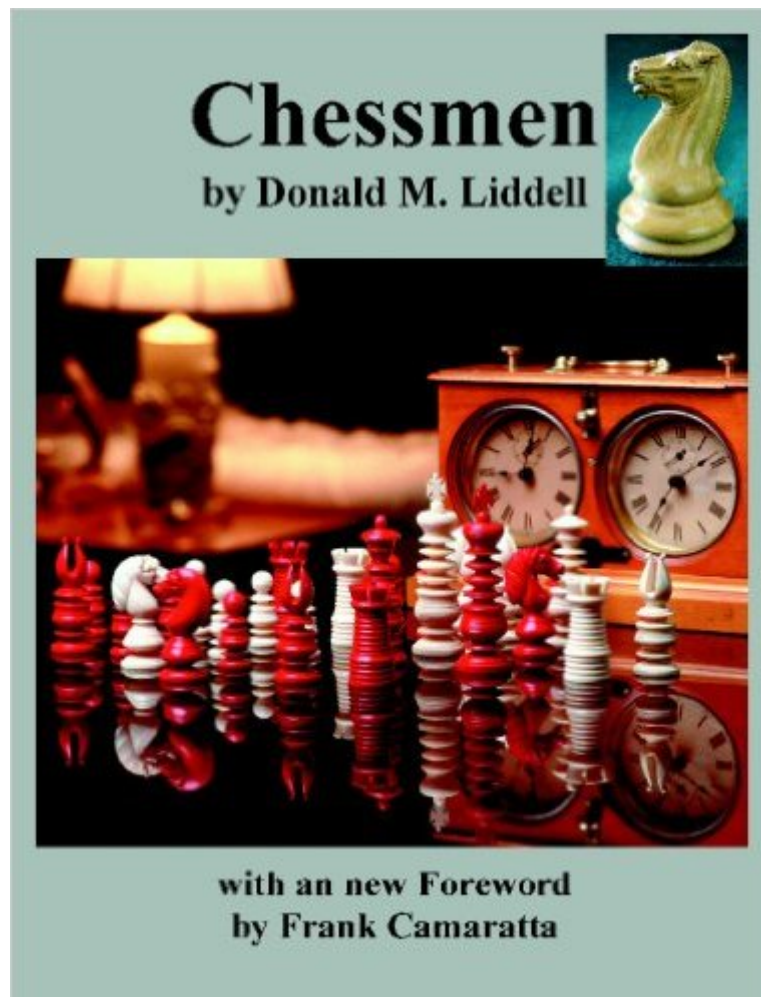


The book was found

Chessmen



Synopsis

The author begins with the evolution of the chessmen and traces their evolution as the game spread throughout the known World. A short introduction to chessmen from the earliest times is followed by chapters on the impact of Geography, Religion and politics on the design of the chessmen. In these pages, the reader will find fascinating photographs and sketches of the earliest known chessmen. The section on Chess in Art and Archeology by the late collector and accomplished Architect John F. Harbeson of Philadelphia will be of particular interest to the reader. His observation in its opening sentence: All forms of art, all manifestations of the creative impulse, record the life of the civilization which produced them, is very revealing and goes directly to the heart of this work. A chapter on famous Collectors and designers of chessmen, as well as sets owned by significant historical figures, such as Napoleon Bonaparte, along with some amusing anecdotes, makes for some light but interesting reading. There are even the scores of two games allegedly played by Napoleon. There are sections devoted to the crafting of chessmen in various media, including ceramics, metal, bone, ivory and wood. Some famous resorts, such as the Café de la Régence, are visited and their relevance to chess history explored. Interestingly, the oldest chess club in the United States seems to be the New York Chess Club which held its meetings at the Old City Hall in 1801, and the Athenaeum in Philadelphia, which still houses some of the chess artifacts from those early days.

Book Information

Paperback: 286 pages

Publisher: Ishi Press (September 24, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0923891420

ISBN-13: 978-0923891428

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.6 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,777,740 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Dolls, Toys & Figurines > Figurines #1121 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Board Games #2266 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Chess

Customer Reviews

The best thing about this book for me is that it's got photos (black and white) of some old sets I don't

find in any other publications. I'm especially pleased to find the selection of medieval pieces. The disappointment in this book is that, although the modern chess experts, Frank Camaratta and Sam Sloan have their names attached to it, this book was first published in 1937 by a fellow who's long gone. Much of the information is out of date, and of interest more to the "chess history historian" than to the modern "chess historian." If you are looking for a good "old" publication about chessmen, this would be a good choice. It is unfortunate that the listing and description of this book does not clarify the original publication date.

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