

CROWN JEWELS



HIGHLIGHTS

DONATION

Crown Jewels: Donation Highlights showcases 75 stunning chess sets, artworks, memorabilia, and other artifacts gifted by 50 donors to the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF).

Since the 2011 opening of the WCHOF in Saint Louis, Missouri, we have received thousands of unique and precious items from 250 donors. *Crown Jewels* pays homage to many of the incredible donations we have received from the chess community. We are bestowed with artifacts from many types of individuals and organizations, from people who have acquired sets while traveling abroad to avid chess collectors to libraries. These and many other offerings help us preserve chess history, allow people to conduct scholarly research, and bring exciting and innovative exhibitions to the WCHOF that will continue to engage the public.

Several artifacts in this gallery tell the stories of U.S. and World Chess Hall of Fame inductees, including World Chess Champions Garry Kasparov and Emanuel Lasker; Grandmasters Walter Browne, Lubomir Kavalek, Viktor Korchnoi, and Frank Marshall; International Master Donald Byrne; and John “Jack” Collins and Jacqueline Piatigorsky. Others illuminate our connection to the artistic side of the chess world and the relationships we have cultivated with individual chess collectors.

The exhibition includes some of our most prized possessions and many never-before-exhibited artifacts consisting of signed memorabilia, a bespoke chess set made for the Shah of Iran, and several ivory sets dating back to the 1800s.

Benefactors of *Crown Jewels* include International Master John Donaldson, who has contributed hundreds of items related to the history of the game as well as several Chess Collectors International members: Frank Camaratta, Jon Crumiller, Dr. George and Vivian Dean, Duncan Pohl, and the late Floyd and Bernice Sarisohn. Other donors include Edwin and Anne Munger and Harvey and Teddi Robbins, whose estates each donated over 300 chess sets to the collection.

I hope this exhibit will help highlight the significance of donated artifacts and further engage the community to reach out with any chess memorabilia they would like preserved for future generations. If you are interested in donating to our collection, please feel



free to contact our registrar at the World Chess Hall of Fame.

■ NICOLE TESSMER, REGISTRAR AND CURATOR OF *CROWN JEWELS*



Left:
Khaan Chess LLC,
Friendship Chess,
edition A65/99,
2017, Collection of
the World Chess
Hall of Fame, gift of
Khaan Chess LLC,
Photo by
Austin Fuller

Opposite:
Beau Rasmussen,
Tattooed
Warriors, 1996,
Collection of the
World Chess Hall of
Fame, gift of Edwin
and Anne Mungen,
Photo by
Austin Fuller





Maker unknown,
Marine Chess Set,
Date unknown,
Collection of the
World Chess Hall of
Fame, gift of Linda
Sher, Photo by
Austin Fuller



Maker unknown, Sri Lankan Chess Set, 1997, Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Bernice and Floyd Sarisohn, Photo by Austin Fuller



Hungary, Silver and Copper Enamel Chess Set and Board, Early 20th century, Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Traci L. and Arthur B. Laffer and family, Photo by Austin Fuller



Opposite:
Christoforus
Sklaventis, **Minoan
Chess Set**, 1975.
Collection of the
World Chess Hall of
Fame, gift of Harvey
and Teddi Robbins.
Photo by
Austin Fuller



Left:
Artist: Rita Ewing,
Cast by: Bob Van
Horne, **Medieval
Style Chess Set
Made for The
Shah of Iran,
Mohammad Reza
Pahlavi**, c. 1970s.
Collection of the
World Chess Hall
of Fame, gift of
Paul and Rachel
McCleary and
family. Photo by
Austin Fuller

CROWN JEWELS: DONATION HIGHLIGHTS

October 4, 2024–April 13, 2025

Curated by Nicole Tessmer, Registrar, World Chess Hall of Fame

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The WCHOF sincerely apologizes if anyone was omitted from the acknowledgements. We will update any further printings.



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WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME

4652 MARYLAND AVENUE, SAINT LOUIS, MO 63108

(314) 367-WCHF (9243) | WORLDCHESSHOF.ORG @[WORLDCHESSHOF](https://www.instagram.com/WORLDCHESSHOF)

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