

**77<sup>th</sup> FIDE Congress  
Turin, Italy  
27 May – 5 June 2006**

**Minutes**

**Chess, Art, Exhibition and Philately**

**Chairman: Mr. Lothar Schmid**

**Present:** W. Iclicki (MNC), A. Christoffel (LUX), D. Jarrett – FIDE Treasurer, I. Neboisa (ROM), F. Garcet Leme (BRA), I. Babu Odiah (KEN)

The Chess and Art , Exhibition and Philately Commission works together with the worldwide organized group of CCI (Chess Collectors International) whose Congress and Exhibition is taking place from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Berlin. CCI members not only collect chess sets or chess pieces but they discuss also about art and history on chess .

Art and picture are closely related with chess and as a proof of this many books were published about this game. One of the book which deserves to be mentioned is “Schach auf Ölgemälden” by Mr. Josten.

Moreover many exhibitions took place about chess during these years showing beautiful chess sets made and produced in several countries around the world since hundreds of years. In 2005 in Hamburg in the “Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe” more than 400 precious exhibits were presented, to celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the “Hamburger SK von 1830”. It was a great success and one of the largest exhibition on the subject chess ever put together.

Chess is not only a game but is also a life philosophy and it can be used as a way of communication. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War in Germany important matches between Germany and Russia occurred and despite their rivalry during the World conflict they played together without problems. This shows that sport and in this case chess is also a life style which overcomes every boundary. In this sense we often can consider chess players “artists” because life as well as art has no nationality. In fact thanks to the wit of some chess players such as Fischer or Karpov different ways of playing this game were created.

Among the most famous we can mention “Random Chess” or “Gothic Chess”. The former consists in arranging the pieces on the chessboard at random while in the latter the first four files on the left of the king are identical to the way chess is set up.

Furthermore chess deals not only with painting but also with music. Last autumn “Operation Capablanca” a chess opera written by the Viennese artist Zenita Komad was performed at the Kunsthalle Wien (Vienna Contemporary Art Center). The opera which is set around a game won by Capablanca against Herman Steiner in 1933 has been performed on her installation consisting of a giant chess board and 32 sculpture pieces.

With chess a big market about coins, stamps and medals flourished in these years as well. In this meeting the commission reminded that in Turin during the Olympiad there is a special area dedicated to Chess stamps and that a special coin on chess was recently issued by Moldova as well as a medal shown by a delegate from Luxembourg .

Finally a big project by Mr. W. Iclicki was presented. He wish he will be able to create an up-to-dated Chess Encyclopedia whose aim is to collect all the material regarding chess in order to make a DVD version of his work.

Lothar Schmid  
Chairman

