

The CCI-USA News

Chess Collectors International

Vol. 2009 Issue I

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Get ready and start packing!
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Will Be Held in
CAMBRIDGE, England
30 JUNE - 4 JULY 2010
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How to tell the difference between 'old English bone sets, Rope twist and Barleycorn' pattern chess sets. By Alan Dewey. Pages 14-16.

The Chess Collector can now be found on line at

<http://chesscollectorsinternational.club.officelive.com> The password is: staunton

Members are urged to forward their names and latest email address to Floyd Sarisohn at Lichess@aol.com, so that they can be promptly updated on all issues of both The Chess Collector and of CCI-USA, as well as for all the latest events that might be of interest to chess collectors around the world.

Bonhams Chess Auction of October 28, 2009. 184 lots of chess sets, boards, etc were auctioned at Bonhams in London on October 28, 2009. Pictures of the chess sets and results of the auction have been available on the Internet at the Bonhams web site at the Knightsbridge (London) location. A number of the sold items will be ending up in the collections of CCI members in the USA.

CCI members can look forward with great anticipation to the publication of "Chess Masterpieces" by our "founding father" Dr George Dean. The book, to be published by Abrams Books should be out in early 2010. Your editor has had the privilege of reading an advance copy and can report that this is a book that every chess collector will want to read and have as a part of his/her library.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2010

CCI members have enjoyed viewing great chess sets on display at the US Hall of Fame and Samole Chess Museum at our last International Convention in Florida. Rumor has it that the Museum will be moving to St. Louis in 2010. If so, will a Western Hemisphere meeting finally take place in "middle America"? We hope to have final word on this story within the next 6 months.

Bergman items sold off at auction

Chess pieces used to delay Death in Ingmar Bergman's **The Seventh Seal** have been sold for 1m Swedish crowns (£90,250; \$143,000), officials say.

Max von Sydow played a crusader knight who extended his life by playing Death at chess in the 1957 film.

The pieces were among 339 items owned by the Swedish director, which were sold at auction in Stockholm on Monday. (September 28th)

The collection, including awards, notes written by Bergman and one of his desks, raised around 18m crowns.

"This exceeds all expectations," Carl Barkman, head curator at Bukowski's auctioneers, was quoted as saying by Reuter's news agency.

The items were viewed by some 8,000 people and the Bukowski's website was visited by browsers from more than 100 countries before the sale, the auctioneers said.

The pieces came from the director's home on the remote Baltic island of Faaroe. Proceeds from the auction were to be shared among his family - he fathered eight children with his wives and mistresses.

'Scared of death'

Bergman, who died in 2007 at the age of 89, was known as "the poet of the cinema".

He was a leader of the so-called "auteur" directors, whose films featured a personal visual style, tackling profound questions about love, death and God.

An international art-house hit, *The Seventh Seal* sealed the director's reputation.

Bergman said he was "terribly scared of death" at the time, and the film was said to echo modern fears of a nuclear holocaust.

His other films include the Oscar-winning *The Virgin Spring* in 1961 and *Through a Glass Darkly*, which won a best foreign film Oscar in 1962.

Fanny and Alexander earned him a third best foreign film Oscar in 1982. (From BBC.COM)



The crusader knight prolonged his life by challenging Death at chess



The near-complete set was auctioned with other items from Bergman's home

PHOTO RETROSPECTIVE OF THE 6TH WESTERN HEMISPHERE CCI CONVENTION
PRINCETON, NJ - MAY 2009

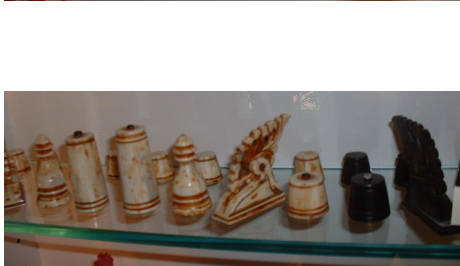


PHOTO RETROSPECTIVE OF THE 6TH WESTERN HEMISPHERE CCI CONVENTION,
PRINCETON, NJ MAY 2009

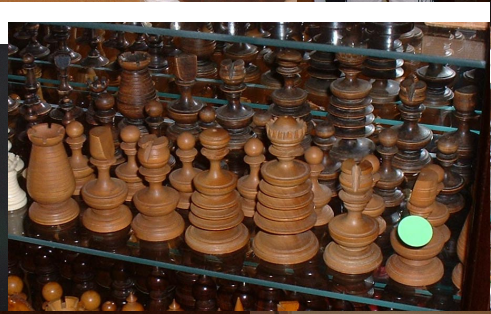


PHOTO RETROSPECTIVE OF THE 6TH WESTERN HEMISPHERE CCI CONVENTION
PRINCETON, NJ - MAY 2009

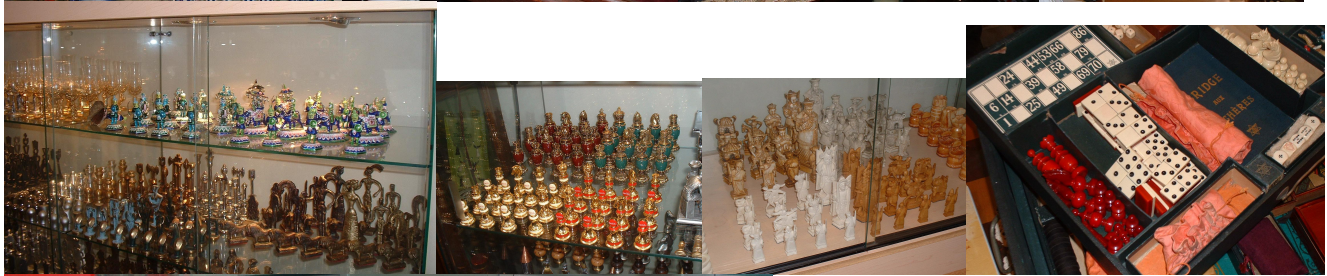


PHOTO RETROSPECTIVE OF THE 6TH WESTERN HEMISPHERE CCI CONVENTION,
PRINCETON, NJ MAY 2009

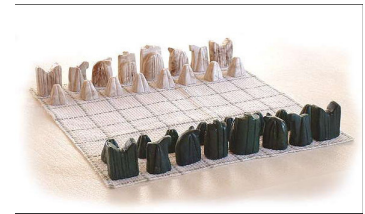


**Presentation to the Chess Collectors International Meeting,
Princeton, NJ, May 2009**

Rick Knowlton

Author of the website, AncientChess.com

The chess we play today is over 500 years old. Our modern rules were born in Italy or Spain, toward the end of the 15th century. This new "chess of the rabid queen" quickly replaced older versions throughout Europe. Since that time, our chess has developed a tradition of literature and analysis far beyond that of any other board game. But this modern European chess was never the only chess. Looking a few centuries back into our history, and expanding our view across neighboring continents, we can see chess as a cross-cultural phenomenon with a wide range of traditions. In effect, these other variants of chess may become a window into the distant reaches of time and culture. Let's take a brief look at some of the world's strongest chess traditions.



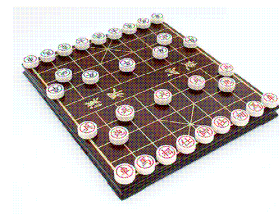
Ancient Chess

Chess was already being played in Persia when Muslim armies conquered that area in the 7th century. It quickly spread through the Muslim world, and on into southern Europe. This chess, known in Arabic as shatranj, differed from the modern game in that its queen (then a king's advisor) only moved one space diagonally, and the bishop (then an elephant) moved only two spaces diagonally. The conventional pieces were simplified forms representing the members of the ancient army (chariot, horse, elephant, etc.)



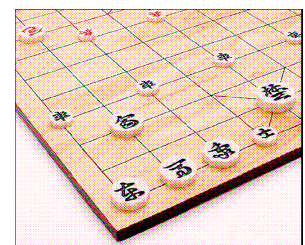
Chinese Chess

Chinese chess, xiangqi ("shyahng-chee"), is probably played by more people than any other board game. Even more than go (Chinese weiqi) and even more than our "international" European chess. There are just so many Chinese, and so many of them play this game! Although it looks very different from our chess, the rules are so similar to the ancient Persian chess that it is certainly a variation of the same game. The pieces are disks with Chinese characters on each one. They are played not on the squares of the board, but on the intersections (like go stones). The board also features a "river" in the center, blocking elephants (ancient bishops) and allowing pawns a nominal promotion. This game develops quickly and high level games can become extremely long and complex.



Korean Chess

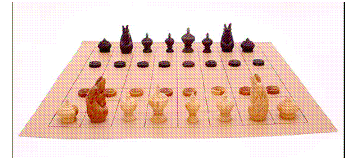
Korean chess, janggi, looks very similar to Chinese chess. But there are many differences in the rules. Some Korean rules date from from ancient Chinese forms; others are rather quirky innovations. The playing set is almost identical to that of Chinese chess, except for these differences: The pieces vary in size, the board has no "river," the pieces are octagonal in shape, and the "green" side pieces are inscribed in a



quick “cursive” style. Korean chess is still played throughout Korea, North and South.

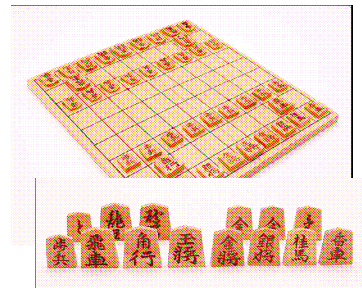
Thai Chess

Known in older literature as “Siamese” chess, makruk is still played in Cambodia and Thailand at a very high level. The conventional pieces are smooth, lathed forms – except for the large figurative horse’s head on the knight. Like our old regency sets, it can be tricky to tell some pieces apart. This game is very close in play to the ancient Persian/Islamic game. However, the elephant (bishop) has a peculiar move, and the pawns begin on the third rank. Very peculiar in this game are complex rules for drawing the game, which cause many games to end without a winner.



Japanese Chess

The chess of Japan, shogi, is said to be derived from the Chinese xiangqi, but also shares some peculiarities with the Thai makruk. It is certainly the most complex of the mainstream chess forms, and derives from a history of even more complicated variants. Most extraordinarily, in shogi 1) 17 of the player’s 20 pieces promote to stronger pieces, and 2) captured pieces are never out of play, but are placed back onto the board as part of the captor’s army. Because all pieces remain in play, the game never winds down into a sparse endgame, but continues to be dense and complex until a mating attack is achieved. The pieces are flat, 5-sided tiles, with one angle pointing forward. They are flipped over to reveal their promotional values, and they simply point the other way when they switch allegiance to the other side.



Mongolian Chess

Mongolian chess, shatar, is derived from the Persian/Islamic game, but has the move of our modern bishop (usually a camel in shatar). The pieces have a great deal of variety, since each set represents the family or clan of its origin. For instance, a rook may be shaped like a horse-drawn cart, a truck, a tent, a karmic wheel, a yin-yang symbol, or a bunch of flowers or peacock feathers. Most peculiar in the play of this game is the queen. She moves like a rook or an ancient queen (one space diagonally). The traditional rules of shatar have been widely replaced with modern, European rules, since the advent of Soviet domination.



Courier Chess

Also known as the courier game, this chess variant was played for several centuries, mostly in southern and central Germany. With a span of about 600 years (some 20 generations of players), it existed a little longer than the rules of modern chess have been in use to date. Derived from the ancient Islamic chess, the courier game stretched the board to 12 by 8 squares, adding three novel pieces – including a courier with the move of our modern bishop. It is most famously depicted in Lucas van Leyden’s painting of 1508, and most clearly described in Gustav Selenus’s treatise of 1616. The game shown by van Leyden has recently been recreated as a full set (by me, Rick Knowlton), and is described in detail in the website www.CourierChess.com



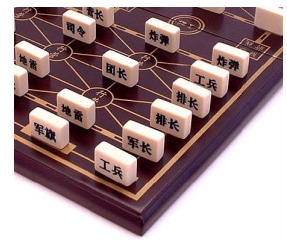
Chinese Variants

Several popular Chinese board games have arisen over past centuries, apparently derived from Chinese chess. Here are two modern games of special interest: Doushouqi ("doe show chee" meaning "fighting animal game"), sometimes known as "the jungle game" or "jungle." This game has animals as characters, with simple moves, and is especially enjoyed by children. Another game, luzhanqi ("loo stahn chee" meaning "land battle game") is similar to doushouqi, but has pieces depicting army ranks, with their identities hidden. Both have much in common with the popular game of Stratego.



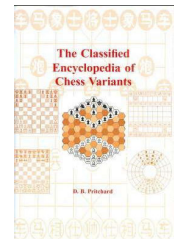
New Variants

Throughout chess history, countless variants have been invented. A few have become the popular games described above; some have had good followings for certain periods, and many have evaporated into the mists of time. The most thorough catalog of chess variants is compiled by D. B. Pritchard in his Encyclopedia of Chess Variants (1994) and his posthumously published revision The Classified Encyclopedia of Chess Variants (2007). A new variant of special interest to modern players is the game Shuuro, which combines the well-known rules of modern chess with novel arrays of pieces on an expanded, altered board.



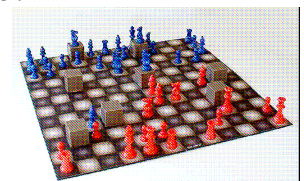
More Information

- www.AncientChess.com
an historical overview of chess throughout the world.
- www.CourierChess.com
a new site dedicated to this classic European variant.
- www.ChessVariants.org
an ongoing online catalog of chess variants.
- history.chess.free.fr
a marvelous review of chess and chess pieces. Great pictures.



Contact

To find to sets for these exotic games, and to get the best prices, contact Rick Knowlton directly at rickofricks@gmail.com



Shuuro



Photos and text © Rick Knowlton, 2009

The State Library of Victoria's Chess Collection is one of the three largest public chess collections in the world.

What's in the Chess Collection?

This collection, which is known as the Anderson Chess Collection, contains over 12,000 items including books, tournament reports, magazines and pamphlets.

What's special about this collection?

This collection was originally donated to the Library in 1956 by Magnus Victor Anderson, a Melbourne accountant and keen chess player. Anderson personally looked after the collection for the next 10 years, purchasing books including a selection of rare early publications, writing out catalogue cards and answering various requests from the general public. By the time he died in 1966, the Anderson Chess Collection had expanded from 1500 books to over 6000 volumes.

Since then, the Library has continued to acquire a wide range of materials relating to chess. This includes any work that is published in Australia, a range of manuscripts and ephemera, all books in English and major works in other languages, a variety of chess magazines in many languages, and reports of tournaments from every country.

How can I access material in this collection?

Current journals and items published after 1960 from the Anderson Chess Collection are available for reading and browsing in the Chess room.

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/visiting/spaces/chess.html>

All other material is in closed storage and can only be accessed by appointment.

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/using/viewing/appointment.html>

The Marshall Chess Foundation Proudly Presents

***A presentation and book signing of
Marcel Duchamp, and the Art of Chess***

Hosted by WGM Jennifer Shahade and Francis M. Naumann

Ms. Shahade is the editor of Chess Life Online, and winner of the 2002 & 2004 Women's U.S. Championships.

Mr. Naumann is a renown art scholar and curator, specializing in the Dada and Surrealist periods.

Tuesday, November 24th, 2009, 7:00 PM

Refreshments will be served

Event Fee: Free for members, \$10 for non-members

Marshall Chess Club
23 West 10th Street
New York, NY 10011
Phone 212-477-3716 Fax 212-995-9281
www.marshallchessclub.org

Non CCI Member websites:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/thechesscollectors>

CCI Sites:

<http://www.chesscollectors.com>

www.cci-italia.it

<http://www.ccifrance.com>

Member Picasa Sites:

Chess collection of Jim Joannou:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/ACF1515>

Alan Fersht's detailed Staunton & other sets:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/Fersht>

The collection of Peter Armit:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/PeterArmit>

An information site by restorer Alan Dewey:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/chessspy>

Chess collection of Guy Lyons:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/chesspurr>

Member Web Sites:

<http://www.britishchesssets.com>

<http://www.scribd.com/people/view/85927>

<http://www.eosef.com/gsc>

http://www.geocities.com/dermot_rochford

<http://www.wedgwoodchess.com>

http://www.wittitscheks-schachfiguren.de/index.php_

<http://www.chessbooks.co.uk>

<http://www.chess-museum.com>

**CHESS COLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL
14TH CONGRESS
CAMBRIDGE
30 JUNE - 4 JULY 2010**

*Michael Wiltshire
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July 2009

Dear Members and Friends of CCI,

On behalf of our Congress Organising Team I have great pleasure to invite you to the 14th Congress in Cambridge, one of the most beautiful cities in England.

Cambridge offers unique college architecture and history. In particular Kings College Chapel is the grandest building in Cambridge if not in the whole of the UK; it took 100 years to build and was completed in 1547. The ancient city centre is preserved with walkable medieval streets, college courts, gardens and bridges over the picturesque River Cam.

Please make your own hotel reservation quoting 'Chess Collectors' group to:-

The University Arms Hotel
Regent Street
Cambridge
CB2 1AD

Tel. no. 0044 1223 273000, Option 1
Fax no. 0044 1223 273037
Email: reservations@devere.co.uk

The cost should be:-
£125 per night for single rooms
£135 per night for double rooms
£185 per night for executive double rooms
£225 per night for suites

N.B.

1. The cost of the meeting will be 250 Euros/£200/US\$300 per person to include meals, drinks and events. Please email me to confirm your attendance.
2. Our esteemed speakers will include Professor Sir Alan Fersht from Cambridge, Dr Irving Finkel of the British Museum, PD Dr Ulrich Schaedler from Switzerland, Alan Dewey who is a fine chess set restorer, Professor Dr Hans Hollander from Berlin, Yuri Averbakh & Dr Isaak Linder from Moscow, Bill Hartston, Raymond Keene and Jim Joannou..
3. The meeting will include a tour of the colleges and 'punting' on the River Cam.
4. There are National Express coach links from all London airports to Cambridge and a very quick rail link from Stansted airport to Cambridge.
5. For information about Cambridge please see www.visitcambridge.com

Yours sincerely

Michael Wiltshire

The Latest Congress Programme can be found at:
<http://chesscollectorsinternational.club.officelive.com>

Link to University Arms Hotel:
<http://www.devere.co.uk/our-locations/university-arms>

£200/Eur200 per person will cover all food and drinks for three evenings plus a wine and canapes reception on the first evening. Three restaurants have been booked but we yet have to agree on the menus and entertainment.

Will members send a cheque made out to Chess Collectors International or do a bank transfer to our account at Abbey Bank a/c 40446022, sort code 09-01-27. The bank will accept euro payments.

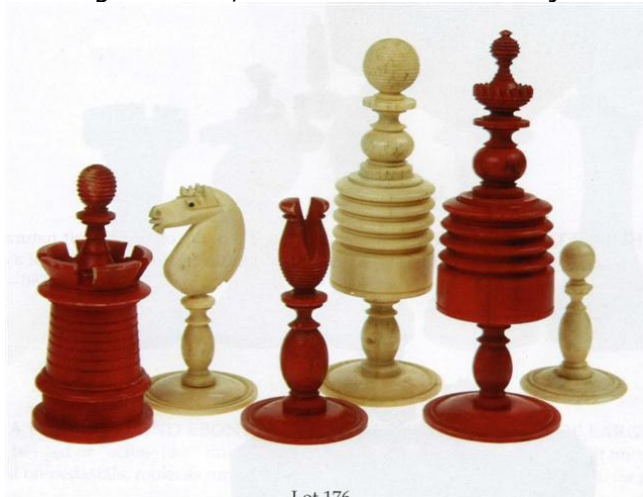
We will also consider a "Daily Rate" if members can not make the whole congress. Contact Mike Wiltshire for a price for the days that you wish to attend.

For further information or to register for the congress contact Mike Wiltshire. m.r.wiltshire@btinternet.com

British chess sets.

How to tell the difference between 'old English bone sets, Rope twist and barleycorn' pattern chess sets.

I have noticed recently that there is some confusion over the naming of 19th century bone chess sets of common types, even between established collectors who really should know better. Old English bone, or Plain bone sets are just that :-



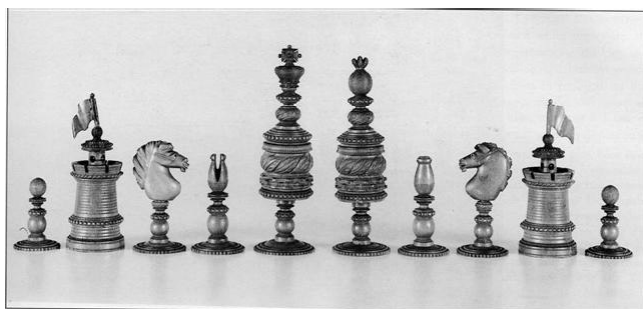
Lot 176

Here is a typical example. Made in London (most probably) 1820 - 1880.

As you can see, it is, plain, bone and English, hence the name. We don't know how these sets were called by the players of their day, but they were used in the chess clubs of the time and maybe they didn't last long in good condition. There are a lot of them about still and even 4" plus size sets in good condition are readily available for £60-£80.

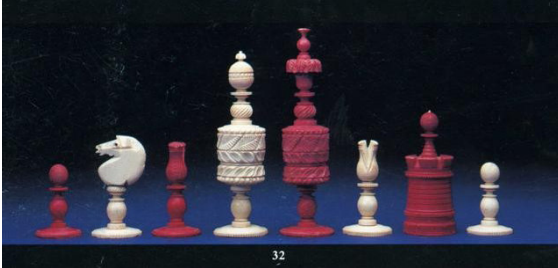
The next step up in decorative terms is the so called 'Rope twist' pattern. very similar except for the Rope twist pattern on the barrels of the royals :-

These sets (rope twist decorated) can be found with both reined and unreined (normal style) knights. clearly they are very similar to the previous picture differing only in the level of decoration. The barleycorn style sets are rather more elaborate with hand and machine carved decorations on the royals and sometimes on the rooks and bishops also :-



31

I have used this set above as it matches the lower set in Jaques pattern book (Pattern no. 28). However there is a far more 'standard' type of Barleycorn set, which is made completely on an ornamental lathe with little or no hand carving on at all. :-



There really is no reason for the confusion about these sets, and other writers have explained the differences, Kristjan Sander at :-
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/506380/Barleycorn-Chess-Sets>
 Jaques of London the well known games maker produced several sets of this type. :-



showing here a page from their pattern book with both 'Old English' plain bone and hand decorated 'Barleycorn'.

Because of the natural shapes and thickness of the bones of the food animals used for making chess sets, the sets often had similarities from country to country especially in Europe. I didn't intend to include any of these in this article on British sets, but here are some of the better known continental sets. They were cheaply made and are not regarded as being very collectable unless decorated.



Generally called Nuremberg, Note the flat knight often seen on these sets.



Some hand applied decoration on this German set, the upside down 'tulips' are a feature of these German sets.



Also called Nuremberg Spindle set. Note this has the flat cut profile knight also, often a feature of the cheaply made German sets.

With thanks to Peter Armit of Glasgow for these last 3 pictures.

There are several chess collectors with public albums on picassa.
My site is available through my web portal at
www.chessspy.co.uk
Alan Dewey.

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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designs by Laura Sturtz

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Sea Life Chess

For Sale: Chess Sets - Antique, Modern & Custom order.

Web site: <http://www.elizabethgann.com>

Thirteenth Biennial CCI Convention Program Book available

A few copies of the Boca Raton convention program book are still available. Excellent articles including topics such as the identification of Ivory and other materials used in the production of chess sets, Paul Morphy and the history of early chess masters. Contains over 200 pages in full size and color and over 295 photos of chess sets and other interesting items, and much more.

Cost: \$50.00 plus actual postage

Contact: Flovd Sarisohn at lichess@aol.com or P.O.Box 166. Commack. New York 11725

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Editorial comments and policy...

The future and quality of this publication depends on your contributions. Send us your comments, notes, reports, articles, photos, stories etc. Thanks to all that contributed to this issue. Electronic form will help us bring it to print in a timely manner and reduced cost.

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For Sale



CHESS COLLECTION

We have recently acquired over **600** Chess Sets and are ready to offer most of them for sale. You can view them at:

<http://www.eosef.com/chesscollector09>

Antique, Beautiful, Exquisite, Rare, Funny, Interesting, Unusual, Modern, Artistic, Traditional, Ivory, Metal, Bone, Glass, Wood, Aluminum, Thematic,

Chess sets, boards, pieces and related items

We are adding many chess items to the web site every week so visit www.eosef.com/chesscollector09 often

We may have what you are looking for!

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For Sale