



# OPEN FILES III

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF COLLECTING

April 27 – October 29, 2017





Rafael Tufiño  
**Twenty Years of the Puerto Rican Poster in International Chess**  
 1986  
 30 x 23 1/4 in.  
 Serigraph  
 Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame  
 © 2017 Sucesión R. Tufiño

# OPEN FILES III

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF COLLECTING

Showcasing some of the most unique, historic, and fun artifacts acquired by the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) during the past five years, *Open Files II: Celebrating 5 Years of Collecting* includes 100 diverse objects from the institution's permanent collection. Though it has only been in Saint Louis for five years, the WCHOF has a 30-year history spanning four locations throughout the United States. *Open Files II* is the second part of an exhibition cycle in our third floor gallery that shows how the WCHOF's collection has grown in the time since its 2011 relocation from Miami to Saint Louis. Through sharing these artifacts with our visitors, we hope to honor both the donors that make these displays possible as well as the "chess family" composed of scholars, players, and enthusiasts, which we have formed over the past five years.

The WCHOF accessions artifacts as varied as pop culture-inspired chess sets, chess-themed advertisements, pins and posters commemorating important competitions, and archives belonging to members of the U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame. The institution acquires some objects in anticipation of upcoming exhibitions, while other donations, like that of the archive of 2014 U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Jacqueline Piatigorsky enhance or shape our exhibition program. The WCHOF's relationship with its sister organization, the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, which opened in 2008, also offers us a unique opportunity to collect artifacts related to elite tournaments like the Sinquefeld Cup, U.S. Chess Championship, U.S. Women's Chess Championship, and U.S. Junior Chess Championship as they happen on the Saint Louis Chess Campus.

Since the opening of the first part of this exhibition on September 29, 2016, the WCHOF has received a number of important donations. Among the most important of these is a rare and beautiful Hungarian chess set with pieces made of sterling silver and copper and featuring pearls, jade, and amethyst on their bases. Another highlight is Carl Ebeling's donation of the archive of World Correspondence Chess Champion, computer chess pioneer, and 1990 U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Hans Berliner. In this brochure, we share stories about a small selection of the artifacts on view in the exhibition. Authors include: Dr. Bradley Bailey, Associate Professor of Art History, Saint Louis University; Jon Crumiller, noted chess set collector; International Master John Donaldson, Mechanics' Institute chess director and 2016 United States Chess Olympiad team captain; Dr. Carl Ebeling, computer scientist; and Al Lawrence, Managing Director of the U.S. Chess Trust.

—Emily Allred, Assistant Curator, World Chess Hall of Fame

## Jon Crumiller

A longtime chess fan and competitor, Jon Crumiller has assembled one of the finest collections of antique chess sets in the world, including over 600 exquisite sets from 40 countries. The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) has showcased pieces from his collection in two exhibitions: *Prized and Played: Highlights from the Jon Crumiller Collection* (2013) and *Encore! Ivory Chess Treasures from the Jon Crumiller Collection* (2015). Crumiller's passion for chess sets extends to historical research—here he discusses a new highlight of the WCHOF's collection—a beautiful early-20th century Hungarian chess set donated by the Traci L. and Dr. Arthur B. Laffer family.

### The history of intricate Hungarian metal and enamel work, much of it in the form of elaborate jewelry, reaches back many centuries.



Hungarian artisans have honed their craft and passed down their skills through countless generations. Their hallmarks of precision and artistic beauty can be seen in the exquisite details of this chess set, dating from approximately 100 years ago.

The chess figures are medieval warriors ready for battle, and are constructed primarily of .925 sterling silver and a copper alloy with enamel overlays. "Jewel" adornments—cabochon semi-precious stones and inlaid pearls—add to the dazzling effect. The chessboard boasts military themes, with soldiers standing guard at each corner, and enameled armorials and battle scenes on each of the four sides. Although the sets are not overly fragile, they are intended solely for display, not for actual chess play. When not in battle formation, the pieces can be stored on the interior of the board-box, held firm by metal chains.

One would expect that the artisans of these sets would proudly reveal themselves via a stamp on one or more of the chess pieces, but the sets are typically unsigned and unattributed. Oftentimes these sets are designated "Austro-Hungarian," due to the manufacture of similar artifacts within the Austro-Hungarian empire (1867-1918), but some sets, such as this one, do have clues that identify more specific origins. Several of the pieces from this set are stamped "HUNGARY." Austro-Hungarian sets of this type are rarely found today, and auction records show that fewer than two dozen of them have been offered in the chess auctions over the past 50 years. They have always been highly prized by chess collectors and admirers of intricate metalwork, and their intrinsic value is affirmed by ever-increasing auction prices, especially over the past ten years.

—Jon Crumiller



Hungary  
**Silver and Copper Enamel Chess Set and Board**  
Early 20th century  
King size: 3 ½ in.  
Board: 22 x 22 x 2 ¾ in.

Silver, copper, enamel, pearls, jade, amethyst, and wood  
Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of the Traci L. and Dr. Arthur B. Laffer family



Above:  
Lori Matler  
**Boy Scouts of America Chess Merit Badge Launch Event**  
September 10, 2011  
Courtesy of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center  
of Saint Louis

Right:  
**Boy Scouts of America Chess Merit Badge**  
2011  
1 7/8 in. dia.  
Merit badge  
Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame  
© Boy Scouts of America

## Emily Allred

*Emily Allred is the Assistant Curator at the World Chess Hall of Fame. She has worked at the institution since 2013 and has curated or co-curated a number of exhibitions including Prized and Played: Highlights from the Jon Crumiller Collection (2013); Jacqueline Piatigorsky: Patron, Player, Pioneer (2013); A Memorable Life: A Glimpse into the Complex Mind of Bobby Fischer (2014); Living Like Kings: The Unexpected Collision of Chess and Hip Hop (2014); Battle on the Board: Chess during World War II (2015); and Her Turn: Revolutionary Women of Chess (2016). Here she writes about the Boy Scouts of America chess merit badge launch, an event that was made possible by Dr. Jeanne Siquefield.*

September 2016 marked the five-year anniversaries of two important events on the Saint Louis Chess Campus—the opening of the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) and the launch of the Boy Scout Chess Merit Badge.



These milestones would not have been possible without the vision, leadership, and support of Dr. Jeanne Siquefield. She and her husband Rex founded the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL) in 2008, and in 2011, they provided the funding to move the WCHOF to Saint Louis, creating the foundation for the city's eventual designation as the national chess capital of the United States. At the same time that preparations were being made for the opening of the WCHOF, Jeanne was leading the process to create the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) chess merit badge.

Involved with the organization for 30 years, Jeanne Siquefield is passionate about the BSA and the benefits that it provides to participants. When she learned that there had been discussions of creating a chess merit badge for 40 years, but it had not yet been realized, she dedicated herself to making it a reality. Through her friend Christina Gables, the Troop Committee Chair for Troop 400 of the Western Los Angeles Council, she was able to contact the National Executive Board and worked with Janice Downey, Senior Program Innovation Manager, to begin the process of creating the badge. Ralph Bowman, Jerry Nash, and US Chess helped develop the merit badge requirements, which include learning the rules of the game as well as its history, benefits, and etiquette, among other tasks. Scouts must not only learn how to play the game, but also teach it to another individual, ensuring that the benefits of chess are shared with others.



## While these requirements were being set, Jeanne organized the launch of the badge in Saint Louis.

Determined to create an experience that the first 20 scouts to receive the chess merit badge would remember for the rest of their lives, she contacted NASA to request that astronaut Greg Chamitoff attend the launch. In September 2008, Chamitoff had begun the first Earth vs. Space chess match while on the International Space Station (and completed the game after his return, finally conceding in December 2009). He played against the third grade U.S. Chess Championship Team and its chess club teammates from Stevenson Elementary School in Bellevue, Washington, but people around the world could vote on the Earth team's moves.

When this request was approved, Jeanne set to work training the first 20 recipients of the merit badge, who were members of the Great Rivers and Greater St. Louis Area Councils, so that they could receive the badge on the day of its launch. She also coordinated with the CCSCSL and the WCHOF to make the event part of the WCHOF's opening weekend, organizing a human chess game with the Boy Scouts as pieces and Grandmasters Ben Finegold and Hikaru Nakamura as the kings. Participants reenacted the Earth vs. Space game, which was reinterpreted by commentators Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan and chess champion and author Jennifer Shahade as a draw. Chamitoff gave the chess merit badge to the 15 scouts in attendance. Spectrum Studios documented the historic event.



Though the chess merit badge launch is tied to our opening, the Saint Louis Chess Campus has continued to be involved with the BSA. On July 13, 2016, we honored Kayden Troff, the first grandmaster to also earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a distinction received by only 4% of scouts. Troff's Eagle Scout project involved facilitating a chess camp for children with disabilities. The CCSCSL also teaches workshops for scouts hoping to earn the chess merit badge. Since its creation, 136,530 boy scouts have earned the chess merit badge, making it one of the fastest growing badges in the program.

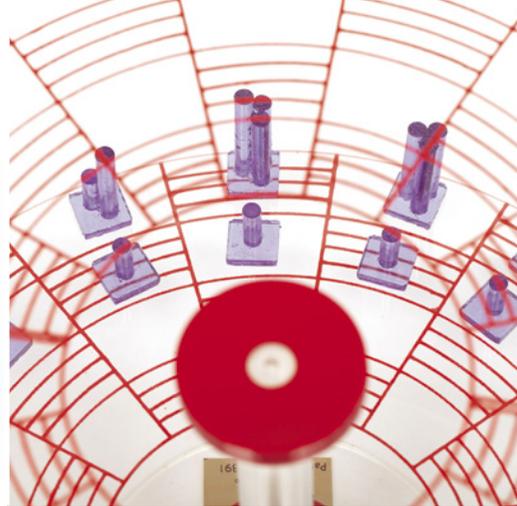
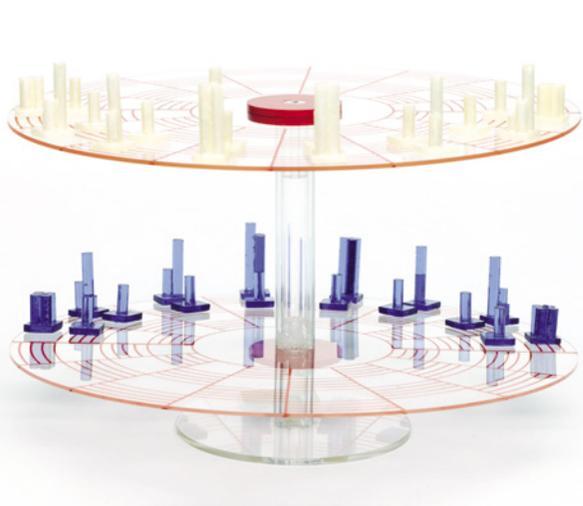
Austin Fuller  
**GM Kayden Troff, Dr. Jeanne Siquefield,  
 Thomas Kroenung, and Rex Siquefield at  
 GM Kayden Troff's Eagle Scout Ceremony**

July 13, 2016  
 Courtesy of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center  
 of Saint Louis

—Emily Allred

Top:  
 Lori Matler  
**Rex Siquefield, Dr. Jeanne Siquefield, and Astronaut  
 Greg Chamitoff at the Boy Scout Chess Merit Badge  
 Launch Event**  
 September 10, 2011  
 Courtesy of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center  
 of Saint Louis

Bottom:  
**Chess2Go**  
 2013  
 King size: 1 3/8 in. dia.  
 Board: 15 x 15 in.  
 Chess set  
 Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame,  
 gift of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis



Dimensional Games Unlimited, **4th Dimensional Games**, 1972. King size: 1 1/4 in. Board: 5 x 9 in. Plastic. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame



Creator unknown (inscribed MAD on base), **Arctic Chess Set**, 1988. King size: 5 1/4 in. Board: 16 x 15 3/4 in. Ceramic and wood. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame



Dick Johnson, **Marching Band Chess Set**, Date unknown. King size: 3 5/8 in. Board: 14 x 14 x 2 in. Wood and linoleum tiles. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame



**Dutch Chess Set**, c late 18th to early 19th century. King size: 2 7/8 in. Bone and fruitwood. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of John Donaldson



Rules by George Koltanowski. Produced by Nevada Layout Co. **Vegas Fun Chess**, 1963. 8 1/16 x 3 7/16 in. dia. Plastic and cardboard box. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Raquel Browne



Yury Garanin, **Chess Collectors International Gzhel Teapot Chess Set**, 1996. King size: 1 1/8 in. Board: 7 1/2 x 7 1/2 x 3 1/2 in. Gzhel porcelain. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame. Courtesy of exclusive distributor of all Gzhel products in the United States and Canada: St-Petersburg Global Trade House, [www.FromRussia.com](http://www.FromRussia.com)



Carnegie Mellon

## Dr. Carl Ebeling

Dr. Carl Ebeling was a graduate student when he worked with World Correspondence Chess Champion and computer chess pioneer Hans Berliner (U.S. Chess Hall of Fame, 1990) in the early 1980s at Carnegie-Mellon University. He designed the special purpose hardware for Berliner's Hitech chess computer, the highest ranked chess computer for several years. Ebeling was a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington from 1986 to 2012. He is currently at Intel Corporation. Here he writes about Berliner, whose archive Ebeling donated to the World Chess Hall of Fame in 2017.

## Hans Berliner hated hype and B.S.

One of the things that he loved about chess was that only the good ideas survived when tested over the board. In a sense, chess put the scientific method into practice: theories were proposed and tried with different variations until it was empirically determined which worked and which didn't. And he loved big ideas—he was widely known for his chess innovations—and he loved that there was a strong way to test big ideas.

Hans carried this love of chess and science over into his work on computer chess. In the early days of artificial intelligence (AI) research, there was a lot of hype and B.S. But there was no room for this in computer chess. In computer chess, you could not hide behind a facade of theories that sounded great. Your theories had to walk out on stage and actually perform where everyone could see them. Hans was successful not only in computer chess but also in computer backgammon because he was fearless at ignoring orthodoxy and trying new ideas until he found the big ideas that worked.



Sport Center  
**Hans Berliner's Third Place Trophy from the 1964 Boston, Massachusetts, Eastern Open 1964**  
 14 1/16 x 6 x 3 3/8 in.  
 Wood and bronze  
 Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Carl Ebeling

I worked with Hans during the years when Hitech was at the top of the computer chess world. What I enjoyed most was his drive to find the next good idea and his optimism that those good ideas would come. My best memory was how one day, even though he knew little about the computer hardware in Hitech, he asked a "why not" question that started a completely new way of using the hardware encode and apply large amounts of chess knowledge at high speeds. Hitech's performance improved in leaps and bounds after this—wit was the most exciting time of his career in computer chess.

It was my privilege to know Hans as both a mentor and friend. He will be remembered as someone who aimed high and achieved greatness in both chess and artificial intelligence.

—Dr. Carl Ebeling



Top:  
 Bill Redic  
**Hans Berliner and Dr. Carl Ebeling with the HITECH Chess Computer**  
 c 1985  
 7 7/8 x 9 3/8 in.  
 Photograph  
 Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Carl Ebeling  
 © Bill Redic

Bottom:  
 The International Correspondence Chess Federation  
**Hans Berliner's International Correspondence Chess Federation World Champion Medal**  
 1968  
 1 15/16 in. dia.  
 Medal  
 Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Carl Ebeling



## Al Lawrence

Al Lawrence is Managing Director of the U.S. Chess Trust, which was an early sponsor of the World and U.S. Chess Halls of Fame and continues to own a portion of the artifacts. Lawrence is a former executive director of the United States Chess Federation (US Chess) and of the World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney Samole Museum when it was located in Miami, Florida. He is a Chess Life columnist and author or co-author of more than a dozen books. Here he writes about the history of the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF), which goes back 30 years.

## Sometimes a roundabout journey leads home.

The U.S. Chess Hall of Fame was born in 1986 at the urging of E. Steven Doyle, then the president of US Chess. The organization spent \$10,000 on its first acquisition—the silver pitcher and goblets presented to Paul Morphy for winning the First American Chess Congress in 1857. This remains one of the WCHOF's most hallowed artifacts. In 1988, as US Chess Executive Director, I cut the ribbon on the opening gambit of the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame, which was modestly housed in the basement of our headquarters in New Windsor, New York. From the first, the Hall drew media attention. A photo taken by the Associated Press at its opening was widely reprinted in newspapers across the country.

In 1992, the U.S. Chess Trust purchased the institution and moved it to the tourist destination of Washington, D.C., where it gave visitors a chance to play a chess computer. In the late 1990s, the Trust, with the backing and imagination of electronics entrepreneur Sidney Samole, the pioneer developer of personal chess computers, and his son Shane, took a momentous step. The team received approval from the World Chess Federation (FIDE, or *Fédération Internationale des Échecs*) to add the World Chess Hall of Fame to the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame, expanding its scope and mission. The Samoles constructed a spacious wing at the Excalibur Electronics headquarters in Miami to house the museum. As its new executive director, I helped open yet another, expanded, dual Hall in Miami in 2001. Visitors entered through a giant rook and a dramatically darkened "Time Tunnel of Chess" to emerge among dozens of educational displays. Each inductee was honored with an engraved plaque.

Tragically, Sidney did not live to see the opening. However, Shane generously honored his father's legacy, multiplying the WCHOF's trove of artifacts and hosting the likes of Jose Raúl Capablanca's direct descendants as well as World Chess Champions Boris Spassky and Anatoly Karpov in annual induction galas.

In 2011, philanthropist Rex Sinquefeld, with the cooperation of the U.S. Chess Trust, brought the WCHOF to its own specially-designed building monitored by a team of museum professionals in the heart of Saint Louis, the city he has made the capital of chess. With the help of my assistant Gil Luna, I was delighted to pack up the chess treasures for their trip to Saint Louis, where they are now incorporated into rotating exhibitions at the new WCHOF and the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis.

—Al Lawrence



Top:  
Jim McKnight  
**Executive Director of the U.S. Chess Federation, Al Lawrence Unlocks a Showcase at the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame in New Windsor, N.Y.**  
April 7, 1991  
7 7/8 x 10 3/4 in.  
Photograph  
Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame  
AP Images

Bottom:  
Fidelity International, Inc.  
**Gambit Voice Chess Challenger**  
1987  
King size: 2 in.  
Board: 11 1/4 x 10 1/2 x 1 7/8 in.  
Chess computer game  
Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame



Vereenigde Fotobureaux, **Competitors Posing for a Photo During the 1928 The Hague, Netherlands, International Team Tournament and the Olympic Amateur Chess Championship**, 1928. 6 7/8 x 8 13/16 in. Photograph. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of the family of Jacqueline Piatigorsky



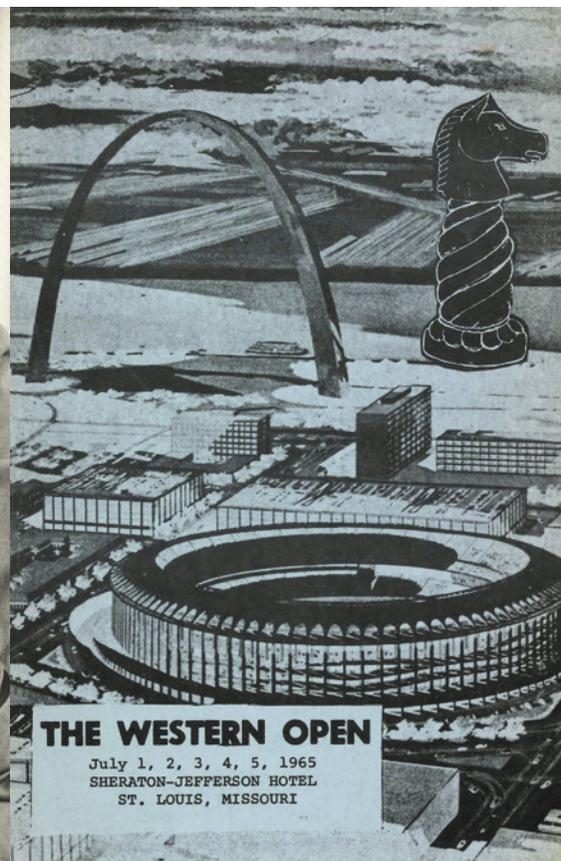
American Chess Equipment, **Signed Yasser Seirawan Trading Card**, April 2001. 4 x 2 13/16 in. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of John Donaldson



Rafael Tufiño, **40th World Chess Congress**, 1969. 27 1/2 x 19 1/2 in. Serigraph. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame. © 2001 Sucesión R. Tufiño



Nancy Roos, **Herman Steiner and an Unidentified Man Play Chess**, 1944. 10 x 13 1/4 in. Photograph. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of the family of Jacqueline Piatigorsky



Saint Louis Chess League, **Program from the 1965 Saint Louis, Missouri, Western Open**, July 1-5, 1965. 8 13/16 x 6 in. Program. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of John Donaldson



Grandmaster Walter Browne's **Team Bronze Medal from the 1974 Nice, France, Chess Olympiad**, 1974. 17 3/8 in. x 2 1/2 in. Medal with ribbon. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Raquel Browne



## Dr. Bradley Bailey

Dr. Bradley Bailey is an Associate Professor of Art History at Saint Louis University. Bailey has contributed to numerous exhibitions at the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) and curated *OUT OF THE BOX: Artists Play Chess* (2011), *U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame and Highlights from the Permanent Collection* (2011), and *Strategy by Design: Games by Michael Graves* (2014). Here, Bailey discusses score sheets documenting games between artist and chess master Marcel Duchamp and chess patron and player Jacqueline Piatigorsky. These are just a few of the numerous score sheets documenting games between Piatigorsky and artists, musicians, and chess luminaries.

It is unknown how, on November 11, 1961, the artist and chess master Marcel Duchamp came to play several games against 2014 U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Jacqueline Piatigorsky at New York's famed Marshall Chess Club—provided, of course, that the score sheets were being used at the club and not elsewhere. What is clear, however, is that the two were evenly matched, with a resignation from each and a draw in the third. Duchamp's address and phone number written on the back of one of the score sheets is an indication that they intended to continue the relationship. More ambiguous is the mention on the back of another sheet of a "position left at last lesson"—if it indeed applies to Duchamp and Piatigorsky, who was the pupil, and who the instructor?

## As the chair of the American Chess Foundation's Arts Committee for American Chess, Duchamp also shared Piatigorsky's renowned passion for chess philanthropy.

In the 1960s, Duchamp organized two major events to raise money for American chess players to compete in tournaments abroad. The first was a benefit auction of works he solicited from his artist friends, held at the Parke-Bernet Galleries in New York in 1961, which raised a total \$37,000. The second, the 1966 exhibition *Hommage a Caïssa* held at the Cordier & Ekstrom Gallery in New York, also featured an auction of chess-related work by his contemporaries and younger artists that raised nearly as much as the former. Several later photographs in the collection of the WCHOF dated October 12, 1963, attest to the continued relationship between the artist and the heiress. These photographs show Duchamp and his wife Alexina ("Teeny"), days after the opening of his retrospective at the Pasadena Art Museum (and his famously sensational chess game against a nude Eve Babitz documented by photographer Julian Wasser), with Piatigorsky at one of her many contributions to the game, the Herman Steiner Chess Club in Los Angeles, formerly the Hollywood Chess Group, which Piatigorsky renamed after the club's founder and her mentor after his death.

While I have been involved with numerous exhibitions and projects in a variety of capacities at the WCHOF since the museum moved to Saint Louis in 2010, the one that still stands out to me was the very first, which was one of the two inaugural exhibitions in the museum's new facilities. As most—if not all—of the artists in *OUT OF THE BOX* were in some way responding to Duchamp's considerable legacy as an artist and chess player, it was a natural follow-up to an earlier exhibition I had organized on Duchamp and chess in 2009, which was one of the many cultural events sponsored by the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL) to coincide with the first U.S. Chess Championship held at the CCSCSL.

—Dr. Bradley Bailey

Marshall Chess Club 23 WEST TENTH STREET NEW YORK II, N. Y.			
DATE: <i>November 11<sup>th</sup> 1961</i>		ROUND:	
TIME ADJOURNED—WHITE:		TIME ADJOURNED—BLACK:	
WHITE: <i>Marcel Duchamp</i>		BLACK: <i>Piatigorsky</i>	
White	Black	White	Black
1 P-Q4	N-KB3	31 B-R4	N-Q5
2 P-QB4	P-KN3	32 P-Q7	R-Q3
3 N-GB3	B-N2	33 N-B3	K-K2
4 P-K4	P-Q3	34 N-Q5	N-A3
5 N-KB3	O-O	35 R-Q	N-B
6 B-K2	P-K4	36 N-B3	R-Q5
7 P-Q5	Q-NQ2	37 B-N5	K-B2
8 O-O	N-B4	38 K-N	K-K3
9 Q-B2	P-QB4	39 K-B2	NXP
10 B-K3	N-K	40 B x N4	KxB
11 N-Q2	P-B4	41 K-A2	K-B3
12 P-B3	B-Q2	42 N-N5	RXP
13 R-N	P-B5	43 N-R7h	K-B2
14 B-B2	Q-N4	44 R-Q5	B-B3
15 K-R	P-KR4	45 N-N5h	K-B3
16 P-QN4	PXP	46 N-R3	R-Q5
17 RXP	P-QN3	47 RXR	KPR
18 N-N5	Q-R3	48 K-Q3	P-N4
19 B x N	QXPB	49 N-N	P-B5cb
20 R-R4	RXR	50 K-Q2	P-Q6
21 QXR	B-B3	51 K-R3	K-B4
22 Q-R7	B-Q	52 N-N	P-N5
23 NXP	N x N	53 H-B	P-B6
24 P-Q6	N-K3	54 Resign	
25 Q x B7	P-KN4		
26 Q-B6	N-Q5		
27 Q-R5cb	K-R2		
28 B-Q	Q-K3		
29 Q x Q	N x Q		
30 N-N	R-B3		

Above:  
Photographer unknown  
Jacqueline Piatigorsky with Marcel and Alexina  
"Teeny" Duchamp at the Herman Steiner Chess Club  
October 12, 1963  
Photograph  
Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of the family of Jacqueline Piatigorsky

Left:  
Score Sheet from 1961 Match at the Marshall  
Chess Club in New York City - Marcel Duchamp vs.  
Jacqueline Piatigorsky  
November 11, 1961  
8 7/8 x 5 1/4 in.  
Score Sheet  
Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of the family of Jacqueline Piatigorsky



Left:  
FIDE  
**International Master John Donaldson's Team Gold Medal from the 2016 Baku, Azerbaijan, Chess Olympiad 2016**  
1/4 x 2 5/16 in. dia.  
Gold medal with ribbon  
Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of John Donaldson



Right:  
FIDE  
**International Master John Donaldson's Team Bronze Medal from the 2006 Turin, Italy, Chess Olympiad 2006**  
3/16 x 2 5/16 in. dia.  
Bronze medal with ribbon  
Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of John Donaldson

## IM John Donaldson

*International Master (IM) John Donaldson has served as director of the Mechanics' Institute Library and Chess Room in San Francisco, California, since 1998. He worked for Inside Chess magazine (1988-2000) and authored over 30 books on chess. Donaldson has captained the U.S. national chess team on 19 occasions, most recently during the 2016 Chess Olympiad, where the Americans won team gold, the first since 1976. He is also a frequent donor of artifacts, and a writer and researcher for exhibitions at the World Chess Hall of Fame.*

**The 2016 Chess Olympiad, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, witnessed a historic moment for American chess and marked the twelfth time I have served as U.S. team captain.**

Looking back to my first tour of duty thirty years earlier in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, I cannot help but notice the similarities and differences between the two tournaments.



**Commemorative Azerbaijani Rug Chessboard from the 2016 Baku, Azerbaijan, Chess Olympiad 2016**  
18 1/4 x 16 in.  
Chessboard  
Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Mike Klein

Both Olympiads were prominent events for their respective host countries, the United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan, with each spending large amounts of money to organize them—the latter reputedly \$16 million. They each featured lavish opening ceremonies with heads of state in attendance. Playing conditions were top notch with no efforts spared, but not all was positive. The two Olympiads were boycotted—Dubai by Israel, whose players were not granted visas, and Baku by Armenia, whose teams feared for their safety. The proximity of nearby conflicts cast dark shadows over the competitions—in 1986 the Iran-Iraq War was in progress, and in early 2016, Armenia and Azerbaijan clashed over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, nearly leading to a full-blown war. Understandably security was tight at both events with armed guards everywhere. I can still remember Grandmaster John Fedorowicz, a member of the 1986 U.S. Olympiad team, being mistaken for a terrorist and interrogated at the Dubai airport.

While there were plenty of similarities between the two Olympiads, there were also many differences. The most obvious was the number of countries competing. Dubai set an attendance record as the first Olympiad to have over 100 teams in the Open section, but by Baku, the field had had increased to 170. Even more dramatic was the rise from 49 to 134 teams in the Women's competition.

# اولمبياد الشطرنج ٢٧



## دبي ٨٦

### الامارات العربية المتحدة



14 NOVEMBRE 2 DECEMBRE 1986

DUBAI

EMIRATS ARABES UNIS

27e OLYMPIADE D'ECHECS

The Dubai and Baku Olympiads featured dramatic finishes, with the winning teams only determined on the final day. The United States led both competitions going into the final round, but the teams of 1986 and 2016 had different fates. The former, which led throughout thanks in part to defeating the Soviet Union (Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan beat World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov), drew its last round match with Bulgaria to drop to third place. Things ended more happily in 2016 when the United States took home gold for the first time since 1976 and on the only occasion when a team from the Soviet Union or Russia competed. The United States team, which consisted of Grandmasters Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, Wesley So, Sam Shankland, and Ray Robson, with Alex Lenderman as coach, led from start to finish and did not lose a single match.



Mike Klein  
American Olympiad Team Posing with the  
Hamilton-Russell Cup at the Closing Ceremony of  
the 2016 Baku, Azerbaijan, Chess Olympiad  
September 13, 2016  
Courtesy of FM Mike Klein, Chess.com

### Technologically, the game has changed enormously over the past three decades.

Today teams prepare more professionally thanks to computers with large databases of games and powerful chess engines. Thirty years ago I spent 12 hours photocopying issues of *Tournament Chess* so our players would have access to their opponents' games, a task that I am glad is no longer necessary! Some progress has been welcome like the ban on smoking in the playing hall enacted in the early 1990s, but others like drug testing have not. The need

for anti-computer cheating measures is a regrettable but necessary evil in an age when silicon oracles have surpassed humans in playing strength. What has not changed the past three decades is that outside the World Chess Championship, the biennial Olympiad remains the most important event in the chess world.

—IM John Donaldson



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Above: Michael Waitsman, Synthesis Concepts Inc.,  
**The 1991 National Open in Chicago**, 1991. 16 7/8 x 21 7/8 in.  
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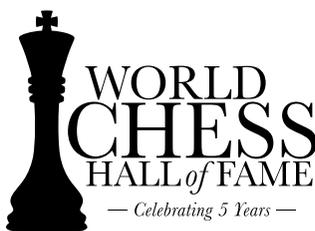
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