

Chesstamp Review

FOR SALE: A beautiful, full sheet of 25 trial colors of the Monaco 1967 for \$1800. A remarkable addition to any collection. This wonderful item is available from the Dutch Motiefgroep. If you are interested, please contact the editor. Please note that \$50 from the purchase will go into the COSSU treasury.



On October 24, the Dutch Chess Collectors will hold a chess-auction with 300 items. You can also obtain their auction list from their website <http://www.euwe.nl/uk/VEILING.HTML>. Bidding procedures are at: <http://www.euwe.nl/uk/veiltekst.html> and pictures of all the items at: <http://www.euwe.nl/uk/auctionpcs.html>. Send queries to nico.van.der.plas@ziggo.nl

Chesstamp Review #135

Volume 31 Number 2

Jul-Sep 2009



A unique Waterlow envelope? (story, page 3)



Check your collection! Do you know which of these two stamps has a Domfil catalog value of \$122? (story, p. 5)



Chesstamp Review

Chesstamp Review is the official journal of the Chess-on-Stamps Study Unit (COSSU) under the auspices of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and the American Topical Association (ATA). *Chesstamp Review* is published four times yearly. ©2009. All rights reserved.

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COMMUNICATIONS: Please direct all inquiries dealing with membership (renewals, change of address, etc) to the Secretary/Treasurer. Please direct all other communications to the Editor.

EDITORIAL POLICY: We welcome articles on all aspects of chess philately. Articles about other chess collectibles at the editor's discretion. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by COSSU, APS, or the ATA.

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Chesstamp Review

Welcome to Jon Edwards as the new editor of the ChessStamp Review!
Enjoy the articles!

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The owner, Pierre Wertheimer, has specialized in supplying hard-to-find items to advanced collectors for the past 30 years.

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President's Message

Ray Alexis

I am delighted to share some great news with the membership! A close friend as well as a widely known writer and chess enthusiast - Jon Edwards - is our new editor effective immediately. Congratulations, Jon!!

This - his first issue - is proof positive that we are all in for a treat. My only plea is that members support Jon now and well into the future by sending him interesting articles and tidbits for publication.

I will continue as President and will support Jon as he deems necessary from all perspectives. Jon's enthusiasm is contagious as you will soon come to know if you do not already know him. I know this for certain. He has already instituted some major changes as will be evident in this, his initial voyage.

Good luck and good sailing, Jon

Ray Alexis

WELCOME TO NEW COSSU MEMBERS!

Robert R. Jackson

301 Teakwood Lane
Cedar Hill, TX 75104

Eli Rockowitz

70 Hehaluttz
Bet Hakerem
Jerusalem 96269, Israel

Pierre Wertheimer

58 Wickham Drive
Pittsboro, NC 27312

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On the Cover: A unique Waterlow envelope

Jon Edwards

The proofs of the first Cuban chess issue of 1951 are beautiful, hard-to-find, and quite expensive (\$1,200-1,600 US for a complete set). Even at that price, good luck in finding a complete set for sale! The German Henninger catalogue includes them with the following remarks:

1. Overprint (20° angle) with the words "waterlow & sons ltd" above the text "specimen;"
2. Coloring of some of the stamps is different than the original issued stamps;
3. A small 1-2 millimeters hole is punched in the lower left part of each stamp;
4. The 25c stamp has a different stamp-image then the originally issued stamp.



Note that these legitimate proofs are quite distinct from the large hole "proofs," which are frequently for sale and which Nico von der Plas and I believe are forgeries.

An article, "Waterlow sample Stamps" by Marcus Samuel, in THE ESSAY-PROOF Journal No. 109, 1971 notes:

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SSS: Build your collection affordably!

There's a stock of these items, so the prices are low!

Poland postmarks (\$1.10 each, \$2 for souvenir cachet)

Nakeczow 25Jul79, **Krosno Odranski** 22Mar83, **Polanica Zdroj** 3Aug83, **Poznan** 5Sep83, **Bydgoszcz** 11Sep83, **Bydgoszcz** 5Feb84, **Andrychow** 18Aug84, **Nakeczow** 15Jul84, **Polanica Zdroj** 4Aug84, **Bydgoszcz** 30Jan85, **Bydgoszcz** 22Sep85, **Polanica Zdroj** 8Apr85, **Poznan** 9Sep85, **Bydgoszcz** 86-02-03, **Bytom** 02Feb86, **Gdansk** 20Apr86, **Otwork** 30May86, **Bydgoszcz** 2Feb87, **Myslenice** 4Apr87, **Polanica Zdroj** 4Aug87, **Rewal** 10Sep87, **Poznan** 23Oct87, **Bydgoszcz** 7Apr88, **Myslenice** 16Apr88, **Polanica Zdroj** 4Aug88, **Poznan** 12Sep88, **Bytom** 11Jun88, **Poznan** 24Feb89, **Chorzow** 11Mar89, **Polanica Zdroj** 3-16Aug91, **Polanica Zdroj** 14Aug92, **Polanica Zdroj** 15Aug93, **P. Zdroj** 20Aug94, **Us-tron** 30Apr94, **Poznan** 14Oct95, **Polanica Zdroj** 15Aug95, **Zagan**, 25Jun95, **Lukow** 25Nov95, **Polanica Zdroj** 15Aug96 **Bydgoszcz**, 9Jul99

Chess postmarks from Hungary (souvenir covers, \$1.75 each)

Budapest, 1May91 **Budapest**, 18Jun91 **Budapest**, 3Jun91 **Budapest**, 14Sep91 **Budapest**, 10Oct91 **Budapest**, 21Sep91 **Budapest**, 7Nov91 **Budapest**, 30Oct92 **Budapest**, 31Oct92 **Debrecen**, 20Nov92 **Gyula**, Hungary 6Nov92 **Budapest**, 6Feb93 **Budapest**, 13Feb93 **Budapest**, 2-16Mar93 **Budapest**, 17Mar93 **Budapest**, 17May93 **Budapest**, 16Jun93 **Szombathely**, Hungary 25Jun93 **Gyula**, Hungary 30Oct93 **Budapest**, 22Oct93 (Fischer) **Gyola**, 7 Nov94 **Budapest**, 7Dec94 **Budapest**, 30May95 **Budapest**, 14Jun95 **Budapest**, 22Nov95 **Budapest**, 24Feb96 **Budapest**, 29Feb96 **Budapest** 23May96 **Budapest**, 14Sep96 **Budapest**, 9/15Oct96 **Lakitelek**, Hungary 9Aug96 **Siofok**, Hungary, 5Sep96 **Szekszard**, Hungary, 14Sep96 **Budapest**, 23Nov96 (EuroCup) **Budapest**, 23Nov96 **Budapest**, 3Dec96 **Budapest**, 10Dec96 **Mol**, Hungary, 5Oct96 **Budapest**, 03Jun97 **Budapest**, 24Jun97 **Blatonbereny**, 24Jun97 **Mor**, 1Mar97 **Budapest**, 21Oct97 **Koseg**, 25Nov87 **Budapest**, 17Mar98 **Budapest**, 22Apr98 **Budapest**, 24Jun98 **Budapest**, 9Jun98 **Budapest**, 27May98

Chess postmarks from India (\$2.40 each)

Anna Road 18Jul81, **Calcutta** 20Feb89 **Calcutta**, India, 4Dec96

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SSS: Society Sales Service

All of these Kent Snyder items are one of a kind and so, it's first come, first served. Proceeds go to COSSU. Send all inquiries to jedwards@princeton.edu. Payment to the editor via Paypal at the above e-mail address or by check (but please reserve your purchase before remitting). Please add \$2 for shipping to all orders. Full refund if not fully satisfied.

Iran SS (of 6v), Games of the 20th Olympiad, 1972	\$15
Israel 1976 Olympic Games 2v full sheets of 15	\$12
Israel 1976 limited edition page sized souvenir card with signature	\$12
Lebanon 1973 crafts 8v (chess is 1v) (Scott\$30)	\$14
Lebanon 1973 chess 1v FDC with cachet	\$5
Mali 1974 21st Olympiad in Nice, 1v perf	\$2.50
Mali 1974 block of four, perf	\$10
Mali 1974 imperf pair	\$20
Mali 1974 imperf single	\$12
Netherlands Antilles 1962 3v FDC (rook and ships)	\$7
As above, FDC with knight with star cachet	\$5
Nicaragua 1963, complete set of 13v (chess is 1v)	\$15
Nicaragua 1976 complete set of 11v in corner blk4!	\$45
As above, set on FDC (no cachet)	\$3
Oman 1970 set 5v (1v is chess) imperf with tab	\$20
Spain 1955 1v mint Quevedo	\$25
Yemen 1967 1v perf	\$12
set of 8v (one is chess) imperf	\$25
Yugoslavia 1950 set of 5v mint	\$15
FDC of set (Harbour cachet, red p/m)	\$20
FDC of set (English text cachet, red p/m)	\$12

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Waterlow, continued...

"Early in 1968, the Private Treaty Department of Robson Lowe Ltd was entrusted with the disposal of a large stock of stamps which had been prepared by Waterlow & Sons Ltd (who had ceased producing postage stamps by that time) for use as samples of their work when they were attempting to secure printing contracts. ... The stamps were contained in a series of envelopes, on the fronts of which were inscribed in manuscript the firm's reference numbers for the stamps they contained, prefixed by the letters "S.T." (the significance of which remains unknown) and to which were affixed single examples of the stamps they contained, generally imperforate and unpunched, with and without overprints, in the latter instance defaced by scratches or pen strokes."

On the cover of this issue of the bulletin is one of those envelopes. It contains the 2 centavo and 8 centavo airmail Waterlow proofs with the 2mm control punches. The two specimens were pasted on the official envelope with a Waterlow and Sons seal on back. The envelope contains official notations including what appear to be die numbers 3186 and 3187.

It seems logical that this envelope contained some or all of the chess specimens that were later sold in the Robson Lowe Ltd sale. If so, it may be unique, or one of only a few envelopes that contained the chess proofs.

The Robson Lowe sale was advertised in Linns Stamp News on April 22, 1968. Their catalog states that in 1968, Robson Lowe Ltd were instructed to sell a wonderful "find" of these sample stamps.

The 1951 proof set sold originally for only \$43.50... blocks of four were available for the 1c, 2c, 5c, and 10c. Purchases were limited to four sets (or one block of 4)/ person.

Just one ad, but Robson Lowe sold out quickly!

Information needed on Groningen 1946

Rob Bijpost will be sharing a summary of all registered 1946 Groningen covers in issue #136. If you have relevant data, please share it with him at Rob Bijpost, Kanaalweg 22, 1775AL Middenmeer, The Netherlands or send him an e-mail at: r.bijpost@quicknet.nl

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The Canadian Tukker

By Nico von der Plas

In 2004, the Caissa foundation (Hengelo, The Netherlands) issued a so-called Tukker. For a limited period of time, owners could use this Tukker as official payment in Hengelo, the Netherlands. 1 Tukkert had a counter value of 1 euro.



Is such a temporary payment coin unique? Not really....

15 years earlier in Alberta Canada, the village of Hinton issued a Hinton Cougar Rand. I always thought it was a token until I noticed some small letters and looked at them through the magnifying glass. Before Hinton it says "value \$1 in Hinton" and after Alberta "expires 31 Dec. 1989." This Cougar Rand could be used as an 'official' local payment coin in Hinton.



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Lot #5: Full sheet with tabs of **Israel 1964**, Scott 270. One of the stamps contains a green blotch error. **Start bid \$20!**

Lot #6

Dahomey 1974,
Scott C204-5, Two
(2) deluxe sheets
commemorating
the 1974 Olympiad
in Nice.

Flexa: \$60

Domfil: \$159

Start bid: \$40!



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Lot#2:

Cuba 1962. 29 of the 30 stamps in the 1962 sports series (missing one 9c value) in blocks of 5 (the 9c value is a block of 4).

Domfil lists the set at \$67; Scott 2007 lists the whole set at \$25, and Flexa at \$30, but these blocks are hard to find. Scott 713-742

Start bid: \$15!



Lot #3: Dominican Republic 1967 souvenir sheet with spectacular printing shift on the left stamp. Flexa says \$50. Scott SS C152

Start bid: \$20!



Lot #4:

Cameroun 1974 Deluxe Sheet commemorating the 21st Chess Olympiad in Nice. Scott C221

Flexa: \$300

Domfil: \$83

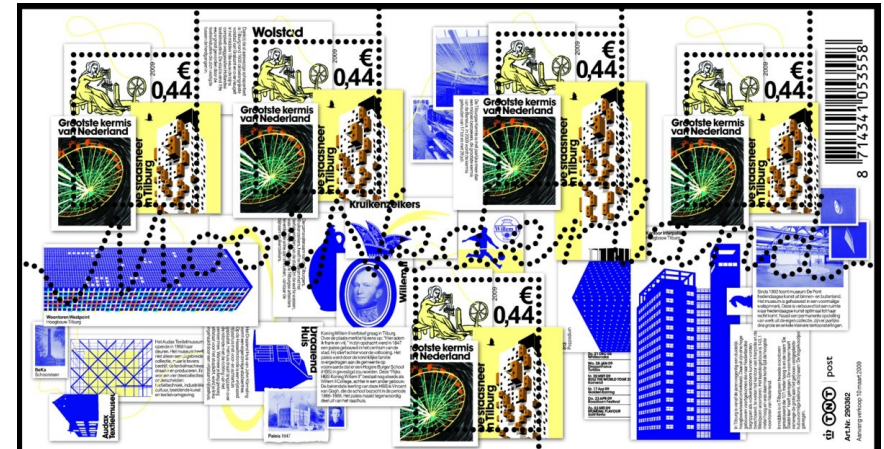
Start Bid: \$40!



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A new Chess Stamp from the Netherlands!

Rob Bijpost



On March 10, 2009, the Netherlands issued this sheet commemorating the province of Brabant in the "Beautiful Netherlands" series. On the sheet are some remarkable items in the province. Russian chess collector Vladislav Amigud sent me an e-mail requesting information about the horse contained on the right side of the sheet.



On inspection, it must be a chess knight because, above the skyscrapers in fine print is the notation: office Interpolis. They are, of course, a large insurance company with their office in the province and the sponsor of the Tilburg international chess events as we well know from their meter posts in the 1980s. And so, there can be no doubt about what the "horse" represents. The knight refer to the Tilburg chess tournaments!

1964 Olympic team autographs

Gadi Tessel

Autographs, particularly on philatelic items, have been the subject of several articles in previous issues of Chesstamp Review. Following the saying "if you can't beat them, join them," we have decided to offer our little contribution to the discussion in this field.

As we all know, the 1964 chess Olympiad was held in Tel Aviv. The Soviet Union team boasted of no less than four World Champions: Former champions Mikhail Botvinnik and Vassily Smyslov, the reigning champion at the time Tigran Petrosian, and the future champion Boris Spassky. The other two members of the team were Paul Keres (undoubtedly a player of world championship caliber) and the USSR champion, Leonid Stein. The captains of the team were Geller and Boleslavski, both of whom came quite close to challenge the world title. With this lineup, it was little surprise that the Soviets comfortably won the event, and retained the Hamilton-Russel cup.



Shown here is a first day cover for the two Israeli stamps issued to commemorate the event (Scott #260-270), cancelled at Tel Aviv. The cover bares the autographs of five of the team members and the two captains, with Spassky being the only absentee. A previous owner has listed the names of the signing champions (in the order of their appearance) using a pencil and in the Cyrillic alphabet, just below the right hand side stamp.

Figure 4: UX 14 Postal Card sent internationally March 31st, 1899 from New York City with steel duplex postal clerk station 'E' cancel & outgoing handstamped French denomination 5 Centimes 'Taxe' per postal protocol as short paid by one cent. The postage due was converted to the local denomination on receipt at the destination point, in this case '1d' (one penny) with 'F.B.' probably standing for Foreign Branch. Since this is addressed to the 'International Bank,' I'm guessing that the two 'IB' handstamps were internal markings applied by the addressee after received there.

The American Chess Magazine had a short life span of only two years yet on the horizon beginning in June of 1904 the American Chess Bulletin, under the capable hands of Hermann Helms, would last for nearly 60 years! Yet this story is for a future issue of Chesstamp Review!

COSSU Auctions

Here's a great way to add a nice item to your collection and help COSSU! The following items are from the Kent Snyder collection. **All proceeds go directly to the COSSU Treasury**, so bid early and often. The winning bid will be at one increment above the second highest bid. Very low starts so these will sell! Add \$2 for shipping. Auction closes on **November 1, 2009**.

Lot #1:

Yemen deluxe sheet, 1967 Painting from the Alfonso X Manuscript "Moorish Art in Spain"

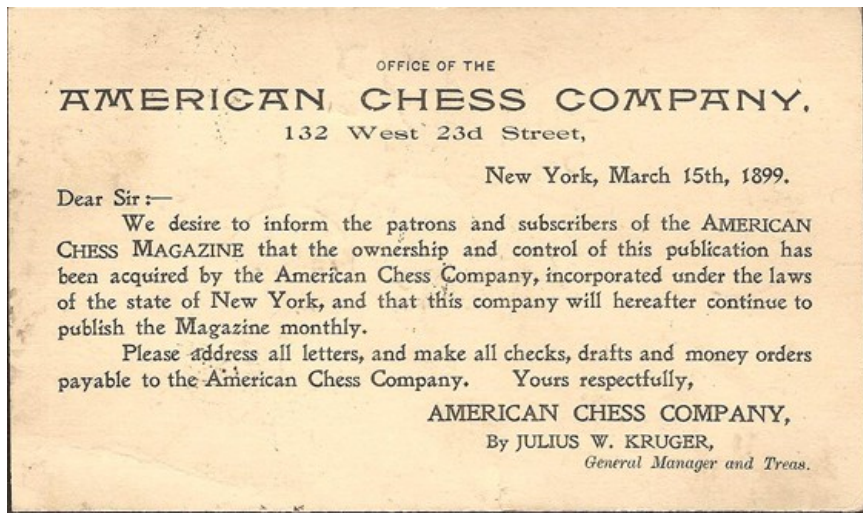
Flexa catalog: \$50
Domfil catalog: \$88

Start bid: \$25!

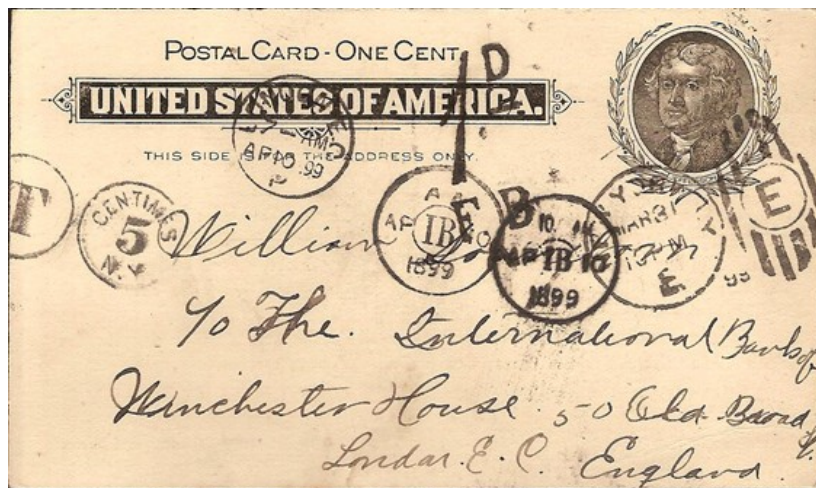


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The original address of the magazine was 3-7 Beckman Street, New York. Still in the later part of 1897 publication was removed to 912-914 Race Street Philadelphia, PA under the editorship of L.D. Broughton Jr. The final address would be 132 West 23rd Street after ownership of the publication was acquired by the American Chess Company.



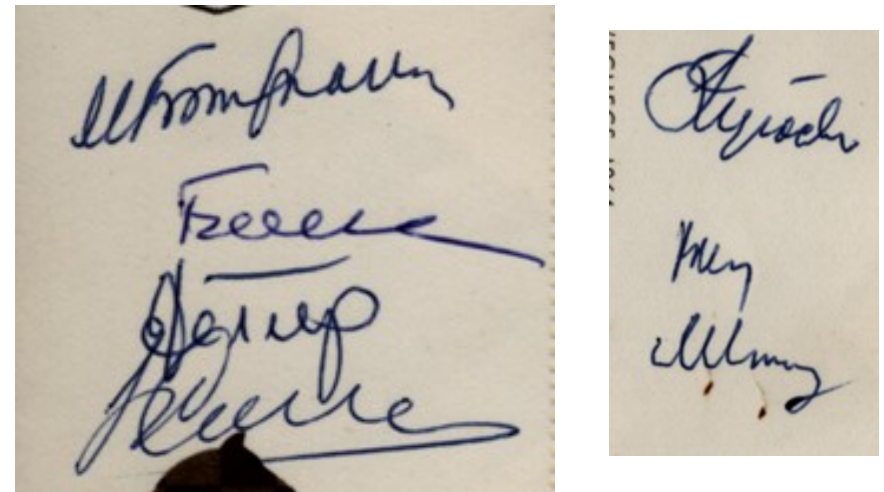
These efforts to save the publication met with little success and the June, 1899 issue would be its last. The journey of this postal card as shown below is somewhat indicative of the financial difficulties the magazine faced.



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The top left section (above the cachet) includes the autographs of Botvinnik, Boleslavski, Geller and Smyslov. The remaining autographs, below the stamps, are of (left to right) of Petrosian, Keres and Stein.

Are the autographs authentic? This is always a major concern, and it is extremely hard to rule out forgery. However, we have found that the autographs of Botvinnik, Geller, Petrosian and Keres are very similar to those published in previous issues of Chesstamp Review (see CR #112, p. 31, and CR #121, p. 8). We feel it is extremely unlikely that anyone would want to add a forged signature of Stein to an authentic signature of Botvinnik, so we conclude that all autographs shown here are genuine. However, any confirmation by our readers is more than welcome.



On the left, Botvinnik, Boleslavski, Geller, and Smyslov.

On the right, Petrosian, Keres, and Stein.

Finally, it is interesting to note that all the autographs excluding Boleslavski were written with the same pen. This enhances our confidence that the item is genuine. Clearly, someone managed to corner the entire team and persuaded them to honor him (or her) with their autographs. Judging by its location, it is likely that Boleslavski was, in fact, the first to sign the cover, possibly on a different opportunity. His colleagues, presented with a cover bearing a single autograph, added their own.

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Check your chess stamps carefully

In 1980, Malta issued a set of three stamps (Scott 577-79) commemorating the Chess Olympiad in Valletta. Normally printed in gray, the high 30s value was also printed in green (see the cover photos). The variety is rare, but shows up from time to time. For example, Malta issued an information sheet that contains the set of three with a FDC cancelation. Some of these information sheets contain the error!



On close inspection, this common-looking Israeli FDC is extraordinary because both stamps contain an error. The stamp on the left features the green blotch error, while the stamp on the right has the dot in ring variety. The odds of having one error on the FDC are better than 1:12 because not all sheets have errors. The odds of having both? Much better than 1:144, making this cover a very nice addition to any chess-on-stamp collection.



This chess stamp from the Dominican Republic contains a very rare and little known plate flaw. There's a thin white line leading left from the torso of the knight. So check your stamps. There may be buried treasure in your collection.

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Figure 2: Sent from Madison Square to Chicago March 15, 1899 with steel duplex cancel and franked with 1-cent Trans-Mississippi stamp on Private Mailing Postcard.

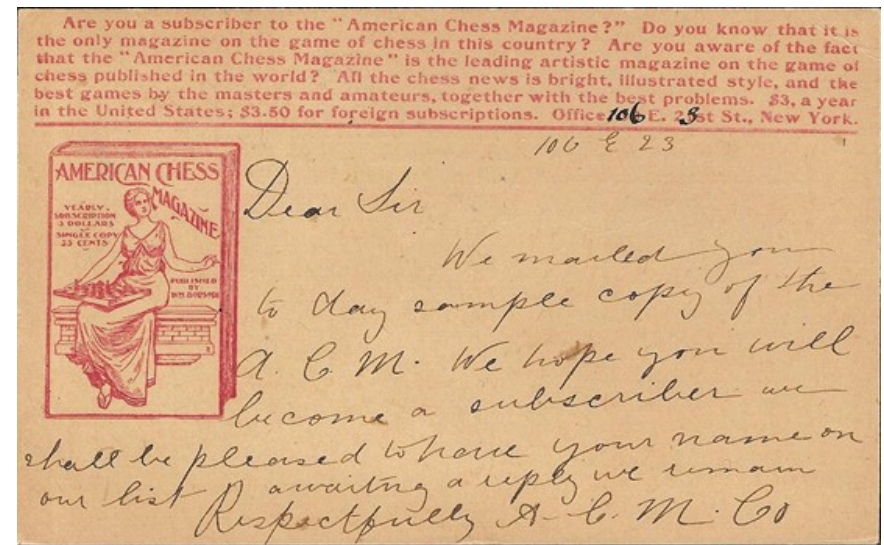


Figure 3: Note the lack of address in illustration & the penned change of address on the reverse side of postcard, which was most likely part of a regrouping in order to run a more cost effective publication.

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The American Chess Magazine 1897-1899

NM Richard Benjamin

The inaugural issue of the American Chess Magazine was published by William Borsodi in June, 1897 under the editorship of Charles Devide. Leading players of the day including Pillsbury, Showalter, & Hodges contributed and the magazine received rave reviews. The monthly periodical secured a number of advertisers by its second issue, was promoted with illustrated mail, and seemed well on its way to becoming a long standing mainstay in the world of chess. Historians of today consider it to be one of the best chess publications ever produced.

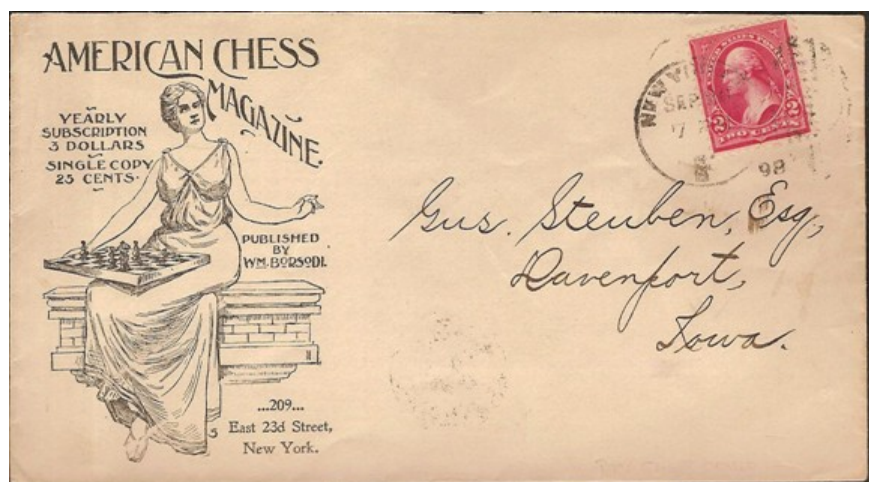


Figure 1: Sent September 26, 1898 with New York steel duplex cancel to Davenport, Iowa with Sep. 29 receiver on reverse.

Certainly, the wonderful illustrations and breadth of worldwide coverage was remarkable with seemingly every facet of the game reported on including tournaments, clubs, correspondence play, game analysis, composed studies, leading players, history, and much more. However, much like its predecessors, the American Chess Magazine would have financial difficulties trying to balance its subscriber base with the costs of production. By 1899 cost cutting was in effect with the use of Private Mailing Cards which could be used for correspondence and promotion at half the cost.

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Classified Ads

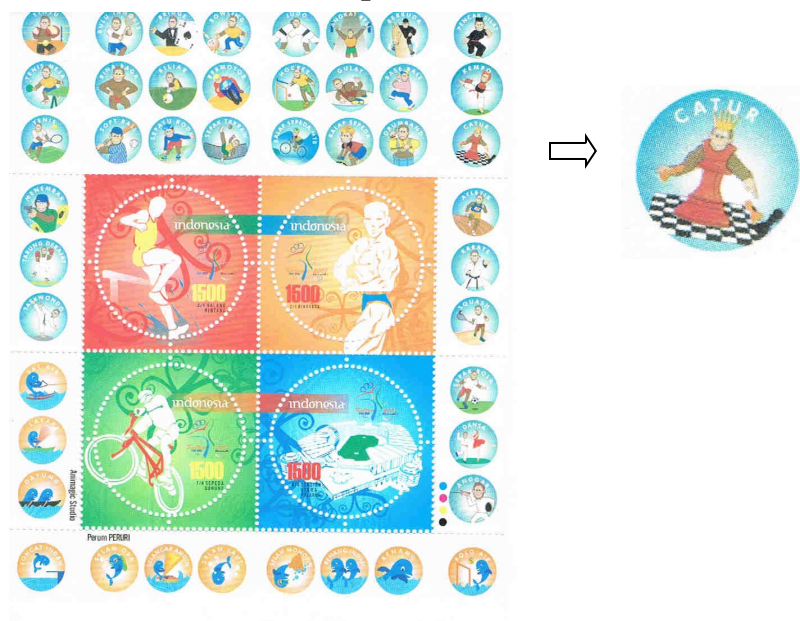
Classified advertisements are free to all members! Please send them to Jon Edwards, jedwards@princeton.edu

WANTED: Full sheets of chess stamps including selvage. Perforated, Imperforated, CTO. I also have sheets to trade. F.B. Redway, 6922 N.W. Daffodil Lane, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983

WANTED: Pre-WW2 Correspondence chess cards, early chess empherema, collections. Request my want list. Jon Edwards, jedwards@princeton.edu

BUYING/SELLING/TRADING: Chess philately and ephemera including: Stamps, covers, cancels, postcards, trade cards, photographs, autographs, etc. + whole collections. Richard Benjamin / 337 Greenwich Lane C-4 / St. Louis, MO 63108. Phone: (404) 512-1583; Email: richbe1@att.net

A new chess stamp issue from Indonesia



Chesstamp Review

Commemorating events that never took place

Joram R. Lubianiker

Chess philatelic items are issued for various reasons. The three most common reasons are anniversaries of chess organizations, honoring chess players, and to commemorate significant chess events. In the latter case it is customary that the date of issue coincides with the date on which the event starts.

Since the process of issuing a stamp is a rather lengthy one, the decision to have it issued must be taken way ahead of time. After the design is approved and the manufacturing process has been completed, the stamps are distributed to the post offices very few days before they are offered to the general public.



This procedure was followed in North Korea back in 1969. A stamp (Fig. 1) was designed to commemorate the Youth Championship of the Socialist (i.e., communist) Countries. The stamp bares a face value of 10 Jeon, the rate for local postage in the country at the time. (Does anyone in North Korea ever send letters abroad?) The intended day for this new issue was August 5th, 1969.

The design of the stamp shows two young people engaged in a game of chess. At the top one can see modern chess pieces of the Staunton design,

whereas in the bottom there are pieces of antique design. Notable examples are the mounted horse for the knight and the mounted elephant for the bishop. The building at the center of the stamp is the Student's and Children's Palace in Pyongyang, the intended site for the championship. The same building can also be seen on a different, earlier, stamp of North Korea (Fig. 2). The text at the top reads "Communist Countries Youth Chess Competition".

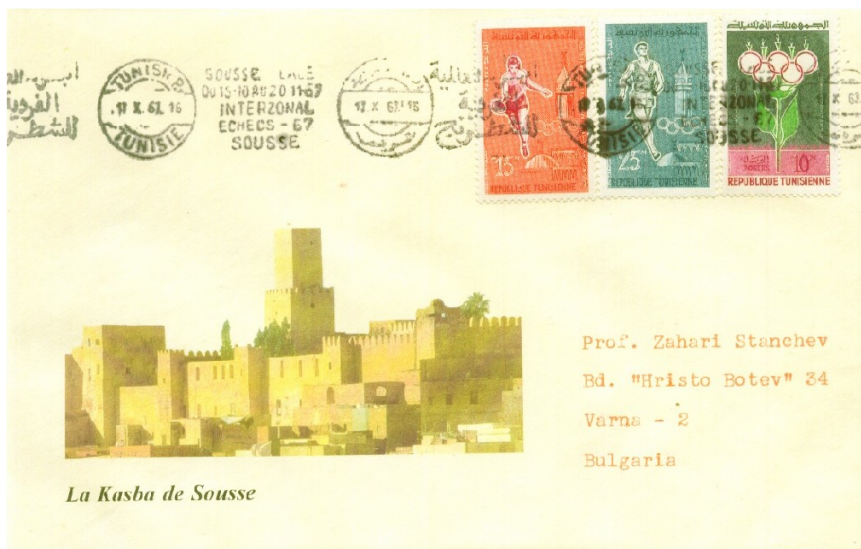
The stamp was distributed to the post offices and then, at the last minute, the tournament was cancelled, for a reason I was unable to discover. It was therefore decided to withdraw the stamp as well, and the post offices were ordered to return their inventory. All the sheets were supposed to be destroyed. However, a small quantity managed to find its way to the phil-

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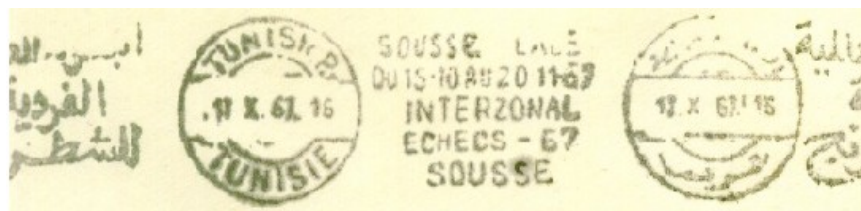
Watch out for forgeries!

It's the Bernie Madoff principle. If it's too good to be true, it probably isn't true.

Here's a cover I was offered two months ago by an Eastern European dealer, a \$5,000 cover offered for just 2,000 Euros. A bargain? Not if it's a fake.



Compare it to the cover in the COSSU Review #130 on page 6. There are many suspicious differences and my personal conclusion: it's a clever fake. So be careful. If you are uncertain about an item, don't hesitate to write your editor. I may not know the answer, but I can put you in touch with members who have the expertise to help. Here's a close-up of the cancel above.



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From the editor

I want to begin by thanking Ray Alexis for his many years as editor. He will, of course, stay on as our President and grace these pages with his messages. He is one of the very few who know just how daunting a job I am inheriting, all the more so given his fine work over the years, not just for COSSU, but for many chess publications. Ray worked for Bell Labs for 33 years before retiring. He started as a draftsman and became a drafting supervisor. He eventually led an illustration group where he learned much about creative illustrating, laying out designs incorporating text with pictures, all a great help when it came to producing *Chesstamp Review*!

Unlike Ray, I have no special talent for manual layout, so I use software, Microsoft Publisher to be exact. As a result, there will be changes in the look and feel. Please don't be bashful about offering suggestions, constructively I hope. Although I am listed as editor, we are forming an editorial board to share the writing load and to help guide the publication. I welcome two of our members, Joram Lubianiker and Nico von der Plas, to the board and as regular columnists.

As we progress, we will actively solicit additional ads from dealers and stamp organizations. With luck, that will let us expand the size of the Review and to add more color! Our most important new idea is the creation of a COSSU web site. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH THE REVIEW, but there are many things that a printed journal cannot do. An interactive forum, a blog, a guestbook, and member information. Over time, the site will contain: additional articles and online exhibits from members; submissions in languages other than English, a discussion forum... on forgeries, new issues, errors, dealers, etc; an online catalog of stamps and postmarks; an up-to-date summary (with pictures) of new issues; classified ads; links to other chess stamp sites; sales of back issues, and your want lists. You have the idea.

Obviously, with an ambitious agenda, we need all the help we can get. Our efforts will succeed if the members are willing to pitch in. And so, please write an article, help us with the web, or just offer a cool suggestion. All ideas are welcome!

Good chess, Jon Edwards (jedwards@princeton.edu)

Chesstamp Review

atelic market - somewhat of a miracle considering the nature of the regime in North Korea. Allegedly, only one sheet of 25 stamps has survived.



Until recently this story was unknown outside of Korea, and the stamp was only included in Korean specialized catalogues. In 2008 Scott added a note about the stamp, thus confirming the story. Price was estimated in Scott at \$1,000, but this seems excessive to me.

Three years ago a copy was sold for roughly \$500, and few months ago for \$400. These are the only two copies I've seen for sale.

The story of the following item is somewhat similar, although I have fewer details on this one. An international chess tournament was scheduled to take place in Poland in July 1951. A special cancellation was prepared, but the tournament was cancelled at the last minute. The cancellation was never put to use, and is therefore not included in Checkmate catalog (as does the Korean stamp above). The postcard shown in Fig. 3 below represents a courtesy strike - one that has no postal significance. I have seen another copy for sale at \$60.



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The cancellation was applied in Międzyzdroje (the Polish spelling in Międzyzdrojach) – a small town in northwestern Poland, known as the pearl of the Baltic Sea. The sandy beaches, the high cliffs and the adjacent forests make Międzyzdroje a great attraction for tourists and a most suitable place for a chess tournament. Looking at an enlarged and rotated scan of the cancellation (Fig. 4), we can identify the name of the town and the date (July 15th, 1951) at the center. The text can be roughly translated as "A chess tournament near the beautiful sea".

As mentioned above, I have no idea why the tournament in Międzyzdroje was cancelled. If anyone has further information about this I'll be delighted to hear it. However, a year later a chess tournament was held at the same town, and was commemorated by a different cancellation known to all of us as Checkmate #36. This allows us to end on a positive note: Most events that are philatelically commemorated do actually take place!



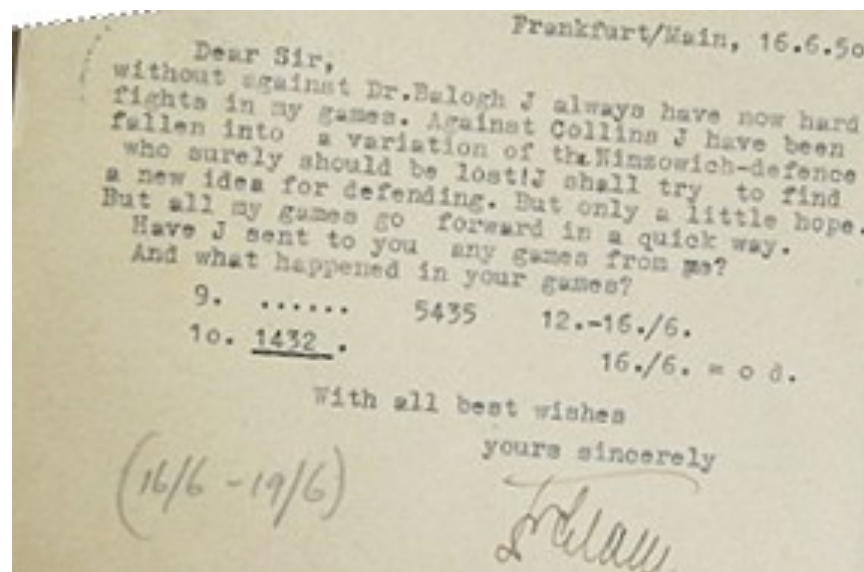
Editor: I have added the following example (in purple) from my own collection. It is almost certainly not postally used, although it does contain additional local postmarks.



Chesstamp Review

Chess Stamps in the news

In 1950, Graham Mitchell., then Deputy Director of Britain's MI5, exchanged correspondence chess postcards with a cold war spy, Dr. Edmund Adam, stationed in Frankfurt Germany. Discovered by a member of Mitchell's household staff, the cards were auctioned this August by Barbers Fine Art Auctioneers. Mitchell was suspected as a Soviet spy, but no one has as yet succeeded in deciphering the code used, if any. To your editor's eye, the cards look very much like a straight-forward game. At the time of this writing, the lot of the postcards was expected to fetch 1,000 pounds. Heather Cannon, of Barbers Fine Art Auctioneers of Woking, Surrey, said: 'It was commonly known that Mitchell was investigated on suspicion of being a spy. He was also known to play chess and it seems he had a regular correspondence with Dr Adams.



Building up our Study Unit

The Review is now being produced electronically, so it's actually easy to send a free copy to a friend. We are e-mailing .pdf copies this month to folks who have not recently renewed and to many of our fellow collectors in Europe. Please let your editor know if there are others you know who might like a free copy of this issue!