

The CCI-USA News

Chess Collectors International

Vol. 2008 issue I

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pack up your stuff and head out to Florida – time is limited! The **Thirteenth Biennial CCI Convention** will take place in beautiful Florida. See insert below for details.

CCI member, Steve Wright, is coaching the chess team at the Solomon Schechter Day School, as a part of enrichment activities offered by the school. Read all about it on pages 2-3.

You can buy the most expensive (?) chess set ever at a bargain **1,500,000 dollars** on <http://www.jewelroyale.com/>.

CCI member, **Rodolfo Pozzi**, is trying to cast the light on the controversial issue of **Pin chess sets** in his comprehensive analysis that includes numerous photos and is delivered at the back of this issue.

Also attached to this issue is a very impressive booklet from **Italian Aboca Museum** regarding a special edition reproduction of an old chess manuscript. Members should contact the Museum directly if they are interested in purchasing any of the limited edition copies of the manuscript described in the enclosed insert from the Aboca Museum.

All this and more are only a few of the benefits of being a CCI member. To make sure that you do not miss out on notices of all these important chess collecting publications and activities, **keep your membership in CCI current** - promptly send your dues to your local treasurer. **Western Hemisphere** members - it is time to send your 2008 dues. Please mail your check to **Bill Fordney at 106 East Greenbriar Dr., York, PA 17407-1014.**

[Boca Raton, Florida](#) • [CCI-Thirteenth Biennial Convention](#) • [April 29 to May 4, 2008](#)

- Advance registration for rooms at the Marriott Boca Raton Hotel are ahead of schedule. Very few rooms at the CCI reduced rate are still available. Members planning to attend should make room reservations as soon as possible. Although our reduced rate is guaranteed until March 30, there are only a limited amount of rooms at our \$119 (plus tax) rate.
- Reservations can be made by calling 888 888 3780 or www.bocaratonmarriottbrochure.com. Be sure to indicate that you are reserving as part of Chess Collectors International, code CCICCIA to get our preferred room rate.
- Send Convention registration fees of \$475 per person (\$495 after March 30th) to our CCI Treasurer, Bill Fordney at 106 East Greenbrier Dr., York, PA. 17407-1014.
- Included in your reservation fee will be a very enlarged Program Book of over 150 pages, including a 60 page revised and enlarged edition of "Ivory at a Glance", by Thomas Gallegos. The original 38-page booklet was a "keeper" distributed at our Western Hemisphere meeting in Port Jefferson, NY. The Program Book will also include a 58 page article on "Morphy and the First Russian Masters" by Isaac Linder as well a reprint of "Designing Chess Sets for the ZEN of it" by Gene Zelazny. The approximate 150 pages Program book will be free to members attending the Florida Convention. Extra copies may be available at \$50 plus postage, after the Convention.
- The Convention program will include seminars on English Pottery and Porcelain Chess Sets; Identification and the repair of Ivory and Bone chess sets; Rooks in Mongolian Chess Sets; Artistic chess sets; and Staunton and other Early English playing sets.
- The deadline to get sets to Auction Gallery of the Palm Beaches has been extended to March 10. To submit sets for the chess auction, contact Brian Kogan or Leslie Baker at leslie@agopb.com, or call them at 561 805 7115 or fax 561 805 7117. If you want to sell chess items at our Chess Fair, contact Floyd Sarisohn at Lichess@aol.com, phone 631.543.1330 or fax 631.543.7901, before March 15th.

CHESS AUCTIONS

- Auction in **London** on May 13. For further information contact Luke Honey at lukehoneyfineart@aol.com
- Auction Gallery of the Palm Beaches, during our **Thirteenth Biennial CCI Convention**. For further information contact Brian Kogan or Leslie Baker at leslie@agopb.com .□

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LOCAL

LOCAL | SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL



LIFE IN 64 SQUARES Second grade student Andrew Hanin (left) watches as fourth grader Noah Hartman makes his move during a game of chess after school at Solomon Schechter Day School. Photos: Mike Sherwin. For more photos, visit www.stljewishlight.com.

Chess club exercises mental agility BY STEVE GOLDBERG, special to the Jewish light

Trophies proudly displayed in a school hallway are not unusual, but those in the Solomon Schechter Day School are not for football or baseball heroics, and they weren't earned by the soccer or tennis teams. These trophies reflect the success of the school's chess teams.

Alongside the chess trophies sit a number of unique chess sets, most of which were produced long before any of Schechter's students (or their parents) were born.

The genesis of the school chess group goes back about seven years, when long-time chess enthusiast Bill Wright was asked to develop a chess program to join the school's other after-school "enrichment" activities. This year, about a dozen kids, from second through sixth grade, have signed up for the Tuesday afternoon sessions.

Wright notes that he can expect to keep the attention of the students for only about ten minutes, so he keeps his instruction brief, then turns the kids loose. Typically they'll play rounds of blitz chess, in which an entire game is played within a few minutes.

Students have the option to also play in the

Gateway Chess League, a St. Louis area interscholastic league. Last school year, Schechter fielded two four-player teams, one in the "8th grade and under" division, and one in the "5th grade and under" division. Competing against other area schools in the Thursday afternoon league, the 8th grade and under team finished in a three-way tie for first place, while the younger team ended in a tie for third place.

Coach Wright is an avid chess set collector, and about four years ago thought the kids might enjoy producing their own unique set. Not wanting to bring power drills to school, he began work on two sets at home, then supervised as Schechter students assembled the pieces during their afternoon enrichment time. These sets, whose pieces are composed of wing nuts, screws and other assorted metal windings, are displayed alongside the trophies the team has won over the years.

Two of the older sets on display from Wright's own personal collection are known as "barleycorn" sets, with pieces constructed from sheep bone. When Wright first unpacked one of these sets, he found the



SPECTATOR SPORT Schechter Chess Team coach Bill Wright keeps tallies of the chess games students play after school at Solomon Schechter Day School. About a dozen students take part in the chess team, which is a part of enrichment activities offered by the school.

antique pieces protected by a rolled up German newspaper dated from 1890. Another set on display is a Japanese product Wright picked up in 1944, but due to the politics of the time, he scraped off the "made in Japan" notation.

It happened once that Wright came across a box of Pepperidge Farm cookies made in the shape of chess pieces. Seeing a kosher symbol on the box, he happily purchased it to bring to his Schechter students, only to be shocked when the kids opened the box at school. It was mislabeled and actually contained Christmas cookies.

Thanks to the efforts of Wright and admissions director and librarian Sue Albert, a small chess library is available to all

students, and is well used, according to Albert.

Fourth grader Noah Hartman participates in the chess enrichment program - and possesses an incredible adult-like vocabulary, Albert noted. Asked what he enjoys about chess, he said simply, "It makes me think!"

Rabbi Allen Sellis, head of school at Schechter, is quite proud of the chess program, seeing it as a "positive addition to the challenging dual curriculum" at the school. Enrollment in the current session is now closed, but the students interested in participating in the next chess program beginning in January can contact Sue Albert at 314-576-6177. □

CLASSIFIED AD

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.



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