EDITORIAL- “My Move”

My Move

Chess is about strategy and not luck. Perhaps that’s why it is so beloved by many. Unlike other games which the roll of the dice or the spin of a spinner often dictates the results on a measure of luck or fate, chess is based wholly upon skill, intellectual ability and strategic foresight. There is no luck at all that factors into the results. Its true mano a mano (hand to hand) warfare between two skillful opponents.

One of my favorite movies is called “The Last Castle” where Robert Redford plays a court-martialed general sent to Military prison. There he has to deal with a corrupt Warden with no real military experience. The only way to stop his corruption is by taken over the prison, a seemingly impossible job. One character in the movie is a guy named Yates who is a gambler and will gamble on anything, even on how long the general will last in the prison. At one point after Redford confronts the Warden, Yates told the general “You really did bluff Winters (the warden). The problem is his flush beats your straight.” Then Redford said my favorite line in the movie: “I don’t play poker, Mr. Yates. I play chess.”

For the general to stop the warden he knew he didn’t need luck he needed a strategy. He went on to tell Yates: “In chess, you play with somebody long enough, you come to realize that their first three moves are usually the same.” Redford had studied his opponent and saw his predictability and used it to his advantage. For every move the Warden made, he had a counter move and knew in the end there could only be one king standing.

Sometimes when you think its over and you should quit you might just find the way out. In one scene the Warden comes to the general’s cell where the general is playing chess with an inmate. He looks down at the board and says “You have checkmate in five moves.”

“Looks that way, sir” replies the general.

“Why you movin’ if I have checkmate in five moves?” says the inmate.

Redford smiles and says:

“Cause I have checkmate in three.”
There is not too much money in chess unless you are one of the top 50 players in the world. Perhaps the average salary of a professional chess player is around $35,000 a year. This would include chess teachers and coaches in schools or clubs. The average chess salaries can vary greatly due to title (rating), location and experience. And due to title (rating), average chess salaries can vary greatly from $35,000 a year. This player is around $1 and $2 million. For the 2011 US chess championship, the winner (Vishy Anand of India) got 1,200,000 euros ($1,693,800). The loser (Veselin Topalov) got 800,000 euros ($1,129,200). Top chess events may offer $100,000 for a first place prize. Top open chess events might offer $20,000 for first place. For example, the World Open chess tournament offers $8,000 for 1st place. The US Open only offered $8,000 for 1st place. The total prize fund $40,000. The 2011 US chess championship will offer $40,000 to the winner. The total prize fund is $166,000. Promoters of the Soyouz International chess tournament, scheduled for July 10-17, 2011, are projecting prize money of $50,000.

The top 20 chess players in the world make $100,000 to a million a year. The top 20-100 (with a rating of 2600 or greater) make about $60,000 a year.

Source of income for chess players include tournament and match earnings, teaching, writing books, articles software, and sponsorship. Grandmaster Maurice Ashley makes over $100,000 teaching chess and selling chess, books, and CDs DVDs.

Street hustlers who are good at chess can usually make a day playing blitz chess in the big cities. Professional chess hustlers are skilled blitz or bullet (1-2 minutes a game) chess, and bet money on each game, usually $5-$10 dollars. These players can make more than masters or International Masters in their specialized time limit.

Chess has never been a high paying occupation. In 1845, the first place prize for the US championship was $1,000. 115 years later, in 1960, the first place prize for the US Championship was still $1,000.

In 1957, 1st place in the First American Chess Congress was $300 ($7,000 in today’s money). In 1901, 1st place at the New York chess championship was $40. ($1020 in today’s money). In 1948, first place in the 1948 Interzonal was $550. Mikhail Botvinnik received $5,000 for winning the 1948 world championship. First place in the 1964 Interzonal in Amsterdam was $230 after a month’s work.

In 1957, Fischer won $750 after winning the US Open in Cleveland. Fischer earned $750 for his 1st place money at the 1962 Interzonal. In 1966, Bobby Fischer got $2,500 for his 1st place finish in the US Championship. In 1966, Petrosian got $2,000 for winning the world, match against Spassky. Fischer got $1,532,440 for winning the world championship in 1972, and another $40,000 in royalties. Bobby Fischer received $3,65 million for $100-$200 a day playing Deep Fritz in a match. The HB Global challenge in 2005 in Minneapolis had a $50,000 first place prize and prize fund of $500,000.

Some top players get paid for playing on chess teams. The Bundesliga in Germany is the strongest team chess tournament in the world. Top GMs are paid $50,000 to play in it. The USA has a Samford Chess Fellowship worth $26,000 for top young chess players. Many top grandmasters now play poker to make money. In 1983, when Ken Smith was playing in the national Open in Las Vegas, he won $140,000 at a poker tournament. Poker is a strategy game, just like chess, so strong chess players are easily accustomed to the game. There is more money to be made in poker than chess and easier to get sponsorship.

Chess-related professions are not very profitable, and the situation is unlikely to change in the future. There just is not enough interest and sponsorship to support chess. It is difficult to promote the game on television or other media. For most chess players, chess is not and not a high paying sport. Most play for the fun of it and only a very few try to make a living at it. Checkmate.
Feature

By Bill Wall

The earliest postmark linked to a chess event was in Kecskemet, Hungary in 1927. The first postage stamp with a chess theme was issued in Bulgaria in 1947. It was one of five issued to commemorate the 1947 Balkan Games, held in 6 cities of Bulgaria on November 2-5, 1947. Chess was one of the sports depicted on the commemorative stamps. The other four stamps portrayed bicycle racing, basketball, soccer, and the flags of the participating nations (Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Yugoslavia). Hungary won the chess competition. The stamp (9 leva, white and orange brown) was issued on September 29, 1947, showing a knight with the inscription “Balkan Games 1947” and “Republic of Bulgaria.” The stamp was designed by St. Koncar and 172,000 were issued. A first day cover was also issued of a brown stamp.

On November 20, 1948 three chess stamps were issued in the USSR to commemorate the 18th World Chess Championship match-tournament, held in The Hague, Netherlands, from March 1-25, and in Moscow, from April 10-18, 1948. The inscription on the stamps reads: Tournament Match for the World Chess Championship, Moscow 1948. On April 9, 1950 three chess stamps were issued in Hungary (Magyar) to commemorate the first Candidates Tournament, held in Budapest, Hungary from April 9 to May 16, 1950.

On July 10, 1950 Germany issued a stamp depicting Leonard Euler and the Knight’s Tour. On August 20, 1950 five chess stamps were issued in Yugoslavia to commemorate the 9th Chess Olympiad, held in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia from August 20 to September 9, 1950. One of the stamps shows incorrectly a position from the game Capablanca-Lasker, New York 1924. Lasker’s bishop should be on the g8 square and not the f8 square. The stamp values were 2, 3, 5, 10, and 20 Dinars.

On November 1, 1951 seven stamps were issued in Cuba as part of the 30th anniversary of Jose Capablanca winning the world chess championship from Emanuel Lasker in 1921. This was the first portrayal of a chess player (Capablanca) on a stamp. Two stamps of Capablanca are based on a portrait by the Cuban artist E. Valderrama, and two stamps are from a photograph of Capablanca taken in 1941. One stamp shows the final position of the last game of the world championship match, 1921. There was a print error on one of the stamps (2 cent stamp), spelling “JOSE” instead of “JOSEF.” The Capablanca commemorative stamps outsold any previous issue in Cuba’s postal history except for a Roosevelt stamp (Chess Life, August 5, 1955).

On May 15, 1952 the USSR issued a stamp depicting two players playing chess. On August 10, 1952 a stamp was issued in Finland to commemorate the 10th Chess Olympiads, held in Helsinki from August 10-31, 1952.

On April 4, 1953 Hungary issued a chess stamp. On February 9, 1954 Poland issued two chess stamps to commemorate the first Deaf and Dumb chess championship. On April 15, 1957 the USSR issued a stamp depicting Leonhard Euler (1707-1783) and the Knight’s Tour.

On November 30, 1957 Switzerland issued a stamp depicting Euler and the Knight’s Tour. In 1957, David Lawson made an effort to get a Morphy chess stamp to celebrate Morphy’s 100 anniversary winning of the first American Chess Congress. The postal service was not interested.

On July 17, 1958 Bulgaria issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 5th World Students’ Team Championships in Varna on July 5-20, 1958. A mistake was made on one of the rooks, depicting an extra window tower.

On August 30, 1958 the USSR issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of M. I. Chigorin’s death (1850-1928). Its value was 40 Kopecks.


On May 2, 1962 the Netherlands Antilles issued three stamps to commemorate the 7th International Candidates Tournament at Curacao.


On November 21, 1962 the USSR issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 15th Chess Olympiad in Varna on September 15 to October 10, 1962. The stamps depicted chess pieces except the king. On July 25, 1962 Cuba issued a chess stamp depicting a boy playing chess.

On November 21, 1962 the USSR issued a stamp to commemorate the 30th Soviet Championship in Kiev from November 21 to December 20, 1962. The stamp value is 4 kopecks. The stamp depicts 3 chess rooks.

On December 30, 1962 the Philippines issued 2 stamps of Dr. Rizal. One of them is a chess stamp of Dr. Rizal and another player playing chess.

On May 18, 1963 the USSR issued three chess stamps to commemorate the 25th World Championship match being played in Moscow from March 22 to May 20. The stamp values at 4, 6, and 16 kopecks.

On July 5, 1963 Ceylon issued a chess stamp depicting people playing chess.

On December 12, 1963 Nicaragua issued a chess stamp.

On November 2, 1964 Israel issued two chess stamps to commemorate the 16th Chess Olympiad in Tel Aviv.

On August 28, 1965 San Marino issued a chess stamp. It was a chess board with 10 rooks in 5 colors and EUROPE written on the stamp, to commemorate a unified Europe. The design was called Castles on a chessboard. It was the first chess stamp not to honor a chess event or chess player. One sheet of 40 stamps was printed with the red rooks upside down. These inverted red rook stamps are valued at over $12,000.

On December 30, 1965 the Philippines issued a chess stamp of two players playing chess. The words on the stamp says Marcos-Lopez Inauguration.

On February 25, 1966 Rumania issued 6 chess stamps to commemorate the 17th Chess Olympiad in Havana.

On April 2, 1966 France issued a chess stamp to commemorate an International Chess Festival in Le Havre. It depicts a chessboard and a knight.

On May 31 and July 26, 1966 the USSR issued chess stamps to commemorate the 26th World Championship match in Moscow, from April 11 to May 8, 1966.

On October 18, 1966 Cuba issued 6 chess stamps to commemorate the 17th Chess Olympiad in Havana.

On March 24, 1967 (issued April 28) Monaco issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 1st International Chess Grand Prix in Monaco, under the patronage of Prince Rainier. The stamp depicted a chessboard, a few pieces, and a view of the Monte Carlo harbor. The stamp value was 60 Centimes.

On April 10, 1967 Czechoslovakia issued a chess stamp depicting ceramic chess dolls.

On June 23, 1967 the Dominican Republic issued 2 chess stamps to commemorate the 5th Central American Championship.

On November 4, 1967 Yemen issued a set of 8 stamps commemorating Moorish art. One stamp depicts a miniature painting from the Alfonso manuscript, published in 1283. The painting is of a chessboard in a tent with two players.

On November 27, 1967 East Germany issued a chess stamp depicting King Drosselbart and his Queen standing on top of a chessboard.

On March 14, 1968 Switzerland issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 18th Chess Olympiad in Lugano. It depicts a blue rook.

On July 17, 1968 East Germany issued a chess stamp. It had a picture of Emanuel Lasker (1868-1945) and commemorated his 100th birthday.

On July 29, 1969 East Germany issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 16th World Students Team Championship.

On November 15, 1969 Cuba issued a set of 6 sports stamps. One of them commemorated the 6th Capablanca Memorial Tournament (held in 1968). The stamp depicts a globe and one each of the 6 chess pieces.

On July 7, 1970 the USSR issued a chess stamp depicting the first chess game in outer space. 

Continue
Chess Stamps (continued)

On July 2, 1972 Iceland issued a chess stamp to commemorate the World Championship in Reykjavík between Fischer and Spassky. The issue date of the stamp was intended to coincide with the start of the match, but the match did not start until July 11. Its value was 15 Krona. On September 18, 1972 Yugoslavia issued two chess stamps to commemorate the 20th Men’s Chess Olympiad and 5th Women’s Chess Olympiad in Skopje.

On September 25, 1972 Tunisia issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 20th Chess Olympiad in Skopje.

On October 5, 1972 Germany issued several chess stamps with a Knight, Rook, Queen, and King. The stamp with the knight forgot to add the word “deutsche” to the stamp.

On October 17, 1972 Iran issued a chess stamp to commemorate the Olympic Games in Munich.

On February 16, 1973 Niger issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 1972 World Championship match in Reykjavík.

On February 19, 1973 Mali issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 1972 World Championship match in Reykjavík.

On March 5, 1973 Lebanon issued a chess stamp.

On May 9, 1973 Czechoslovakia issued a chess stamp that had a picture from The Game and Playe of Chess by Caxton. The 4 forints stamp depicts a Persian rook. The 60 filler stamp depicts chess from India.

On May 10, 1973 El Salvador issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of FIDE. The 10g stamp depicts a Persian rook.

On May 20, 1901, were released. The sheets contain two “stamps” in conjunction with an overall design of a chessboard and pieces.

On September 29, 1973 Great Britain issued four stamps to honor William Caxton on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of publishing in England, beginning in 1476. One of the stamps shows a Caxton woodcut of a chess player from the second edition of his 1483 book “The Game and Playe of Chesse.” The value of the stamp is 11 pence. On some of the stamps, a mistake was printed, shifting the


On March 25, 1974 Mali issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 12th Tournament for Central America and the Caribbean.

On August 4, 1973 Indonesia issued two chess stamps to commemorate the 1972 World Championship between Karpov and Korchnoi in Baguio City.

On September 29, 1976 Surinam issued a chess stamp with a chess painting.

On October 19, 1976 Israel issued two chess stamps to commemorate the 22nd Chess Olympiad in Haifa.

On October 24, 1976 Libya issued a chess stamp to commemorate the Arab Olympiad held in Tripoli.

On November 7, 1976 the USSR issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 8th European Team Championship in Moscow, from April 13-23, 1977.

On June 27, 1977 Mali issued three chess stamps to commemorate the 22nd Chess Olympiad in Haifa.

On October 20, 1977 El Salvador issued 7 chess stamps to commemorate the 1976 Arab Olympiad in Tripoli, played from October 24 to November 15, 1976.

On January 2, 1978 Lebanon issued a stamp with a chess board depicted in the background.

On January 23, 1978 Paraguay issued a set of 9 stamps to commemorate the 23rd Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires.

On May 12, 1979 Hungary (Magyar) issued a chess stamp (3 forint value) to commemorate the 23rd Chess Olympiad (Sakko- limpa) in Buenos Aires in 1978 and Hungary’s victory. Printed on the stamp are a few chess pieces and a board, the golden Olympic cup, the 5-ringed Olympic emblem with the flag of Argentina as well as the Hungarian tricolor.

On October 29, 1979 Hungary issued a stamp depicting a painting by Valletta, Malta. The Olympiad was held in Tripoli.

On December 28, 1980 North Korea issued two chess stamps to commemorate the World Chess Championship between Karpov and Korchnoi in Merano and the World Chess Championship between Fischer and Spassky in Reykjavík.

On May 4, 1981 Italy issued a chess stamp depicting Living Chess. The 5 stamps depict the history of the Republic of Mali issued chess stamps to depict four great chess masters. The masters were Alekhone, Bogoljubow, Janowski, and Korchnoi.

On June 1, 1978 the Netherlands issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 18th International Chess tournament. It depicts a horse and a woman on a chessboard.

On July 17, 1978 the Philippines issued a chess stamp to commemorate the World Championship match between Karpov and Korchnoi in Baguio City.

On August 20, 1978 Mexico issued 2 chess stamps to commemorate the World Students’ Team Championships.

On October 1, 1980 Rumania issued 4 chess stamps to commemorate the 24th Chess Olympiad in Munich.

On November 18, 1980 Brazil issued a chess stamp commemorating postal chess.

On November 20, 1980 Malta issued three chess stamps to commemorate the 1980 FIDE Congress and the 24th Chess Olympiad in Valletta, Malta. The 4 stamps were released. The sheets contain two “stamps” inscribed with the words: “Deutsche” and Korchnoi in Merano and Romanovsky. Another stamp showed a 15th century illustration of the Persian rook.

On October 1, 1980 Vienna issued a stamp to commemorate 50 years of FIDE.

On January 15, 1979 Guinea-Bissau issued a stamp depicting Bishop and a Siamese Queen.

On February 19, 1979 Comoros issued three chess stamps.

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On October 29, 1979 Hungary issued a stamp depicting a painting of a chess board. (Scott 2690)

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On February 21, 1980 Lebanon issued 5 chess stamps to commemorate 50 years of FIDE.

On June 9, 1980 Djibouti issued two chess stamps to celebrate the founding of FIDE. One stamp shows a Persian rook and Romanovsky. Another stamp showed a 15th century illustration of the Persian rook.

On October 1, 1980 Rumania issued 4 chess stamps to commemorate the 24th Chess Olympiad in Munich.

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Each stamp also had a chess position. The Botvinnik position is from Botvinnik-Capablanca, AVRO 1938. The Fischer position is from Fischer-Benko, New York 1963. The Alekhine position is from Alekhine-Rubinstein, The Hague 1921. The Nimzovich position is from Jøhner-Nimzovich, Dresden 1926. The Steinitz position is not from Steinitz game at all. It is from Spassky-Smyslov, Bucharest 1953. The Spassky position is from Steinitz-Zukertort, 1886. The positions for Steinitz and Spassky were on the wrong stamps.

On February 26, 1982 Congo issued a chess stamp depicting African chess pieces. On May 2, 1982 the Faroe Islands issued two chess stamps depicting a king and a queen. On September, 1982 Vietnam issued 8 chess stamps showing older chess pieces.

On June 13, 1983 Guinea-Bissau issued 8 chess stamps depicting chess pieces through the ages. On June 20, 1983 Albania issued a chess stamp depicting an individual playing chess and using a chess clock.

On June 20, 1983 Bulgaria issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 8th European Team Championship in Plovdiv. It depicted chess pieces on a map of Europe. On August 20, 1983 Nicaragua issued 7 chess stamps depicting chess pieces. On October 24, 1983 Mali issued 4 chess stamps depicting drawn chess pieces.

On December 27, 1983 Chad issued 6 chess stamps to commemorate the 60th anniversary of FIDE (1924-1984). On February 20, 1984 the British Virgin Islands issued a set of 4 chess stamps to commemorate the 24th Chess Olympiad in Manila and the 14th anniversary of FIDE.

On February 20, 1984 Rumania issued a series of chess stamps to commemorate the 15th Balkan Championship.

On April 13, 1984 Laos issued 8 chess stamps to commemorate the 60th anniversary of FIDE. On April 26, 1984 Mauritania issued a stamp with a globe and chess pieces on it.

On May 31, 1984 Burkina Faso (Upper Volta) issued a chess stamp depicting Karpov. On July 20, 1984 Guyana issued a series of stamps to commemorate the 60th anniversary of FIDE.

On July 27, 1984 Madagascar issued 6 chess stamps to commemorate the 60th anniversary of FIDE. They depicted Steinitz, Menchik, Karpov, and Gaprindashvili.

On August 1, 1984 Sudan issued 4 chess stamps to commemorate the 60th anniversary of FIDE. The 25c stamp depicts a rook. The 45c stamp depicts and Staunton knight and a 19th Century Knight. The 65c stamp depicts a Staunton Queen and an 18th Century Queen. The $2 stamp depicts a Staunton Rook and a 17th Century Rook.

On August 20, 1984 Taiwan issued a chess stamp. On August 30, 1984 Guinea issued a chess stamp to commemorate the World Junior Championship match in Baguio City. On September 7, 1984 the USSR issued two chess stamps to commemorate the World Chess Championship match in Baguio City.

On September 7, 1984 the USSR issued a chess stamp commemorating the first annual British Virgin Island tournament. On September 18, 1984 the North Korea issued a chess stamp depicting a chess painting by Lucas van Leyden.


On September 13, 1985 the United Arab Emirates issued a series of stamps to commemorate the 27th Chess Olympiad in Dubai.


On November 2, 1987 Surinam issued a chess stamp.
On October 12, 2002, Hong Kong issued a chess stamp commemorating King and Queen in one frame, and Chinese chess pieces in another frame.

On October 23, 2002, Rumania issued three stamps to commemorate the 35th Chess Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia.

In 2004, Cuba issued three stamps to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Cuban Chess Federation. The stamps depicted Capablanca, Ernesto Che Guevara, and Maria Teresa Mora.

In 2007, Guinea Bissau issued a chess stamp to commemorate the 80th anniversary of FIDE.


On September 24, 2004, Hungary issued a stamp to commemorate the 30th Chess Olympiad in Calvia (Malorca), Spain.

In 2005, Moldova issued a chess stamp to commemorate the European Chess Championship.

In 2006, Estonia issued a postal stationary card with the picture of grandmaster Paul Keres (1916-1975). They also released a postal card with the postmark “International Chess Tournament in memoriam Paul Keres.”

In 2005, Sri Lanka issued a few sports stamps which included chess champions.

In 2005, Guinea Bissau issued four chess stamps with four famous chess paintings.

In 2005, Greece issued a chess stamp depicting Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine, and Botvinnik.

In 2004, Austria issued a stamp to commemorate the victory of Di Yang at the 16th Correspondence World Chess Championship. They issued another stamp to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Baden Chess Club.

On July 10, 2004, Algeria issued a stamp to commemorate the 80th anniversary of FIDE.

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In 2005, Greece issued several chess stamps depicting Alekhine, Euwe, Botvinnik, Smyslov, Morphy, Steinitz, Lasker, Capablanca, Tal, Petrosonian, Spassky, and Fischer.

On September 28, 2000, Iceland issued a first day cover, depicting grandmaster Fridrik Olafsson.

In 2006, Estonia issued a stamp commemorating Gennrikh Kaspian (1909-1995). He was one of the greatest composers of endgame studies. In 1972, he became the first chess composer to receive the title of Grandmaster of Chess Composition. The stamp becomes the first to portray an endgame study.

Lithuania recently issued a commemorative chess stamp to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Vladas Mikenas (1901-1992). He was an International Master and chess journalist.

Several countries have issued fraudulent stamps with chess motifs from Afghanistan, South Ossetia, Mali, Myanmar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Jihad republic, and Uzbekistan.

Over 140 nations have issued stamps with a chess motif. The United States has not issued any stamp with any chess motif.
How to Reassess Your Chess

(4th Edition) by Jeremy Silman

International Master Jeremy Silman’s modern classic How to Reassess Your Chess – Chess Mastery Through Chess Imbalances, 4th edition, was published in October, 2010 by Siles Press. With 658 pages and over 400 chess diagrams, it is a major re-work from his other editions (his first edition was published over 20 years ago) and he literally wrote this 4th edition (which he says is his final edition) from scratch. The book contents are made up of the following parts: The Concept of Imbalances (learning the ABCs of chess imbalances), Minor Pieces (Knights and Bishops), Rooks (controlling open files and ranks and looking for targets), Psychological Meanderings (fear of giving up or taking material), Target Consciousness (weak pawns and the sound of ripe fruit falling), Statics vs. Dynamics (a battle of opposing philosophies), Space (the great land grab and dueling spatial plusses), Passed Pawns, (baby Queens on the run) and Other Imbalances (integrating imbalances with your opening choices). Each section goes much more in depth from previous editions with new examples and has a summary and some test questions (with detailed answers in the back). Silman writes with a sense of humor and explains chess moves like drunken knights, passed bananas (another name for a passed pawn and the sound of ripe fruit falling), Statics vs. Dynamics (a battle of opposing philosophies), Space (the great land grab and dueling spatial plusses), Passed Pawns, (baby Queens on the run) and Other Imbalances (integrating imbalances with your opening choices). Each section goes much more in depth from previous editions with new examples and has a summary and some test questions (with detailed answers in the back). Silman writes with a sense of humor and explains chess moves like drunken knights, passed bananas (another name for a passed pawn and the sound of ripe fruit falling), and a nimble Louie (a fast-moving passed pawn). Silman’s concepts about chess imbalances are the major theme of the book. An imbalance is any significant difference in the two respective positions. He tries to show the average player how to analyze a position. Silman shows that analysis of specific variations should be the last thing one does. He wants to ensure that every detail of all the imbalances are mastered with a strong positional foundation. He sums it up by saying, “If you want to be successful, you have to base your moves and plans on the specific imbalance-oriented criteria that exist in the given position, not on your mood, tastes, and/or fears!”

The following list of the imbalances that Silman discussed through the books were the following: superior minor piece, pawn structure, space, material, control of a key file, control of a hole or weak square, lead in development, initiative (pushing your own agenda), king safety, and statics vs. dynamics. Whole sections are devoted to each imbalance that he listed.

The book is aimed at the expert player and below (Silman says from USCF rating of 1400 to 2100) and has plenty of examples, hundreds of games, and diagrams. The book is written by one of the best chess instructional writers around. You can read his chess articles at www.chess.com and some of his earlier articles appear in this new edition as part of the appendix. His articles include on how to offer a draw, the proper tournament diet, is chess a gentleman’s game, and teaching chess to children.

Silman also made it a point to putting every position in this book through a detailed analytical check with both Rybka 3 and Fritz 12 computer chess engines. This helped eliminate any flaws in his analysis of positions. He included some analysis from these computer engines because there were so bizarre or exciting.

Trivia question. What kind of eye is on the cover of his book? It’s an octopus eye.
Chess notation is a way to record and communicate chess moves. Nearly all chess players record all the moves (his and his opponent) of their serious games. There are two major methods of chess notation. The first method is the descriptive notation and the second method is the algebraic notation.

DESCRIPTIVE NOTATION

The descriptive notation has been around the longest and is the method found in older chess books and magazines. It was mostly used in the United States.

The descriptive method names the files according to the piece in the initial position. So, reading from left to right, the first file is the Queen Rook (Q) file, the next file is the Queen Knight (QN) file, then the Queen Bishop (QB) file, then the Queen (Q) file, then the King Knight (KN) file, then the King Bishop (KB) file, then the King Rook (KR) file.

The pawn is represented by a P. The Knight is represented by a N (or Kt, but not K because that is the king). The Bishop is represented by a B. The Rook is represented by an R. The Queen is represented by a Q. The King is represented by a K.

The board is always displayed with the White at the bottom and the Black at the top. The board is usually displayed with the White point of view. Meaning White is always shown as 'upside down' for White, meaning White is always shown as playing from the "bottom" of the board. The board is always "upside down" for Black. In algebraic notation, Black must think in reverse. From Black's point of view, the letters from left to right are h, g, f, e, d, c, b, a and the rows start at 8 and go from bottom to top as 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

The chess squares have different notations, depending upon the White point of view or the Black point of view.

The square in the lower left is QR1 (Queen Rook 1) for White or Qr1 (Queen Rook 1) for Black. The square in the upper right is KR8 for White and KR1 for Black.

The chess board is always set up for the light pieces. The rows are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 from the White point of view. So, from left to right, we have a1, b1, c1, d1, e1, f1, g1, h1. The square in the lower left is a1 and the square in the upper right is h8.

The chess board is always "right side up" for White, meaning White is always shown as "right side up" for White. The chess squares are written on the board. Each column (file) is labeled with a letter. Some chess boards have these letters and numbers written on the sides (letters) and top and bottom (numbers).

In algebraic notation, the columns, from left to right, are: a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h. Starting from the White side. The rows are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 from the White point of view. So, from left to right, we have a1, b1, c1, d1, e1, f1, g1, h1. The square in the lower left is a1 and the square in the upper right is h8.

The algebraic notation is now the most common notation and a standard in all major chess tournaments. It is called algebraic because of the unique way it identifies each chess square on an 8 by 8 matrix chess board. Each column (file) is labeled with a letter. Each row (rank) is labeled with a number. Some chess boards have these letters and numbers written on the sides (letters) and top and bottom (numbers).

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The board is usually displayed with the White at the bottom and the Black at the top.

The main thing to remember when looking at a chess diagram, is that the board is always "right side up" for White. Meaning White is always shown as playing from the "bottom" of the board. The board is always "upside down" for Black. And in algebraic notation, Black must think in reverse. From Black's point of view, the letters from left to right are h, g, f, e, d, c, b, a and the rows start at 8 and go from bottom to top as 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

A move is a combination of the moving piece plus the square to which it is moving. The move Nf3 means the Knight moved to the f3 square. A move e4 means taking a pawn on e4 and promoting it to a Queen (Q).

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DESCRIPTIVE NOTATION

The descriptive notation has been around the longest and is the method found in older chess books and magazines. It was mostly used in the United States.

The descriptive method names the files according to the piece in the initial position. So, reading from left to right, the first file is the Queen Rook (Q) file, the next file is the Queen Knight (QN) file, then the Queen Bishop (QB) file, then the Queen (Q) file, then the King Knight (KN) file, then the King Bishop (KB) file, then the King Rook (KR) file.

The pawn is represented by a P. The Knight is represented by a N (or Kt, but not K because that is the king). The Bishop is represented by a B. The Rook is represented by an R. The Queen is represented by a Q. The King is represented by a K.

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Algebraic Notation uses the File and Rank system. Each column (file) is labeled with a letter. Each row (rank) is labeled with a number.


FORSYTH NOTATION

Forsyth notation is used to record where the chess pieces are on the board in a quick and easy way. The pieces are represented by their symbols (Q=Queen, K=King, R=Rook, B=Bishop, N=Knight, P=Pawn). The letter symbols for Black are written in lower case. For White, the letter symbols are written in upper case. Empty squares are represented by a number. For example, 1 means there is one empty square, 2 means there are two empty squares and so on.

The position is recorded rank by rank (horizontal rows), starting with the eighth rank (the a8 square) and ending with the first rank (the h1 square). Columns are separated by a “/” symbol.

Thus, r1b1k1 means on a8 there is a Black Rook, then an empty square (the b8 square), then a Black Bishop (on the c8 square), then a Black King (on the g8 square), and then an empty square (the b8 square).

If a whole row contains empty squares, then it is represented as 8/ in this notation.

If you’ve ever Copied & Pasted games of Chess into Fritz (e.g. Fritz 12), you might see the linear* Forsyth notation in part of the code:

```
18 19
1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 Be7 4. Bc4 Bh4+ 5. Nxe4 Qxh4+ 6. g3 Qxg4 7. O-O Qxh2 mate
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In this notation, columns are labeled with a file and Rank, and rows are labeled with a letter. Each column and row is labeled with a letter denoting the piece. For example, if I had the original White Knight on g1 (Ng1) and my other White Knight was on d4 (Nd4), instead of writing Nf3 (either knight could do that), I would write Ng3 if it were the Knight on g1 or Nf3 if it were the Knight on d4.

A capture is sometimes denoted with an ‘x’. PxP could be exd4. NxB could be Nxh4 (or just Nh4).


Promoting a pawn to a queen would be something like a8=Q, meaning a White Queen Rook Pawn made it to the 8th rank and is being promoted to a Queen.

Castling on the kingside is O-O. Castling on the queenside is O-O-O.

Sometimes moves have a space after the period (1.e4). A check is indicated optionally by a ‘+’. 2.f4 could be exf4. NxB could be Nxh4 (or just Nh4). A capture is sometimes denoted with an ‘x’. PxP could be exd4. NxB could be Nxh4 (or just Nh4).


The Pawn moved to the e4 square.

The 129th Varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge was held in London – March. Oxford won the match. The overall scores in the series (which started in 1873) are Cambridge 56 wins, Oxford 53 wins and 20 drawn matches.

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Space –

Greg Chamittoff will play chess with school children on earth while he is aboard the International Space Station. He is part of the Endeavour crew launched May 16.

Kazan, Russia –

In May, Boris Gelfand and Alexander Grischuk have made it to the Candidates Final. Gelfand beat Kamsky in the blitz game playoff and Grischuk beat Vladimir Kramnik in their blitz playoff. The two will now play to determine who plays Visy Anand for the world championship.

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MONACO –

Lev Aronin won the 2011 Amberblindfold and rapid tournament, held March 11-24, 2011.

May/June 2011

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The position above would be written: 4kh1r/p4ppp/6q3/8/1B6/PPP2PPP/2Kr4.

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The position above would be written: 4kh1r/p4ppp/6q3/8/1B6/PPP2PPP/2Kr4.
Some of the greatest artists used chess as their subject in their paintings and sculpture. Here is a partial list in this first part article:

**Marcel Duchamp** (1887-1968) is perhaps the most well-known artist and chess player (See last issue). He was a French chess master who played on the French chess Olympiad team and used chess themes in many of his paintings. His chess paintings include “La Partie d’échecs” (The Chess Game) in 1910, “Portrait de joueurs d’échecs” (Portrait of a Chess Player) in 1911, and “Queen Surrounded by Swift Nudes” (1912). His chess paintings hang in the Museum of Art in Philadelphia and the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Duchamp once said, “While all artists are not chess players, all chess players are artists.”

Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema (1836-1912) was one the most renowned painters of the late 19th century Britain, specializing in Greco-Roman genre subjects. He was one of the finest and most distinctive of the Victorian painters. In 1865, he painted “Egyptian Chess Players,” which he sold in Berlin to a Moscow banker.

Irving Amen (1918- ) is known as a master printmaker. He has produced thousands of woodcuts, etchings, lithographs and silk screens. Some of the titles of his chess works include Chess Game (1977), Chess Strategy, Two Chess Games, Duel, Chess Board, Chess Players, End Game, Exposco, Game of Kings, and Next Move.


Jose Jimenez Y Aranda (1837-1903) was a Spanish painter born in Seville, Spain. He was an accomplished painter of genre, chiefly of scenes in high life. In 1883 he painted “An Interesting Game,” depicting two men playing chess. In 1899, he painted “The Chess Party.”

Jose Gallegos y Armoso (1857-1917), was a Spanish painter. He painted “A Game of chess,” depicting some cardinals playing chess. Giuseppe Aureli (1858-1929) was an Italian artist. He painted “Una partita difficile a scacchi.” It depicts two priests playing chess as a lady watches.

Minas Avetisyian (1928-1975) was an Armenian painter. In 1971, he painted “Chess Players,” which was later destroyed by fire. In 1972, his studio caught fire and many of his paintings burned. Some of the burned pictures were later reproduced from photographs taken earlier.

Samuel Bak (1933- ) was born in Vilna, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania) and survived the Holocaust. The theme of chess appears in many of his paintings, such as “Board Meeting,” “Luna,” and “Quite Clear” (2000).

Vladyslaw Bakalowicz (1833-1903) was a Polish painter. He studied at the Warsaw School of Fine Arts, then relocated to Paris. In 1876, he painted “Louis XIII Inviting Richelieu to a Game of Chess.”


William H. Vanderbilt of New York. His chess painting was his last work. Bargue died of starvation at a charitable institution. The painting was later owned by Mrs. William H. Vanderbilt of New York. Victor Barthée (1887-1954) was a Russian painter. In 1936, he painted “Pao Boi and the Devil.”

Lubin Baugin (c. 1612-1663) was a French painter. Around 1630 he painted “Nature morte a l échiquier ou Allegorie des cinq sens” (Still Life with Chessboard or an Allegory of the Five Senses) which hangs in the Louvre. It features a black and white chess board with seven other objects.

Carle Becker (1820-1900) was a German history painter and was president of the Prussian Academy of Sciences. His 1892 painting, “Franz, Adelheid, and the Bishop of Bamberg” hangs in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. It is a scene in Goethe’s play where Adelheid and the Bishop of Bamberg play chess.

Francesco Beda (1840-1900) was an Italian Academic Classical artist. In 1880 he painted “Partita a scacchi minor mobility. She was most famous for her fresh and finely handled portraits. Her 1555 “Le Giocatrici de Scacci” (“Artist’s Sisters Playing Chess”) painting hangs in the Museum Na-rodowe w Poznaniu (National Museum in Pozan, Poland). The painting shows Anguissola’s three sisters (Lucia, Minerva, and Europa) playing chess.

* * *

**Adelheid and the Bishop of Bamberg** is a scene in Goethe’s play where Adelheid and the Bishop of Bamberg play chess.

**Charles Bargue** (1826-1883) was a French lithographer and painter. He is mostly remembered as the creator of a classical drawing course. One of his paintings from 1880 is entitled, “Le jeu d’échec” or “Die Schachspieler” (The Chess Game, also known as Playing Chess on the Terrace), a very nice oil painting depicting two French chess players with a kibitzer looking on. His chess painting was his last work. Bargue died of starvation at a charitable institution. The painting was later owned by Mrs. William H. Vanderbilt of New York...
White Knight Review

The Chess Players) which hangs 1555 he painted “Partita a Scacchi” sance and was trained by Titian. In and billiards. One of his paint-

life of his time. He painted scenes from the French middle-class social

tradition. His most famous paint-
ing may be “Daphnis and Chloe”, which is in the National Gallery in London.

He was perhaps the first to exhibit publically and to sell drawing stud-

dies. Many of his paintings are in the Louvre. Robert Bolling Brandegee (1848-1922) was an American painter. In 1890, he painted “The Chess Players.” It features a man and a woman engrossed in a game of chess.

Georges Braque (1882-1963) was a major 20th century French painter and sculptor who, along with Pablo Picasso, developed the art movement known as Analytical Cubism. In 1942, he painted “La Patience” which depicted a chess board.

Antonio Bresciani (1902-1977) was an Italian painter. In 1977 he painted “Gioco di scacchi” (Game of chess).

Frederick Arthur Bridgman (1847-1928) was an American artist and became known as one of the world’s most talented “Orientalist” painters. In 1881, he painted “An Interesting Game,” which hangs in the Brooklyn Museum.

Henri Brispot (1846-1928) was a French painter. In 1881, he painted “The Game of Chess,” depicting two cardinals playing chess as two others watch.

Lucy Madox Brown (1843-1894) was a British painter. In 1871, she painted “Ferdinand and Miranda Playing Chess,” depicting a scene from Shakespeare’s The Tempest.

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Vaclav Brozik (1851-1901) was a Czech academic painter. In 1880, he painted “Dagmar and Strange Ebbeisen at the Chess Table.” Lajos Brosh (1846-1910) was a Hungarian painter. He painted “The Chess Game.” It depicts an interior scene of a gentleman and a lady playing chess.

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Szymon Buchbinder (1853-1908) was a Polish painter. He painted “Partia Szachow” (Game of Chess).

Giulio Campi (1508-1573) was an Italian painter and architect. In 1550, he painted “La Partita a Scacchi” (A Game of Chess) around 1480, which hangs in the Musei Civici Arte Antica in 1923 and settle in New York City. He painted, “Chess” with two men playing chess, and another man watching. The chess board was set up wrong (black square was to the right).

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Louis-Robert Carrier-Belleuse (1848-1913) was a French painter and sculptor. He painted “Jouers d’échecs” (Chess Players).

Ludovico Carracci (1555-1619) was an Italian, early-Baroque paint-
er, etcher, and printmaker. In 1590, he painted “I Giocatori di Scacchi,” (the two chess players) which hangs in the Gemaldegalerie art museum in Berlin.

Ture Nikolaus Cedermstrom (1843-1924) was a Swedish painter who lived in Munich for most of his life. He painted genre scenes, most of which concerned the life of monks and priests. He painted “The Chess Players,” depicting a monk and a priest playing chess, as two other monks watch.

Stanislaw von Chlebowksi (1835-1884) was a Polish painter and was a renowned specialist in oriental themes. He painted “Chess Players.”

Paul Charles Chocarne-Moreau (1855-1931) was a French painter. He usually painted scenes of chil-

dren at play. He painted “Une Bonne Lecor” (A Good Lesson).

Nicolai Cikovsky (1894-1987) was a Russian painter who left Rus-

sia in 1923 and settle in New York City. He painted, “Chess” with two men playing chess, and another man watching. The chess board was set up wrong (black square was to the right).

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Richard Creifelds (1853-1939) was an American painter. In 1886, he painted “The Veterans” which is in the Brooklyn Museum but not on view. It depicts two older men playing chess, and another older man standing and watching.

Girolamo da Cremona (fl. 1451-1483) was an Italian Renaissance painter, illuminator and miniaturist of manuscripts and early printed books. He painted Partita a scac-chi” (Game of Chess) around 1480, which hangs in the New York Met-

ropolitan Museum.

George Cruikshank (1792-1878) was a British caricaturist and book illustrator. He was primarily known for his vivid political cartoons and his many book illustrations. In 1835, he sketched in color “Game of Chess” for the publishing house H. Humphrey. He did the illustrations for Dickens’ Oliver Twist.

Augusto Daini (1860-1920) was an Italian painter. He painted “Sacco Mattio,” depicting a cardinal playing chess with a woman.

Salvador Dalí (1904-1989) was a very prominent Spanish Cata-

lan Surrealist painter. In 1940, he painted “Two Pieces of Bread, Expressing the Sentiment of Love.” It depicts some slices of bread, a few crumbs, and a chess pawn. He painted it after playing a chess

Enjoyed some crumbs, and a chess pawn. He painted it after playing a chess
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Rudolph Ernst (1854-1932) was an Austrian Orientalist artist. He painted “The Chess Game.”


Henry Edridge (1768-1821) was an English landscape artist who became proficient as a painter of miniatures, portraits and landscapes. In 1810, he painted “Chess Player.”

Ludwig Deutsch (1855-1935) was an Austrian-born French Academic painter who painted “The Chess Game” in 1896. It depicts two Muslim players at a game of chess.

Thomas Eakins (1844-1916) was an American realist painter, photographer, and sculptor. He is considered one of the most important artists in American history. He was an art instructor at the Pennsylvania Academy until he was forced to resign because of a scandal from posing a nude male model before a mixed class. In 1876, he painted “The Chess Players” on a wooden board, not on canvas. It shows the artist’s father, Benjamin, watching two friends (Bertrand Gardel and George Holmes) play chess at the Eakins home in Philadelphia.

The painting hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts (Szepmuveszeti Museum) in Budapest, Hungary.

Ferdinand Victor Eugene Delacroix (1798-1863) was a French Romantic artist and a leader of the French Romantic School. He was born into an important French family and may have been the son of Talleyrand, whom he resembled. He was the most original muralist of the 19th century. In July 1847, he painted “Arabs Playing Chess.” The painting hangs in the National Gallery in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Delacroix visited North Africa in 1832 and he remembered the scene of Arabs playing chess in the streets. Delacroix said he used “baby’s eyelashes” to paint “Arabs Playing Chess.”

Josef Danhauser (1805-1845) was an Austrian painter who worked mostly in Vienna. In 1839, he painted “Game of Chess” depicting a Hungarian noble woman and a banker playing chess with several onlookers.

William Daniels (1813-1880) was known as the Rembrandt of Liverpool. He painted “The Chess Players.” It depicts a warehouseman named Mr. Breeze playing chess with his brother-in-law as Mrs. Breeze brings in some refreshments.

Honore Daumier (1808-1879) was a French printmaker, caricaturist, painter, and sculptor. He produced over 4,000 lithographic plates. He spent 6 months in prison because of a cartoon, Gargantua, which was an attack on Louis Philippe. In 1865, he painted “Les Joueurs d’échecs” (The chess players), which hangs in the Musee du Petit-Palais in Paris. He also painted “Les Saltimbanques au repos” in 1865, which depicts two players playing chess.

Cornelis de Man (1621-1706) was a Dutch Golden Age painter. In 1670, he painted “The Chess Players.” It is a painting of a man and a woman playing chess. The painting hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts (Szepmuveszeti Museum) in Budapest, Hungary.

Charles Loring Elliott (1812-1868) was an American portrait painter born in New York. He was considered the best portraitist of his day, specializing in bust portraits. In July 1859, he painted a portrait of Paul Murphy in his New York studio. The picture hung in the Manhattan Chess Club from 1884 to 2002.

Jehudo Epstein (1870-1946) was a Polish painter. In 1892, he painted “The Chess Game,” also known as “Jews Playing Chess.”

Edward Reginald Frampton (1870-1923) was an English painter who specialized in murals. He painted “Miranda e Fernando Gio- cano a Scacchi” or “Ferdinand and Miranda, from The Tempest, Act V”.

Salvatore Frangiamore (1853-1915) was an Italian artist. In 1912, he painted “Il Cardinale,” depicting a Catholic Cardinal playing chess with a lady.

Albert Joseph Franke (1860-1924) was a German painter. He painted “Two Chess Players” and “Chess Players.”

Jakob Emanuel Gaisser (1825-1899) was a German painter. In 1880, he painted “Une Table de Jeu Improvisée.” He also painted “Musketiers Playing Chess.”

Giovanni Garini (1846-?) was an Italian painter. Around 1880, he painted “Tocca a tè!” (It’s Your Move).

Jean-Leon Gerome (1824-1904) was a French painter and sculptor, known for his Academicism painting style of historical painting, Greek mythology, and Orientalism. In 1859, he painted “Arnauds Playing Chess.” In 1898, he painted “The Chess Players.” In 1870, he painted “Almehs Jouant Aux Échecs au Café” (Arabs Playing Chess in a Café). His chess paintings are part of the Wallace Collection in London.

Charles Dana Gibson (1867-1944) was an American graphic artist, best known for his creation of the Gibson Girl. In 1903 he etched “The Greatest Game in the World: His Move,” which shows a young couple facing each other across a chess board.

Francesco di Giorgio Martini (1439-1502) was an Italian painter and sculptor. He painted “Game of Chess” before 1500. The painting is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Duncan Grant (1885-1978) was a Scottish painter, known as a decorative designer. In 1971, he painted “Nature Morte Avec Un Matasse,” perhaps depicting a chessboard.

Charles Green (1840-1898) was a British painter. In 1874, he painted “A Game of Chess,” which is part of the John Noot Galleries.

Juan Gris (1887-1927) was a Spanish painter and sculptor who lived and worked in France most of his life. His works are closely related to Cubism. In 1917, he painted “El Tablero de Ajedrez” (The Chess Board). The painting hangs in the Modern Art Museum in New York.

Alessandro Gualdassoni (1819-1888) was an Italian painter. In 1870, he painted “Autoritratto,” depicting two men playing chess and crowded with onlookers.

Continued next Issue...
Franklin blamed his gout from too much sitting playing chess and not enough exercise.

In June, 1779, he wrote “The Morals of Chess” while in London.

In 1782, the wife of the Count de Segur often played chess with Franklin.

In 1783, Franklin played “The Turk” automaton at the Café de la Regence in Paris and lost.

One night in Passy, he was absorbed in a game of chess when the candles flickered out. Refusing to quit, he ordered someone to find more candles. It was then pointed out to Franklin that it was already light out. Franklin threw open the shutters and said, “You are right, it is daytime. Let’s go to bed.” This incident prompted him to write a letter to the Journal de Paris in April, 1784, about the concept of Daylight Saving Time. If during the summer months Parisians would shift their sleeping time seven hours earlier, a huge savings would occur by using sunshine instead of candles. Franklin’s habit was to stay up most of the night playing chess and getting up at noon.

Franklin returned to America in 1785.

In December 1786, he published an essay called “The Morals of Chess” in the Columbian Magazine in Philadelphia. He wrote: The Game of Chess is not merely an idle amusement. Several very valuable qualities of the mind, useful in the course of human life, are to be acquired and strengthened by it, so as to become habits ready on all occasions. For life is a kind of Chess, in which we have points to gain, and competition or adversaries to contend with, and in which there is a vast variety of good and ill events, that are, in some degree, the effect of prudence, or want of it. By playing at Chess then, we may learn: First, Foresight...Second, Circumpection...Third, Caution...And lastly, We learn by Chess the habit of not being discouraged by present bad appearances in the state of our affairs the habit of hoping for a favorable chance, and that of persevering in the secrets of resources....

He died in 1790.

In 1791, a Russian translation from the French reprint of The Morals of Chess was published in St. Petersburg.

In 1999, Benjamin Franklin was inducted into the World Chess Hall of Fame.

Franklin’s chess set is part of a traveling display called Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World. This exhibition contains over 250 original Franklin artifacts. The exhibition debuted in Philadelphia.
Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
you are the pioneer type and hold most people in contempt. you are quick tempered, impatient, and scornful of advice. you are not very nice. you play chess with dead people. people can’t wait until you are dead. you like to take back moves and don’t like touch move rules unless it’s your opponent who tries to take back a move. you should sell insurance. buy world-com stock. avoid passed pawns. (kornholi, smyslov, portisch, kasparov, najdorf)

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
you are practical and persistent in your chess games. you show no original thought. you have a dogged determination and work like hell to win, but you lose a lot of games. most people think you are stubborn and bull headed. sometimes you play chess with god. you are not very good at the endgame. you get into time pressure alot. you think astrology is a bunch of taurus. move your pawns with caution. avoid back rank mate. let others risk their own pieces. (spielmann, steinitz, eeuwe)

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
you are a quick and intelligent thinker and like to play speed chess. people say you are too boring. you are inclined to expect too much for too little. this means you are cheap. you have this hidden desire to beat up your father for pushing you into chess. most of your games are boring. you win with the nerd. pick up the pieces from the floor when you lose and the game is over. go home and start collecting stamps. (karpov, roth, short, kamsky, petrosian)

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)
you are sympathetic and understanding to your opponents and you give up draws too easily. your opponents think you are a sucker. you are always putting things off. that’s why you’ll never make anything of yourself. you like to take poisoned pawns. you think playing 1.f4 is for the birds. you like gambits. you like to push to the limit. push back and push your pawns forward. turn out advice from others; it will only get you mated sooner. (bird, benko, gelfand, anderssen)

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22)
your determination and sense of humor will come to the fore. your ability to laugh at your opponents for making bad moves will be a blessing because you’ve got a day coming you wouldn’t believe. you consider yourself a born leader. others think you are pushy. most leo people are bullies. you are vain and dislike honest criticism. your arrogance is disgusting. leo people are thieves. you expect people to throw gold coins at you every time you win a game. you don’t like to analyze your games with your opponents. leave the blitz games to others. (fine, rubinstein, tchigorin, tal, chigorin, capablanca)

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)
you are the logical type and hate disorder. this nitpicking is sickening to your friends. you are always adjusting your pieces. you are cold and unemotional and sometimes fall asleep while making love. you are good at blindfold chess, but have a poor memory at everything else. resentment and jealousy will only turn obligation into torture. new chess strategies will soon become apparent after you lose all your games. take up music and remember, pawns are the soul of chess, but queens are more fun. (phillidor, zukertort, koltanowski)

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
you are the artistic type and have a difficult time with reality. it’s hard for you to accept losses or that you won’t make it as a chessplayer. your desire to play good chess is overshadowed by your desire to be nifty and a decent man. someone is watching you, so stop staring back at your chess opponents. you suffer from penis envy. you are obsessed by flies on your head. trust that your seconds will be there for you and analyze your position while you are sleeping. explore your romantic side. see a shrink. fianchetto your bishops. (fine, rubinstein, ehlvest)

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
you are shrewd and cannot be trusted. you will achieve some success at the chess board. you may develop a drinking problem later in life. you lose games to idiots because you get too over-confident. you like to accept gambits, but you always lose being a pawn down. avoid the endgame. you have many secrets to share with only a few people. like being a nazi. answer questions with other questions until your curiosity is satisfied or when you pass out drunk. remember, a knight on the rim is dim, but a rook on a7 is heaven. (alekhine, nimzovich, tal, tchigorin, capablanca)

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
you are optimistic and enthusiastic when you play chess. you have a reckless tendency to rely on luck since you lack talent. people laugh at you a great deal because you play exactly as you think. you collect chess books but don’t read them. you prefer comic books, especially from mexico. you have an inventive mind and are inclined to play original openings. that’s because you are looking for a weak spot in your opponent’s game. you don’t know how to win with knight and bishop vs king endgame, so avoid endgames at all costs. you are a fast player and a fast lover. get away for the weekend. go shopping at k-mart for checkered tablecloths and play chess during a romantic dinner. (reshevsky, pillsbury, blackburne, timman, anand)

Capricorn (Dec 23 - Jan 19)
you are conservative and afraid of taking risks. you hate gambits. you don’t do much of anything and are lazy. this is why you lose games on time. opponents will win brilliancy prizes from you. you always end up in 2nd place and never take 1st place. you are a loner, but seem to like it that way. some areas of your chess life are better left unexplained. like all the games you threw to those Russians. Friends respect you for saying j’adoube when you adjust your pieces. indulge yourself. Play in blitz events. (keres, Browne, em lasker, teichmann)

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
you have an inventive mind and are inclined to play original openings. That’s because you hate to study openings. you lie a great deal. on the other hand, you are inclined to be careless and impractical, causing you to make the same chess mistakes over and over again. people think you are stupid. you like to kick people under the table. you are a pedant and easily lose your temper. go write a chess book. or a hundred books. no one will read them anyway. speak up for the timid chessplayer. say “check” real loud when you get your opponent in check. avoid isolated pawns. (spassky, mecking, reinfeld, chernev, loyd, gilgore, taimanov)

Pisces (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20)
look for the good things in life. Carry the American Express card and a weapon. The chess world is yours today, as nobody else wants it. You have a vivid imagination and often think you are being followed by the CIA, FBI or State Department. You have minor influence over your opponents and people resent your flaunting of your chess games. You lack confidence and you are generally a coward. You hate to lose, so give up the game and invent another one. Make random chess moves if you can. Give radio interviews when you can. Help a Jew and remember that moment the next time you feel lonely and useless (which is a lot lately). Take control and find strength with the revelation of your skills, talents, and potential. Go on a diet, but don’t eat you chess pieces. You have a tendency always getting in a bind. Accret all gambits. (brontstein, tartakower, mieses, schlechter, geller, maroczy, tarrasch, fischer)
gets ready to throw his pawns on the kingside 17.a4 g4?! [perhaps 17...h4 was better, with the threat of 18...h3 and restricting White’s moves] 18.Nh4 Ng6 19.a5 Bc5?! [may be too slow. Black should continue to put pressure on the kingside with 19...Rg8. 19...bxa5? 20.Rxa5 or 20.Ba3 opens up the game for White] 20.Ba3 [another alternative is 20.axb6 exb6 21.f4 or 20.f4 first] Rxax3 21.Rax3 [stronger maybe be 21.Qxa3 and 22.axb6. I wanted to double up the rooks on the a-file first] Nf7+! [Black may be giving up a pawn and not enough pieces to attack White’s kingside Black should get more pieces attacking the kingside with 21...Rhg8 and try to double up the rooks] 22.Bxa3 gx6 23.Rf1 Bg4?! [trying to protect the pawn rather than defending his kingside.

Black had to play 23...Rb7 to guard his 2nd rank from attack. After 23...Rb7 24.axb6 cxb6, now Black is defending the a7 square with King, Queen, and Rook. White will continue with 25.Rxa7 Qxa7 26.Rxa7 Rx7a7 27.Nf3, winning the pawn] 24.axb6 cxb6 [not 24...axb6?! 25.Ra8+ Kb6 26.Ra7a7 mate] 25.Rxa7 Qxa7 26.Rxa7 Kxa7 27.Qa4+ Kb6 28.Qe7? Rhe8 [28... Rhf8 fails to 29.Ng6] 29.Qxf6 Ka7 30.Ng6 Ra8 31.Qf7+ and Black resigned 1-0.
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