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New Exhibition at The World Chess Hall of Fame
Explores the History of Staunton: The Game's Most Iconic Set

The Staunton Standard: The Evolution of the Modern Chess Set *features some of the earliest Staunton sets ever produced as well as fascinating variations through the modern day*

SAINT LOUIS (March 22, 2018) – When people think of a chess set, one iconic style comes to mind: Staunton. While many outside the chess world may be unfamiliar with the name, Staunton chess sets have been the standard in tournament play since they were first introduced to the public in 1849. *The Staunton Standard: Evolution of the Modern Chess Set*, a new exhibit opening April 12, 2018, at the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF), celebrates the Staunton chess set with a historic exhibition displaying some of the earliest Staunton sets ever produced as well as more contemporary incarnations of the style and additional artifacts related to Howard Staunton's legacy.

Though the design was originally created by Nathaniel Cooke, Howard Staunton—one of the top players of the 1840s—endorsed the set, lending his name and signature to its packaging as well as promoting it in his column in the *Illustrated London News*. The World Chess Hall of Fame committee inducted Staunton in 2016 for his accomplishments as a player and a writer, along with his efforts to standardize the rules of chess. Staunton style chess sets represent the culmination of an effort to create a standardized chess set for use in tournaments. Designed to be easily recognizable by players from countries around the world, the simple pieces are differentiated both by size and design and are still the standard used worldwide in tournament play today.

This unique exhibition includes over 40 chess sets from the collection of longtime chess fan and competitor, Jon Crumiller, whose personal collection of antique sets numbers over 600, including some of the first Staunton chess sets ever produced as well as fascinating variants on the pattern created from alabaster, ivory, lead, mother of pearl and tagua nuts, among other materials. Crumiller also loaned two books authored by Staunton that were once owned by influential American players Paul Morphy and World Chess Champion Bobby Fischer, as well as a chess set specially produced for the 1966 Havana, Cuba, Chess Olympiad.

These will be supplemented by artifacts from the permanent collection of the WCHOF and loans from Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, Frank Camaratta, Duncan Pohl, Joram Piatigorsky and Alan Buschmann. The Sinquefields will lend a Jaques Staunton chess set used by Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky in the historic third game of the 1972 World Chess Championship, when Fischer first defeated Spassky.

Camaratta is the founder of the House of Staunton and an internationally-recognized expert in antique Staunton and other playing sets. In addition, he is an accomplished chess player who formed the Computer Rating Agency and wrote the procedures, started and wrote the original guidelines for induction to the Hall of Fame.

The exhibition includes a set specially-commissioned by the Saint Louis Chess Club from House of Staunton, manufacturers of the world's finest chess equipment, for the 2013 Sinquefield Cup, a tournament that features the top players in the world. Attendees of the exhibition's opening reception will also witness the unveiling of a special project created by Camaratta. A Digital Game Technology (DGT) chess board will be displayed as another example of the contemporary evolution of Staunton style. These digital boards are used to register and record games, for live game transmission, training, online play, computer play and game analysis.

"The sets and artifacts in this special exhibit unfold the story of chess history, and particularly tournament play," said Shannon Bailey, Chief Curator of the World Chess Hall of Fame. "The fact that Staunton sets are still the standard of play today speaks to the innovation of their original design."

The Staunton Standard: Evolution of the Modern Chess Set opens at the WCHOF in the Central West End on **Thursday, April 12, 2018**. (Opening Reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) and will be on display through October. To attend the opening reception, please RSVP to events@worldchesshof.org. Two other exhibitions opening on April 12 include:

- [Painted Pieces: Art Chess from Purling London](#)
- [The Sinquefield Effect: The Resurgence of American Chess](#)

Media interviews with the curators can be scheduled by contacting Kiley Herndon at (314) 309-0799.

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 September 9, 2011, in the Central West End after moving from previous locations in New York, Washington, D.C.; and Florida. 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 Saint Louis Chess Club 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); Exhibition hashtags: #PaintedPieces, #StauntonStandard, #SinquefieldEffect