

The CCI-USA News

Chess Collectors International

Summer 2005

CCI EVENTS & CHESS NEWS

CCI EVENTS:

Moscow, July 28-31, 2005: First Russian Section Meeting of Chess Collectors International. For further information contact Evgenia Pliuscheva at Phone/fax 7 095 291 47 58, mobile 7 926 216 83 05, email Evgenia@bellad.ru

Rome, September 30-October 2, 2005: Fifth Italian CCI Congress. For further Information contact Max De Angelis at maxchess2001@yahoo.com, or Floyd Sarisohn at PO Box 166, Commack, New York 11725, Phone 631 543 1330, email Lichess@aol.com

Long Island, New York, October 21-23, 2005: Fourth Western Hemisphere CCI Meeting. See material enclosed with this issue of CCI USA or contact Bernice & Floyd Sarisohn at PO Box 166, Commack, New York 11725, phone 631 543 1330, email Lichess@aol.com

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2005? You cannot get further issues of CCI-USA, without payment of your dues for 2005. Please send dues (\$50) to our treasurer, **Bill Fordney at 6 East Greenbriar Dr., Jacobus, PA 17404-1013**, phone 717 741 0957

CCI Math Challenge!

Given the following series:

1
11
21
1211
111221
312211
13112221
1113213211

What is the next line?

CHESS SET AUCTIONS AND OTHER EVENTS:

November 3, 2005 Bloomsbury Chess Auction in London is expected to take place. For faster information send your email address to Lichess@aol.com or see Bloomsbury Auction House website <http://www.bloomsbury-book-auct.com>

For an ongoing **Internet** chess set auction, members may visit the auction site maintained by CCI member Garrick Coleman at www.antiquechess.co.uk

Another interesting website that members may wish to look at is www.zelazny.com, maintained by CCI member Gene Zelazny.

In future issues of CCI USA, we would like to publish other web sites and chess set sales sites maintained by CCI members. If you have a chess set website that you would like to have members aware of, please email the information to Floyd Sarisohn at Lichess@aol.com.



HAMBURG MEETING 2005

by Kathy Vaglio

The 2005 meeting of the German CCI members and guests was held in Hamburg, Germany from May 22nd thru the 25th. Kenny and I were extremely fortunate to have been in attendance along with Floyd and Bernice Sarisohn, Billy and Hope Levene, and Sidney and Irene Silverman from the United States. Present also were members from France, Italy, Switzerland, Great Britain, Russia and a large contingent of German members.



<image1>

This meeting was hosted by Hans and Marianne Kreiger and was timed to coincide with the 175th year anniversary celebration of the *Hamburg Chess Club*. The planned activities began on Friday evening with a welcome address and dinner at our lovely hotel, the *Maritim Hotel Reichshof*. After dinner we walked a few short blocks to the beautiful lakeside where we were treated to a fantastic fireworks display that brought thousands of people out to watch. Although this was a city event it seemed to us that Hamburg was saying, "Welcome, Chess Collectors International".

After an interesting series of chess lectures on Saturday morning we walked a short distance to the *Museum fur Kunst und Gewerbe* where we were treated to the most impressive chess exhibition in anyone's memory. The chess sets and chess art came from the museum's permanent collection along with loans from seven other museums as well as some private collections. The compilation included breathtaking items from the past 250 years as well as some very rare pieces from earlier centuries. All of this was gathered and displayed in a thoughtful and organized manner throughout the

many rooms of this incredible chess exhibit.

The exhibit was catalogued in an important work by Hans and Barbara Hollander, "**Scach Partie Durch Zeiten Und Welten**". This 368 page book, even though written in German, has gorgeous photographs of every item displayed and is a necessity for the library of any serious collector or lover of chess.

Saturday evening began with a chess market featuring fine antique chess sets brought in by Garrick Coleman and hand carved mammoth ivory sets brought in by Nicolai Timochtchouk. We enjoyed dinner at a wonderful restaurant known for it's location beneath the Hamburg Rathaus as the "*Wine Cellar of the Town Hall*".

We had fantastic weather for this beautiful weekend which concluded on Sunday with a boat tour of the harbor and lunch with friends on board the *Museumship Rickmer Rickmers* located in the Hamburg harbor.



<image2>

Hans and Marianne Kreiger put a great deal of effort and planning into this event and they made us feel very welcome. It was a huge success that was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all. □

VISIT WITH THE KRIEGERS

by Hope and Billy Levine

Hans and Marianne Krieger are founding members of CCI. Hans served on the original Board as secretary. It was everyone's good fortune that they hosted the recent national meeting of the German CCI. (reported elsewhere.)

Before the meeting we and the Sarisohtns asked Hans if we might visit him and see his chess set collection. "I'll pick you up at 10 on Monday at the hotel" he said.

Hans drove us through the city and under the river through two tunnels, across the fabulous bridge with the tear drop shaped buttresses and finally stopped off at a park in an elegant section on the shore of the lake that Hamburg surrounds. The lake tour boats have a waterline magnet and the docks a metal piece for quick connections. We then drove to the Krieger's home about twenty minutes out of town. May is a beautiful time in this part of the world. Their home is modern with trees and bushes in front. In the back is a lawn flourishing with flowers and hidden from neighbors by high bushes. Hans and Marianne do the gardening themselves.

This is a very hospitable culture. A table was already set for tea and drinks and snacks with a lovely porcelain set. And that brings us to their second collection or perhaps it is their first, Meissen porcelain. We hadn't realized that the great museum show would be comprised of chess sets of local owners. The greater part of the Krieger collection was on loan to the museum although enough had stayed beyond for an interesting viewing; however, the Meissen collection was stunning. There was one 18th century bowl about which Hans told a story. They had the bowl, an irregular shape with a gold border. Hans saw a piece in Italy that could have been a cover for it. Measurements were made and sent. Today the beautiful bowl and its cover hold a prominent place in one of the cabinets.

We went to lunch at a most attractive seafood restaurant on one of the lakes that seem to abound in this area, and when we returned Marianne modestly offered a chance to see her collection of dolls. It is an extensive collection, large and small dolls with porcelain faces and fine clothes. They occupy cabinets in two rooms.

The cellar has been lined with wood and cabinets, a source of envy to the pile up all the junk school which we espouse. There are ringed albums without number with photographs neatly filed in the cabinets.

The final collection is on the second floor, a few hundred chess books. It includes a complete collection of chess tournament books published from the second half of the nineteenth century to near present times.

These are simply recollections of a lovely visit. Hans and Marianne, excuse the inaccuracies in detail. Thank you for your warm hospitality. Hope and Billy Levene.

VISIT TO STROBECK

by Hope and Billy Levine

Following our delightful day with the Kriegers, the Sarisoohns and Levenes in our rented new Mercedes headed for the fabled village of Strobeck where all children learn chess in school. The Kriegers' son helped with maps and we set off south through the beautiful countryside called Luneberg Heath and the town of Celle. There are great numbers of bright yellow fields with the plant from which Canola oil is made.

Like so many German towns, Celle has wide pedestrian streets lined with old and restored houses from the Middle Ages.



Most chess collectors know the story (legend?) of Stroheim. In the year 1011 the Duke of Guncellin was captured and imprisoned in the tower of the town. He carved a chess set and taught his captors to play. The villagers were entranced and

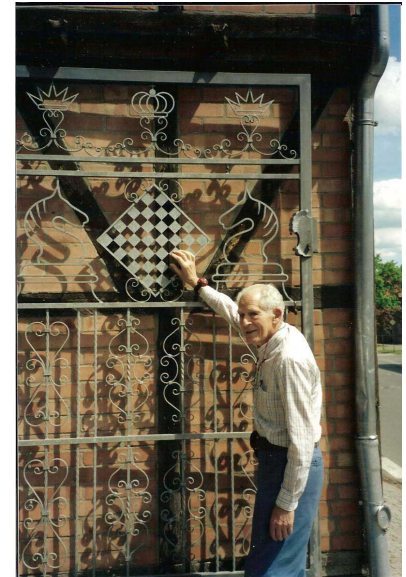
ever since all residents play chess. Chess has been a part of school and many prints show children carrying their chessboards and playing in class. The tower is now a chess museum with sets on display and cabinets of letters, news articles and varied memorabilia. The former curator and the mayor's wife, Frau Krosch came over to greet Floyd and Bernice who had been there before.

Alas times have changed. The school, founded 200 years ago and later named for Emanuel Lasker, has been closed. Its attendance has dropped to 40 students. Altho there is a local movement to retain it, we watched sadly as two workers doggedly levered up the squares of

the chessboard in the court in front of the school.

We returned to the nearby city of Braunschweig (from which the English derive Brunswick) where we were received at the museum. A guide opened a section and we were able to see very old sets included a small figural well carved ivory set dated 1630.

(Later we had a similar experience at Kassel.) Don't miss your chance for a similar experience next year in Berlin. □



CHESS COMPENDIUMS

by Elizabeth Gann

Compendiums...Victorian Era...women who are devotees of the "Victorian" "Gothic" Romance type novels are most familiar with the games then popular in Great Britain. In many of the novels, chess is played...even by the women...Vs the man "love" male in the book...the object of her interest. Surprisingly, though these women were often called "blue stockings" they were judged "excellent" opponents by the men seated across the game board.

While most of the male aristocrats, the top 10,000 of the "ton" as it was called, gambled voraciously...cards also were available in the home. The game of Bezique, the forerunner of Bridge...Whist, and Fortune Telling Cards, were permissible and enjoyed. Included within the Games compendium was often a "Steeplechase game, with metal horses and a playing board for the race. The boards for Chess and Draughts was usually leather. Cribbage, Dominoes, Draughts were included and of course Chess was the highlights of the Compendium. All were housed in a Wooden Box, often Burlwood or Mahogany. Rare is the Compendium made from Coromandel. The Compendium pictures attached (see next page) are sent as a courtesy to me from Andrew Vogel, President, Kensington/Wellesley House, Ltd. UK.

This is quite rare as it is made from Coromandel wood and beveled glass! Museum quality. Most unusual. The Coromandel box with its original beveled glass front and top is a fantastic piece in its own right. Taking into account all the lovely hand-carved and stained ivory pieces, decks of cards, counters, tumbler and die, and horse racing pieces with its original leather triple game board, this Games Compendium is quite remarkable. The comprehensive Victorian entertainment center - it is all inside! You can play Chess, Checker, Backgammon, Dominoes, Cribbage, Horse Racing, Bezique, Whist, and many other varieties of card games. All the pieces are there - enjoy! Condition: Exceptional. Year: 1880. These bring prices of \$9000 - \$15,000.

Another example of a Victorian Games Compendium is a rare partridge with Wood exterior with fitted leather interior (see pictures following the Coromandel.) Lovely hand-carved and stained ivory pieces, decks of cards, counters, 2 tumblers and die, and original leather two-sided game board, this Games Compendium is quite complete. The comprehensive Victorian entertainment center - it is all inside! You can play Chess, Checker, Backgammon, Dominoes, Cribbage, Bezique, Whist, and many other varieties of card games. All the pieces are there - enjoy! Circa 1890. This is the not so elaborate box...but still over \$8000.□

The Coromandel box:



The Partridge Woodbox:



ANTIQUE CHESS SET MARKET

permission to reprint by Dermot Rochford

There are many sources including EBAY online and traditional auction houses for acquiring sets – in June 2004 the Duran Auction House in Madrid held a specialist sale of chess sets and related items.

In my opinion there has been a significant upward movement in the value of antique chess sets in recent years. This is due to the increase in the number of chess collectors, as evidenced by the huge amount of chess items being sold on EBAY (over 5000 at any one time). The internet has allowed collectors to source sets from all over the world from both antique stores and auction houses. This in general means good sets make good money no matter where they are sold.

Sets are usually valued by collectors according to age/rarity, quality, size and material (wood, bone, ivory, silver, amber etc)

It is very difficult to find and purchase any complete sets made before 1750. Up to the introduction of the Staunton pattern in the mid 19th century there was a huge number of different designs for playing sets and figural decorative sets.

The original and most famous Staunton playing sets were made by Jaques of London in ebony, boxwood and ivory starting in 1849. Collectors are interested original signed Jaques Staunton sets and good examples of these sets can command prices of between €1000 and €10,000 +. Image 1 below is large wooden weighted signed Jaques set in original box and valued around €2700 (11cms king). The vast majority of chess sets used today are based off the Staunton design.



<image1>

There are numerous playing set patterns prior to the Staunton design, which are of interest to collectors. An example of a good quality playing set from circa 1800 is shown in image 2 below. This is a fine turned a carved 'Early English' ivory set (9cms king) and valued around €1300.



<image2>

Another non Staunton pattern playing set popular in France and continental Europe was the 'Regence' pattern set. Image 3 below shows an example of a good quality Regence set from circa 1840 made of ivory and ebony (king 9cms). Valued at €2500.



<image3>

Throughout the late 18th and 19th century large quantities of sets were produced in China and India for the European market. Many of the earlier examples are of very fine quality and highly prized by collectors.

Image 4 below shows a fine ivory playing set made in Dehli India around 1800 (king 11.5cms). Values at €5000



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<image4>

Image 5 below is a later example of an above average Chinese ivory 'octagonal' base set (king 12cms) made around 1875. This highly carved set was designed more for decoration than use. Value €1800



<image5>

Image 6 below shows a very early and rare carved wood figural chess set (king 7.8cms) made in Ceylon around 1700. This set would be valued at €3000



<image6>

Most collectors seek to covering all types of good antique sets and try to acquire the best example possible of each known pattern and as many unique antique sets as possible - an example of a rare 17 th /18th Century Spanish set (king 9cms) is shown in image 7 below. This would be valued at €3000



<image7>

In general the most highly prized sets are European carved figural sets from the 17 th /18 th /19 th Centuries. These were always expensive and are now also very rare. Image 8 below is an example of a very attractive and possibly unique walrus ivory polychrome bust set (king 10cms). Made in central/northern Europe circa 1750 and carved from walrus ivory. It would be valued at €10,000+.



<image8>

Another European 18th century carved wooden figural set (king 9.5cms) of exceptional quality is on the theme of the Ottoman Turks vs an African Sultan and his court, see image 9 below. This set was probably made in Germany around 1750 and is valued at €10000+.



<image9>

Overall the market is very strong at the moment and antique sets of quality and rarity command increasingly high prices.

I believe trend is likely to continue given the increased number of collectors and the limited supply of quality sets available.

Quality antique box boards (with chess/backgammon) and chess clocks are also in demand.

More information is available from my website: http://www.geocities.com/dermot_rochford/

THE SICILIAN SET

by Mark J. Lema MD PhD

I was six years old when I learned to play chess. However, I never considered myself as being a chess set collector. In 1972, I became seriously interested in ANRI chess sets. Their exquisite carving and intriguing designs placed them well beyond the financial means of the casual admirer. As a recent college graduate, the 400+ dollar price tag made it a luxury difficult to justify (I paid \$2700 for a new Toyota Celica in that same year). However, my passion to own at least one ANRI chess set never waned.

Ebay was a wonderful invention. It brought the world's marketplace directly into everyone's home. My first ANRI cyberspace purchase was the Monsalvat Miniatur set (#71813) in 2000. It was not my intention to subsequently become an ANRI chess set collector. However, having now acquired 15 ANRI and Toriart sets plus two ANRI chess bookend pairs, I would yield to the moniker of 'ANRI chess addict' – a somewhat expensive compulsion!

Most recently, I acquired the ANRI Sicilian set (#71821) produced for only one year between 1971 and 1972. The previous owner who lives on the West coast purchased the set in 1972. When I asked him to recount why he bought such an eclectic set, he related the following information to me:

"My interest in the set was from the point of view of a woodcarver. Though I play chess I do not collect sets. I do however collect wood carvings from my travels around the world. My grandfather and father both were fine wood carvers. When I bought the set I was not familiar with Anri though I now have several of their carvings. My interest was piqued by the color, excellent craftsmanship and the tranquility of the set. Most sets are rather (and should historically be) bellicose. This set was so whimsical I just had to have it. Over the years a few of my friends have refused to play with it because they feel it is too laid back for their liking."

From a player's and a collector's perspective, I can understand why this set had such a brief lifespan. A chess player, who views the game as a battle on 64 squares, would be more likely to make a one-time investment in a more regal motif like the King Arthur, Monsalvat, Versailles or Mediolanum sets. It never occurred to me that anyone would overlook warriors and select peasants.

It was wonderful serendipity that a wood-carving chess aficionado recognized the innocent, 'whimsical tranquility' of the Sicilian set and preserved it for 33 years. It is truly a rara avis in the ANRI chess series and occupies a prominent place in my collection. As one can see from the photos how the intricate details distinguish it from the intimidating poses of the knightly sets.

The Sicilian set is a unique product that was briefly carved in the 93 year-old Tyrolean workshop founded by Anton Riffeser. It was undoubtedly one of the more esoteric but artistic sets made, and one that makes ANRI chess set collecting a pleasurable pastime.



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Navesink (Twin) Lighthouses, Highlands, New Jersey



The twin towers of Navesink, sitting 200 feet above sea level, have been guiding navigators through the dangerous waters of northern New Jersey since they were built in 1828. The two different looking light towers, built by Joseph Lederle, have the appearance of chess pieces. The story is that Lederle was a chess fan and since he was building the lighthouse during the Civil War, there wasn't anyone overseeing his designs and building, so he built one tower to resemble two chess pieces, the king and queen. Navesink is also known as the first US lighthouse to use a Fresnel lens. The south tower originally had a first order fresnel and the north tower had a second order fresnel. Neither of the lenses are in the towers anymore, but the first order lens is on display at the lighthouse.



In 1960, the facility became a New Jersey State

Historic site. In 1979, through the efforts of the Twin Lights Historical Society, Rumson Garden Club, and NJ Division of Parks and Forestry, the Fresnel lens was returned home to Twin Lights.

Today, the museum features well-interpreted exhibits of lighthouse, Life-Saving Service and other memorabilia. For additional information visit <http://www.cyberlights.com/lh/nj/navesink.htm>.



Source: [Twin Lights Historical Society](#)

CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads are free for CCI members and you are welcome to have an ad in more than one category. Ad rates for non-CCI members: full page \$120.00, half page \$60.00; quarter page \$30.00; business card \$15.00.

This is a John Rogers Statuary known as "CHESS", manufactured in 1889. Rogers was a famous sculptor of a variety of "groups" as they were called. This is one such. This group is 21-1/2 inches tall and its name is inscribed in the center of the base. The setup on the board is actually a famous problem which appeared as the frontispiece of *Chess Players Companion*. It is white to move and checkmate in seven moves or(!) compel black to checkmate white in the same number of moves! The group is in extraordinary condition with no damage whatsoever. It is for sale for \$2300 plus shipping. Depending on the purchaser, I may be willing to deliver it in my RV.

Ray Alexis/The CHESS 'n stuff Museum
608 Emery Street
Longmont, CO 80501 USA
(303) 776 8892 or (303) 775 2135
email: chessstuff911459@aol.com



Chess books for sale by collector (CCI member): 1,000 chess books, rare, new, scarce. I buy and sell chess books. Mr. Kopet 1085 Tasman Dr. (Space 343) Sunnyvale, CA 94089, email kopet1085@aol.com

Chess sets from collection of estate of CCI member Kay Morry. For list of sets still available contact Rick Morry at rmorry@att.net

Chess Sets - Antique, Modern & Custom order. For information see www.elizabethgann.com

Antique Chess sets for sale see:
http://www.geocities.com/dermot_rochford/

Second-hand and Antiquarian Chess Books and Magazines for sale. I also buy books and collections. Clive Lane 1 Hereford St. GLEBE, NSW 2037, Australia. email clivelane@bigpond.com see web site <http://www.fischerbooks.com>.

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