

CHAPTER 7

SOME FRANCOIS ANDRE DANICAN PHILIDOR WEBSITES

It seems websites move around and disappear since this was transcribed in early 2017.

[François-André Danican Philidor - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/François-André_Danican_Philidor)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/François-André_Danican_Philidor

The first site is the Wikipedia site and contains much valuable genealogical information
As given:

1. Jean Danican Philidor (1620-1679) was P's grandfather. A musician with the Grande Ecurie. The Original name was Danican and earlier a Scottish origin with the name Duncan. Jean was nicknamed by Louis XIII because his oboe playing reminded the King of an Italian virtuoso oboist from Siena named Filidori.
2. Michael Danican (d.1659) Great Uncle of P oboist and with Ms. Hottetere modified the oboe so that the reed was held by the player's lips.
3. Andrei Danican Philidor (1647-1730) P's father known as 'P the Elder', oboist and crumhorn player. Member of the Grande Ecurie Military Band and later performed at the Court Royal Chapel under Louis XIV.
4. Jacques Danican Philidor (1657-1708) P's father's younger brother and known as 'P the younger'.
5. Pierre Danican Philidor (1681-1731) Son of Jacques and a musician.
6. Andre Danican Philidor (1681-1728) Older brother of P. Founded the Concert Spirituel a public concert held in the Tuileries Palace 1725-1791.

P. was born to his father's second wife Elizabeth Roy whom he had wed in 1719 when she was 19 years old and he 72 and 79 when P. was born and he died 4 years later.

Career:- P joined the Royal Choir of Louis XV in 1732 when 6 and had his first composition at 11. The King listened to the choir every day and whilst waiting the musicians played chess. In 1740 P lived and worked in Paris as a performer, teacher and music copyist. He taught the Bohemian composer and pianist Ludwig Wenzel Lachnith (1746-1820). He met Diderot who called him Philidor Le Subtil in "Le Neveu De Rameau". Returning to Paris in 1754 his music was too Italianate. He had several triumphs at the Fair Theatre starting with 'Blaise Le Savetier' 1759. His 3 most successful works were 'Le Sorcier' 1764, 'Tom Jones' (after Fielding) 1765 and 'Ernelinde, Princess De Norvege' 1767. He was among the leading opera-composers in France. He produced 20 'Opera Comiques' and two 'Tragedie-Lyriques'. He also wrote secular cantatas and motets and music for Masonic rituals.

Comments by BM:- It has to be presumed that P's descendants have ensured the above information is correct in Wikipedia but there are differences with Allen's 1863 book which will be given later.

[André Danican Philidor the elder - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andr%C3%A9_Danican_Philidor_the_elder)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/André_Danican_Philidor_the_elder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andr%C3%A9_Danican_Philidor_the_elder)

Website 2:- Andre Danican Philidor the Elder (1652-1730)

An excellent Wikipedia page with portrait. He was librarian and copyist at the King's Music Library and prepared much of the music performed at the Palace of Versailles during the reign of Louis 14th and earlier Henry 4.

The Paris Conservatory held 59 volumes of the 'Philidor Collection' in the 19th century but the collection was dispersed to other libraries. He played oboe and other wind instruments and later (1681) the drum. He owned 33 instruments by 1714. A composer of occasional music pieces.

He appears to be No.3 in Website 1 above but there is a discrepancy in the birth date

[François-André Danican Philidor - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois-Andr%C3%A9_Danican_Philidor)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/François-André_Danican_Philidor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois-Andr%C3%A9_Danican_Philidor)

Website 3:- Francois-Andre Danican Philidor (1726-1795)

The Wikipedia site on the chessplayer/Musician. It is excellent and contains genealogical details, Music and Chess Careers and was last edited 6 Oct. 2017.

The site gives a brief outline of 'Battez-Philidor' a one act Opera-Comique by Amadee Dutacq and Abraham Dreyfus that premiered 13 November 1882. The lovely story of the poor musician who must defeat Philidor at chess to win his sweetheart. Philidor agrees to lose the game in the interest of love but is distracted and wins! The lovers conquer at the finish. Philidor's collaborator A.A.H. Poinsinet features in the show.

[Philidor - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philidor)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philidor>

Website 4:- Another Wikipedia site which gives different genealogical information as below. It is astonishing to see this as it makes the site suspect and it is better than that.

1. Michel Danican Philidor (The Elder) (1580-1651)

Sons Michel Danican Philidor (The Younger) c1610-1659)

Jean Danican Philidor (c1620-1679) Father of the next generation.

2. Andre Danican Philidor (1652-1730) Son of Jean and composer of the 'Marche Francais' (Marche Royale 1679)

Sons Francois Danican Philidor (c 1680-1730) ½ brother of Anne

Anne Danican Philidor (1681-1728)

Michel Danican Philidor III (1683-1723)

Francois-Andre Danican Philidor (AndreII) chessplayer & musician.

3. Jacques Danican Philidor ('the Cadet') (1657-1708) Son of Jean and composer of 'Marche a Quatre Timbales pour Le Carrousel de Monseigneur'(1685)

Son Pierre Danican Philidor (1681-1731)

(Reference 'Grove Music' online dictionary 5 editions last in 1975. 'Philidor' by Rebecca Harris-Warwick and Julian Rushton)

This is at major variance to the first Wikipedia genealogy.

Differences with G.A. Allen's information in his 1863 book 'The Life of Philidor'

Allen claims the 'Filidori' anecdote relates to a Michael Danican.

This Michael has a son Michael (born 1635) who has another son named Michael who retired on a pension in 1724 granted by Louis XV. He was the father of P and lived at Dreux which is close to Versailles on the west side of Paris.

Allen states that P's mother was the third wife. Not the second and there was much debate among the sources of La Borde, Twiss, Andre Philidor (P's son), Lardin and Fetis. Allen followed Lardin who made P's mother 19 when she married and the father 73.

This is all confusing but hopefully Wikipedia is correct. But which Wikipedia? In Wikipedia 1 the comment about the musician L.W. Lachnith is new and P's chess career follows the usual biography given except there appear to be chess games with Benjamin Franklin and a slight association with Charles Burney and Dr. Samuel Johnson. It seems Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot and David Garrick were all admirers. Some interesting research areas.

The term 'hautboy' is defined in Oxford as a wooden double-reed wind instrument of high pitch having a compass of about 2.5 octaves forming a treble to the bassoon.

There is a good photo of P's birthplace in Wikipedia. A nice home in the Park of the Royal Chapel at Dreux. There is also a street named after P in the 20th arrondissement. It is called Rue Philidor and there is a plaque that mentions his music and chess.

This arrondissement or district appears to be in the East of Paris. The 20th arrondissement comprises 3/4ths of the Parish of Belleville and the quarters of Pere Lachaise, Merulmontant and Charonne. It would be of interest to know if the Philidor family home is or was in Rue Philidor. The street is in Charonne suburb east of Sarah Bernhardt Square and close to the Garden of La Gare de Charonne-a railway terminus.

(There is a website Rue Philidor by Bill Wall.)

New Orleans uses the arrondissement term for its districts showing its very close association with France and of course Paul Morphy.

It is clear that Philidor's genealogy is uncertain and needs to be remedied. Perhaps Ancestry.com will have further material.

[The chess games of François André Philidor](http://www.chessgames.com/player/philidor.html)

www.chessgames.com/player/philidor.html

Website 5 : The Chess Games of Francois Andre Philidor

There are only 51 games given and these date from 1749-1795. This is a departure from accepted Philidor Game Collections as given in earlier material. To repeat, there are 78 in OECG and none from the 1740's. Here the website has included two games from Philidor's youth and these are Game No.1 a Bishop's Opening, Philidor with White won in 40 moves and Game No. 3 a Philidor's Defense, Philidor Black, won in 32. (The Games are given earlier) Both from 'Analyse' 1749. As von der Lasa dismissed these 1749 games as 'made-up' and not real games it would be of interest to know why they were included.

[TOP 5 QUOTES BY FRANCOIS-ANDRE DANICAN PHILIDOR | A-Z](https://www.inspiringquotes.us)
<https://www.inspiringquotes.us> › Authors

Website 6 : TOP 5 QUOTES – From AZ Quotes.

- 1.Pawns are the soul of this game, they alone form the attack and the defence.
- 2.A pawn, when separated from his fellows, will seldom or never make a fortune.
- 3.The Pawns are the soul of the game.
- 4.It is always advantageous to exchange your King's bishop pawn for the King's pawn, since this leads to seizure of the centre, and, in addition, to the opening of a file for the rook.
- 5.The pawn is the soul of chess.

BM: But what are the sources? And 3 & 5 are surely the same? Can 2 really be right?
What about a separated pawn (and most are) about to Queen?

[What was Philidor Thinking? - Chess.com](https://www.chess.com/blog/kurtgodden/what-was-philidor-thinking)
<https://www.chess.com/blog/kurtgodden/what-was-philidor-thinking>

Website 7: What was Philidor Thinking? By Kurt Godden

A nice biography and Kurt follows the 'magnificently named' "Tassilo von Heydebrand und der Lasa" that P.'s early games were 'composed'.

BM:- I have a liking for von der Lasa as he visited Australia & New Zealand when he was 70 in 1887/8. No mean task and he went on to the USA and met John G. White where the book discussion was civilised. A very enjoyable time was had and though my education was not up to theirs, I would still have loved listening and being there.

[Philidor « ChessManiac](http://www.chessmaniac.com/philidor/)
www.chessmaniac.com/philidor/

Website 8: Philidor: Chess Maniac

Bill Wall's excellent mini biography of Philidor modernises and adds new points and queries:-

- 1.Was the oboe invented by Michael Danican and Jean Hotteterre in 1750?
- 2.Was Andre Danican, father of Philidor an "official musician of the Court of Louis XIV"?
- 3.He left the Royal Chapel in 1740 "when his voice changed".?
4. Philidor's first blindfold opponent was the Abbe Chenard.

5. Did Lanza's daughter die before or during the concert tour from Dec. 1745 in Holland?
6. What was the dear girl's christian name? Romance with Philidor?
7. The English Army officers he met at The Hague suggested he could make a living playing chess in England.
8. In England he defeated Sir Abraham Janssens +4-1.
9. Philidor's 'Analyse' was one of the favourite books of Thomas Jefferson.
10. Philidor's 1790 edition was dedicated to Count Bruhl.
11. Philidor wrote 21 operas.

[Francois-Andre Philidor Facts - Biography - YourDictionary](https://www.allmusic.com/artist/françois-andré-danican-philidor-mn0001180522)

<https://www.allmusic.com/artist/françois-andré-danican-philidor-mn0001180522>

Website 9: Francois Andre Philidor – Facts, Biography-Your Dictionary

The Chapter Headings are :-

Music at the Royal Chapel,

Chess with Legal,

European Travels and L'Analyse

Opera Comique and return to Paris

Final Years in London and Paris:-Here is a new anecdote on Benjamin Franklin where Philidor autographed BF's copy of L'Analyse and said that he didn't know that BF was a chess player.

The Chapters are quite long and good.

[François-André Danican Philidor- Bio, Albums, Pictures – Naxos ...](https://www.naxos.com/person/Francois_Andre_Danican_Philidor/18004.htm)

https://www.naxos.com/person/Francois_Andre_Danican_Philidor/18004.htm

Website 10- Francois Andre Danican Philidor-Biography, Albums, Pictures- Naxos.

This site is a Naxos Records site and there are 5 Philidor albums available:

J.H.Knecht-Portrait musical de la Nature. Overtures-Prague Symphonie

Femmes Venges-Opera Comique-Lafayette Orchestra

Sanche Panza-Opera bouffon – Lafayette + 4 others

Tom Jones-Opera –Lausanne Symphony

[François-André Danican Philidor and Blindfold Chess](http://www.todayifoundout.com/.../françois-andré-danican-philidor-history-blindfold-chess/)

www.todayifoundout.com/.../françois-andré-danican-philidor-history-blindfold-chess/

Website 11: F.A.D.Philidor –Blindfold Chess- Feed Your Brain.

A good biography from the Blindfold angle. It even names the first person in recorded history to turn his back on the board while playing-one Said bin Jubair (665-714 AD) A contemporary of Muhammed bin Sirin who liked to play without looking.

[Two games of Francois-Andre Danican Philidor. By Boris Schipkov ...](http://www.chessib.com/philidor.html)

www.chessib.com/philidor.html

Website 12:- Chess Siberia Two of Philidor's Games v. Capt Smith 1790 & Count von Bruhl 1783 analysed by Boris Schipkov, strong Russian master, theoretician and scientist.

[François-André Danican Philidor \(1726-1795\) « Aller + ... - ResMusica
www.mjae.com/philidor.html](http://www.mjae.com/philidor.html)

Website 13 ;F.A.D. Philidor - Res Musica. This site appears to be controlled by The Society of Philidorian Studies and there was a newsletter from 1980-2006-25 issues. It was called "La Chronique Philidorienne" There are ca 1000 musical works by the family of Philidor of which 14 of the members were instrumentalists including 9 composers. A wonderful chronological musical catalogue of Philidor's works is included and an 'Indicative Bibliography' which is likewise wonderful.

This is an excellent site and the biography by Dany Senechaud leads into a chronological List of Philidor's musical career starting in 1750 to 1795. It then has a discography of his music on CD and a Bibliography that contains much in music literature. G.A. Allen's book is there but perhaps the best book is "Les Philidor: repertoire of works, genealogy, bibliography". Ed. Zurfluth, Bourg-la-Reine 1997

A Philidor Q&A session by Dany Senechaud (ca 2000) is very interesting along with more details on 'The Philidorian Chronicle' 1980-2006 No. 1-25 by Jean-Francois Dupont-Danican. The newsletter for descendants. The Society of Philidorian Studies (SEP 63, Bd. Raspail 75006 Paris) was founded by Philidor's descendants.

One anecdote was that Philidor liked to spend his afternoons listening to the House of Commons and he admired Charles Fox's eloquence. Like Morphy and law, his reputation for chess was thought detrimental to his music.

A very good Q&A. Dany Senechaud also wrote an article called 'The Game of Chess and History of Reason' that follows the Q&A. It seems that Diderot helped get subscribers for the 1777 edition of 'Analyse' and that Liebnitz (1646-1716) was cited in this edition as one of the first to recognise the scientific nature of chess. There is much philosophy in this article. :-...*Philidor is above all a musician who applies to Chess the same classical scientific rigor that Campra taught him on the pages of the Royal Chapel of Versailles for musical composition.....*

Perhaps this is true but money played its part. At the start of his career chess supported him as it did towards the end. Marcelle Benoit's book 'Philidor, Musician and Chess Player', Picard 1995 quotes a paragraph from one of Philidor's last letters to his wife:-*Last Saturday I played two games without seeing....and the Turkish ambassador, who is resident here, honoured me with his presence and made me say by his interpreter that He was very satisfied, as were all the spectators. This brought me 6 guineas and a few shillings. It came at a time when my purse was empty, for I owe nothing, paying (Every week) my rent regularly 25 Feb. 1794)*

The Philidor Society in Paris may be closed.(See Frank Mayer's website.)

[Francois Andr  Danican Philidor - EcuRed](https://www.ecured.cu/Francois_Andr%C3%A9_Danican_Philidor)
[https://www.ecured.cu/Francois Andr  Danican Philidor](https://www.ecured.cu/Francois_Andr%C3%A9_Danican_Philidor)

Website 14: F.A.D.Philidor ECU Red

A good Spanish site with the usual biography and includes playing tips.

[Frank Mayer. Fran ois-Andr  Danican Philidor. En busca de la tumba ...](http://www.tabladeFlandres.com/frank_mayer/frank_mayer72.html)
www.tabladeFlandres.com/frank_mayer/frank_mayer72.html

Website 15: F.A.D.Philidor-Frank Mayer –En Busca de la tumba.

Susan Poldauf’s book “Philidor-a unique combination of chess and music” n.d. In German by Exzelsior –Verlag Berlin. This website was searching for Philidor’s lost headstone which has now been solved by Gordon Cadden in BCM 2016. The obituary from the Times Sept. 2 1795 is of interest. And sadly the Philidor Society of Paris was no longer operative (2007). It is a good site with some excellent photos of the search for Philidor’s resting place.

[\[French, 1730-1809\], Bust of Francois Andre-Danican Philidor - 1stDibs](https://www.1stdibs.com/...pajou...francois-andre-danican-philidor/id-f_832303/)
https://www.1stdibs.com/...pajou...francois-andre-danican-philidor/id-f_832303/

Website 16: F.A.D. Philidor -1st Dibs –Osuna Antiques-Bust of Philidor

This bust was withdrawn from sale. It had been done in 1783 on plaster and glaze by Augustine Pajou and apparently Philidor commissioned several copies for his English friends. After his death many more copies were made.

[Fran ois Andr  DANICAN PHILIDOR : g n alogie par Alain GARRIC ...](http://gw.geneanet.org/garric?lang...francois+andre...danican+philidor)
gw.geneanet.org/garric?lang...francois+andre...danican+philidor

Website 17: F.A.D.Philidor- Essai de Genealogie

A short family tree of Philidor by Alain G.A. Good.

[Sarah's Journal](http://www.edochess.ca/batgirl/Danican.html)

www.edochess.ca/batgirl/Danican.html

Website 18: Danican-Sarah’s Chess Journal

Usual bio of Philidor with 3 interesting photos . Article dated 2007.

["Jean-Philippe Rameau/Fran ois-Andr  Danican Philidor" by Holland ...](https://www.questia.com/library/.../jean-philippe-rameau-fran-ois-andr-danican-philidor)
<https://www.questia.com/library/.../jean-philippe-rameau-fran-ois-andr-danican-philidor>

by J Holland - 2008

Website 19: F.A.D.Philidor –Jean-Phillipe Rameau

An extract of John Holland’s article on Paris in the mid 1750’s about the debate in opera on the Italian v French styles. “Querelle des bouffons”.

[Francois Andr  Danican Philidor - EcuRed](https://www.ecured.cu/Francois_Andr%C3%A9_Danican_Philidor)

[https://www.ecured.cu/Francois Andr  Danican Philidor](https://www.ecured.cu/Francois_Andr%C3%A9_Danican_Philidor)

Website 20: F.A.D. Philidor- Ecured

The usual biography and sketch of Philidor with some new information:

He was administrator of the Opera Comique for 9 years.-21 musical comedies and 1 opera.

When he felt he was being overtaken by other composers he focussed on his chess career.

Then followed 7 Pawn Play Tips.

(BM Will have to check the statement that he left music for chess.)

[Analysis of the Game of Chess - Books are Magic](https://booksaremagic.net/?q=h.title.links&parms[eisbn]=7Em0LAJ2Hb)

[https://booksaremagic.net/?q=h.title.links&parms\[eisbn\]=7Em0LAJ2Hb](https://booksaremagic.net/?q=h.title.links&parms[eisbn]=7Em0LAJ2Hb).

Website 21: -Exclusive Books

16 different books on Philidor in 21st century print. All paperbacks.

1. Analyse Du Jeu D'Echecs-R503 Published by Lulu.com 8 Sept 2015 258p UK

2. Analysis of the Game of Chess R907 From the 1777 edition. Zeticulata UK 336p.15 Jan 2005.

3. Nouvelle Notation Des Parties Et Coups D'Echecs Compris Dans Les Trait s Faits Sur Ce Jeu. Primary Source Edition (PSE) R659 Nabu Press USA 25 Oct. 2013 488p.

4. An Easy Introduction to the Game of Chess containing One Hundred examples of Games and a Great Variety of Critical Situations and Conclusions, including the Whole of Philidor's Analysis with Selections from Stamma, the Calabrois, & c to which are added. R489 Nabu Press USA 11 Feb. 2014 292 p.

5. Analsis del Juego de Ajedrez R540 Nabu Press USA 14 Sept. 2013 330p.

6. Die Kunst Im Schachspiel Ein Meister Zu Werden R.766 Nabu Pr. 12 Feb 2014 380 p.

7. Praktische Anweisung Zum Schachspiel R574 Nabu Press 18 Oct 2013 386p.

8. Die Kunst Im Schachspiel Ein Meister Zu Werda R574 Nabu Press 26 Mar. 2014 390p.

9. Analysis of the Game of Chess illus. by Diagrams, on Which are marked the Situation of the Party for the Back Games and Ends of Parties PSE R506 Nabu 3 Jan.2014 304 p.

10. Analysis of the Game of Chess R376 pub. By The Classics.US 12 Sept. 2013 48 p.

11. Analyse Du Jeu Des Echecs R557 Nabu 14 Sept.2013 342 p.

12. Analysis of the Game of Chess PSE R608 Nabu 13 Sept. 2013 436 p.

13. Analysis of the Game of Chess R540 Nabu 21 Feb. 2014 336 p.

14. Analysis of the Game of Chess PSE R523 Nabu 12 March 2014 324 p.

15. Analysis of the Game of Chess PSE R630 Nabu 4 Oct 2013 266 p.

16. Chess Analysed, Or, Instructions by Which a Perfect Knowledge of This Noble Game May in a Short Time be acquired. PSE Nabu 11 Jan. 2014 162 p.USA

(BM The site encourages readers to become 'Fanatics' members and gain points. The 'R' number seems to refer to points not money. The publication dates by Nabu Press are of interest. One cover to No.2 features that famous sketch of two Assyrians (I think) looking down at a game on a table. Well before chess was invented but a nice cover. Very impressive the way Philidor has marched into the 21st century but one may wonder how many copies of each edition exist? This site now updated to 19 Philidor printings most dated 2017. I think now they only put a cover on once they have sold a copy/copies?)

[André Danican Philidor - Club Aranjuez de Ajedrez](http://www.ajedrezaranjuez.com/andre-philidor.htm)
www.ajedrezaranjuez.com/andre-philidor.htm

Website 22: F.A.D. Philidor - Ajedrez Aranjuez (Spanish- translatable)
Short biography with sketch from the Turkish Ambassador simul.

[François André Danican Philidor - Só Xadrez](http://www.soxadrez.com.br/conteudos/enxadristas/p1.php)
www.soxadrez.com.br/conteudos/enxadristas/p1.php

Website 23: F.A.D.Philidor So Xadrex (Portuguese-translatable)
Short biography but hosts of web pages on various topics such as The History of Chess, Types of Games (Byzantine Chess on a circular board. There is even a Circular Chess Society). The Tips (12 of) were useful for beginners. The Chess Schools are briefly discussed and Philidor was the leader of the Classical School the star of which were the pawns..
In ‘Curiosities’ is ‘The International Day of Aging’ This was the birth date of Capablanca Nov. 19.
The site claimed the longest game was 269 moves between Ivar Nikolic and Goran Arsovic in Belgrade 1989-a draw in 20 hours!
The youngest National champion was the Peruvian Julio Grande Zuniga 6 years old!.
Chess is compulsory at Romanian Schools and counts 33% to maths grades.
It has brief videos (7) and movies (8) section and a Historical Photos section (8 only) but I’d not seen any of them.
Under famous ‘Hockey’? players are some excellent photos of chess players. A typo.
A very good site.

<https://books.google.com.au/books?isbn=0674372999>
[The Harvard Biographical Dictionary of Music](https://books.google.com.au/books?isbn=0674372999)
<https://books.google.com.au/books?isbn=0674372999>

Website 24: The Harvard Dictionary of Music
p.610 is a good biography of Philidor.

[Chess and Music Part 1: Philidor | The Chess Improver](http://chessimprover.com/chess-and-music-part-1-philidor/)
chessimprover.com/chess-and-music-part-1-philidor/

Website 25: Chess and Music Part 1 Philidor and The Chess Improver.
Nigel Davies & friends produce this. A good biography + 3 games. There are links to dozens of chess sites-some have charges. I noted a \$25 charge on Chess Café.com if one wanted to see the Archives.

[François André Danican Philidor \(di Gianfelice Ferlito\) - ASIGC](http://www.asiqc.it/Newsletter/files/phil.htm)
www.asiqc.it/Newsletter/files/phil.htm

Website 26: F.A.D.Philidor –Gianfelice Ferlito ASIGC-Italian site”We have collected all the episodes of Philidor that have been published in the newsletter ASIGC and it came to an e-book over 100 pages, with notes and illustrations”. Price 2 euros.

[Grace Notes for a Year: Stories of Hope, Humor & Hubris from the ...](https://books.google.com.au/books?isbn=0971509301)
<https://books.google.com.au/books?isbn=0971509301>

Website 27: Grace Notes for a Year-Stories of Hope, Humour and Hubris
November 28th – The Master Twice Over ; - Philidor’s life was “Worthy of an adventure novel by Fielding”. The article continued re his trip to Holland where he was to accompany a “dazzling Italian Harpsichordist and her father” to a Dutch concert. Sadly no name of the beautiful teenager-pity.

[Biographie de Philidor François-André Danican | CreaChess.com](http://www.creacchess.com/biographie/philidor.php)
www.creacchess.com/biographie/philidor.php

Website 28: Biographie de Philidor –Francois-Andre Danican – CreaChess.com
This French site uses a biography by Nicholas Giffard’s book “The Fabulous History of Chess Champions”. An interesting comment on Philidor’s style: *-The parts of Philidor were rarely brilliant. Few or no fast attacks on the enemy king but slow manoeuvres usually leading to the winning of one or two enemy pawns then exchange and finally victory at the end of the game by promotion of a lady pawn.*
The bio states Philidor prepared his book during the war of Austrian succession and this explains the subscriptions of 119 copies by officers.

[“The Pawns are the soul of the game” \(Francois Andre Danican Philidor\)](http://www.bornofthewater.com/.../“the-pawns-are-the-soul-of-the-game”-francois-andre-da-philidor)
[www.bornofthewater.com/.../“the-pawns-are-the-soul-of-the-game”-francois-andre-da-](http://www.bornofthewater.com/.../“the-pawns-are-the-soul-of-the-game”-francois-andre-da-philidor)

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Website 29: The Pawns are the soul of the Game.-Born of the Water
The author uses a married couple’s arguments over 20 years of tempestuous marriage as a chess metaphor. Very clever how the chess terms were woven into this fiery liaison.

[Philidor, el crack francés que murió sin conocer la derrota - Blogs ...](http://blogs.lanacion.com.ar/.../philidor-el-crack-frances-que-murio-sin-c...)
blogs.lanacion.com.ar/.../philidor-el-crack-frances-que-murio-sin-c...

Website 30
A great site with lots of historical photos by Carlos Ilardo. Worth viewing.

[Historical Dictionary of Music of the Classical Period](https://books.google.com.au/books?isbn=0810873869)
<https://books.google.com.au/books?isbn=0810873869>

Website 31: Historical Dictionary of Music of the Classical Period by Bertil van Boer.
Some biographical info. on Jean Benjamin Francois De La Borde (1734-1794 Paris)
He studied with Jean Phillippe Rameau. An unsuccessful opera composer.
Also Ludwig Wenzel Lachnith (17 July 1846 Prague-3 Oct. 1820 Paris) Studied under Philidor. He was Director of Opera in 1801, then fired, then back 1803.

[\[PDF\]La descendance percheronne de François–André DANICAN PHILIDOR](#)
www.perche-gouet.net/.../Famille%20DANICAN-PHILIDOR.pd

Website 32: La descendance percheronne de Francois-Andre Danican. In French. A most excellent mini genealogy which adds much to the knowledge of Philidor's early history and family. The translation to English is awkward but here it is:-

The Percheron Descent of Francois-Andre Danican Philidor (Dreux 1726-London 1795) Composer, one of the founders of the Opera Comique, famous chess player.

Francois-Andre Danican Philidor belonged to a Parisian and Versaillian dynasty which gave thirteen other Musicians at the court of the Kings among whom six composers. Danican is the French alteration of Duncan. Scottish patronymic whose porters claim descent from the king of that name killed in 1040 by MacBeth. We know that a great number of Scots, who came after Mary Stuart, when she became Queen of France in 1558, settled in France.

The first known Danican was Michel I Danican, nicknamed Filidor, born about 1580, he was oboist and served probably in the armies of the king in campaign in the Dauphine during the wars against Savoy. On returning to Paris, he was heard by Louis XIII, whom he charmed and who, according to tradition surnamed him and would then have named him ordinary of the Music of his Chamber. Another attractive assumption about the Filidori were bards, poets and hereditary musicians from ancient Ireland, Highlands of Scotland. The Danican Filidor may have been called Duncan Filideach 'before foot' on the continent.

However, this person, who died before 1651, was the great-grandfather of Francois-Andre Danican Philidor, known as the Great Philidor, born at Dreux (28) on September 7, 1726, died in London on August 31, 1795.

The most famous dynasty of musicians, author of motets, instrumental pieces, comic operas and an opera. His detailed biography would require lengthy development. He married Elizabeth Richer, born on September 15, 1741 in Versailles (Notre-Dame), daughter of Francois Joseph Richer, Superintendent of Music of the Dukes of Orleans and Chartres, and Marie Elizabeth Leroy. She died on September 15, 1809 in Paris. They left five children, including:

1. Andre-Joseph-Helene Danican Philidor , designated as the 'beautiful Philidor', born October 29, 1762 at Paris (Saint Eustache), found to be committed to the Royal Treasury in 1787. At the beginning of the Revolution he divided his time between Paris and Fretigny (28) where he had bought on November 27 1791 a small property which he exploited himself and which will soon be called 'The Philidorerie'. There he received his mother of Paris enjoying its close sheep, cows and flowers, it is very probably that his father also made. At least he spoke of it in a letter of July 1792.

After his first marriage in 1794, he moved to Montlondon (28) in the property his wife had bought in 1788 and that she gave him by her marriage contract. He praised the Philharmonia to his maternal uncle Antoine Richer.

In 1801 he was appointed prefecture councillor at Chartres, a position he held until 1806 to integrate the Ministry of Finance. Around 1817 he became director of the Manufacture of cotton and linen for the canvas of Jouy de l'Épine in Itteville (95). In 1821 he returned in Montlondon, was elected general councillor of Eure and Loir in 1833, seat that he will occupy until 1839.

On February 23, 1839, he ceded the Philidorerie de Fretigny to his nephew and brother in law, Andre Francois Danican Philidor. In 1843 he sold the property of Montlondon and died on 6 June 1845 in Paris.

He married in first marriage, the 4th Germinal of the Year II (March 25, 1794) in Montlondon, Charlotte Pommier, born in Paris on March 27, 1747, divorced of Claude Bonnard, bourgeois of Paris and turner. A publisher of the Rue de Temple, who died without a posterity on 16 November, 1817 in Montlondon. Widowed he remarried on November 29, 1819 in Itteville (95) with his own niece, Victorine Danican Philidor, born on January 8, 1799 in Caen (14) died in 1876, daughter of Claude (alias) Frederick Danican Philidor, born July 21, 1766 in Paris, director of the Indirect Contributions of Chinon (in 1820). Died April 15, 1821 in Montlondon, and Rosalie Lepage, born in Caen in 1770, died in Paris in 1832. They left six children.

A. Andre Danican Philidor, born September 8, 1820 in Itteville, main receiver of the Customs of Lille (in 1878), died on 16 November, 1883 in Lille, married in this city on 24 May 1853 with Clemence Leroy, born in Dunkirk in 1833, died in Le Havre in 1914, including a daughter survivor, Charlotte Gabrielle Danican Philidor, born in Dunkirk in 1861, died in Le Havre in 1923, married in 1885 to Emile Dupont (1859-1929) of whom posterity (families Dupont, Danican Philidor and Safot).

B. Clara Danican Philidor born June 26, 1823 in Montlondon.

C. Octave Danican Philidor born April 8, 1825 in Montlondon. Treasurer of the Navy in Papeete in 1855, then in Noumea in 1859, and in 1869 in Saint Pierre de la Martinique. Director of the Bank of Martinique in 1874, then that of Tunisia. Knight of the Legion d'Honneur on 11 August, 1869, died on 23 November, 1893 in Paris (3) married on 15 June, 1854 in Paris with Isabelle Demeuse (1829-1898) including two children:

1. Noemie Danican Philidor born in 1855 in Papeete died in 1928 in Paris (4). Married in 1876 to Saint-Pierre de la Martinique with Albert Gabet. Born in 1844 Saint Dennis of the Reunion, died in Blois in 1909 of which posterity (families Barnet and Vivier).

2. Albert Danican Philidor born in Paris in 1857, died after 1907. Married to Anne Ladarn, born in Beauvais in 1852, died at Neuilly-Plaisance in 1907, without posterity.

D. Eugene Danican Philidor born December 29, 1826 in Montlondon. It the administration in 1851 as chief of staff of the prefect of Herault. It was subsequently Prefect of the Vaucluse, became an adviser to the prefecture of the latter department. That of the Vosges of which he was appointed general secretary in 1865. Maintained in this position after. On the 4th of September, 1870, he displayed energy in front of the invader, and for 8 days was even imprisoned by the Prussians following a speech he had Funeral of a resident of Epinal. His constituents manifested their gratitude to giving him 17,000 votes in the February 1871 elections for the National Assembly, but he was not elected. Secretary-General of the Doubs Prefecture, then in 1878. Of the North he was successively appointed prefect of Indre (1879) then of Basses-Alpes (1880). He died in Saint-Maude (94) on December 23, 1884. He was Knight of the Legion of Honor since August 7, 1869. He had married Emma Letourneau-Dubreil, born in Nancy in 1840, died without posterity at Epinal in 1898, daughter of an officer under the Empire.

E. Albert Danican Philidor born April 10, 1831 and died May 5, 1832 at Montlondon.

F. Leonce Danican Philidor born on 23 January, 1839 in Montlondon, employed in Paris, he died there late 1870 in the regiments of marching infantry at the siege of the capitol.

Other family members Danican Philidor anmd allies cited in local documents:

Frederick Danican Philidor and Rosalie Lepage, his wife, left Victorine already quoted. Four other children:

1. Lyse Cecile Danican Philidor born on 11 May 1797 in Strasburg (67) who died on 1 June, 1828 at Montlondon at 31 with no alliance.

2. Andre Francois Danican Philidor born on the 24th Frimaire of the year IX (16th December, 1800) in Caen. Inspector of Finance in 1836, who bought the Philidorerie at Fratigny in 1839 to his uncle and step-brother, the 'handsome' Philidor and resold it in 1841 to his brother-in-law Etienne Jousset. It is found under Prefect of Muret (31) in 1848. He stayed in Odessa where his first wife had ties. He died on 18 May, 1876 at Bagneres-de-Bigarre (65). He had married in 1828, in Paris, Marie Antoinette Valerie Andrieu, born in 1808 in Saint Petersburg (Russia) daughter of a renowned singer of the Opera Comique, died on March 16, 1854 in Paris, buried at Pere Lachaise, rewarded in 1833 by the City of Paris for his services rendered during the cholera epidemic. In seconds Nuptuals, he remarried Angelique Victoire Laure Cardon (1816-1885). From the first bed is a son.

Survivor Leon Danican Philidor, born May 24, 1831 in Montlondon, died in 1889 in Odessa (Ukraine). Married in 1866 to Odessa with Helene Matalina, including two children among whom:

1. Androuschka Danican Philidor born in 1867 in Odessa died in 1942 in Paris (13) Last Philidor of the name without alliance.

3. Antoine Danican Philidor, born May 27, 1804, at the castle of Mesnildon in Lingevres (14) engaged. Volunteered in 1823, he made the campaigns of Spain and Algeria, and

terminated lieutenant to the 6 Lancers. In 1832, returning ill in 1835, he retired to his uncle and brother-in-law at Montlandon to be care. He died there without alliance on 4 May, 1836 at 32 years.

4. Adelaide (known as Adine) Danican Philidor, born 16 May, 1800 in Lingevres (14) died on 25 November, 1836 in Paris, married 5 February, 1827 in Montlandon with Etienne Gabriel Jousset, born January 10, 1798, son of Etienne Gabriel Francois Jousset Known as “Les Rupres”, notary at Saint-Aubin de Lacqueny (72) then in Paris, and Jeanne Tetu. He founded the Imprimerie Administrative Central in Paris in 1841.

He bought from his brother-in-law Andre-Francoise Danican Philidor, for his children, the Philidorerie at Fretigny. He died on 26 February, 1873 in Paris (6) after remarrying in 1843 with Ernestine Aure Elie Fritat (whose first marriage is the Jousset and Aube families)

The ‘beautiful Philidor’ and Frederick Danican Philidor had a brother John the Baptist (called August) Danican Philidor. Born in 1769 in Paris, author of a vaudeville parade: “The mania of the Marnez or the Spirit of the Fashion”. Officer Grenadiers in the army of the North from which he returned very ill in 1801; he retired to Montlandon with his brother Eldest to be treated; he died there on the 10th messidor of the year X (June 30, 1802) to 33 years without alliance.

The Richer, another family of musicians, were allied to the Philidors. Antoine Richer born on 18 June 1739 in Versailles (Notre Dame) chapel, master of the Duke of Parma. Before 1796 in Montlandon, at his nephew Andre Danican Philidor. He was then the recipient of contributions to Chartres under the Empire. He died on 17 March, 1818 in Montlandon. He had married around 1785, in Parma (Italy) Marie Bouvier, born in 1760 in Parma of a Belgian family, died in Montlandon on 20 September, 1841 of whom a girl: 1. Gabriel Richer born on the 24th Pluviose of the year IV (January 25th, 1796) at Montlandon, died in the same place. Sub-prefect of Nogent le Rotrou; with Alfred Guinchard born September 9, 1794 in Longny-au-Perche (61) son of Simon Elie Guinchard Duchesnay, merchant of fabrics in Longny, and Marie Madeleine Marin. He was notary clerk, then proprietor and merchant in Montlandon.

They had three children including a surviving daughter Elyse Madeleine Guinchard, born on 5 March, 1818 in Montlandon (unknown fate, descendants possible. Not yet studied)

SOURCES: This article is only a modest summary of a very documented work by Mr. Nicholas Dupont-Danican Philidor: ‘Les Philidor- Directory of works, genealogy, bibliography’ published in the collection ‘Temps musical’ directed by Marcelle Benoir, historian of music, auditions Aug. Zurfluh, in 1995 (150 pages) to which we refer interested readers for all additions.

Bernadette Dieudonne ‘the Great Philidor, musician of the king and his family’ in review Ge-Magazine No.177 December 1988 p.31-35 which also refers to the previous work. See also the ‘Dictionary of French biography’ of M. Romand Amat (Article Danican Philidor)

Editor's Note: Below, an excerpt from an article about Philidor, taken from the Modern (Louis Gabriel Michaud 1843) volume 33:

Francois-Andre Danican known as Philidor, composer of the last century, was born in Dreux on September 7, 1726. He was a petit son of Michel Danican, musician of the chamber of Louis XIII to whom this prince gave the name of Philidor, because it was that of an oboe very famous at that period, and to which the king found him alone worthy of comparison. The young Andre was raised to the pages of the king's music, under Campra, who was then a great celebrity. He showed so early, that at the age of fifteen he obtained the favour of having the chapel executed a motet of his own composition. Leaving the pages, Philidor gave lessons in Paris. He copied music when his schoolchildren were missing. But soon, a passion more intense than that of his art manifested itself in him; it was that of the game of chess. He acquired so great a superiority that he flattered himself with making it the instrument of his fortune. It is with this intention that Traveled through Holland, Germany and England. Being in London in 1749 he had his subscription printed by his 'Analysis of failures'. A few years later he obtained a success of another kind in the same capital; he dared to put it there in music, the famous ode of Dryden entitled 'The feast of Alexander'. The celebrated Handel found his choirs well done but he was much less satisfied with his airs, which said the great master were lacking in melody and expression. This judgement is remarkable, in that it was, as if by anticipation, that of the talent which the author was going to deploy in the Career!.

Returning to France in 1754, Philidor had a 'Lauda Jerusalem' executed at the chapel of Versailles. Made, it is said, that he lost the protection of Marie Leczinska, because this piece was entirely in the manner Italian, which the Queen did not like.

In 1759, Philidor began at the Theatre de la Foire Saint Laurent, with a small opera by 'Blaize the cobbler', he gave regularly every year a comic opera. If we except 'The Farrier', they are almost stripped from the repertory. Philidor, a refugee in London during the reign of Terrorism, died there on August 31, 1795.

Text by Christian Leger (from Nicholas Dupont-Danican Philidor's work)

BM:- Clearly 'Analysis of Failures' is 'Analysis of Chess' A great website.

toomchess.blogspot.com/2015/.../francois-andre-danican-philidor.h...

[Échecs & Stratégie: Philidor, analyse du jeu d'échecs - Chess & Strategy
www.chess-and-strategy.com/2014/.../philidor-analyse-jeu-echecs.h...](http://www.chess-and-strategy.com/2014/.../philidor-analyse-jeu-echecs.h...)

Website 33: Echecs et Stratagie Philidor 'Analyse du jeu des Echecs'

A lovely photo of Stephane Laborde and Philippe Dornbuch launching their new edition of Philidor. 'Chess & Strategy' 2014 looks a good website for French enthusiasts.

Note: The Chess Players Magazine June 1, 1867 p.164-171

A good standard biography with some new facts:-

1.p.162 A good review of Allen's book.

2.p.164 Philidor was never an instrumental performer.
3.p.164 J.J. Rousseau played Philidor in Paris in 1741 and 1745.
4.p.166 The allied army had many votaries of chess. Philidor gave odds of a piece to Prince Waldeck and Colonel La Deves.
5.p.167 The favourite meeting place was Old Slaughter's Coffee House in St. Martin's Lane London. Philidor wrote his treatise in Holland in 1748. In 1749 he was a guest of the Duc de Mirepoix the French Ambassador who gave a weekly chess dinner. Dr. Black had a school at Chiswick and on being introduced to the Ambassador eventually received a Crown living through his Grace's interest. Philidor had 8 months at Arolsen with the Prince of Waldeck and 3 weeks with the Court of the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel in 1752. Philidor returned to England and remained until November 1754. His Blaise le Savetier was first performed March 9 1759.
p.169-Monsieur later Louis XVIII subscribed to the 1777 edition. Sir Abraham Janssen died in Paris Feb.19, 1765.
p.170 Philidor succeeded better with his music in France than England. There is a criticism in Ree's Encyclopedia by Dr. Burney on Philidor.
p.171 Chess was decaying in London in 1790.

[Analyse du jeu des échecs : Philidor, FD \(François Danican\), 1726-1795
https://archive.org/details/analysedujeudes02philgoog](https://archive.org/details/analysedujeudes02philgoog)

Website 34:-Analyse du jeu des echecs –F.A.D. Philidor
A copy of the 1803 edition owned by NY Public Library was digitised July 9.2009
1/12/2017 Brewster Kahl now wants \$25 to keep the site open.

[Search Results for: Chess - Földvári Books
https://www.foldvaribooks.com/searchResults.php?action=browse&category_id...](https://www.foldvaribooks.com/searchResults.php?action=browse&category_id...)

Website 35: Foldvari Book-Budapest
A nice website with a description of the 1821 Johnston edition of Philadelphia USA
For sale for 2000 euros in 2017 Other astonishing prices include 250E for one of Dr. Blathy's Christmas Cards from 1937.

[Les citations de joueurs d'échecs Philidor, ANCE Association ...
www.ance.ch/Les-citations-de-joueurs-d'echecs-Philidor.htm](http://www.ance.ch/Les-citations-de-joueurs-d'echecs-Philidor.htm)

Website 42: Les citations de houiers d'echecs Philidor –ANCE Association
“An object of serious amusement in which I have acquired some reputation”.

[Philidor and the Café de la Régence Chess Masters
https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft438nb2b6&chunk.id...](https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft438nb2b6&chunk.id...)

Website 43: Philidor and the Café de la Regence-Chess Masters and The Second Career of FADP as a chess player.
A serious website of great length that starts with a Diderot quotation, a description of Legal and his brilliant conversation. He was from Brittany. There are 88 notes and many

other chapters with lots of historical description of the 18th century Paris. Part of the UC Press E-Books Collection 1982-2004. Excellent general site.

[Social History – Wind Quintets | East Windies Quintet](https://eastwindies.com/category/social-history-wind-quintets/)
<https://eastwindies.com/category/social-history-wind-quintets/>

Website 44: East Windies Quintet.

A brief history of Philidor and the Concert Spirituel from the Monthly Archives March 2016.

[philidor - sof schaken](http://www.sofschaken.nl/ftp/links/philidor.html)
www.sofschaken.nl/ftp/links/philidor.html

Website 45:-Philidor-sof schaken-

The Dutchman Koert Wijnonds has an interesting bio of Philidor with plenty of humour. Koert is certain Philidor wrote his 1749 book in Aachen in 1745. It also seems like Louis XV gave Philidor an allowance.

In a footnote Koert states that Jean Jacques Rousseau was a strong advocate of swimming lessons. Ludwig Bachmann wrote a short history of the chess café in 1920 in the first part of 'Aus far beyond Zeiten'. Koert concludes with a funny story on ordering a Philidor book from the Royal Library in the Hague. The title was 41 words long-an 1819 edition. He decided not to borrow it.

[Francois Andre Dani Philidor chess games - 365Chess.com](https://www.365chess.com/players/Francois_Andre_Dani_Philidor)
https://www.365chess.com/players/Francois_Andre_Dani_Philidor

Website 46:365 chess.com-F.A.D. Philidor-the biggest Chess Games data base online. There was a collection of 79 games of which the earliest was a 1749 game which was won by White in 40 moves with Bh5. (This is clearly Game 1 in the games given earlier).

[François-André Danican Philidor – AJEDREZ 12](http://ajedrez12.com/tag/francois-andre-danican-philidor/)
ajedrez12.com/tag/francois-andre-danican-philidor/

Website 48: F.A.D. Philidor Ajedrez 12

Miguel Servantes Saavedra and chess. The love of Quixote's author is explained in this excellent article topped up with a chess game cartoon between Cervantes and Quixote.

A copy of the 1749 book was sold for 23,700 Euros 19 Feb. 2016 by Millon & Ass's.

Website 49: Rue Philidor by Bill Wall. A good column explaining how the Rue Philidor was firstly named *Path of the Plains/Lane of the Gouttes d'Or*.

Thomas Jefferson had an early Philidor edition. It seems Philidor wrote to Thomas Jefferson in 1791. I have tried hard to find the website again and failed.

[My Best Lectures - GM Boris Alterman](#)

balterman.freeservers.com/soulofchess.html

Website 50: My Best Lectures –GM Boris Altermann

He analyses the Bruhl and Philidor game quoted on p. 11.

[SchemingMind.com - Internet Correspondence Chess Club](#)

www.schemingmind.com/journalarticle.aspx?article_id=34

www.schemingmind.com

Website 51:–Chess as a Metaphor of Life. Scheming Mind.com

A lovely chess history column–Lots of classical chess paintings including one by Eugene Delacroix of Arabs playing Chess (1847) that I hadn't seen and a chess novel by Samuel Beckett "Murphy" 1938.

CHAPTER 8 PHILIDOR'S SOCIAL NETWORK TIMELINE

- Birth at Dreux 7 September 1726** (A photo of his birth home is on Google.)
- 1732 – A Page at the Royal Chapel Versailles**
- 1737-** Composes a Motet and 4 more. Learns Chess
- 1740-** Works in Paris composing Music with Pupils and improves his chess.
- 1743-** His chessplay is nearly equal to Legal at the Café de la Regence.
- 1745-** He helps Rousseau with his chess and his music.
In late 1745 he leaves for Holland with Signor Lanza on a music tour.
- 1746-** The Music Tour folds and he exists on his chess skill in Holland. He may have visited Scotland and Culloden with his friend Henry Conway.
- 1747-** England
- 1748-** Back To Holland and completes his book manuscript. He was at Aix La Chapelle and Eindhoven
- 1749** England and his book ‘Analyse du Jeu’ is published in French with a subscription list of 127 names. There were 433 copies. He was at the Duc de to Mirepoix’s home and also at Windsor with the Duke of Cumberland. He gets a pension of £200 p.a.
- 1751** (late in the year) He goes to Berlin and was at Potsdam with a mistress. Plays 3 blindfold games. Possibly meets Carl P.E. Bach and studies with him.
- 1752-** 8 months at Arolsen with the Prince of Waldeck
- 1753-** England
- 1754-** The Congreve Ode at Haymarket Theatre 31 Jan. Goes to Paris Nov.
- 1755-** Defeats Legal in a match in Paris.
- 1757-** He is rebuffed by Paris Opera
- 1758-** Serious musical composition.
- 1759-9** March at Opera Comique a successful debut.
- 1760** Marries Angelique Richer 13 Feb.
- 1762** His first son Andre is born.
- 1763-67** Serious musical composition.
Second son Louis born 1765, then Claude 1766, and Jean Baptiste 1769
- 1772-** His first ‘chessclub’ visit to London.
- 1774-** The new Chess Club in St James Street opens. Feb. to June was his UK time.
- 1775/6-** Elyse Danican is born and his first chess season in London.
- 1777-** The 2nd Edition of ‘Analyse du Jeu’ Successful edition promoted by his friends. He lived in Paris for 2/3rds of the year 1775-1792.
- 1790-** The Third Edition of ‘Analyse du Jeu’
- 1792-** In late 1792 he travels to London breaking routine.
- 1794-** Chess for the Turkish Ambassador.
- 1795-** Passport revoked but plays blindfold in Feb. & May at Club. Terrible gout.
Dies 31 August.

He composed Carmen Seculare in 1779; Persee in 1780/Sent copy of Carmen to Catherine the Great of Russia. 1783 La Belle Enclave. 1789 Le mari comme il les

**PHILIDOR'S COMPOSITIONS FROM THE DICTIONARY OF MUSIC
VOL.2 1824 p.247 with additions**

- 1753 In England-Dryden's ode to St. Cecilia**
- 1754 Paris-Laeuda Jerusalem (Not so says Allen p.45)**
- 1756 Le Diable a quatre ou la Double Metamophose**
- 1759 Blaize le Savetier at the Fair of St. Laurent one of the founders of Modern French Comic Opera His First Opera.**
- 1760 Le Soldat Magicien**
- 1761 Le Marachal Ferrant (from Opera Comique by Letellier)**
- 1762 Sancho Panza**
- 1763 Le Beluclenn**
- 1764 Le Sorcier**
- 1765 Tom Jones His 3rd Opera**
- 1775 Les Femmes Venges.**

Other productions

- Zeline et Melide**
- Le Quiproque**
- La Nouvelle Ecole des Femmes**
- L'Amitie au Village**
- L'Huitre et les Plaideurs 1759 His 2nd Opera**
- Le Jardinier de Sidon**
- Le Jardinier Suppose**
- Le Jardinier et son Seigneur 1761 His 4th Opera**

For the Royal Academy

- Belisaire –Opera in 3 Acts**
- Themistocle**
- Persee (song by Medusa)**
- Ernelinde 1773**

Carmen Seculare-London 1779

The comment is made of Philidor's personality-evenness of temper, probity and extreme disinterestedness. In 1770 Marie Antoinette arrived at Versailles and Fontainebleau and lover Opera Comique having it performed at those places.

SOCIAL NETWORK

The three editions of his book contain different Lists of Subscribers. The 1749 list came from the State Library of Victoria and has 127 names. It is dedicated to the Duke of Cumberland. (NB that the 1750 English language edition does not have the dedication or List of Subscribers.) For 1777 dedicated to the very illustrious and respectable members of the (London) Chess Club. See 'Our Folder' as explained later (283 names) and 1790 from the Royal Dutch Library in the Netherlands.(66 names) This edition is dedicated to Count Bruhl.

One historical feature I have always wondered about was Philidor's links to Scotland as given in the Percheron descent website:-

Francois-Andre Danican Philidor belonged to a Parisian and Versaillesian dynasty which gave thirteen other Musicians at the court of the Kings among whom six composers. Danican is the French alteration of Duncan. Scottish patronymic whose porters claim descent from the king of that name killed in 1040 by MacBeth. We know that a great number of Scots, who came after Mary Stuart, when she became Queen of France in 1558, settled in France.

Would Philidor have been interested in that? Well, at an early age perhaps he travelled that way from Europe on his way to England, and as he reached middle age his interest in history and where the family came from on his male side might have also enthused him. For in the List of Subscribers were some titled people who lived in Scotland and could have added detail to the Duncan descent which arrived in France ca 1580. It was a simple matter of Philidor just asking them. The Duke of Athol and the Duke of Argyle would have been worth a question on Duncan.

Did he travel to Scotland in his many years in England? I would like to think it possible.

In 1977 I was interested in Sir Joseph Banks ('The Father of Australia') and whether he played chess and possible links to the great persons of the 1760/70 era as Captain James Cook readied himself for the trip to Tahiti and to discover Australia (The Great South Land'). I think it is conclusive now that Banks and his sister Sarah Sophia, Cook and Matthew Flinders all played chess and various booklets have been written about that and appeared in 'A Chess Miscellany' 1979 for one. Did they know Philidor? I think Banks and his sister certainly did. Cook was too busy with his three voyages and he died in Hawaii before he could retire, and Flinders (1774-1814) was seriously ill after his release from prison on Mauritius and died in 1814, 4 years after his return to England. It is very doubtful Flinders knew Philidor. Bank's sister was the chess lover and she collected chess books some of which were donated to the British Library on her death. I feel sure she met Philidor.

And so I asked Ken Fraser of the State Library of Victoria in early 1977 if he could help and the library sent me the List of Subscribers and the number of books each bought, from the 1749 French edition. Their copy was once owned by Dr. Meindert Niemeijer of The Royal Library at The Hague:-

Liste des Souscrivans

Son Altesse Royals le Duc de Cumberland 50 copies;

Milady Ancram 4; Milord Albemarle 10, Milord Ashburnham 2; Milord Ancram 14,
Colonel Armiger 4; Mr. D'Andrada Envoye de S,M, Port 4; Le Marquis d'Alsen 2.

B- Le Comte de Bentink, a la Haye 10; Le Baron de Buth, Chancelier d'Hannovre 2;
Milord Bury 4; Milord George Bentink 2; Milady Anne Bateman 1; Milord Barrington 1;
Colonel Boscawen 2; Colonel George Boscawen 1; Captain Buck.

C – Le Comte de Chavanne, Ministre Plenip. Du Roi de Sardaigne 4; Milord Cathcart 4; Colonel Conway 4; Le Chevalier Chapman 1; Major Cary 2; Capitaine Cicil 2; Mr. Cressener 2; Mr. G.L. Coke 1; Mr. Chauvel 1; Le Chevalier Caldwellader 2; Colonel Constant 2.

D- Le Marquis Doria 2; Mr.Dondas 4; Milord Ducie 1; Milord Downe 4; Mr. Davenport 2; Major Dalrymple 2.

E. Milord Elibank 4; Captain Edmondstone 2; Milord Egmont 1; Milord Edgcumbe 1.

F. Le Baron de Festlenburg 2; Le Chevalier Fawlkner 4; Colonel Fitz-Williams 4; Capt. Frederick 1; Mr.Fenchard, Esq. 1; Milord Falmouth 1.

G-Milord Duc de Grafton 4; Major Guerin 2; Capt. Gore 2.

H- Mr. Van Haaren, a la Haye 2; Lieut. General Howard 4; Milord Howe 8; Milady Howe 4; Mademoiselle Howe, sa Fille 2; Mons. Howe 2; Colonel Hadson 2; Colonel Hodgson 4; Milord Holderness 1; Mons. Hautain 2; Mr. Hall 2; Le Comte de Haslang 4; Mrs Levison Gower 2.

J- Mons. T.Jones 2; Colonel Jorden 1.

K-Le Comte de Kaunitz, Rittberg 8; Capt. Keppel 2; Mr. Keith 2.

L- General Ligonier 10; Milord Lansadel 1; Major Lambert 2; Milord Lindores 2; Le Rev. Doctor Linney 2.

M-Milord Duc de Marlborough 1; Le Comte de Montgardin 4; Milord Jean Murray 6; Mr. Morris 16; Milord Montfort 1; Captain Marlay 2; Capt. Morgan 4; Mr. Macartney 1; Capt. Montgomery 2; Major Murray 2; Mons. De Montague 4; Le Baron de Munckhausen, Secretaire d'Etat d'Hanovre 4; Captain George Murray 2.

N-Colonel Napier 4; Mr.l'Abbe Nicolini 2; Mr. Nash 1; Mr. Nash 2.

O-Le Chevalier Ossorio, Ambassadeur du Roi de Sardne a Madrid 10; Capt. Orme 2; Capt. O'Bryen 2; Mr.Osborne 1; Mons. Windham O'Bryen 1.

P- Milord Primat d'Irlands 8; Le Comte de Proskau 2; Le Comte du Perron, Envoye de Sa Majte le Roi de Sardaigne 4; Le Comte de Pertingue 4; Capt. Pitt 2; Doctor Pringle 2; Capt. Parker 2; Capt. Pechel 2; Madame Page 2.

R- Major Robinson 6; Major Rich 4; Le Chevalier Robinson 4; Mons. Reynolds 1; Mr. Richard Reynolds 2.

S- Milady Scarborough 2; Milord Sandwich 10; Le Marquis de Sotto Major 4; Mr. Charles Stanhope 2; Capt. Salt 2; Milord Southwell 1; Capt. Sutte 2.

T- Milord Tullamore 1; Colonel Townsend 2.

W-Son Alt le Prince Louis de Wolfenbuttle 4; Milord Winchelsea 1; Madame Wilmot 4; Monsieur Wilmot 4; Colonel Webb 2; Capt. Wallop; Colonel Waldgrave 4; Capt. West 2; Major Waller 2; Mr. Wynne 2.

Y-Madame la Comtesse de Yarmouth 4; Colonel York 2.

127 names as given.

Many of them subscribed for more than 1 copy of “L’Analyse”. Some were from Europe, Baron Buth, Count Chavanne, Baron Festlenburg, Mr. Van Haaren, Count Haslang, Count Konitz, Baron Munckhausen, Chevalier Ossario, Count Perron, Count Pertingue and Prince Louis of Wolfenbuttle. These people must have met Philidor in Europe and as likely played chess with him or watched his blindfold exhibitions and then some invited him to their homes. George Allen wrote in his Appendix that Philidor was a singer though he did not play any instrument but that alone ensured an invitation with his chess. A picture appears of the 1746/7 period and tracing these people to their actual residences gives Philidor’s itinerary and lifestyle. He stayed with the rich and famous.

Again in England having met some of the English subscribers on the European battlefields. Two immediately come to the fore-the Duke of Cumberland and General John Ligonier. The former was the victor at Culloden when the Scots fell to the English and Ligonier was the Duke’s tutor at Fontenoy a “bloody day’ writes George Allen. The General had been recalled to lead a division against the Scots at Falkirk. The Duke took 50 copies and the General 10 copies. But the family that stood out were the Howes. They subscribed for 16 copies with two of the family Milady Howe and her daughter. The chess stories of Mrs Howe and Benjamin Franklin are remembered and we can envisage many meetings between Philidor and the Howes at their home in London. The mystery man is Mr. Morris who took 16 copies alone. Who is this chess devotee? The Lord Sandwich we know as he was First Lord of the Admiralty later and a chess enthusiast. The book enabled all of them to improve their play by studying the notes and applying them in their own games.

There were many officers in the List - Colonels, Majors and Captains all of whom had some experience in play or watching Philidor at blindfold play. They were captivated by his mind as were those 100 years later when Paul Morphy took the stage and the latest champions Kasparov and Carlsen hold our imagination. How can these people do what they do? One website suggested we just try and play one blindfold game and see how hard it is.

Philidor learned to do that when his mind was young and learning music from sheets to memory must have helped.

It would be useful to chess history to examine all the subscribers and where they lived and thus try to build a picture of Philidor on his travels and in their homes. This was his

social life. There were favourites but he was obliged to help any of the chess fans who helped him by buying his book.

We now come to 1777. Thankfully the 'Our Folder' magazine by the Good Companions Chess Club produced an amazing article on Philidor in its Vol.10 No.8 issue of 1923. Lucky for us as this magazine folded the next year. There are 50 sketches of the subscribers, both members of the London club and others who were not members but who just subscribed to the 2nd edition. There were 283 in total.

Again we get an insight into the places where Philidor socialised and it was a far larger list this time. They met at the London Club and from there Philidor was invited to their homes to meet their families. There were 24 ladies who subscribed. These women would have ensured Philidor went to their homes as they were keen players. Perhaps Philidor's wife came at times and sang with her husband for them. This was the pinnacle for Philidor and the 'Our Folder' stated so at the end of this list.

Here are the list of subscribers:- SOUSCRIPTEURS

Monsieur Frere de la Majeste Tres Chretienne-6 copies also A.R. Madame l'Electrice Douairere de Saxe and A.S. le Prince Charles de Hesse

Les nome marques par* font Members du Club des Echecs

A- Duchess of Argyle; Duke of Argyle; Mrs Aslabie-2; *Duke of Athol;* Duke of Ancaster-5;* Earl of Ashburnum-5; Lord Amherst; Roger Ayton, Esq.; Mr. Aufrere; E.Antrobus, Esq.-2; M.R. Arnott, Esq.; *Mr. d'Ageno; Le Duc D'Ayen; Mr. d'Aguesseau; Le Chevalier d'Aguesseau; Mr. Abel.

B-Duchess of Bedford; Duchess of Buccleugh; *Duke of Buccleugh; R.H. Lady Di. Beauclerc; Viscountess Beauchamp; La Baronne de Berlepsh; Hon. Mrs. Bouverie; Miss Sophia Bristow; Duke of Bolton; Earl of Besborough; Lord Edward Bentinck; *Lord Bateman-4; Lord Beauchamp; *Lord Barrington; *Lord Breadalbane; Sir Charles Bunbury; Edward Barwell, Esq.; *Nath. Barwell, Esq.-2; Mr.Broothby; *Mr. Boyd; Hawkins Breen, Esq.; *Colonel Blackwood; John Bramston, Esq.; *General Burgoyne; *Mr. Barker; Mr. Butler; Bibliotheque de son A.S.E.Saxe;*Le Comte de Bruhl-6; *Le Comte de Belgioioso; Le Prince de Beauveau; L'Abbe Billiard; Le Comte de Bissy; Mr. de Berkenroode; *Le Baron de Bagge; Mr. Bernard. Mr. Bartolozzi.

C-Marchioness of Carmathen; *Marquis of Carmathen; Lord George Cavendish; *R.Hon.H.S. Conway; Lord John Cavendish; *John Crawford-7; *Hon. Henry Conway-10; * Lord Clifford; Sir Thomas Clarges; J.Crisp, Esq.; E.Crisp, Esq.; *J.Clarke, Esq.; A. Champion, Esq.; Doctor Cooper; E.Chamberlayne, Esq.;John Crewe, Esq.; Rev. Mr. Crofts; * General Craig; * Sir James Cockburne; * Mr. Campbell; * Mr.Cecil; Le Duc de Choiseuil; Le Comte de Couros; * Le Chevalier de Chastellux; Mr. de Calonne; Mr. Collet.

D- Duchess of Devonshire; Countess of Derby; Lady Derby; Mad. Dillon; Duke of Devonshire; Earl of Dartmouth; * Lord Bishop of Durham; Sir William Draper; Hon. Richard Dawson; *Rev. Mr. Dutens; Rich. Davenport,Esq.; William Drake, Esq. junior;

*Lord Denbigh; Les Marechal Duc de Duras; Le Chevalier d'Eon de Beaumont; Mr. Diderot; Mr. de Meunier..

E- * Earl of Egremont; *Mr. Ekarsall; * Sir Gilbert Elliott-2; * Colonel Eltrington; * Mr. Erskine; * Lord Elibank; * Mr. Ellison; * Mr. d'Ernest.

F-La Comtesse de Forbach; Mrs. French; R.Hon. Lord Fitzmaurice; * Lord Fitzwilliam; Lord Falmouth; *Hon. Charles Fox; General Fitzroy; * Mr. Fleetwood; Mr. Faulkner; * Hon. Mr.Finch; *General Frazer; Mr. de Fontenet.

G- Mrs Garrick; Earl Gower; Hon. Charles Greville;*Ed. Gibbon, Esq.;; * Sir Alex. Gilmour;* Mr. Garnier-3; Mr. Golard; Le Baron de Globig.

H-Viscountess Lady Dowager Howe; * Hon. Mrs. Howe-5; Lady Dowager Holland-10; La Comtesse de Horst; Earl of Holderness; * Lord Harrowby -7; Mr. Hare; Henry Herbert Esq.; * Hon. Col. Hervey, Esq.; * Lord Hillsborough; *John Hatfell,Esq.; John Heathcote, Esq.; * Mr. Hunter; Sir George Howard.

J- Miss Jennings; * Mr. Jennings -6; *Governor Johnston -6; Hon. John St. John; *Richard Paul Jodrell, Esq; *Lord Irwine; Francis Jeremy,Esq.

K- * Lord Kerry; * Lord Kinnaird; * Colonel Keene; Thomas Knight, Esq.; De Kermur Sire de Legalle; Mr. de Koenig.

L- Marchioness of Lothian; Mrs Lloyde; Duke of Leeds; Mr. Leighton; *Mr. Leycester; * Mr. Losach;William Lynn, Esq.; Le Comte de Lauraguais-2; Le Duc de Luynes; Le Chevalier de Lorenzi; Mr. La Combe; Mr. Legier.

M- Duchess of Manchester; Duke of Manchester; * Duke of Marlborough; Duke of Montagu; * Lord Mountstewart; * Sir George Macartney; Lord March; *Mr. Murray; Sir John Mordaunt; * Hon. Charles Marsham; John Maddison, Esq.; * Colonel Machood; * Mr. Morin; Mr. Meynell; Mr. Macdonald; Captain Macclelend; Capt. E. Medows; * Dr. Morris; Mr. Michell; General Morris; Le Comte de Mercy; *Le Comte de Maltzahn; * Mr. de Messine; Mr. de Montribloud; Mr. de Montulay; L'Abbe Maillot; Mr. de Marmontel; Le Comte de Marcolini.

N-Le Marquis de Noailles-3; * Duke of Northumberland; R.Hon. Lord North; * Earl of Northington; * Le Baron de Nolken; Le Marechal Duc de Noailles.

O- Countess of Ossory-2; * Earl of Ossory-4; * Lord Orford.

P- Countess of Pembroke; Countess of Powis; Lady Payne; Hon. Mrs. Page; Mrs. Pelham; Earl of Powis; Lord Palmerston; Sir Ralph Payne; * Lord Petre; William Pointz,Esq.; * General Pattison; Henry Partidge, Esq; * Rich. Pennant, Esq.; Col. Rich. Phillipton; * Col. Pennington; * Mr. Peachey; * Col. Phillips; Lord Polwarth; *Le Comte de Pignatelli; * Le Chevalier de Pinto.

R- Marchioness of Rockingham; R. Hon. Lady Cecil Rice; * Marquis of Rockingham; * Duke of Richmond; * Duke of Roxburgh; L'Abbe Raynal.

S- Countess Spencer; Lady Francis Scott; Miss Mary Sanxsay; Earl Spencer; Lord Chief Baron Smythe; * R. Hon. Hans Stanley; Earl of Shelburne; General Smith; Hon. Keith Stuart; * Mr. Sekrine; Mr. Scott; John Stuart of B.; * Hans Sloane, Esq.; * Tho. Storrer, Esq. -6; * Anth. Storrer, Esq.; * Mr. Shirley; * Lord Rob. Spencer; Mr. Salvador; Le Marquis de Segur; Le Comte de Saarsfield; Le Baron de Schlabrendorf; Le President de Saron; Mr. Sedaine; Mr. Saurin; Mr. Suart.

T- Lord Temple; * Lord Tirconell; Sir Edward Page Turner, Bart.; * Mr. Talbot; Mr. Trier; * Mr. Townsend; Le Baron de Talleyrand; Mr. Trudaine.

V- Hon. Mrs Raby Vane; Viscount Villiers; Mr. de Voltaire; Le Marquis de Villette; Mr. de Veltheim.

W- Earl Waldegrave-2; Lord Willoughby de Broke; Henry Wilmot -2; Mr. Willis; * Mr. Wedderburn; * Le Comte de Welden; * Lord Warwick; Mr. Watelet; * Colonel White; * Capt. Watson.

X- Le Marquis de Ximenes;

Y- Sir George Yonge, Bart.

The 'Our Folder' continued with descriptions of some of the subscribers:- "The late George Allen, Professor of Greek at the University of Pennsylvania, in his 'Life of Philidor,' writes very interestingly of the subscribers as follows: "In 1774 they formed a new chess club in St. James Street, under the very shadow of the Palace. It was no mere private association of quiet chess-players: statesmen, warriors, men of letters – all crowded forward to enter its ranks; insomuch that when Gibbon came to town, resolved to play a part in the high life, he joined the new chess club as one of the 'fashionable clubs.' One noble lady, Dr. Franklin's Mrs. Howe stood by the side of a church dignitary, the Bishop of Durham, at the head of a list, on which-besides uncounted dukes, marquises, and earls- were found the historical names of Charles James Fox and Lord Mansfield, of Erskine, Weddeburn, and the Marquis of Rockingham, of Eliot, the defender of Gibraltar (the subscriber was Sir Gilbert and not General George, the defender), of Fraser, who met a soldier's death, and Burgoyne who underwent a soldier's last humiliation at American Saratoga."

"The first step of the new club was to provide that a subscription should be annually made amongst its members, to be offered to Philidor as an inducement to him to spend the *season* of every year in London.

"The publication of the new edition of the *Analyse*, in 1777, appears to have been promoted by them with the view to put into his hands an extraordinary sum at the beginning of his connection with the club."

“The personal exertion of the members to enlarge the list is evinced by the character of the names which were added to their own. We can fancy the Scotch Duke of Athol getting the names of the Scotch Duke of Argyle, and Charles Fox bantering Lord North into putting down his guinea. Gibbon with his courtly smile and the tap on his snuff-box, may have won the support of Lady Di Beauclerk, and the activity of dear Mrs. Howe shall have the credit of so many of the 50 (?) noble ladies as did not subscribe in obedience to their husbands. As the French names do not exceed fifty- although these form a brilliant array- the inference is a very clear one that the edition was especially an affair of the London Club. Among the French subscribers were Monsieur (afterwards Louis XVIII), who was subsequently the head of the Parisian Chess Club; Philidor’s old master, Legal, and Marmontel, Raynal, Diderot and Voltaire.”

We beg to give you an informal introduction to Philidor’s illustrious “Good Companions.” The first is one of the strangest characters in all history, Le Chevalier d’Eon de Beaumont, Madame la Chevaliere d’Eon (two sketches BM). He was baptised October 7, 1728 as a male child. Sent by France to Russia on a secret mission, is said to have dressed as a woman on several occasions. Captain of Dragoon and an excellent swordsman and fencer; Secretary of the Embassy from France to Great Britain for concluding the peace of 1763; Knight of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Louis; Minister Plenipotentiary from France to Great Britain. In 1763 it was reputed that d’Eon was a woman and upwards of one hundred and twenty thousand pounds were wagered as to his true sex. In October, 1775, the French court decrees that d’Eon is a female and that he is to dress as a woman and to return to Paris. The court, however, neglected to send money to buy female attires or return transportation from London to Paris, so that on June 4, 1777, he subscribes to a copy of *Analyse* as a male. Later our friend returns to Paris and becomes one of the Ladies at the Court of Marie Antoinette. He also became the inmate in three different convents near Paris. In 1779 we find him back in London, this time as a woman. Madame le Chevaliere d’Eon. “Chess Club, Parsloe’s House, St. James’ Street. “This day, at two o’clock precisely, Mr. Philidor will play three games at once against three good chess players, two of them without seeing the boards, and the third one looking over the table. He most respectfully invites the members of the Chess Club to honour him with their presence. Ladies and gentlemen who are not members of this club may be provided with tickets at five shillings each. Madame la C. d’Eon will be one of Mr. Philidor’s adversaries. (d’Eon played Philidor also, April 13, 1793)

As problemists we shall classify Philidor’s comrades, grouping them into themes or occupations: soldiers, members of Parliament, diplomats, artists, ministers, authors and ladies.

Group One, Soldiers:- General John Burgoyne, was also a dramatist. He wrote the words for three operas, the most important of which, “The Maid of the Oaks,” was first performed at Drury Lane in London, November 5, 1774, the music was selected from the compositions of A.D. Philidor, J.J. Rousseau, and La Borde. This opera was reproduced in America in Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore in 1796 with great success. When General Burgoyne arrived in Boston in 1775, to relieve the tedium of headquarters, he produced his second drama, called “The Blockade of Boston.” In 1777 he obtained a

command of 8000 men, with which he marched from Canada to Albany. He was repulsed at Stillwater, where he lost General Simon Fraser, the second in command. General Fraser was a brave officer and greatly beloved and honoured by both the British and the Americans. Two months later, in October, 1777, Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga. At London, in 1786, Burgoyne translated Gretry's opera, "Richard Coer de Lion."

The Right Hon. Henry Seymour Conway, a great lover of chess and one of Philidor's most valued patrons. In 1746 he was aide de camp to the Duke of Cumberland at the battle of Culloden. It was here that Philidor secured his subscription to four copies of his 1749 edition of the *Analyse*. In 1777 he subscribed to another copy, and in the 1790 edition his name is again recorded. In 1782 Conway became commander-in-chief of the army, and made in Parliament a motion to terminate hostilities against the United States. In 1844 Walker published five chess games played between Philidor and H.S. Conway.

(Whether Philidor was at Culloden I can't quite make out. The Battle of Culloden was held 16 April 1746 which puts Philidor in England one year earlier than Allen states. The Duke of Cumberland's army returned to England from Holland as the Jacobite Scots army travelled south towards London and threatened the capital. It is feasible that Philidor met Conway in Holland and went to England with him. These two were the best of friends and games between them are in the 1790 edition. BM)

Colonel Henry Watson, a British military engineer. He accompanied Lord Clive to India, and gained distinction as chief engineer at Bengal.

Le Chevalier de Chastellux, a French general and author. In 1780 he went to America and served with distinction as major-general in the army of Rochambeau for three years. He was present at the surrender of Yorktown, and in Trumbull's painting, in the rotunda at the Capitol in Washington, he is the fourth mounted officer to the left of Count Rochambeau. He was a personal friend of George Washington, Doctor of Laws, University of Pennsylvania, 1782.

Sir William Draper commanded as colonel at the capture of Manilla from the Spaniards in 1763.

Lord Amherst, General Jeffery Amherst. He was with the British army under the Duke of Cumberland in Holland in 1745. He commanded at Cape Breton, and took Ticonderoga from the French in 1759. Commander-in-chief of the armies in America until 1763, when he was appointed Governor of Virginia.

Eighth Duke of Richmond, a British general and ambassador to France. He objected to sending Hessian troops to America, and in 1778 he proposed to recognise the independence of the American colonies.

Group Two. Members of Parliament:- This is a very historical group of statesmen, as they all took part in the events that took place during our American Revolution. After preparing the portraits for this article, we referred to our chart of the persons represented in the engraving, "Franklin Before the House of Lords," 1774, and was greatly surprised to find that eleven of the subscribers to Philidor's *Analyse* are there reproduced. Six of these portraits were entirely new to us: Lord Gower, President of the Council; Earl of

Denbig; Weddeburn; Sir John Wilmot; Thomas Townshend and Lord Cathcart. John Wilmot and Cathcart were subscribers to the 1749 edition.

Lord William Barrington, Treasurer of the Navy.

Earl George O'Brien Egremont, a patron of artists.

Sir Gilbert Elliot, later Earl of Minto, an eminent Scottish statesman. In 1806 was appointed Governor-General of India.

Duke William Fitzwilliam, Viceroy of Ireland.

Hon. Charles J. Fox, America's greatest friend in Parliament. All encyclopedia will give you pages of his career.

Lord Wills Hill Hillsborough. At his home in Ireland, Franklin spent four days, during which time they played chess together. In driving around the country, "mine host" covered him with his own great coat to protect him from the cold while suffering from the gout.

Sir George Macartney, A Scottish lord and statesman. Governor of Madras, 1780-86; first British Ambassador to China.

Duke of Northumberland, Hugh S., father of Earl Percy, who was to command at Boston in 1774 and New York in 1776.

Marquis Charles Rockingham, a man of great wealth and honorable character. The notorious Stamp Act was repealed when he was Prime Minister, and he opposed the measures by which Lord North provoked the American colonies to revolt.

Duke of Roxborough, John Ker. He accumulated the most valuable private library in Great Britain.

Duke of Athol, John Murray, Scottish duke.

George, Duke of Marlborough.

Lord Frederick North. Though fiercely assailed by Burke, Fox and Lord Chatham (the last a subscriber to the 1749 *Philidor Analyse*), he maintained his power in the House until March, 1782, when he resigned after the surrender of Cornwallis.

Second Earl of Dartmouth. He succeeds the Earl of Hillsborough as Secretary of the Colonies.

Lord Temple. An unscrupulous politician.

Group Three. Diplomats:- Count von Bruhl, Saxon Ambassador to the Court of St. James. One of the strongest chess players in England. Geo. Walker published many of his games played against Philidor. From Paris, Franklin wrote him to be sure and visit the chess automaton when it arrived in London. See Our Folder, March, 1915. In the Royal Dresden Library there is a copy of Carrerra's Italian chess book, upon the title page is written, "This book was given by the nobleman Ossory to Mons. Philidor, who presented it to me in 1770." – Bruhl.

Le Duc de Choiseuil. An eminent French statesman and general. By the influence of Madame de Pompadour he became the favourite minister of Louis XV.

Mr. de Calonne. A French courtier and Minister of State. In 1783 appointed Controllor of Finance.

Le Baron de Talleyrand. The celebrated French diplomatist and wit, who entered the church and became a bishop. In 1792 he went to England to confer with Pitt, but was soon ordered to leave, as he had been proscribed by Robespierre, he took refuge in the United States. Returning to France he became Napoleon's advisor. That he was shamelessly corrupt, immoral, selfish and mendacious is beyond doubt.

Monsieur, the brother of Louis XVI. President of the Paris Chess Club. Count de Provence, he was the first subscriber to the *Analyse* and purchased six copies. In 1814 he became King as Louis XVIII.

Group Four. Artists:- Mr. Bartolozzi. An eminent Italian engraver. The number of his prints is estimated at over two thousand. One of his works is of A.D. Philidor, the frontispiece to the 1777 edition of the *Analyse*.

Mr. Michael Sedaine. Philidor's personal friend. He wrote for the composer two librettos to the operas, "Blase the Shoemaker," "Le jardinier et Son Seigneur" and "Les Femmes Venges", also the revised "Ernelinde of 1777". A member of the French Academy in 1786.

(Astonishing to find out about Michael Sedaine as Philidor's friend. A name I had not seen. BM)

Mr. Charles Murray. An English actor and dramatist.

Group Five. Ministers:- Lord Bishop of Durham, John Egerton.

Rev. Mr. Herbert Croft . He supplied the "World", London, June 1787, with a copy of Dr. Franklin's "Morals of Chess". This was its first publication in England.

L'Abbe Raynal. A French philosopher and historian.

Group Six. Authors:- Edward Gibbon, Esq. One of the most distinguished of English historians. "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," says Professor Smyth, "must always be considered one of the most extraordinary monuments that have

appeared of the literary powers of a single mind.” Our reproduction is from the painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds, a subscriber to Philidor’s 1749 *Analyse*.

Mr. Denis Diderot. An eminent French philosopher and life-long friend of Philidor’s. He takes the credit of persuading Philidor to give up playing chess in London and to return to Paris and compose operas.

The personal friendship existing between Diderot and Catharine II of Russia secures her subscription to fifty copies of Philidor’s opera “*Carmen Seculare*”, Paris 1788.

Miss Frances Burney writes pleasingly of our Philidor in her diary under date of June 3, 1771:-“...The famous Philidor, so much celebrated for his surprising skill at the game of chess, is just come to England; he brought my father a letter of recommendation from the celebrated Mr. Diderot. He is going to have a new edition, with considerable amendments and additions, of a book upon chess, which he wrote formerly in England. A plan of his work M. Diderot has drawn up for him, but he had got it so vilely translated that my father had the patience, from the good natured benevolence of his heart, to translate it for him himself. M. Philidor is a well-bred, obliging, and very sociable man; he is also a very good musician...”

(Very interesting to read of Philidor’s original proposals for the 1777 edition which fell by the wayside. Interesting too that he could not translate French into good English. BM)

Mr. de Marmontel. A celebrated French critic and writer.

Lord of Orford. By mistake we give the portrait of Horace Walpole. He was not created Lord of Orford until 1791. His nephew, George Walpole, was Earl in 1777.

Mr. de Voltaire. The most remarkable name in the history of French literature. Voltaire played chess with both Philidor and Franklin at the *Café de la Regence* in Paris.

Group Seven. Ladies:- Twenty four ladies subscribed to thirty-nine copies. First of interest is the Hon. Mrs. Howe, the only lady member of the chess club. She was a Miss Howe, sister of Lord George Howe, and married her cousin John Howe. As a young woman she subscribed to a copy of Philidor’s 1749 *Analyse*, to five copies of the 1777 edition, and yet again she purchases in 1790 a copy of that edition. This is another case of chess playing prolonging life. She played chess until the year of her death in 1814, when she passed away at the age of ninety-four. We have before printed two pictures of Mrs. Howe, when she was young and beautiful, playing chess with Dr. Franklin. See March, 1913 and May, 1929,p.270.

Madame l’Electrice Donairiere de Saxe.

Countess of Derby.

Duchess of Devonshire.

La Countess de Forbach. Philidor's and Franklin's old friend as described in January, 1923.

Mrs. David Garrick, the wife of the celebrated English actor.

Mrs Pelham.

Never before nor since 1777 has the history of the royal game been adorned by so many prominent, clever and historic men and women. Philidor's winsome, generous, lovable and tactful manners, combined with his ability to play and compose opera, had much to do with this popularity. We believe, however, that the continuous warfare of the times had much to do with the popularising of the game of chess.

Philidor's first great success in publishing his *Analyse* in 1749, occurred during the war of the Austrian Succession, when the armies of Europe were gathered in Holland, and forty-five officers subscribed to one hundred and nineteen copies.

In recent times. chess was never so popular as during the late world's war, and to relieve the monotonous life, the American Red Cross sent to our troops in France one hundred and forty-four thousand pocket chess boards and men.

"My chief intention," writes Philidor in this *Analyse* "is to recommend myself to the public, by a novelty no one has thought of, or perhaps ever understood well; I mean how to play the pawns; they are the very life of the game; they alone form the attack and defense; on their good or bad situation depends the gain or loss of each party. A player, who, when he has played a pawn well, can give no reason for his moving it to such a square, may be compared to a general who with much practice has little or no theory".
(I am sorry I could not include the sketches BM)

Another Chess enthusiast was the Countess of Eglinton who had her portrait painted by Sir. Joshua Reynolds in 1777. She was a truly beautiful woman and at their home in Hasely Court in Hasely Oxfordshire was a sunken topiary chess garden! Surely Philidor was invited here? They did not subscribe to any edition of his book.

My thanks to Bert Corneth and the Royal Dutch Library for the list below.

The 1790 edition List of Subscribers follows:-

A- The Duke of Athol-2; Earl of Ashburnham; Mr. Andrews; Mr. Atwood.

B-Count Bruhl; Earl of Besborough; Sir. Will. C. Burnaby; Mr. Barwell; Mr. Bowdler; Lord Barrington.

C-John Collins, Esq.; Rt. Hon. H.S. Conway; Hon. H.S. Conway; John Crawford, Esq.; Mr. De Calonne; Mr. Crowe-2; Mr. Cooper; Mr. Colepeper.

D-Miss Anne Davidson; Sir George Douglas.

E- Major Ethrington; Captain Ethrington; Earl of Egremont; Col. Ethrington; Mr. Ekersall; Francis Egerton, Esq.; William Elliot, Esq.; Mr. Ernest.

F. Governor Ferguson.

G. Sir William Greene, Bart.; Capt. Charles Gregorie.

H. Hon. Mrs Howe; Lord Harrowby; Sir R. Herries; Mr. Hafell; Mr. Hull; Mr. Hill.

L. Marquis of Landsdown; Rev. D. Leatkes; Mr. Leycester; Duke of Leeds.

M- Duke of Marlborough; Hon. Mr. Martham; Rev. R. Munkhouse; Franc. Maseres, Cursitor Baron of the Exchequer; John Maseres. Esq.; Dr. Morris.

N- Mr. Nowell.

O- Earl of Orford; Earl of Upper Ossory.

P. Mr. Prado; Rev. Dr. Pearce, Master of the Temple; Mr. Patrick; Lord Portchester.

R- Lord Rawdon; Hon. Mr. Ryder; Count Rewisky.

S- William Sheldon, Esq.;

T- Rev. Mr. Tait; Mr. Twiss; Mr. Tucker.

W- Mrs. Wilmot; Mr. Windham; Dr. Wynn; James Williamson, Esq.; Mr. Wilson.

66 Subscribers. And one important name is that of John Crawford as he is mentioned in Allen (p.109) as being with Philidor in his final days. It appears he was a friend for far longer. True, the name given in Allen is "Mr. Crawford" but it seems likely this is our man, John Crawford. He also subscribed to the 1777 edition (7 copies)

Another worth researching is the "Rt.Hon. H.S. Conway". It appears he knew Philidor when they were both young men in 1746 (p.122).

Only 3 women this time:-Miss Anne Davidson, Hon. Mrs. Howe and Mrs Wilmot.

We know of Mrs Howe and Mrs Wilmot.

NETWORKS

Henry Seymour Conway (1721-1795) As a subscriber to all three editions he has links with Philidor, Conway was a friend. Five years older and knew him from 1746 at least. He likely met Philidor at chess in late 1745 during the army winter recess.

Conway was on the staff of the Duke of Cumberland at Fontenoy in May 1745, made Colonel of the 48th Foot on 6 April 1746, then Culloden and in July 1747 at Lauffeld was captured by the French but released on parole. He was with the 34th Foot in July 1749 and at Minorca 1751. Later in the Royal Household to George II and George III from 1757 until 1764. He was earlier made Major General on 12 March 1755 and Commander in Chief of the Army from March 1782 until his retirement in 1793. He was a politician with various posts until 1784 and was Governor of Jersey Isle 1772 to 1793.

His home, purchased in 1752 was Park Place at Remenham near Henley in Berkshire. He married Caroline, the widow of Charles Bruce and there was a daughter Anne (1749-1828) she was a very fine sculptor. He was a cousin to Horace Walpole who befriended Anne. One of his games against Dr. Thomas Bowdler is considered one of the great games of the 18th century (OECG gives 1788):- Bowdler was White:

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..Bc5;3.d3..c6;4.Qe2..d6;5.f4..exf4;6.Bxf4..Qb6;7.Qf3..Qxb2;
8.Bxf7+..Kd7;9.Ne2..Qxa1;10.Kd2..Bb4+;11.bNc3..Bxc3+;12.Nxc3..Qxh1;
13.Qg4+..Kc7;14.Qxg7..Nd7;15.Qg3..b6;16.Nb5+..cxb5;17.Bxd6+..Kb7;18.Bd5+..Ka6;
19.d4..b4;20.Bxb4..Kb5;21.c4+..Kxb4;22.Qb3+..Ka5;23.Qb5++
Bowdler's score against Philidor was +2-3=2.(wixsite.com)

Much chess would have been at the St. James' Club in London but it seems likely that Philidor visited the Conway home at Park Place which is a truly beautiful heritage listed mansion today. It's ownership on Wikipedia is worth seeing.

Another triple subscriber was Mrs. Howe (Lady Caroline). A lot has already been written about her (p.117/120/125) but in Fiske's 1857 Tourney book is the following which has been abbreviated.:- Matthew Raper (1705-1778) translated Gellman's work on the Gipsies, and the author of several papers on philosophy. He was the friend of John Howe, Lady Caroline's husband. Benjamin Franklin said Mrs Howe had great discretion and understanding and her home was visited by many of the distinguished people as well as her being on good terms with the royal family. He played chess with her and they had sensible conversation that led to another chess match. At this they chatted about the dispute between England and America and what could be done. Mrs Howe wanted the Government to employ him to settle the matter. Franklin told her that it was a good idea but would not happen. Eventually her husband met Franklin and he said exactly what his wife had said to Franklin-that he should settle the matter. There was some discussion between Lord Howe and Franklin and some correspondence. One letter dated 3 Jan. 1775 thanked Franklin for a present he had sent Mrs Howe and could he come to see her for chess. The 'scacco-political episode was unsuccessful but not for the lack of trying.

Franklin played chess with Madame de Brillion who lived near his home Passy near Paris. She was want to get the better of him!

We have a picture of Philidor's life in Allen's book (p75) He doesn't mention visits to any of the great families and it is speculation to suggest that any subscriber to his books then became a fast friend. If a subscriber like Mrs Howe or Henry Conway are linked via anecdote or story then that seems different. So also a person who subscribed for more than one copy of his book. And these are:-

1749 Subscribers:-

Duc de Cumberland 50 ; Milady Ancram 4; Milord Albemarle 10, Milord Ashburnham 2; Milord Ancram 14; Colonel Armiger 4; Mr. D'Andrada Envoye de S,M, Port 4; Le Marquis d'Alsen 2.

B- Le Comte de Bentink, a la Haye 10; Le Baron de Buth, Chancellor d'Hannovre 2; Milord Bury 4; Milord George Bentink 2; Colonel Boscawen 2.

C – Le Comte de Chavanne, Ministre Plenip. Du Roi de Sardaigne 4; Milord Cathcart 4; Colonel Conway 4; Major Cary 2; Capitaine Cicil 2; Mr. Cressener 2; Le Chevalier Caldwellader 2; Colonel Constant 2.

D- Le Marquis Doria 2; Mr.Dondas 4; Milord Downe 4; Mr. Davenport 2; Major Dalrymple 2.

E. Milord Elibank 4; Captain Edmondstone 2;

F. Le Baron de Festlenburg 2; Le Chevalier Fawlkner 4; Colonel Fitz-Williams 4;

G-Milord Duc de Grafton 4; Major Guerin 2; Capt. Gore 2.

H- Mr. Van Haaren, a la Haye 2; Lieut. General Howard 4; Milord Howe 8; Milady Howe 4; Mademoiselle Howe, sa Fille 2; Mons. Howe 2; Colonel Hadson 2; Colonel Hodgson 4; Mons. Hautain 2; Mr. Hall 2; Le Comte de Haslang 4; Mrs Levison Gower 2.

J- Mons. T.Jones 2;

K-Le Comte de Kaunitz, Rittberg 8; Capt. Keppel 2; Mr. Keith 2.

L- General Ligonier 10; Major Lambert 2; Milord Lindores 2; Le Rev. Doctor Linney 2.

M-Le Comte de Montgardin 4; Milord Jean Murray 6; Mr. Morris 16; Captain Marlay 2; Capt. Morgan 4; Capt. Montgomery 2; Major Murray 2; Mons. De Montague 4; Le Baron de Munckhausen, Secretaire d'Etat d'Hanovre 4; Captain George Murray 2.

N-Colonel Napier 4; Mr.l'Abbe Nicolini 2; Mr. Nash 2.

O-Le Chevalier Ossorio, Ambassadeur du Roi de Sardne a Madrid 10; Capt. Orme 2; Capt. O'Bryen 2;

P- Milord Primat d'Irlands 8; Le Comte de Proskau 2; Le Comte du Perron, Envoye de Sa Majte le Roi de Sardaigne 4; Le Comte de Pertingue 4; Capt. Pitt 2; Doctor Pringle 2; Capt. Parker 2; Capt. Pechel 2; Madame Page 2.

R- Major Robinson 6; Major Rich 4; Le Chevalier Robinson 4; Mr. Richard Reynolds 2.

S- Milady Scarborough 2; Milord Sandwich 10; Le Marquis de Sotto Major 4; Mr. Charles Stanhope 2; Capt. Salt 2; Capt. Suttee 2.

T- Colonel Townsend 2.

W-Son Alt le Prince Louis de Wolfenbuttle 4; Madame Wilmot 4; Monsieur Wilmot 4; Colonel Webb 2; Capt. Wallop; Colonel Waldgrave 4; Capt. West 2; Major Waller 2; Mr. Wynne 2.

Y-Madame la Comtesse de Yarmouth 4; Colonel York 2.

What follows is my Google research on the +2 1749 subscribers. **It may be wrong!!**

A- What can one say about the Duke of Cumberland purchasing 50 copies! Passion indeed! It was always said to me when I started collecting, to buy 2 copies. Hold one and sell one later. Wise, very wise but money is the problem-lack of it! Buying one was tough enough. At one stage the late Lothar Schmid cornered the market in Gianutio's book, 1597 I think. He had 4 if I recall. Now that his collection is for sale for 3 million Euros we will see how successful he was in cornering the market. The Duke (1721-1765) lived at Windsor on the Royal Estate and also had a London residence in Upper Grosvenor Street. Philidor went to Windsor ca 1851. The Duke never married and had a major falling out with his father King George II for losing all their money in wars. The three principal battles being Fontenoy where he was defeated by Marshall Saxe who was a strong chessplayer and problemist. He won at Culloden destroying the Jacobite cause. But lost at Lauffeld to Saxe.

A likely candidate for chess partner with Philidor and his London residence, no wife to disturb the chess, and one imagines the 50 copies spread around his friends in an effort to defeat Philidor at his own game. The Duke ended up as Manager of the Royal Forests and sadly very obese. In the book by Evan Charteris (1913) there is a painting of the Middle Aged Duke with what looks like a game board and pieces on a table behind him. It is unclear if chess. His sister Emily, who never married was 10 years older but his favourite. She was his best friend in his later years as Ranger of Windsor Park and she loved playing cards. On p.46 of the book there was no chess at George II's court when the Duke was growing up. The King liked backgammon, the Queen, quadrille. There was also a lot of cribbage and basset (Faro). The excellent chapter 'Social Amusements in London' (p.67+) has no chess but a man of fashion usually spent 2 hours at a Coffee House. Astonishingly there was golf at Molesly Hurst. The Duke liked the rotunda at Ranelagh where there was music and refreshment. (William Augustus Duke of Cumberland. His Early Life 1721-1748 E. Charteris 1913)

And now in The Gambit page 15 of Vol.1 No.3 Oct. 1859, is an extract from Fiske's 1857 Tournament book which includes the Duke as one of Philidor's best opponents. This has not been picked up by war historians but perhaps Fiske was swayed by the '50 copies' as I may have been. I will include the relevant part of Fiske's chess history later in this e-book as he mentions many unknown 18th century chess players. My sincere thanks to Ray Kuzanek for discovering this rare Gambit chess column in Philadelphia. It is worth giving that H.E. Bird in his 'Chess History' p.110/111 gave Philidor 2 pages and that Philidor dedicated his 1749 edition to the Duke of Cumberland who was long gone by 1777.

Another astonishing buy was Lord & Lady Ancram's 18 copies! It can only be a mini chess club. Lord Ancram was William Henry Kerr (1710-1775) a Scots nobleman and politician / soldier. He held the seat of Richmond in Yorkshire but was primarily a soldier who served with the Duke of Cumberland at Fontenoy, Culloden and Lauffeld. He ended a general in 1770. It seems the Duke's army returned to Europe after Culloden in December 1746 so friendships with Philidor were renewed. His wife was Lady Caroline Darcy (d.1778) She was a chess player clearly. Their residence escapes me at present. It could be around Edinburgh in the early years.

Lord Albemarle –Willem van Keppell (1702-1754) They were a powerful Dutch family from Gueldres that came to England in the 17th century. He was a Scots nobleman and soldier who fought at Fontenoy and Culloden. He was Colonel of the Coldstream Guards. Married Lady Anne Lennox, 6 children. He loved all things French and doubtless Philidor was included. Died in Paris. It could also be his eldest son George Kepple the Third Earl (1724-1772) who was at Culloden with his father. Probably a London residence.

Lord Ashburnham –John Ashburnham (1724-1812) A British Peer and courtier. Married Elizabeth Crawley (1727-1781) 6 children. Their Residence was Ashburnham Place near Battle in Sussex. Today a conference centre but in the 18th century held a very fine library. An interesting and sad history for the home from WW2 onwards.

Colonel Armiger- Probably Robert Armiger who served in the 7 Years war 1756-1763 in the 40th Regiment in North America.

Mr. D'Andrada – Hard one but possibly the envoy extraordinary for Portugal at the English Court.

Le Marquis d'Alsen- Another tough one. Looks like a French Count but there is an Alsen Island in the Baltic between Jutland and Funen.

B-Le Comte de Bentink, a la Haye- Probably William Bentinck (1709-1762) 2nd Duke of Portland. Married Lady Margaret Cavendish-Harley, 6 children. Family seat of Bulstrode in Bucks near Gerard's Cross.

Baron Buth. For once Google could not help but he is clearly from Hannover in Germany where he was Chancellor.

Lord Bury- A mystery to me I'm afraid.

Lord George Bentinck (1715-1759) British Army Officer and MP Died at Bath. (Note link to Mr. Keith)

Colonel Boscawen (1712-1775) Politician and soldier. Married Anne Morley-Trevor in 1743, 4 children. Lieutenant Governor of the Scilly Isles where he should have had plenty of time for chess. Died in London.

Le Comte de Chavanne Minister Plenip. Du Roi de Sardaigne. Another multiple buy of 4 books. The Island of Sardinia is now part of Italy but not so in 1749. Chavanne was a Sardinian Minister in July 1748.

Milord Cathcart –Charles Schour Cathcart (1721-1776) soldier and diplomat and Chief of Clan Cathcart. At Fontenoy and Culloden. Later Ambassador to Russia and received by Catharine the Great who was a chessplayer. A painting by Joshua Reynolds shows the large facial scar he suffered at Fontenoy. Married Jane Hamilton (1722-1771) 9 children. He was Rector of Glasgow University.

Colonel Conway- This appears to be Henry Seymour Conway given earlier.

Major Cary- Can't pin him down. Strong American branch and one Miles Cary was in the American Revolution.

Capitaine Cicil- No luck here

Mr. Cressener- Interesting surname and in the Duke of Leeds Ms-the Bridgewater Trust he was warranted for prison at Leige ca 1750. A branch of the family was in Cambridgeshire. In 1757 at Leige he was the resident minister for George II and a friend of Monsieur Fabry who spied for England. His name was Georges Cressener. A George Cressener was at Bonn in 1755 and died there. (Life of Beethoven by Thayer)

Le Chevalier Caldwell- Possibly 9th Lord Blayney Irish Peer Cadwal Cadwallader

Colonel Constant-Possibly the French army colonel in 1749. Married to Susan Turrell in 1750 in the USA. He was lost at sea.

D- Le Marquis Doria- A French Minister Plenipotentiary

Mr. Dondas- An Edinburgh Scotsman. He bought 4 copies. One gets an impression chess was strong in Scotland.

Milord Downe- John Dawnay MP for Cirencester and Malton. 4th Viscount Downe 1728-1780. Married Lora Burton 1763 7 children. Buried at Snaith Yorkshire.

Mr. Davenport-Possibly training as a Doctor under Dr. William Hunter

Major Dalrymple-Probably John Dalrymple (1705/8-1766) Scots soldier/officer went to North Carolina 1740 but served back in Europe.

E- Milord Elibank-Patrick Murray (1703-1778) 5th Lord. Scots Peer,soldier, lawyer, author,economist.Married Maria van Ellemeet 1735 no children. Member of the Poker Club in Edinburgh. They play backgammon at the club.

Captain Edmondstone-Possibly Captain Charles Edmondstone of the 18th Royal Irish Brigade in Pittsburgh USA.

F- Le Baron de Festlenburg –The Festival Festlenburg was held in Germany and is mentioned by Lucas Osiander’s 1711 book. No biographical details to date.

Le Chevalier Fawlkner-Possibly a Scots Peer. No details.

Colonel Fitz-Williams-William Fitzwilliam 3rd Earl (1719-1756) British Peer, politician. Married Lady Anne Watson-Wentworth 8 children. Mp. For Peterborough, Irish Privy Council.

G- Milord Duc de Grafton-Charles Fitzroy (1683-1757) an Irish and English politician. Married Henrietta Somerset 7 children. Member of the Royal Academy of Music 1719, helped create the Foundling Hospital in 1739.

Major Guerin-French surname.One Major Jean Guerin 1753-1823 in the American Revolution war. Too young for our man.

Capt. Gore-Possibly Henry Gore MP for Longford. Another relative may be Major Parre Gore (1697-1750) who married Miss Smith but no children. Gore was a Lieutenant Colonel in the army.American born and bred. Many Gores’ were Naval men.

H-Mr. Van Haaren a la Haye- In a letter of David Hume to William Strahan May 27, 1756 is “The Earl had married in Holland a niece of Mr. Van Haaren with whom he used to play chess.” Looks like our man and Philidor probably met him in Holland.

Lieut. General Howard- Thomas Howard (1684-1753) The Ancestor of the Earls of Effingham. He lived at 8 Savile Street (now Savile Row) from 1735. Married Mary Morton-7 children.

Milord Howe – This family is well know from earlier material. Lord Howe was Emanuel Scrope Howe. Married Mary Milady Howe Sophia in 1719-9 children one was Caroline and Mons. Howe was a brother.

Mademoiselle Howe
Mons. Howe

Colonel Hadson- Can’t find him

Colonel Hodgson – Could be Col. Studholme Watson and/or his father Major General Studholme Watson. Both were at Culloden
Mons. Hautain-?

Mr. Hall-?

Le Comte de Haslang- Bavarian envoy in London 30 June 1742.

Mrs Levison Gower – Possibly Evelyn Leveson-Gower (1724-1763) who married John Fitzpatrick,Earl of Upper Ossory 1744 or Mary Leveson-Gower-Dowager Countess of John Leveson-Gower 1st Earl Gower.

J-Mons. T. Jones- Perhaps ‘THE’ Tom Jones whom Philidor composed an opera about?!

K- Le Comte de Kaunitz, Rittberg 8 copies.- German diplomat.

Capt. Keppel- The Honorable Augustus Keppel. Friend of Joshua Reynolds. They sailed together on the 'Minorca'. Died 1786 unmarried. A son of the Earl of Albemarle.

Mr. Keith.- Probably the jailed C of E Minister Alexander Keith who performed marriages in the Curzon Street Chapel. Lord George Bentinck married Mary Davies here in 1753. Keith's wife died 1750.

L-General Ligonier 10 copies- French born (1680-1770) A career soldier and at Fontenoy. Lived at Cobham Park Surrey in retirement. Died unmarried. Surely Philidor visited him.

Major Lambert- No luck here.

Milord Lindores- Could be Alexander Leslie-6th Lord Lindores who died 1765.

Rev. Doctor Linney-Can't help which is a pity.

Le Comte de Montgardin.4 copies.- A district off the N94 in France near Gap. He was a French peer. In searching for him I discovered 'The Marquis D'Argenson' 1694-1757 a French politician and noted a friendship between Count Bruhl and Maurice de Saxe in this book. (Probably our Count Bruhl's Uncle)

Milord Jean Murray-He bought 6 copies and he is likely the 3rd Duke of Atholl a Scots Peer (1729-1774) married Charlotte Murray-7 children.

Mr. Morris bought 16 copies and I tried hard but failed to find him.

Captain Marlay is probably of Irish Descent.

Captain Morgan was overrun by "Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum" in Google.

Captain Montgomery-Possibly James Montgomery (1690-1756) An Irishman from Donegal.

Major Murray 2; - Possibly James Murray (1721-1784) a career soldier and younger son of Lord Elibank Alexander Stirling. He fought in the Canadian wars and was Governor in 1763. Later Governor at Kingston upon Hull in 1783.

Mons. De Montague 4; I cannot get him.

Le Baron de Munckhausen, Secetaire d'Etat d'Hanovre 4; - Is this a dupe! Baron Munchausen (1720-97) was a fictional nobleman who married Jacobine van Dunsten in 1744. Cavalry Captain 1750.

Captain George Murray 2. --The Murrays are tricky. Some were Jacobites. The Duke of Atholl being one. He can't be Lord George Murray the great Jacobite leader under Bonnie Prince Charlie.

N-Colonel Napier 4; -Scots soldier in 1749. Could be Francis (d.1779) son of Francis Scott, Lord Napier.

Mr. l'Abbe Nicolini 2; -He was at Florence in 1740. Christian name Antonio.

Mr. Nash 2. Could this be Fredrick Nash (1707-1756) oldest son of George II? Would be nice if it was.

O-Le Chevalier Ossorio, -Ambassadeur du Roi de Sardne a Madrid 10; -He was as entitled an Ambassador in 1749.

Capt. Orme 2; -Possibly Robert Orme (1725-1781 or 90) Soldier and served with the young George Washington.

Capt. O'Bryen 2; - Could be Lucius O'Bryen-Sea Captain in the 1740's.

P- Milord Primat d'Irlands 8; Could be the Archbishop of Armagh Michael O'Reilly (1749-1758) or Ross McMahon (1747/8) OR the Archbishop of Dublin an Anglican George Stone (1747-54)

Le Comte de Proskau 2; Proskau is a city in Prussia but I can't locate him.

Le Comte du Perron, Envoye de Sa Majte le Roi de Sardaigne 4; He was at the Court of Dresden then London (see Count Algarotti's Ms)

Le Comte de Pertingue 4; A friend of Lord Chesterfield's son.

Capt. Pitt 2; -?

Doctor Pringle 2; Probably John Pringle (1707-1782). He was at Flanders and physician to the Earl of Stair then the Duke of Cumberland and was at Culloden. President of the Royal Society, friend of Benjamin Franklin.

Capt. Parker 2; Possibly Sir Hyde Parker (1714-1782) a Sea Captain in 1748 of the 'Lively 20' later an Admiral.

Capt. Pechel 2; Possibly Sir Paul Pechell 1724-1800-soldier.

Madame Page 2. Intriguing but still a mystery after a long hunt on Google.

R- Major Robinson 6; Possibly Major John Robinson (ca 1707-?) See Ancestry.com

Major Rich 4; ?

Le Chevalier Robinson 4; ?

Mr. Richard Reynolds 2.?

Milady Scarborough 2; (ca 1700-1772) Married 3rd Earl of Scarborough Thomas Lumley. Friend of Caroline, wife of George II.

Milord Sandwich 10; John Montague (1718-1792) Famous to all Australians as linked to Captain James Cook. He had bad habits especially cards. The 'sandwich' of salt beef between 2 slices of toasted bread is attributed to him. He also loved cricket and music.

Le Marquis de Sotto Major 4; Spanish Plenipotentiary at the Peace negotiations Aix La Chapelle and must have met Philidor here.

Mr. Charles Stanhope 2; (1683-1756) 1st Earl of Harrington. General and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland 1747-51.

Capt. Salt 2; Certainly NOT Captain Samuel Salt in Oz by L. Frank Baum (Wizard of Oz)

Capt. Suttee 2. Possibly a Sea Captain. "Suttee" is an Indian word meaning widows are sometimes burnt with a dead husband. He may have been at the sacking of Madras in 1746.

T- Colonel Townsend 2. (1724-1807) Served under the Duke of Cumberland at Culloden.

Son Alt le Prince Louis de Wolfenbottle 4; It isn't Charles 1, Duke of Brunswick and Prince of Wolfenbottle (1735-1780) as the name is Louis.

Madame Wilmot 4; Both Wilmots are friends of Sir. John Pringle and he played chess with Benjamin Franklin. Sir John was President of the Royal Society resigning in 1778 after a falling out with King George III over lightning conductors.

Monsieur Wilmot 4;

Colonel Webb 2; -Probably Daniel Webb, Colonel of the 44th Reg't. In 1747 served in Flanders under the Duke of C.

Capt. Wallop; - Probably the brother of Lord Portsmouth. Bluet Wallop (1726-1749) was Equerry to the Duke of C. And with him at Culloden and a Captain of the Buffs.

Colonel Waldgrave 4; ?

Capt. West 2; ?

Major Waller 2; ?

Mr. Wynne 2. Possibly William Wynne of London

Madame la Comtesse de Yarmouth 4; Amalie Sophie Marianne von Wallmoden (1704-1765) Born in Hanover. In 1740 she became a British subject. She was George II's mistress for many years. After his death in 1760 she returned to Hanover.

Colonel York 2.

The real link with all these subscribers seems to be with the Duke of Cumberland. Did he have an informal chess club around him whilst moving to the various war centres? I may have the wrong person in some of the above. It has been really interesting looking for chess links amongst the leaders of society.

The 'Our Folder' write-up earlier deals with the 1777 period but the arrival of Omai the Tahitian in July 1774 on board 'The Adventure' under Cook's second in Command Captain Tobias Furneaux certainly aroused the Londonites. He was simple and sweet tempered and handed over to Sir. Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander who took him to see King George III at Kew Gardens.. Lord Sandwich introduced Omai to the King with the words "How do, King Tosh!" The King recommended a small pox injection and Omai survived that. Omai had recognised Banks on his arrival which indicated he met him on Cook's first voyage . There is no mention of this in Bank's 'Endeavour' Journal and Omai did not speak any English but they conversed in Tahitian and he did have several English words and pronounced the letter S well.

There had been a falling out between Sandwich and Banks over the second Cook voyage but they were over it and all was well. Omai went to the House of Lords, stayed with Sandwich at Hinchinbrook, met all the London society including Dr. Johnson, Dr. Burney, Mrs Thrale, Miss Burney and Joshua Reynolds painted his portrait. A lovely study of a very fine looking young man in his early 20's. (We saw it in 1990 in Castle Howard-BM). He wasn't the first islander to come to Europe and Bougainville had brought Ahutoru to Paris in 1769 where he was a success. It was round this time that Banks taught Omai to play chess and this was confirmed in 'The New Founding Hospital for Wit' 1786 which said 'B..ks had taught Omai. Chess. Sir John Pringle dined with him on 10 occasions at the Royal Society.

Sir John was another keen chess player though it is doubtful they played chess at the Society. Omai was mentioned in chess journals and it became a worry if one played him at chess or backgammon and lost! Just before leaving England for his Tahitian home on Cook's 3rd voyage (July 1776) he breakfasted with Henry Seymour Conway who was Philidor's great friend. On arrival Omai distributed many of his English gifts to all on the Island. He died of illness 2½ years after Cook's departure from Tahiti on 2 Nov. 1777 . Cook had died 14 Feb. 1779 so Omai outlived him. His death date has to be May 1780 ca. (The book 'Omai Pacific Envoy' by E. H. McCormack 1977 is excellent on Omai's life.)

The last are the 1790 subscribers. Very few bought more than 1 copy for this edition. The magic was gone.

A- The Duke of Athol-2 John Murray the 4th Duke (1755-1830) He married Jane Cathcart. A Scots Peer at Blair Castle Perthshire. Keen tree planter especially at Dunkeld. Great to see the Duke of Athol lining up again as he did in 1777.

Earl of Ashburnham- presumably related to the 1749 subscriber the Duke of Ashburnham .

Mr. Andrews- Possibly Miles Peter Andrews (1742-1814) Playwright and politician.

Mr. Atwood- Mr. George Atwood (1745-1807) was a good player and recorder of Philidor's games.

According to Bird in his 'Chess History'(p.110) Atwood was a mathematician and 'one of Pitt's secretaries'. Pitt was PM.

B-Count Bruhl (1746-1807)- He was a good player and firm friend of Philidor.

Earl of Besborough- Possibly Frederick Ponsonby (1758-1844)

Sir. Will. C. Burnaby- Probably William Chaloner Burnaby 2nd Baronet.

Mr. Barwell- Probably Richard Barwell (1741-1804) of Stansted Park Sussex.

Mr. Bowdler-Thomas Bowdler (1754-1825) Physician and very strong opponent of Philidor at chess.

Lord Barrington- William Wildman Barrington (1717-1793) of Beckett Berkshire. He married Mary Lovell in 1740. Similar age to Philidor and perhaps a close connection.

C-John Collins, Esq- ??

Rt. Hon. H.S. Conway Philidor's great friend and chess opponent.

Hon. H.S. Conway-Nephew of the above (1746-1830) Politician.

John Crawford, Esq.-Possibly the equerry to Lord Eglinton. This may be the man who comforted Philidor in his final weeks.

Mr. De Calonne- Possibly Charles Alexander de Calonne (1734-1802). French statesman involved in the French Revolution. Discredited and dismissed in 1787. In England later.

Mr. Crowe-2-??

Mr. Cooper- Possibly Grey Cooper (1726-1801) of Worlington Suffolk. Lawyer and Politician.

Mr. Colepeper-??

D-Miss Anne Davidson-?? A pity I couldn't find something on her.

Sir George Douglas- either the man born (1754-1821) of Springwood Park-Politician or

the 16th Earl of Morton (1761-1827) married Susan Buler. Member of the Royal Society and lived at Dalmahoy House Edinburgh.

E- Major Ethrington-??

Captain Ethrington- possibly George Etherington, Commandant of Fort Detroit USA 1771

Earl of Egremont-probably George Wyndham (1751-1837) of Petworth House Sussex. The 3rd Earl, great patron the the arts, businessman and politician. He had 15 mistresses and 40 children.

Col. Ethrington- probably Lieutenant Colonel George Etherington (1733-1799)

Mr. Ekersall-??

Francis Egerton, Esq.-possibly the 3rd Earl of Bridgewater (1736-1803)

William Elliot, Esq.-??

Mr. Ernest-??

F. Governor Ferguson.-possibly George Ferguson (1749-1821) Lieutenant Governor of Tobago WI. A Scot he was buried in the family grave in Greyfriars Kirkyard Edinburgh.

G. Sir William Greene, Bart.- (1725-1811) Scots soldier and engineer. Served at Fontenoy in 1745 His mother was the economist Adam Smith's sister. Fellow of the Royal Society.

Capt. Charles Gregorie-(1751-?) Scots Captain in the East India Company.

H.Hon. Mrs Howe-Caroline Howe (1721-1814) She is detailed in the 1777 edition. Also mentioned in Tim Harding's excellent Thesis of 2009 *Battle at Long Range* 'The History of CC in Britain and Ireland 1824/1944 in his chapter on Women and Chess (p.276 of 723 pages) The lady lines up again as she did in 1749 & 1777.

Lord Harrowby- Dudley Ryder (1762-1847) politician and friend of William Pitt. Married Susannah Leveson-Gower 8 children. Lived at Sandon Hall Staffordshire.

Sir R. Herries- Sir Robert Herries (1730-1815) of Richmond Surrey. Politician and Businessman.

Mr. Hafell- To do

Mr. Hull- Possibly A doctor from Blackburn Lancs who delivered the first set of quintuplets. (All died)

Mr. Hill-Possibly a descendant of the Sir Rowland Hill family of Hawkstone.

L. Marquis of Landsdown- William Petty 2nd Earl of Shelbourne (1737-1805) of Bowood Wilts Collector of art and antiquities. Politician and Soldier. Helped secure peace with America when he was Home Secretary and Prime Minister. He was born William Fitzmaurice in Dublin and on good terms with Benjamin Franklin. 2 marriages,4 children.

Rev. D. Leatkes ?

Mr. Leycester-Possibly George Leycester (1763-1838) Batsman for Marylebone Cricket Club. Educated at Eton.

Duke of Leeds- Francis Osborne 5th Duke (1751-1799) politician who hated the USA and France. 2 marriages, 5 children.

M- Duke of Marlborough-Possibly George Spencer Churchill 1766-1840 The 5th Duke. Politician and collector who lost his estate and retired to Blenheim. He was Winston Churchill's gg grandfather.married Susan Stewart 4 children.

But probably the 4th Duke (1739-1817) George Spencer who was an astronomer and very friendly with Count Bruhl at Blenheim Palace Oxford.

Hon. Mr. Martham-?

Rev. R. Munkhouse-Possibly Richard Monkhouse (1755-1810) Rector of Wakefield in 1805

Franc. Maseres- (1731-1824) Cursitor Baron of the Exchequer-lawyer,attorney-general, mathematician and historian.

Philidor & Maseres played a lot of chess together. John Maseres. Esq-Possibly the brother of Frances but some doubt as his name is given as Peter in one source. He was the daughter of Magdalena Maseres of 19 Rathbone Place London.

Dr. Morris-possibly George Paulet Morris (1759-1837) Physician and Commissioner of Madhouses..

N- Mr. Nowell- Opponent of Philidor in 1788

O- Earl of Orford- Horatio Walpole (1752-1822) politician and peer.

Earl of Upper Ossory- John Fitzpatrick (1745-1818)-the 2nd Earl. Irish peer and politician.

P. Mr. Prado ??

Rev. Dr. Pearce, Master of the Temple-Master of Jesus College Cambridge

Mr. Patrick??

Lord Portchester- The Earl of Carnarvon, politician.

R- Lord Rawdon-John Rawdon (1720-1793) Earl of Loira 3 marriages 5 children.

Hon. Mr. Ryder-British politician

Count Rewisky -In the Memoirs of Lady Hester Stanhope, the Count worried he might burden his family and be sent to Siberia.

S- William Sheldon, Esq.-Possibly the William Sheldon of Brailes and the task of Catholic reconciliation. Probably also Philidor's opponent.

T- Rev. Mr. Tait- Possibly Rev. Samuel Tait of the American Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Twiss- Richard Twiss, author of Philidorian material in the 1787/9 Chess book and Miscellanies. Born in Rotterdam 26 April 1747 and died London 5 March 1821. In his book "Trip to Paris" 1793 (but dealing with July/August 1792) there are some chess items:-p.57 'I went once to the Café de la Regence with the intention of playing a game of chess, but I found the chessmen so very little different in colour, that I could not distinguish them sufficiently to be able to play....I then went to another coffee house frequented by

chess players....' (He mentions Rousseau playing at the Café de la Regence almost every day and that the police had a guard for him) He states there were about '100 coffee houses in Paris'. The massacre at the Tuileries 10 August and the pulling down of Statues of Louis 14 & 15 were described and also his difficulty getting out Paris during these events finally getting a passport on 18 August. He was an eye witness to some of the atrocities of the Revolution and saw one Marquis being guillotined. He did not appear to visit Philidor and his family who must have been terrified at this time. Philidor left for England not long after. A very interesting book that described the Paris of Philidor's later life. It is accessible on Google.

Mr. Tucker- Could it be Josiah Tucker (1713-1799) a Welsh clergyman who wanted a tax on bachelors to increase Britain's population? Unlikely but this JT was prescient and suggested in 1749 that America wanted independence from Britain. No children in his 2 marriages but he did educate his first wife's son Richard Woodward. My gut feel is that it is the Tucker who knew Sir William Jones. Both were keen astronomers and we know Jones loved chess.

W-Mrs Wilmot- Subscribed in 1749 and clearly friendly with Sir John Pringle. Obviously a keen chess player.

Mr. Windham – Possibly Wiliam Wyndham of Febrigg Hall Norfolk (1750-1810). Politician. Secretary of War. Educatedf at Eton, loved boxing such that he was removed from Eton to University of Glasgow and Oxford. Took a very early balloon flight.

Dr. Wynn?

James Williamson, Esq.- Many choices here. It would be nice if it was the JW (1758-1826) who came to Australia with Governor Hunter in 1795 and was given control of the Commissariat.

Mr. Wilson- Probably Joseph Wilson , Philidor's 1789 opponent.

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One useful movie was the 2005 version of 'Pride and Prejudice' starring Keira Knightley which has Bonus Features that show the great houses in the movie and discusses the 18th century life of the upper classes and the love of dancing which appeared to be the only way a man and woman could talk to one another without a chaperone. Philidor had to fit in with this way of life where his music and singing doubtless helped him a lot. There was a lot of 'club life' that excluded the social side but with the number of women subscribers to his chess books, he may have made many home visits.

CHAPTER 9- PHILIDOR IN HISTORICAL FICTION

There are surely many Philidorian stories in non English language books. One in English is from Katherine Neville's 1988 book 'The Eight' which was her debut novel. It is all about a glorious chess set that has magical powers. One reviewer 'Publishing News' wrote *Set apart from other blockbusters.....and brought to life by Neville's attention to the day to day details ignored by professional historians.....*

There are 18 references to Philidor in this 694 pager and the best follows (p.194+):-

"PARIS SEPTEMBER 2nd, 1792-3.00PM:- Jacques-Louis David passed through a cloud of rising steam, where women were tossing buckets of water to cool the hot pavement, and entered the Café de la Regence.

Inside the club, the cloud that enveloped him was even thicker with the smoke of dozens of men puffing pipes and cigars. His eyes burned and his linen short, open to the waist, stuck to his skin as he forced his way through the overheated room, ducking as waiters with trays of drinks held aloft hurried between the tightly-packed tables. At each table, men were playing cards dominoes, or chess. The Café de la Regence was the oldest and most famous gaming club in France.

As David made his way to the back of the room, he saw Maximilien Robespierre, his chiselled profile like an ivory cameo as he calmly studied his chess position. His chin resting upon one finger, his double knotted foulard and brocade waistcoat still uncreased, he seemed to notice neither the noise swirling about him nor the excruciating heat. As always, the cold detachment in his demeanour suggested he played no part in his surroundings, but was merely an observer. Or a judge.

David did not recognise the older man who sat opposite Robespierre. Wearing an old-fashioned coat of pale blue with beribboned culottes, white stockings, and pumps in the style of Louis XV, the elderly gentleman moved a piece on the board without glancing at it. He looked up with watery eyes as David approached.

"Excuse me for disturbing your play," said David. "I have a favour to request of Monsieur Robespierre that cannot wait."

"That's quite all right," said the older man. Robespierre continued to study the board in silence. "My friend has lost the game at any rate. It's Mate in five. You may as well resign, my dear Maximilien. Your friend's interruption was well timed."

"I do not see it," said Robespierre. "But your eyes are better than mine when it comes to chess." Leaning back from the board with a sigh, Robespierre looked up at David, "Philidor is the finest chess player in Europe. I consider it a privilege to lose to him, only to have the opportunity to play at the same table."

“But you are the famous Philidor!” said Davis, pressing the older man’s hand warmly. “You are a great composer, Monsieur, I saw a revival of ‘Le Soldat Magicien’ when just a boy. I shall never forget it. Permit me to introduce myself – I am Jacques-Louis David.”

“The painter!” said Philidor, rising to his feet. “I admire your work as well, as does every citizen in France. But I’m afraid you are the only person in this country who remembers me. Though once my music filled the Comedie Francais and the Opera-Comique. I must now play exhibition chess like a trained monkey to support myself and my family. Indeed, Robespierre has been so kind to secure me a pass to leave for England, where I can earn a good deal by providing that sort of spectacle.”

“That is exactly the favour I’ve come to request of him,” said David as Robespierre gave up studying the chessboard and stood as well. “The political situation in Paris is so dangerous just now. And this hellish unbroken heat has done nothing to improve the tempers of our fellow Parisians. It’s this explosive atmosphere that has made up my mind to ask.though the favour is not, of course, for myself.”

“Citizens always require favours for someone other than themselves,” Robespierre interjected coolly.

“I request the favour on behalf of my young wards,” David said stiffly. “As I’m sure you can appreciate, Maximilien, France is not safe for young women of tender age”.

“If you cared so much for their well being,” sniffed Robespierre, looking at David with glittering green eyes, “you’d not permit them to be squired about town on the arm of the Bishop of Autun.”

“I quite disagree,” chimed in Philidor. “I’m a great admirer of Maurice Talleyrand. I predict he’ll one day be regarded as the greatest statesman in the history of France.”

“So much for prophecy,” said Robespierre. “It’s fortunate you do not have to make your living telling fortunes. Maurice Talleyrand has spent weeks trying to bribe every official in France to get him back to England where he can pretend to be a diplomat. He wishes only to save his neck. My dear David, all the nobility in France are scrambling to depart before the Prussians arrive. I shall see what I can do at the Committee meeting tonight regarding your wards, but I promise nothing. Your request is rather late.”

David thanked him warmly, and Philidor offered to accompany the painter to the street, as he was leaving the club as well. As the famous chess master and painter pushed their way through the crowded room, Philidor commented, “You must try to understand that Maximilien Robespierre is different from you and me. As a bachelor, he’s had no exposure to the responsibilities that come with child-rearing. How old are your wards, David? Have they been in your care for long?”

“A little over two years only,” David replied. “Prior to that they were novices at the Abbey of Montglane.”

“Montglane, did you say?” said Philidor, lowering his voice as they reached the club entry. “My dear David, as a chess player, I can assure you I know a good deal of the history of Montglane Abbey. Don’t you know the story?”

“Yes, yes,” said David, trying to control his irritation. “All a lot of mystical poppycock. The Montglane Service does not exist, and I’m surprised you should give credence to such a thing.”

“Give credence?” said Philidor, taking David’s arm as they stepped out onto the blazing hot pavement. “My friend, I *know* it exists. And a great deal more. Some forty-two years ago, perhaps before you were even born, I was a visitor at the Court of Frederick the Great in Prussia. Whilst there, I made the acquaintance of two men of such powers of perception as I shall never forget. One, you will have heard of – the great mathematician, Leonard Euler. The other, as great in his own way, was the aged father of Frederick’s young Court musician. But this musty old genius has been fated, I’m afraid, to a legacy buried in dust. Though no one in Europe has heard of him since, his music, which he performed for us one evening at the King’s request, was the finest I’ve heard in all my years. His name was Johann Sebastian Bach.”

“I’ve not heard the name,” David admitted, “but what do Euler and this musician have to do with the legendary chess service?”

“I shall tell you,” smiled Philidor, “only if you agree to introduce me to these wards of yours. Perhaps we’ll get to the bottom of a mystery I’ve spent a lifetime trying to unravel!”

David agreed and the great chess master accompanied him on foot through the deceptively quiet streets along the Seine and across the Pont Royal towards his studio.

The air was still; no leaf stirred on any tree. Heat rose in waves from the baking pavement, and even the leaden waters of the Seine coursed silently beside them as they walked. They could not know that twenty blocks away, in the heart of the Cordeliers, a bloodthirsty mob was battering down the doors of l’Abbaye Prison. And Valentine was inside. (One of David’s wards. BM)

In the still, warm silence of that late afternoon, as the two men walked together, Philidor began his tale.

The Chess Master’s Tale

At the age of nineteen, I left France and journeyed to Holland to accompany upon the *hautebois*, or oboe, a young pianist, a girl who, as a child prodigy, was to perform there. Unfortunately, I arrived to discover the child had died a few days earlier of smallpox. I was stranded in a foreign country with no money and now no hope of an income. To support myself, I went to the coffee-houses and played chess.

From the age of fourteen, I'd studied chess under the tutelage of the famous Sire de Legal, France's best player and perhaps the finest in Europe. By eighteen, I could beat him with the handicap of a Knight. As a result, as I soon discovered, I could better every player I encountered. In The Hague, during the Battle of Fontenoy, I played against the Prince of Waldeck as the battle raged around us.

I travelled through England, playing at Slaughter's Coffee House in London against the best players they had to offer, including Sir Abraham Janssen and Philip Stamma, beating them all. Stamma, a Syrian possibly of Moorish ancestry, had published several books on chess. He showed these to me, as well as books written by La Bourdonnaise and Marechal Saxe. Stamma thought that I, with my unique powers of play, should write a book as well.

My book, published several years later, was entitled *Analyse du Jeu des Eschecs*. In it, I proposed the theory: 'The Pawns are the Soul of Chess.' In effect, I showed that the pawns were not only objects to be sacrificed, but could be used strategically and positionally against the opposing player. This book created a revolution in chess.

My work came to the attention of the German mathematician, Euler. He'd read of my blindfold play in the French *Dictionnaire* published by Diderot, and he persuaded Frederick the Great to invite me to his Court.

The Court of Frederick the Great was convened at Potsdam in a large, stark hall, glittering with lamplight but barren of the artistic wonders one finds at other European courts. Indeed, Frederick was a warrior, preferring the company of other soldiers to courtiers, artists and women. It was said he slept upon a hard wooden pallet and kept his dogs beside him at all times.

The evening of my appearance, the Kappelmeister Bach of Leipzig had arrived with his son Wilhelm, having journeyed there to visit another son, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, harpsichordist to King Frederick. The King himself had written eight bars of a canon, and had requested the elder Bach to improvise upon this theme. The old composer, I was told, had a knack for such things. He'd already developed canons with his own name and the name of Jesus Christ buried within the harmonies in mathematical notation. He'd invented inverse counterpoints of great complexity, where the harmony was a mirror image of the melody.

Euler added the suggestion that the old Kappelmeister invent a variation that reflected within its structure 'the infinite', that is to say, God in all his manifestations. The King seemed pleased by this, but I felt certain Bach would demur. As a composer myself, I can tell you it's no small chore to embroider upon another's music. I once had to compose an opera upon themes of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a philosopher with a tin ear. But to hide a secret puzzle of this nature within the music – well, it seemed impossible.

To my surprise, the Kappelmeister, his short square body bent with age, hobbled to the keyboard. His massive head was covered in a fat ill-fitting wig. His forbidding eyebrows,

grizzled with grey, were like eagles' wings. He had a severe nose, heavy jaw, and a perpetual scowl etched into his hard features that suggested a contentious nature. Euler whispered to me that the elder Bach did not care much for 'command performances', and would doubtless make a joke at the King's expense.

Bending his shaggy head over the keys, he began to play a beautiful and haunting melody which seemed to rise endlessly like a graceful bird. It was a sort of fugue, and as I listened to the mysterious complexities, I realised at once what he'd accomplished. Through a means unclear to me, each stanza of the melody began in one harmonic key, but ended one key higher, until at the end of six repetitions of the King's initial theme, he'd ended in the key where he'd begun. Yet the transition or where it occurred, or how, were imperceptible to me. It was a work of magic, like the transmutation of base metals into gold. Through its clever construction, I could see that it would go endlessly higher into infinity until the notes, like the Music of the Spheres, could only be heard by angels.

"Magnificent!" murmured the King when Bach slowly ended his play. He nodded to the few generals and soldiers who sat on wooden chairs in the sparsely furnished hall.

"What is the structure called?" I asked Bach.

"I call it Ricercar," the old man said, his dour expression unmoved by the beauty of the music he'd wrought. "In Italian, it means 'to seek'. It's a very old form of music, no longer in fashion." As he said this, he looked wryly at his son Carl Philipp, who was known for writing 'popular' music.

Picking up the King's manuscript, Bach scrawled across the top the word 'Ricercar', the letters widely spaced. He turned each letter into a Latin word, so that it read: "Regis, Iussu Cantio Et Reliqua Canonica Arte Resoluta." Roughly, this means: "A song issuing from the King, the remaining resolved through the art of the canon." A canon is a musical structure where each part comes in one measure after the last, but repeats the entire melody in overlapping fashion. It gives the appearance of going on forever.

Then Bach scribbled two Latin phrases in the margin of the music. When translated they read,

*As the Notes increase, the King's fortune increases,
As the Modulation ascends, the King's glory ascends.*

Euler and I complimented the aging composer upon the cleverness of his work. I was then requested to play three games of blindfold chess simultaneously against the King, Dr. Euler, and the Kappelmeister's son Wilhelm. Though the older man did not play chess himself, he enjoyed watching the performance, where I won all three games, Euler took me aside.

"I'd prepared a gift for you," he told me. "I've invented a new Knight's Tour, a mathematical puzzle. I believe it to be the finest formula yet discovered for the tour of a

Knight across a chessboard. But I should like to give this copy to the old composer tonight, if you don't mind. As he likes mathematical games, it will amuse him.

Bach received the gift with a strange smile and thanked us genuinely.

"I suggest you meet me at my son's cottage tomorrow morning before Herr Philidor departs," said Bach. "I may then have time to prepare a little surprise for both of you." Our curiosity was roused, and we agreed to arrive at the appointed time and place.

The next morning Bach opened the door of Carl Philip's cottage and showed us inside. He seated us in the small parlour and offered us tea. Then he took a seat at the small clavier and began to play a most unusual melody. When he'd finished, both Euler and I were completely confused.

"That is the surprise!" said Bach with a cackle of glee that dispelled the habitual gloom from his face. He saw that Euler and I were both totally at sea.

"But have a look at the sheet music," said Bach. We both stood and moved to the clavier. There on the music stand was nothing other than the Knight's Tour that Euler had prepared and given him the prior evening. It was the map of a large chess board with a number written in each square. Bach had cleverly connected the numbers with a web of fine lines that meant something to him, though not to me. But Euler was a mathematician, and his mind moved faster than mine.

"You've turned these numbers into octaves and chords!" he cried. "But you must show me how you've done it. To turn mathematics into music – it is sheer magic!"

"But mathematics are music," Bach replied. "And the reverse is also true. Whether you believe the word music came from "Musa", the Muses, or from "Muta" meaning Mouth of the Oracle, it makes no difference. If you think Mathematics came from "Matrix", the Womb or Mother of all creation, it matters not."

"You've made a study of words? Said Euler.

"Words have the power to create and kill," said Bach simply. "That Great Architect who made us all, made words too. In fact, he made them first, if we believe St. John in the New Testament."

"What did you say? The Great Architect?" said Euler, growing a little pale.

"I call God the Great Architect, because the first thing he designed was sound," said Bach. "In the Beginning was the Word", you remember? Who knows? Perhaps it was not only a word. Perhaps it was music. Maybe God sang an endless canon of his own invention, and through it, the Universe was wrought."

Euler had grown paler yet. Though the mathematician had lost the sight of one eye by studying the sun through a glass, he peered with his other eye at the Knight's Tour that sat upon the clavier stand. Running his fingers over the endless diagrams of tiny numbers inked across the chessboard, he seemed lost in thought for several moments. Then he spoke.

"Where have you learned these things?" he asked the sage composer. "What you describe is a dark and dangerous secret known only to the Initiated."

"I initiated myself," said Bach calmly. "Oh, I know that there are secret societies of men who spend their lives trying to unravel the mysteries of the Universe, but I am not a member. I seek truth in my own fashion."

Saying this, he reached over and plucked Euler's formulaic chess map from the piano. With a nearby quill, he scratched two words across the top: "Quaerendo Invenietis." Seek, and ye shall find. Then he handed the Knight's Tour to me.

"I do not understand," I told him, in some confusion.

"Herr Philidor," said Bach, "you are both a chess master, like Dr. Euler, and a composer, like myself. In one person, you combine two valuable skills."

"Valuable in what way?" I asked politely. "For I must confess, I've found neither to be of great value from a financial viewpoint!" I smiled at him.

"Though it is hard to remember sometimes," chuckled Bach, "there are greater forces at work in the Universe than money. For example – have you ever heard of the Montglane Service?"

I turned suddenly to Euler, who had gasped aloud.

"You see," said Bach, "that the name is not unfamiliar to our friend the Herr Doktor. Perhaps I can enlighten you as well."

I listened fascinated, while Bach told me of the strange chess service, belonging at one time to Charlemagne, and reputed to contain properties of great power. When the composer finished his summary, he said to me, "The reason I asked you gentlemen here today was to perform an experiment. All my life, I have studied the peculiar powers of music. It has a force of its own that few would deny. It can tranquilize a savage beast or move a placid man to charge into battle. At length, I learned through my own experiments the secret of this power. Music, you see, has a logic of its own. It is similar to mathematical logic, but in some ways different. For music does not merely communicate with our minds, but in fact *changes* our thought in some imperceptible fashion.

“What do you mean by that? I asked. But I knew that Bach had struck a chord within my own being that I could not quite define. Something I felt I’d known for many years, something buried deep inside me that I felt only when I heard a beautiful, haunting melody. Or played a game of chess.

“What I mean,” said Bach, “is that the universe is like a great mathematical game that is played upon a tremendous scale. Music is one of the purest forms of mathematics. Each mathematical formula can be converted into music, as I’ve done with Dr. Euler’s. He glanced at Euler, and the latter nodded back, as if the two shared a secret to which I was not yet privy.

“And music,” continued Bach, “can be converted into mathematics, with, I might add, surprising results. The Architect who built the universe designed it that way. Music has power to create a universe or destroy a civilisation. If you don’t believe me, I suggest you read the Bible.”

Euler stood in silence for a moment.

“Yes,” said the mathematician, “there are other architects in the Bible whose stories are quite revealing, are they not?”

“My friend,” said Bach, turning to me with a smile, “as I’ve said, seek and ye shall find. He who understands the architecture of music will understand the power of the Montglane Service. For the two are one.”

David had listened closely to the story. Now, as they approached the fretted iron gates of his courtyard, he turned to Philidor in dismay.

“But what does it all mean?” he asked. “What do music and mathematics have to do with the Montglane Service? What do any of these things have to do with power, whether on earth or in the heavens? Your story only serves to support my claim that this legendary chess service appeals to mystics and fools. Much as I hate to apply such appellations to the great mathematician, Dr. Euler, your story suggest he was easily prey to fantasies of this sort.”

Philidor paused beneath the dark horse chestnut trees that hung low over the gates of David’s courtyard.

“I have studied the subject for years,” the composer whispered. “At long last, though I’ve never been interested in Biblical scholasticism, I took it upon myself to read the Bible as Euler and Bach had suggested. Bach died soon after our meeting, and Euler emigrated to Russia, so I was never again to meet the two men to discuss what I had found.”

“And what did you find?” said David, extracting his key to unlock the gates.

What can one think of this? Yes, we know it's fiction but "The Chess Master's Tale" follows Philidor's real early life. He did play chess at Frederick's court and Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was invited to play at the court in 1747 which coincides with Philidor's trip to Holland and Germany. The trouble is Philidor was at the court in 1751 where he played chess with court players but not the King. This is taken from George Allen's 'Life of Philidor' and sadly Bach was dead. Philidor may have met Euler but not Bach. Unless he met him elsewhere or earlier and he may well have. Music was a common bond.

He appears to have met and studied under "a great Master of the Art then residing in Berlin" (see Allen p.36.) So who can this be? Possibly J.S. Bach's 2nd son Carl Philip Emmanuel Bach (1714-1788) who was in Berlin 1740-1755 where he taught music.

And so the fictional story is untrue. It is terrific reading and one wishes there was a powerful chess set that could change mens minds on the way they live. Sadly this was even too much for Katherine Neville who could not bring peace to the world at the end of the 694 page story. The set was to be reburied. She has written a sequel "The Fire" in 2008 but I have not read it as yet. The link the author describes between chess, mathematics and music is believable.

Back on Philidor's 'Tale' he can't possibly have read any chess books shown to him by Philip Stamma in London in 1747 that were by La Bourdonnais as the latter wasn't born until 1797 after Philidor's death. That doesn't really matter much as Frances Parkinson Keyes made many chessic errors in her wonderful 1961 book on Paul Morphy called 'The Chess Players' which is my favourite chess book. Katherine Neville can certainly write well and that is the heart of fiction; holding the readers interest. I have read 'The Eight' twice and am now reading it again.

And, as a result of the third read here is another Philidor story from January, 1794:-

p.544 " The Opera, the casinos, the gaming clubs, the salons.... These were the places, thought Mireille, that Talleyrand would frequent. The places to which she must gain access in order to ferret him out in London.

But as she returned to her inn, she saw the leaflet pinned to the wall that revised all her decisions before they were made.

GREATER THAN MESMER!
An Astounding feat of Memory
Lauded by the French Philosophes!
Undeafated by Frederick the Great,
Phillip Stamma, or the Sire Legal!
Tonight!
BLINDFOLD EXHIBITION
By the Famous Chess Master
ANDRE PHILIDOR

Parsloe's Coffee House
St. James Street

Parsloe's on St. James Street was a coffee house and tavern where chess was the principal activity. Within these walls one found the cream not only of the London Chess world, but of European society. And the biggest attraction was Andre Philidor, the French chess player whose fame had spread throughout Europe.

As Mirielle entered the heavy doors of Parsloe's that evening, she stepped into another world – a world of understated wealth. Before her spread an array of richly polished wood, dark green watered silk and thick Indian carpets, lit by mellow oil lamps in smoke glass bowls.

The room was still nearly empty except for a few potboys setting out the glasses and a solitary man, perhaps in his late fifties, who sat in an upholstered chair near the door."

This was James Boswell and he introduced her to Philidor.....

p.546:-" And Monsieur Philidor, who's performing here tonight – do you know him as well? She asked with careful innocence. But beneath the calm, her heart was pounding.

"Everyone interested in chess is interested in your famous countryman," replied Boswell....."This is his first public appearance in some time – he's not been well. But perhaps you know that? As you're here tonight, do I take it you play the game?".... "This is what I've come for, Monsieur," said Mireille,....."As you seem to know the gentleman, perhaps you will be kind enough to introduce us when he arrives?

"I should be delighted," said Boswell....."In fact he's here already. They're setting things up in the back room"

There, several men had gathered. A tall gangling man not much older than Mireille, with pale skin and a beak-like nose, was setting forth pieces on one of the chessboards at the centre of the room. Beside these tables stood a short, sturdy fellow in his late thirties, with a luxurious head of sand-coloured hair falling in loose curls about his face. He was speaking to an older man whose stooped back was turned to her.

She and Boswell approached the tables.

"My dear Philidor," he cried...."I interrupt only to introduce this ravishing young beauty from your homeland."

The older man turned and looked into Mireille's eyes. Clothed in the old-fashioned style of Louis XV – though his velvets and stockings seemed rather the worse for wear – Philidor was a man of dignity and aristocratic bearing. Though tall, he seemed as fragile as a dried flower petal, his translucent skin nearly as white as his powdered wig. He

Ray Kuzanek of Illinois the Morphy chess historian was in Philadelphia recently and obtained photocopies of the rare chess column 'Chess Record' in the Philadelphia Intelligencer for January 1877. Here is a Philidor story from that issue:-

THE MONKEY AND THE ENGLISH CHESS KNIGHT

"Permit me, Herr Doktor," cried the Chevalier, "to entertain the company with an anecdote that Herr von D. has just related to me."

Philidor, as you all know, was by profession a musician. One day, as he was busily engaged with a composition, a rude young Lord forced himself into his room, in spite of the opposition of his servants, and swore by all the devils, he had come expressly from England to play chess with him.

Philidor politely excused himself, saying, that neither then nor within the next few days, would he have leisure for that purpose, but my lord declared, he would not remain in the cursed France longer than to announce mate to Philidor, and this must be done at once; nor did he budge from the place.

Philidor viewed his man from top to bottom. A rich glow of the old port was upon his cheeks, it glittered in his eyes, stammered on his tongue; but precisely on that account was it dangerous to dismiss him unceremoniously. "Good," said Philidor, at length smiling, "I have it is true, no leisure at this moment, but I will present to you my pupil; if you win from him, then I shall be at your service the whole evening. My lord assented. Philidor called into the cabinet: Hans! Hans! Hans. Who think you hopped into the room? A dapper little monkey. A nod, and the little fellow sat down at the table, and began to arrange the men. "Do you not think," Herr Doktor," "That this was the best antagonist he could have given to a fuddled intruder?"

My lord seemed at first to take it ill; but upon Philidor's repeated assurance, if his lordship should win, he himself would be at his service, his lordship concluded at last to see how far the monkey's instructions had extended. Philidor went back to his work table; but in a few minutes in comes Hans with a great howl into the cabinet, and hides himself under his master's chair.

Philidor hastened out to learn what had happened. Immediately after the the third or fourth move, the ape had begun to regard the Englishman with chatters and grimaces. At the twelfth move my lord was mated, and Hans laughed so derisively – it would have been impossible for his befuddled lordship, not to give him a box on the ear. Nevertheless, he felt that he had done wrong. He begged Philidor's forgiveness, and besought another game with Hans.

"I may well forgive you," said Philidor, "but whether Hans will do so, I do not know." He nodded to him; Hans didn't come. He commanded: and Hans came forward with a woe-begone air; he sadly perched himself on his stool again, dropped his head, with his eyes half shut. "Now," said Philidor, to the Englishman, "try your luck again sir: but you

CHAPTER 10:

WHEN DID PHILIDOR GO TO HOLLAND AND ENGLAND?

The eighteenth century was a warlike century. It started with The Great Northern War of 1700-1718 which saw the rise of Charles XII of Sweden. Even at 16 years of age he proved a great military leader until his death in 1718 outside Fredriksten.

Next came the war of Austrian Succession from 1740-1748 and this coincides with Philidor's music trip to Holland. Allen states he went to Holland *towards the close of 1745*. And as France was involved in that war during the summer campaign and as there was Rousseau's Opera rehearsal of *La Popeliniere* in the winter of 1745 for the French King Louis XV and the Duc de Richelieu it had to be after 7th September when the King returned to Paris. (Philidor was helping Rousseau) The summer campaign included the terrible battle of Fontenoy. The battle was near the town of Tournai in lower Belgium which fell to the French (see later) followed by Ghent, Oudenarde, Bruges and Dendermonde then Ostend and Nieuwport. This all happened by October 1745 and Saxe was then threatening Brussels and Antwerp. He was rewarded by King Louis with a Chateau.

As for Philidor with the Fontenoy battle over and winter recess underway, the music tour with 12 subscription concerts could go ahead. The attraction was Miss Lanza the 13 year old virtuoso harpsichord player. Philidor must have been required to sing as he played no instrument. Her father was Giuseppe Lanza an Italian composer who lived in England for many years with the Marquis of Abercorn. Her brother Gesualdo also lived in England and was an excellent singing master. (see Dictionary of Music 1824 vol.2 p.42) Miss Lanza's Christian name is still unknown. She died of smallpox in Paris whilst with her mother and so the tour was cancelled.

We need to return to the Duke of Cumberland who purchased 50 copies of Philidor's 1749 work. He was King George II's third son and was born 26/4/1721 and died 31/10/1765. He was a brave young man and the apple of his father's eye when young. Only 5 years older than Philidor and the same age as Henry Conway, Philidor's friend. (see p.123 & 131) The Duke was a Colonel of the First Regiment of the Foot Guards 20/2/1741 at nearly 20 years of age. Astonishing rise due to his father no doubt. Then a Major General in December 1742-still 21 years of age! Then in active service in Germany and served at the Battle of Dettingen 27/6/1743 and made a Lieutenant General after the Battle. His father, the King was commander. He was made Commander in Chief of the Army in Flanders in 1745 aged 24 but tasted defeat at Fontenoy on 11 May 1745. The victor was the French Marshal Maurice Saxe. It was a close run thing and Frederick the Great said the Duke would have won had he turned right or left at critical stages.

Here is the astonishing description of the Battle of Fontenoy from Donald F. Featherstone's 1974 book "War Games through the Ages" Vol.2 1420-1783:-

...In 1745, Marshal Saxe of France was besieging Tournai when the Duke of Cumberland, with an army of 50,000 British, Dutch and Hanoverian troops, attempted relief. Leaving part of his army to continue the siege, Saxe drew up 52,000 men in a strong defensive position at Fontenoy, with three redoubts (fortifications BM) dominating the entrenchments. After Cumberland's frontal attack was halted in its tracks by the terrible enfilade fire, his army withstood an artillery pounding for two hours. Resolving to push between the redoubts to the centre of the French position, regardless of losses, Cumberland drew up 15,000 men in three lines covering an area 500 by 600 yards; behind followed the cavalry and a few guns dragged by hand. In stately parade step, with colours flying and drums beating, the ponderous crimson formation moved forward in the face of a withering cross-fire from the redoubts which caused the human rectangle to shrink visibly as the survivors shouldered inwards. At sixty paces from the French line, the formation halted to dress ranks and reorganise prior to the final assault. One of the objects of linear tactics was to persuade the enemy to fire first so that he had to reload while awaiting a return volley. At Fontenoy the British fired first but were more successful in the musketry exchange and were able to smash through the French first line into the French position, out of range of the guns in the redoubts (medium and heavy guns were very cumbersome and difficult to move, so they were rarely shifted from their initial position.) Marshal Saxe, ill in a litter, mounted his horse and directed a furious counter-attack of infantry and cavalry (the Irish Brigade took a prominent part in this attack) against the flanks of the column while cannon blasted its face. At last the great column began to break up and survivors drew off in small groups, stubbornly returning the French fire and repulsing pursuing cavalry. Cumberland withdrew his army in good order from the battle, a classic in the age of linear tactics. Fontenoy established Saxe as the foremost soldier of the War. ...

The Duke retreated to Brussels and was recalled to England to fight the Scots Jacobites. There was a fear that the Jacobites would attack London. He arrived in Edinburgh 30 January 1746 and eventually fought the Scots at Culloden on 16 April destroying them. (Conway was aide de camp to the Duke here.) He was a strict disciplinarian in his camp with no favours granted and very rare acts of clemency. There was a thanksgiving service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London where the first performance of Handel's oratorio *Judas Maccabeus* composed for the Duke was staged. It seems likely that Conway and Philidor were at this service. It was held 1 April 1747.

The Duke took no part in the 1746 Flanders campaign when the French made great inroads capturing Brussels. In 1747 he returned to the Continent and was defeated by Marshal Saxe again at Lauffeld near Maastricht on 2 July 1747. The peace of Aix la Chapelle was concluded in 1748 and the Duke returned to England.

Assuming Philidor stayed with Conway in the winter recesses and travelled with him to England and Culloden as 'Our Folder' states (see p.123) we have a travel itinerary for Philidor which does place him in England and Scotland a year earlier than Allen suggests. Perhaps he traced his Duncan (Danican) family line whilst there?. He then returned to the Continent with Henry Conway. Doubtless completing his chess book whilst there and then back to England for publication in 1749.

CHAPTER 11:

A CHESS CHAMPION WHOSE OPERAS PLEASSED A KING

My thanks to Ray Kuzanek for sending this article from 'Musical America' Sept. 4, 1926.

Bi-centenary of Francois Philidor. Composer and Member of Famous French Family. Recalls his Exploits in Game of Wits –Thirty Operas and Ballets. Which attained Popularity in Age of the Bourbons. Include Settings of Fielding's "Tom Jones" –An Exile of French Revolution, Composer passed Last Days in England.

One of the most famous families in French musical history, that of the Philidors, is almost forgotten today. Many generations of this family tree bore fruit, each generation supplying a prominent figure in Gallic music, members of the King's court-band, noted performers and composers. The chief monument to the family today is a famous collection of unpublished music of the courts of "Sun King," Louis XIV, made by Andre Philidor, which is preserved in the Paris Conservatoire Library. But this year, the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of his son Francois Philidor, is being celebrated – the most noted, perhaps, of the notable line.

Chess and composition were constantly at odds with each other in the life of Francois Andre Danican Philidor. Born at Dreux in Eure-et-Loir, on the Blaise, France, Sept.7, 1726, of musical parents, he in early childhood, as a page of the Chapelle du Roi, oftentimes would watch the court musicians playing chess. While he studied music with Andre Campra, composer of "The Carnival of Venice," Philidor showed a remarkable mind for this game of wits.

A Chess Expert

At the close of his career as a page, he went to Paris to earn a living at teaching and copying music. With too many difficulties confronting him as a musician, he resolved to give up this calling.

At eighteen, therefore, Philidor was pitting his wits successfully against the foremost chess experts of Europe. In 1745 he became involved in financial difficulties and started on a tour, first going to Amsterdam. Here he vanquished Philip Stamma, the author of "Le Stratagemes du jeu d'echecs."

Philidor's next move was to Aix-la-Chapelle, where in 1748 he wrote a book on the principles of chess. About this time he received an invitation from Lord Sandwich to visit the English camp between Maestricht and Bois-le-Duc, where he met the Duke of Cumberland. To the Duke Philidor owed the publication in 1749 of his "Analyse du jeu des echecs." This was through English officers subscribing for the work. When it came from the press, it was greeted with great and well deserved success.

As a chess player Philidor's feats were remarkable, and he is known to have won simultaneously against first rate players three games when playing without seeing the boards.

Although the game had a strong hold upon him throughout his life, Diderot and other friends managed to persuade him to pursue his true vocation, that of music. In November, 1754, after an absence of nine years he was again in Paris busily engaged in composition. The failure of "Lauda Jerusalem," a motet composed in an endeavour to secure the post of "superintendent-de la musique" to the King, made Philidor resolve to write musical works for the stage.

Turns to Lyric Stage.

His one-act comic opera, "Blaise le savetier" ("Blaise the Cobbler"), the outcome of this new resolution, was written to a text by Michel Jean Sedaine. It was produced at the Theatre de l'Opera Comique at the Foire Saint-Germain, Paris, March 9, 1759.

The story is as follows : Blaise is about to go to the inn in spite of the remonstrances of his wife. But some deputies sent by the wife of the Bailiff arrive to seize the furniture of Blaise, whose house is owned by the Bailiff. Blaise confides to his wife that the Bailiff's spouse is in love with him, and she in turn confides that the latter's husband is in love with her. Both agree to fool the Bailiff. A wardrobe on the stage lends admirably to the strategy which they use, and which succeeds completely. The Bailiff is disgraced for his meanness and his wife in turn unmasked. The work was a brilliant success.

Philidor wrote, in all, some thirty operas, and ballets most of them in comic vein, which won great popularity. For the anniversary of Rameau's death he composed a requiem in 1766, which was performed at the Oratorio.

Music for "Tom Jones"

Of Philidor's grand operas, "Tom Jones" attracts perhaps the most attention. The work is based on Fielding's novel. The theme has been the source of inspiration for other operatic settings, among them being those by Planquette and Edward Gorman.

To those to whom the story is unfamiliar it will perhaps be well to recall that it concerns a foundling, who has been brought up in the household of Mr. Alworthy, a rich land owner. Tom Jones, because of his talent, sympathetic character and personality is liked by all, particularly by Sophie, daughter of Mr. Weston, a wealthy and fanatical sportsman and neighbour of Alworthy. Mistress Weston, sister of Nimrod, who prides herself on her diplomacy, imagines Sophie loves Blifil, Alworthy's nephew. She plans a marriage between them.

But when the plans are revealed Tom and Sophie declare their sentiments. Everyone is surprised. Tom is chased, while Sophie escapes a repellent marriage by fleeing with her friend Honora. The two families follow the trail of the fugitive. He is finally found in an

inn in a neighboring village. Here Quaker Dowling reveals the secrets of the Alworthy family. Tom Jones is found to be the legitimate son of the sister of Alworthy and older brother of the traitor Blifil. He recovers his name and fortune and marries Sophie.

Personal Characteristics

As to Philidor's personal traits, it was related that he was quite the opposite of his wife, Angélique Henriette Elizabeth Richer, daughter of a musician whom he married Feb. 13, 1760. She was gay, vivacious and witty, while her husband could scarcely be made to comprehend a joke.

One day a relative made the remark that he wished he were the owner of a carriage, that he might sit at the window and see himself go by.

Philidor reflected a moment and then commented, "My dear friend is quite inconsiderate and foolish; - you could not be at the window and in your carriage at the same moment: consequently it would be impossible to see yourself ride by."

Love of adventure was responsible for much of Philidor's success. It took him away from his native land to foreign countries, where the journals gave him much publicity for his skill as a chess player. Upon his return to France Philidor had become quite a celebrity. His pleasing personality likewise brought him many acquaintances among the friends of Sedaine, secretary of the Royal Academy of Architects, a companion of his early youth and librettist of many of his works.

Association with Gretry

Men with whom he had something in common artistically and who became devoted friends of his, were Gretry and Augustin Pajou, the sculptor, who executed a bust of Philidor in 1763.

Gretry recall that in 1767, at a time when poor and unknown, he had great trouble finding a librettist, Philidor endeavoured to furnish him with one. It is recalled that R.T. Regnard de Peinchone, the one chosen, brought to Gretry the manuscript of "le Jardinier de Sidon," but requested that the work be composed in collaboration with Philidor, knowing that his name would be more apt to attract and bring the plaudits of the public. Gretry refused to accept the condition, declaring that if a score was a failure it would be attributed to him and if a success, to Philidor. The latter therefore composed the work alone and the two friends did not quarrel.

An Embarrassing Embrace

An amusing story is told in connection with the tragedy "Ernelinde," the blind Marquis de Sonnetterre, a patron of music whose judgement in such matters was held of great

import, said while in the theatre to his guide: "If you should happen to see the gentleman who wrote this opera, kindly bring me to him so that I may compliment him." Soon after Poinset appeared and the none too musical guide labouring under a misapprehension brought the Marquis to the librettist. The Marquis in his enthusiasm both embraced and embarrassed him by saying, "I wish to thank you for the pleasure your work has given me. Your opera is beautiful- very beautiful!"

And then to the consternation of those nearby added, "But what a pity that you should waste such admirable music to such poor text."

Died in Exile

Caught in the whirlpool of the French Revolution, Philidor found it necessary to flee to England, a country he had been in the habit of visiting each year. In London, where he was a member of the chess club, from which he received a regular pension, he died Aug. 31, 1795. This was said to have been hastened by the fact that the French Government had failed to grant him permission to return in safety. When the privilege came, it was too late.

A Constructive Composer

As a musician, Philidor was a constructive composer, his works differing from those of his contemporaries by reason of the fact that he showed greater originality in form. Harmonically, also, his music is more varied in character, while orchestra and chorus play a more important part than in the works of his countrymen at this period, although he is hardly the equal of Gretry in melodic charm

A partial list of Philidor's operas follows:"L'Huitre et les Plaidours, ou le Tribunal de la Chicano," one act, text by Sedaine (Paris, ca. 1761); "Le Soldat Magicien," one act, text by Ansaume (Paris, Theatre de l'Opera Comique de la Foire Saint Laurent, Aug. 14, 1760); "Le Jardinier et son Seigneur." One act, text by Sedaine (Theatre de la Foire Saint Germaine, Feb. 18, 1761); "Le Marechal Ferrant," with a text by Antoine Francois Quotant (Theatre de l'Opera Comique de la Foire Saint Laurent, Aug. 22, 1761); "Sancho Panca dans son Isle," one act. Text by Antoine Henri Poinset, (Paris, Comedie Italienne, July 8, 1762); "Le Bucheron, ou les Trois Souhnits," one act, text by Joan Francois Guichard, and Castet (Comedie Italienne, Feb 28,1763); "les Festos de la Paix," written on conclusion of peace with England, text by Charles Simon Favart (Comedie Italienne, July 4, 1763); "Le Sorcier" two acts, text by Poinset (Comedie Italienne, Jan. 2, 1764).

Also "Tom Jones," three acts, text by Poinset (Comedie Italienne, Feb 27, 1765); "Ernelinde, Princesse de Norvege," three acts, text by Poinset (Paris, Academie Royale de Musique, Nov.24, 1767); "Le Jardinier de Sidon," two acts, text by R.T. Regand de Pleichene (Comedie Italienne, July 18, 1768); "L'amant deguise, ou le jardinier suppose," one act, text by Favart and Claude Henri Fusce de Voisonon (Comedie

CHAPTER 12: EIGHTEENTH CENTURY EXTRACTS FROM FISKE'S SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF CHESS FROM HIS 1859 FIRST AMERICAN CHESS CONGRESS BOOK.

This article takes up pages 13-48 and only eighteenth century extracts follow:-

The eighteenth century forms a memorable portion of chess history, and is crowded with the names of illustrious players and writers. During its first half the most noted practitioners in Great Britain, which was at this time the chief seat of the game, were Cunningham, the Earls of Sunderland, Stair, and Godolphin, Sir Abraham Janssen, Cluny, the Duke of Rutland, Black, Cowper, Salvador, Cargyll, Bertin, and Stamma. The London Club met at Slaughter's coffee-house, St. Martin's Lane. In 1735, Bertin gave to the world a treatise on the game of some interest. Stamma was a native of Aleppo, Syria, but passed a large portion of his life in Europe, where he published his work, of which the most important part is his hundred celebrated and beautiful end-positions. He is also worthy of remembrance as being the first person who adopted the simple and convenient system of notation which now prevails in all the continental countries of Europe.

In France the best players were the Chancellor d'Aguesseau, the Marquis de Grosmenil, and Legal, the instructor of Philidor. Neither Italy nor Germany presents any names of distinction in the domain of practical chess during the first fifty years of this century. But in the latter half Europe was full of chess events of vast importance.

Most prominent among these were the life and deeds of the great Philidor. He was born at Dreux, France, in 1726, and died in London, in 1795, and is justly renowned both as a musical composer and as a chess-player. He founded schools of strong players, both in England and France, between which two countries the maturer years of his life were divided. He played a match with Stamma in 1747, and proved himself greatly the superior of the Syrian. His work on chess, which is rich in novel matter, has gone through a large number of editions and been translated into many languages. By his practice, his example, and his writings, he did more to increase the popularity and extend the influence of the game than any single man of any previous or later age. His feats in blindfold chess astonished his contemporaries, and his skilful management of the pawns – those humbler members of the chess armies – make his games the admiration of posterity. His latest and best biographer (George Allen) thus sums up his character: "But, of course, it is as a chess player, that Philidor ranks among the privileged few, whose claims to be FIRST, in their respective spheres of intellectual activity, have been decided upon by an action, on the part of their fellow-men, as authoritative as it is undefinable-by a tacit admission of supremacy, a general and spontaneous act of homage. Such names become, in a manner, sacred. A Newton is never exposed to be bandied about in comparisons: no modern experimenter in electricity can ever disturb the serene atmosphere in which Franklin sits secure. The same instinct of reverential good taste discourages all attempts at plucking the laurel from the brow of Philidor....The character of Philidor as a man is patent and palpable. Gretry penned his eulogy in the simple words, 'he was a good husband, a good father, a good friend.'

Gentleness, meekness, amiability, amenity – such are the qualities dwelt on by all as the fitting adornment of perfect sincerity and sterling honesty.” It was in Philidor’s time that the useful practice of recording actually played games arose, and the famous master’s contests are the earliest specimens of living chess, to which the names of the players are attached, that have been preserved. This custom has been of incalculable value to the chess student as well as to the analyst, and has added immeasurably to the sources of pleasure at the command of those possessing a knowledge of the game.

In England the chief opponents and disciples of Philidor were Count Bruhl, Saxon Ambassador in London, Lord Henry Seymour, Lord Harrowby, the Duke of Cumberland, Bowdler, Leycester, Sheldon, Cotter, Smith, besides Baron Maseres and Atwood, the mathematicians, and Wilson, a divine. To the last two we are mainly indebted for the games of Philidor now extant.

In France the Café de la Regence acquired about this period its celebrity as a resort of the most distinguished players and amateurs of the day. There the philosophic Voltaire and the sage Franklin found pleasure in the contemplative game. There the crafty Robespierre withdrew awhile from the cares of diplomacy and the labours of statesmanship to find rest in chess. There the mighty Napoleon the First, in the earlier part of his career, traced, in the brilliant successes and disastrous failures of battles on the chess board, an anticipatory parallel of the eventful life before him. There men of the pen, the volatile Rousseau, the gossiping Grimm, the pleasant Marmontel, were wont to meet, in mimic warfare, the men of the sword, Marshal Saxe, Marshal Berthier, the gallant Murat, and the Duke de Bassano. There the associate ‘Amateurs’, Verdoni, Leger, Bernard, and Carlier – all eminent players, pupils of Philidor and ardent propagators of his theories – compiled and published their ‘Traite’ which possesses many excellent features, and forms, next to their great teacher’s work, altogether the most valuable contribution ever made by the French mind to the literature of theoretical chess.

In Holland, Stein, a professional teacher of chess, (whose best disciples were the Prince of Waldeck and Prince Christian of Hesse-Darmstadt,) and Zuylen von Nieveld, a general, were both distinguished ornaments of this epoch. The former was a strong practitioner, but his book was of little value; the work of the latter is especially commendable for its instructions in conducting the terminations of games.

Now occurred the second golden age of Italian chess. The appearance of an occasional new work, or new edition of an old one, sufficiently shows that the old spirit had never died out in the land of Boi and Leonardo, but since the days of Salvio and Carrera no player would could be styled first-rate, and no writers who could be called original, with but one or two exceptions, had come upon the stage. But now a brilliant constellation appeared in Central Italy, in the city of Modena, to which the throne of Italian chess was removed from Naples. The earliest of this starry cluster was Del Rio, a jurist by profession, whose work bears the date of 1750. It contains a series of useful and instructive end-games, but the openings, otherwise valuable, lose much of their interest to the reader on this side of the Alps, on account of the method of castling adopted by the Italian school. Del Rio is known as the ‘Anonimo Modenese’. In 1763, Lolli, of the same

city, published a folio, composed by Del Rio and himself, which is remarkable for the carefulness and correctness with which it is elaborated. It contains openings, a treatise on the defence, a criticism on Philidor and his theories, and end-games, and has been much used by succeeding writers. Nineteen years after the appearance of Del Rio's work, and six years later than the publication of Lolli's folio, Ponziani, the third great Modenese illustrator of the game, gave to the public the first edition of his 'Giuoco incomparabile'. Later laborers in the same field, of all schools, unite in praising its originality and completeness. The variations in the openings are systematically arranged, and the regular endings of games, as well as the artificial positions with which the work closes, are worthy of all praise. The author, who, because he styles himself the 'Autore Modenese', is sometimes confused with Del Rio, was esteemed both as a jurist and an ecclesiastic, and was a man of great erudition and genial manners. His book, which gives some acute critical notices of his predecessors, has been frequently reprinted in Italy, and translated into German and English. Del Rio and Ponziani contested over the board a host of games, none of which however have come down to us. The movement at Modena seems to have incited a similar enthusiasm in some other parts of Italy. In 1766 Cozio, a nobleman of the little town of Casale Monferrato, published at Turin a work on chess in two thick octavos. This laborious writer follows Greco in giving entire games, instead of mere openings, and also in employing one method of castling. He introduces much new matter, especially in the King's Gambit, and seems to have possessed an excellent chess taste. He was much beloved by those who enjoyed his acquaintance for his kindly disposition and generous nature.

In Germany, the foundations of that thorough nationalist, which is a distinguishing characteristic of Teutonic chess, were laid towards the close of the century. One of the most powerful agents in accomplishing this work was undoubtedly Allgaier of Vienna, whose book appeared in 1795. He was the first who made use of the tabular arrangement in printing the results of analyses. For the greater part of his matter he was indebted to Philidor, Lolli, and Ponziani, but original suggestions were not lacking, especially in his notice of the gambit which bears his name. The 'Anweisung' has been repeatedly reprinted, and had undoubtedly had much influence in moulding the chess mind of Germany. Other practical disquisitions, of less extent and value, such as those of Kindermann and Andra, appeared about the same time. In 1751 Philidor made a visit to Germany, and found many patrons and players among the sovereigns and nobility. He passed some time with the Prince of Waldeck, and played with the great Frederic, who in many other ways evinced his love of the game. This monarch was accustomed to combat with Marshal Keith, who left a considerable reputation as a player, and with the Marquis de Varennes, and others of less skill. It is even said that he once played by correspondence with Voltaire.

It was in Germany that one of the most remarkable mechanical contrivances of modern times originated. This was the celebrated Automaton Chess-player, invented by Baron Wolfgang Kempel, and first exhibited in Vienna in 1769. It is hardly possible to conceive the excitement which this machine created on its tour through Europe. Crowds flocked to see it at every stopping-place; crowned heads condescended to meet the turbaned Turk over the board; great players hastened to encounter such a mysterious and

incomprehensible adversary; wise men wrote learned books on the wonderful invention, and gravely argued with each other on the character and source of its motive power to such an extent that a large literature grew out of it. In short, since the days when Moorish armies marched across the Pyrenees, and the hordes of the Sultans spread desolation over the plains of Hungary, no turbaned visitor had caused half so great a commotion in Europe as was excited by the marvellous Turk. It is now known that a strong player was concealed in its hidden recesses, but in those times its secret was well kept from the multitude, and thousands of prying eyes, and hundreds of acute intellects, failed to completely discover it. The automaton arrived in Paris in 1783, and afterwards visited London and Berlin, where Frederic the Great, incited by curiosity, purchased it of Kempel for a large sum. When its hidden mechanism was laid bare the monarch lost his interest in the contrivance, and it was thrown aside, to repose for many years in a garret in Potsdam. It would be superfluous to add that the automaton tended greatly to excite a popular fondness for chess both in this and our own century. Imitations of chess, and attempts to change the character of the game, were not wanting during this period. Marinelli of Naples invented a game of chess for three persons, and Hellwig, Venturini, and others, of Germany, and the Duke of Rutland, in England, endeavoured to enlarge the board and increase the military character of the game, while the ardent republicans of the French revolution tried, by the adoption of a new nomenclature, to banish its monarchical features. Novel names for the pieces were proposed by various writers in England and elsewhere, but, as might have been expected, none of these alterations ever came into use. Many eminent mathematicians, such as Euler, Guyot, Vandermonde, Collini, Mollweide, and Bailliere de Laisement, spent much time and ingenuity, during this century, in seeking a formula for the knight's tour around the board. In the historical field Sir William Jones was undoubtedly the foremost labourer. Freret, in France was little more than a copyist of Sarrasin, and Gunther Wahl of Germany, was chiefly indebted for the contents of his book to Hyde; but the researches of Sir William Jones were all his own. If modern investigations have discredited some of his opinions, and criticised with severity some of his conclusions, it is not so much owing to superior sagacity on the part of his successors, as to the great advance made of late in all Oriental studies.

Among the Britons, besides Jones, Barrington wrote an essay on the names of the pieces, Irwin produced a dissertation on Chinese chess, and Lambe published a small and very imperfect history of the game.

Among the Germans, besides Wahl, Nachtigall, and the renowned Leibnitz, an ardent admirer of the game, illustrated this department of chess.

The entertaining collection of anecdotes and extracts by Twiss of London, and the pleasant 'Letters' of Verri of Venice, belong to the same period. The best poetical attempt of the century, and undoubtedly the most elegant specimen of chess in verse, since the days of Vida, was the 'Caissa' of Sir William Jones. Written at a very early age, it, nevertheless, exhibits all the smoothness of versification and ripeness of style which usually belong only to writers of mature years. Its excellence and popularity are attested by numberless reprints. In English, two obscure writers, Thurston and Hawkins,

published poems on the game, while Fischer and Ramler, in German, and Cerutti and Roman de Couvret, in French, added to the literature of their countries and of chess in the same manner. And a great number of less ambitious pieces of chess verse, chiefly by anonymous bards, might be cited in many languages.

It was in the eighteenth century that the first glimmerings of chess in the New World appeared. The only name of note, however, was that of Benjamin Franklin, the philosopher, patriot, and statesman, who played chess from early youth to extreme age, in America, in England, and in France. He left to posterity a pleasant essay on the morals of the game, in which he warmly commends its practice.

Brilliant as the eighteenth century was in every department, the nineteenth has far surpassed it.....

Chapter 9 in Fiske's book deals with 'Incidents in the History of American Chess' the first being the life of Benjamin Franklin. There is a section that is useful re Philidor:-

....After this we find no mention of Franklin's Chess until the year 1774, when the great patriot was residing in London as the agent of the Colonies. The game was then made the means of a strange political intrigue, the story of which we have not space to recount in full. There seems to have been a little plot concocted by the ministry to entrap the American agent into a scheme for persuading his revolted countrymen to return to their allegiance; but Franklin was too wary to be taken in. His own account of the first steps of this singular attempt is as follows:-

The new Parliament was to meet the twenty-ninth of November, 1774,- About the beginning of that month, being at the Royal Society, Mr. Raper, (1705-1778) translated Grellman's work on the Gypsies, and was the author of several papers in the Philosophical Transactions. From boyhood he was the intimate friend of John Howe, husband to the lady mentioned in the text, one of our members, told me there was a certain lady who had a desire of playing with me at Chess fancying she could beat me, and had requested him to bring me to her. It was, he said, a lady with whose acquaintance he was sure I should be pleased, a sister of Lord Howe's (this accomplished lady lived until 1814). Franklin says of her that he "had never conceived a higher opinion of the discretion and excellent understanding of any woman on so short an acquaintance". Her house was the resort of the first personages and most distinguished men in the kingdom, and she was on terms of intimacy with all the royal family. Lord Mahon exclaims, in reference to the dispute between America and England,"but how changed both the scene and temper of negotiation since Lord Howe and Doctor Franklin first met in London, leaning in friendly converse over Mrs. Howe's chessboard", and he hoped I would not refuse the challenge. I said, I had been long out of practice, but would wait upon the lady when he or she should think fit. He told me where her house was ,and would have me call soon, and without further introduction, which I undertook to do; but thinking it a little awkward, I postponed it; and on the Thirteenth, meeting him again to the feats of the Society election, being the day after the Parliament met, he put me in mind of my promise, and that I had not kept it, and would

have me name a day when he said he would call for me, and conduct me. I named the Friday following. He called accordingly. I went with him, played a few games with the lady, whom I found of very sensible conversation and pleasing behaviour, which induced me to agree most readily to an appointment for another meeting a few days afterwards; though I had not the least apprehension that any political business could have any connexion with this new acquaintance.

Franklin goes on to say that “on the Thursday preceding this Chess party, Mr. David Barclay called on me to have some discourse concerning the meeting of the merchants to petition Parliament.” He at length accepts an invitation to meet Mr. Barclay and another gentleman “to confer on American affairs.” The day named for this was the Fourth of December.

The time thus appointed was the evening of the day on which I was to have my second Chess party with the agreeable Mrs. Howe, whom I met accordingly. After playing as long as we liked, we fell into a little chat, partly on a mathematical problem (This problem may have been the Knight’s Tour, or perhaps one of Stamma’s positions.) and partly about the new Parliament, then just met, when she said, “And what is to be done with this dispute between Great Britain and the Colonies? I hope we are not to have a civil war.” “They should kiss and be friends,” said I; “what can they do better? Quarrelling can be of service to neither, but is ruin to both.” “I have often said”,replied she, “that I wished Government would employ you to settle the dispute for them; I am sure nobody could do it so well. Do not you think that the thing is practicable?” “Undoubtedly, madam, if the parties are disposed to reconciliation; for the two countries have really no clashing interests to differ about. It is rather a matter of punctilio, which two or three reasonable people might settle in half an hour. I thank you for the good opinion you are pleased to express of me; but the ministers will never think of employing me in that good work; they choose rather to abuse me.” “Ay,” said she, “they have behaved shamefully to you. And indeed some of them are now ashamed of it themselves.” I looked upon this accidental conversation, thought no more of it, and went in the evening to the appointed meeting at Dr. Fothergill’s, where I found Mr. Barclay with him.

Their negotiations with these two last named gentlemen have nothing to do with our story. We therefore turn over until we once more meet the name of Mrs. Howe.

On Christmas evening, visiting Mrs. Howe, she told me as soon as I went in, that her brother Lord Howe, wished to be acquainted with me; that he was a very good man, and she was sure we would like each other. I said, I had always heard a good character of Lord Howe, and should be proud of the honour of being known to him. “He is just by,” said she, “will you give me leave to send for him?” By all means, madam, if you think proper.” She rang for a servant, wrote a note, and Lord Howe came in a few minutes. After some extremely polite compliments, as to the general motives for his desiring an acquaintance with me, he said he had a particular one at this time, which was the alarming situation of our affairs with America, which, no one, he was persuaded, understood better than myself; that it was the opinion of some friends of his, that no man could do more towards reconciling our differences than I could, if I would undertake it;

that he was sensible that I had been very ill treated by the ministry, but he hoped that would not be considered by me in the present case; that he himself, though not in opposition, had much disapproved of their conduct towards me.

The conversation continued in this tone a long while. Franklin finally agreed to draw up propositions expressing his views of what might be made the basis of a satisfactory settlement of the pending difficulties. He used to correspond with Lord Howe through the medium of Mrs. Howe, and sometimes met him at her house, under the pretence of going there to play Chess. We give a specimen of the notes which used to pass between the American agent and his fair adversary. Franklin it appears had made her a New Year's gift of his Philosophical Writings, and on the Third of January, 1775, received the following note:-

Mrs. Howe's compliments to Dr. Franklin; she encloses him a letter she received last night, and returns him many thanks for his very obliging present, which has already given her great entertainment. If the Doctor has any spare time for Chess, she will be exceedingly glad to see him any morning this week, and as often as will be agreeable to him, and rejoices in having so good an excuse for asking the favour of his company. Tuesday.

The obstinancy of the King and his ministers on the one hand, and the honest patriotism of Franklin on the other, prevented, as all the world knows, any pacific arrangement of the difficulties between the mother country and her Colonies. In a final interview Howe expressed his regret that they had been so unsuccessful in their endeavours to reconcile the interests of the two countries; the cautious American diplomatist replied in the same tone; "and so," says Franklin, "taking my leave, and receiving his good wishes, ended the negotiation with Lord Howe".

With the exception of this remarkable scacco-political episode we find no mention of the Chess of Franklin during the time he spent in England. He was probably too busy with his colonial agency and otherwise to enjoy, more than occasionally, his favourite amusement. But during the diplomatic leisure of his Parisian life he seems to have pursued this pastime with considerable zest. We learn that he more than once visited the Café de la Regence, and in all probability had the pleasure of seeing there the great sovereign of the Chessmen, the renowned Philidor. Here, too, in 1780, he met Mr. Jones, afterwards Sir William Jones, whose extraordinary fondness for the game is well known, and whose 'Caissa' is the most successful effort of the English Chess muse. In a letter, dated in October of this same year, and addressed to Miss Georgiana Shipley, daughter of the Bishop of St. Asaph, and subsequently sister in law to Sir William Jones, Franklin says:-

Mr. Jones tells me he shall have the pleasure in being the bearer of my letter, of which I make no doubt. I learn from him, that to your drawing and music, and painting, and poetry, and Latin, you have added a proficiency in Chess; so that you are, as the French say, 'replie de talens'

It thus appears that these famous friends of Chess, in their brief intercourse with each other, did not neglect to compare notes on the game, and perhaps engaged in actual combat over the board. It is a pleasant thing to think of, this Chess converse between those two men, each so remarkable in his peculiar way – one of them the author of the most agreeable essay on the morals of the sport, and the other the first bard in all our English tongue, who sang in numbers worthy of the theme –

*Of armies on the chequer'd field arrayed,
And guiltless war in pleasing form displayed.*

In Paris Franklin used to play frequently with a certain Madame de Brillon, who resided at no great distance from his dwelling at Passy, and in whose family, as he himself tells us, he spent many delightful hours. Tradition says that the lady was wont to get the better of the philosopher in these mental encounters. A pleasant allusion to their play occurs in his works in the amusing piece, entitled, 'Dialogue between Franklin and the Gout', written the twenty-second of October, 1780.

But what is your practice after dinner? Walking in the beautiful gardens of those friends, with whom you have dined, would be the choice of a man of sense; yours is to be fixed down to Chess, where you are found engaged for two or three hours. This is your perpetual recreation, which is the least eligible of any for a sedentary man, because, in accelerating the motion of the fluids, the rigid attention it requires helps to retard the circulation and obstruct internal secretions. Wrapped in the speculations of this wretched game, you destroy your constitution.....If it was in some nook or alley in Paris, deprived of walks, that you played a while at Chess after dinner, this might be excusable; but the same taste prevails with you at Passy, Auteuil, Montmartre or Sanoy, places where there are the finest gardens and walks, a pure air, beautiful women, and most agreeable and instructive conversation; all of which you might enjoy by frequenting the walks. But these are rejected for this abominable game of Chess.....You know Mr. Brillon's gardens, and what fine walks they contain.....During the summer you went there at six o'clock. You found the charming lady, with her lovely children and friends, eager to walk with you, and entertain you with their agreeable conversation; and what has been your choice? Why, to sit on the terrace, satisfying yourself with the fine prospect, and passing your eyes over the beauties of the garden below, without taking one step to descend and walk about in them. On the contrary, you call for tea and the chessboard; and lo! You are occupied in your seat till nine o'clock, and that besides two hours' play after dinner.

In the year 1783, Wolfgang von Kempelen, the ingenious inventor of the far-famed Automaton Chess-Player, arrived in Paris. He brought letters from Vienna to Dr. Franklin. Mr. Valltravers wrote to him as follows:-

The occasion of this letter is furnished me by a very ingenious gentleman, M. Kempel, Counsellor of his Imperial Majesty's Finances for the Kingdom of Hungary, who, on a furlough obtained for two years, is ready to set out for Paris, Brussels, and England, attended by his whole family, his lady, two sons, and two daughters; not only to satisfy his own curiosity, but also in a great measure that of the public. Endowed with a peculiar

taste and genius for mechanical inventions and improvements, for which he sees no manner of encouragement in these parts, he means to impart several of his most important discoveries and experiments wherever they shall be best received and rewarded. As an amusing specimen of his skill in mechanics, and as a means at the same time of supporting his travelling charges, he intends to exhibit the figures of a Turk playing at Chess with any player; and answering, by pointing at the letters of an alphabet, any questions made to him. I saw him play twice without discovering his intelligent director anywhere in or about him. If there were nothing but the organisation of his arm, hand, and fingers, besides the motions of his head, that alone would entitle him to no small admiration.

Besides his Chess-Player, M. Kempel has amused himself with forming the figure of a child, uttering the first articulate sounds of elocution. Of these I have heard it pronounce upwards of thirty words and phrases. There remain but five or six letters of the alphabet, the expression of which he intends to complete in Paris. Vienna, December 24th, 1782.

The American sage, too, had his bout with that memorable Mussulman who penetrated, a conqueror, into regions whither neither Abderahman nor Mahomet the Second had ever dreamed of carrying the crescent flag. No record or tradition had handed down to us the result of the encounter. But, alas for Christian courage and American prowess, we very much fear that the pagan Moslem triumphed, and then added the subjugator of lightning to his long list of conquests. In connexion with this matter the following remark by Franklin's grandson may be of interest:-

Chess was a favourite amusement with Dr. Franklin, and one of his best papers is written on that subject. He was pleased with the performance of the Automaton. In a short letter after his arrival in Paris, M. Kempel said to him: "If I have not, immediately on my return from Versailles, renewed my request, that you will be present at a representation of my Automaton Chess-Player, it was only to gain a few days, in which I might make some progress in another very interesting machine, upon which I have been employed, and which I wish you to see at the same time." This machine was probably the speaking figure mentioned by Mr. Valltravers. The inventor's name occurs with a various orthography, as Kempelen, Kempe, Kempl, but his autograph is Kempel.

All chess readers have stowed away in their memories the name of Hans, Count von Bruhl, for many years the Representative of Saxony at the Court of London, a frequent adversary of Philidor, and one of the most ardent admirers of our game among the last century's disciples of Caissa. Franklin gave the owner of the Automaton an introductory epistle to the Count. Franklin's letter has been lost, but Bruhl's pleasant reply is still preserved:-

Sir:- I was very much flattered with the letter I had the pleasure to receive from your Excellency by means of the ingenious M.de Kempel's arrival in this country. The favourable opinion you entertain of his talents is alone sufficient to convince me of their extent and usefulness. I cannot find words to express the gratitude I feel for the honor of your remembrance. I shall, therefore, only beg leave to assure you, that it will be the

pride of my life to have been noticed by one of the most distinguished characters of the age, and I shall endeavour, upon all occasions, to contribute my mite of admiration to the universal applause which your eminent qualities, as a philosopher and politician, are so well entitled to. I have the honor to be, with great respect, Yours, etc The Count de Bruhl.

Twiss, in the first volume of his pleasant collection of Chess Anecdotes (p.190), states that “Dr. Franklin, and the late Sir John Pringle, used frequently to play at Chess together; and towards the end of the game the physician (Pringle) discovered, that the velocity of his own, as well as his adversary’s pulse was considerably increased.” In the ‘Palamede’ it is said that Franklin, while in Paris, used to encounter a lady, Madame de Brion,(Brillon?), who was able to give him odds. But no authority is given for this assertion.

Such are all the details which time has spared us of the Chess life of Benjamin Franklin. Few and scattered as they are, they are still sufficient to do honor alike to the man and the game. That a person who embodied and represented better than any other the vaunted common sense of Americans, and the extreme utilitarianism of these later generations, should have loved, honoured, and practised Chess, affords one of the strongest external arguments in favour of its general use. These unconnected incidents, moreover, seem to us indicative of many more still unrecorded. Franklin lived in an age of great Chess activity, and passed many years of his existence in the very centre of that activity. The splendid career of Philidor in England and France, the large number of fine players created by his book, his example, and his practice in the capitals of both those countries, the analytical labours of the Modenese school in Italy, the influence of Stein in Holland, and the appearance of the Automaton Chess-Player, all contributed to draw the attention of the public to our intellectual sport, and form in fact the beginning and the first development of that popularisation of the game which has been going on in Europe, with increasing effect and extent, ever since. We know that Franklin was personally acquainted with Bruhl, Maseres, Kempel, and Sir William Jones, and that he frequented the Café de la Regence. The method of his introduction to Mrs. Howe shows that his love of Chess was a well-known fact in London.

From all these circumstances we are warranted in supposing, that behind the scanty written incidents of his Chess life, there must lie a mass of interesting matter still unknown, and perhaps lost to us for ever. We have not even any reliable information of his degree of skill as a player. Many are fond of citing him with Leibnitz, Rousseau, and Euler, as persons gifted with splendid talents and acute intellects, who tried in vain to become adepts at the game. This manner of speech arises in a great measure from the pleasure which men take in uttering or listening to paradoxes. It is certain that only the dimmest and most untrustworthy tradition supports their opinion. Arguing from his mental characteristics- always, as we are aware, a very doubtful method of procedure in Chess- and from the amount of his play, we should be inclined to place Franklin, not in the first rank indeed, but among the best of the second class. His cautious, circumspect, calculating mind should have made him a good defensive player.

But it is in his agreeable essay on the 'Morals of Chess' that Franklin has left the most enduring monument of his love for the game. Its graceful style, its admirable exposition of the practical utility of Chess, and its well-conceived maxims of advice are apparent to every one who reads it. "The game of Chess," he asserts, "is not merely an idle amusement; several valuable qualities of the mind, useful in the course of human life, are to be acquired and strengthened by it, so as to become habits ready on all occasions; for life is a kind of Chess." He then proceeds to show that by playing at Chess we may learn "foresight, circumspection, caution, and the habit of not being discouraged by present bad appearances in the state of our affairs, the habit of hoping for a favourable chance, and that of persevering in the search of resources."

But the chief part of the essay is devoted to some judicious and carefully-weighed rules for the guidance of the player. He especially enjoins courtesy towards an opponent, and urges us to use no triumphing or insulting expressions when we have gained a victory, and says that by "general civility (so opposite to the unfairness before forbidden) you may happen indeed to lose the game; but you will win what is better, his esteem, his respect, and his affection, together with the silent approbation and the good will of the spectators." In truth, all who love the ancient pastime of which we treat, will be for ever grateful to Benjamin Franklin for sanctioning its practice, not only by his influential example, but with his vigorous and powerful pen.

Later on p.485-503 Fiske details an American Chess Bibliography of works written or reprinted in the United States and places Franklin's 'The Morals of Chess' in second place though it had never appeared in a separate form. It is to be found in Sparks' collection of Franklin's writings, in the 'Massachusetts Magazine' July 1791 vol.3 p.431/433.

Easily in first place was "Letter to the Craftsman on the Game of Chess, occasioned by his Paper of the 15th of September, 1733, and dated from Slaughter's Coffee-House, Sept. 21." MS New York 1734. It was written by Lewis Rou, a Huguenot clergyman in New York and only exists complete in manuscript form.

CHAPTER 13:
PHILIDOR THE MASTER OF MASTERS
(From 'The Gambit' Sept. 1928 (p.267-281))

A review of his Celebrated Book.

Is it "Out of Date"?

More than a Century of Delay in Accepting some of His Principles.

Others Not Yet Adopted and Some Remain to be Discovered.

Testimonials as to His Greatness. Written for "The Gambit" by Solomon Hecht. Member of the El Paso Chess & Checker Club El Paso, Texas, USA

Member of Missouri Pacific St Louis Chess Club, St Louis Missouri, USA

Formerly Publisher of the Civil Service Chronicle, New York, USA July 23, 1928.

(The author Solomon Jacob Hecht is poorly served by chess history and here are his relevant details courtesy of Ancestry.com and my wife Norma. Born Baltimore 4 March 1860 of Jewish parents and died Baltimore 22 March 1932. He married Sarah Stein in 1892 and there were three children Jacob, Amelia and Golda. There are some lovely family photos on Ancestry.com. His chess strength was ca 2000 and other of his writings were in 'The Gambit'. One was critical of Emanuel Lasker and featured in Edward Winter's 'Chess Notes' column. His analysis of Philidor's games as outlined on p.271 would be very useful to see if published. One speculates that his membership of chess clubs in El Paso and St Louis may have been linked to his work for the Civil Service BM)

Page 268:-Philidor Master of Masters "Truth crushed to earth will rise again".

In his "Modern Ideas in Chess" Richard Reti says of Philidor:"He was too far in advance of his time to be properly understood".

As there are comparatively few in our day who ever have seen a copy of his celebrated "Analysis of the game of Chess" and the majority of the chess public know little of him beyond what they have read in traditions handed down, it may be of interest on this the occasion of the 202nd Anniversary of his birth if I undertake a brief review of his book and attempt an interpretation of his principles of play and strategy; which I shall endeavour to do from a viewpoint quite different from any that has been presented by previous writers

How Little Philidor is Understood.

In Reti's book we further read:'In Anderssen's time, position play had been but little developed."

An essential characteristic of Philidor was position play, so here we find verified that not only was he too far in advance of his time to be understood by his contemporaries, but also that a whole century after the publication of the First Edition of "Analysis of the Game of Chess" he still was not understood-one of his most important principles had not yet been adopted.

What made Steinitz the world chess champion and enabled him to conquer the immortal Anderssen? Position play! And on what have Lasker and the succeeding world champions relied but position play?

Another essential of Philidor was the principle of Playing for a Small Advantage. This went for an even longer time without acceptance.

In the chapter on Chess in the current edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the authors of which are chess experts whose identity is not revealed, we find a curious passage. Says the Britannica:—"Now-a-days the struggle is to obtain a minute advantage, and the whole plan consists in finding or creating a weak spot in the opponent's arrangement of forces; such is the theory of the modern school, conceived and advocated by Steinitz."

We now get an idea of how little Philidor is understood right up to the present when we see so respectable an authority as the Britannica crediting Steinitz with being the (Page 269) conceiver of the theory of playing for a Small Advantage, when he began to play chess 100 years after Philidor and did not even advocate his new (?) theory until late in life!

Position Play and Playing for a Small Advantage are the two very most essential principles of modern chess practice, yet we see that they were not adopted until there was time to forget Philidor's very existence.

EDITIONS OF PHILIDOR'S BOOK

The first edition of 'Analysis of the Game of Chess' was published in Paris in 1749 and the second in London in 1777. There was also published a so-called Third Edition in London in 1790, five years before his death. It contained the addition of games played simultaneously blind-folded. Von der Lasa says of it: 'This edition which if it had been really prepared by Philidor, as it bears his name, would be the third edition —exhibits indications in the Preface and elsewhere by which we recognize the fact that it was merely superintended by the Publisher in Philidor's name.' These additional games belonged to years 1783, 1788 and 1790, and were played over the board, while the games in the First and Second Editions were specifically composed by Philidor, he directing the moves of both White and Black. The Second Edition of 1777 therefore stands as the official complete work. (The first edition in 1749 was in French and published in London.BM)

The Second Edition was added to the First Edition merely as a Supplement and is of about equal size. In publishing the Second Edition very little revision was made, chiefly a few changes in the comments. In thus adding the Supplement no re-arrangement of the games was made. As a result related games are often widely separated. In reprints made in the early last century several authors have made commendable efforts to place the games in logical sequence, but in no edition that I have seen is the arrangement what I think it should be.

In most of the reprints the authors vary the original text to some extent, and in a few instances they mix Philidor games with their own, either without crediting Philidor or without explaining what are theirs and what are Philidor's. In numbers of the reprints they mutilate by substituting their own language for Philidor's for the sake of brevity or to give greater clearness (p.270) not realizing the danger of themselves failing to understand him. In some a few moves are omitted at the end; in some, comments here and there are left out, and in others a few moves are added to incompleting games without explaining these moves do not appear in the original, and they are not always correct.

What is said to be the best reprint is one by George Walker published in London in 1832, one which, unfortunately, I have not seen. The best reprint in English that has come to my hands is one by W.S.Kenny entitled "Analysis of the Game of Chess" published in London in 1824. It presents exclusively the contents of the official edition, and all the comments appear to be correct; but for Philidor's comments Kenny substitutes his own language for the sake of brevity.

Another edition, perfectly faithful, is one by J.G. Pohlman published in London in 1819. This is a great curiosity, the situations resulting from each separate move being shown by diagrams, and the comments are strictly as in the original. It is very rare. Another faithful edition is by C. Sanson published in French in Paris in 1869. The American Chess Bulletin has on sale at this writing several editions of one kind or the other, including the one by Kenny.

The New York Public Library has five editions in English printed between 1777 and 1826. The British Museum lists nine in English printed between 1750 and 1832.

CONTENTS OF THE BOOK.

The book consists of 67 games and variations of openings. Really, the number is 66, for one opening is duplicated, but with the addition of a few moves and comments. Some games are carried to mate, others to the point where mate can be given in a few moves, while usually minor variations run only to the point of showing a winning advantage or an even game.

There are also 28 end-games showing various methods of giving difficult mates, such as Bishop and Knight against lone King, Queen against Rook, Rook and Bishop against Rook, Rook and Pawn against Bishop, etc. Apparently he was the first to work out systematically most of these mates, but in a few cases he perfects mates that previously had been partially but not satisfactorily (p.271) developed. In the main it seems that these mates stand as models to this day. He will always be remembered for what is known as "Philidor's Legacy", the ingenious amusing smothered mate.

The 67 games total 2347 moves, counting both parties, while the end games consist of 529 moves, making a total of 2876 in the book. He makes about 300 comments on moves in the regular games, and about 100 on moves in the end-games.

While he occasionally pauses to explain a minor obscure move the purpose of which might be his general policy is to make only comments explanatory of or relating to principles of play. He offers no general treatise on principles or strategy. His principles, strategy and methods have to be learned by stringing together the isolated beads and by a study sufficiently thorough to yield intimate acquaintanceship and sympathetic understanding.

His comments as a rule are very brief and there are so many moves apparently simple but really profound which he fails to clarify that he runs great risk of laying himself open to criticism by such as may be unable to grasp his motives or for whom his play is too fine. When I first came into possession of a copy of his book I ventured where angels fear to tread, undertaking to analyse every move from beginning to end. I completed the analysis, but everlastingly was obliged to revise and revise, each time that I would go over the work seeing something deeper than I had previously suspected. In so many instances there lie back of the ostensible purpose one of several hidden alternatives; but the most profound moves always prove to be the simplest and the ones that should first have been visible but for failure of ability to understand him.

Philidor does not, like other chess authorities, express cautious opinions or offer theories. His language is that of a master to advanced pupils, or as a leading authority speaking to fellows whom he assumes will understand. He therefore will not be so easily understood by a novice, nevertheless considering how educated is the average chess player of our day he should not be so hard to digest, although I believe very difficult to fathom him completely. It is first necessary to go over his games thoroughly many times in order to get the spirit of his play.

The following amusing complaint was made by J.H. Sarratt in "A Treatise on the Game of Chess", London, 1808: "It (Analysis of the Game of Chess) is unquestionably a very valuable work, but (p.272) it is of use only to very good players. Let any one who may be disposed to contradict this assertion carefully examine the first game, and he will readily acknowledge that none but a very good player can profit by the rules laid down in the notes or appreciate the skill which the player of the White evinces....Indeed, the White wins solely by the very scientific method in which he plays the pawns; and it may be asserted that no common player can derive any benefit from it."

And Sarratt in his day, we believe, was considered quite an authority; however he was boosting his own book, for which he claimed greater simplicity.

In Philidor's book, for the first time in known history, Chess is placed on a basis of Law and Order. The game is analysed, fundamental principles of play are laid down, plentiful rules are given, we are taught how to build up a good position, how to make the most scientific use of the pawns, how to give difficult mates, and above all how to play correctly.

Before the time of Philidor it was the fashion to play chess as one pleased, each party placing his reliance upon superior ingenuity. This fault prevails considerably in our own day, but inevitably mitigated by the legacies of Philidor.

An idea of the extent to which Philidor has influenced modern chess practice, albeit to the average player in ignorance, may be judged from this: In Griffith and White's "The Pocket Guide to the Chess Openings (1923) is included a collection of 17 Maxims. Of these, SIXTEEN are borrowed from Philidor, either from stated rules or taken from his actual practice. The only maxim in the collection that can claim modern origin is, "Knights should be developed before Bishops", a rule laid down by Lasker but to which Philidor was in opposition and to which Franklin K. Young must also be counted an opponent. Hence, this one paltry, disputed maxim represents the total modern addition to Philidor, at least so far as this collection is concerned; and supposedly these maxims were specially selected for their prime importance. And they proudly place it at the head of the list!

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CLASSIFICATION OF OPENINGS

In 'Analysis of the Game of Chess' the games are not numbered nor do they bear distinctive titles. They carry such captions as "First Game". "First Back-Game of First Party" (meaning First Variation), "Second Party", "First Gambit", etc.

KING'S BISHOP'S OPENINGS

Of the 67 games 23 are King's Bishop's Openings, and they are the most important in the book.

White plays 1.e4, 2.Bc4 and, unless the opponent prevents it, 3.c3. Black in most variations plays 2...Bc5, but also 2..Nf6 and 2..c6. Black's variety of third moves is Qe7, Nf6, Nc6, Qf6 and Qh4. Philidor considers 1.e4, 2.Bc4, 3.c6 the most perfect of all openings. Strangely enough, it is little played in our day, the universal preference being 1.e4, 2.Nf3.

PHILIDOR DEFENSE.

There are 4 games of what has become known as the Philidor Defense. It was devised by Philidor in opposition to 2.Nf3 which he considered unsound on the ground that the pieces should not in the opening be unnecessarily played to positions where they obstruct the pawns. So strongly is he opposed to 2.Nf3 that he refuses to allow White to open but causes Black to move first and White to play the defense. Thus in the original Philidor Defense it is White and not Black who is the second player. He does the same with several other openings which he considers inferior for White. This will give an idea how religiously he adhered to his principles.

The Philidor Defense runs: 1.e4..e5;2.Nf3 (as transposed with White opening)..d6;3.Bc5 (d4),,f5.

As outside of the Gambits and Queen's Pawn Openings and the Vienna Game the modern White almost invariably plays (p.274) 2.Nf3 and practically never 2.Bc5, there is a tremendous issue between Philidor and the moderns on this subject.

p.274

There is a general impression that the Philidor Defense stands discredited, but this seems to be a mistake. I understand on good authority that it has merely fallen into disuse, and that the reason is not that Black may not venture to play it, but rather because it calls for master play. It is always likely to become converted into a gambit, and the modern masters have a policy of not accepting gambits.

The Defense was popular for over a century and was a favourite with Morphy. Marshall and Macbeth (Frank J. Marshall) in "Chess, Step by Step", predict that it will regain popularity.

As played in our day 3..f5 is avoided as inviting a gambit. This move has been the theme of many a game notable in chess history and in the hands of strong players has frequently won, but afterwards upon analysis it would always be contended that had White played differently Black should not have won.

Out of the many experiments that have been tried against 3..f5 the one that finally seemed to hold most promise was the sacrifice of the King's Knight for the King's Pawn, but Marshall & Macbeth consider the sacrifice speculative and say there is great doubt as to who should have the better game.

Griffith & White in "Modern Chess Openings" flatly asserts that White should be able to assure himself of a superior game, referring particularly no doubt, to the Defense with 3..f5 eliminated. But we have a right to seriously question their dictum when they caution that White must not hurry his attack but content himself with steady position play. If that is true, Black already has won half the battle in forcing White to change his tactics and slow down from an attacking game to position play.

Marshall & Macbeth differ so radically from Griffith & White that they go to the length of advising their students to play NOTHING BUT the Philidor Defense when playing Black—an extraordinary endorsement of a Defense alleged to be discredited! Nor do they even advise 2.Nf3 for White, for they recommend students when playing White to play only Queen's Pawn openings, on the ground that it is too hopeless to attempt to master the enormous collection of King's Knight's openings. p.275

(In MCO 6th edition Evans and Korn 1965 claim Philidor never played Philidor's Defence and they further claim 3..f5 "is just too risky in this scientific age". In OECG Levy & O'Connell 1981 the only game by Philidor that gets close is his May 1783 game against Count Bruhl:-1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..c6;3.Qe2..d6;4.c3..f5 but Atwood and Wilson played at least 4 in 1798 ca; White won all 4 games but Philidor won his. Philidor played many games giving f7 as odds and that stopped his Philidor's Defence opening. My Fritz computer says 1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.Bc4..f5 is fatal for Black! But see p.23+ the article by Maurice Newman.BM)

It is worth noting that Franklin K. Young is in apparent agreement with Philidor as to the objectionableness of blocking the pawns with the pieces during development by such moves as 2.Nf3. In his “The Minor Tactics of Chess” he demonstrates that the most powerful formations of pawns and pieces result from arrangements almost identical with those favored by Philidor. Like Philidor he advocates Ne2 instead of Nf3; but Philidor preferred Nf3 and the f pawn had been advanced. Young also supports 3.c3 as an indispensable key move, and that naturally bars 3.Nc3. There is little essential difference between Young and Philidor as regards principles of development. Young, like Philidor, screens the pieces behind the pawns.

For the benefit of thousands of students who doubtless imagine that 2.Nf3 is a strong move because universally played by the masters, I wish to venture the opinion that the real reason why this move and 3.Nc3 or 4.Nc3 are so popular with the masters is that holding back the pawns and avoiding pawn-play by blocking the Ps with the Knights tends towards block games, limits opportunities on both sides, and enables them to play safe and to force a draw when unable to secure an advantage. The proof is the abnormal number of drawn games that result from such openings.

Philidor offers four variations of the Defense. He considers 3.Bc4 superior to 3.d4 for White although the modern masters prefer d4. In all 4 games White suffers disastrous rout. In the 3.d4 variations he makes a laughing stock of White’s KN driving him from pillar to post and causing him to ruin the game.

As this Defense has been a subject of great controversy and may so remain for an indefinite period, it will be of interest to quote Philidor’s introductory comment. He says: “This Game is not quite exact; but the first moves of the white (read this to mean Black) are very well calculated when some advantage is granted.”

Philidor never met an opponent to whom he did not give odds, and he means that while the Defense is good p.276 against an even player, it is especially so against one sufficiently inferior to accept odds. He also indicates that not all of the moves are the best, which is evidence that he did not even have a decent respect for 2.Nf3, not considering it necessary to play with his customary correctness. This may come as an eye-opener to the thousands of students who have become morphine addicts to 2.Nf3.

QUEEN’S BISHOP’S PAWN OPENING

There are three games in which White opens with 1.e4..e4;2.c3. As Philidor does not approve of 2.c3 he forces Black to open and allows White to defend, and win.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

There is one game of the Sicilian Defense: 1.e4..c5;2.f4..Nc6;3.Nf3..e6;4.c3..d5;5.e5..f5. At the 20th move Black has a nearly even game, but Philidor has a poor opinion of the defense. He says: “This way of opening the game when you have not the move is absolutely defensive, and very far from being the best, especially if some advantage is

granted (odds, like Pawn and the move) : but it is a very good one to try the strength of an adversary with whose skill you are unacquainted.”

KING’S KNIGHT’S GAMBITS

There are 20 King’s Knight’s Gambits: 1.e4..e5;2.f4..exf;3.Nf3..g5;4.Bc4..Bg7. They include the Greco-Philidor, Kiezeritzky, Salvio and Cunningham variations. These gambits like all of Philidor’s specially composed games follow the most conservative lines consistent with the character of the opening.

At a date which I do not recall, but certainly some years before the publication of Philidor’s First Edition, the Italian Academy of Chess Masters at a convention resolved that he who plays the Gambit should lose. Doubtless to dispel this conclusion, Philidor after making a draw of the first of these gambits comments: p.277 “This game shows that a gambit equally well attacked and defended is never a decisive party, either on one side or the other. It is true that he who gives the pawn has the pleasure of having always the attack and the prospect of winning, which would certainly happen if he who is on the defensive did not play regularly well for the ten or twelve first moves.”

KING’S BISHOP’S GAMBITS

There are five King’s Bishop’s Gambits 1.e4..e5;2.f4..exf;3.Bc4. Although the modern masters prefer the Bishop’s to the Knight’s Gambit. Philidor considers the Bishop’s Gambit inferior.

KING’S GAMBIT DECLINED

There are four King’s Gambits Declined. 1.e4..e5;2.f4..d5;3.exd..Qxd5 with also the variations 2..d6 and 3..dxe.

QUEEN’S GAMBIT

There are seven Queen’s Gambits: 1.d4..d5;2.c4..dxc;3.e4..e5;4.d5..f5. There are variations: 3.e3..f5 and 3.e4..b5 and 4.cxb. He names this the Aleppo Gambit because it was the favourite of Philip Stamma, one of his most formidable early opponents, a native of Aleppo, Syria.

The opening game of this Gambit is a perfect symphony. I have never seen anything that to me seemed so beautiful, although all his games are beautiful. In the course of long, drawn-out intricate manoeuvring neither party is able to secure more than a faint, fleeting advantage. White by dint of extraordinary effort succeeds in holding the initiative throughout, but all in vain. Philidor carries the game to the 54th move, and extended a few more moves only the two Kings will remain on the board. The battle ends from complete exhaustion after an exertion worthy of a struggle for the possession of a planet. (nicely written by Solomon but this is a composed game according to Baron von der Lasa. BM)

Surely the general impression is that Philidor is "out-of-date", and just as surely I believe nothing of the kind, and I might say that we rather put ourselves out of date in attempting to put him there.

It may be true that the discovery of an immense number of NEW MOVES makes possible to play many of his games radically different today, but that does not, in my opinion, detract from their value. If we are only substituting NEW MOVES for good old PRINCIPLES we are not progressing to reality. There is no end to the number of New Moves that can be discovered but a few gold nuggets are worth more than many chunks of iron ore.

Philidor probably never expected that each of his individual moves would be able to withstand assault for all time. He was interested in principles of play, and the moves in his book were intended mainly to illustrate the workings of his principles. Naturally, not all of his moves are perfect, for with all his greatness he remained a human being. Nevertheless, although here and there faulty ones may be encountered, I believe when once he is well understood it will be found that the number subject to just criticism is exceedingly limited.

I have examined not a few criticisms of his moves. In most cases the critic simply betrayed inability to appreciate Philidor's motives. In not a few instances an apparently clever substitute move is offered, which, however, when subjected to proper test proves to be inferior, and almost always is out of harmony with the purpose of the game. There are also no lacking instances in which great masters have deliberately attempted to discredit Philidor, attacking moves that were only intended to be illustrative.

Space does not permit going more thoroughly into this subject here, but I wish to express the opinion that if his moves are considered to be merely illustrative of his principles, and if his principles are understood, his book will have practically the same incomparable value today that it had when first written. So far as I know, no new discoveries have upset any of his principles, while on the other hand numbers of his principles of importance still p.279 remain to be adopted, none of his important principles have been fully adopted, and some even are not yet known.

Instead of being out of date, I think it may be said that Philidor remains to be understood and then practiced. He is still a rich field for exploration. "Seek, and ye shall find." Some day when suitable opportunity may offer I hope to attempt an interpretation of Philidor that may go a considerable way toward dispelling any notion that he is out of date.

EXTRAORDINARY TESTIMONIALS

Appreciations of His Musical Ability

"Philidor showed himself to be a far more skilful harmonist than the French composers of his day." –Prof. George Allen in his "Life of Philidor"

“Philidor did not win favour by appearing as an imitator of the Italians any more than of the Germans. His genius was marked – according to a very decided expression of M. Fetis – by a character totally different from that of his contemporaries”. – Allen.

“He even anticipated some of the effects which are the glory of the great German school”-Allen.

“The audience called for the composer- an honour at that time almost with precedent.” - Allen.

“Gretry, his contemporary, puts Philidor side by side even with Gluck himself for “force of harmonious expression”. –Allen.

“The highest German authorities have distinctly avowed that Philidor stood by himself, a century ago, in working in the spirit of their own later masters.”-Allen.

“Philidor won for himself a reputation which – in the minds of such as really understand the subject – can never be lost; for his works are (to say all in one word) full of GERMAN strength and solidity”. –Schlinder’s Universal Lexicon der Tonkunst. Stuttgart, 1837.

APPRECIATIONS OF HIS CHESS ABILITY

“No other production, in all Chess literature, has been so frequently reprinted, both in the original French and in most of the languages of modern Europe.” – Tassilo von Heyderbrand und der Lasa.

“The contemporaries of Philidor considered him a great player...but never guessed that the title of his book “Analysis”, and what could be read between the lines were infinitely more important than the book itself.”-Emanuel Lasker (NOTE: This compliment is somewhat left-handed, for in extolling so extraordinarily the value of what can be read between the lines he minimizes the worth of the printed text; but I am satisfied with his appreciation of the spiritual contents - THE AUTHOR)

“A book that went through more editions and was more translated than a score of other works upon the game. In fact it was the chess Koran.”-Encyclopaedia Britannica.

“The opinion which I have nevertheless formed is that Philidor, when in the fullness and freshness of his strength, with the solid support of his talent for analysis, must have possessed the capacity to make his own any given measure of practical skill”. Von der Lasa (NOTE: Very strong language, coming from the highly conservative and critical great German master-THE AUTHOR.)

“The name of Philidor stands out, in the general opinion, as distinctly from other names as does that of Newton. It has acquired a sacredness....In France La Bourdonnais and St.

Amant did but conform to the universal feeling when they habitually spoke of Philidor as their 'Master'. 'the Great Master', 'the Master of us all.' –Allen.

“The head of a dynasty which included a Carlier, a Bernard, a Deschappelles, a La Bourdonnais”-George Walker.

“I am anxious to see the Philidor manuscript. Philidor is my favourite, and I prize whatever remains of him.” –Alexander MacDonnell.

HIS PERSONAL CHARACTER

“His meekness and gentleness, his disinterestedness and his probity...honoured as a good husband, a good father, a good friend.” –Allen

“One of the most single-minded and honest of men.”-Allen.

“The sun never shone upon a human being more perfectly simple, single-hearted, and open. He loved his art for itself.” –Allen

THE END

(p.281 contains two of Philidor's games from J.G.Pohlman's 1819 book. The first is Game No.1 by Philidor in his book, a 40 move win by White on p.4/5 of this MS. The second game is Game No.6 on page 6 of this MS-a 26 move draw (BM)

There was a series of 9 articles by Hecht in the 1930 'Gambit' and it was clear the editor L.T. Maenner gave Hecht full rein. Here is the 7th which is the most 'Philidorian' of the series. There were minor comments on Philidor in articles 2 & 3 as well as criticism by readers of the series.

THE MYSTERY OF PHILIDOR'S DECLARATION THAT THE PAWNS ARE THE SOUL OF CHESS. (The Gambit September 1930 pages 233-238)

“Soul-The spiritual, rational, immortal part in man; reason or intellect; conscience; life; essence; moving or inspiring power. Soul is opposed to body.”—Universal Dictionary.

Emanuel Lasker's Interpretation

There is in all chess literature perhaps no phrase so celebrated as that of Philidor's **“The Pawns are the Soul of Chess.”**

It has been quoted over and over again during a century and a half without anyone, so far as I know, attempting to interpret its significance except Emanuel Lasker, who in

“Lasker's Manual of Chess,” (copyright by E.P. Dutton & Co., N.Y.) says:

“We can see clearly what his saying [the Pawns are the soul of Chess] implies. It is this: The Pawn being much more stationary than the officers, is an element of the structure of the position; the way the array of Pawns is placed determines the character of the position, and hence also the plan appropriate to the position.”

Unfortunately, this solitary and late attempt at a solution of the mystery does not coincide with the dictionary definition of Soul. Lasker would give to the Pawn the attribute of Soul because he is stationary, whereas the scriptures tell us that the Soul is free from the limitations of matter and goeth wheresoever it listeth. Then he says that the Pawns are the Soul because they are an element in the structure of the position, but if they are part of the structure – posts, girders or bricks – they belong to the body. The dictionary says, “Soul is opposed to body.”

The most characteristic of the dictionary definitions are that the Soul is the Immortal part and the Inspiring Power, and that is what we all understand the word to mean.

Lasker really is describing the Body as being the Soul, and as we cannot accept that interpretation we must rise above the clay of the earth and seek the Soul on its plane.

The Soul truly is the Inspiring Power. It inspires and elevates man, raises him up from the animal plane, and therefore it represents the Law of Evolution in the highest form known to man.

Science tells us that the Law of Evolution, the law of constant progression, is universal and that the smallest item is subject to it as well as man. And that man is the acme of evolution on this earth.

Evolution being a universal law of constant progression, and man an evolving being, we need not be surprised if we feel it expressed in the game of Chess which men play.

The Pawns Represent the Law of Evolution in Chess.

It is expressed there, and only through the Pawns.

The other pieces, from the Queen down, could move about the board till the ivories would be worn down to the thinness of a sheet of paper without adding a particle to their growth. But if a Pawn in the course of its evolutionary journey can reach the 8th Row he attains the power of a Queen. It is not even necessary for him to become a Queen before increasing his power. It increases with every step, and when a pawn supported by a pawn has reached the 6th Row he well may be envied by Bishops, Knights and Rooks.

The most important thing in life is Evolution or Progress, and being the only pieces in Chess that can progress the Pawns must be the most important part of the game.

Why is the Pawn the Unit of Value?

When we accept the Pawn as the unit of value in Chess we tacitly accord him extraordinary recognition. We measure the Queen as worth 10 pawns, a Rook as worth 5 and a Bishop or Knight as 3½. We do not measure a Pawn as being worth 1/10th of a Queen. Why not? Why should the Queen be measured with the yardstick of the Pawn instead of the Pawn with that of the Queen? It might appear that for the very reason that their values do not change the Queen or some other piece would be adopted as the unit of

value. But it would not fit in with the scheme of evolution. Evolution demands progression and never could be satisfied to have serve as a basis an unprogressive piece. The Pawn is the unit of value because he is like the Biblical talent which is not to be buried in the ground but invested. He is the unit because he can progress and at every step his value increases. But for this we would be playing chess with dry bones. There we have the inspiring power which the dictionary defines as the Soul.

Is it a wonder if in our materialistic age we have failed to perceive that the Pawns are the Soul of Chess, for what in the common view is more contemptible than a Pawn? But if we would remove the Pawns from the board (Heaven forbid that this can be done in some new scheme of reformation) the game would lose its inspiration; there would be no progress to play for.

The Pawn is the greatest inspiration in the game. What more inspiring than the thought that the eight humblest soldiers can rise to the highest rank with power to overwhelm the entire body of their former superior officers? A Rook can give orders to his Pawn up to the 8th row, when lo and behold the Pawn turns and gives orders to the Rook! Two Pawns becoming Queens can dispense with the services of the entire force (except the King) of their former commanders.

The Natural Destiny of a Pawn is not Fulfilled Until he becomes a Queen.

The Pawn is by nature endowed with the powers of the Queen in miniature, and his natural destiny is to become a Queen.

But as there may seem to be an inconsistency in saying that a “He” can become a “She,” let me step aside for a diversion. I do not like the idea of referring to a Soldier as an “It.” Nobody would do it in real life, and Chess never will be played at its best if overlooking its application and correspondences to the Game of Life. The Queen in Chess is the field representative of the King, just as Hindenberg was of Kaiser Wilhelm, and the position conceivably could have been filled by Wilhelm’s Queen. History records women who personally commanded the forces, for example, Cleopatra and Joan of Arc. Thus, there is no inconsistency in a He rising to a rank occupied by a She.

The Queen combines the powers of Rook and Bishop, and so with certain limitations does the Pawn. When a Pawn advances he makes the move of a Rook, while he captures with the move of a Bishop. He even can make moves of a Knight. A Knight at e4 can go to f6 or g5. A pawn at e4 cannot go to g5 because not a progressive move, but he can by an advance and a capture go to f6, which would be a progressive one.

The Pawn, except at his first move, can go only one step at a time, while the pieces are not limited. Why? The pieces are allowed to do as they please because whether they take long steps or short ones they are not progressing. The Pawn is permitted to go only one step at a time because Evolution is a slow process and does not go by leaps and bounds, and the Pawn represents Evolution.

All of the pieces can move backwards as well as forwards, but not the Pawns. Why? The Pawns are evolutionary pieces, and the Law of Evolution makes no provision for going backwards.

When the Pawn captures he advances diagonally. Why might he not capture sideways like a Rook? Because he would not be advancing, and if he moves at all the Law of Evolution demands that he advance.

The Physical Resemblance of the Pawn to the Queen.

The most primitive things are usually those truest to life, and in sets of chess of the simplest type the only difference between the Queen and the Pawn is in size. So the very wooden pieces suggest that the natural destiny of the Pawn is by growth to become a Queen. In simple sets the Bishop, also, is of the shape of the Queen. This well may be because the Bishop represents one of the powers of the Queen and at the same time one of the powers of the Pawn. In a perfectly played game no Pawn will ever become a Queen without making the moves of both a Rook and a Bishop; in other words, he must develop into a little Queen before he can become a big one.

With regard to the shape of the Queen, it may be noted that in more ornamental sets, she has the body of a Bishop and the Tower of the Castle, her crown of five jewels corresponding, with something added, to the four tops which make the crest of the Tower.

The Evolutionary Journey of the Pawn Blocked by Modern Materialism.

Blinded by their materialism, our modern masters are unable to perceive the significance of Philidor's mystical declaration, and are constantly affronting the Law of Evolution by thwarting its purposes with regard to the destiny of the Pawns. In return the Law of Evolution punishes them by handing out to their throbbing brains nothing but drawn games for their pains.

Some consider the Pawns useful mostly as cannon fodder for opening up lines of attack, wantonly cutting short their careers by sacrificing them without compensation. And the Law of Evolution usually sees to it that they end up a Pawn or two short. Some players even throw away the Pawns because they are in the way of the pieces and they do not know what to do with them.

Others, a little more humane, impede their evolutionary journey by blocking them. Those who are followers of Emanuel Lasker can plead the justification that in "Lasker's Manual of Chess" (copyright by E.P. Dutton & Co., N.Y.; also to the same import in his "Common Sense in Chess") he states that the modern masters have adopted the maxim, "Avoid the moves of Pawns in the opening as far as possible." And he continues: "I have added to those principles the law: Get the Knights into action before both of the Bishops are developed. The advantage obtained in following this law is certainly not great, yet it is distinctly perceptible." (Page 46)

Has he offered it only as a Bill they would not have this excuse, but he has made of it a Law, and hence it cannot be violated without becoming a lawbreaker. But I don't see why he has to rule with such an iron hand over his subjects, seeing that he himself admits, "The advantage obtained in following this law is certainly not great." Why, then, clutter the statute books with such minor legislation?

How Lasker Bombs His Own Law.

On Page 224 of the same book he himself, however, gives a good justification for breaking the "Law." He says: "Mobile Pawns can make a better fight than blockaded Pawns." Well, then, why pass a Law that the Knights must rush out the very first thing and block the Bishop pawns?

But he is not through with puncturing holes in his own Law. On the same page he says: "This theory of Steinitz approached that of Philidor as soon as he examined the minute advantages that endure. The small advantages arising from the superior positions of officers are hard to maintain; often the disadvantage of lack of mobility or of an exposed position is repaired in one move. Small advantages appertaining to the positions of Pawns, however, are difficult to repair and have a tendency to last permanently."

According to that, it should be more important to have the f and c pawns free than to block those Pawns by rushing out the Knights to scramble for a superior position in the field which, even if fond hopes are realised, so often proves to be only a fleeting advantage.

But he is not yet through with combatting his Law. On Page 119 he offers a table of the relative value of moves made by Pawns in the early game on the basis of sacrifice, etc, for gain in development.

The first move of the eP or dP he gives a relative value of 2 points; to the fP and c P, $1\frac{1}{2}$; to the gP or bP, $1\frac{1}{4}$; to the hP or aP, $\frac{1}{2}$. Whether $1\frac{1}{4}$ is a typographical error or supposed to be correct for the gP or bP's I do not know. If so, the gradation of value is inconsistent, slumping from $1\frac{1}{4}$ for a gP or bP to $\frac{1}{2}$ for a hP or aP. It cannot be that in an orderly scheme of things there can be such difference in value, between brother Pawns, one merely one step further from the centre than the other. The more so when the gP or bP are given almost the value of fP and cP's.

However, passing by this inconsistency, he at least admits that the fP and cP are worth only 25% less than the eP and dP. If so, you might almost as well block the two centre Pawns, preventing e4 and d4, as to block the fP and cP's.

Pawn Play Requires the Highest Skill, say Marshall & MacBeth.

But it is not necessary that every Pawn become a Queen in every game, nor yet that even one reach the promised land in any one game. But give them a chance to progress!

Say Marshall & Macbeth in “Chess Step by Step” (copyright by E.P. Dutton & Co., N.Y.): “They (beginners) should never forget that a Bishop or Knight never changes in value, while a Pawn may be promoted to Queen; and they should also constantly bear in mind that intelligent Pawn manipulation denotes the highest degree of skill in chess.”

Then, logically, the major strategy in a game of chess should be to queen a Pawn, which seems like a fairytale suggestion if we look for such thing in games between our masters. And if intelligent Pawn manipulation denotes the highest degree of skill in chess, what is to be said in defense of holding back the Pawns (one of the most approved modern decrees), and deliberately blocking the two important Bishops’ Pawns with the Knights?

Tyro Play With the Knights.

It requires no skill to play 2.Nf3 and 3 (or 4) Nc3. Any tyro can do it, and they all do. But Franklin K. Young says that c3 is a key move, and Philidor taught the same. So it seems that to accommodate the tyro move of Nc3 it is necessary to sacrifice a key-move. The N once perched at c3 usually remains there quite some time, finding after getting there that there is nothing particularly to do. This delays c3 until it no longer would have a purpose.

Everybody plays 1.Nf3 because Lasker has pointed out that it gives the Knight a magnificent view of the board. But this keeps out of action the important f Pawn, a Pawn that was a powerful instrument in the hands of Philidor. The KN has so long been sitting upon the back of the f Pawn that the latter by now has become a hunchback. The use of this Pawn has become a lost art. Nobody really knows what to do with him. He is kept so long out of action that by the time he finally is ordered to advance he is all stiff in the joints and hardly is worth more than a Knight Pawn.

For Heaven’s sake why must we open with the Knights, when by plying the Bishop Opening (2.Bc4) there is no need at all of blocking any Pawns?

The Prime Object of the Game.

The prime object of a game of chess should be to capture the whole of the enemy’s territory and annex it in the name of the King. Or at least capture enough of it to corner the enemy King and force him to surrender all that otherwise remain to be captured.

Now, what is the most scientific way to do that?

Briefly speaking, there is a choice of two methods:

1. Keep the Pawns at home, have the pieces leap over them and charge the enemy’s eight Pawns. This is the modern universal practice. The statement is not seriously exaggerated, and the only reason we do not better recognise its truth is because Black does the same as White, and all perspective is lost in the scrimmage that takes place. If both parties hold back their Pawns, then both must be playing their pieces in front of their Pawns, and the pieces on both sides are trying to fight the pieces of the other with a barb-

wire fence of Pawns in between. Presently, a Pawn here and a Pawn there advances, and dislodges all of the pieces that have been fighting the barb-wire fence, and there is a retreat here and a retreat there, and when the game is half over we are unable to find any ground gained in spite of all the rush to do it.

2. **Advance the Pawns**, have them shield the pieces and have the pieces follow behind the Pawns while at the same time supporting them. This was the method of Philidor. Nothing more scientific could be conceived of. All branches of the service are co-operating instead of one obstructing the other. The Pawns are co-operating one with the other, and the pieces with each other and with the Pawns. And the pieces have an open space in the rear in which to move without being subject to Pawn attack.

And one of the greatest arguments in favour of this method is that it complies with the requirements of the Law of Evolution, which wishes to evolve the Pawns that were created for that purpose.

Philidor Versus Emanuel Lasker- Evolution Versus Knights That Go Around in a Circle.

Philidor objected to 1.Nf3 on the ground that it hindered the f Pawn, and he was sufficiently serious in his objection to be led to devise the Philidor Defense against Knights' Openings. As Emanuel Lasker is the greatest patron of the Knights since his sainted predecessor Bishop Ruy Lopez, Lasker does not fail at every suitable opportunity to try to prove that Philidor must be wrong. Lasker says that the obstruction of the f Pawn is 'insignificant' as compared with the advantage of having the Knight at f3. But in my Fourth article in my analysis of Lasker's model Ruy Lopez Defence, I think I amply demonstrated that the blocking of the two Bishop Pawns by the two Knights hoodooed Lasker's own pet game. White's greatest worry was his inability to get into action those two hunch-backed, stiff-jointed Pawns, and when the 13 moves that constitute this Opening were over neither one had yet moved.

Let us see whether the blocking of the Bishop Pawns is as insignificant as Lasker on pure dictum would have us believe.

The principal purpose of Philidor's First Game was to show how to advance a chain of Pawns and queen one of them. The original cP, the one that under a law laid down by Lasker should be blocked by the QN, eventually becomes the eP, and queens. In this game it required the co-operation of five other Pawns: dP, eP, fP, gP and hP (some pawn-play, eh?) (see game 1, p.5)

In the journey of the eP (original cP) to Queen the six Pawns made a total of 15 moves to which they made a combined advance of 18 squares, the cP and fP having each made an advance of two squares at their first move, there being no Knights sitting on their backs. Philidor carries the game only to the 40th move, dropping it when it is evident that the Pawn will queen. He will become Queen at the 42nd Move, Black's KR being forced to

sacrifice himself for the fP, the one so highly valued by Lasker. So this fP, the blocking of which Lasker declares to be insignificant, practically becomes worth a Queen, having enabled the equally undervalued cP to become one. Not so insignificant these two Pawns!

When the eP(cP) becomes Queen White has gained the equivalent of 9 Pawns, and as this was accomplished at a cost of 15 Pawn moves, every time a Pawn moved it proved to have an ultimate value of $\frac{3}{5}$ of a Pawns gain in material. And when the fP advanced two squares at his first move it proved finally to be worth 1 and $\frac{1}{5}^{\text{th}}$ Pawns gain in material.

Philidor the Patron of the Pawn.

As soon as Philidor perceived that the Law of Evolution was more interested in the Pawns than all of the rest of the game, he resolved to co-operate with the Law (not Lasker's Law) and do all he could to help the Pawns reach their paradise. It made him happy to see the poor, abused Pawns happy.

And the Pawns in return showed their gratitude by revealing to him fairy secrets, never to be whispered into the ear of any materialist. After learning the fairy secrets he began to do the most uncanny things with the Pawns. In one game, for example, the fP gives up his life for the good of the cause, winning the game. Philidor does not forget this act of supreme sacrifice, and in another game he promotes the fP (supposedly a reincarnation of the other one) to Queen!

Although he would like to have sent all the Pawns to Paradise in one game, Philidor recognised that it could not be, so he resolved that in each game he at least at every opportunity would advance them some.

If he could do no better, he would promote a Pawn from, say, h2 to h3. Or, better, from h3 to g3, for he soon learned from the Pawns that they not only aspired to advance in their own files but preferably to serve under higher commands. The Knight Pawns were ambitious to become Bishop's Pawns, the f Pawn to become an e Pawn, the c Pawn to become a d Pawn, and the d Pawn an e Pawn. Nothing was more encouraging to the f P than to win the double promotion of going, for example, from f4 to e5. And so with the c Pawn to advance from c3 to d4 and perhaps e5!

Learning the Pawn Language.

When he learned the Pawn Language, and as soon as the Pawns found that Philidor was their best friend, they began to confide to him most extraordinary things about some of the mysteries of the game. How the game was designed for their benefit; the principles for giving all of the Standard Mates; how to detect Invisible Weak Spots; how to find the Correct Move in any situation – and, oh, so many other things of absorbing interest about the board of 64 squares not yet known to those who demand a bigger board and more pieces!

Great Is the Reward Unto Him That Succeedeth in Queening a Pawn.

If it may be difficult to queen a Pawn by scientific play, then the accomplishment of it will be an act of corresponding merit.

A Pawn usually can be queened only at an advanced stage of a game when there are remaining on the board but a few pieces. This has all the greater value. Suppose at the time of queening each party has a force worth the equivalent of 15 pawns. The one who can exchange a Pawn for a Queen gains 9 Pawns and finds himself with a force worth 24 Pawns against 15, which settles the game at once.

There are illustrated in Philidor's games two principal ways in which a well played game may be one.

One is by pressing a small positional advantage, acquired in the early stages, until your position becomes so strong and the opponent's so relatively weak that he is helpless. In that case the game should be won without need of a sacrifice, but usually a sacrifice will be made for the sake of shortening it. In games of Philidor which were intended to serve as models never does either party have the advantage of a piece, and except in a gambit rarely the advantage of even a Pawn. The game is won by pure manoeuvring and with few exchanges.

In the other class the win is by acquiring a superior force – not through the capture of pieces (which is possible only through inferior play), but through queening a Pawn.

The latter is the highest type of game. Like the game in the other class it is won by pure manoeuvring, but with a definite objective and mainly with the Pawns – the most difficult manoeuvring there is.

So, since the special interest that the Law of Evolution has in chess is Pawn promotion, therefore are the Pawns the Soul of Chess, and therefore should we fearlessly yet discreetly advance, and not stultify, our Pawns.

And if the Pawns are the Soul of Chess, then perhaps the pieces should serve the Pawns rather than the Pawns the pieces. But each should serve the other; one for all, and all for one! More glory than in capturing the enemy King in the field is to force his surrender after having crowned a Queen in his own palace, after which there can be no dispute as to who holds the title to the kingdom.

.....

A lovely whimsical article on "Pawn talking". I am reminded of Professor Irving Finkel of the British Museum and his musings as to whether the Lewis pieces talked to one another. Of course Philidor learned what Pawns could do and he made them "talk" over the board rather than to him.

On p.123 of Allen, Von der Lasa states that Philidor rejected a Pawn being a second queen in the 1749 edition but that he accepted it later. Perhaps the Pawns changed his mind as they all should have a choice.

Gary Kasparov in "How Life Imitates Art" 2008 p.135 wrote that Philidor's memorable phrase "The pawns are the soul of the game" eerily anticipated the French Revolution. Does anyone know where this phrase comes from? Thanks to Ray Kuzanek for both Gambit articles.(BM 7 Nov. 2017)

CHAPTER 14:-LOVERS OF PHILIDOR

Clearly Solomon Hecht was one. His articles being proof enough. Cecil Purdy was likewise and myself though from a chess history/problems background. There are others with a passion for the man.

The clever author Katharine Neville described him well in 'The Eight' but George Allen must hold the No.1 ticket in the Philidor fan club. His book is a love story about a kind man who took risks and didn't leave many enemies. It was a pity George didn't enlarge on Philidor's wanderings around Europe in the 1745 era especially his dealings with the various armies involved in battles. It could also be said that George missed an opportunity to really pin down European chess friends especially those in England but he lived in America and it was not so easy then. He still made one's eyes water at where music and chess took Philidor in those 9 years away. OK maybe he left Paris because of some unpaid debts and a budding romance with the harpsichordist Miss Lanza. He was 19, she 13. But she died in Paris before her trip to Holland and there he was at loose ends with wars all around him either active or in limbo. Then came his meeting with the Duke of Cumberland, the leader of the British armies in Europe. The Duke must have been a very keen player to buy 50 copies of the first edition. Of course the book didn't appear until 1749 but why did the Duke subscribe for that many copies? He wanted to help the young man and maybe he gave many away as gifts to friends. He liked to win and the defeats he took on the battlefield mainly against the great chess player Marshall Saxe made him look at Philidor's prowess at chess. Could it be transferred to war? The Duke's ADC was Henry Seymour Conway who became one of Philidor's best friends and who subscribed to all 3 editions. But what a meeting it must have been with the "Bloody" Duke who was a few years older than him. It seems the three of them went to Culloden, Scotland in 1746 where the Duke crushed the Jacobite cause. How close did Philidor get to this war? Philidor stayed with the Duke at Windsor ca1851.

Many Scots peers subscribed to his chess books as did the English peers and visits in Scotland were more than likely once the war was over.

And then there were the holidays with various European identities. He stayed sometimes for months, far longer than a holiday and he must have been likeable to not outstay his welcome. There was a girlfriend at that time causing him trouble and later there were many women chess players who bought his books. Mrs Caroline Howe bought all 3 editions over a 40 year period and she was a keen player who was probably too good for Benjamin Franklin when he was in London. Philidor would have visited her and showed her ways of improving her chess. What a pity her games have not survived.

He was in England for many months of those 20 years at the end of his life and must have gone to many of the great houses owned by 1749/1777/1790 subscribers where he played chess and talked about music. The women knew he was lonely away from his Parisian family. They would go out of their way to help him.

The 'Society' chapter in Fred Inch's book on Morphy was excellent and gave one insights into where 'the glorious Paul' went. Where did the fabulous Philidor go? We have some inferences but few detailed descriptions. Perhaps those rest in the diaries of the rich and famous waiting to be made public.

He told friends he liked going to Parliament listening to political speeches. Then there were the musical compositions in both France and England and their performances. Who did he meet and stay with in that world? Possibly he even met the 7 year old Mozart (1756-1791) on his first visit to Paris in 1763 and surely he met Handel and perhaps J.S. Bach (1685-1750) or his sons as Katharine Neville suggests. The chess and music were serious professional events. Philidor was a professional at both and chess especially; he played to win. The only true games we know of are those in the 3rd edition where he won all 9 at various odds. His full score in Chapter 6 of +39-21 =12 with 6 unknown is not all that good but private games are different to public ones when reputation is on the line.

On the social side he was able to lose when the odds were too much or he made a mistake and it kept everyone happy. The man was human not a machine. Even when he did play 'The Turk' in Paris in 1783 the games did not survive.

It was not hard to love this man. At the finish when the French Revolution stopped him going home to die, a very good friend John Crawford looked after him as his money dried up and ensured he had a respectable funeral at the finish. The press wrote up his death.

Bob Meadley

CHAPTER 15:

WHO WAS MICHAEL SEDAINE?

It was surprising to me to find the “Our Folder’s” description of Monsieur Sedaine (see p.127) and to realise this person was not in Allen’s biography and yet appeared to be a good friend of Philidor. Ray Kuzanek sent me a photo of him. The following is from Wikipedia with additions:-

Michel-Jean Sedaine (2 June 1719-17 May 1797) was a French dramatist and librettist. He was born in Paris where his architect father died when Sedaine was young and he became a mason’s labourer then apprentice architect and architect. He loved light opera and assisted Philidor with 5 works:- *Le Diable a quatre ou la Double Metamorphose* 1756, *Blaize* in 1759, *L’Huttre et les Plaideurs* 1759 *Le Jardinier et son Seigneur* 1761. And *Tom Jones* in 1765.

There is a bust of him in the V&A Museum London done by Pajou in 1775 who had also sculpted Philidor’s bust.

He had a great practical knowledge of the theatre and had claims as one of the real founders of domestic drama in France.

His first book was in 1750 ‘Recueil de pieces fugitives’ (400+ pages which included fables, songs and pastorals.) (Interesting that he & Philidor published their first works within 12 months of one another BM)

He married Suzanne Seriny (1739-1826) in 1764 and there were 6 children. She has a bust in a Boston Museum.

The French Revolution ruined him and he died poor but surrounded by his family was a model husband and father, fundamentally honest with a great number of friends in literature and the arts.(Universal francais)

In “Figures of sympathy in 18th century Opera Comique” by Janet Leavens 2010, Sedaine gets a full chapter and a quote by E. Cook in this thesis about Sedaine was that he ‘constructs a text from the point of view of the composer’. Not hard to see why Philidor liked him.

He was helped by others when he was very young and later when wealthy he helped orphans of ability.

There are many paintings of Sedaine but he does seem to have been a friend to many rather than just a friend to a few like Philidor.

CHAPTER 16:

PHILIDOR AND VAUCANSON

Following on from the Kempel article on page 97, Philidor met Vaucanson at M.de la Popeliniere's salon in Paris where he had an exhibition of blindfold playing in 1745. The Duc de Richelieu, the painter La Tour and Diderot were there with Vaucanson.

The man in question was named Jacques de Vaucanson (1709-1782) a French engineer and inventor. The following from Wikipedia. He is credited with creating the world's first true robot. The 10th child of a poor glove-maker in Grenoble he revealed his talent for watch and clock repairs as a little boy. He took Jesuit holy orders in 1725 but left the monastery for Paris in 1728 to promote his mechanical interests. He also studied anatomy and medicine and left for Rouen where he was helped in anatomy by two famous surgeons Nicolas Le Cat and Francois Quesig.

His first automaton was created in 1732, then an automatic flute player in 1738 which was a success in Paris. Two others were the Tambourine Player and the Digesting Duck. The latter the most celebrated but all lost today. He built an automated loom between 1745/50 but it was unsuccessful due to workers rioting over possible loss of jobs. An automaton that simulated blood circulation with respiration and digestion failed but other work related projects such as a metal slide rest lathe and the use of rubber were successful. His best was a western chain drive for silk reeling, still in use today.

The one closest to that in 'The Best Offer' (see p.94) was 'Euphonia, a woman's head that could talk via a bellows. (not close really.BM)

In 1745 Philidor was a sensation playing blindfold chess and La Popeliniere pressed him into his 'menagerie'. This was a gathering of the most inventive and clever people. According to Allen (p.15) he also played his music Motets there. Perhaps this was when Diderot and Philidor became friends. As for Vaucanson, he lived long enough for Kempelen's 'Turk' to be invented in 1769 but not its first showing in Paris in 1783. Did he see it elsewhere? That would have made him think. He could hardly see any trickery in blindfold chess but a mechanical Turk? Bob Meadley 25 November 2017

CHAPTER 17

A REVIEW OF Sergio Boffa's book FRANCOIS ANDRE DANICAN PHILIDOR (ca 2010)

Subtitled '*La culture echiqueene en France et en Angleterre ax XVIII siecle*'

I do not read French but am able to read 'between the lines' as to content and SB has a very good Bibliography, Index and Philidor Family Tree which make a nice book (pp 226-260). PP 209-225 consider Philidor today and his blindfold play.

The only photo is the Bartolozzi print on the hard cover and the 260 pages by Moravian Chess are in in their usual solid binding and print.

Starting at the Games + section (pp 136-208), the largest portion of the book, SB improves chess history by increasing the accepted number of Philidor Games from 78 to 85+ some partial games/positions to a total of 90 with some provisos.

The game with J.J.Rousseau dated 22 March 1745 before 'Analyse' is an excellent find as chess history records none of his games pre 1780. BUT the game is cited as a FAKE. In it Philidor is on the back foot with a draw by perpetual check in 49 moves. It is a Ruy Lopez and looks modern. No source is given.

The games section is pleasing as SB includes the first 4 games from the 'Analyse' of 1749 and comments that though they are fictitious and composed by Philidor they illustrate his pawn play (p.136). I liked their inclusion as composed or real they are from his youth. Historians may well exclude them and the fake which would drop the number to 81 full games .

The games collection is in fair chronological order up to Game 62 when the undated simul games follow. They are a delight to play through with clear diagrams and figurative algebraic moves and notes with two columns per page.

As for the written text, being unable to read it is annoying but even the Introduction gives the name of 'Arthur Pougin' (1834-1921) a French music historian , unknown to me, who was well quoted by the author as he cites 65 pages from 'La Chronique musicale' in the footnote. Further footnotes by Marc Benoit from 'Research of Classical French Music'(pp.65-230) record Philidor's letters from 1783 to 1795. Two great sources! There are many English quotations which make life just bearable and one gets the 'gist' of the French language because the 'gist' is well known to all of us interested in Philidor.

There are good footnotes on most pages, many authors unknown to me.

Page 12 was fascinating as it discusses Philidor's lineage as explained by the pre-eminent family historians the Dupont-Danicans who feature on many Philidor websites. This

family produced 'La chronique philidorienne' which was produced for many years from 1980 to 2006.

Philidor's 'Life' is very well researched (pp 12-81) and starts with his baptism on 16 October 1727, then Versailles Chapel life, his first chess lesson in 1736, Paris life from 1740, meeting Legal and the early blindfold games that made him prominent. Then came Holland in 1745 and the usual history with quotes from La Borde and Fetis some new to me. Likewise Lardin in Le Palamede. Philidor goes to London in 1747, has his match with Stamma, returns to Europe to complete his manuscript in 1748, back to London 1749-51, the book appears. A trip to Prussia 1751/2, the third trip to London 1753/4 and the return to Paris. His match with Legal in 1755 and music collaboration with Michel Sedaine in 1758.

His marriage in 1760 and a very early date for the 2nd edition 'preparation' of 1771!!
Then the London Chess Club, the 1777 and 1790 editions of 'Analyse' and a page on Philidor's financial problems.

Life in England 1774-1795 is well covered over 30 pages (pp 50-81) which finalises with a list of his goods on death. From pages 82-91 are anecdotes from his letters plus a lovely one by Arthur Young, a celebrated agronomist(1741-1821) giving a reminiscence of Philidor's memory in a 3 game simul played by Young, Lord Orford and another. Philidor won +2=1.

P 92-135 discuss the Philidor principles in 'Analyse', the editions, his play in the opening, middle game and endgame with descriptions of earlier works by Greco, Bertin, and Stamma and the dispute between Philidor's views and those of the Italians, del Rio, Lolli and Ponziani. The author finishes with Philidor's place in history and a lament on the loss of many of his games (p.134/5)

An excellent book which I wish I could read.

Bob Meadley 1 December 2017.

Sergio Boffa has a nice photo and film with chessboard and men adjoining his computer on UTube. The language may be Spanish and he is clearly multilingual.. He was born 6 August 1965 and lives in Brussels. Many books to his credit mostly on medieval military history.He graduated University Libre de Bruxelles, Ph.D Cambridge. Been at Chiba University Japan and has written on Japanese swords and Bushido.

CHAPTER 18 – CRITICISM OF PHILIDOR BY ERCOLE DEL RIO

From ‘A Treatise on the Game of Chess’ 1822 by John Cochrane p.230-240
This letter was published in Giambatista Lolli’s 1763 work ‘Il Guioco Degli Scacchi’ (p.365-368) and translated for Cochrane’s book:-

The following letter of the Modenese may be of use to the Amateur on account of the examination he gives to the openings of games.

A Letter from the celebrated Anonymous Modenese to a friend, respecting the Book of Mr. Philidor.

My dear friend,

I send you the account you require, concerning Mr. Philidor’s book, entitled “Analyse des Echecs”. It contains nine games, in which he invariably directs the White. In the two first, where the White has the move, he gives that sort of attack which he seems to prefer; in the third and fourth games he gives the moves to the Black, in which he shows two different openings to be bad; in the following four he gives the King’s Gambit; and in the ninth, and last, the Queen’s Gambit; finishing the Work with a beautiful demonstration of the victory of the bishop and rook against the rook, for which all our schools are indebted to this Frenchman, in which he has distinguished himself by a brilliancy of play that is not to be found in his commencement of games. In these he might have spoken with less confidence and more accuracy, as I shall distinctly point out when I come to those methods of play which are opposed to our system, in the first disengagement of the pieces, omitting the remainder, which is either more easy to understand, or less important to observe.

In the First Game this is his mode of attack.

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..Bc5;3.c3..Nf6;4.d4..e5xd4;5.cxd4-It is a maxim of this writer, that he who is strongly attacked is always embarrassed in his defence, as if the advantage of the first move ought not to cease at most in eighteen moves, as has been remarked by Marcus Aurelius Severinus in the eighteenth chapter of his Theory of Chess. In the present game, however, I really cannot perceive the slightest embarrassment on the part of the Black, who does not even want so many moves to destroy the mentioned advantage of the first move; if he will, instead of retiring at the fifth move the bishop to queen’s knight’s third square, regulating himself according to the directions given in the First Game of my Defence:- thus 5..Bb4+;6.Bd2..Bxd2+;7.Nxd2..d5:-certain of taking off the adversary’s king’s pawn, and thereby depriving the White of the strength of his two pawns on the fourth file, upon which this author relies, from which proceeds a perfect equality of game, so far as regards the pieces; moreover, the White will be inferior in position on account of having an isolated pawn on his queen’s file.

In the Second Game he begins with the same opening, but supposes that the Black, at the second move, instead of answering with the bishop to queen’s bishop’s fourth square, as he has done above, plays the queen’s bishop’s pawn one square,

when the White, advancing his queens pawn two squares, obtains a better position; upon which I do not find any thing interesting or worthy of your attention.
(The game is 1..e4..e5;2.Bc4..c6;3.d4...)

In the Third Game he decides that after the two king's pawns have pushed two squares, he who has the move must not play the king's knight to bishop's third square, concluding that such a step would lose the attack, and he gives it to the adversary.

It is truly admirable how the writer will discard the Guioco Piano Games, which have been approved of from age to age by the best chess-players in Europe; we may collect from this what influence the love of novelty has upon the mind of man. But let us come to the moves by which he proves his assertion.(Black moves first from white's side);-

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3(move censured by Philidor)..d6;3.d4..f5;4.d4xe5..f4xe4;5.Ng5..d5.

The author prefers the situation of the White, and I prefer that of the Black, because, at the present move, the Black, instead of pushing the king's bishop's pawn two squares as he supposes, will advance the pawn to the adversary's king third square (e6), threatening At the same time to move the knight to adversary's bishop's second square (Nf7); on which the White must play his knight to king's rook's third square(Nh6); the Black then takes the king's rook's pawn with his knight (Nhx7); and if the White should take the knight with the rook(Rhx7), the Black gives check of adversary's king's rook's fourth square (Qh5+), ruining his opponent's game; and if the White, instead of taking the knight with the rook, should take the king's pawn with his queen's bishop (Bxe6), the Black should then take king's bishop with the knight(Nxf8); and, in case the White retakes with his king(Kxf8), he will lose the advantage of castling, having besides, an isolated pawn; but, should the rook take the knight(Rxf8), the Black, by taking adversary's king's knight with queen's bishop(Bxh6), and afterwards checking at adversary's rook's fourth square (Qh5+), will gain a pawn, and a better position. Whether the White has profited by the second move of the Black, I leave you to determine: for my own part I compare it to a man returning from a combat in which he has been wounded.

The bold assertion that it is bad, at the second move, to play king's knight to bishop's third square, always surprised me, seeing that the author proves this by a worse move on the part of the White, as the second is, when he defends the king's pawn with the queen's pawn, instead of defending with the queen's knight, as the best approved writers do. I call this move worse, inasmuch as it confines the king's bishop, which cannot speedily be placed in any attacking position, which it would be at queen's bishop's fourth square; and because it often happens that you are obliged to push the queen's pawn two squares, for which object you employ two moves, when only one might be sufficient; and lastly, because by defending with the queen's knight at bishop's third square you bring a piece into play, in a position to act much better than it certainly could be supposed to do at its own square; by which it is seen in practice, that he who defends, at the second move, his king's pawn with that of the queen, has at least a weak and confined game for a long time. Upon reasons similar to these the same move of Lopez was condemned by the most celebrated academies at Naples, who adopted that of the queen's knight; and I am satisfied in my Treatise on the Defence to follow their steps.

At the Fourth Game he pretends that he who plays first cannot, at the second move, push the queen's bishop's pawn one square, as, if he does, he loses the attack, and probably the game. This assertion is too bold, because (Black moves first as in Game 3) 1.e4..e5; 2.c3 (move censured by Philidor)..d5.

Here the Black should not take with the king's pawn, as that author supposes to be his best move (e4xd5), but should play king's knight to bishop's third square(Nf3), upon which,if the White take the king's pawn with the queen's (d5xe4), the Black should check with his queen at her rook's fourth square (Qa4+), taking afterwards the doubled pawn either with the queen (Qxe4) or king's knight (Nxe5), according as the White may play; but if the White, instead of taking the king's pawn with the queen's, should play queen's bishop to adversary's king's knight's fourth square (Bg4), the Black will take the queen's pawn with his king's(e4xd5); and, on the White retaking with his queen(Qxd5), or otherwise advancing the king's pawn(e5 to e4), attacking the knight, the Black will still give the same check with the queen at rook's fourth square (Qa4+); and if the White, in the first case should cover the check with the queen at her second square (Qd7), the Black must bring his king's bishop to adversary's queen's knight's fourth square(Bb5), and, on the White moving queen's bishop's pawn one square(c6), the Black must take the king's pawn with his knight(Nxe5), by which he will remain with a better game; but if the White, instead of covering the check with the queen at her second square, should cover with the queen's bishop(Bd7) which would be his best move, the Black must withdraw the queen to her bishop's fourth square(Qc4), offering the exchange of queens with a certainty of being able to push his queen's pawn two squares, without losing any thing in position; from which it may be supposed that the above author in asserting the probable loss of the Black, in consequence of his second move, foretells an unmerited defeat. Rui Lopez, a celebrated writer, made use of the same move; and Carrera, who has rightly criticised it, has found no reason for condemning it.

At the Fifth Game he plays the King's Gambit, making a remark, in a note under the Letter (L) that "Cette partie fait voir qu'un Gambit bien attaque, et bien defend n'est jamais une partie decisive de cote ni d'Autre." So the author reasons, supposing that he who plays the Gambit recovers the pawn, which is given; but as this supposition does not hold good, even upon his own defence, we may repeat with the poet,

Gambitto a'Giucator farsi non lice.

The following are the moves given by Philidor:-

White moving first

1.e4..e5;2.f4..e5xf4;3.Nf3..g5;4.Bc4..Bg7;5.h4..h6;6.d4..d6;7.c3..c6;8.Qe2..

These moves are correct; the great mistake consists in the coming move of the Black; who plays the queen's bishop to adversary's king's knight fourth square(Bg4), allowing the White to push his king's knight's pawn one square(g3), and thereby break up the game in such a manner that in a few moves he recovers his pawn as the author demonstrates; but if the Black, instead of playing the queen's bishop to adversary's king's knight's fourth square, were to play his queen to king's second square(Qe7), the White could never regain his pawn; for, if he should play his king's knight's pawn one square(g3), the Black pushes his knight's pawn to adversary's king's knight's fourth square(g4), and upon the White removing, as his best move, the attacked knight (say Nh2),the Black will advance the Gambit pawn to adversary's king's bishop's third square

(f3), always remaining with a pawn more, as he would were his adversary to attempt any other method of attack, with which advantage I affirm that with careful play he must win. (The bracketed moves are by me to clarify the written moves BM).

At the Sixth Game he gives another Gambit, in which the White, at the third move, instead of playing the knight to bishop's third square, plays king's bishop to queen's bishop's fourth square. No player can possibly be persuaded that such a Gambit can be good, and much less can it be understood why the author puts a defence in the hands of the Black which allows the White to win, when this game according to him is *not decisive*. The defence, which is given by Salvio at the Twenty-second Chapter of his Fourth Book, will give you rather more solid information.(1.e4..e5;2.f4..e5xf4;3.Bc4..)

At the Seventh Game he gives a third Gambit, in which the defending player does not take the offered pawn; upon which I will say nothing, as it would be trouble without instruction.(1.e4..e5;2.f4..?)

At the Eighth Game he gives a fourth Gambit, known by the name of Cunningham, the moves of which, on account of their brilliancy, I deem worthy of your attention. 1.e4..e5;2.f4..e5xf4;3.Nf3..Be7;4.Bc4..Bh4+;5.g3..f4xg3;6.0-0..g3xh2+;7.Kh1.. Cunningham gives the victory to the White; but Philidor, with more reason, thinks the Black should win. If, however, the White on castling, instead of placing the king at the knight's square, should castle with the king at the rook's square, according to the Italian method; in the latter case I should agree with Cunningham; from which it follows that the king's Gambit might be played in case the adversary made use of this defence; but not having always this security, I subscribe to the opinion of the celebrated Philip Stamma, of Aleppo, who thinks that everyone should abstain from playing it, being of itself disastrous; except when you have the good fortune to meet with a player who is only a player in name.

At the Ninth and last Game he gives the Queen's Gambit with its defence. It is similar to mine in the first and essential moves; differing however, as it proceeds, in a few immaterial points.

By what has been hitherto said, you will observe that the greater part of those maxims which Philidor approves or condemns in the opening of games, fail in their pretended success; and I should consider myself wanting in that sincerity which I owe to my own character if I should recommend you to follow his advice, the fallacy of which I have slightly touched upon, knowing that your quick discernment requires only a hint to perceive them. Give me, among other commands, new proofs of your friendship, and it will always be my endeavour to show myself your-----

(Murray in 'A History of Chess' p.869 wrote "His conclusion that Philidor's demonstration was really unsuccessful is a just one". The Cochrane book was printed by T & J Allman and is "beautifully printed" as Fiske said in describing the 11th item in his Bibliography. Another nice feature of the book is the 31 page Catalogue that contains

many short chess stories of good reading. The printer for the Allmans' was Marchant of Ingram-Court Fenchurch Street London. BM)

On reading Bill Price's nice 2015 book *The History of Chess in 50 moves* p.84 states that there are no biographical details for del Rio and Lolli but that Ponziani was a law professor at the University of Modena and then a Canon in the Cathedral. We are indebted to D.W. Fiske for his biography of Domenico Lorenzo Ponziani in the May 1857 Chess Monthly (USA) p.129-143 from which this is an extract:-

1. Born Modena 9 November 1719 to Doctor Ponziano Ponziani and Apollonia Righi.
2. Schooled by the Jesuits in Modena in arts and philosophy.
3. University of San Carlo graduating in law 24 Jan. 1742.
4. Law Lector 12 July 1742 following his brother Ignazio Ponziani. Admitted to the College of Advocates 4 Dec. 1745.
5. Took orders as a priest 1 May 1764 and became a Canon at the Cathedral of Modena 12 May 1766. Retired from the Chair of Civil Law 1772.
6. Ignazio then Vicar general died 3 Jan 1784 and he replaced him. Became a Bishop 26 April 1786 but work stress led to resignation and appointment as a *Giannista* ? in the Cathedral March 1787 at age 67.

On chess, he had written many notes in 1749 but when he was a priest spent leisure time in the village of Crocetta studying the game with Ercole del Rio and playing many games few of which were recorded. His book was published in 1769 as *Autore Modenese* and many thought del Rio was author but it was Ponziani.

Fiske then describes the content of Ponziani's book and states the 1782 edition was the best. This edition was republished in Rome in 1829. The mistake of authorship related back to *J.S. Bingham* when his 1820 English edition was published. This author was Captain John Smith, relative of Captain James Cook. He thought del Rio wrote it when it was Ponziani. (See Chapter 20)

There is much bibliography in which Fiske points out mistakes.

Murray says del Rio was a lawyer (p.868) and called himself *d'anonimo Autore Modenese* in his 1750 book. Ponziani called himself *Autore Modenese* in his 1769 work.

CHAPTER 19- THE GAINSBOROUGH PHILIDOR??

In BCM 1969 p.218 of Quotes and Queries by D.J. Morgan is No.1985 :-
We once read that Staunton in Volume 1 of the 'Chess Player's Chronicle' stated that a portrait of Philidor by Gainsborough was in existence and said to be in the possession of a Mr. Holford. Has anyone any knowledge of such a painting and its present whereabouts?

There are some very good 'Notices to Correspondents' in CPC Vol.1 1841 (p.10/11, 24/25,40,56/7,73/4,88/89/90,104/5,120/21,138/9,154/5,172,184/5,202,218, 234/5/6,251/2,267/8,284/5,298/9,314/5/6,330/1,347,364,383/4,399/400) and on p.185:-
G.S.Chesterfield-We know nothing of the portrait alluded to. A correspondent informs us that there are two portraits of Philidor, one by Gainsborough and the other by Zoffany; the former, we understand is in the possession of a Mr. Holford.

By way of other masters:-p.315-IEB-*We are not aware of the existence of a portrait of M. De la Bourdonnais or one of our countryman, Mr. M'Donnell. And p.347 Beta, Norwich-Madame De la Bourdonnais is not now in England.*

There were 25 'Notices to Correspondents' and perhaps others were on the covers which were removed in binding.

It seems clear that the portraits of Philidor by Gainsborough and now Zoffany exist today. Where they are is a mystery to be solved.

The Gainsborough Philidor was probably owned by Robert Stayner Holford (1808-1892) (*English Collections of Books and Manuscripts 1530-1930 by Seymour De Ricci 1930 p.115*) but in the *Holford Collection at Dorchester House Vol.II 1927 p.x* is stated *English portraits of the eighteenth century are strangely absent. Living in the Cotswolds except when their duties in the Court of Chancery took them to London, the Holfords had little chance to be painted by Reynolds and Gainsborough, nor did they buy other people's ancestors...*

The late Ken Fraser of the State Library of Victoria (who provided most of this research) thought it *a bit of a Furphy* that Philidor had his portrait painted by Gainsborough but he was put off by my poor research to which he was responding (13/11/87) that there was NO mention of this in CPC Vol.1! In 2018 I found the reference plus another painter in Zoffany. Staunton was rarely wrong but his correspondent could have been.

The Holford above descends from Holford of Westonbirt Gloucester (Burke's Peerage). In the *Chess Amateur* March 1909 p.66, John Keeble stated that a J.Holford owned a perfect copy of the Caxton chessbook. Different Holford's but a chessic link.
Bob Meadley 24 March 2018.

CHAPTER 20 – Captain Smith – Philidor – Captain Smith

Philidor (blindfolded) defeated Captain Smith on 13 March 1790 at the Chess Club simul. And a Captain Smith translated Ponziani's book in 1820 *Il Giuoco Incomparabile degi Scacchi*. With the latter Captain Smith, he used a pseudonym 'J.S. Bingham' which was discovered in 1978, by Ken Fraser (BCM Nov. 1978 Q&Q) to be Captain John Smith.

It is a dangerous leap to link the two Captain Smith's as one person because the latter entered the Marine Society as a lad in 1798 and was surely too young to be dealing with Philidor 8 years earlier.

John Smith was related to Elizabeth Cook (first cousin) and received all Captain Cook's memorabilia from her which eventually came to the Australian Museum in 1881 having been sold by John Smith's son James who was living here.

In 1917, Frederick Rathbone of London offered Captain Cook's chess set to the Australian Museum for 145 pounds but the Museum did not buy. The set was in New York in 1980 and I tried to buy them but the owner Mrs Edith Liddell Twiss did not wish to sell. Philidor probably met Sir Joseph Banks and his sister but unlikely Cook.

It looked like a Castleford pottery set and had a letter of authentication from a J.B. Smith, son of Captain John Smith, dated 1894. The problem was the Castleford works started in 1790 and James Cook had died in 1779. So the set was commemorative.

Captain John Smith was lucky to have been able to help translate Ponziani's book as John Marshall's 'Royal Naval Biography' 1830 explained on p.415 when, in September 1813 Smith was hit by the ship's main boom in a rough sea. This was a piece of timber, 60 feet long and 1 foot in diameter that crushed his right side against the round house and he ended on half pay with a wife and 5 children. (This from Ken Fraser BM)

He made a fine recovery, had 2 more children and went back to sea finishing as a post captain. He died in 1836. He had married Anne Smith in 1809. She was his cousin and the daughter of Charles Smith of Bermondsey. His career is well written up over 12 pages in Marshall. He was also related to Rear Admiral Isaac Smith. He started life as an orphan. Perhaps he used the pseudonym to avoid any naval employment worries.

This manuscript has just scratched the surface of Philidor material. There are probably mistakes for which I apologise but it has been fascinating anyway. I hope it encourages others to add or correct and maybe one day a Philidor website may include all the material on him That is for others. I want to finish and distribute the article for research.

And as I checked this on 16th February 2018 I noted the famous cast iron bridge at Coalbrookdale on the Severne River in Shropshire opened 1781. The world's FIRST metal bridge. Did Philidor see it as well as the pineapples grown in various greenhouses in his time in England? They were all the rage then. He must have tried them.

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