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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World Chess Hall of Fame Debuts New Exhibit Highlighting 100 Objects from the Permanent Collection, Representing Over 125 Years Of Chess

SAINT LOUIS (April 11, 2017) — The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) in Saint Louis proudly debuts an innovative new exhibition, *Open Files II: Celebrating 5 Years of Collecting (Open Files II)*, on Thursday, April 27, with a public opening reception from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The exhibit will be on view through October 29, 2017.

The current exhibit is part two of an exhibition program celebrating the fifth anniversary of the WCHOF in Saint Louis and the vast collection of artifacts in the institution's permanent collection, obtained since 2011 through generous loans and acquisitions. The WCHOF debuted part one of the exhibition series, *Open Files: Celebrating 5 Years of Collecting*, in September 2016.

Open Files II showcases 100 select artifacts, illustrating the depth and breadth of the organization's collection. Highlights include materials related to the Saint Louis launch of the Boy Scout Chess Merit Badge; a rare Hungarian chess set made from sterling silver, amethyst, jade, pearls and copper donated by the Traci L. and Dr. Arthur B. Laffer family; chess-inspired artwork and other artifacts related to chess history and culture.

Other exhibition highlights:

- Artifacts related to the career of computer chess pioneer, World Correspondence Chess Champion, and 1990 U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Hans Berliner
- Posters created by famed Puerto Rican artist Rafael Tufiño
- Gold medal from the 2016 Chess Olympiad (the first won by the American team in 40 years) donated by U.S. Olympiad Team Captain International Master John Donaldson
- Score sheets recording unpublished games between artist and chess master Marcel Duchamp and 2013 U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Jacqueline Piatigorsky

The exhibit features generous contributions from a number of donors, including:

- Raquel Browne, wife of Grandmaster (GM) Walter Browne
- Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis
- Jon Crumiller and Grandmaster Ray Keene
- International Master (IM) John Donaldson
- Carl Ebeling, donor of Hans Berliner materials
- FIDE Master Mike Klein
- Traci L. and Dr. Arthur B. Laffer family
- Clarence B. Lester
- Peter Manion
- The family of Jacqueline Piatigorsky
- Gary and Joann Schell
- Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield

--More--

“We are extremely grateful to our patrons and supporters from all over the world whose generosity has made this exhibit possible,” Emily Allred, assistant curator, said. “Since 2011, the World Chess Hall of Fame has become a significant cultural and educational hub in the Saint Louis community and beyond and we look forward to sharing these treasures with our visitors.”

In conjunction with *Open Files II*, an installation of photography of the 2014 Sinquefeld Cup by Harry Benson CBE will be displayed at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. This complementary exhibition will celebrate the Sinquefeld Cup (part of the Grand Chess Tour) which is scheduled to take place in Saint Louis, August 3-12.

The WCHOF’s widespread acclaim has been complemented by the efforts of its sister organization, the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, an educational institution that focuses on teaching and promoting the game of chess. The combined efforts of the Saint Louis chess campus led to the United States Senate to declare Saint Louis the national capital of chess.

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Interviews with the Assistant Curator and tours can be arranged upon request.*

Admission to *Open Files II: Celebrating 5 Years of Collecting* is complimentary with a suggested donation of \$5.

WCHOF Hours: Monday–Tuesday and Saturdays (10 a.m.–5 p.m.), Wednesdays–Fridays (10 a.m.–9 p.m.) and Sundays (noon–5 p.m.)

Proceeds from Q Boutique, the gift store of the WCHOF, support the exhibitions and education programs of the WCHOF.

About the World Chess Hall of Fame

The World Chess Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization committed to building awareness for the cultural and artistic significance of chess. It opened on Sept. 9, 2011, in the Central West End after moving from previous locations in New Windsor, New York; Washington, D.C.; and Miami. The World Chess Hall of Fame is located at 4652 Maryland Avenue, housed in an historic 15,900 square-foot residence-turned-business, and features the U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame, displays of artifacts from the permanent collection and exhibitions highlighting the great players, historic games and rich cultural history of chess. The World Chess Hall of Fame partners with the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis to provide innovative programming and outreach to local, national and international audiences.

For more information, please visit the World Chess Hall of Fame online at www.worldchesshof.org or call (314) 367-9243 (WCHF). Visit our social channels: Facebook (@WorldChessHOF), Twitter (@WorldChessHOF), Instagram (@worldchesshof), and YouTube (www.youtube.com/worldchesshof), 5th Year Anniversary hashtag: #5YearsofChess.



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[PHOTO](#) CAPTIONS:

40th World Chess Congress

Rafael Tufiño

1969

Serigraph

27.5 in. x 19.5 in.

© 2001 Sucesión R. Tufiño



Boy Scouts of America Chess Merit Badge

September 10, 2011

1 7/16 in. dia.

Merit badge

Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame

© Boy Scouts of America



**International Master John Donaldson's Team Gold Medal from the 2016 Baku, Azerbaijan,
Chess Olympiad**

2016

1/4 x 2 5/16 in. dia.

Medal with ribbon

Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift from John Donaldson



Silver and Copper Enamel Chess Set and Board, Early 20th century

Board: 22 x 22 x 2 3/4 in.

King Size: 3 1/2 in.

Silver, copper, enamel, pearls, jade, amethyst, and wood

Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of the Traci L. and Arthur B. Laffer family

