

Chess – the Game of War

Chess is known as “the game of war”. When invented, nearly 2,000 years ago, it was meant to imitate war. This exhibit follows the story of chess – its invention, its components, the rules, the path to victory and the various types of tournaments. At each step along the way we present **corresponding specific examples of military history**. These examples highlight the remarkable similarities (despite some inevitable differences) between actual war and the game of war, known as chess.

Exhibit Concept

Chess	War
Invented to immitate war.	Existed since the dawn of times.
Requires pieces, two players and a set board.	Requires two armies, two commanders and a battlefield.
Has clear and fair rules for the beginning of the game, the way it is conducted and its end.	Is far more chaotic in all aspects, and the price to pay is significantly higher.
Victory is achieved using methods of attack and imaginative tactics.	Victory is achieved using methods of attack and imaginative tactics.
Competitions exist on all levels.	Battles exist on all levels.
Has not changed in the last 150 years.	Changed dramatically in this time span.



Field Marshal Hindenburg checkmating Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia, commander of the Russian army in WWI. Both men are being assisted by their allies.
An Austrian postcard from World War I.

Exhibit Plan

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1.1 Games imitate life...		4.2 ... and attack methods are implemented...	
1.2 ... and war is a part of life ...		4.3 ...while strategic advantages enhance the winning chances...	
1.3 ... so chess was invented to imitate war.		4.4 ... enabling some great masterpieces.	
2. Before the Game / War Starts	25	5. The Theaters of Chess & War	17
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2.2 ... form two armies...		5.2 ... and the greatest winners get to rule the world...	
2.3 ... each with its own commander...		5.3 ... but sometimes teamwork is required.	
2.4 ... on a set battlefield...		6. Chess and War Part Ways	6
2.5 ... and a supporting infrastructure.		6.1 Warfare has seen many changes in modern times ...	
3. The Rules of Fair Fighting	17	6.2 ... and new games present alternatives for Chess.	
3.1 One side starts ...			
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3.4 ... and time limits to face...			
3.5 ... until eventually it all comes to an end...			
3.6 ... with spoils for the winner.			

Thematic text – 11, regular
Philatelic text – 10, italic

Auxiliary text – 10, regular

Prologue

What is chess to me?

Chess is a game

Chess is a game like many others ...

АПТЕКАРСКИЙ И ПАРФЮМЕРНЫЙ СКЛАДЪ Провизора Ф. О. Конрадъ. С.-ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ Невскій 103, противъ Дегтярной ул. Доставка на домъ бесплатно.	Доступно каждому! Вновь открывшаяся портняжная мастерская для г.г. военныхъ и статскихъ принимаетъ заказы по умѣреннымъ цѣнамъ, а также въ разсрочку. Измайловскій пр., д. № 7, кв. № 31. А. М. Брахманъ.	МАГАЗИНЪ МУЖСКОЙ И ДАМСКОЙ ОБУВИ Р. К. Леммергардтъ. Бывш. А. Козловскаго. ФИРМА СУЩЕСТВУЕТЪ СЪ 1863 ГОДА. С.-Петербургъ, Николаевская ул., домъ № 9, близъ Невскаго.
МАСТЕРСКАЯ ДАМСКИХЪ НАРЯДОВЪ И ШКОЛА ПАРИЖСКОЙ КРОЙКИ И ШИТЬЯ. Г-жи М. Ч. С.-Петербургъ, Николаевская, д. 16, кв. 1. Входъ съ параднаго подъезда.	МѢХОВОЙ МАГАЗИНЪ М. КОРОЛЕВА бывшій Кертлинга. По Владимирскому пр., д. Фредерикса, № 15. ГОТОВЫЯ МУЖСКІЯ И ДАМСКІЯ ВЕЩИ. ВЪ С.-ПЕТЕРБУРГѢ.	ОТКРЫТЬ МАГАЗИНЪ (бывшій Киселева). Вознесенскій пр., д. № 34. Имѣются въ большомъ выборѣ брилліантовые, золотыя и серебряныя вещи, часы, цѣпочки и ювелирные образы.
ДѢТСКІЯ КОЛЯСКИ. Владимирскій пр., 10. Во дворъ. С.П.Б. 	МЕХАНИКЪ Ф. П. ПАЛЬМГРЕНЪ. Специальная мастерская для починки машинъ швейныхъ и вязальныхъ, вѣхъ системъ, а также велосипедовъ и всякаго рода механизмовъ. Звонки электрическіе и воздушные. Работа тщательная съ ручательствомъ. Покупка и продажа швейныхъ машинъ. Новыя швей. ножн. машины отъ 35 руб., съ ручат. на 2 года. С.-Петербургъ. Кузнечный пер., уг. Ямской д. 5—2.	МАГАЗИНЪ А. И. ДЮЖЕВА. Маринскій рынокъ, Холщевая линия № 1 и 2, входъ съ Садовой ул., первый вѣр. отъ Черн. пер. Кровати, матрацы, умывальники, дорожныя сундуки, чемоданы, корзинны, самовары, эмалированная посуда, столовые и кухонныя ножи и хозяйственныя принадлежности.
СКЛАДЪ САРАТОВСКИХЪ САРПИНОКЪ Н. Т. Сироткина. ГЛАВНЫЙ СКЛАДЪ С.-Петербургъ, Чернышевъ пер., д. Пажескаго Корпуса, № 8.	Библиотека А. Т. РУБАКИНА. С.-Петербургъ, уголъ Б. Садовой и Б. Подъяческой, 63—24. Сущ. съ 1875 года. Более 57,000 томовъ, 40,000 названій, 7 томовъ каталога. Правила подиски и описаніе библиотеки высылаются по почтѣ бесплатно. Абонементъ отъ 30 к. въ мѣсяцъ. Доставка книгъ на домъ по особому соглашенію. Замѣна залоговъ поручительствами. Абонементъ (удешевленный) на одни новѣйшіе журналы и газеты.	СКЛАДЪ КУСТАРНЫХЪ ИЗДѢЛІЙ И. К. КРОТКОВА. С.П.Б. Пантелеймоновскій рынокъ, влад. № 38, по Рисовальному пер. (близъ Солянаго городка). Большой выборъ: игрушекъ, игръ, домино, лото, бирюльки, пашки, шахматы, доски шахматныя, шкатулки орѣховыя и простыя, пеналы, конячки. Уральскія издѣлія изъ селенита и коллекція изъ минераловъ. Гротики, подчасовики, чернильницы, прессъ-папье и другія издѣлія кустарной работы.



Photocopy of front, 25%

Publicity of a store selling chess sets and boards, checkers sets, toys, domino, lotto, etc.

Advertising postal stationery, issued 1901, with face value of 5 kopeks for local usage. It was sold for 4 kopeks. 3 kopeks paid by the ads — 1 for printing, 1 for the Russian post and 1 for the orphan's home charity. Only 3,000 copies printed.

... to be played in times of leisure.

But chess requires intellectual capabilities like no other game, and is therefore considered as "the thinking man's game".



Imperforated at top



The Soviet Constitution of 1936 granted the citizens of the USSR the right for leisure activities, i.e., to play chess.



Prologue

What is chess to me?

Chess is a sport

Many people consider chess ...

... as an integral part of the sports world, which cannot be separated from other sports.

However, chess requires intelligence and strategic thinking like no other sport ...



... and the absence of a physical side to chess suggests to me that it is a sport of the mind, like solving crossword puzzles



... or like solving
the Rubik's Cube.



*A full sheet of the 1962 Cuban "INDER" issue, depicting chess among other sports. The sheet is only partially perforated – **the only sheet seen with such an error**. Short sleeve variety indicated by arrow.*

Prologue

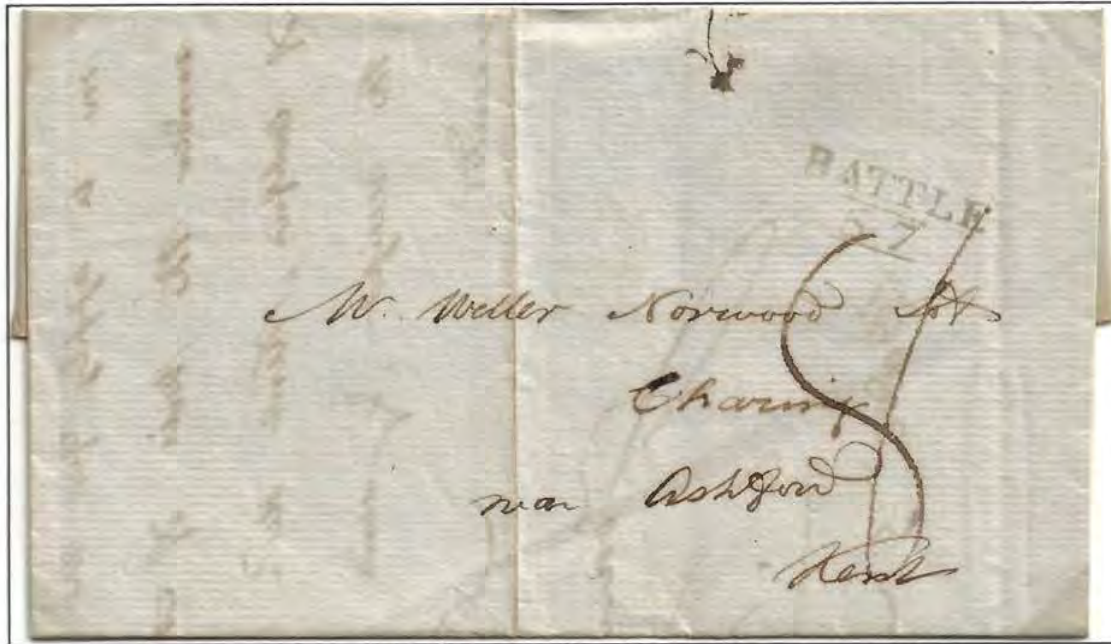
What is chess to me?

Chess is a battle

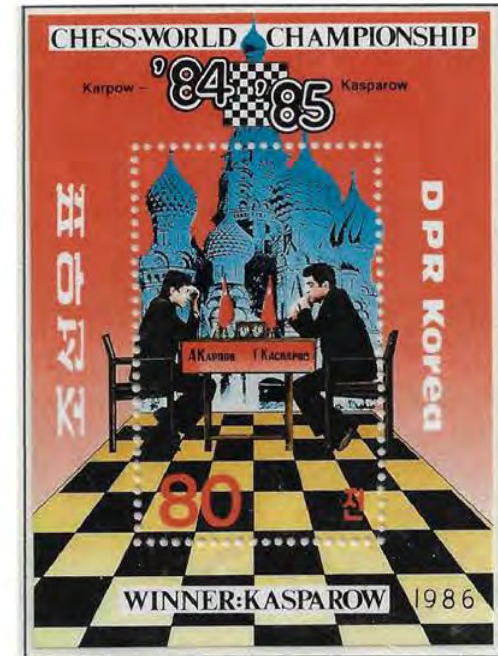
In my opinion, more than anything else, chess is ...

... really a battle ...

... of two people facing one another, ...



A folded letter sent on July 9th 1817 from Battle, Sussex to Ashford, Kent, with a Battle 57 milage mark, indicating the distance from London. MS 8 = 8p, the rate for 50 – 80 miles. The small town of Battle was the site of the Battle of Hastings (1066), hence its name.



... fighting one another in a civilized manner like gentlemen do ...

Nuovo Circolo degli Schachi ("The new circle of chess") is a gentleman's club in Rome. Although the club is not really related to chess the choice of name is indicative of the gentlemenic reputation of the game.

As of 1929, the club has a post office located on the premises, serving members exclusively, and only accepting hand written letters.

Letter sent by express mail from the Nuovo Circolo degli Schachi on Jan. 23rd 1948 to Bologna. Arrival cancellation of Jan. 29th on reverse.

... to test their brain power.



Pitney Bowes "A931 Porphon", group RB4.4, multi value meter.

How It All Began

1.1 Games imitate life...

Hunting for food becomes a game

Games were invented by mankind to imitate real life. In ancient times people had to obtain their own food by hunting animals for their meat ...



As issued

*Sunken die proof
in deep orange.*

*... and by
shooting birds.*



Photocopy of reverse, 30%

Postal card issued by Belgian Congo, 2nd series, 1922-1923, card #9. 30 Centimes was foreign usage rate.

In the modern world these activities were turned into games, thus providing a positive twist to what used to be daily chores. Hunting of lions is a pure sport, since their meat is practically indigestible to humans ...

... and shooting birds was replaced by clay pigeon shooting.



How It All Began

1.1 Games imitate life...

The real estate world turned into a game

Some games imitate intellectual rather than physical skills. The purchase of real estate...

Anton Dahm,
Stockenstr. 20.
Eisenwaaren-Handlung,
Ofen und Heerde. 1

M. auf d. Mauern
Häuser-, Immobilien- und
Kapitalien-Geschäft. 5
Hohenzollernstr. 43.

Carl Zetsche, Bonn
Optiker und Mechaniker,
Photographische Apparate und Utensilien.
Stockenstrasse 5. 9-10

H. Pohlig,
Mechanische Seilerwaaren-Fabrik, Bonn.
Bornheimerstrasse 80. 11-12

Opalit,
feinste
Wandplattenbekleidung.
Johann Böhm, Architect Bonn. 2-3

J. J. Reeb,
Münsterplatz 2. 6-7
Special-Geschäft für Herrenbekleidung.

Versuchen Sie gefl. 13-14
Ad. Helbach's Borax-Seifenpulver
Dampf-Seifen-Fabriken Köln-Deutz u. Bonn.

Heinr. Nockher,
Goebenstr. 5.
Agenturen in 16
Colonial-Waaren.

Penning & Heuwing
Rheinwerft 23 c.
Electrisches Licht,
Telegraphen-
und Telephon Anlagen. 17

Al. Pieler,
Bornheimerstr. 3.
Billigste Bezugsquelle
für Kohlen und Cokes.
Fernsprecher 90. 19

Wilh. Heinen jr.
Kupferschmiede und Metall-
giesserei. Pumpenmacherei.
Installationsgeschäft
für Gas- und Wasserleitung.
Fernsprecher Nr. 371. 20

Restaurant W. Adtorf
Münsterplatz 25, Fernsprecher 252.
Bier-Export. 22-23

J. Müller Nachf.
Inh.: F. Honrath. 4
Colonialwaarengrosshandlung
Dampf-Kaffeebrennerei.

W. Lauffs Bonn,
Endenicherstr. 35. 8
Cement- und Gyps-Platten-
Fabrik, Baumaterialien.

Clem. Stork,
Wenzelgasse 6.
Hut-, Schirm- und
Pelzwaaren. 15

Friedr. Reber
Maschinenfabrik u.
Giesserei. 18
Bornheimerstr. 52.

Hubert Pütz,
Argelanderstr. 55.
Dampfwurstwaarenfabrik,
Aufschnittgeschäft. 21

Privatpost, Rhenania
liefert diese Couverts
zum Markenwerth. 2



Photocopy of reverse, 50%

A 6 Pf. postal stationery, sent locally in Bonn on November 30th, 1898. Reverse includes an ad for a real estate broker.

This stationery was used by a private mail service operated by the Rhenania Company within Bonn. Private mail services were permitted within cities by the German law until April 1900. The Rhenania's service existed from 1896 to 1900.

... and the banking system ...



Sweden national bank booklet

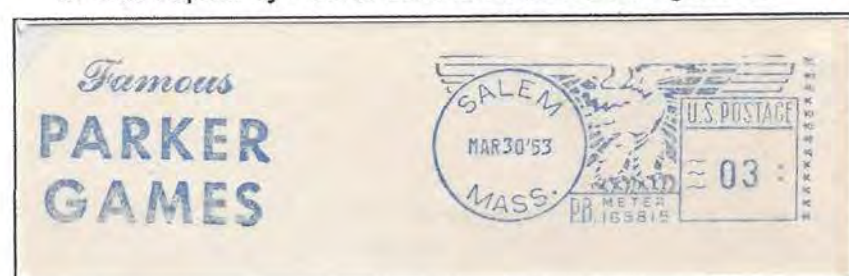
Pitney Bowes "R" series, group 1A3,
multi value meter

... that provides the corresponding loans ...



National Postal Meter, group H2, multi value meter

... was copied by Parker Brothers into a board game ...



... called Monopoly.



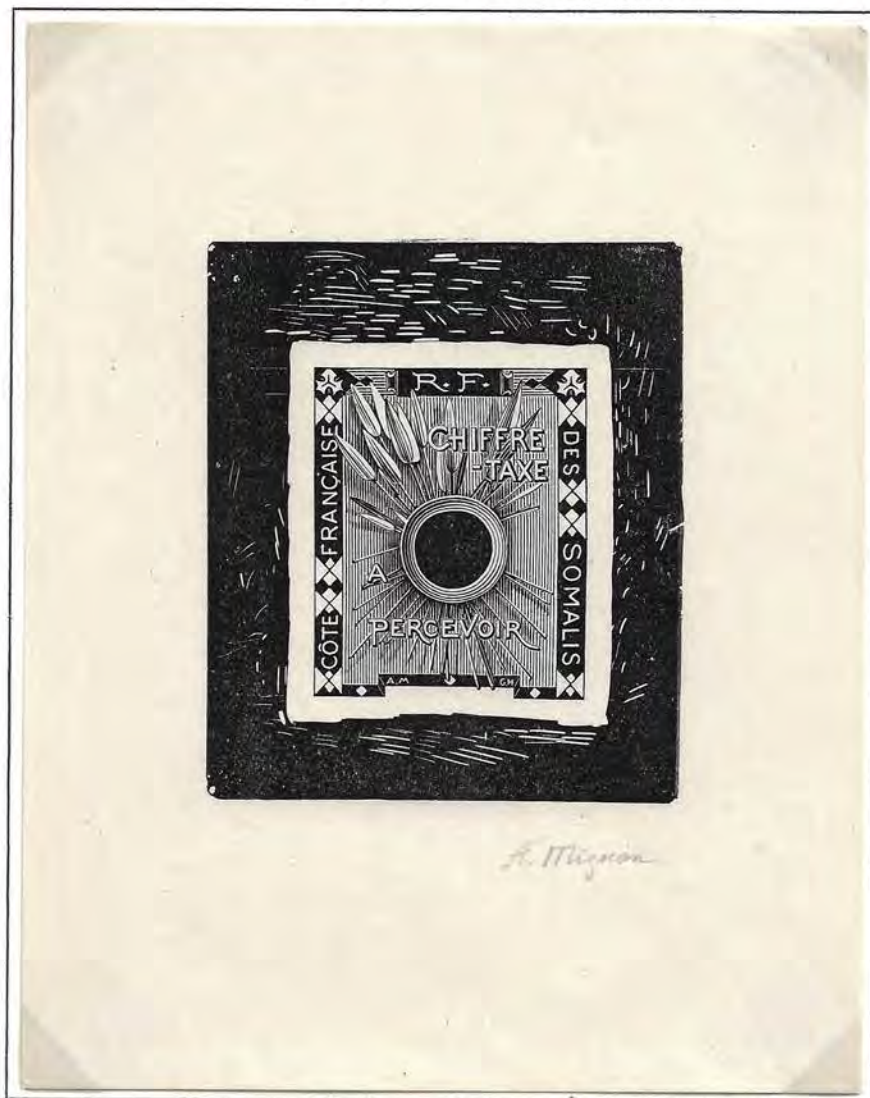
How It All Began

1.2 ... and war is a part of life ...

War began at the dawn of time

War has been a part of human life since the dawn of time. People have always manufactured ...

... military equipment such as spears ...



Die proof of postage due stamp, signed by the engraver, Mignon

.... swords ...



Error: Missing perforation between the stamps

.... and daggers.



Cancellation on a letter sent from the 29th Replacement Infantry Regiment of the German army. The German army reimbursed the German post for all military mail, and thus the letter was forwarded without postage due. Photocopy, 20%



Archeologists found ample evidence for armies in ancient times. The Terracotta Army, consisting of over 7,000 soldiers, predates chess by several centuries.



北京邮票厂

How It All Began

1.2 ... and war is a part of life ...

War in human culture

War has always been a part of human culture, and war stories are part of all ancient anthologies...

... such as the Buddhist epic Ramayana, in which Hanuman had to rescue Sita through battle ...

... the Greek mythology, in which Heracles fought the giant Antaeus



... or the bible, where Jael killed Sisera.



Artist proof in red, signed by the engraver, Pheulpin.

Several ancient civilizations designated a God of War, thus manifesting the central role of war in their culture ...

... such as Odin in the Nordic mythology ...

... and Maru in the native culture in Southern New Zealand.



Booklet cover

Oamaru = the place of Maru



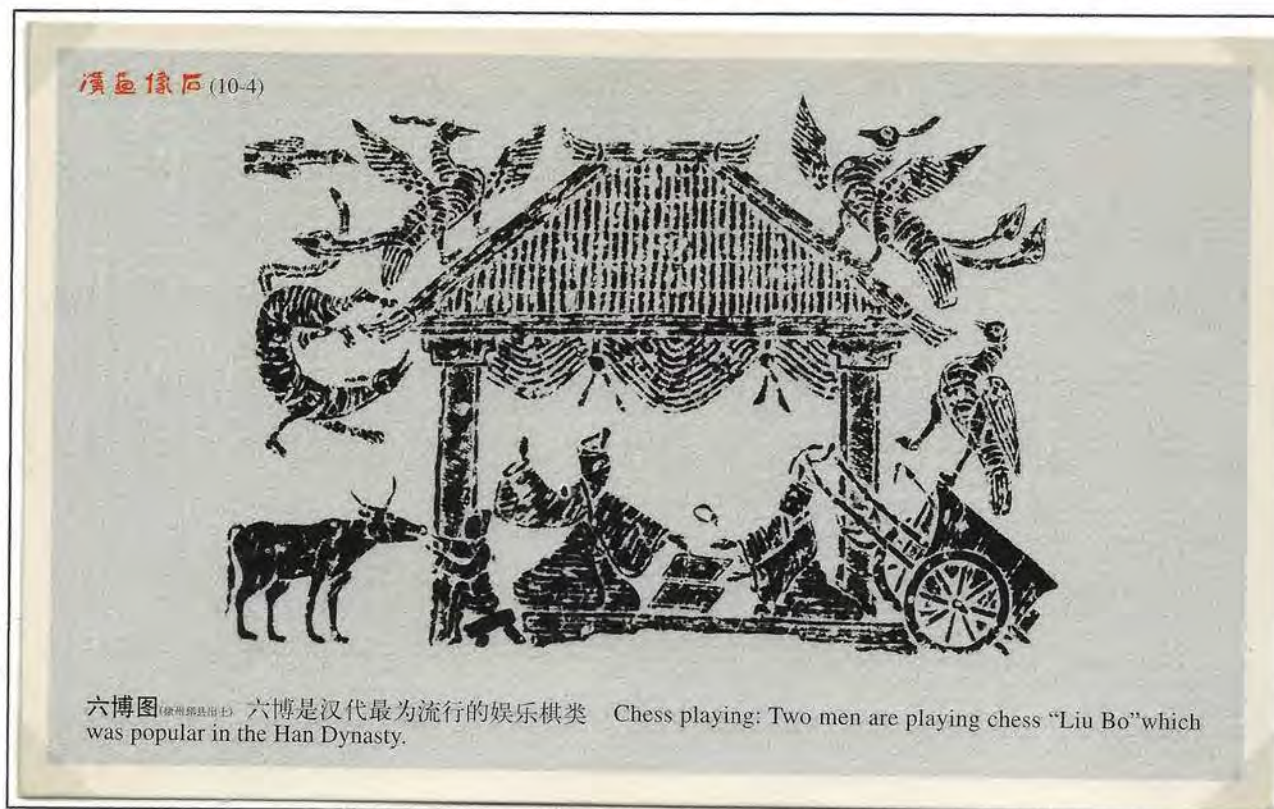
How It All Began

1.3 ... so chess was invented to immitate war

Predecessors of chess

Board games existed in virtually all ancient civilizations...

... such as China, where Liu Bo was played more than 3,000 years ago...



... or ancient Egypt, where the game Senet ...



... was discovered in the tomb of King Tutankhamen.



Misplaced Gold error

But these games were based on luck, the ancient equivalent of tossing a dice ...



This insurance company ad calls not to leave room for chance, just as chance had no room in chess.

... whereas in chess there is no room for chance or luck.



German Giro cover, used in Hamburg, May 19th 1943.

How It All Began

1.3 ... so chess was invented to immitate war

Legendary origins of chess

It is unknown when, where and by whom chess was invented. According to one legend chess was invented by a peasant, who introduced it to his king. In return the peasant asked to be rewarded by grains of rice (or wheat), ...

... a single grain
to be placed on
the first square ...



... two grains on the
second square, four on the
third square, and so on.



The King thought he got a bargain,
but later discovered that the number
of grains required would be practically infinity ...



A folded letter sent 1774 from Paris to Clermont-Ferrand bearing the Paris l'infini (Endless Paris) cancellation, which was in use from April 1774 until May 1778. The cancellation incorporated the infinity sign ∞

... and all the fields in the world could not
produce so much crop, even today.



Another legend is associated with the Exekias
Amphora, which shows ...

... Ajax and Achilles play an
unidentified board game
during the siege of Troy ...



... suggesting that chess
has a Greek origin.



A cancellation issued for a chess Olympiad in Greece uses the same
image, and implying that the Exekias Amphora depicts chess

How It All Began

1.3 ... so chess was invented to immitate war

Historical origins of chess

In all likelihood, chess was invented in India around the 6th century AD as a game...

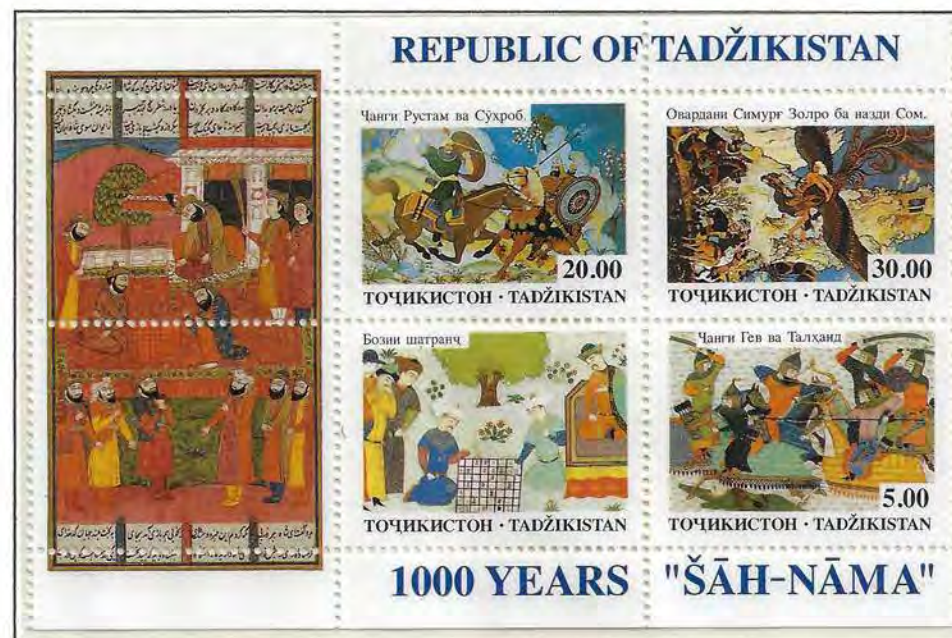
... called Chaturanga –
"the game of four armies".



According to "Shahnameh",
a work written by the
Persian poet Ferdowsi, ...



... an ambassador from India introduced Chaturanga to the King of Persia.



Chess then immigrated to Europe through commercial ties with Persia. In many countries the name of the game indicates the Persian root, through the word "Shah" (King in Persian). In German the game is called Schach ...



... in English Chess ...



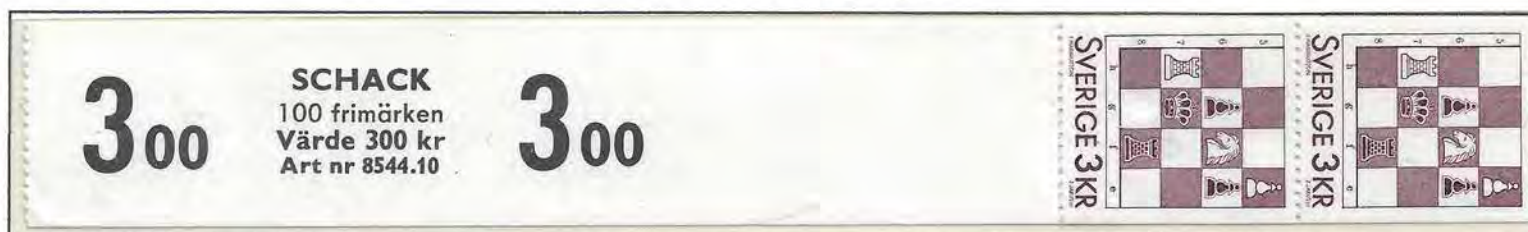
Letter sent August 12th 1947 from Birmingham, England to Breda, the Netherlands.

Neopost, group B5, limited value meter.

Franked 2.5 pence, ½ penny under the surface rate to foreign countries (1/5/1940 – 1/7/1948). Marked "T BM" (Tax Birmingham) and "T8 FS" (Tax 8 gold Centimes Foreign Section). Letter arrived at Breda on August 14th, and taxed 7 cents using postage due stamps..

Tax calculation: ½ penny missing → 1 penny fine = 8 gold centimes = 7 Guilder cents.

... and in Swedish "Schack".



The edge of a coil
stamp strip of 100.

How It All Began

1.3 ... so chess was invented to immitate war

Chess spread through the world

Chess then spread to Europe and by the 12th century the game was known throughout the continent.

Archeologists found chess pieces from that time in various places, like today's Belarus ...



... and in the Outer Hebrides (the Lewis chessmen).



Manuscripts, such as the one written by King Alfonso X, helped spreading the game ...



... and the invention of printing made the game known to the general public ...

... through books ...



Caxton printed the first chess book in 1476

Error: The queen's head is shifted. 100 copies known



... and magazines, such as "Chess".



Hasler "mailmaster", group H19, MV meter, printed matter rate.



Belgian 10C lettercard of 1900, sold in Liège for 5 Centimes, the difference paid by advertisers, with an ad for a printing of publications such as periodicals and brochures. Left: Photocopy of front., 30%

The Sides Line Up

2.1 The different military units ...

The pawn is a foot soldier

The most fundamental component in all armies is the foot soldier

... armed with a spear ...



Color proof

French military postal stationery of World War I

... or, in modern times, with a rifle.



In chess the foot soldier is represented by the pawn, the weakest piece in the game.



The stamp has a face value of 1 stotinki, the lowest currency in existence, thus reflecting the limited power of the pawn in chess.

Because the pawn is a foot soldier it can only move over a short range ...



... and is only permitted to move forward – moving it backwards is contrary to the regulations ...



... just like the Soviet soldiers in WWII, which were given the order "not a step back".



In artistic chess sets the pawn is even designed as a foot soldier.



Letter sent July 5th, 1901, from Bridgwater to Bristol. The 1 penny rate was paid by a 1/2d stamp and a diagonally bisected 1d stamp. The usage of a bisected stamp was contrary to regulations, as indicated by the special handstamp and the "x" sign. Postage due of 1d was therefore collected.

The Sides Line Up

2.1 The different military units...

The knight is a warrior on a horse

All ancient armies used horses with mounted warriors

... like St. George, who fought
the dragon, on a horse.



specimen

... and this is why in living chess displays a mounted horse is used.



The chess equivalent is the knight, which is often shaped like a horse ...



A reply card, sent free of charge on April 30th 1941 from Volesvres, Saone et Loire, to a POW held in Stalag VIF in Bucholt. Camp censorship postmark contains a chess knight. This specific censor monitored correspondence with France and Belgium only. Return to sender handstamp in German.

The knight is the only piece in modern chess that can leap over other pieces ...



... just like a horse can leap ...



The Saxon leaping horse was a symbol of Brunswick.

... over obstacles.



The Sides Line Up

2.1 The different military units ...

The bishop is an elephant

In South East Asia, the part of the world where chess originates from, ...

... elephants were an integral part of the army...



WWII V mail, Christmas 1943

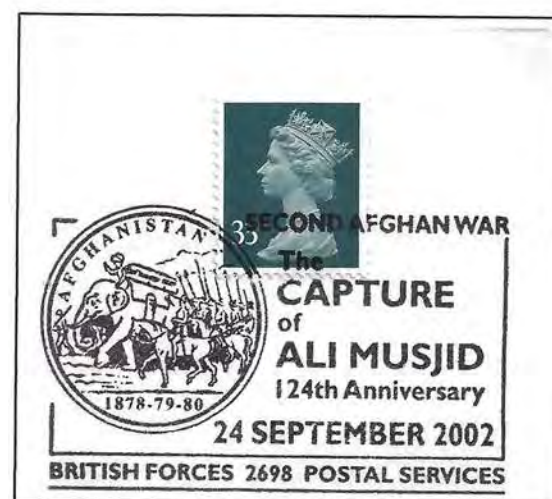
... both during battle ...



Plate proof imperforated pair

King Naresuan fought against Crown Prince Mingyi Swa on elephant in 1592 during the battle of Nong Sarai

... and for the transport of troops.



The elephant in chess ...

... is represented by the bishop.
The marked dots along the diagonal ...



The name of the bishop in Spanish, Alfil, indicates the elephant connection.



... show the way the bishop moves.



Francotyp Postalia, "EFS 3000", group H32, multi value meter

The Sides Line Up

2.1 The different military units ...

The bishop is an elephant

In ancient chess sets ...

... such as this 18th century example ...

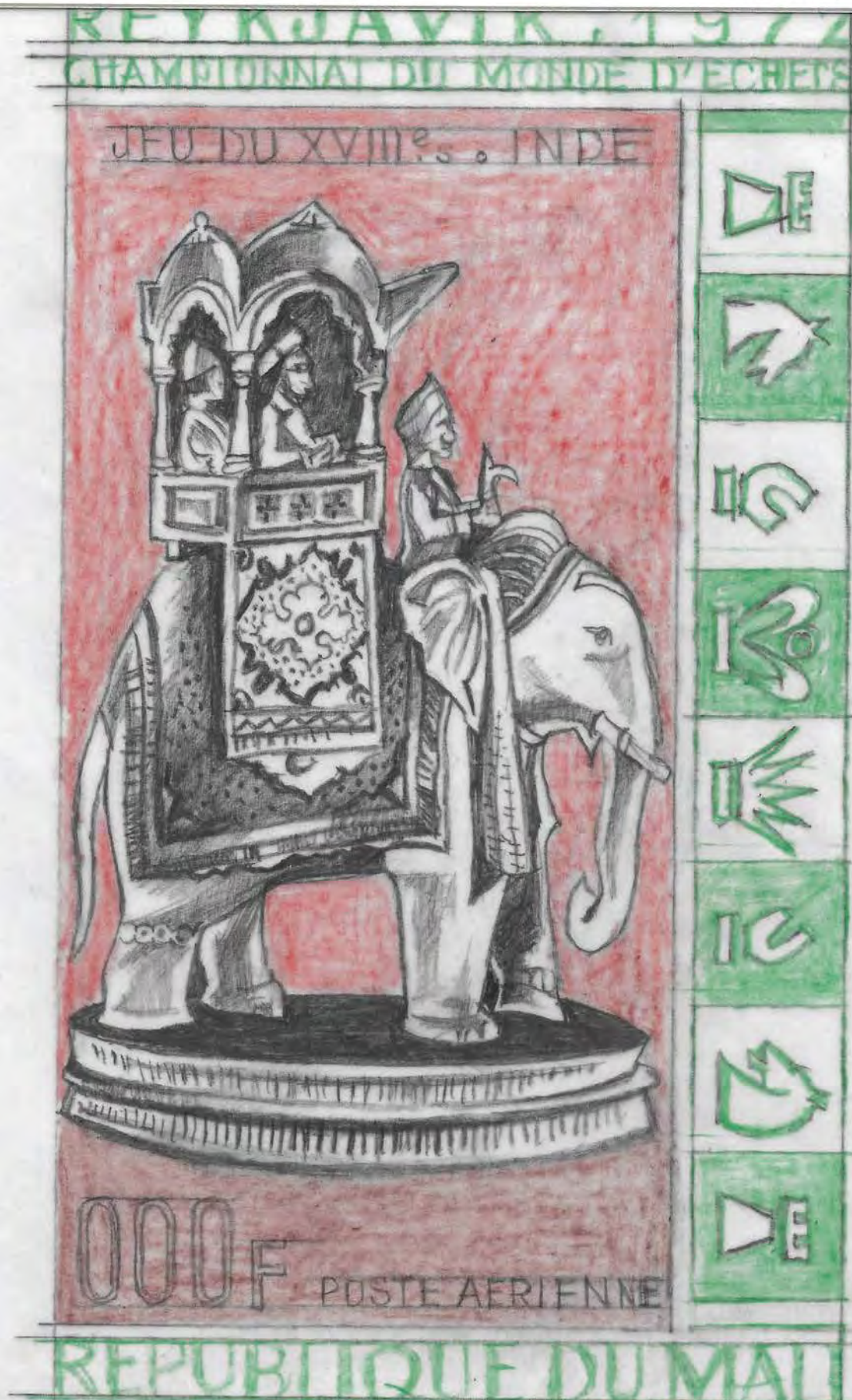


Original artwork by
Pierre Bequet for
the 1972 Mali stamp

... or in artistic designs,
the bishop is shaped as
an elephant, thus
revealing its source.



Unissued Korean stamp



*Vien Bequet
Pré-Maquette d'Atelier*

The Sides Line Up

2.1 The different military units ...

The rook is a chariot

Another component of the armies at ancient times ...

... was the chariot, attached to a single horse ...



... or four horses, as in the Roman Quadriga.



Proof of a stamp issued by the SABA corporation, which was authorized by the Italian government to provide private postal service from Tuscany to Friuli-Venezia Giulia in 1944 and 1945.

Artist proof in black, signed by the artist, Decaris.
One of 9 copies in private hands in this color.

In chess the chariot is the rook.

The Persian word for chariot, Rukh, was confused with the Italian word Rocca, which means fortress ...



... and so the modern rook is designed as a tower.



Watermark used for the King Alfonso XIII issue, 1889 - 1899.



Folded letter, sent Oct. 2nd, 1859, bearing Fribourg city seal cancel, nevertheless taxed 15 Rappen.

The Sides Line Up

2.1 The different military units ...

The king

In ancient times the king often took active part in battle ...

... and led his army in person, like king Arpad of Hungary.



Postal stationery sent on February 1st, 1899 from Pozsony (today Bratislava) to Vienna.

Photocopy of front, 30%

In real life the king is usually marked by a crown...



Folded letter, dated July 1st 1701 to Bow, London. Probably sent on July 4th (F/AFT heart shaped hand stamp). Initial charge of 3 pence (bottom left) was crossed out by a postal inspector, who added "6 in all" and signed. Crown inspector's mark validates the change of rate. The crown here represents King William III.

In chess the king has to be protected. In Chinese chess the king has to remain within his fortress, for his own safety.



The mobility of the king is limited, so that a player would not be tempted to overuse it and expose it to dangers.



... while in chess the king is often marked by a cross.



The Sides Line Up

2.1 The different military units ...

The queen

The king is normally assisted in the battlefield by his advisers

... as was King Peter of Serbia in WWI.

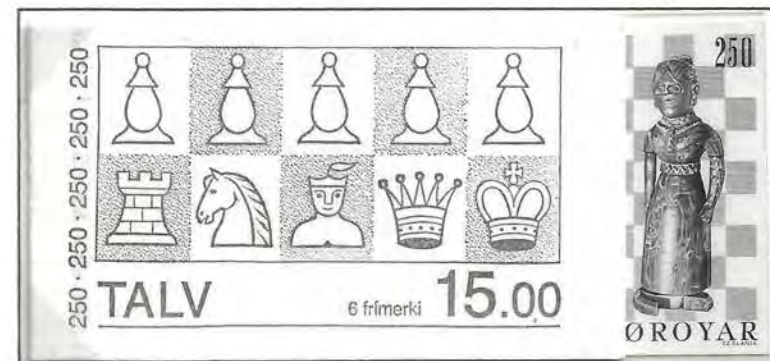


Die proof before corrections and hardening

The role of the advisor in chess is fulfilled by the queen ...



... which is therefore located beside the king.



Women's participation in the battlefield during ancient times was minimal, and historians claim that the presence in chess should be attributed to Joan of Arc.



Letter sent August 28th 1915 from the Jeanne d'Arc auxiliary hospital. The cachet, which depicts the image of Joan of Arc, provides postal privileges.

The queen, which used to be a weak piece, although not entirely without value ...

... is now the strongest piece in chess ...



Missing gold color error, hence missing face value. Only 1 sheet of 60 is known.



... a fact which is attributed to the age of the great medieval queens, such as Isabella of Castile ...

... and Elizabeth I of England.



Early progressive color proofs from Waterlow archives

Missing vermilion color error. Only one sheet of 60 is known.



The Sides Line Up

2.2 ... form two armies...

The size of the army

The different pieces together form the chess army, which includes ...

... eight ...



... pawns ...



Letter sent from Stavanger (today Norway, then Sweden) on June 16th 1871 to Barbezieux, France. Arrived by private ship to Hull, England on June 18th (Ship letter cancel), where it was charged 8 pence – the rate for unpaid letters under half an ounce from Sweden to England from May 21st 1866 through September 21st 1871. Transit cancellation of London and Calais (June 19th) and arrival cancellation of Barbezieux (June 21st) on reverse. This is a late usage of the black "unpaid rate 8" cancellation, since the rate was altered three months later.

... a pair of knights ...



Imperf proof pair

... a couple of rooks ...



Official letter, sent free of charge March 4th 1843, from Desenzano del Garda. This folded letters bares the town's coat of arms, which yields postage privileges. The coat of arms contains two towers that resemble chess rooks.

... two bishops ...



... and, as in life, one king and one queen.



The Sides Line Up

2.2 ... form two armies...

The size of the army

Like chess, real life armies

... are based on the harmonious operation of different units, such as infantry, armor and air force.

However, unlike chess, in war the size of the army may vary. Napoleon's Grande Armée got its name due to its size.



USSR postal card, issued 1943. 20 Kopeks was the intercity rate.



Folded letter sent April 23rd, 1808, from Goleniów to a French officer in the reserve artillery unit of the 3rd corps of the Grande Armée, located near Warsaw. Postage (15 centimes, indicated on reverse) was paid by the sender. Prepaid letters under 7 grams addressed to military persons on duty had a flat 15 centimes rate as of June 25th, 1796.

The American General George Armstrong Custer

... was better equipped when he attacked Little Big Horn ...



Postcard sent October 31st, 1881 from Custer, Dakota Territory (nowadays, South Dakota). The town is named after General George Armstrong Custer, the American commander who was killed in the battle of Little Big Horn. Post office opened 1877, and served at the time a population of about 250 people.



... but he was defeated by the Native American's who had a 3:1 advantage in manpower, cleverly used by their leaders, Sitting Bull ...

... and Crazy Horse.



Perforation error



The Sides Line Up

2.2 ... form two armies...

The uniforms

In chess there are two armies, distinguishable by their color. One color is light and the other is dark ...

... and typically, black and white are used.



For every dark color piece...



... there's a corresponding piece in light color.



Missing blue color and misperforation errors. Partial TPO cancellation of Seftigen of February 23rd 1968, some 3 weeks before the stamp was issued. **Only one sheet of 25 with the double error was discovered. Currently only 13 copies are known.**

In war, the distinction between the two sides is through the color of their uniforms. In the American civil war the Union and the Confederacy soldiers...

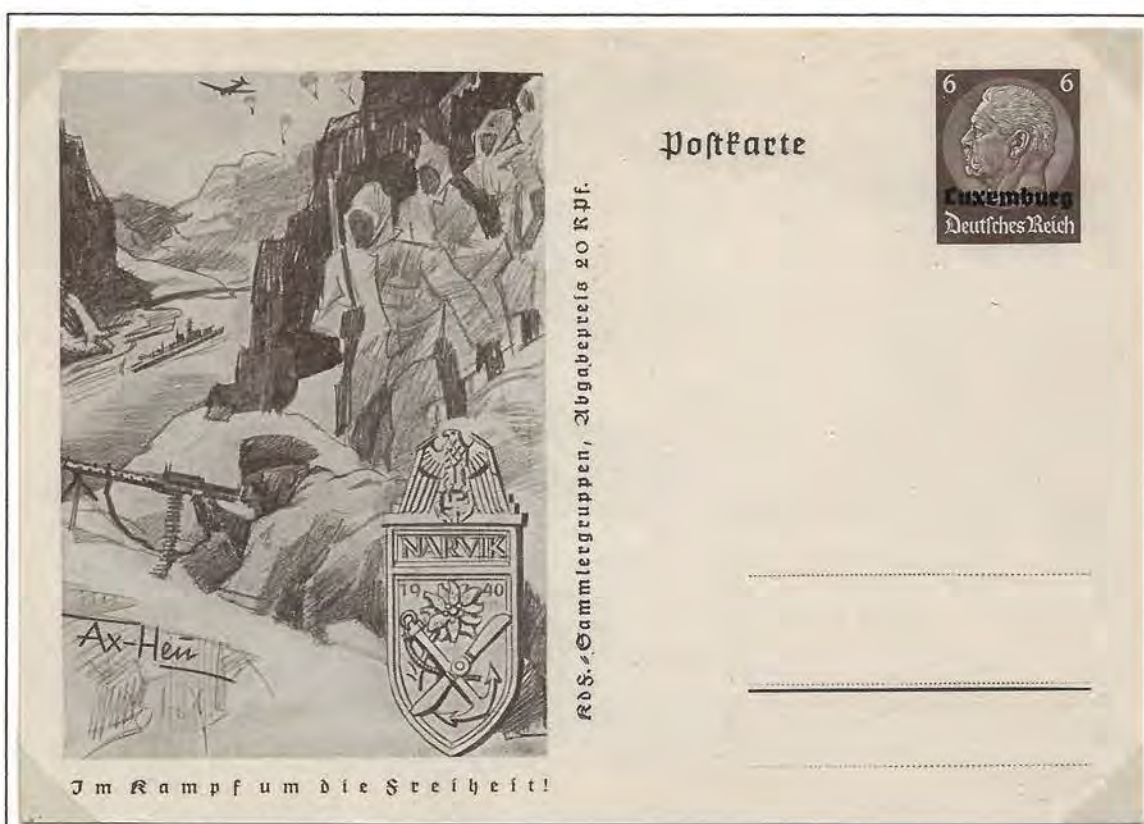
... were known as "the blue coats" ...

... and "the gray coats", respectively.

In modern armies the uniform's colors are chosen to fit the surroundings and camouflage the presence of soldiers. German soldiers wore white coats in the snow ...



... while the Boers used khaki uniforms in the prairie during their guerilla war against the British.



Postal Stationery for use in German occupied Luxembourg

The Sides Line Up

2.3 ... each with its own commander...

The chess players

Chess is typically played "one on one" by two players ...
... who may be grown ups ...



1957 Russian postal card for local usage. Photocopy of front, 25%.

... and nowadays may even not be human!

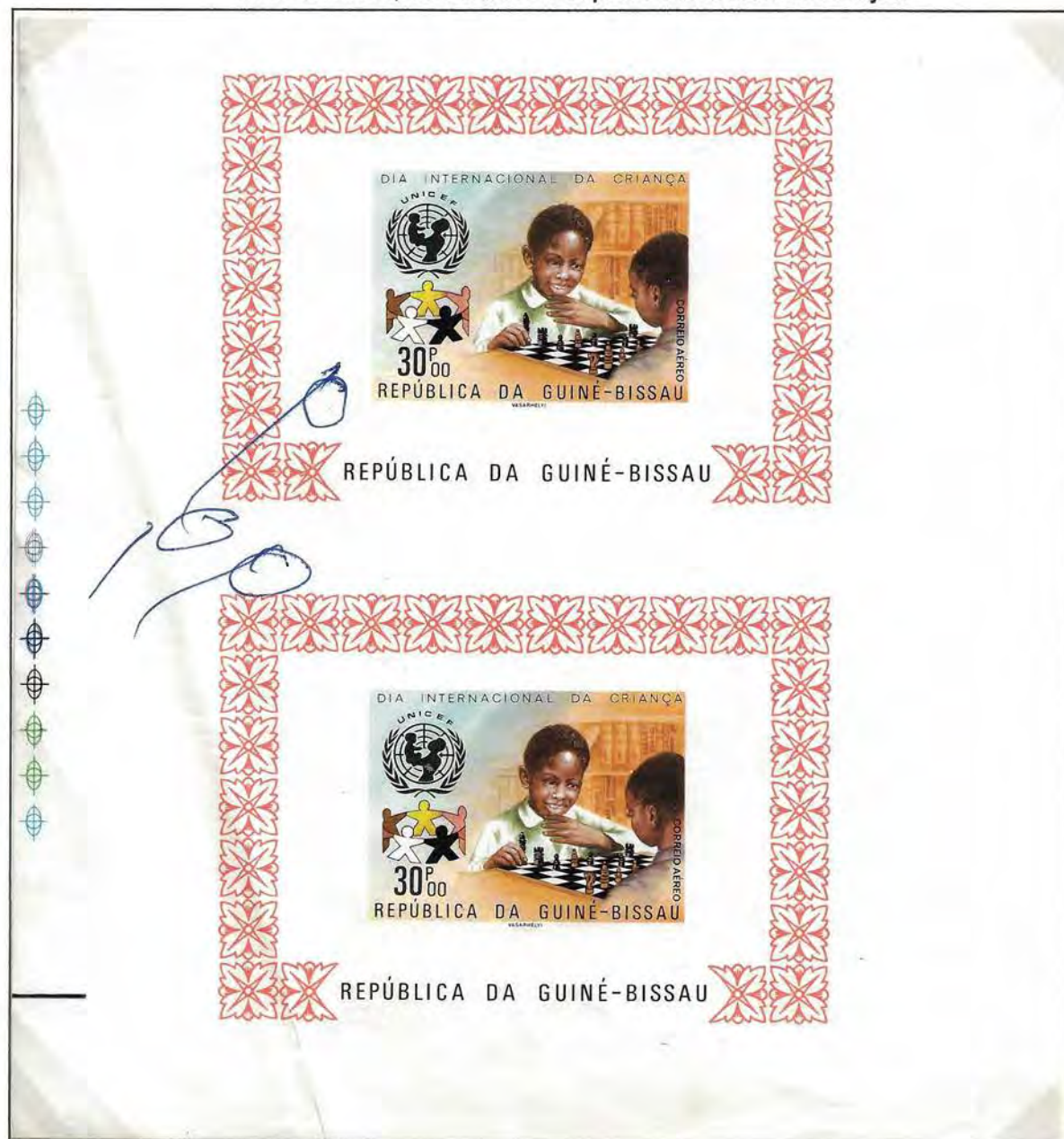


Occasionally a chess master faces many opponents at the same time ...



Capablanca giving a simultaneous chess display

... or children, who can't even place the board correctly...



Master proof printing of two imperforated sheets from the archives of Format International Security Printers with positional markings on the side. Three tiny printing flaws were circled for correction by the printer. **Very few master proofs were made.** Design error: The board is set sideways.

... in a so-called simultaneous display.



The Sides Line Up

2.3 ... each with its own commander...

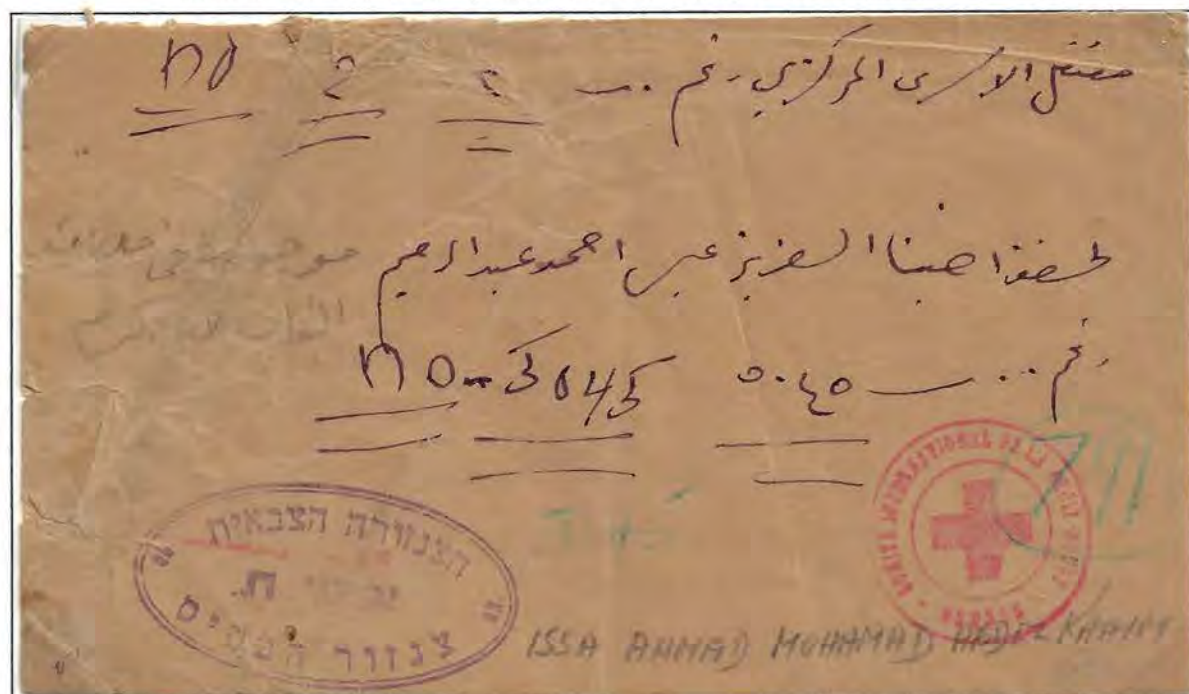
The parties to war

War is typically fought between two countries, e.g., France and Prussia in 1870.



Letter sent by a French POW from Mainz on November 18th, 1870 to Libourne, France. Cachet of the Royal Prussian Government, castle of Mainz, where POWs were held. Letters of POWs were sent free of charge via Switzerland, according to the agreement of August 7th, 1870 between the two countries (Handstamp in blue – "post frei L. Verf 7.8.70")

However, sometimes one country has to fight simultaneously on several fronts. Israel in its War of Independence faced Iraq from the North- East ...



... Jordan and ...



Privileged civilian letter sent from Jerusalem, besieged by the Jordanian army. The letter, franked with 10mil 2nd Jerusalem local issue (the local rate), was flown to Tel-Aviv, cancelled at army post base A (June 9th, 1948) and forwarded to destination.

Cover sent from Iraq via the Red Cross to a POW held in Camp 2. Iraqi military censor cancellation on reverse (photocopy, 75%), and Israeli camp censor on front.



... the Palestinians from the East ...



... and Syria from the North.



... Egypt from the South.



The Sides Line Up

2.3 ... each with its own commander ...

Basic training

Chess is a complicated game, which requires learning ...

... in a chess club ...



Reich's chess week - Visit chess clubs everywhere.

... such as the one in Havana, Cuba ...



Only 1 imperforated sheet of 100 printed.
One of 4 blocks of four seen.

... or by private teachers at home ...



... using books ...

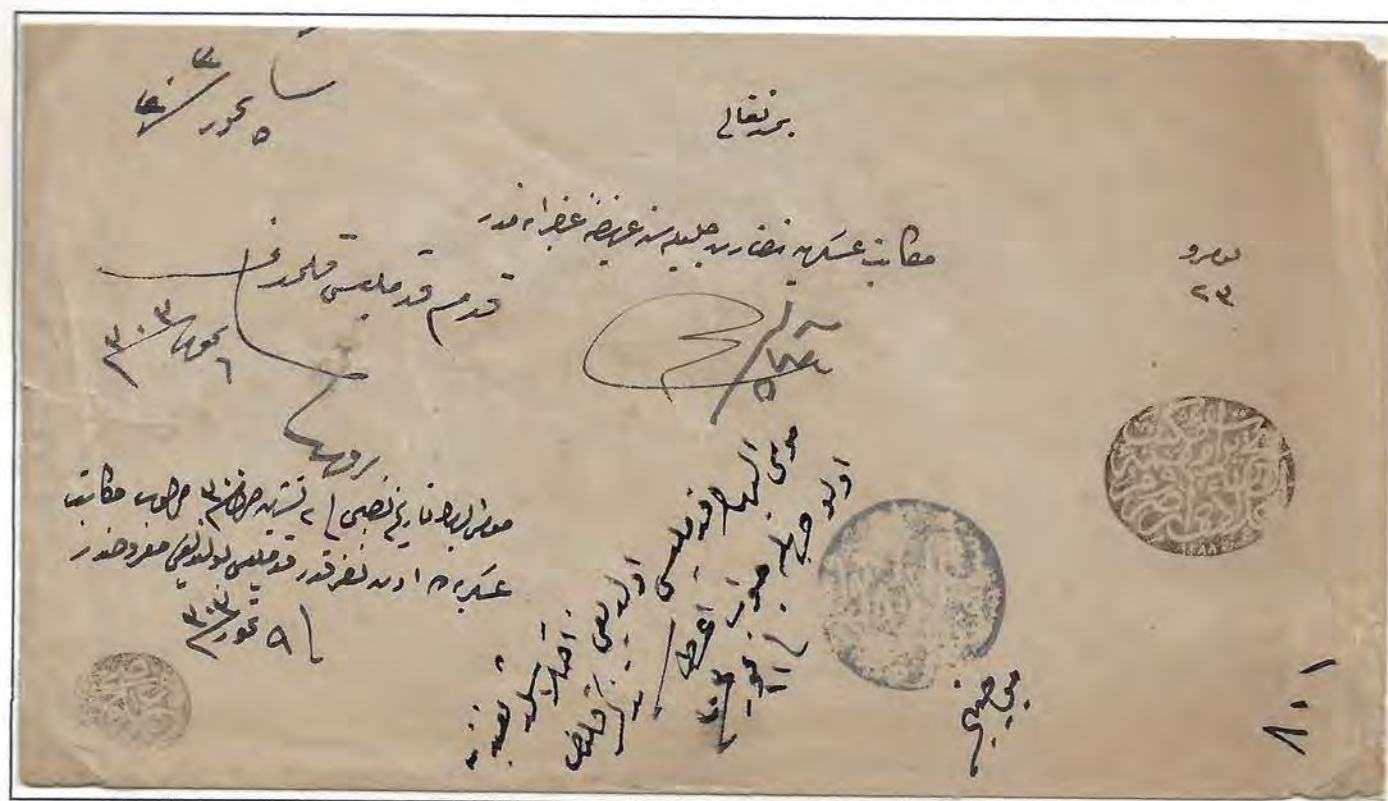


... and manuals.



Reverse side of the 1954 Pro Juventute booklet, with an ad for a chess manual distributed by the organization.

Official letter sent in 1887 from the Erzurum military school in Turkey. Black oval negative seal of the institute provided postal privileges.



The command of armies is those who passed training in military schools.

The Sides Line Up

2.3 ... each with its own commander...

Titles and honors

In chess, as in war, it is important to leave the command of the army in capable hands. The quality of chess players ...

... is reflected by the international rating list ...



Booklet

... and by their title, the highest of which is a Grandmaster...

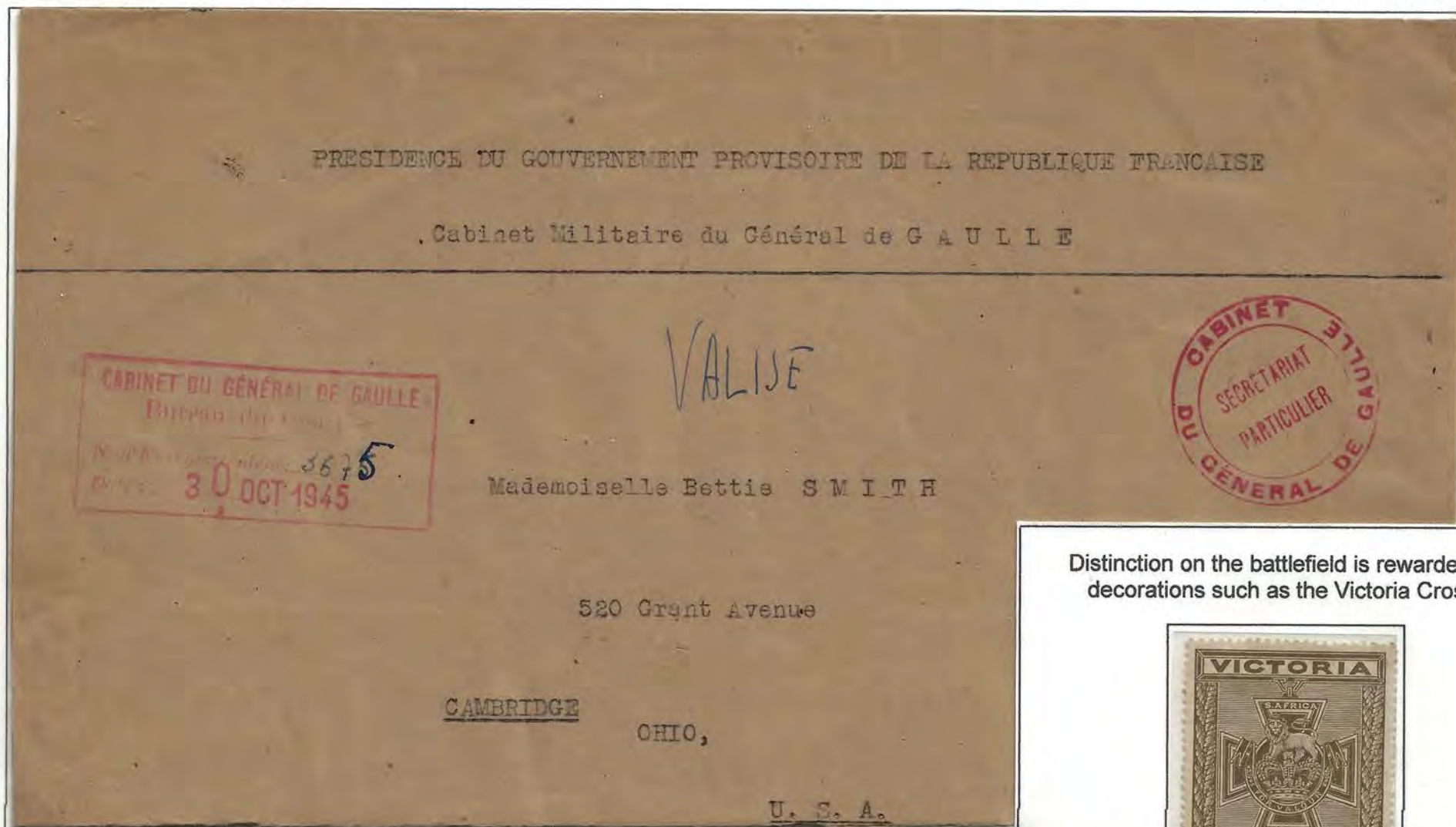


... a title first awarded by the Russian Tsar Nicholas II.



Proof of central vignette printed on chalk-surfaced paper

Military commanders are also given ranks according to their abilities. The equivalent of the grandmaster title is a General.



Distinction on the battlefield is rewarded by decorations such as the Victoria Cross.

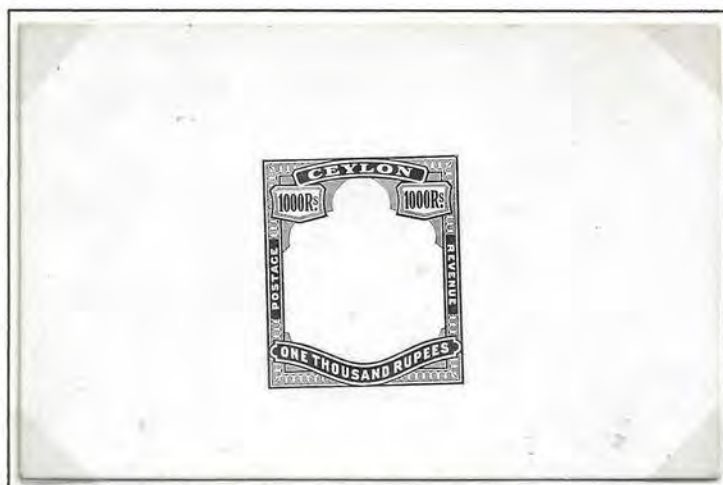


Letter sent registered from Paris to U.S. on October 30th, 1945, from the French provisional government after WWII, led by General De Gaulle.

2.4 ... on a set battlefield ...

The game is restricted to the board

Chess is played on a board, which sets the frame in which the game will be played.



De La Rue die proof in black of frame only on glazed card. **Very few produced for this high value.**

Unlike chess, the battlefield in war is not bound. In the 2nd Punic War, the Romans assumed the "board" consisted of a limited area, colored in black in the map below ...



WWII airgraph, 1944

Pieces outside the board cannot participate in the game.



... but Hannibal saw the bigger picture ...



Soldier's free mail sent 3/1919 from USS Hannibal. Ship was named after the Carthaginian commander

... and marched his troops on elephants through the Alps, leading to victory in the battle of Cannae.



The Sides Line Up

2.4 ... on a set battlefield ...

Topography

The chess board is flat...

... and symmetric, so neither side has any inherent advantage.



Letter sent from Prüm, Germany on July 15th, 1949. The 4pf printed matter rate for under 20 grams was exempt from the Berlin Notopfer tax. The cancel advertises a chess tournament, planned to start on July 23rd. On the evening of July 15th - the first day of usage of the cancellation - a French munition depot exploded and demolished the town center, including the post office. The tournament was cancelled. **Less than 20 covers are known.**

On the other hand, in war fortresses are usually built on a strategically superior position, such as a mountain top ...



Hungarian postal stationery, used 1898
Photocopy of reverse, 30%



... leaving the attacker with no choice but to conduct a difficult, uphill, battle.

A Japanese postal stationery issued during WWII.
Photocopy of reverse, 30%



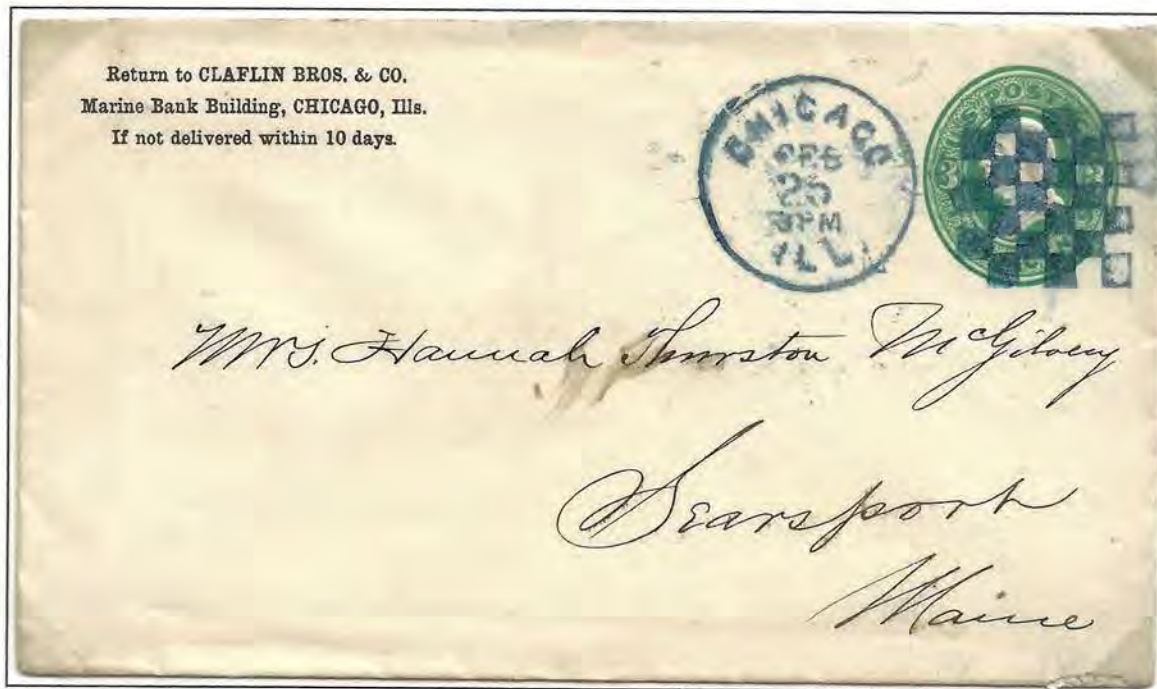
The Sides Line Up

2.4 ... on a set battlefield ...

Size and orientation

The chess board ...

... has a checkered pattern ...



Chicago Illinois fancy cancel of 1870's with a 7x6 checkered pattern

The chess board is 8 x 8 in size and is placed

... with a light-colored square at bottom right.



Sunken artist proof signed by the engraver

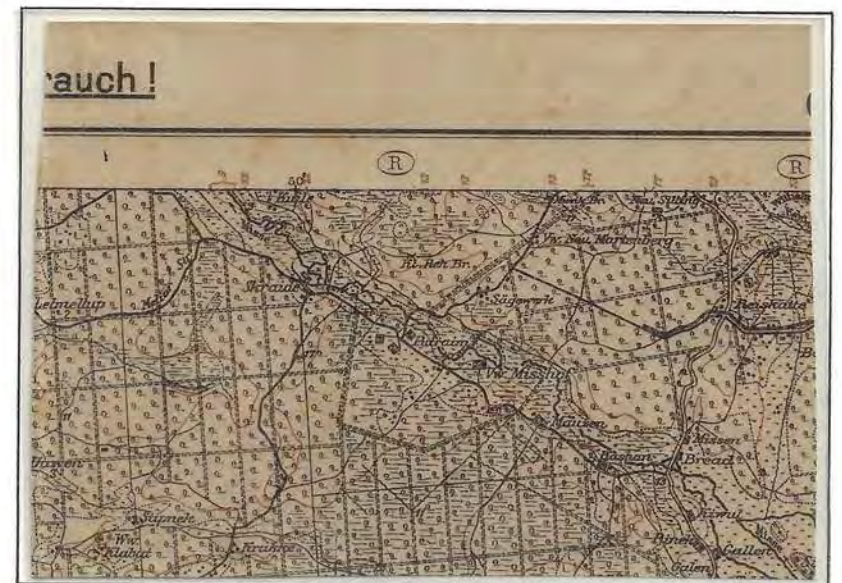


... with squares in two colors ... and **only** two colors.



Dramatic shift of the yellow color, creating a board with squares in three colors – green, yellow and white (at the 3 bottom rows). The deviation in color alignment seems to vary along the sheet, this being the most significant from the very few examples seen. **Only one sheet of 100 is believed to exist. The stamp with the plate number is therefore believed to be unique.**

Real-life battlefields are far more complicated, and orientation is kept using a special, military, map.



1918 Latvia 1st issue, printed on the reverse side of a WWI German military map, due to shortage of paper. Imperforated block of 10. The division of the map, particularly on the left side, resembles a chess board.

Photocopy of front – 50%

The production of chess sets is carried out by various manufacturers, but the most prestigious chess sets are hand made from Ivory and Ebony.

No. 6.—August 10th, 1840.]

HALLETT'S POSTAGE ADVERTISER.

The plan of this work is to sell the Envelopes at 8d. per dozen to Advertisers, and to the Public at 10d. Every Advertiser shall be at liberty to draw (if he pleases) after the rate of one dozen stamps for every line of his advertisement, by which the circulation will be, in a great measure, in their own hands. Nevertheless, the Proprietors will sell to the public the whole, should the advertiser not require them. It is hardly necessary to say, from the great reduction in price, they are immediately bought up by the public, and the edition being 5000, added to its novelty, offers a medium for publicity hitherto unprecedented; and means will be used for each advertiser to see that that number is really printed.

TO THE LADIES!—The following Article for the Tablet has elicited General Commendation, and is confidently submitted to the Patronage of the Public as possessing a decided Excellence in its effects and appearance.

PROUT'S INDIAN RUBBER STICKING PLASTER, which does not wash off. Embracing the advantages of being waterproof and flexible, whilst the superiority of its manufacture must render it a general favourite over the old and exploded Gout Plaster, which it bids fair entirely to supersede. From its peculiar flexibility it sticks firm and close on joints and other places where the Original Plaster would be useless. The present valuable article may be placed on the hands and face without renewal for several days; it is characterized by extreme tenacity of adhesion, which prevents the liability of its being washed off.

Sold by the Proprietor, THOMAS PROUT, Perfumer, 229, Strand, London, at 6d. per Paper, and by Johnston, 68, Cornhill; Hallett, 83, High Holborn; and all respectable Perfumers and Medicine Vendors throughout the Kingdom.

GLOBES.—NEWTON and SON beg to inform Tutors and others, that they keep constantly on Sale, at their Manufactory, a large assortment of the above useful and ornamental Articles, at all prices, and in great variety of elegant and tasteful mountings. These globes have met with the highest approbation from many distinguished scientific societies, and have been honoured with the notice of some of our first astronomers. Manufactory, 68, Chancery-lane, where lists of the prices may be obtained gratis.

SEASONED FLOOR CLOTH, at 2s. 6d. the square yard. JOHN WILSON begs to inform the Public that he has in hand a large assortment of well-seasoned FLOOR-CLOTH, which he is selling at 2s. 6d. the square yard, cut to any size. Wilson's, 253, Strand, near Temple Bar, opposite Essex-street. Established 1815.

RAZORS.—The Money returned, if not approved of.—W. MATTHEWS, Working Cutler, No. 11, Portugal-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

PENNY POST (if prepaid).—Persons desirous of using DICKER'S CELEBRATED OPIATE CORN-PLASTER for the removal of Corns, Bunions, and all hard fleshy substances on the feet, may have the quantity of a box forwarded to any part of the Kingdom (prepaid) by enclosing 1s. and a 4d. piece. Prepared only, and sold by W. Dickers, Chemist, 235, Strand, next door to Temple Bar, London.

YORK AND LONDON ASSURANCE COMPANY.
LONDON BOARD.
George Frederick Young, Esq., Chairman.
Matthew Forster, Esq., Deputy Chairman.
A. Bannerman, Esq., M.P. J. Bulkeley Johnson, Esq.
Lord Ernest Bruce, M.P. T. H. Korfoot, Esq.
J. W. Childers, Esq. John Parker, Esq., M.P.
Sir James Byre, M.D. E. Whitaker, Esq.
William Haight, Esq.
The terms, both for Fire and Life Assurance, will be found to combine all the advantages offered by other Companies. Prospectuses may be had at the Offices, King William Street, London; and High Ousegate, York; or of any of the Agents. J. REDDISH, Sec.

BLAIR'S GOUT AND RHEUMATIC PILLS.—The recent Testimonial of Lieut. Masters (of Hawley, near Bagshot), late of the Royal Newfoundland Veteran Companies, who was invalided home by a Garrison order, together with the numerous Certificates which have been published from persons in every station in life, from all parts of the empire, particularly those of the Rev. Dr. Blomberg, the Chevalier de la Garde, &c. &c., demonstrate this Preparation to be one of the greatest discoveries in Medicine. Sold by Thomas Prout, 229, Strand, London; and by the Vendors of Medicines throughout the empire.

SUMMER.
To the custom of periodical visits to the SEA COAST, in situations usually exposed to the sun's most fervid rays, and destitute of the cool and delicious shadows of the sylvan retreat, we frequently trace many cases of Cutaneous Malady. SOLAR HEAT produces upon the delicate Skin a species of inflammation, which, upon subsiding, leaves a permanent stain of *incoerent tan*, or sprinkles of *freckle*; in other instances, a discolouration inclining to *redness* and swelling, afterwards easily excited to assume some one of the multitudinous forms of *eruption*. There exists no doubt, that these evils are materially aggravated by SALINE VAPOUR, or by SEA-BATHING, which latter, though salutary as a tonic, cannot be otherwise than unfavourable to the susceptibility of the Female Complexion to injury from stimulating and acrid causes. The ONLY efficient PREVENTIVE against these unpleasant liabilities of the SKIN and COMPLEXION is—

ROWLAND'S KALYDOR.

An Auxiliary of vital importance to the support of Feminine Beauty.
By its use, the effects of atmospheric influence upon the skin are entirely neutralized, and that constant healthy action of the minute vessels promoted—on which depend continued delicacy of texture and tint.
The distressing and unsightly varieties of Cutaneous Eruptions are also promptly eradicated by the KALYDOR. Spots, Pimples, Freckles, Discolourations, and Sallowness, yield to its SPECIFIC QUALITIES, and are succeeded by a smoothness and transparency of the skin, giving rise to the most pleasurable sensations.

LADIES TRAVELLING, or temporarily subjected to any deviation of equable temperature, will find in the KALYDOR a renovating and refreshing auxiliary, dispelling the cloud of languor from the Complexion, and immediately affording the pleasing sensation attending restored elasticity of the skin. The

ARMS, NECK, AND HANDS,

also partake largely of the advantages derived from its use, exhibiting a delicacy of appearance heretofore scarcely attainable—even with the most sedulous care and attention. ROWLAND'S KALYDOR, composed of EXTRACTS OF THE MOST BALSMIC NATURE, and free from MINERAL ADMIXTURE, is of especial use in allaying incidental inflammation, and infallible in removing all harshness and irritability; it will also be found highly useful to Gentlemen who suffer from those causes after SHAVING.

Price 4s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. per Bottle.
NOTICE.—The Name and Address
A. ROWLAND AND SON, 20, HATTON-GARDEN, are on the Government Stamp, which Bottle, also printed, in red, on the Wrapper, is enclosed.

Rowland's Macassar
A VEGETABLE PRODUCT
is the only article that produces and removes WHISKERS, MUSTACHIOS, EYEBROWS, Hair from falling off or turning grey; of life; changes grey hair to its original colour; it from *sewly* and *donderiff*, and makes it CURLY, and GLOSSY. In dressing HAIR in the curl and decorative formation, in weather, crowded rooms, or in the exercise of children, it is invaluable, as its application for a Beautiful Head of HAIR.

CAUTION.—Ask for "ROWLAND'S OIL," and observe their NAME and ADDRESS on the Wrapper, thus—
A. ROWLAND & SON, 20, HATTON-GARDEN, LONDON.
The lowest price is 8s. 6d.—the next price is 12s. 6d.—and 21s. per bottle.

ROWLAND'S OIL OR PEARL DENTIFRICE

A Vegetable White Powder composed of the most delicate ingredients.
Is a never-failing remedy for every disease of the Teeth and Gums, rendering them perfectly white and uniform; while to the Anti-Scorbutic, it imparts a beautiful moves tartar from the Teeth and prevents an agreeable fragrance to the Artificial Teeth, and prevents them from becoming extremely pleasant to the mouth taking Medicine. Price 2s. 9d. per box.

OBSERVE.—The Name and Address of the Proprietors, A. ROWLAND & SON, 20, HATTON-GARDEN, are on the Government Stamp, affixed on each box. Be sure to ask for "ROWLAND'S." Sold by respectable Chemists and Perfumers.

HALLETT, WORKING BRUSH AND COMB-MAKER, IVORY and HARD-WOOD TURNER, 83, High Holborn (nearly opposite the George and Blue Boar Inn).

HALLETT'S TOOTH-BRUSHES, FROM WHICH THE HAIR DOES NOT COME OUT. The serious complaints of the hairs coming out, has induced W. H. to pay some attention to the manufacture of this article of comfort and utility, and he has at last succeeded, even beyond his expectation, in producing a Tooth-brush, that shall stand firm against the most irregular set of teeth, or severe brushing, preventing the possibility of danger from a hair sticking in the throat, or the nervous irritation and annoyance consequent upon their becoming fixed between the teeth. They are made of nearly one hundred various shapes, from the patterns of the first dentists of the day, with an attention to delicacy of form and beauty of finish, that is seldom to be met with.

HALLETT'S HAIR BRUSHES. Hallett's original Hair-brush is of vast utility, where the difficulty of procuring a brush of sufficient strength has been felt; it effectually penetrates the thickest hair, and cleans the head in a manner far superior to the ordinary brushes; prices, from 2s. to 5s. All other kinds of Hair-brushes to suit every head, from infancy to old age, without any artificial hardening of the bristles, and which do not become uselessly soft by washing; from 1s. to 8s. each.

HALLETT'S NEW CLOTHING BRUSH. A new and improved Clothes-brush, combining the advantages of cleaning instantly all mud and dirt from the bottom of trousers, &c., without rubbing, and may be used to dust the finest coat in a very superior manner, without injury to the nap.

These need only be seen to be appreciated.

Pastimes and Amusements.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Ivory Chessmen, from 8s. 6d. upwards.	4	6	to	30 0
Bone ditto	2	0	20	0
Box and Ebony	8	6	24	0
Edinburgh pattern	5	6	30	0
Ivory Draftsmen, per set	2	0	5	6
Box and Ebony, ditto	0	6	1	8
Common, ditto				
Ivory Squares, Dice Boxes; Counters, in Pearl, Ivory, Bone, or Wood; Draft and Cribbage Boards, &c.; Cribbage Pegs. Billiard Balls of every size.				
Bagatelle Balls, 1-inch, 6s.; 1½-inch, 12s.; 1¾-inch, 15s.; 1½-inch, 18s.; 1½-inch, 22s.				
Bagatelle Cups, 1s. to 1s. 9d. per set.				

Publicity for chess sets made of Ivory, Ebony and bone by William Hallett.

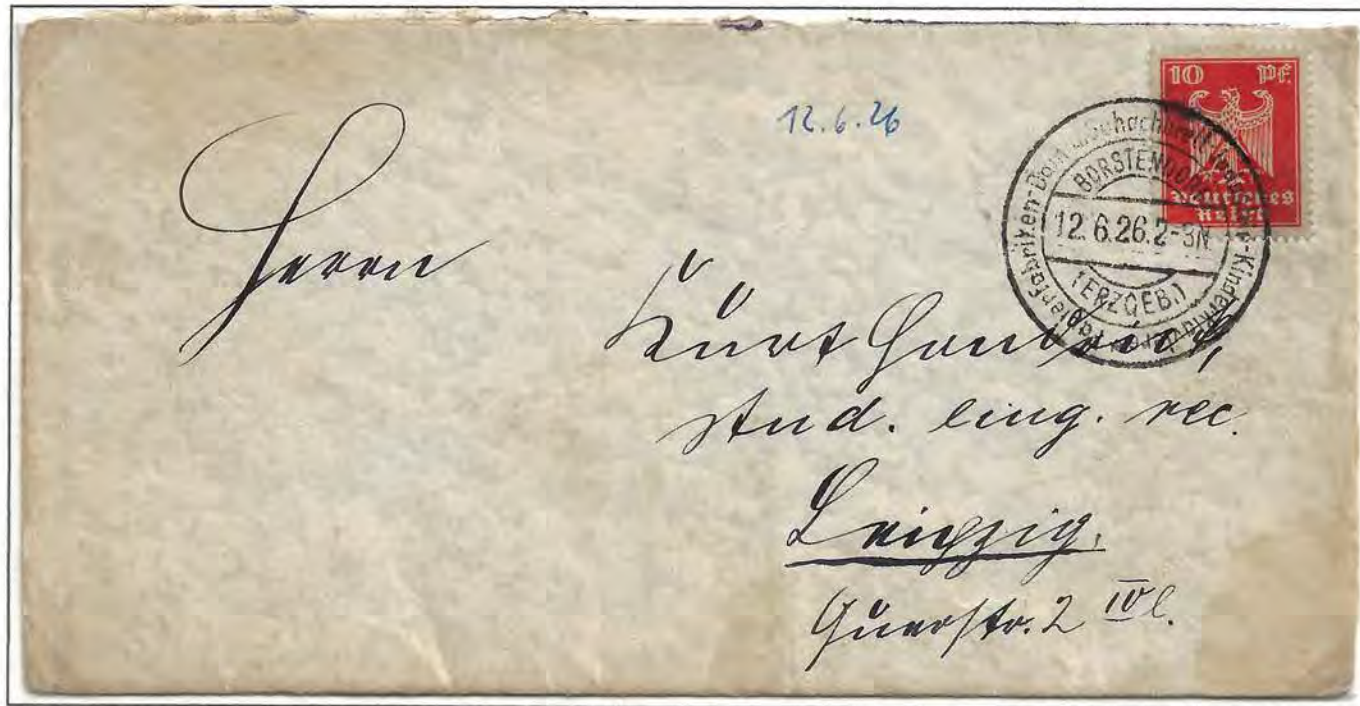
Used copy, Stereo A24.
Cancellation of Sep. 18th,
1840 on reverse.
One of only 11 postally used copies known today.



Envelopes are to be addressed. Any communication or suggestion will be thankfully received by the proprietors.

The production of high quality chess boards is an art perfected by manufacturers ...

... the most famous of which are from the village of Borstendorf, Germany.



The first chess related cancellation ever – publicity for the Borstendorf chess board manufacturers. Cover sent on June 12th, 1926, franked 10 pfennig – the rate for domestic covers, 20-100 grams weight class.

Sometimes expert craftsmen lay out boards by hand.



Security overprint. A large stock of stamps was stolen during the Lebanese civil war. The regular stamps were disqualified, and only overprinted stamps were valid.

Equipment for war is manufactured by private companies, such as the Belgian FN company ...



Postal stationery with FN perfin, sent March 9th, 1908 from the headquarters of the Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre (or FN in short) in Herstal, Belgium to Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Photocopy of Reverse. Due to a problem with the perforating machine the upper line in the letter F, that should appear at the bottom of the reverse side is missing.

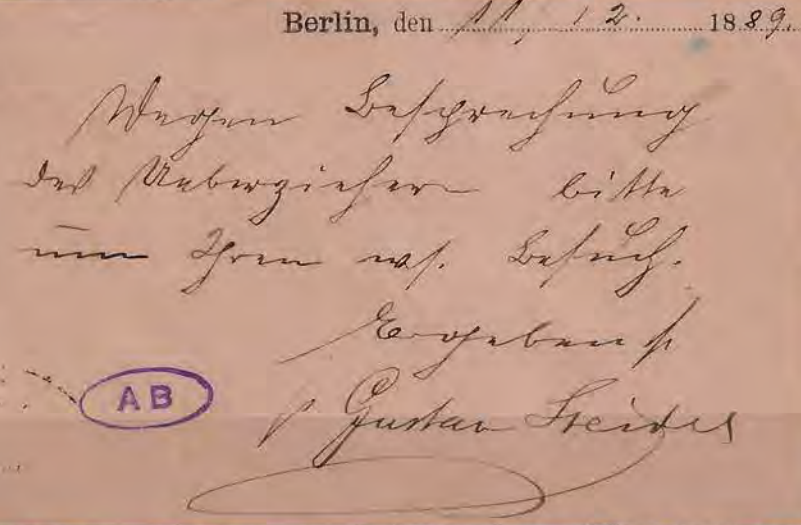
... or by governmentally held companies such as the Israeli Military Industries.



Missing green and light blue error.

Since chess is a game ...

... it is usually sold to the public by dealers specializing in games.

Gustav Steidel Leipzigerstr. 67. Strickgarn und Strumpfwaren Norm. u. Sport-Artikel.	C. Siegele, Uhren, Juwelen u. Goldwaaren gegründet 1830 Friedrichstrasse 103. zwischen Weidendammer Brücke und Stadtbahnhof	P. Kirschberg Spandauer Brücke 1b. Berlins größtes u. reich- Spec. Gesch. in Bettfedern u. Daunon. Fertige Betten, Matratzen, Feld- und Holz- Bettstellen, fertige Julettis u. Bezüge	Z. ALEXANDER Gr. Frankfurt St. 103a Kleiderstoffe-Neuheit per Meter von 75 Pf. an. Wäsche-Ausstattungen in vortrefflicher Ausführung.	Hugo Danz Hof-Photograph Specialit.: Portraits C. Jerusalemstr. 28.
Th. Herbst Charlotten-Str. 32a. Ecke Mohrenstrasse. Fabrik d. Eisenwer- kes „Lauchhammer“ Orig. Werkspreise Ofenvorsetzer, Etagerentische, Rüstungen und Wand-Decorationen. Musterschneide- und Musterheftmaschinen Carl Thümecke jun. Neue Grün-Str. 26. Heinrich Pfennig Pinsel- Fabrik Markgrafenstr. 82.	Berlin, den 11. 12. 1889. 			Alb. Marwitz, Neugraben 23 Lager der neuesten Anzug- und Paletotstoffe, Damen- Billard- und Putztücher, Ausschnitt zu billigsten Fabrikpreisen. — Bei Ein- kauf von 10 Mk. nehme dies Coup. für 1 Mk. in Zahl.
A. E. Schneider Bank-Geschäft SO. Köpnick Str. 26	H. M. Salomonski Herren- und Knaben- Garderobe Landsberger Str. 89. Bestellungen nach Maass in kürzester Zeit.	Billigste Bezugsquelle für Oeldruckgemälde Carl Grauert SW. Charlottenstr. 22.	Hugo Schromm Neue Borsstrasse 15. Spielwaren, Lager von Puppen, Puppenköpfe, Bälle, Schuhe, Strümpfen Specialität eleganter Jawa- Decken in allen Größen zu den billigsten Preisen	Die Kesselfer- und Alfendemaaren-Fabrik von Fr. Langer Friedrich-Strasse 49 empfiehlt zur bevorstehend Weihnachtsaison ihre A. G. Kesselfer- und Alfendemaaren-Fabrik geeign. z. solid. u. fest Preis.
			Mam Lange Friedrich-Strasse 195 Moerschbaum- u. Bornstein- Cigarren - Spitzen, Pfeifen, Tabakdosen, Spazierstöcke, Manichettknöpfe, Domino und Schachspiel- Damenbretter.	



Photocopy of front, 30%

A 2 Pf. Postal stationery for local usage within Berlin, sent December 11th 1889. Card issued by the Berliner Packetfahrt Actien - Gesellschaft company. Private mail services were permitted within cities by the German law until April 1900. Reverse includes ads for various shops, including one selling chess sets among other games.

Naturally, heavy arms are not on sale to the general public, but rifles and pistols alongside corresponding ammunition are advertised and sold to the general public for hunting and for personal protection.



Photocopy of front, 30%

Stationery letter sheet (series 8) with face value of 15 centimes postally used in Paris, 1889. The letter sheet was sold for 5 centimes due to commercial advertisements, one of which is for a dealer selling rifles and pistols.

CHLOROSE, ANEMIE, PALES COULEURS Appauvrissement du Sang FER BRAVAIS Le meilleur et le plus actif de tous les ferrugineux Dépôt dans la plupart des Pharmacies	PURGATIFS & DEPURATIFS Leur succès s'affirme depuis près d'un siècle contre les ENCORCEMENTS D'INTESTINS Constipation, Migraine, Congestions, etc. Très contrefaits et imités sous d'autres noms Exiger l'étiquette ci-jointe en 4 couleurs 1 ^{re} 50 lat/2 boîte (50 grains), 3 ^{re} la boîte (105 grains) Notice dans chaque Boîte, DANS TOUTES LES PHARMACIES	Grands VINS de Bordeaux et de BOURGOGNE Recommandés CAVES du NORD 99 Boulevard Magenta PARIS — C. LECAT
BLOUSES Aux Halles Centrales BRAILLON TABLIERS 35, rue Berger, Paris	FUSILS LEFAUCHEUX Double Clef. 45 f. Revolvers 6 coups 8 f. G. PAUL 108, B ^e Magenta près la gare du Nord PARIS Pistolets FLOBERT depuis 5 fr. 50 CARTOUCHIÈRES Carniers — Gâchettes Escrime Imp. Châiz. — 1897-8-9.	MIGRAINE guéries instantanément par CACHETS ANTI-MIGRAINE Guillon , 134, B ^e Voltaire. Paris. 3 ^e envoi franco et dans toutes les pharmacies NEURALGIE — RAGE DE DENTS

2.5 ... and a supporting infrastructure

Royal support

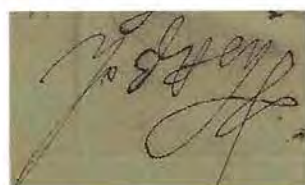
In the old days, chess tournaments were initiated by kings...

... the 1st international chess tournament in his royal palace, El Escorial ...



Folded letter, sent in 1837 from San Lorenzo de El Escorial to Madrid, charged 25 Cuatros. Ca. Na. (Castilla La Nueva) indicates the historic region.

... in honor of his favorite player, Ruy Lopez.



Letter sent by King Phillip II of Spain on 1563 from Monzon, Huesca, to Milan, signed "Yo El Rey" (I the King), with the embossed royal seal. Above: photocopy of signature, 60%.

Royals later became sponsors of chess events. HRH the Duke of York ...



... like King Philip II of Spain who hosted in 1574 ...



... was the principal sponsor of the 1895 Hastings chess tournament.

Lower margin block of 12 from the 5th printing, overprinted Specimen in carmine with American Bank security punch



2.5 ... and a supporting infrastructure

Government & private support

In the modern world significant financial support is often provided by governments ...

... like the Soviet Union which hosted the 1936 International chess tournament under luxurious conditions, despite drier economic conditions in the country at that time. The massive governmental investment turned the USSR into a world superpower in chess, far ahead of the rest of the world.



Registered letter sent from the temporary post office at the tournament site in Moscow to Tashkent, May 31st 1936, with a special cancellation for the international chess tournament, franked 40 Kopecks (20 Kop – inland letter plus 20 Kop registration fee). Arrival cancellation of June 4th on reverse.

The Cuban government tried to emulate the Soviet example when it hosted the 1966 chess Olympiad ...



Plate variety olimFiada Bottom row, first column.

... and due to the generous support of the United Arab Emirate government the country was granted with the hospitality of the 1986 chess Olympiad.

Companies like IBM sponsor chess events for public relations, seeking to be associated with the prestigious game.



One measure governments occasionally take to finance chess events...

... is to introduce mandatory charity tax stamps,

... the proceeds of which are dedicated to a specific chess event, as done by Yugoslavia for the 1990 Chess Olympiad.



The usage of the charity tax stamp was mandatory from October 15th through December 31st, 1990.

Registered letter sent from Belgrade on November 9th 1990, properly franked with 7 new dinars, and the obligatory charity tax stamp of 1 dinar.



The usage of the charity tax stamp made the general public the sponsor of the event ...



... so the Olympiad took place.



Letter sent by registered mail from Srbobran on October 9th, 1990. Although the charity tax stamp was not mandatory before October 15th it was nevertheless applied, probably by a mistake of the post office clerk. Postage was paid by cash at the counter, as indicated by the violet handstamp.

2.5 ... and a supporting infrastructure

War tax

The financial burden of war is inflicted upon the public. During World War I Jamaica overprinted stamps with "war tax" ...



1st printing, 3/1916: Printed locally by the Government Printing Office. The lower value stamps were printed in 4 panes of 6 x 10 per sheet.



Ovpt. inverted
Error exists only in a single sheet.
240 copies known.

Double Ovpt.
72 copies known
Panels 3, 4, rows 5-10



2nd printing, 10/1916: Printed locally at same place. 2 lines used to ease the centering. The 3P stamps were printed in 2 panes per sheet.



No S in Stamp
Row 6, Col. 6
Pane 2

Inverted d instead of p
Row 11, Col. 5
Pane 4

S inserted by hand
Row 6 Col. 6.
Pane 2



3rd printing, 1917: Printed locally with larger fonts.



Printed on back only
240 copies
Stamp only
Error exists only in a single sheet.
Bottom row- 24 copies
Printed sideways
120 copies



Broken S
Row 4, Col 6
Pane 3

Broken R, P imprinted twice
Row 7, Col. 6
Pane 1

... so that as of April 1st, 1916 every letter sent from Jamaica supported the war effort.



Registered mail to the USA, with appropriate franking
(2P postage + 2P registration fee + 1/2P war tax) using stamps from the 1917 printing.

2.5 ... and a supporting infrastructure

War tax

After the end of hostilities, the special war tax is revoked, and normal service is resumed.



4th printing, 1919:
Printed by De La Rue



Specimen – 360 copies were
sent to the UPU



The financial burden of war is also inflicted on the public after the war to support the victims.



The war tax in Jamaica was cancelled
on March 31st, 1920. An extremely late
usage of war tax stamps on an airmail
letter to the USA in 1941. The 1/2 P
stamps are from the first printing and
the 3P stamps from the 1917 printing.

BLP advertising letter, sent registered
from Rome to Verona, Sep. 1922.
As of January 1st, 1922 the rate in Italy
was 40C for regular first class mail + 50C
registration fee.

BLP overprinted stamp were sold with 5C
discount, and could have been used only
on BLP covers.

The profits of the advertisements were
donated to the national federation for
assisting war blind, disabled and injured.

The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.1 One side starts ...

The beginning of a chess game

Now, that everything is set, we can start playing. A game of chess starts in an organized and civilized manner:

The board is set in a symmetric fashion,
so that no side has any advantage.

The two opponents sit across from one another ...



... and shake hands before the game starts.



Official letter, sent free of charge, October 19th 1824 from Pesaro, bearing the city coat of arms, which yields postage privileges. The Pesaro coat of arms contains two handshakes.



White makes the first move,
such as e2-e4 ...



Blue color shifted – only copy seen

Black then replies with his own move.



The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.1 One side starts ...

The beginning of war

War does not necessarily start in such an orderly fashion.

Of course, someone makes the first move ...



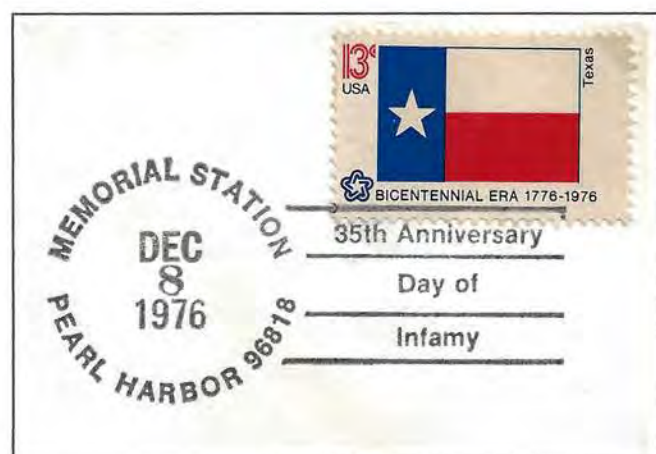
Postal stationery sent from Christchurch on April 9th, 1900. Early usage: Card was issued March 31st. Up rated ½d for mail to Germany. Arrival cancellation of Lokstedt, May 19th.

... on December 7th, 1941...

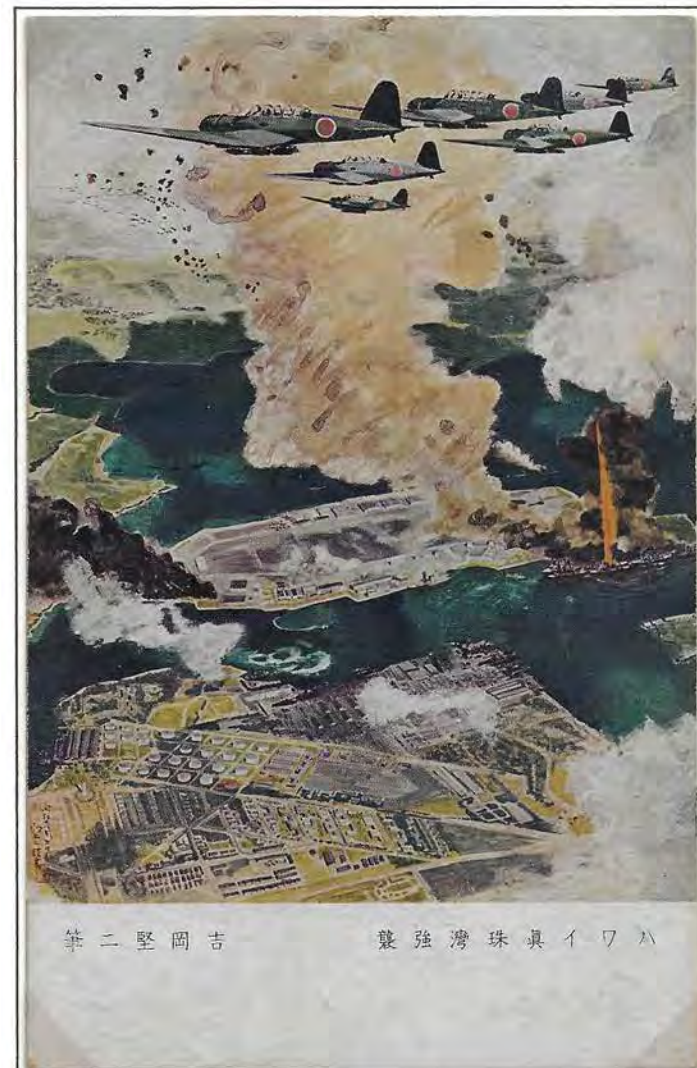


Pitney Bowes "A931 Portphon", group RB18, multi value meter.

... known as the day of infamy ...



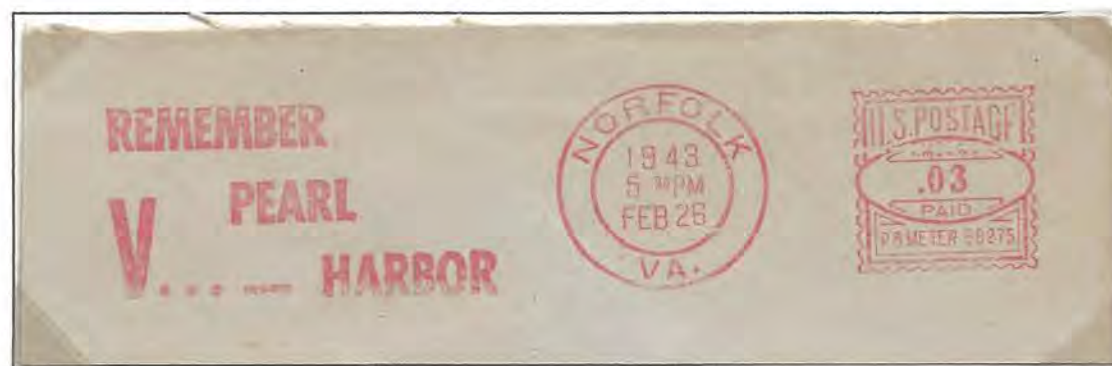
... but this may be a surprise attack, like the one carried out by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor ...



A Japanese postal stationery issued during the war. Photocopy – 30%



... which motivated the Americans throughout the war.



Pitney Bowes, group DC3, limited value (10 values) meter.

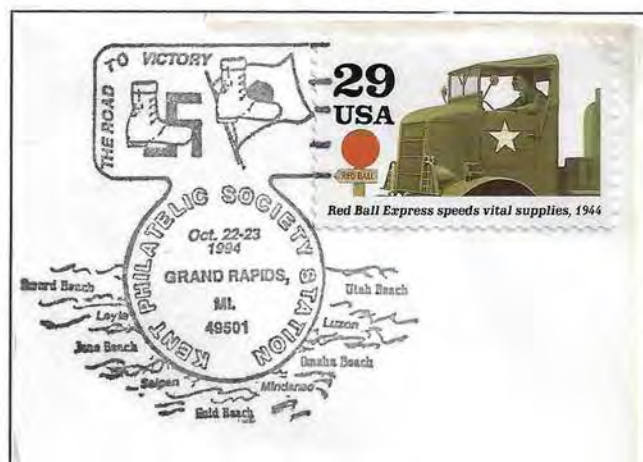
The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.2 ... and then progress is gradually made...

Advancing step by step

A chess game consists of a series of moves that are sequentially numbered until one side is victorious.

The same applies to war:
The road to victory is long.



Success is achieved gradually ...



... by a sequence of battles.



Letter with manuscript registration label from Kfar Behadrage (name means "gradually", indicating that the Jewish homeland will be built step by step) from the Minhelet Ha'am period (May 2nd – May 14th, 1948). Mixed franking of British mandate stamps and a JNF label converted into postage by an overprint (Tel Aviv type), totaling 25 mills - the rate for inland registered letters. Post office served a population of about 200 people – the smallest post office in the country at the time. One of only 20 registered letters known from this P.O. from the Minhelet Ha'am period.



The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.2 ... and then progress is gradually made...

Monitoring the moves

Chess players record the moves during the game ...

... on a special form called a score sheet ...

... usually using the so-called algebraic notation, where every square is represented by a letter and a number.



The chess language is completely incomprehensible to anyone who is not a chess fan, and may well suspected to be an espionage code.



Letter sent (Jan 9th 1942) from Wittenberg, Germany, to Marmarosh, Hungary. Opened by the German censor and returned to sender, in accordance with regulations of April 2nd 1940. These regulations refer to mail sent during the war to countries that are not in a state of war with the German Reich.

The attached form provides several possible reasons for the refusal of delivery, including "Schachaufgabe" (chess moves, or chess problems), which is underlined. This letter included chess moves recorded in algebraic notation, suspected of being used as an espionage code.

The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.2 ... and then progress is gradually made.

Monitoring the troops

In war, just like in chess, there is a need for the commanders to monitor the movements of the troops.

Serbia took part in World War I ...



Essay printed by Bradbury Wilkinson and Company in London, with the word specimen perforated. Note the differences in the digits with respect to the subsequent items and the absence of currency identification.



First engraving



Corrected engraving



The work was then transferred to M. Daussy in Paris, who engraved the Master Die and all the die proofs.

Final engraving

... and King Peter allegedly supervised the troops in person...



The design depicts King Peter who is seen seated, with Prince George holding a map and Field Marshal Stepanovic' using the binoculars.

Final die proof, also taken in Paris

Perforation error



The printing of the stamps was done by the Serbian Government Printing Works.

... but the Serbians were nevertheless defeated by the Central Powers.



Imperforated



Proof in black with perforation trial



As issued



Used as wartime emergency currency.

Only the low denominations of the set saw postal usage for a short time. All other cancelled stamps were used as currency due to shortage of small change.

The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.3 There are casualties along the way...

Casualties of chess

The casualties in chess are the pieces ...

... that are poorly deployed, and mis-sent to battle.

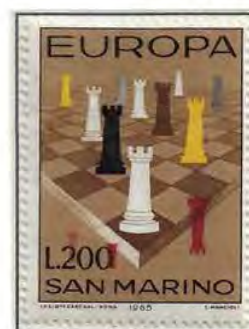


Folded letter sent Aug. 18th 1847 from Lewes to Windmill Hill, wrongly addressed to Battle, where it was properly redirected to Hurst Green. A MISSENT TO BATTLE handstamp was applied. Transit CDS of Battle (Aug. 19th) and arrival CDS of Hurst Green (Aug. 20th) on reverse. Battle, a small town in East Sussex, is named that way because it was the site of the Battle of Hastings (1066).

They may be "eaten" by the opponent ...



... in which case they "fall off the board".



The inverted red rook error: The red rooks have fallen off the board. **Only one sheet of 40 stamps is known.**



The worst harm that can occur to a chess player ...

... is a headache ...

... or even
a **splitting** headache ...



Perforation error. Pale blue pencil line mark by control officer, indicating that the sheet was supposed to be destroyed. It is estimated that 5 sheets with 5 chess stamps in each exist with such a significant shift of perforation.



... and that can be resolved fairly easily by a pill. →



Belgian Giro cover, used Jan, 5th 1934. This design was used for two months only (12/1933 - 1/1934)

The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.3 There are casualties along the way...

Prisoners of war

In real life warfare the casualties are real, and their suffering is tremendous. One kind of war victims are prisoners of war (POWs).

Dear Sir

I have made bold as
to draw a little more upon you in my
gift is but twenty four lines, gets one Mr Stewart of
was appointed to Scotland, I should not have given you
the trouble had not been merely for my charges upon
the road & I shall pay you again when I come to
London; but I can not make more of any little thing
I saved here in Brest about great loss, I have left
against I can through the difficulty but I shall
I shall be intreated in the Companyes service
out of consideration of my loss & long impru-
-onment, the bill is of the provision current
gets Mr Stewart has sent to Boardman & upon
Mr Welleshaw send so I hope you will
advance that little & I will repay you your
I have the news in the Gazette. I was taken in
Dover June 11) the particulars of gift I shall
write to you all more sent. This is my service
to your Lady and all friends is all from
In the Castle of Brest
November 15th 1706
N.S.

Dear Uncle
Your Nephew & very
humble servant
L Charters

They say you will go to Denmark
upon your last voyage for Mr Stewart
the Companyes prisoners & Companyes
as I have heard of Mr Stewart's
of Denmark

In the old days, POWs were held as slaves, and were better off dead than alive. Wealthy POWs were allowed to write home, and ask their family to pay ransom for their



Photocopy of front, 60%

Letter sent November 1706 by a POW of the War of the Spanish Succession from the Castle of Brest, where he was held, to his family in Edinburgh Scotland, in which he pleads his family to pay ransom for his release. This letter was expertly restored.

**A justified usage of
borderline material.**

In our times POWs are treated more humanely. Still, they are held in captivity behind barbed wires ...



... and must not be forgotten.



The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.3 There are casualties along the way...

Injuries and death

Some soldiers that are wounded on the battlefield...



German Postal card of 1914, printed to raise funds for the German Red Cross.

Letter sent on March 5th 1916 from the Welsh Metropolitan military hospital in Whitchurch, with a cachet "Posted by Wounded Soldier".

... and are then buried in military cemeteries, like the French military cemetery in Tunisia.



... and are then treated in military hospitals.



Others, less fortunate, are killed in action ...



Letter sent on October 13th, 1917 from Folkestone, England, to a Private in the 6th Buffs in France during WWI. Handstamp of "Undelivered for reason stated. Return to Sender" refers to "Killed in Action" manuscript in pencil. Reverse has a Folkestone arrival cancellation of October 19th, and a "k in a (Killed in Action) 3/10/17" manuscript.

Color proof in green (Lorilleux code #1315) from the secondary die.

3.4 ... and time limits to face ...

High tempo games

In a competitive game of chess there is a time limit, imposed using...

... a specially designed double clock is located beside the board.

75 DE ANI DE LA ÎNFIINȚAREA FEDERAȚIEI ROMÂNE DE ȘAH



Carte poștală

Dieter Nisipeanu - cea mai bună performanță din istoria șahului românesc: locul 3 la un Campionat mondial de șah (Las Vegas - 1999)

Expeditor



Tiraj: 20.000 ex.

Destinatar

.....

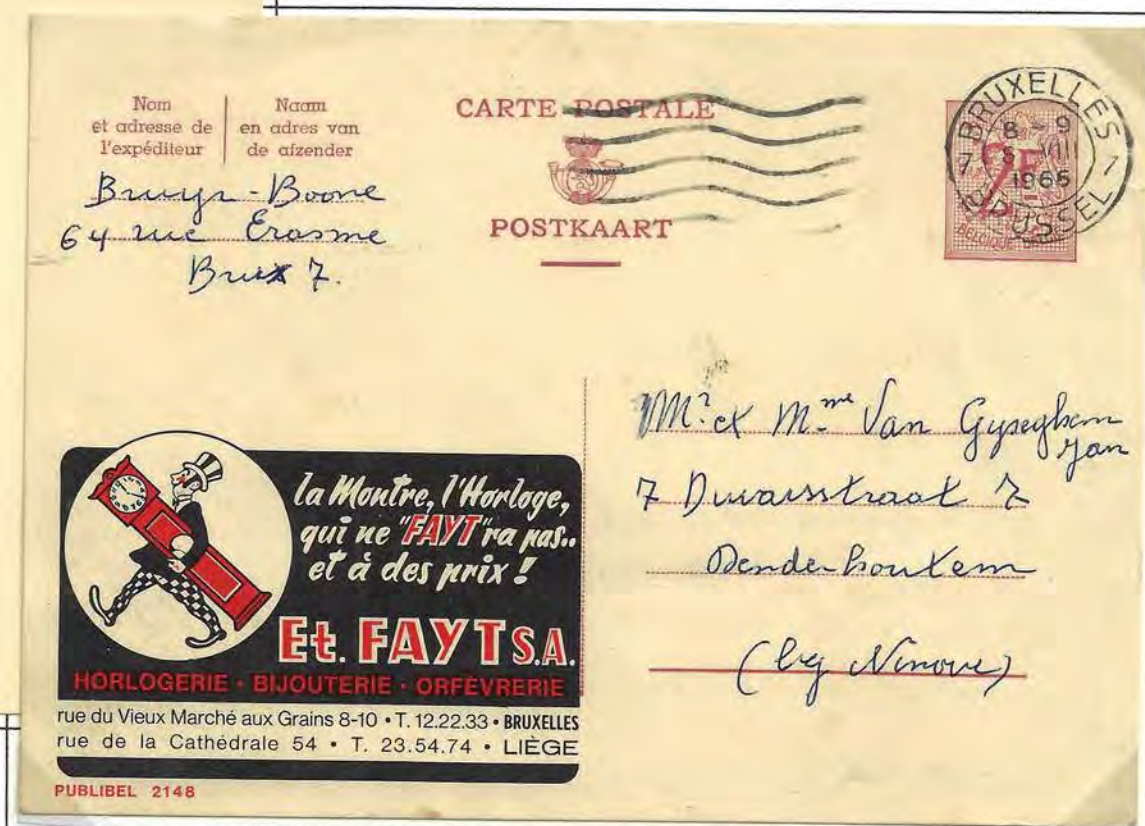
... so the game has to be played at a great speed, because time is running out fast.

Typically, a chess game lasts hours, but in "blitz" games ...



A cancellation for a 1951 blitz tournament, planned to be held in Poland, but canceled at the last minute. This is a courtesy strike, as the cancellation was never put to postal usage.

... each player only has 5 minutes for the entire game ...



Right: Publibel number 2145, issued 1966.
 Above: Partial printing before the denomination was printed.

The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.4 ... and time limits to face ...

Slow tempo games / high tempo wars

On the extreme opposite, a game of chess may several days for a move and many months to complete ...

... when it is played by mail ...

... using specially designed postcards.



Pitney Bowes, group IA3, multi value meter.

The high tempo concept is also applicable in war. In WWII the Germans developed the "blitzkrieg" – an attacking method designed to crush the enemy within a short time ...

... using Panzer tanks ...

... and Stuke bombers.



In Estonia chess by mail postcards enjoy a special, half price, tariff. Postcard sent locally in 1994, franked 50 cents. Regular rate for Postcard at the time was 1 Kroon.



In 1967 Israel conquered the Sinai Peninsula within 4 days. 14 ships which were in the Suez Canal – some 200 km from the Israeli-Egyptian boarder when the war broke – were trapped for years in the Great Bitter Lake as a result for the speedy Israeli triumph.

Letter, mailed from Egypt, sent from the Polish ship MSDjakarta, which was trapped in the Great Bitter Lake.

The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.4 ... and time limits to face ...

Slow tempo wars

At the other extreme, war can progress very slowly and last many, many years. The 100 years war between England and France ...

... started in 1337 ...

... when Edward "the Black Prince" led a British invasion.

After many setbacks, the British enjoyed a decisive victory at the battle of Agincourt.



Imperforated pair. One of only 20 pairs in existence.



But then in 1429, almost a century after hostilities broke the immergence of ...

Joan of Arc, mounted on a horse with a shining armor, gave the French army victories and hope ...



... and under the leadership of King Charles VII...

... the French won the battle of Formigny, repelled the English out of France ...



Trial color plate proof

... and in 1453, after 116 years, the bells were ringing to mark the French victory.



Color proof in blue (color code 112).
20 colors were examined – each by a single copy.

Victory slogan postmark, issued to celebrate the victory over Japan in WWII.
This slogan mark was in use from August 15th through September 15th, 1945
The wavy line includes a --- sequence, which is the Morse code of V.

The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.5 ... until eventually it all comes to an end ...

Check! The king is under attack

The aim in chess is to capture the opponent's king ...

... so when the king is attacked ...

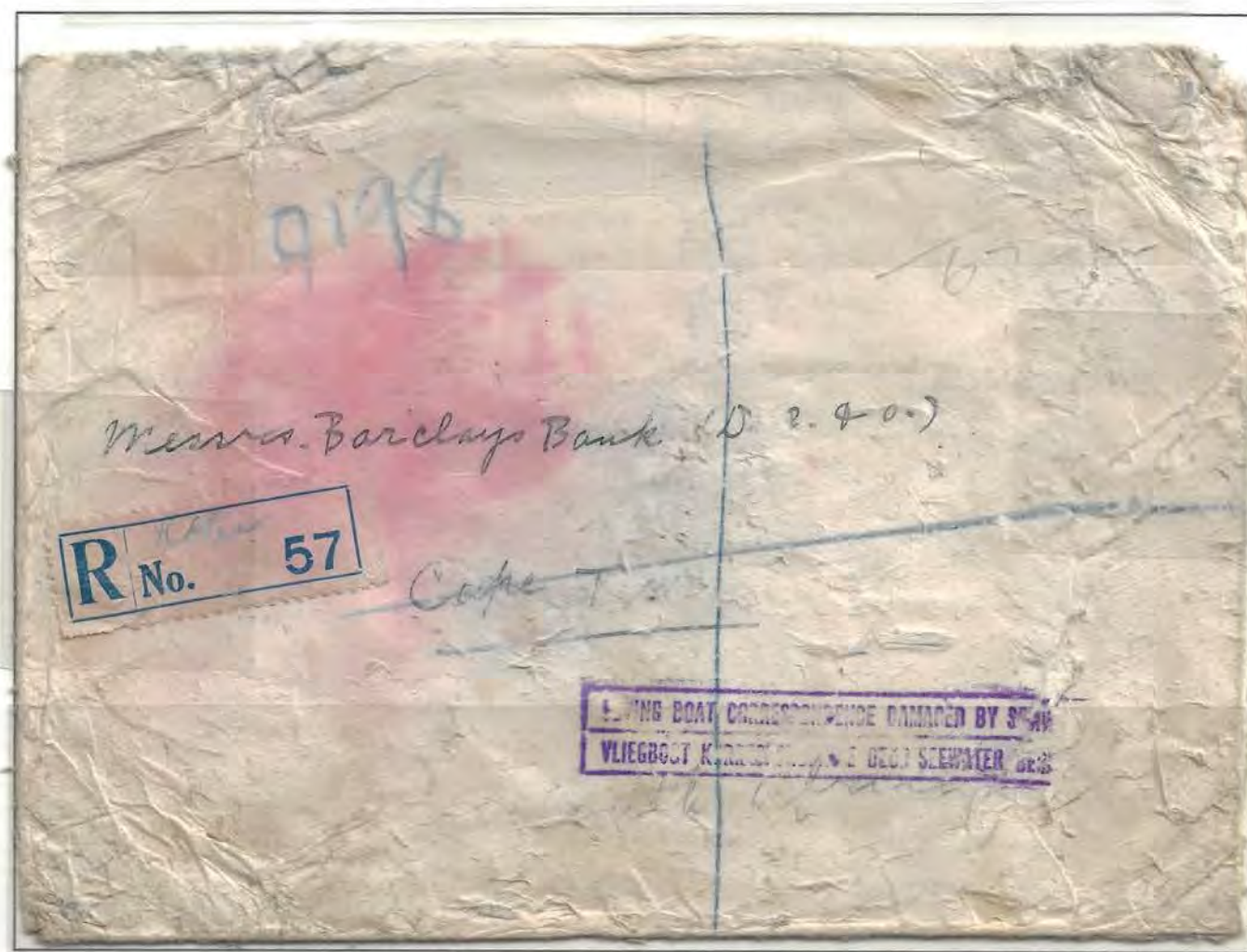
... it is a significant situation called "check", or "schach" in German ...



Check! The white rook attacks the black king



... and is marked in chess notation by a "+" sign.



A registered cover, marked by a blue + sign, sent in 1939 from Kobe, Japan to Capetown, South Africa. Transit cancellations of Singapore (April 19th) and Penang (April 21st). The cover was onboard sea plane G-ADVD which crashed during landing in Mozambique on May 1st, 1939. Bilingual "Flying boat correspondence damaged by seawater" handstamp.

The attacked king must escape to a different square ...



The black king escapes the attack.

... to cancel out the attack, at least temporarily.

Trial for inspection towards the production of the first British post office rolls, printed on crown watermark paper and overprinted "cancelled". This trial was performed by Harrison and Sons at the request of the Board of the Inland Revenue on September 1911. The first post office rolls were the Downey Head Die 2 stamps issued in 1912.



The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.5 ... until eventually it all comes to an end ...

King on the run

The same concept – king escaping death – may occur in war as well.

After being defeated by Cromwell and the Parliamentarians in the battle of Worcester ...

... King Charles II ran for his life...



... and climbed on an oak tree ...

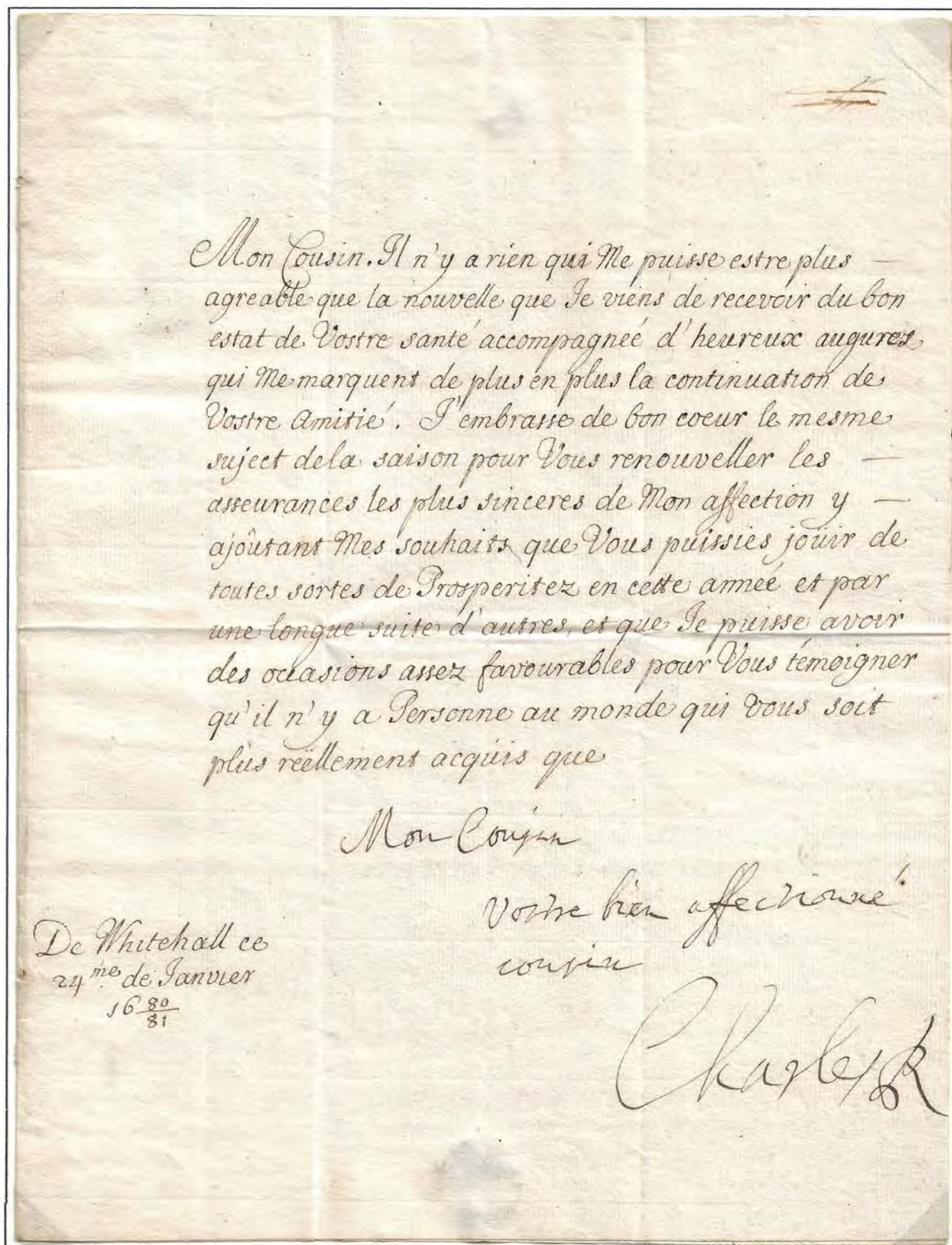


... so that no one could see the Monarch.



Missing grey color error –
1 sheet of 100 is known

Letter written by King Charles II, signed Charles R, on January 24th, 1681. Sent from Whitehal, probably by a courier. The letter is written in French, and is addressed to his cousin, Prince Rupert of the Rhine, the Duke of Cumberland.



The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.5 ... until eventually it all comes to an end ...

Checkmate! The king is dead

When the attacked king ...

... cannot escape the attack ...



... the king is "killed" ...



"Who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?"

... or has fallen.



This situation is called "checkmate" or "mate", and terminates the game ...

... and is commonly symbolized by an X.



The death of the king may also terminate a war.

The battle of Hastings ...



3 Kopeks postal card, the rate for local usage since 1872, sent September 14, 1914 from Daugavpil, Latvia, with an X shaped killer. Purple censorship approval handstamp.

... ended when King Harold was killed.



Missing magenta color
40 copies known

The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.5 ... until eventually it all comes to an end ...

Resignation

In most chess games the inferior side resigns ahead of time when the situation is lost ...

... to save the unpleasantness of hearing the call "checkmate" (or "schachmatt" in German).



In a similar manner, a war often ends when one side surrenders to the other as the British did to the Americans in Saratoga, 1777.



Die essay of unissued design for the 1869 pictorial series, showing the surrender of General Burgoyne, printed in blue on ivory paper with National bank imprint. The stamp was intended to be issued as a bi-color, and 13 different colors were examined on this paper.



Die essay of unissued design in light red-brown on white bond paper. 4 colors were examined on this paper.

Top corner margin block of four of plate essay of unissued design in black on thin pale gray surfaced paper, one of 12 tested.



Lasker resigned to Capablanca ...



Only 1 imperforated sheet of 100 printed.
One of only 4 blocks of four seen.

... as did Korchnoi to Karpov.



German giro cover used in 1969.

Customarily, resignation in war is done by raising a white flag.



Above: Missing violet color error, resulting in a white flag.
Bottom: As issued.



The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.5 ... until eventually it all comes to an end ...

Draw

A game of chess may end up in a draw ...

... when there is no way to force mate ...



Gligoric – Fischer, 1958: The game was drawn by agreement

... or by agreement, in an equal position ...



... or when a patt (stalemate) position is reached.



Arrival cancellation from Patt, Colorad. Post office existed 1919 – 1949.

When the game is drawn the the score is $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$...



Wide gap variety

Wars may also result in a draw, and a classical example is the Korean war.

The Korean peninsula is split, and the border ...

Folded letter, sent from Concepcion to Lota (both in Chile) on February 4th 1861 by stage coach using a **bisected** 10c stamp, to fit the rate for the first weight category.



... so that the point is split between the two players.



... between between North and South Korean is at the 38 parallel.

This was true before the war ...

... and after the war.



Error: Missing perforation between the stamps

The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.6 ... with spoils to the winner

Trophies in chess, loot in war

In recognition of achievements in chess tournaments the winner may win a cup, ...

... like the one awarded to the winning team in chess Olympiads.

It is an ancient custom to award winners with laurel wreath ...



Letter, sent free of charge on November 13th, 1888 from Tusa, Sicily. The letter bares the town's coat of arms, which provides the franking privilege. The coat of arms contains laurel wreath.

... and accordingly World Champions are awarded with ...

... laurel wreath, and ...

... a corresponding medal.



The winners at war often loot items from the losers. One example is the menorah (right), looted by the Romans from the temple in Jerusalem.

Letter card, sent July 12th, 1900 from Field Post 17, located in Johannesburg to Cheltenham, England. A two line cachet RECOVERED FROM MAILED / LOOTED BY THE ENEMY on the front. Reverse has Army Base Cape Town cancel of November 12th and arrival cancellation of Cheltenham of December 8th. This card was looted by the Boers and later recovered by the British, causing a 5 months transit.

The Rules of Fair Fighting

3.6 ... with spoils to the winner

Winning territory

The most typical gain for the winning side in war is territory taken from the loser. This is demonstrated here through the change in control over the town of Colmar in Alsace – Lorraine as a result of the 1870 French – Prussian war.

Before it was conquered by the Prussians Colmar was under French control, and letters were sent through the French post.



Folded letter sent from Colmar on September 14th, 1870. **This was the last day of French mail in town, as Colmar surrendered to the Prussians the following day.** Franked with a French stamp of 20 centimes (rate for letters under 10 grams until September 1871). Arrival cancellation of Neuf-Brisach from September 16th on reverse.

... while letters sent to destinations outside the territory required mixed franking, French or German, pending on destination.



Folded letter sent on October 25th, 1871 from Colmar to Belfort, which was outside the occupation region of Alsace – Lorraine. The letter was franked with 20 centimes local stamps and cancelled in Colmar. Upon arrival the recipient was charged 25 centimes (the local rate in France since September 1st, 1871). French stamps were applied and cancelled at Belfort.

Right after the Prussian victory, Alsace – Lorraine was under joint sovereignty, and issued its own stamps for local usage ...



Folded letter sent on November 13th, 1871 from Colmar to Mulhouse, within Alsace – Lorraine. The letter was franked with a local stamp (10 centimes – the rate within the territory). Arrival cancellation of the same date on reverse.

Following the Treaty of Frankfurt the French conceded the territory and Colmar altogether, and only German stamps were used.



Folded letter sent from Colmar on May 5th, 1873 to Wasselnheim (today known by the French name – Wasselonne), within Alsace. Franked with a Deutsche Reichs Post stamp (1 Groschen, the equivalent of 10 centimes). Arrival cancellation of May 6th on reverse.

Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.1 Defensive measures are required...

The king requires protection

Knowing the rules is essential, but how does one win a game of chess? In chess, as in life, one must first take defensive measures.

Since the game comes to an end when the king is checkmated, the defense of the king comes first.



Pitney Bowes, group DC5, fixed value meter.

At the beginning of the game the kings are fairly secure, behind a line of pawns ...



A stamp printed by Kyrgyz Express Post, a private company licensed by the Kyrgyzstan government and confirmed by the UPU circular #83 (May 21st, 2013)

... but a few moves later they are fully exposed.



It is clear that if the king remains in the center, like the black king here ...



Steinitz – Von Bardleben, Hastings, 1895.

...it is likely to fall victim to a deadly attack.



A Skilled chess player will therefore exercise a degree of caution with regard to the king.



Letter sent Feb. 4th, 1889 within Cambridge, England. Marked as "coin letter" as it included a check, with "Contrary to regulations 158" hand stamp on front. Compulsorily registered by the postal clerck, and charged 8d - the rate for compulsory registration since Oct. 1862. Official Post Office label on reverse advising that "Valuable enclosures should never be forwarded in unregistered letters".

Left: Photocopy of front, 40%



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.1 Defensive measures are required...

Castling

The most common solution in chess ...

... is to castle (Rochade in German).



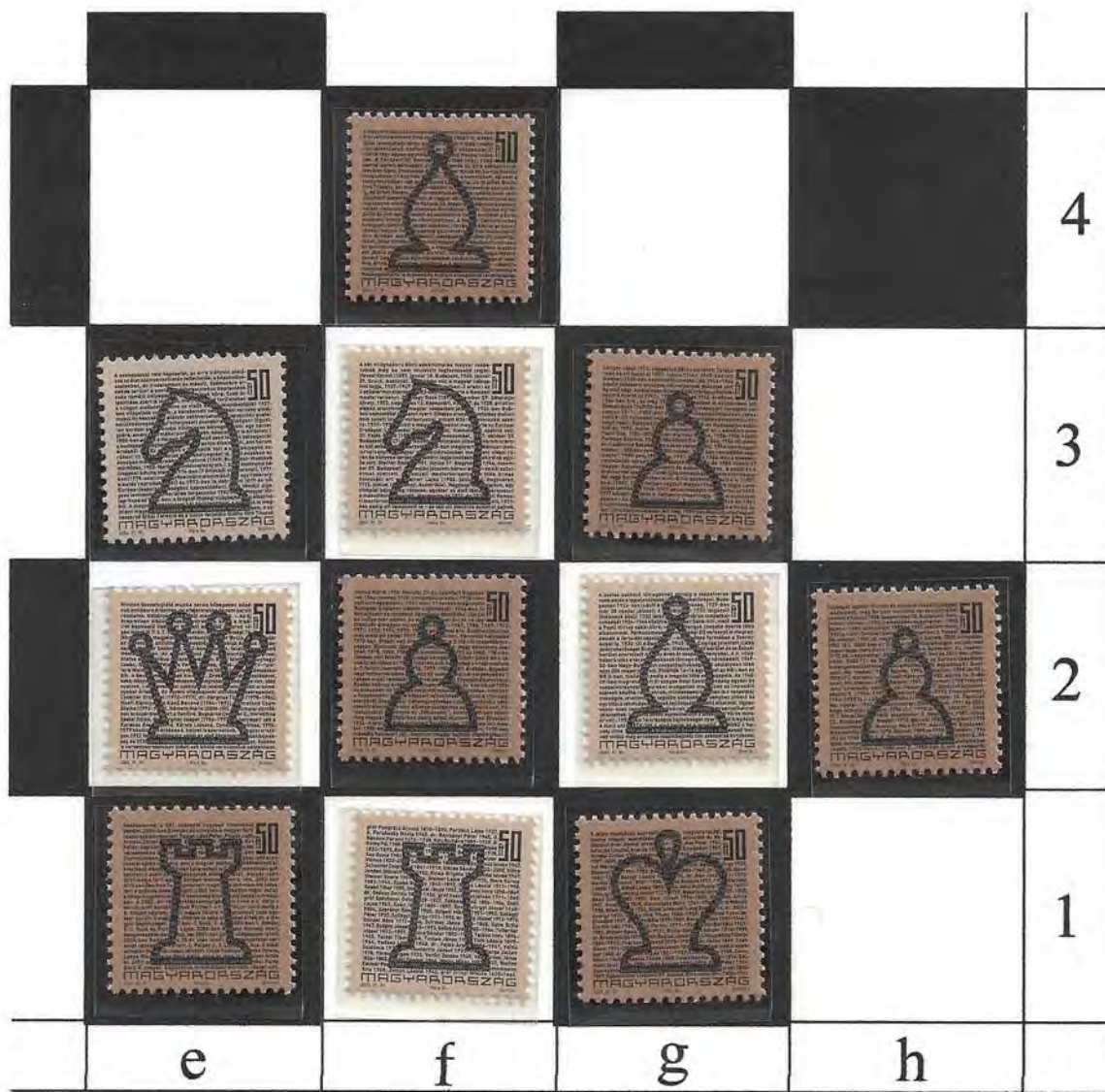
Hasler "F66", group NA16, multi value meter.

Castling places the king in a secure, snug corner...



A letter sent from Snug Corner, Grenada, July 2, 1906, to Canal Zone. Transit cancellations of St. George, Cristobal and Pedro Miguel.

... where one can build a tight defensive array around it.



In this example, the stamps are placed on a drawn chess board (only the lower right handside quarter is shown) to form a defensive fortress, in which the king can find security.

In almost every game of chess both sides choose to castle. In the example below white has already castled, and black will soon follow.



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.1 Defensive measures are required...

Castles

The equivalent of castling in warfare is ...

the building of castles, ...



Folded letter sent in 1820 from Città di Castello (the name means "Town of the Castle", named after the castle around which the town was built) to Trevi.

2 Centesimo was the rate for letters sent outside of the province.

... such as Windsor castle, for the protection of the (British) monarchs.



1st De La Rue printing

Castles were often built on elevated places or near bodies of water, which gave them extra protection

Trial colors
die proof for
die X-G-592.
Pencil mark
on reverse:
"Wrong colour
/ 0840 / Not
issued in this
colour".



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.2 ... and attack methods are implemented...

Siege in chess

When one side chooses to build a tight defensive array around its king ...

... the attacking side may force a siege ...



Letter sent from Columbus, Ohio on May 31st, 1862, franked 3 cents, the rate for letters under ½ ounce traveling a distance under 3,000 miles (1855-1883). This so-called **prison bars** fancy cancel was in use in Columbus from 1861 until 1863.

... effectively making the king a prisoner behind bars inside his own fortress ...



... leaving the defender completely paralyzed.

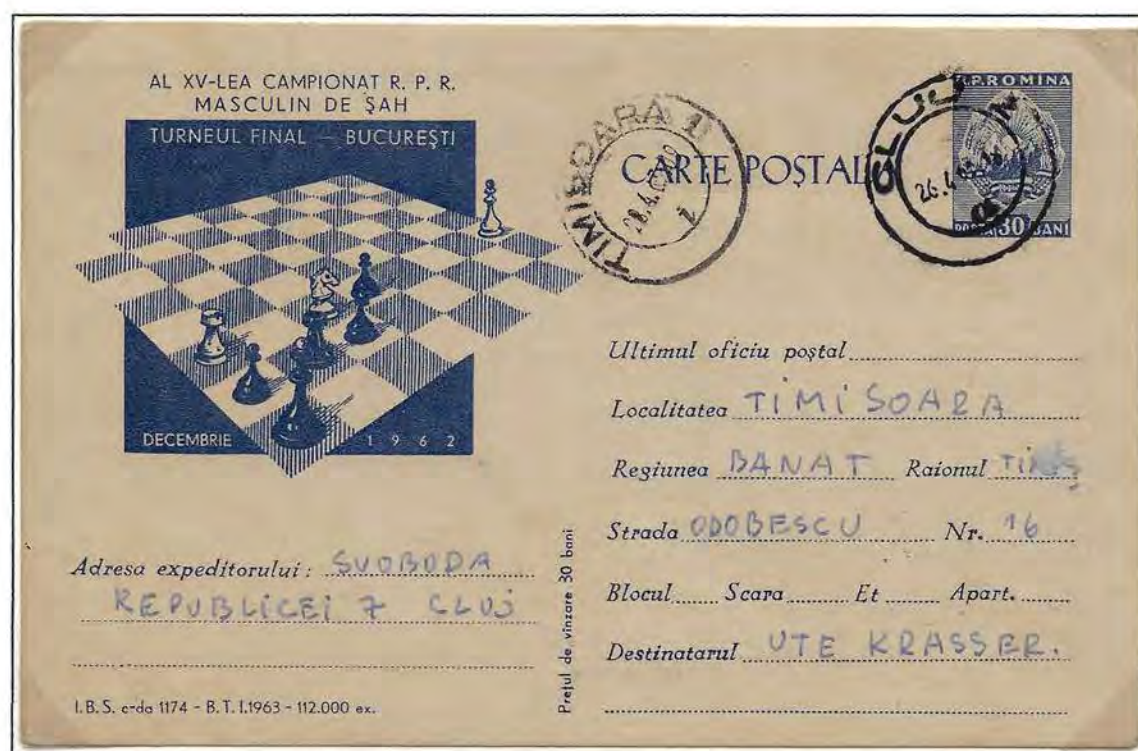


Johaner – Nimzovich (Dresden, 1926):
White is completely paralyzed.
Nimzovich described it as "one of the best blockading games that I have ever played".

This is called "Zugzwang" (German for "compulsion to move"):
All the available moves are significantly disadvantageous,
and so the compulsion to move causes one to lose.

In this position the white rook and knight effectively lock the opposing king in the corner, thus forcing a siege.
Black is in a state of Zugzwang, and can only make losing moves.

In chess a siege is particularly effective because a player *must* make a move on his turn, even if he can't find a good move.



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.2 ... and attack methods are implemented...

Siege in war

Siege is well known in military conflicts. During the 1870 Prussia – France war Paris was under siege ...

... so hot air balloons ...



... called "Ballon Monte" were used for outbound mail.



Letter posted in Paris on Sep. 23rd, 1870. Sent on "La Ville de Florence" (the 2nd of all balloons) on Sep. 25th. Arrival cancellation of Geneva, October 21st, on reverse.

Printer's inspection die proof in Sepia.
Only 3 – 5 copies were produced.

Incoming mail to Paris was carried by homing pigeons ...



Microfilm carried into Paris by pigeon mail, containing newspapers and official messages written in code.

... and in zinc containers called "Boule de Moulins", which were thrown into the Seine River, attempting to arrive in Paris using the principle of "letter in a bottle".

Trouvée dans une boîte échouée
sur les bords de la Seine, à Quillebeuf (Eure), le 26 mars 1871.

Photocopy, 150%

Letter (cover opened) sent on January 7th, 1871 from Montpellier to besieged Paris through Boule de Moulins. Franked 20c regular rate in France + 80c – the additional rate for the Boule de Moulins service. None of the containers sent using this method arrived to Paris during the siege.

The container in which this letter was included was recovered in Quillebeuf sur Seine, at the north end of the Seine River, on March 26th, 1871, some two and a half month after it was launched. The letter was subsequently returned to the postal system, with a Pont Audemer CDS of April 5th. **Only 13 letters are known today with the recovery at Quillebeuf handstamp.**

Ref: Gerard Lheritier, Le top 100 lettres du siège de Paris



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.2 ... and attack methods are implemented...

Sacrifice in chess

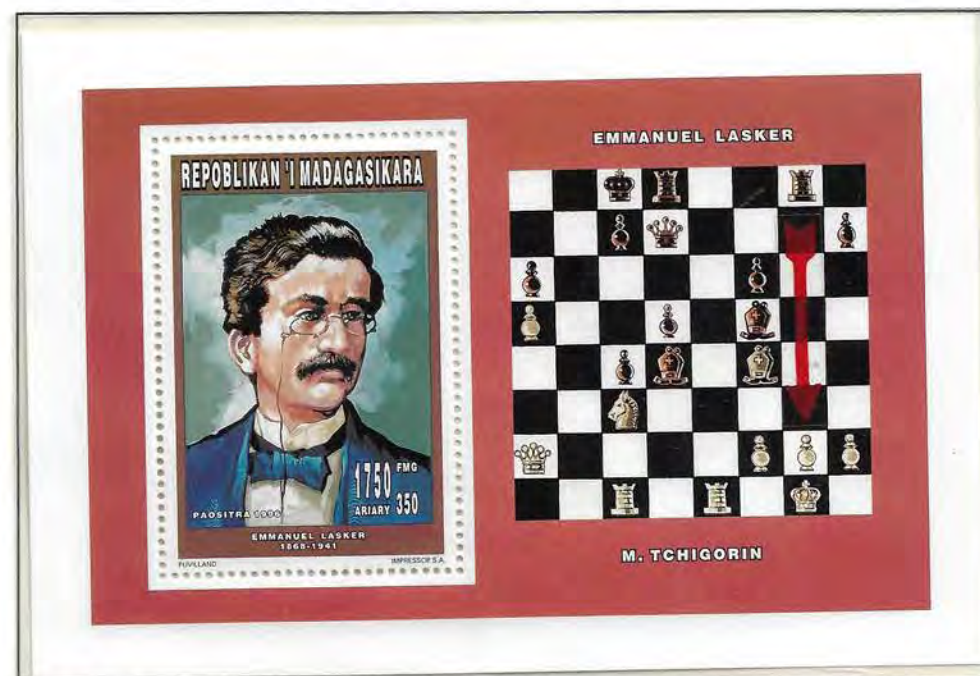
When enforcing a siege against the defensive fortress fails to produce results, one must use more imaginative attacking methods.

In chess, this is often done by a combination – a sequence of moves in which the attacker willingly gives up pieces ...

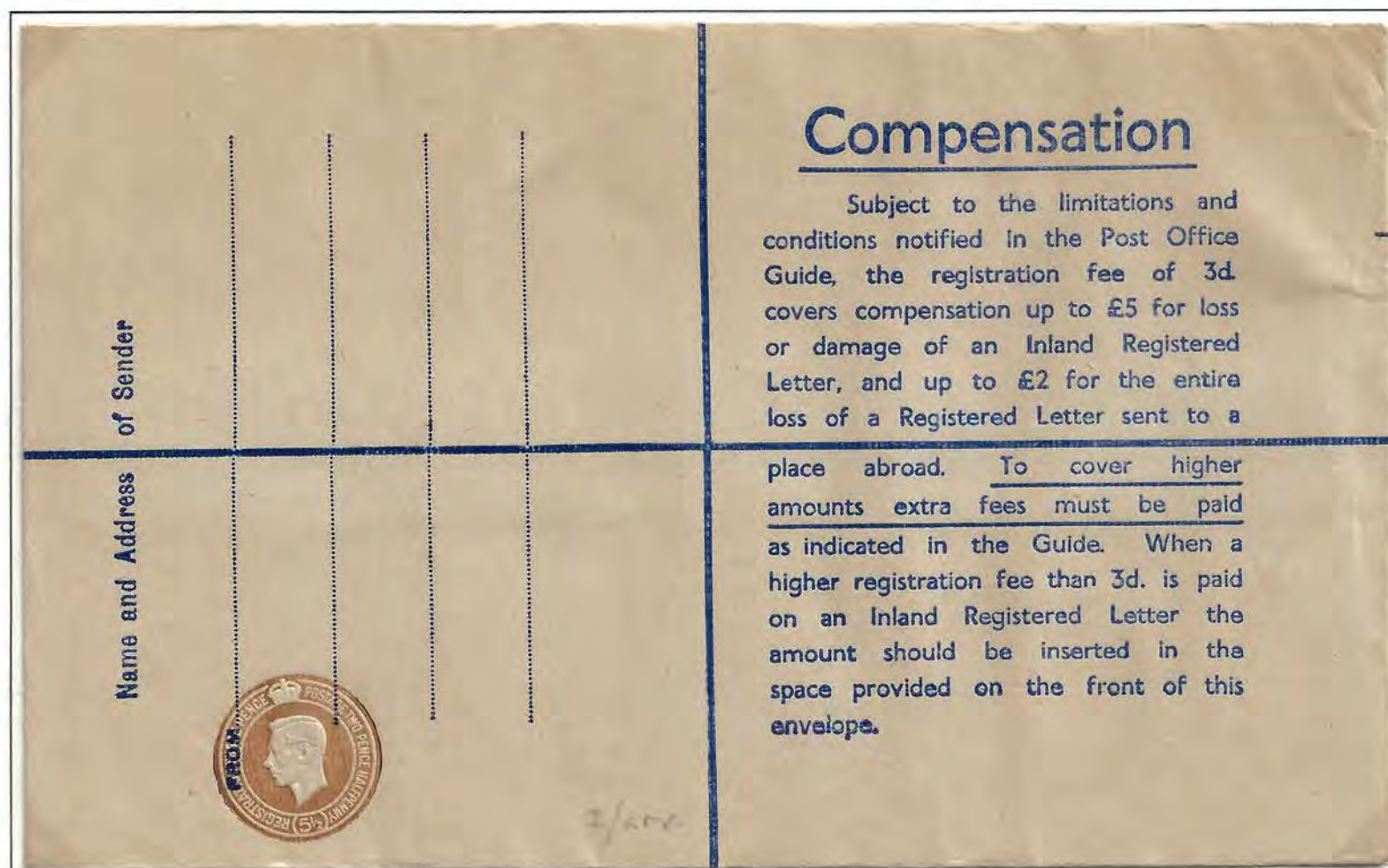
... like sacrificing a rook for a pawn ...



Chigorin - Lasker, St. Petersburg, 1895: Black sacrificed his rook for a humble pawn, as marked by the red arrow. The white king was deprived of its defense, and was left exposed to a deadly attack.



... for an intangible compensation, such as open lines of attack against the opposing king.



Reverse side of British postal stationery for registered mail, circa 1947, with indicia erroneously printed in the wrong side.

Winning Tactics and Strategy

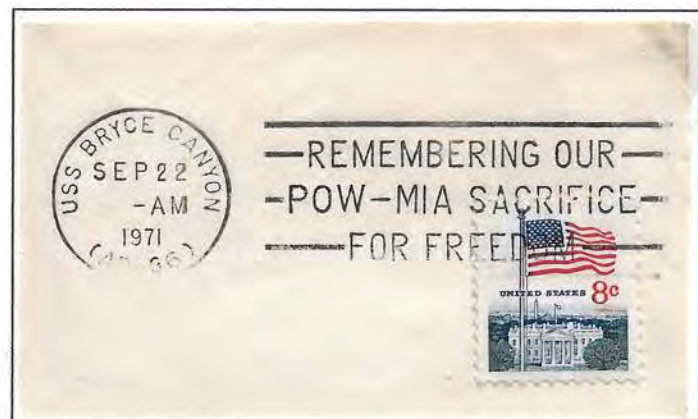
4.2 ... and attack methods are implemented...

Sacrifice at war

In war, like in chess, ...

... sacrifice is sometimes necessary to achieve victory.

The well fortified Bastille in Paris was one of the symbols of the regime of Louis XVI.



On July 14th 1789 the Parisian crowd encircled it. ...



... and broke down the gates and stormed the Bastille.



Plate proof in light blue, for the Omnibus issue for the 150th anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille, without face value or colony name. 1 sheet of 25 is known.

COLIS POSTAL 048213

JUSQU'À 3 KG + 8,6 F

PARIS BASTILLE

EXPÉDITEUR (Nom et adresse) M. Rigal 82 rue St Louis en l'Île 82
à Paris IV dépt Seine

DESTINATAIRE (Nom et adresse) M. Rigal 134 Cours Victor Hugo
à Bordeaux dépt Gironde

DÉSIGNATION ET CONTENU DU COLIS

LIVRAISON (1) à DOMICILE - par EXPRESS - en GARE - au BUREAU -

VALEUR DÉCLARÉE (En toutes lettres)

INTÉRÊT À LA LIVRAISON (En toutes lettres)

REMBOURSEMENT (En toutes lettres)

TIMBRE À DATE
DE LA GARE OU DU BUREAU DE DÉPÔT
PARIS BASTILLE
2 NOV 43

A PAYER à M(3)

ruo _____ n° _____

(4) à _____ dépt _____

à DOMICILE - en GARE - au BUREAU

(4) par { Compte Chèques Postaux N° _____
Bureau d _____
Rég. Périodique: Cte Circons. des Recettes N° _____

EXPÉDITION REMISE à _____ h (heure de remise)

Le _____ 19 _____

EMPREINTE DU CACHET (1)
OU DE SON FAC SIMILE

Signature de l'Expéditeur: Rigal

Gare destinataire

* - Y compris le timbre perçu en compte avec le Trésor.
1 - En cas de déclaration de valeur ou d'intérêt à la livraison.
2 - Lorsque l'une d'elles est supérieure à 1 m. 50.
3 - S'il s'agit d'une personne autre que vous-même.
4 - Rayez les mentions inutiles.

A receipt for a parcel, sent on November 2nd, 1943 from the Paris Bastille post office to Bordeaux

Many had to sacrifice their lives for that accomplishment, which marked the onset of the French Revolution.



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.2 ... and attack methods are implemented...

Inside enemy territory

A specific and most beautiful mating combination ...

... was developed by François Andre Danican Philidor in the 18th century, and is sometimes called "Philidor's legacy".

The combination, more commonly known as smothered mate, may be implemented when the opposing king is trapped in the corner. It involves the sacrifice of the queen and applying a mate using the knight.



1



2

3

4

In smothered mate one uses the lack of "air" to execute the opposing king, just like in execution by hanging.



Folded letter, sent by a courier from Milan to Genoa in 1539. The word 'cito', repeated four times, means haste. Gallows sign threatening death by hanging to anyone interfering with the mail.

Up until the mid 19th century hanging meant death by strangulation

Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.2 ... and attack methods are implemented...

Inside enemy territory

A corresponding military trick was used by the Greeks ...
... to end the lengthy siege on Troy.



The Greeks built a
giant wooden horse ...



Specimen

... not to ride upon ...



Folded letter sent from Troy NY to Washington NY on May 8th 1806.
Day in manuscript due to problems with the moveable type base. 10
cent was the rate for letters carried for a 90 to 150 miles distance.

Troy in New York is named after the historical town.

... but to hide inside.



The Trojans took assumed this was a sign of
resignation, and dragged the wooden horse
into the fortified city ...

... and at night the Greeks, who thus gained
entry into Troy, opened the door, emerged out
of the horse ...



Destinatar

Strada

Nr.

Blocul

Scara

Etaful

Apart.

Localitatea

Raionul

Reg.

Oficial poștal:



... and destroyed the city.

Francotyp "T1000", group
EF4, multi value meter

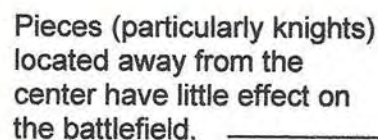
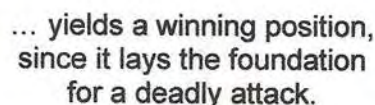


In addition to a full scale direct attack, there are other ways to strive for victory. Control over the center of the board ...

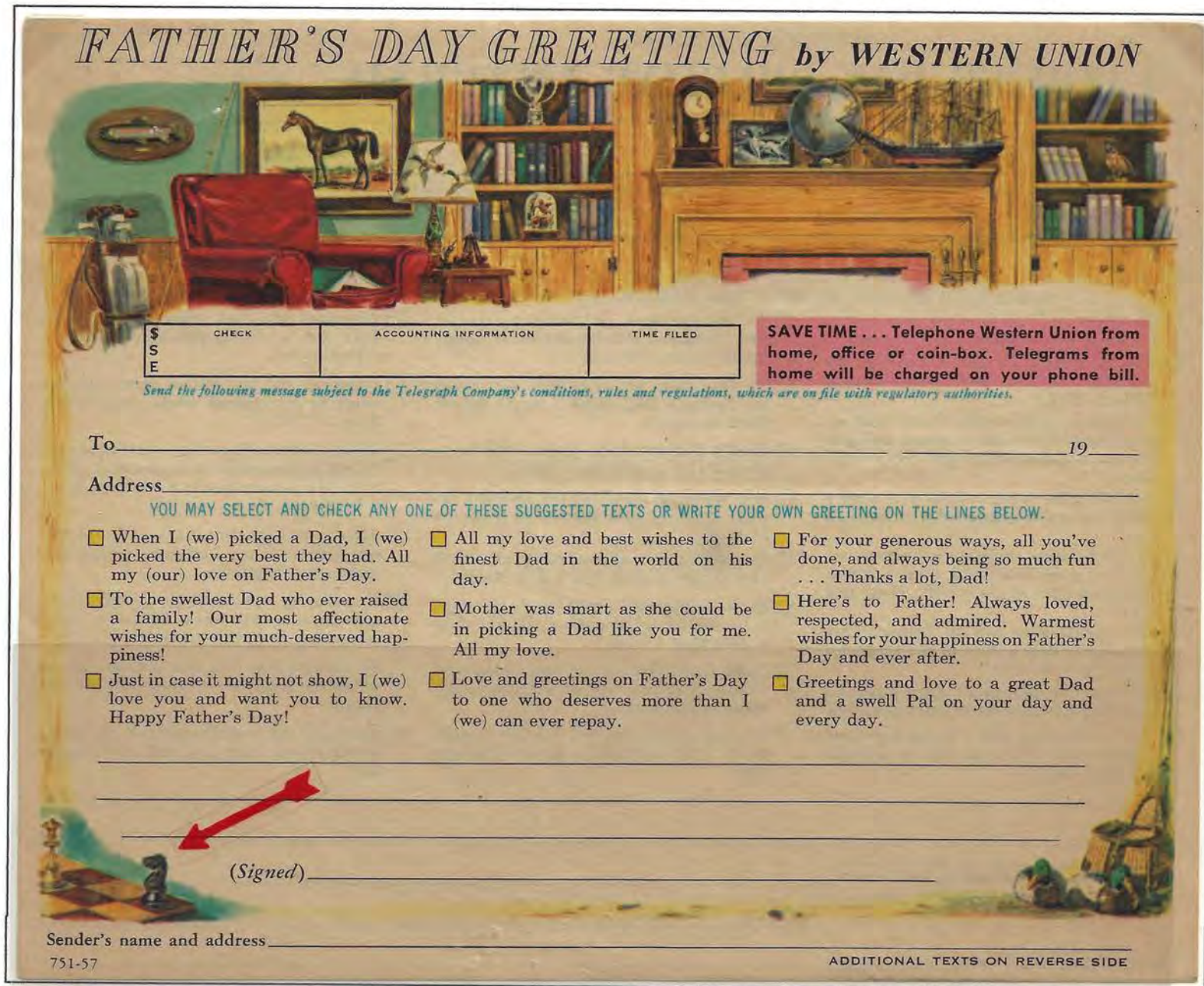
Lundi 25 Novembre 1872.

BULLETIN
DES
MARCHÉS DU CENTRE
PARAISANT LE MERCREDI.

Bulletin Marches du Centre of November 25th, 1872. Headline serves as typographic cancellation.



Western Union telegrams are border line material



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.3 ... while strategic advantages enhance the winning chances ...

Control of the center in war

Control of the center is highly important in war as well.

During World War II the Americans held a strategic base in Midway Islands.



A censored letter (photocopy below, 60%) sent from the American base in Midway, March 1942, some 3 months prior to the Japanese attack.

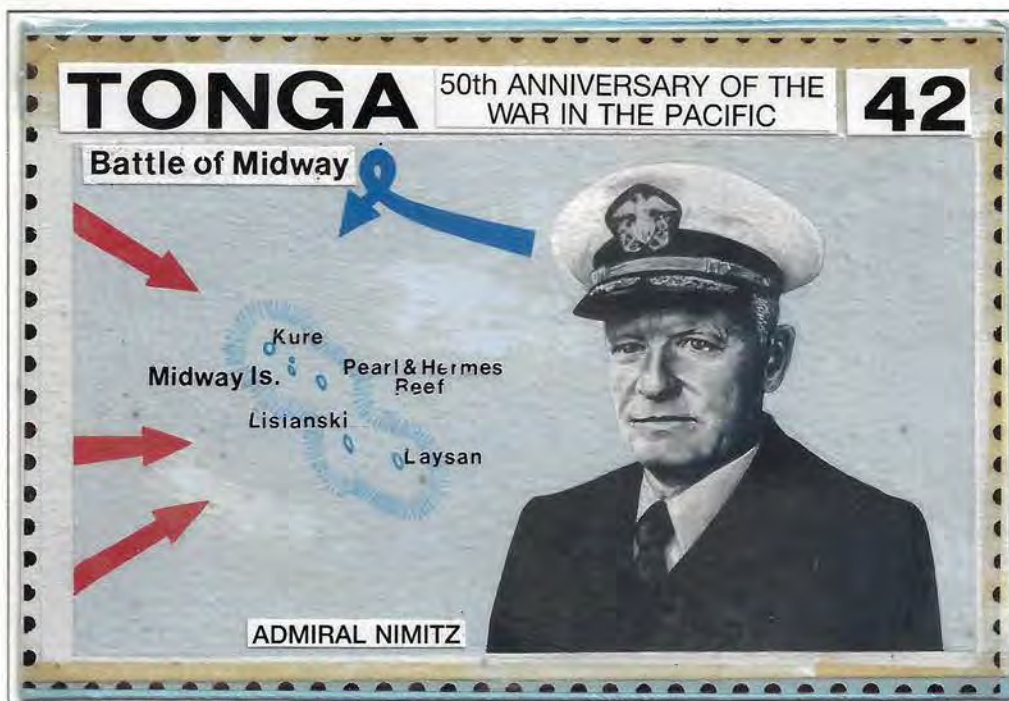


In view of the expected Japanese attack the American created a special task force ...



Letter sent on May 9th 1942, less than a month before the battle, from APO 502, which served the special task force.

... which was cleverly utilized by Admiral Nimitz ...



Original artwork of the issued stamp

Francotype, group CB4A, multi value meter

... in his battle plan ...



As issued

... ending in a crucial victory.



The Americans maintained control over the center of the ocean, which was crucial in the outcome of the battle of the Pacific.



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.3 ... while strategic advantages enhance the winning chances ...

The pawns march forward

In chess, it is possible ...

... that one or both sides will have more than a single queen. This happens ...

От кого _____

Откуда _____

Индекс места отправления

Матч на первенство мира. Буэнос-Айрес, 1927 г.
11-я партия. Х.Р. Капабланка — А.А. Алехин. 0:1



66. ... Фd1+!

Индекс места назначения

Кому _____

Куда _____

Индекс места назначения

Подделка государственных знаков почтовой оплаты преследуется по закону

© АО «Марка». 2017. 3. 2017-412. 303-окр/17. Типография "Информпресс-94". 14.09.2017.

Художник-дизайнер Г. Шеголь

Capablanca - Alekhine (World Championship Match, 1935): Both sides have two queens.

If the original queen is still on the board it is customary to flip a rook upside down and use it as an extra queen.



A single pawn can therefore be of great strategic advantage ...



Postalia "D3", group H3, multi value meter

... provided it is advanced (a "passed" pawn), as the black pawn indicated here by the arrow.

The inverted red rook error: The printing error gives the impression of a queened pawn. Only one sheet of 40 stamps is known, and this is the only known multiple from this sheet.



... it is promoted to a queen.



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.3 ... while strategic advantages enhance the winning chances ...

The pawns march forward

The Estonian grandmaster Keres ...



Fine – Keres (AVRO, 1938): Black has 2 passed pawns

Three connecting passed pawns, as created by Euwe, practically guarantee that one of them will queen, and the new queen will lead to victory.



In real life the crowning of a new queen has little military significance ...



As issued

De La Rue master die proof engraved in black on thin glazed white card of the central image of Queen Salote coronation issue, August 1919

... managed to obtain two connected passed pawns in his game against Fine.



In Estonia chess by mail postcards enjoy a special, half price, tariff. Postcard sent to Moscow in 1994, franked 1 Kroon. Regular rate for international postcard at the time was 2 Kroons. Official card (form 22-C).

... but the promotion of Esther, from a "pawn" to a queen, gave the Jewish people the victory against the evil Haman.



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.4 ... enabeling some great masterpieces.

The immortal game

Arguably, the most famous combination in chess was the one...

... played by Anderssen ...



... against Kieseritzky ...



... in the so-called immortal game.



White sacrificed a queen, two rooks and a bishop to force mate. The helplessness of the huge but scattered black army is most impressive.

Military letter, bearing an official slogan cancellation "If you die for Greece – immortal laurel – you only die once". Slogan was mandatory on outgoing military mail during the Greek civil war 1946-1949.

The immortal game is like a fairy tale ...

... in which the small defeats the giant.

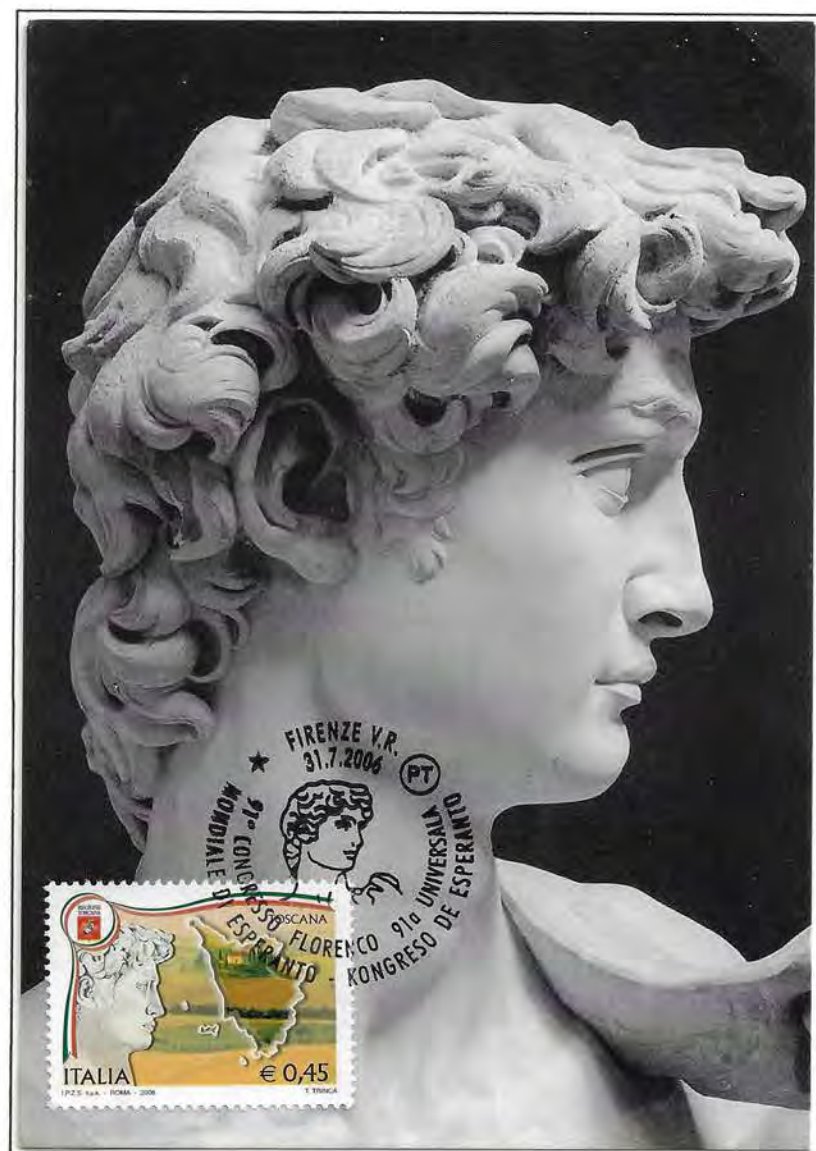


World Champion Emanuel Lasker compared it...



Imperf gutter pair

... to David, armed with a stone ...



... who faced the giant Goliath ...



... and defeated him.



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.4 ... enabeling some great masterpieces.

Diversion in chess

In chess "diversion" means the luring of an opponent piece from its location to a remote area of the board.

In the 1938 AVRO tournament ...

... the game between Botvinnik and Capablanca reached a position in which the black queen is vital to the defense of the king.



Francotyp "A", group CA1, multi value meter

Artist proof in black

In one of the most famous combinations in chess history White sacrificed a bishop to lure the queen away...



От кого Миннигареева Р.Т.
Откуда ул. КОЖЕВЕННАЯ, 58-608
г. КРАСНОДАР Индекс места отправления 350004

АВРО-турнир. Амстердам, 1938 г.
Партия М.М. Ботвинник – Х.Р. Капабланка. 1:0



30. ♖b2 – a3



Михаил
Моисеевич
БОТВИННИК
1911-1995



Кому ХАРЧЕНКО С.В.
Куда а/я 5823
г. КРАСНОДАР

Индекс места назначения

350001



Подделка государственных знаков почтовой оплаты преследуется по закону

© Издатцентр "Марка". Россия. 2011. 3. 2011-134. Типография "Информпресс-94". 06.07.2011.

Фото Ю. Поддубинский
Иллюстрационный материал предоставлен РШФ
Дизайн О. Шушубинской

... and formed a mating attack against the defenseless king ...



... leaving Capablanca with no choice but to resign.



Plate variety, Pos. 6, Broken "5". The variety developed late during printing and it is estimated that less than 50 copies exist.



As issued

Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.4 ... enabeling some great masterpieces.

Diversion in war

In the Second World War the Germans applied a similar strategy in the attack on France, known as ...

... operation "Sickle Cut".



Color trial

As issued
Perf. 15x14



.. and the allies reacted by diverting their troops to Belgium.
These troops were eventually encircled in Dunkirk.

They first attacked through Belgium ...



Letter sent by a soldier of the British Expeditionary Force to France, mailed in England on June 7th, 1940, after the evacuation of the forces from Dunkirk (May 26th – June 4th).

The major German effort was through the Ardennes forests ...



After the Germans armor passed the forests, they crossed the Meuse River and overcame the depleted forces in that region to win the entire campaign.



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.4 ... enabling some great masterpieces.

Into the valley of death

One of the most beautiful methods of attack in chess is to lure the opposing king away from safety into the valley of death, enabling checkmate in the middle of the board.

This was done by Lasker ...



Pillsbury – Lasker, 1896.
The white king is checkmated
in the middle of the board.

... and by Najdorf ...



... in the so called immortal Polish game.



The same principle was used by the Russians in 1812, when they were invaded by ...

... Napoleon ...



... and his Grande Armée.



Folded letter, sent from Glogow, Poland on September 5th, 1812, to Vesoul (Haute-Saône, France) during the advance of the French army, bearing postage due "No. 16 Grande Armée" hand stamp at top right.

French military letters were charged according to the distance from the French border to the civil post office inside France. As of December 10th, 1806 the rate for letters under 6 grams traveling a distance of 300-400 kilometers was 6 decimes. Postage paid by the recipient.



Photocopy of inside

Initially, the invasion was successful: The Russians were defeated in the Battle of Smolensk (right), and appointed Kutuzov (bottom) as their new commander in chief.



Error: Missing perforation
between the stamps



Winning Tactics and Strategy

4.4 ... enabeling some great masterpieces.

Into the valley of death

Led by Kutuzov the Russians ...

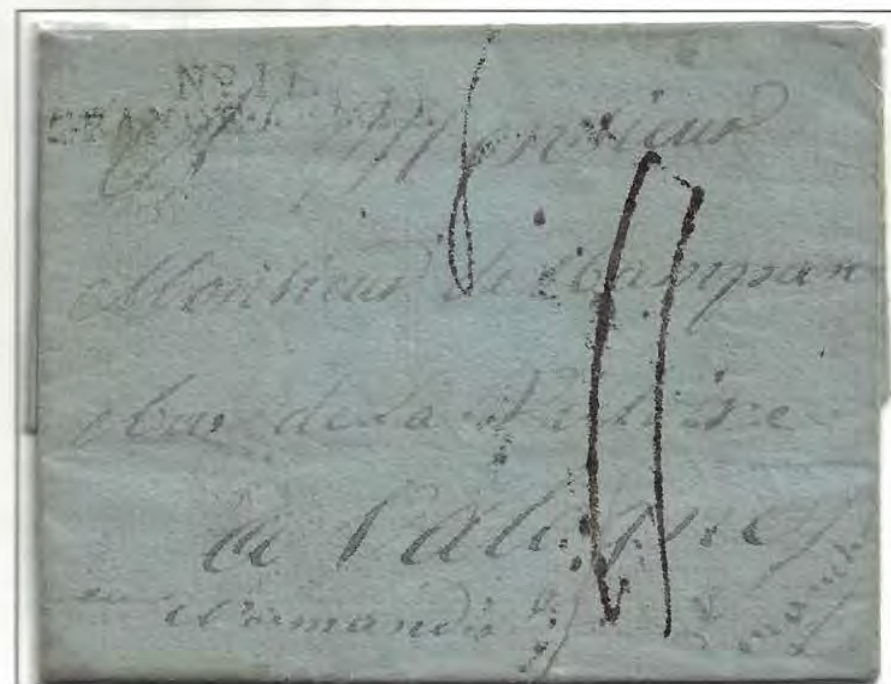
... were defeated in the Battle of Borodino ...



Photocopy of reverse, 30%.
40 Kopeks was the domestic
rate for illustrated postcards
from 9/1948 until 1/1961.



Napoleon's forces conquered Moscow on September 14th, but they have overreached. The Russians torched the city, and deprived the French of food. Moscow was thus the "valley of death" for the French army, and on October 19th they fled the city.



Photocopy of inside

... after which Kutuzov and his generals decided upon a strategy of intentional retreat, allowing Napoleon to advance towards Moscow.



During the French retreat they were constantly harassed by the Russians, as in the the battle of Krasnoy (Nov. 15th).

In March 1814 the defeat was completed, when Russian troops occupied Paris.



Krasny 1912 zemstvo stamp,
imperforated, light rose paper



Folded letter, sent from Moscow on September 5th, 1812, to Valognes, Normandy. Postage due "No. 11 Grande Armee" hand stamp at top left.

French military letters were charged according to the distance from the French border to the civil post office inside France. As of December 10th, 1806 the rate for letters under 6 grams traveling a distance of 1000 - 1200 kilometers was 11 decimes. Postage was paid by the recipient.



The Theaters of Chess & War

5.1 Skirmishes occur on various scales

The organizers

Having mastered the ways to win a game of chess we now wish to put our skills to the test against strong rivals. Chess competitions are ...

... organized by national federations ...



Stamp issued for the 100th anniversary of the Norwegian chess federation

... whose motto is "Gens Una Sumus" – we are one family.



In warfare, international organizations, exist to prevent wars. The League of Nations was formed after World War I and intended to prevent future armed conflicts ...



... and by the international Federation, FIDE, ...



Cancellation commemorating the chess Olympiad and FIDE congress held in Warsaw in August, 1935. FIDE is the organizer of the chess Olympiads. A letter sent from Warsaw to Prague on August 21st, 1935 by express mail. Arrival cancellation of August 22nd on reverse. Franked 225 groszy (45 Gr for a letter up to 20 grams, 100 Gr. express fee, additional weight charges 2*30 Gr for each additional 20 grams, and an accidental over franking of 20 Gr). These rates were applicable from October 1st 1934 until WWII.

... through diplomacy and by holding disarmament conferences, but failed miserably in its task.



Printed matter postcard sent February 25th, 1930, from the League of Nations offices in Geneva, using specially overprinted Swiss stamps, to Tanananive in Madagascar. 7 1/2 centimes was the rate for international printed matter from 1/1/1928 through 1/7/1930. The postcard was unclaimed and returned to sender. An unusual destination.

The Theaters of Chess & War

5.1 Skirmishes occur on various scales...

Local and national tournaments

Generally speaking there are two types of chess competitions:

Matches, where one faces the same rival on a series of games, ...

... and, more commonly, tournaments, where one meets a plurality of rivals.



Registration label, issued to commemorate an international chess tournament held in Plock, Poland on April 2000. A limited amount of copies were issued, with numbers from 1- 2,000.

This is a proof of the label, with number 999999 printed in albino.

World Championship match between Karpov and Kortchnoi

Normally a player first competes at local tournaments, such as the South Baden championship...

... and then at the national level such as the West Germany National Championship.



Letter sent from Weidenau to Stockholm, Sweden on August 13th 1947, franked 75 Pf., the rate for foreign surface mail from April 1st, 1946 until September 15th, 1947. The cancellation commemorates the German National Championship 1947. Sealing tape tied by handstamps of 2 different British civil censors in occupied Germany.



The Theaters of Chess & War

5.1 Skirmishes occur on various scales

Civil war

The quest for dominance within a nation is manifested in the battlefield in civil wars, such as in the United States.

The conflict, alas, was not restricted to the chess board but turned into a full scale war.

The Union was led by President Lincoln ...



An American civil war patriotic cover, the 2nd oldest chess philatelic item. It predates the first chess related cancellation by 60 years and the first chess stamp by over 80 years. Postally used on August 9th, probably 1864. **By far the nicest of 5 used copies known.** A justified usage of borderline material.



Vignette only
large die essay
on India



Plate poof on
card in issued
colors



1875 issue – only
1,356 copies
were printed

... and its army by Generals
Winfield Scott ...



... and Ulysses Grant.



Plate proof on stamp paper

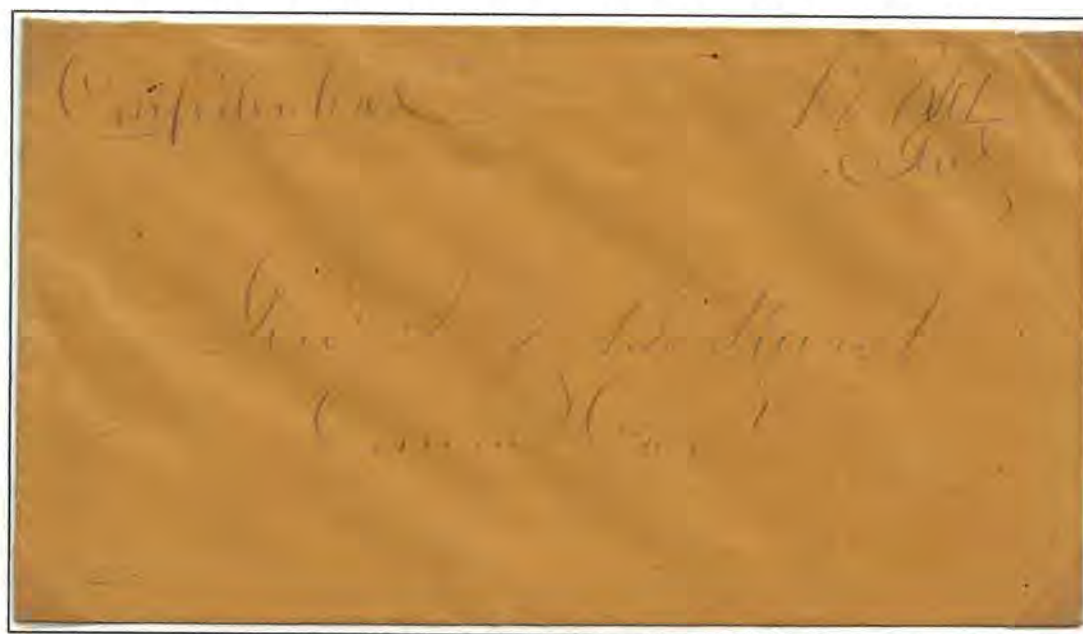
The Confederate States of American was led by ...

... President Jefferson Davis ...



De La Rue die proof on glazed card

...and the army was under the command of General Robert E. Lee.



A field letter, with an "R. E. Lee Genl" endorsement, marked "confidential" indicating military content, sent to General J.E.B. Stuart. The cover is undated, recorded content dates February 15th, 1863. Lee's letters, while serving as commander of the Confederate army, were carried by military courier. The endorsement at top left was a habit he had from his service at the union army, prior to the war, where he was entitled to postage privileges. **Only 25 field letters of General Lee are known to be in private hands.**



Photocopy of
endorsement

The Theaters of Chess & War

5.1 Skirmishes occur on various scales

Regional scale

A higher level of competition includes players from a wider region ...

... such as the 1947
Balkan games....



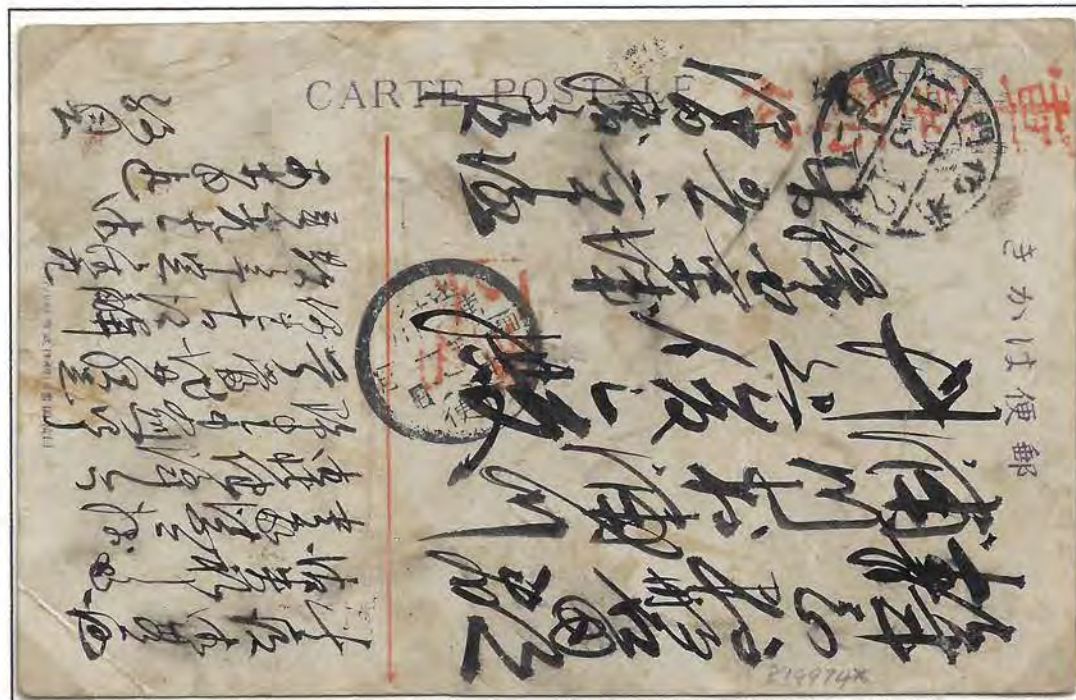
The first ever chess stamp

... or even an entire continent, such as the Pan America championship.



One of only 30 covers known to exist
(Chesstamp Review, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 92 – 100)

In a similar way, wars often break out in order to secure control over a region....



During the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, Japan initiated several conflicts, and became the dominant force in the South East Asia.

Korean Postcard, converted to military use by the Japanese Occupation army (red "military mail" hand stamp at top right). The postcard was sent from Gwanghwamun (Seoul) on March 12th, 1908. Arrival cancellation of Urakawa (Omi province, Japan) of March 16th, 1908 at center.

... or to obtain dominance over a continent.



Virtually all the major powers in Europe took part in the "Battle of the Nations", making it a European war.

The Theaters of Chess & War

5.1 Skirmishes occur on various scales...

International tournaments

The highest level of chess competition is the international level, where ...

... players from all over the world compete.

The 1946 Groningen international tournament was the first major chess event after the WWII...



Registered letter sent August 27th 1946, from the temporary post office at the tournament site, franked 12½ cents (2½ - the rate for printed matter under 20 grams outside the Netherlands, 10 cents – registration fee). Special cancellation in violet (the standard color for temporary post offices in Holland) and a special "world chess tournament" registration label was used only in the temporary post office at the tournament site. Less than 450 registered letters with cancellation in violet were sent, and **less than 100 are known today**. (Chesstamp Review, Vol. 21, No. 3, pp. 136 – 140)

... and 20 players from 12 different countries participated.



The tournament was won by ...

... Botvinnik (USSR)...

... and Euwe (Holland) came second.



Registered letter sent September 5th 1946, erroneously over franked by 1 cent (1½ - the rate for printed matter under 20 grams inside the Netherlands, 10 cents – registration fee). A different handstamp was used in September, with a line above the letter G in Groningen. Red ink was erroneously used in the last 3 days of the tournament. Less than 140 registered letters with cancellation in red were sent, and **less than 50 are known today**.

(Chesstamp Review, Vol. 21, No. 3, pp. 136 – 140)

The Theaters of Chess & War

5.1 Skirmishes occur on various scales...

World war

The military equivalent of an international chess tournament is a World War. For Example, WW I

... was fought in mainly in Europe, both on the East ...



Postcard sent by a Hungarian POW in Russia. Censorship marks at both ends.

... and the West of the continent.



However, battles also took place in Africa ...



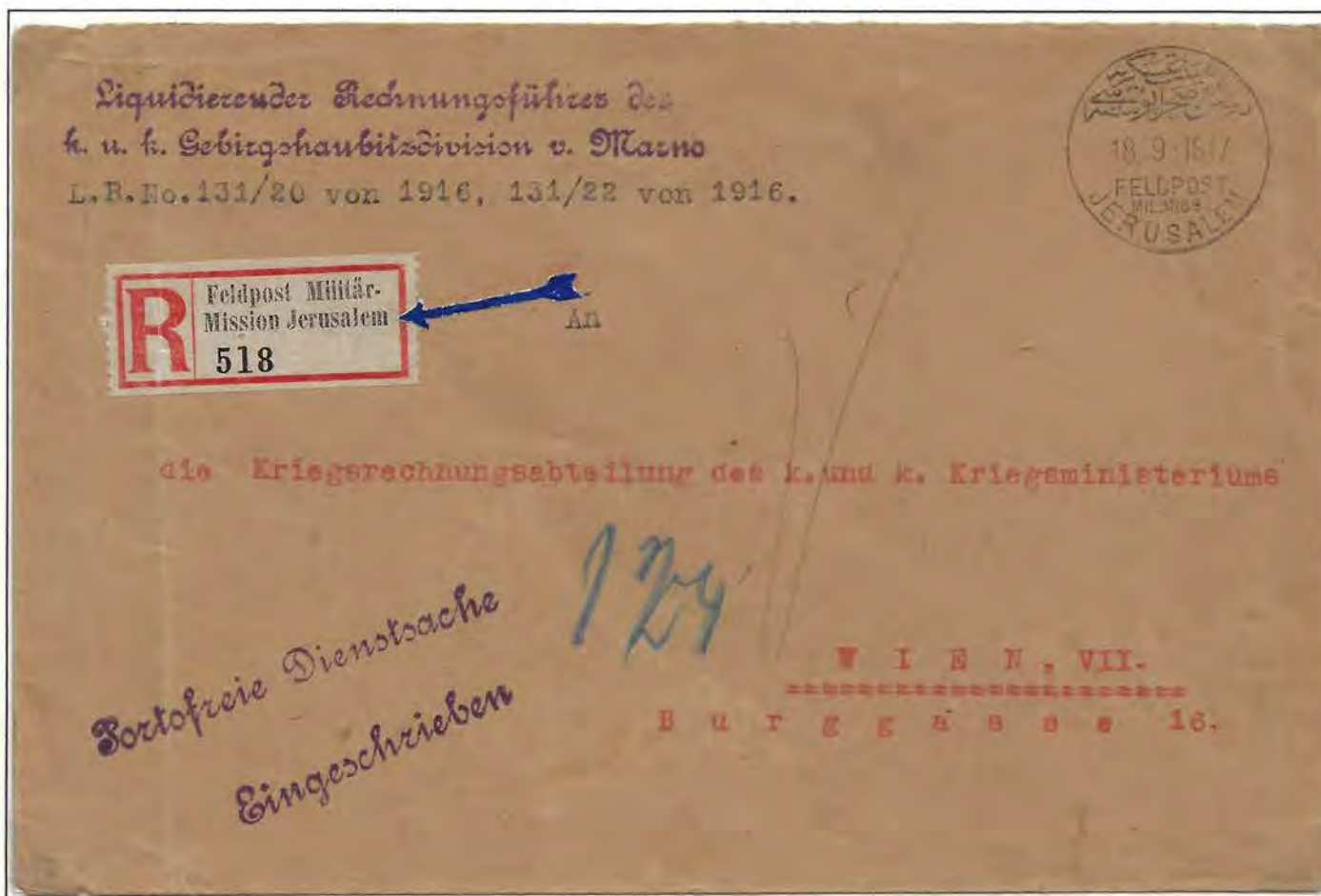
Postcard sent August 14th, 1917, from Base Post Office B of the Indian expeditionary force, in Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika. Datestamp was in use July 7th 1914 - March 14th 1919.

... and non-European forces, such as ANZAC also took part in the war.



Perforation error

... and in parts of Asia, such as Palestine ...



Registered letter sent by the paymaster of the Mountain Howitzer Division V of the Austrian army from Jerusalem, Sep. 18th 1917, to Vienna. Violet "free registered postage" handstamp. The letter was sent through the German military post service, bearing "Feldpost Military Mission Jerusalem" postmark and a corresponding "Feldpost Militar Mission Jerusalem 518" registry label. **Less than 10 letters are known with Jerusalem military registry label.**

The Theaters of Chess & War

5.2 .. and the greatest winners rule the world

Capablanca

Some chess players reached an overwhelming supremacy in their generation, and ruled the world of chess. In the beginning of the 20th century the name of Jose Raul Capablanca was synonymous with chess.

Capablanca was particularly known for the percision of his game ...



Capablanca making "the precise move"

Strip of 6 punch hole specimen from the archives of Waterlow & Sons. Manuscript "Standard for exam, 18.7.1951" with initials of the controller. The date is some 3 months prior to the date of issue (Nov. 1st). **Probably unique.**

... which was virtually free of errors ...



Error: center image is shifted by 2mm.
Only one sheet is known.

... which explains the length of the time in which he reigned the world of chess.



Block of 12 from the top left of the sheet with punch hole specimen from the archives of Waterlow & Son, including the "JOSF" variety. Manuscript "Pattern copy 88384" on top and on the left. **Probably unique.**



Only 1 imperforated sheet of 100 printed.
One of 4 blocks of four seen.



Waterlow & Sons
color trial

Specimen



As issued



Plate varieties:

JOSF
Pos. 13

CAMPFON
Pos. 85



5.2 .. and the greatest winners rule the world ...

Capablanca

Capablanca ruled the chess world from 1911 ...

... when won the San Sebastian tournament ...

... until 1936, when he won the Moscow tournament – his last great achievement.



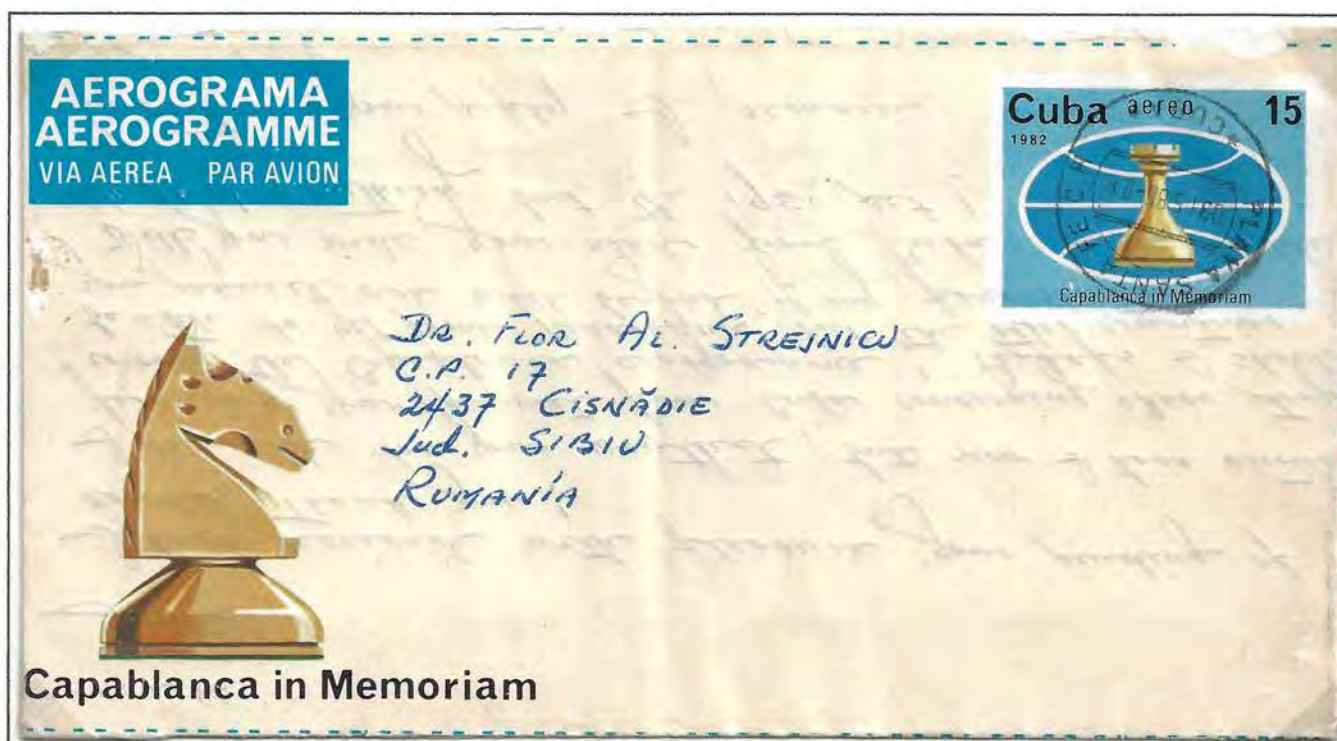
Capablanca's victory over Bernstein in San Sebastian.

Letter sent from the temporary post office at the Moscow tournament site to Prague, June 5th, 1936 with a special cancellation for the international chess tournament. Franked 130 kopecks (50 kopecks - the rate for international letter under 20 gram, and 80 kopecks registration fee). Arrival cancellation of June 10th on reverse.



Even today Capablanca is a legend in Cuba. Chess tournaments ...

... and clubs are named after him.



Capablanca in Memoriam



Blue color shifted down by 0.5mm

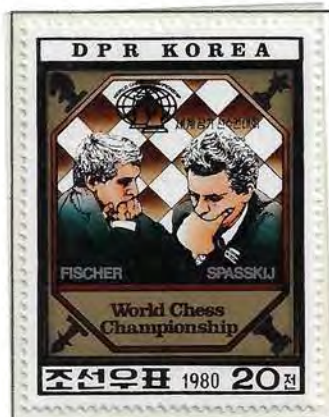
The Theaters of Chess & War

5.2 .. and the greatest winners rule the world

Fischer

Bobby Fischer was the strongest player in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1972 he played...

... in the World Championship match ...



As issued

This match, held in Reykjavik, Iceland, was dubbed "the match of the century".



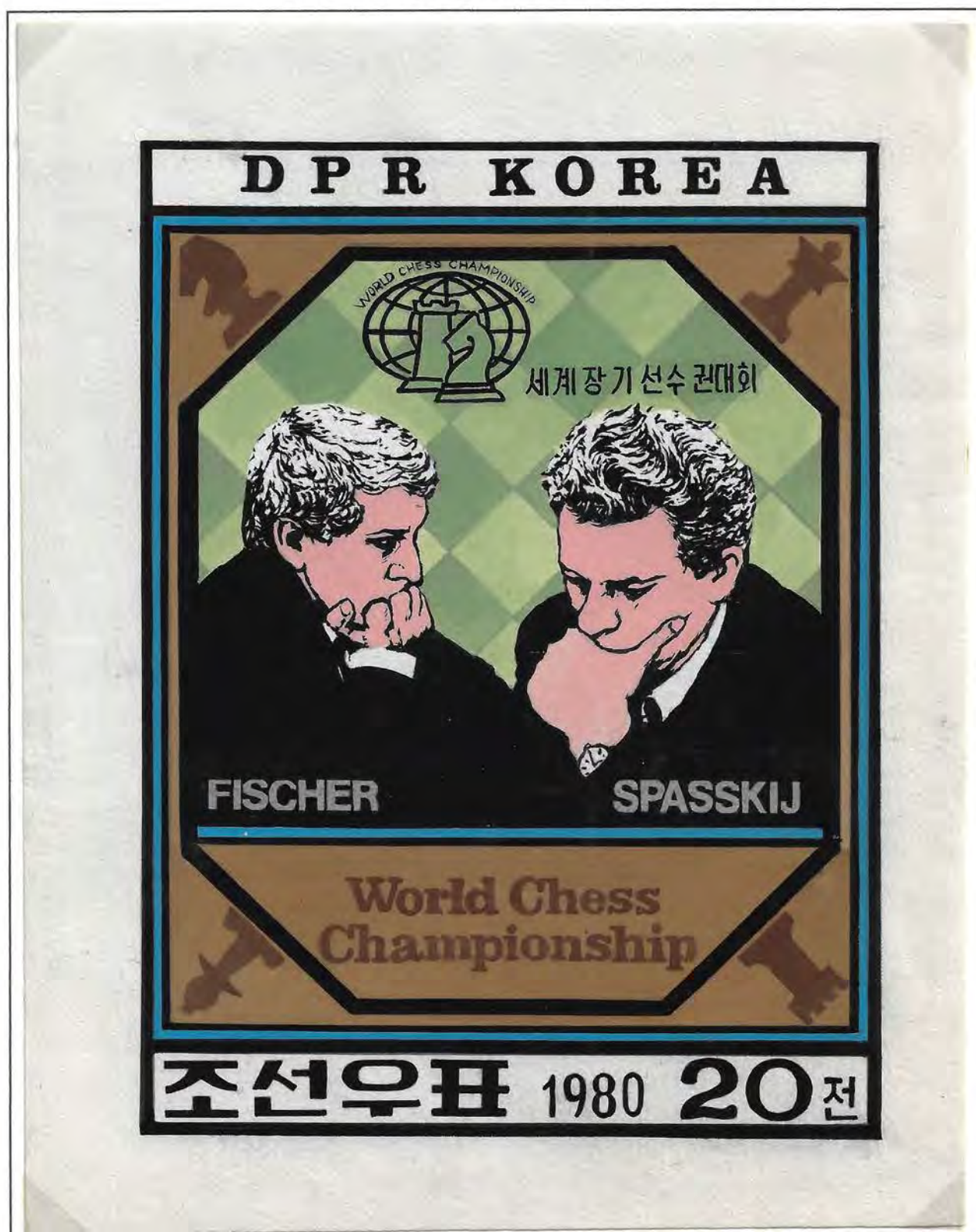
Perforation shift error. Only one sheet is known

Fischer won emphatically, became the World Champion and broke the Soviet hegemony.



Spassky's resignation position in the last game of the match. A black pawn is missing on the F6 square.

... against the reigning World Champion, Boris Spassky.



Original artwork from the archives of the North Korea printers. Inscribed on back with official stamp and signed by the designer. Dated November 14th 1980 – some 6 weeks before the date of issue. Notes in Korean require changes of colors and finer details in the players clothing.

5.2 .. and the greatest winners rule the world ...

Recent decades

During the last quarter of the 20th century the world of chess was dominated by the "two K's" ...

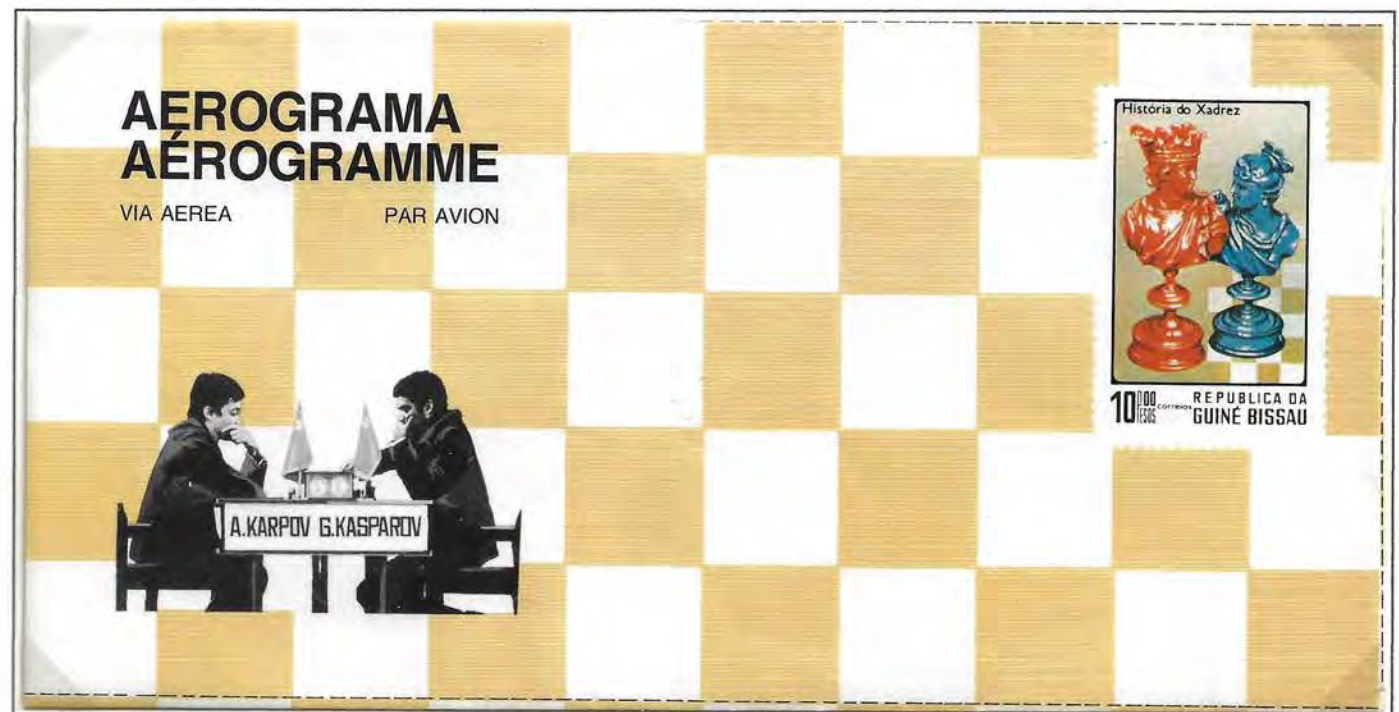
... first Anatoly Karpov ...

... and then, after several matches between them, ...

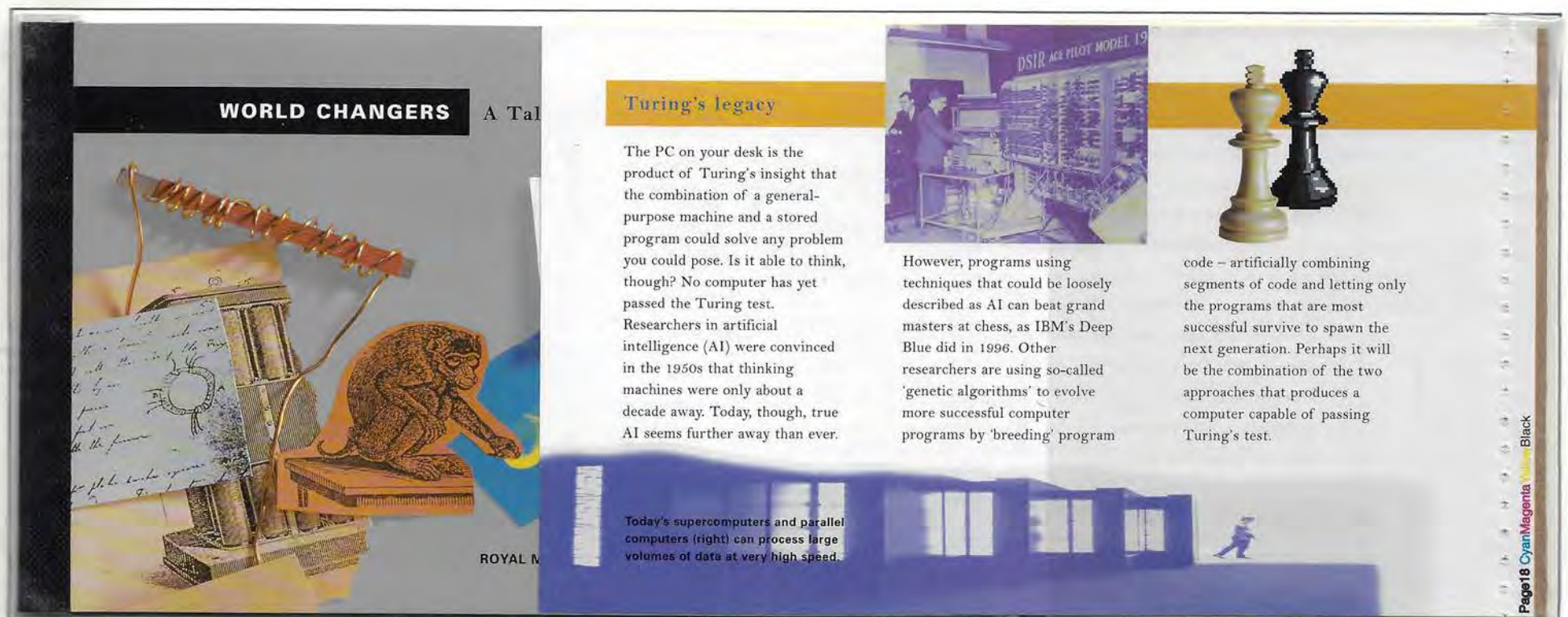


Missing black color error
Only 1 sheet of 25 stamps is known

... by Garry Kasparov.



Nowadays, computer chess programs (such as "Deep Blue") dominate human rivals.



A page from a booklet commemorating the greatest scientific achievements of the millennium.

The Theaters of Chess & War

5.2 .. and the greatest winners rule the world ...

Alexander the Great

In a similar way, several leaders have reached world supremacy. The first person to conquer the world was ...

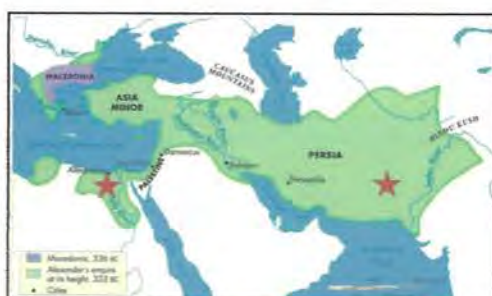
... Alexander the Great ...



10 dots
variety

... and went on to conquer the entire world known to him. Several of the cities he conquered or established were named after him ...

A map of Alexander's empire at its peak. Alexandria and Kandahar are marked by a star.



... with Alexandria, Egypt being the furthest West ...



A Venetian folded letter, sent to Alexandria in 1420.

... who defeated the Persians in the battle of Issus ...



6 drachma was the regular internal mail rate. 1 drachma was an obligatory charity surcharge.

... and Kandahar in today's Afghanistan the furthest East.



Photocopy of front, 30%



½ anna postal stationery cover sent from Kandahar to Amritsar, November 4th, 1879 or 1880 (year indeterminable). The additional franking of 4 annas (on the reverse) is a registration fee. The British post office in Kandahar was opened January 1879, the spelling "Candhar" being used until February 1881.

According to the legend when Alexander "saw the breadth of his domain, he wept for there were no more worlds to conquer".

The Theaters of Chess & War

5.2 .. and the greatest winners rule the world ...

The Romans & the Mongols

The Romans became an empire at the times of ...

... Julius Caesar ...



... and Augustus Caesar.

Perforation
shift



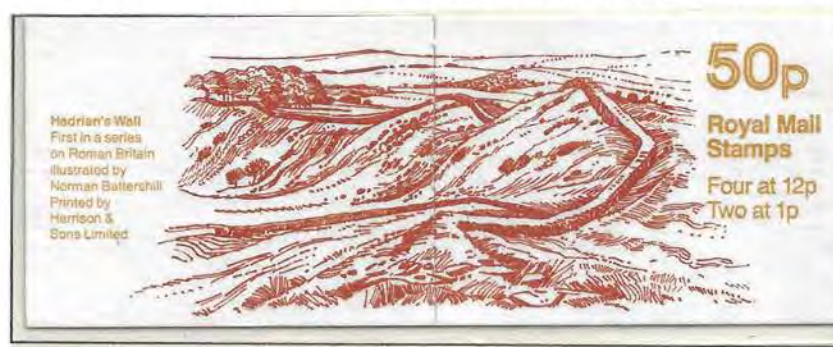
Letter sent Sep. 15th
1946 from Pola
(Now Croatia, then
Italy occupied by
the Allies) to
Argentina (arrival
cancellation of Sep.
28th on reverse).

Franked 121 Lira (15L - regular letter under 20 grams, 106L - airmail service for letters 5-10 grams), with Julius Caesar stamps, overprinted AMG (Allied Military Government) VG (Venezia Giulia).

The Romans controlled
the Mediterranean ...



... and extended north as far as Hadrian's wall in Britain.



In the 13th century, the Mongols, led by ...

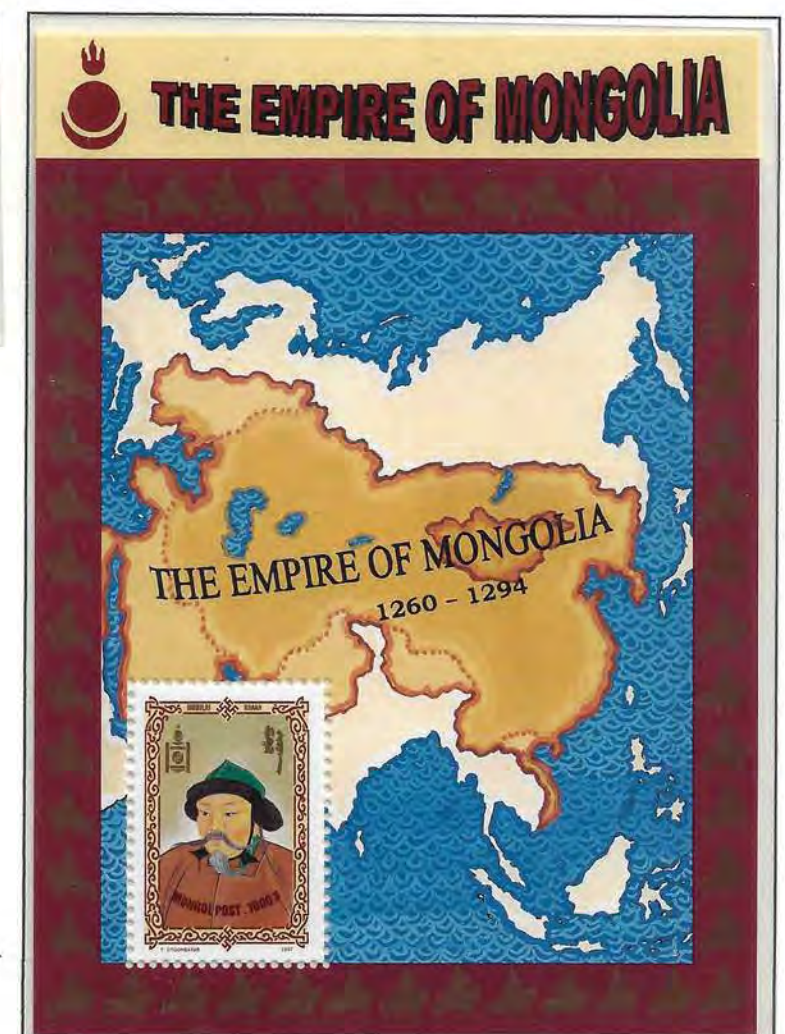
... Genghis Khan ...



... and then by his grandson, Kublai Khan ...



... created the largest ever contiguous
land empire the world has ever seen. →



The Theaters of Chess & War

5.2 .. and the greatest winners rule the world ...

Napoleon

In the early 19th century the most dominant power in the world France, which ...

... under the leadership of Napoleon



Acceptance die proof (Epreuves D'Atelier) made from the hardened primitive die in orange (Lorilleux code #1216) with an unadopted face value of 25f+10f. The stamp was issued with a face value of 30f+10f.

... expanded south to Italy



Folded letter sent on October 17th 1810 from Milan to Lyon with a No. 1 Arm. D'Italie hand stamp. Recipient was charged 6 decimes – the rate for letters under 6 grams traveling a distance of 300 – 400 km.

... west to Spain



Folded letter sent on April 29th 1811 by General Dufour, Governor of Granada, during the Napoleonic occupation of Spain. Cancel of the central bureau of the French army in Spain, free of charge.

... and east to Germany.



Letter sent to Saone et Loire by a soldier of Napoleon's occupation army of Germany from Bohemia 1809. Charged 8 decimes, the rate (as of December 10th, 1806) for letters under 6 grams traveling a distance of 500 – 600 km. The distance was calculated only from the French boarder to the postal department of the destination. Postage was paid by the recipient.

The Theaters of Chess & War

5.2 .. and the greatest winners rule the world ...

The British Empire

The largest empire the world has ever known was the British Empire ...

... which spread all around the world.

From the times of Victoria ...



... through the reign of George V...



The Mulready design expresses the glory of the British Empire, with the British lion at the center of the world



2p Mulready lettersheet Stereo A91, sent Nov. 14th, 1840 to Southampton. Arrival cancellation of November 15th on reverse. Pre-printing paper fold at top left.

... the British could boast that "We Hold a vaster Empire than has been"...

... on which the sun never set.



Additional islands varieties, caused by re-entry of red color. (photocopy below – 75%)



1899 Philippines official SNR (Revolutionary National Service) manuscript with black official seal of Iloilo province with the sun in its center

5.3 ... sometimes teamwork is required

Chess team competitions

While chess is an individual sport, there are also team competitions ...

... which can be held within a country ...

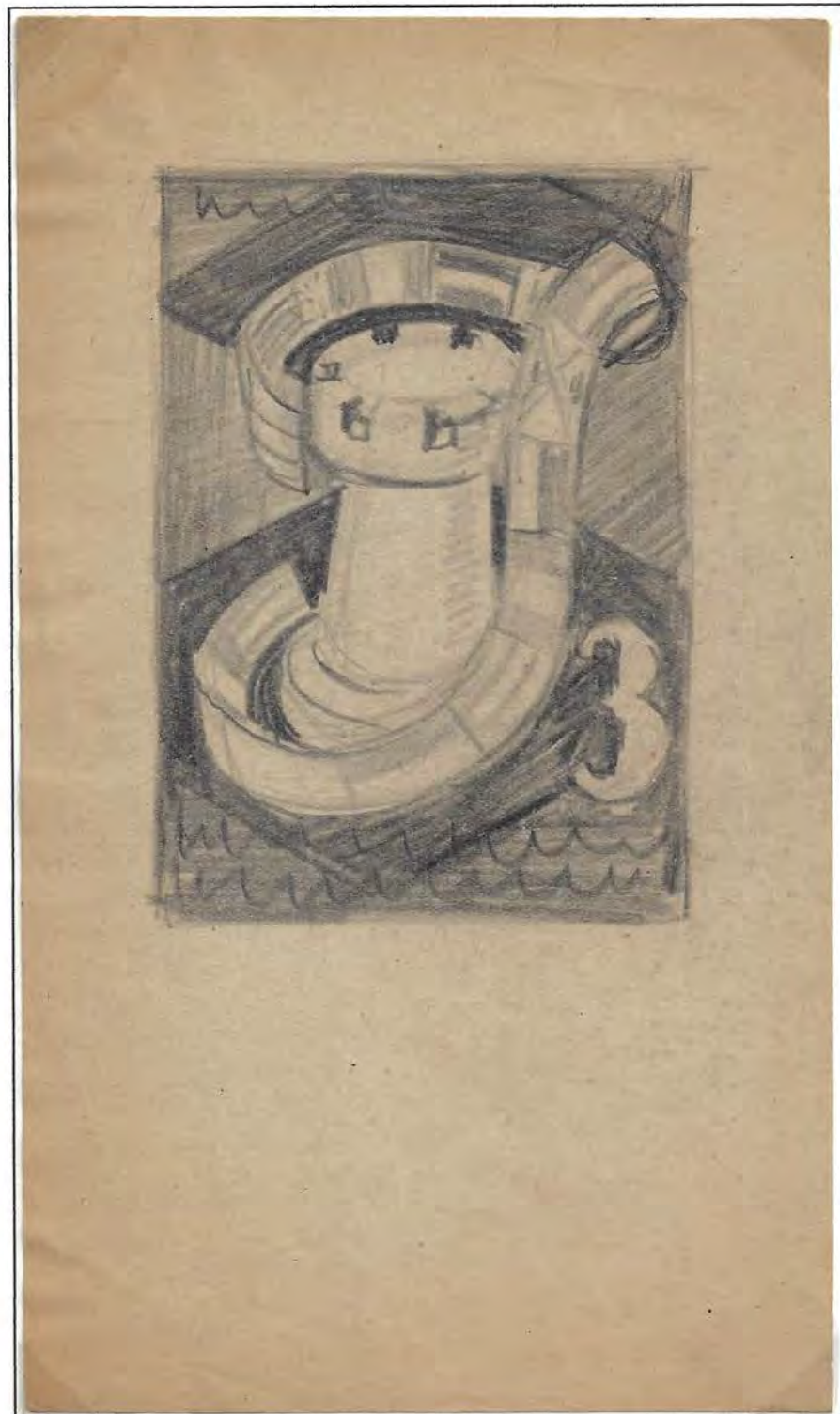


... or with teams from various countries, as represented here by the flags ...



Austrian National
team competition

... such as the tournament held in Portoroz, 1954.



Original artwork of the final design in black pencil

Cancellation commemorating an international team tournament held in Portoroz, October 2-6, 1954. First day usage, with arrival cancellation of Belgrade, October 3rd, on reverse. Portoroz was then part of the Free Territory Trieste, Zone B. Proper franking of 15 dinar using Yugoslav stamps overprinted STT VUJNA (Free Territory Trieste, Military Administration of Yugoslav National Army).

5.3 ... sometimes teamwork is required

Chess Olympiads

The most important chess team tournament is the chess Olympiad ...

... which is symbolized by
five interlocking squares ...



... and the winning team wins the Hamilton – Russel cup



... as did the U.S. in the 1935 Warsaw Olympiad,
the first to be commemorated philatelically.



Registered airmail letter from Warsaw to Ternopol (then part of Poland, now in the Ukraine), appropriately franked 60 groszy (the rates as of August 1st 1935 were 25 groszy for regular letter, 30 – registration fee and 5 – airmail service fee). Arrival CDS of 28/8 on reverse.

5.3 ... sometimes teamwork is required

Teamwork at war

In real life, countries often join forces to promote common interests ...

... thus creating bodies like the Arab League ...

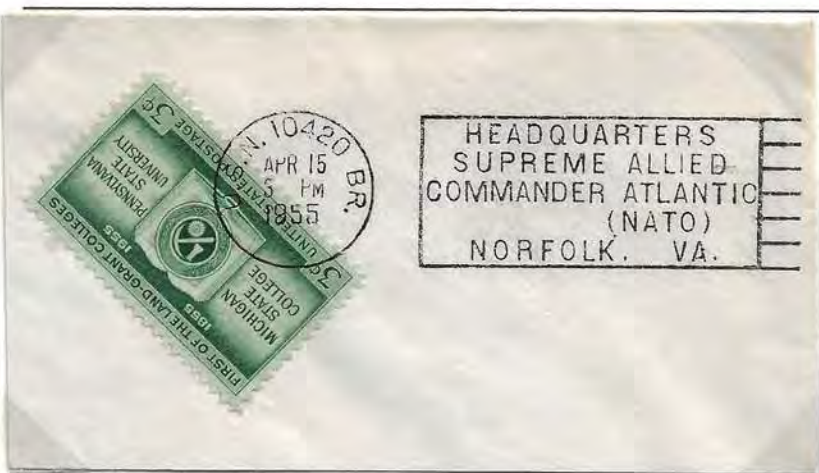


Italy 1918 military post card, censored.
The design shows the flags of the Allied Powers.

... which may also lead to a coalition in war.



Although coalitions usually form a joint headquarters ...



... typically, each nation within the alliance is fighting its own battles
with the assignments allocated by the joint headquarters ...

... in order to achieve a joint victory.



A corner pair with a paper fold error during the perforation process.

Chess and War Part Ways

6.1 Warfare has seen many changes in modern times ...

The pieces / army units

The pieces in chess and the rules of the game have not changed in the last centuries

... so a game from the 19th century ...



Kolisch – Anderssen,
1861

Meanwhile, war has seen the introduction of new weapons, such as the tank, which is essential for victory ...

... looks like a modern game.



... and civilian population, once considered "outside the game", is now exposed to terrorist attacks.



Letter sent from Zurich to Tel Aviv, on February 20th, 1970. This letter was on board Swissair flight #330 the following day. Terrorists planted a bomb in the cargo of that flight, and the plane exploded in midair, killing 47 people. 19 bags of mail were on the flight, and **less than 400 letters**, all damaged, were salvaged. A hand stamp "The correspondence is from the 'Coronado' crashed in Wuerenlingen. / Post office Zurich 58" was applied to these letters. Source: BAPIP No. 65, p.18.

Chess and War Part Ways

6.1 Warfare has seen many changes in modern times...

The 3rd dimension

Chess is played on a board ...

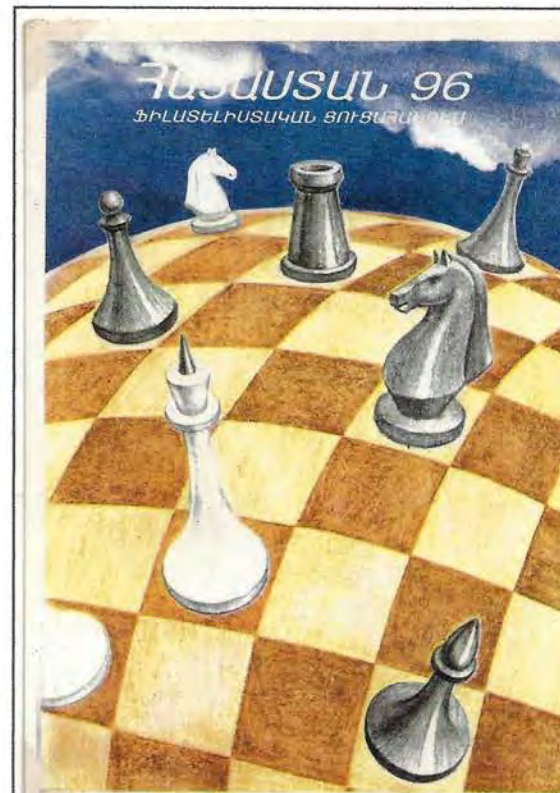
... which is two dimensional.



... or an Escher like shape is just a figment of the imagination of designers.



Any description of the chess board as spherical ...



On the other hand, in the last 150 years war has become 3 dimensional, by the introduction of air force



Letter sent from flying unit 66 of the German army in WWI, stationed in Macedonia on August 11th, 1916.

This field post station cancellation was in use from July 1916 until February 1917, and again from June 1917 to June 1918. Unit cachet at bottom left.

Chess and War Part Ways

6.1 Warfare has seen many changes in modern times ...

The 3rd dimension

... and the usage of submarines, that immerge from the deep to surface level.



Stamps issued by the Spanish Republic for mail delivery from Barcelona to the Island of Minorca during the Spanish civil war, when regular surface mail was considered unsafe.

While the size of the board remained the same...



... modern missiles, such as the Polaris ...



... or the Gabriel, have deemed the concept of limited battlefield obsolete.



Israeli PIK - O - Let, printed privately under license no. 53-71 from the ministry of communication, enjoying aerogramme rate. Left: photocopy of reverse, 30%.



Chess and War Part Ways

6.1 Warfare has seen many changes in modern times...

Weapons of mass destruction

Chess has maintained the chivalry spirit of the times of the knights

... so it remained a civilized way to cross swords.



Booklet cover



On the other hand, horrendous mass destruction weapons - biological ...

... chemical ...



Due to threat of receiving Anthrax spores through the mail, the BBC had all its mail examined by an outside source, from October 2001 to March 2002, as indicated by the "Checked" handstamp.



... and atomic weapon...



... with its horrific consequences...



... eliminated whatever little chivalry warfare had.

6.2 ... and new games present alternatives for chess

Electronic games

In addition to tin soldiers, companies have developed ...

... board games for thinkers ...



Pitney Bowes "5300" model, group IA7, multi value meter

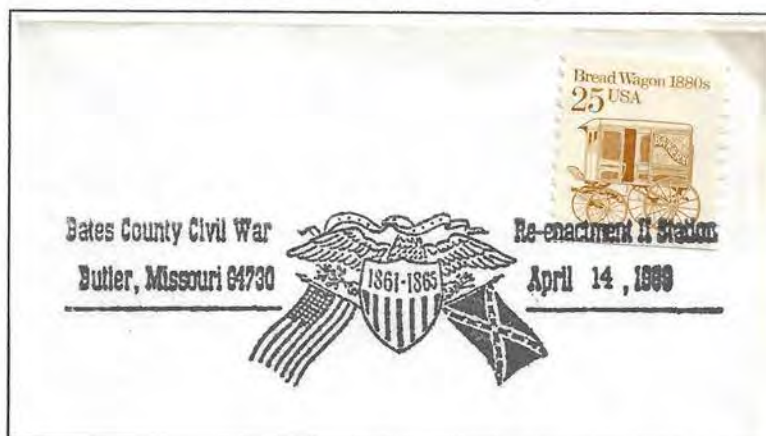
... computer games, such as Prince of Persia ...



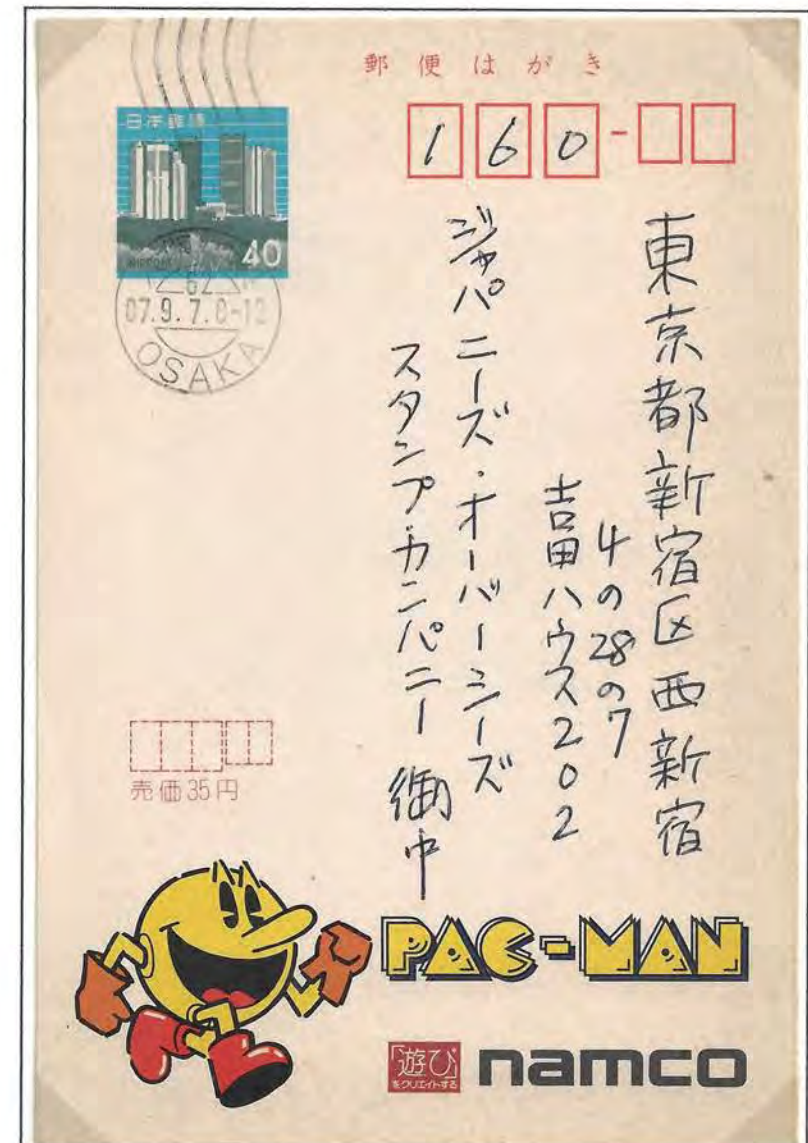
... and video games all of which imitate war.



Outdoor activities, such as battle reenactments offer an almost realistic war experience.



... arcade games, such as Pac-Man....



Japanese Echo card

Considering the development of war, the stagnant rules of chess and alternatives offered by modern games, the resemblance between chess and war is now purely historical, and chess is no longer "similar to life".



"Practice chess – it is similar to life"

Pitney Bowes "R" model, group A4, multi value meter