club tournament was held in London. The winner was Adolf Anderssen.

In January 1853, the first unofficial Berlin Chess Championship was won by Jean Dufresne (1829-1893) followed by Max Lange (1832-1899) and Karl Mayet (1810-1868). There were 12 players in the event.

In 1855, a chess tournament was held at Kling's Coffee House in London. The winner was Adolf Zytogorski (1807-1882) in this 8-player event.

In January-February 1856, a tournament was held at the McDonnell Chess Club in London. The event was won by Ernst Falkbeer (1819-1885) in this 12-player event.

In 1856, a knockout tournament was held in Berlin. The winner was Hermann Balduin Wolff (1819-1907) in this 8-player event.

In August 1857, the first British Chess Association (BCA) Congress was held in Manchester. The winner was Johann Jacob Loewenthal (1810-1876) in the 8-person major section. Loewenthal was supposed to play Boden in the final round, but after the first game was drawn, Boden was unable to remain in Manchester, and conceded the prize to Loewenthal. First prize was a set of Chinese carved ivory chessmen. John Owens (1827-1901) won the 16-player minor section. The first place prize was a set of Staunton chessmen made of wood.



From October 5, 1857 to November 10, 1857, the First American



Chess Congress was held in New York. It was the first American chess tournament to determine the national champion. It was won by Paul Morphy. The top 16 players in the country took place in the Major tournament. William Horner won the 16-player Minor tournament.

In August 1858, Loewenthal won the 2nd British Chess Association (BCA) Congress, held in Birmingham, England. Falkbeer took 2nd place. 12 players participated.

In 1858, Carl Hamppe won the Vienna, Austria championship.

In 1860, Ignatz Kolisch won the 3rd British Chess Association Congress, held in Cambridge, England.

In 1861, Louis Paulsen won the 4th British Chess Association Congress, held in Bristol, England.

In 1861, Wilhelm Steinitz won the Vienna, Austria championship.

In 1862, the first study-composing chess tournament was organized by Johann Lowenthal and won by Horwitz.

From June 13, 1862 to July 5, 1862, the first major round-robin (every competitor plays against every other competitor) chess tournament was held in London. The 14-player event was won by Adolf Anderssen with a score of 12 out of 13. All drawn games had to be replayed until there was a winner.

In 1865, Wilhelm Steinitz won a 5-player round robin tournament in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1866, Cecil De Vere won the first British Chess Association Challenge Cup, held in London.

In 1866, George Mackenzie won a chess tournament held in New York.

In June 1867, Ignatz Kolisch won a 13-player international tournament in Paris. He was presented with a Sevres vase by Napoleon and 5,000 francs. Kolisch later gave up chess tournament play, became a banker for the Rothschilds, and a millionaire that could sponsor chess tournaments.

In 1867, Gusev Neumann won a 10-player round robin tournament in Dundee, Scotland. It was the first time that drawn games were counted and worth ½ point and did not have to be

replayed.

In 1868-69, Joseph Henry Blackburne won the 2nd British Chess Association Challenge Cup. Drawn games, which did not count, were replayed.

In January 1869, the largest round robin tournament was held in New York. There were 48 players who faced each other twice, making it 94 rounds. The winner was George Mackenzie with 82 wins and 8 losses.



In 1870, Adolf Anderssen won a 10-player tournament in Baden-Baden, Germany.

In 1870, John Wisker won the 3rd British Chess Association Congress, after a play-off with Amos Burn.

In 1870, Johann Berger won the 1st Austrian Chess Federation Congress. It was a double round robin with 14 players. It was the first tournament in the Austro-Hungarian empire, held in Graz.

In 1871, Arthur Skipworth won the 3rd British Chess Association Challenge Cup in Malvern, England.

In December 1871, the 2nd



American Chess Congress was held in Cleveland. George Mackenzie won the 9-player event. Drawn games, which did not count,

were replayed. It was the first round-robin tournament in the United States.

In 1872, Wilhelm Steinitz won the 2nd British Chess Federation Congress, held in London. There were 8 players. Drawn games, which did not count, were replayed.

In 1873, Steinitz beat Blackburne in a play-off game at Vienna. There were 12 players. Each player played a match for the best of 3 games vs. the other players.

In 1873, B.W. Gifford won the 1st Netherlands Chess Federation tournament, held in The Hague.

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In 1874, the 3rd American Chess Congress was held in Chicago. George Mackenzie won this 8-player event.

In 1874, A. De Lelie won the 2nd Netherlands Chess Federation tournament after a play-off.

In 1875, Pietro Seni won the 1st Italian National tournament in Rome.

In 1875, George Jackson won the 3rd Canadian championship, held in Ottawa.

In 1876, James Mason won the 4th American Chess Congress, held in Philadelphia. It was an 8-man double round robin. It was the first tournament to award a brilliancy prize.



In August 1876, George Mackenzie won the Café International Tournament in New York. It was a 17-player double round robin.

In November 1876, James Mason won the Clipper Tournament in New York. There were 21 players. Draws did not count and not replayed.

In 1877, Andrei Asharin won the first major tournament in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

In 1877, Louis Paulsen won a tournament in Leipzig, Germany. There were 12 players.

In 1878, the first intercontinental chess tournament in Europe was held in Paris. The winner was Johannes Zukertort after a play-off with Szymon Winawer. This was the first tournament that had an adjournment and the sealing of a move.

In 1878, Mephisto (Gunsberg) won



the England Counties' Chess Association Handicap tournament. MacDonnell withdrew from the tournament unless the Mephisto player was identified.

In 1879, Mikhail Chigorin defeated Semyon Alapin in a play-off to win the Best Russian Players tournament in Saint Petersburg.

In 1879, Berthold Englisch won the 1st German Federation tournament, held in Leipzig.

In January 1880, the 5th American Chess Congress was held in New York. George Mackenzie won the play-off against James Grundy in the major section. The tournament was a 10-player double round robin. The minor section was won by Nicolai Gedalia.

In July 1880, the first international tournament in Germany was held in Weisbaden. It was also the first major tournament interrupted by war (the Franco-Prussian war). The tournament was the first to introduce chess clocks. It was a three-way tie for first between Blackburne, Englisch, and Adolf Schwarz. 16 players participated.

In 1880-1881, Samuel Rosenthal won the 1st French National tournament. There were 7 players in this double round robin.

In 1881, Joseph Blackburne won the 2nd German Chess Federation tournament.

In 1881, Edward Chamier won the 2nd French National tournament.

In 1882, an international tournament was held in Vienna. The top 10 players in the world participated. William Steinitz and Winawer tied for 1st place. It was the first time that the top 10 players in the world had met and played in a tournament. It was an 18-player double round robin.

In 1883, an international tournament was held in London and won by Zukertort. It was a 14-player double round robin. The first two draws did not count and were replayed. The third draw counted. It was the first time that

double-headed chess clocks were used. At the same time, a minor tournament, called the Vizayanagaram Tournament, was won by Curt Von Bardeleben.

In 1883, the first International Problem Tournament for Ladies was held, and won by Frideswide Beechey.

In 1884, the first Scottish championship was held in Glasgow. The winner was John Crum.

In 1884, the first international correspondence chess tournament was organized by the French chess magazine, La Strategie.

In 1884, the first women's chess tournament was held, sponsored by the Sussex Chess Association.

In 1885, the second Scottish championship was held in Edinburgh. The winner was Daniel Mills.

In 1885, the first Irish Chess Association tournament was held in Dublin. The winner was William Pollock.

In 1885, the first British Chess Federation championship was held in London. The winner was Isidor Gunsberg.

In 1886, the second British Chess Federation championship was held in London. The winner was Blackburne after he defeated Amos Burn in a play-off.

In 1886, the first British Amateur championship was held in London. The winner was Walter Gattie.

In 1886, the second Irish Chess Association tournament was held in Belfast. The winner was William Pollock.

In 1886, the third Scottish championship was held in Glasgow. The winner was Georges Barbier.

In 1886, the first Bavarian Chess Federation tournament was held in Munich. The winner was Hermann Neustadt.

In 1886, the first New York State Association championship was held in Cooperstown, NY. The winner was Walter Shipley.

In 1887, the second Australian championship was held in Adelaide. The winner was Henry Charlick.

In 1887, the 3rd British Chess Federation Congress was held in London. Amos Burn and Isidor Gunsberg tied for 1st place.

In 1887, the 2nd British Amateur championship was held in London. The winner was Charles Locock.

In 1888, the first United States Chess Association tournament was held in Cincinnati. It was won by Jackson Showalter. The tournament was a 6-player double round robin.



In 1888, the first international correspondence chess tournament was organized.

In 1889, America organized the 6th American Chess Congress and its first international chess tournament, held in New York. The event was won by Mikhail Chigorin (1850-1908) after a play-off with Miksa Weiss. It was a 20-player round robin. Chigorin won 27 games in this event. MacLeod lost 31 games in this event, the most losses ever in one tournament.

In 1890, the 3rd USA Chess Association tournament was held in St. Louis. The winner was Jackson Whipp Showalter.

In 1891, the 4th USA Chess Association tournament was held in Lexington, Kentucky. Showalter beat William Pollock in a play-off to take 1st place. There were 7 players.

In 1895, an international chess tournament was held in Hastings. It was one of the strongest tournaments ever held. The event was won by Harry Nelson Pillsbury. The tournament had 22 world class chess players. The women's tournament was won by Lady Thomas.



In 1895, the first tournament that used the Swiss pairing system has held in Zurich, Switzerland.

In 1897, the first Women's International chess tournament was held at the Ladies' Club at Hotel Cecil in London. The event was won by Mary Rudge.

In 1897, the first Nordic Congress was held in Stockholm. The winner was Johan Svensson.

In 1899, the second Nordic Congress was held in Copenhagen. The winner was Jorgen Moller.

In 1899, an international tournament was held in London and won by Emanuel Lasker. It was a 15-player double round robin.

In 1899, the first All-Russia chess championship was held in Moscow, won by Chigorin.

In 1899, the first Baltic Chess tournament was held in Riga, Latvia. The winner was Roberts Betins after a play-off with Karl Rosenkrantz.

In 1900, the first U.S. Open (Western Chess Association) was held in Excelsior, Minnesota. The winner was Louis Uedemann. There were 20 players.

In January 1901, Chigorin won the 2nd Russian National Tournament in Moscow.

In 1901, the second U.S. Open (Western Chess Association) was held in Excelsior, Minnesota. The winner was Nicholas MacLeod. There were 16 players.

In 1901, an international tournament was held in Monte Carlo. The winner

was Dawid Janowski with a score of 10 ¼ out of 13. Drawn games were worth ½ point and were replayed.

In 1904, Frank Marshall won the international tournament at Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania.

In 1907, a quadruple round robin elite chess tournament was held in Ostend. It included the top six players in the world, except for Lasker. The event was called the "World Tournament championship." It was won by Siegbert



Tarrasch. It was the first time that the title of grandmaster was used.

In 1909, Alexander Alekhine won the All-Russian Amateur tournament in St. Petersburg.



In 1911, an international tournament at San Sebastian, Spain had 9 of the 10 top players in the world. The event was won by Jose Capablanca, his first appearance in Europe. This was the first international tournament that reimbursed all the competitors for their travelling and living expenses.

In 1914, the 19th German Chess Federation Championship was held in Mannheim, Germany. The tournament was interrupted by World War I. Alekhine was leading 9.5-1.5 before the tournament ended. He and the other Russian became prisoners of war in Germany.

In 1924, the first unofficial Chess Olympiad team tournament took place in Paris.

In 1925, the first international tournament in Germany after World War I was held in Baden-Baden. The event was won by Alexander Alekhine.

In 1925, the first chess tournament financed by government funds was held in Moscow.

In 1927, the first official Chess Olympiad was held. 16 countries participated in the event.

In 1929, an international tournament was held at Carlsbad with 9 of the top 10 players in the world participating. The event was won by Aron Nimzovich.



In 1933, Dr. Joseph Goebbels (1897-1945) banned all Jewish players from official chess tournaments in Germany.



In 1935-36, the USSR Trade Unions chess championship was held. It had 700,000 entrants, the largest of any chess tournament.

In 1936, the strongest tournament ever held on British soil was played in Nottingham. Botvinnik and Capablanca tied for first place.

In 1936, the first U.S. championship that was played in a tournament instead of a match was held in New York City and won by Samuel Reshevsky.



In 1937, an international chess tournament was held at Jurata, Poland. The 22 masters had to play 21 games in 14 days with no adjournments.

In 1938, the AVRO tournament in the Netherlands had the top 8 players in the world. The event was won by Paul Keres and Reuben Fine.

In 1941, the US Chess Federation sponsored its first postal tournament, won by Louis Persinger.

In 1942, the first tournament in the United States that used the Swiss pairing system was the 1942 Texas championship.

In 1946, the first international chess tournament after World War II was held at Groningen, the Netherlands. It was won by Mikhail Botvinnik.



In 1945-1946, the first Pan-American Intercollegiate chess tournament was played in New York and won by City College of New York. It is the largest and most prestigious collegiate chess tournament in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1946, Mikhail Botvinnik won the first major international chess tournament after World War II, at Groningen, the Netherlands.

In 1947, the first World Correspondence Chess Championship started with 78 players. It was won by Cecil Purdy several years later.

In 1948, the first world championship match-tournament was held and won by Botvinnik.

In 1948, the first Interzonal chess tournament was held at Saltsjobaden, Sweden. The event was won by David Bronstein, who survived an assassination attempt on his life in the last round.

In 1949, the first USSR correspondence chess championship started.

In 1950, Bronstein and Boleslavsky won the first Candidates tournament in Budapest, Hungary. First prize was \$5,000.



In 1952, the first international chess tournament restricted to college students was held in Liverpool, England.

In 1953, the Zurich/Neuhausen Candidates tournament had 9 out of the top 10 players in the world. The event was won by Vassily Smyslov.

In 1954, the first official college student Olympiad chess tournament was held in Oslo.

In 1959, the first ham radio chess tournament was organized.

In 1962, Japan held its first international chess tournament.

In 1967, the first chess computer to play in a chess tournament with humans occurred when MacHack VI from MIT participated in the Massachusetts Amateur Championship.

In 1969, the first National High

School Chess Championship was held in New York.

In 1969, Japan held its first national chess tournament.

In 1970, the first tournament just for chess computers was held in New York City, called the North American Computer Chess Championship (NACCC).



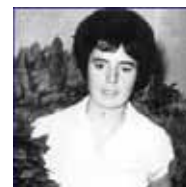
In 1971, the first Women's Interzonal Tournament was held in Ohrid. It was won by Tatiana Zatulovskaya.

In 1973, Bill Goichberg was the first tournament director to ban smoking from chess tournaments.

In 1974, the first World Computer Chess Championship (WCCC) chess tournament was held in Stockholm, Sweden. It was won by Kaissa, a chess program created in the USSR.

In 1974, China held its first championship chess tournament.

In 1977, Nona Gaprindashvili became the first woman to win a "men's" chess tournament when she tied for first place at Lone Pine, California.



In 1980, the first international tournament in China was held.

In 1986, the World Open in Philadelphia drew 1,506 players. The winner was Nick de Firmian.

In 1989, an international tournament was held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. 89 grandmasters participated, the most grandmasters in one tournament. This was the strongest Swiss tournament of all time. The winner was Krunoslav Hulak.

In 1993, the top 10 players in the world played in an international tournament in Linares. The event was won by world champion Garry Kasparov.



In 1994, Anatoly Karpov won the Linares tournament with a performance rating of 2899, winning 11 out of 14.

In 1996, the Las Palmas chess tournament was a Category 21 tournament with an average rating of 2756. The six best players in the world participated. Five of the six players had been world champions. The event was won by Kasparov.

In 2004, the Calvia Olympiad drew 1,135 players with 250 grandmasters participating.



In 2004, the UK Challenge Tournament had over 71,000 chess players involving 2,000 schools. It was the world's largest chess tournament.

In 2005, the Supernationals scholastic chess tournament was held in Nashville, Tennessee. There were 5,270 junior players competing.

In 2005, the HB Global Chess Challenge, held in Minneapolis, drew 1,358 players and 43 grandmasters. The prize fund was \$500,000.



In 2009, the Pearl Spring chess tournament was held in China. It was a category 21 tournament, with an average rating of 2764, making it the highest tournament ever held. It was won by Magnus Carlsen.



Isaac Asimov and Chess

Isaac Asimov was born in 1920. In his lifetime, he wrote over 500 books.

One of his first science fiction stories, *Nightfall*, written in 1941, contains a reference to chess. A multi-chess board was set up and a six-member game was started. In 1968, the Science Fiction Writers of America voted *Nightfall* the best science fiction short story ever written. When the book was expanded into a novel, multi-chess had been changed to stochastic chess.

His first published novel, *Pebble in the Sky*, published in 1950, propelled a man thousands of years into the future. The only thing that did not change, after thousands of years, was the game of chess. The novel also mentioned variants of chess such as 3-D chess, and chess played with dice.

In 1979, Asimov wrote *Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts*. On page 68, he says, "The number of possible ways of playing just the first four moves on each side in a game of chess is 318,979,564,000." This may be wrong. The number of possible ways for White to play the first move is 20 (16 pawn moves and 4 knight moves). For the first move with Black, the number is 400. For the 2nd move for white, the number of possible moves is 8,902 (5,362 distinct). For the 2nd move for Black, the number of possible moves is 197,281 (71,852 distinct). For the 3rd move for White, the number of possible moves is 4,865,617. For the 3rd move for Black, the number of possible moves is 119,060,679. For the 4th move for White, the number of possible moves is 3,195,913,043. For the 4th move for Black, the number of possible moves is 84,999,425,906. This is smaller than what Asimov says.

In 1981, Asimov wrote a science fiction short story called *The Perfect Fit*. He referred to a 3-dimensional chess game which was a game with 8 chessboards stacked upon each other, making the playing area cubic rather than square.

He has been quoted as saying, "In life, unlike chess, the game continues after check-mate."

In 1990, he wrote an essay for the Los Angeles Times about computer chess vs. human intelligence.

In 1994, Isaac Asimov's last autobiography, *I. Asimov: A Memoir*, was published. He died in 1992 of AIDS after a blood transfusion during heart surgery. In his chapter titled *Games*, this is what he said about chess.

Failure at physical sports has never bothered me... What bothered me, though, was my failure at chess. When I was quite young and had a checkerboard, but no chess pieces, I read books on the game and learned the various moves. I then cut out cardboard squares on which I drew the symbols for the various pieces, and tried to play games with myself. Eventually I managed to persuade my father to get me real chessmen. Then I taught my sister the moves and played the game with her. Both of us played very clumsily indeed.

My brother, Stanley, who watched us play, learned the moves and, eventually, asked if he might play. Ever the indulgent older brother, I said, "Sure," and prepared to beat the pants off him. The trouble was that in the first game he ever played he beat me.

In the years that followed, I discovered that everyone beat me, regardless of race, color, or religion. I was simply the most appallingly bad chess player who ever lived, and, as time went on, I just stopped playing chess.

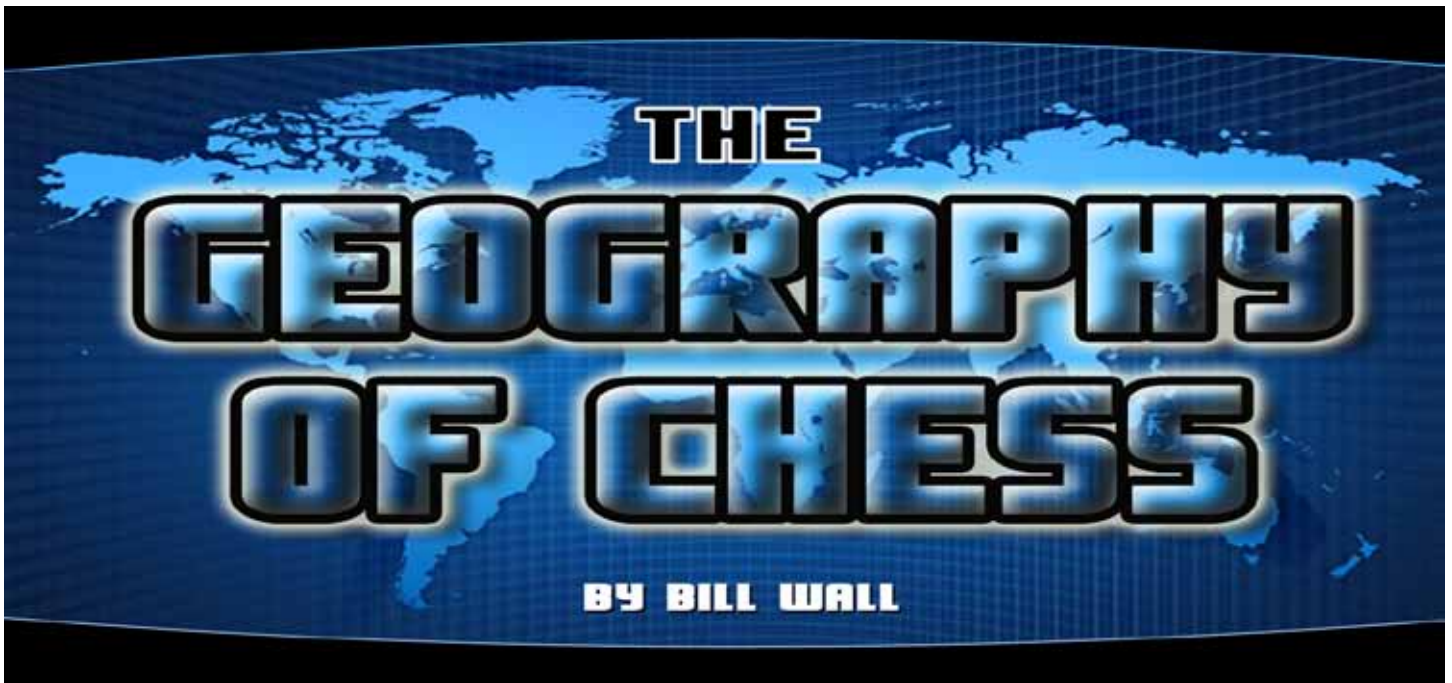
My failure at chess was really distressing. It seemed completely at odds with my "smartness," but I now know (or at least have been told) that great chess players achieve their results by years and years of studying chess games, by the memorization of large numbers of complex "combinations." They don't see chess as a succession of moves but as a pattern. I know what that means, for I see an essay or a story as a pattern.

But these talents are different. Kasparov sees a chess game as a pattern but an essay as a mere collection of words. I see an essay as a pattern and a chess game as a mere collection of moves. So he can play chess and I can write essays and not vice versa.

That's not enough, however. I never thought of comparing myself to grand masters of chess. What bothered me was my inability to beat anyone! The conclusion that I finally came to (right or wrong) was that I was unwilling to study the chessboard and weigh the consequences of each possible move I might make. Even people who couldn't see complex patterns might at least penetrate two or three moves ahead, but not I. I moved entirely on impulse, if not at random, and could not make myself do anything else. That meant I would almost certainly lose.

And again - why? To me, it seems obvious. I was spoiled by my ability to understand instantly, my ability to recall instantly. I expected to see things at once and I refused to accept a situation in which that was not possible.





Chess (the European form) most likely originated in **India** around 600 AD in the upper basin of the Ganges. It was called chaturanga in the Sanskrit language. Some historians think that chess originated in central India. Others place the source in the west of the peninsula. One source thinks it originated in the east of India, perhaps even Ceylon. Chess traveled farther in less time than any other game in history.

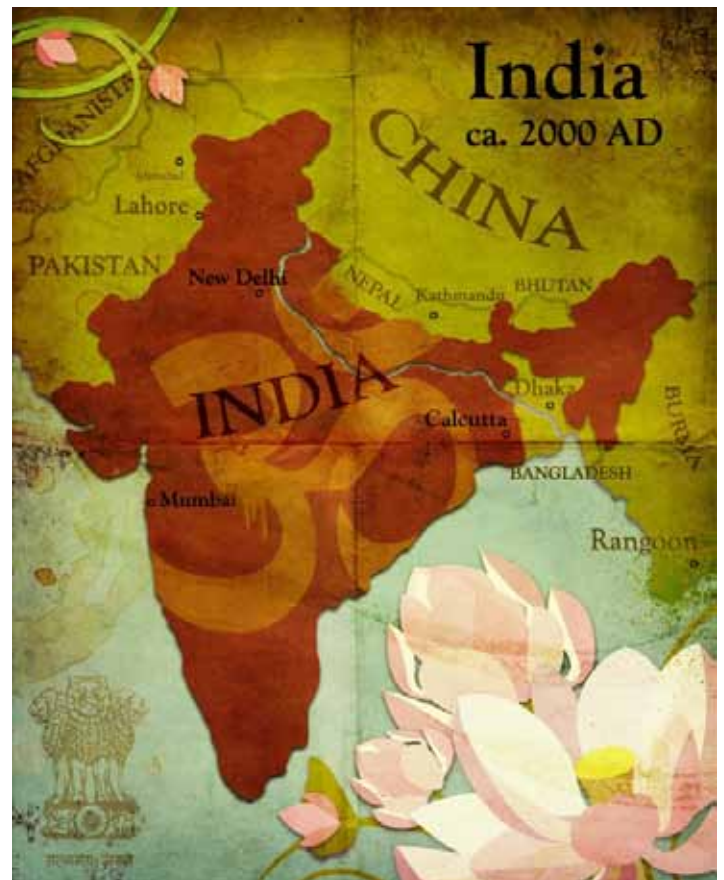
Chess crossed the border from western **India** into the adjacent Persian Empire around 700 AD. The game was then called chatrang with little change in the rules. By 800 AD, chess found its way in the Arab world in Asia Minor, and was called shatranj (sometimes called shitranej).

In 220 AD, Artaxerxes of **Persia** founded the Empire of the Sassanids. One of his descendants was Chosroes I, who ruled from 531 to 579. It may be this period that a form of chess was brought from India into Persia. The traditional story is that the Hindu embassy included chess as one of their gifts to the Persian court during the reign of Chosroes.

The first unmistakable reference to chess is in Harschacharita (Deeds of Harsa) by the Indian court poet Bana Bhatta (595-655), written between 625 AD and 640 AD. The Harschacharita is the earliest attempt at historical romance in Indian literature. The passage that mentions chess is “only ashtapadas (game board) teach the positions of the chaturanga.”

No authentic chess pieces earlier than the 7th century AD have been identified.

Chess reached Persia around 625 AD. Chess is mentioned in a Persian romance called the Karnamak (Karnamak-i-Artakshatr-i-Papakan), written in the



8th century (some sources say that it was written in 600 AD). This is a story of the exploits of Artaxerxes (Ardashir), the son of Papak, the founder of the Sasanian dynasty, who ruled over Persia from 226 AD to 241 AD. The name by which chess is designated in this work is chatrang in the Middle Persian (Pahlawi) language. The passage stated that Artakhshir was skilled in ball-play, horsemanship, chatrang, and hunting.

After the Arabian conquest, 638-651, the game was renamed shatranj, a word which later found its way back to India as sitringee, a type of checkered carpet.

During the reign of Chosroes, a series of writings was collected. Many items were added in the next three centuries. The collection became the basis for the epic poem, Shahnameh (Shahnama – Book of Kings), written by Abu'l-Qasim Mansur Firdawsi (935-1020) in 1011. Chess is mentioned in it and referred to as shatranj. **The original chess pieces in India (and Persia) were red and green (rubies and emeralds).** Firdawsi replaced the description of jewelled chessmen by pieces of ivory and teak (white and black). Firdawsi describes an ambassador from the Raja of India visiting the Persian king Nushirwan, bringing him gifts from Kanuj (Kunyakubya), India. The gifts included an expensive chess board and chess pieces.

The Muslims received the game and its vocabulary from Persia. The Encyclopedia of Islam states that chess is a Persian source and that Iran acquired the game from India. The Arabs first learned chess during their invasion of Persia. They learned chatrang in Persia and, because of language difficulties, had to pronounce it as shatranj in Arabic. They used most of the Persian terms.

The oldest clearly recognizable chess (chatrang) pieces have been excavated in Afrasiab (Samarkand), in Uzbekistan. These are seven ivory pieces (king, visir, elephant, two knights, chariot, and pawn) dated around 760 AD (because a coin so dated belonged to the same layer).

By 800 AD, chess spread to **Egypt** and was called sutrenj as the game was spread by conquering Moslems around North Africa. In 1005, chess was banned in Egypt by al-Hakim. He ordered that all the chess sets be burned.

Chess finally entered Europe through the Spanish peninsula after 711. The Moors crossed Gibraltar in 711, and chess may have arrived soon after that date. However, there are no writings by Arabs that mention chess until 850 AD. Around 820, chess was thought to have been introduced in Cordoba, **Spain**, by Ziriab (Abul Hassan Ali ben Nafi). He was a Persian musician who lived in Baghdad. Mohammed I, Emir of Cordoba from 852 to 886, was a passionate chess player.

In Spanish and Castilian, the game is called ajadrez. In **Portuguese**, it is called xadrez. Both names are adaptations of the Arabic name of shatranj. The Spanish j and the Portuguese x are pronounced sh. The Spanish designation for the bishop is alfil, from the Arabic words al fil, meaning “the elephant.”

Chess reached **Sicily** by the Islamic conquerors

around the 9th century. The Saracens conquered Sicily by 878 AD. An early Sicilian image of chess can be seen in the Normans' Palatine Chapel in Palermo, Sicily. Completed in 1140, it shows a painting of two men in turbans playing chess.

The first chess pieces known in Europe are the Mozarab chess pieces, dated at the end of the 9th century or the beginning of the 10th century. The pieces were found in the San Genadio, Leon, **Spain** and now kept at the monastery of Santiago de Penalba in Leon, Spain.

The earliest known literary account of chess and the earliest reference to chess in a western document is found in the Einsiedeln Verses. It was written in the 10th century in the monastery at Einsiedeln, **Switzerland**. It is a 98-line poem describing chess.

By 1000 AD, chess was widely known throughout Europe.

Europe's first reference to chess is found in Spain. The will of Ermengaud I, Count of Urgel (Urgel) in Catalonia, written on July 28, 1008, mentions his chessmen to be delivered to the convent of St. Giles upon his death (he died on September 1, 1010 in battle near Cordova).

Chess may have been brought to **Britain** around 1013 with the Danish invasion. Canute (995-1035), King of **Denmark** and England, was playing chess around 1030 AD. It was said that he learned chess while on a pilgrimage to Rome. William the Conqueror (1027-1087) was said to have been a chessplayer. The Normans named their financial department exchequer after the chess board, which was used as a counting device or abacus. The first British reference to chess, a Latin poem, was written in 1180 by a Winchester monk.

Chess made it to **Italy** in 1300, and was called scacchi. Muslim sailors from Africa crossed into Marseilles and Italy and introduced Europeans to chess.

Chess (zatrikion) made its appearance in **Byzantine Greek** around the first quarter of the 7th century. Around 802, Nicephorus, Byzantine emperor from 802 to 811, mentioned chess (zatrikion) in his writings.

Zatrikion is a Hellenized word of chatrang (not shatranj), indicating its Moslem source. The present Greek skaki is an Italian source. Zatrikion as a word is unknown in classical Greek. The Greek alphabet had no letter or combination of letters capable of expressing the sound of the Persian ch-. The word zatrikion came into Greek first in accounts of travel to Persia, or in descriptions of Persian life.

In the 12th century, Princess Anna Comnena (died in 1148) wrote *Alexiad*, a biography of her father, Emperor Alexius Comnena (died in 1118). In the 12th book of the *Alexiad*, she mentions him playing chess. “He had certain familiar friends with whom he played zatrikion, a game that was discovered in the luxury of the Assyrians, and was brought to us.” The modern Greek word for chess is skaki.

Some historians think that chess was introduced to Europe through the Crusades. But chess was introduced into Europe in the 11th century and the First Crusade participants returned to Europe in the middle of the 12th century. However, the Crusades led to the growth of cities, and chess always thrived best in and around cities. It was said that King Richard I (1157-1199) learned chess while on a crusade.

Byzantine chess may have been a source of some Russian knowledge of the game through the trade route of the Dnieper. Byzantine Christians carried the game through the Balkans.

The Byzantine emperors liked to have Scandinavian guards, and every year, some Norsemen traveled back and forth from Scandinavia to Constantinople. Chess may have traveled to **Scandinavia** this way.

The beginning of the 13th century saw the Latin or Western Emperors established in Constantinople. They must have known about chess in Western Europe by then. The Latins called chess scacum. Constantinople fell in 1453. The last outposts of independent Christianity in Asia Minor fell in 1461. After that, the Greek word zatrikion disappeared. It was replaced by **Turkish** chess, santratz. Turkish chess then gave way to the Western name of chess, and it became skaki.

The Vikings carried chess from the Baltic before 1200 and probably introduced the game to Iceland and parts of **Russia**. The Icelandic *St. Olaf's Saga*, contains a chess reference. It was written in 1230.

France acquired the game from both Italian and Spanish sources, and called it echecs around 1400. The French word for the bishop was the Arabic noun, fil (elephant), which became fol, and presently fou, the current name of the bishop. The first French reference to chess, around 1097, was by Fouche de Chartres and Robert de St. Remi, who mentioned chess as a pastime. The French Carolingian epic, *Song of Roland*, mentions chess. It was written around 1100.

From France, chess made it to **Northern Germany** and was called schach. The earliest reference of chess in the German literature was the Latin epic *Rudlieb*, written around 1050.

Southern Germany got its chess (schach) from Italy.

Chess made it to **Britian** via France (as well as **Norway and Denmark**), and was called chess by 1400. The oldest known complete chess set, the Lewis chessmen, is dated around 1150. These are 93 walrus-ivory carved pieces found on the Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, **Scotland**. The pieces were probably brought from **Norway**.

Chess was introduced in **Poland** around 1100.

From Germany, chess made it to Scandinavia and Russia in the 1500s. Russia received chess from Germany, Byzantium, and Siberia. The Russian word for chess, shahmatny, was introduced around 1262.

The first written reference of chess in **Hungary** occurred around 1330.

Chess was carried across the Atlantic during the discovery period. Spanish and Portuguese travelers brought it to **South America**, while English ships carried it to **North America, Australia, and the islands of Asia and the South Seas**.

Chess was brought to **Peru** around 1530. The Inca emperor Atahualpa (1500-1533) was taught how to play chess by his Spanish guards before he was killed in 1533.

In 1641, the first reference to chess in America was found in a history of the Dutch settlers by Esther Singleton.

The first recorded chess activity in **Canada** was in 1759. General Sir John Hale and General Wolfe played chess during the taking of Quebec in 1759.

Chess crossed the eastern and northeastern part of India and became tseungki (siang ki or xiangqi - elephant game) in **China** around 800 AD. Chess was probably taken to China by Buddhists who traveled abroad to further their religion. Chess probably followed the Burma Road or Kyber Pass, the main trade routes between China and India. Most likely, caravans from China or the Caspian Sea brought trade items to India and came back with the game of chess. The Karakorum pass, north of Kashmir, leads to the west Chinese province of Sinkiang, and the most likely path for chess. The Chinese call chess ‘the Game of the Elephant’ and say they got it from India. The modified game of tsuengki is played on a 9x9 board. The pieces are fashioned like checkers.

The earliest certain reference to Chinese chess occurs in the *Huan Kwai Lu* (Book of Marvels), written at the close of the 8th century.

The Malay, Tibetan, and Mongol game of chess are played on a board of 8x8 squares. The Chinese and Korean game of chess is played on an 8x8 board, but the pieces are played on the lines, not the squares. The Japanese game is played on a 9x9 board.

Chinese chess made it to Korea around 1000 AD and was called *tiangu* (tjyang keui). The similarity between the nomenclature of chess in China and chess in Korea suggests that the Korean game came from China.

Chess probably made it to Japan from Korea around 1100, and was called *shogi* (the Chinese word *siang* is pronounced *sho* in Japanese). Korea was on the regular trade route path between China and Japan. Some sources say that *shogi* came directly from China, and not Korea. *Shogi* (the Generals' game), as a word, is probably a Japanese word of the Chinese *tseungki*. In *shogi*, a 9x9 board is used. Also, the men are arranged in three rows instead of two, and there is no elephant.

The oldest *shogi* piece is dated 1059, found in the Kofukuji at Nara, [Japan](#).

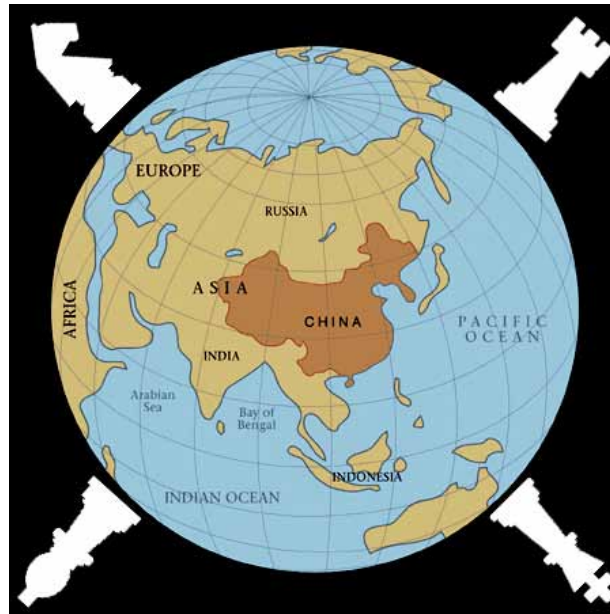
The game later made it to Mongolia and called *shatara*.

Chess crossed the southeastern part of India and became *chitaren* around 800 AD. Chess spread through [Burma](#) (chess was called *chitaren* or *sittuyin* in Burma) into the Malay Peninsula. Chess was called *makruk* in Siamese. *Makruk* seems to be a loan word adopted from a neighboring language.

Chess was called *chator* in [Borneo](#), reaching the end of the peninsula in 1400. Chess traveled in saddle bags of the Buddhists as they converted the people in southeast Asia. Chess (*chator*) was in Java in 1500.

Chess crossed the northern part of India over the mountains north of the Indus river and slowly made it into Siberia several hundred years later. Chess could have been introduced into Russia in the 9th century through the Caspian-Volga trade route.

In [Tibet](#), the game was called *chandaraki*. The name is derived from *chaturanga*. They obtained their knowledge of chess direct from India. The present game is identical with that played by the Mongol tribes of the North.



The Russian name for rook is *lodya*, meaning “ship.” This indicates that chess in Russia has an east-Asiatic origin as the piece was never called a ship in western Asia. It is regularly called a ship in the Malay Peninsula and eastern parts of India. In eastern India, the rook was a ship, and its Sanskrit word was *roka*.

However, the Russian designation of the queen, *ferz*, is an Arabic origin. The Russian game is much closer to the Hindu than to the Chinese form. The original Russian (Siberian) names for the pieces, except

the *ferz*, were all translations of the Sanskrit. Mongol conquests opened Siberia to Persian influences. *Ferz* is the Arabic word for the Persian word *farzin*, so Russian chess migrated after the Arabic conquest of Iran in the 7th century. The Mongols probably spread this form of Persian/Arabic chess to central Asia at the time of their conquests in the 13th century. The Mongols called the rook *terghe*, which means “wagon or cart.”

Neither the Russian name for chess, nor the pieces of the Russian game, show any trace of European origin. Chess may have been introduced into Russia by the Mongols or Tatars, who overran the country from 1200 to 1400. Chess could also have been introduced into Russia from the Serbs and Bulgars around 1200. Early Russian references condemn the game. From 1100, chess was condemned by the Eastern Church, which may have influenced the lack of chess in Russia during this period. Chess is referenced as *shakhmate*, a name that is Persian or Arabic *shah mat* (checkmate).

Chess could have reached Russia in the trade route from the mouth of the Volga to Baghdad as early as 1150.

Chess was probably introduced to [Tasmania](#) in the early 1800s.

Chess did not appear in [Madagascar](#) and the [Philippines](#) until the 20th century.

Chess was being played in [Antarctica](#) in the 1950s by Russian scientists.

Chess was launched into [space](#) in June, 1970 on board Soyuz IX. The cosmonauts were able to play chess on a magnetic board. A chess computer was on board the space station Mir.



Book Review

by Bill Wall

Beyond Deep Blue: Chess in the Stratosphere

by Monty Newborn - Published by Springer in 2011. 299 pages.

It has been over 14 years since IBM's Deep Blue supercomputer defeated world chess champion Garry Kasparov on May 11 (my birthday), 1997.

This book looks at Deep Blue's achievement and the future of computer chess. There are 21 chapters in the book. Each chapter covers a milestone in computer chess. The first chapter looks at Deep Blue's chess matches with Kasparov in 1996 and 1997 and the 12 games they played. The other chapters cover the games and exploits of Shredder, Deep Junior, Deep Fritz, Hydra, Zappa, and Rybka.

In the final Deep Blue vs. Kasparov match in 1997, the largest Internet traffic to that time, several million hits, were following the games on IBM's website. After the event, IBM decided to retire Deep Blue and the computer team that put Deep Blue broke up and moved on.

The book chronicles this period and includes all the chess games between Deep Blue in 1996 (in which Kasparov won) and 1997 (in which Kasparov lost).

Chapter 2 covers the advancement in computer chess up to 1999 with the 9th World Computer Championship, held in Paderborn, Germany. The final winner was Shredder, followed by Ferret, Fritz. Cilkchess, Junior, Dark Thought, Rebel, Nimzo, and Chess Tiger. Shredder was now the world champion. The ratings of the chess engines were now over 2700, higher than all but a handful of grandmasters. Their endgame tables were better than any chess grandmaster. These new chess engines were as strong as Deep Blue in 1997.

Chapter 3 covered the success of Shredder in the next few years. Chapter 4 covered the 2002 Deep Fritz vs. Kramnik match in Bahrain. The match was a tie at 4-4. The top grandmasters in the world could no longer beat the chess engines. Chapter 5 covered the Deep Junior vs. Kasparov match in 2003. It was a draw at 3-3. The following year, it easily defeated England's Grandmaster Michael Adams, one of the top 5 chess players in the world.

Chapter 8 introduced a new computer called Hydra, which won the world computer championship. In Chapter 9, the 13th World Computer Chess championship was covered, easily won by another newcomer, Zappa, named after Frank Zappa.

Chapter 11 covers the match between Deep Fritz and Kramnik, played in 2006. Deep Fritz defeated the world champion by the score of 4-2.

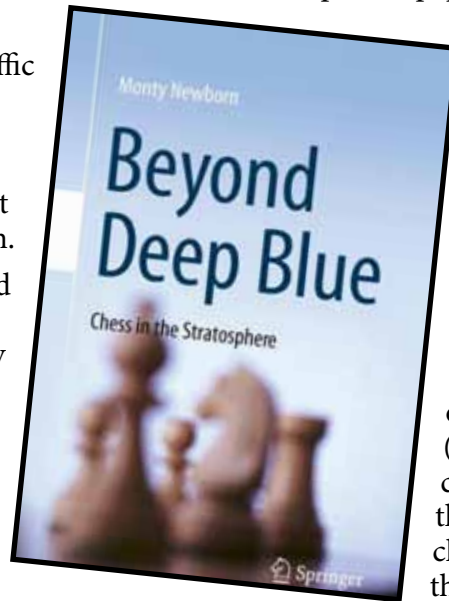
Chapter 13 covers the 15th World Computer Chess championship, played in 2007. The new world computer champion was Rybka. Rybka defended its title and won in 2008, covered in chapter 16, won in 2009, covered in chapter 18, and won in 2010, covered in chapter 20. With the recent computer scandal of the Rybka programmers plagiarizing the work of other computer engines, all these titles were lost in 2011.

The final chapter, 21, entitled "*And Beyond Rybka?*" looks at the rise of other chess engines to challenge Rybka (now banned from world championship competition). The author states that the likelihood of a human world chess champion (Anand or Carlsen) defeating the best chess-playing engine is approaching zero quickly.

Presently, the top 6 chess engines are rated at least 200 points stronger than the world's best human (Carlsen). Computers have gone from a 2000 rating in 1986, to over 2400 in 1996, to over 2800 in 2004, to the present 3227 in 2010.

Deep Blue's triumph was a major milestone in the history of the study of intelligence. Its successors have confirmed that milestone and are now playing even stronger chess.

This book charts these milestones from Deep Blue to Rybka, with each chapter full of annotated games and suggested readings. All in all, a very good book on computer chess, complete with 118 annotated games played by 17 different chess engines, and a few good human players.



Annotated Game

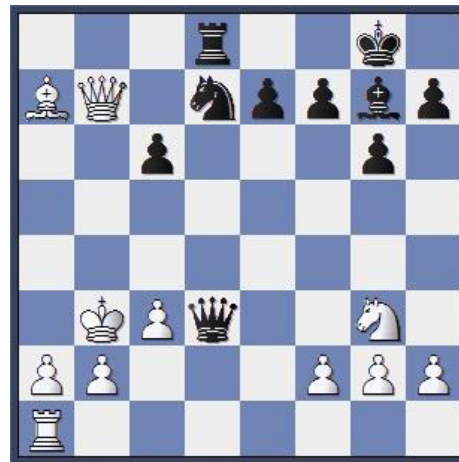
by Bill Wall

Robert McGuire – Tibor Weinberger, Santa Monica 1978

This game was played by FIDE Master and USCF Senior Master Tibor Weinberger of Santa Monica, California. Tibor, born in Hungary in 1932, played Bobby Fischer in his early days, then moved to California. Tibor won the California Championship and the California Open several times in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1968 he was invited and played in the U.S. Championship, although he ended up in 11th out of 12th place. He has played in all the major events in California and was president of the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club. Here is a game from a Santa Monica event where Tibor pulled off a nice combination to win the game. He sacrifices a piece, but exposes the enemy king that leads to a win.

1.e4 c6 [the Caro Kann Defense]
2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bf4 [4.Bg5?! Bg7 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 dxe4 8.Qxe4 Nf6 9.Qe3 Qa5 10.O-O-O O-O 11.Bc4 Nbd7 12.Bb3 e6 13.Ba4 Nd5 14.Qd3 Nxc3 0-1, R Laprade-Wall, Florida 2004] 4...dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bg7 6.Nf3 Bf5 7.Ng3 Bg4 [Black has also tried 7...Nd7] 8.Bc4 [with the threat of Bxf7+, then Ng5+, and Qxg4] Bxf3?! [if 8... Nf6, then 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 10.Ne5+ Ke8 11.Nxg4 Nxg4 12.Qxg4 Qxd4 13.c3; perhaps better is 8...Qc8 and 9...b5; other ideas have been 8...h5 and 8...e6] 9.Qxf3 Nf6 10.Qb3 [This may be a new move. White threatens 11.Qxb7 and 11.Bxf7+; White can also

play O-O-O] 10...O-O 11.Qxb7 Qxd4 [or 11...Qb6 12.Qxb6 (12.Qxa8 Nbd7 13.Qxf8+ Nxf8 14.O-O-O looks OK for White) 12...axb6 13.c3] 12.Be3? [best may be 12.Bxf7+! Kxf7 13.Be3 Qc4 14.Qxa8 and 15.Qxa7] Qxc4 13.Qxa8 Nd5!? [13...Na6 14.Qxa7 14.Qb7? [perhaps better is 14.Qxa7 Nb4 15.c3 Nc2+ 16.Kd1 Nxa1 17.Rxa1Rd8+ 18.Kc2, but after 18...Qd3+, Black has the edge; if 14.c3?, then 14...Nxe3 15.fxe3 Qa6 and trapping the queen after 16...Nd7] 14...Nb4 [threatening 15...Nxc2] 15.c3 [15.Rc1 Bxb2] 15...Nc2+ [forking rook and king] 16.Kd2 [16.Kd1 Qd3+ 17.Bd2 (17.Kc1 Nxa1) Bh6 wins for Black] 16...Nxa1 [winning the exchange] 17.Rxa1 [if 17.Qxa7, then 17...Rd8+ 18.Kc1 Be5 favors Black; if 17.Qxe7, then 17...Qxa2 (threatening 18...Qxb2) 18.Qa3 Rd8+ is good for Black] Rd8+ 18.Kc2 [if 18.Ke1, then 18...Bxc3+ 19.bxc3 Qxc3+ 20.Ke2 Qxa1 and Black is winning; if 18.Kc1, then 18...Bxc3 will lead to mate; if 18.Bd4, then 18...e5] Qd3+ 19.Kb3 [19.Kc1?? Qd1 mate] Nd7 [threatening 20...Rb8, pinning queen and king] 20.Bxa7 [if 20.Qxa7, then 20...Rb8+ 21.Ka3 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Qxc3+ 23.Ka4 Qb4



mate]

20...Rb8! And White resigned. If 21.Bxb8, then 21...Nc5+ forking queen and king. If 21.Qxb8+, then 21...Nxb8 22.Bxb8 Qb5+ and 23...Qxb8. 0-1



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Ask Bill

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From Anita B. -

I work for a dentist who plays chess. Do I have to worry about going crazy or committing suicide because he is a frustrated chess player? Are there any chess players that were dentists.

Anita, I hope not. Dentists by profession has the highest suicide rate, and a few chess players have committed suicide. Players like problemist Henry Russ, Johannes von Minckwitz, Rudolf Swiderski, GM Karem Grigorian, GM Alvis Vitolins, von Bardeleben, George Mackenzie, Lembit Oll, and Stefan Zweig all committed suicide, but none of them were dentists. Playing chess at the grandmaster level is harder than pulling teeth. I know of only one International Master that was a dentist – Vincenzo Castaldi, and former world champion Mikahil Botvinnik was the son of a dental technician.

From Kris - *What is the oldest chess club in the world and in America that still exists?*

Kris, the oldest chess club in the world is the Zurich Chess Club in Switzerland, which was founded in 1809. The oldest chess club in Britain is the Manchester Chess Club, founded in 1817. The oldest chess club in America is the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club in San Francisco. Its first meeting was on December 11, 1854 and was incorporated as a club on April 24, 1855. It was destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire, but restarted in 1901. The Manhattan Chess Club was founded in 1878, but ceased to exist a few years ago.

From Enis - *I noticed that you have dozens of chess articles or referenced dozens of times on lots of Wikipedia pages. How can I contribute something chess related to Wiki?*

Enis, there is a WikiProject Chess page that was formed to better improve on information on chess-related articles. You can join this WikiProject by adding your name to their list at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Chess. You can expand a chess stub, request or create a new chess article, peer-review a chess article, suggest or edit a chess article needing attention, and participate in WikiProject Chess discussions. If you create an article, make sure you look at the wiki templates, have good notes to reference your facts, add some chess references and external links, and use good reliable sources. Don't use yourself as a reliable source and don't do an autobiography or make it look like you have a conflict of interest. I made that mistake when trying to edit and correct a wiki entry on me (written by someone in Italy a year ago) and, soon, the Wiki police saw that and they deleted the Bill Wall page from Wikipedia. I was not considered notable enough, nor was I a reliable source to my own wiki page, as well as a conflict of interest.

From Jimmy K - *What opening is 1.b4 and is it any good?*

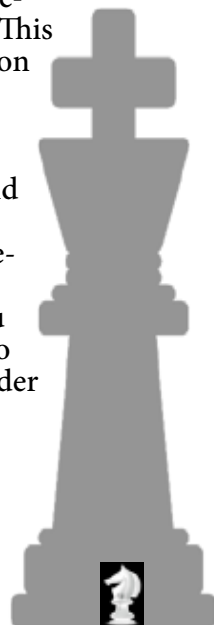
Jimmy, 1.b4 (or 1.P-QN4 in descriptive notation) is called the Sokolsky Opening or Polish Opening or the Orangutan. I wrote a book on it a few years ago. It is considered an irregular opening since it does not control the center and there are about eight more opening moves that are more popular. It is not a popular opening at the grandmaster level, but it is played at the lower levels and in corre-

spondence play. The name "Orangutan Opening" comes from Savielly Tartakower, who played it in a major tournament in New York City in 1924. When asked how he chose the opening, Tartakower said that he consulted an orangutan at the New York Zoo the day before, and that's the opening the orangutan selected to be played by Tartakower against his next opponent, Maroczy. Black must watch out for traps like 1.b4 e6 2.Bb2 Bxb4? 3.Bxg7, winning the rook, and 1.b4 Nc6 2.b5 Nb4 3.e4 Nf6? 4.a3, winning the knight.

From Mike L - *What kind of chess clock should I buy?*

Mike, any digital clock should do. They have almost replaced the older analog chess clocks (which I still like) in tournament play. Nowadays, chess tournaments could have a variety of time controls. The digital clock allows you to implement some sort of time delay added for each move. Before a player has made his move, a specified time increment is added to the clock. For example, if the time delay is five seconds, and a player has four seconds left on his clock, as soon as his opponent moves, he receives the 5 second increment, and has 9 seconds to make a move. This prevents losing a game on time in a sudden-death time limit. The major brands of digital clocks include Saitek, DGT, and Chronos. Most chess tournaments have someone selling chess books and chess clocks, or you can go online, such as to wholesale chess, and order a chess clock.

Do you have a question for Bill?
You can email him at bill_wall@bellsouth.net



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