

## 7th Western Hemisphere Meeting of Chess Collectors International in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, September, 9-11, 2011

*Thomas Thomsen*

The Meeting coincided with the opening of the new "World Chess Hall of Fame" formerly located in Florida. Many collectors arrived in St. Louis a day ahead of our meeting to attend the opening ceremony in presence of the Major and many Chess Celebrities. The Hall of Fame is housed in an old brick building that was totally renovated by private sponsors located on Maryland Avenue across the old St. Louis Chess Club. On the ground floor is a chess shop and assembly rooms, the first floor is for exhibitions and the actual Hall of Fame is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.



### Opening Ceremony for the World Chess Hall of Fame.

The opening exhibition featured some 36 exquisite sets from the George Dean Collection, beautifully presented by Larry List. CCI members had the opportunity to view the sets in a guided tour.

The meeting started with a joint dinner in the hotel on Friday evening. Saturday morning was reserved for presenta-



### Floyd Sarisohn, Bernice Sarisohn, Thomas Thomsen at the Opening

Jon Crumiller presented an updated version of his remarkable computer program and database with information about chess auctions of the last 50 years.

George Dean and Larry List talked about the exhibition in the Hall of Fame.

After the guided tour of the exhibition and lunch the Boy Scouts presented a Living Chess Game on Maryland Avenue, followed by a presentation of the Space Shuttle Chess Board by Astronaut Greg Chamitoff. A new merit badge and booklet for Boy Scouts was introduced (you have to teach another Boy Scout the rules of Chess).

In the afternoon Jon Crumiller took us through a slide presentation of his exceptional collection of chess sets. The last presentation by Duncan Pohl was dedicated to his new book on American made chess sets for Collectors.