

Preface

Every enthusiastic collector of chess literature has desiderata which remain constantly as a grievous void on his want-list. The famous German weekly chess journal „Die Brüderschaft“ will certainly count as such a void, as the volumes for 1885 und 1886 are especially scarce collector´s items.

„Die Brüderschaft“ was issued for the first time on 15th June 1885, handwritten and mimeographed, as a newspaper of the chess club of that name. In the same year this new publication was noted by Johannes von Minckwitz in the „Deutsche Schachzeitung“ (page 220): „At Braunschweig (i.e. Brunswick) the chess club “Brüderschaft“ (i.e. brotherhood) has issued a mimeographed chess journal, weekly (!) coming out under the direction of Albert Heyde ... “

On his 10th anniversary as a chess editor and publisher, Albert Otto Heyde (born 18th March 1866 at Brunswick, Germany; died 2nd June 1920 at Aberdeen, Washington, USA – at this point I would like to mention my extended essay on Heyde in Stefan Bücker’s chess journal „Kaissiber“ no. 18, March-June 2002, page 22 and following) wrote in „Deutschen Wochenschach 1895“ (page 214 and the following):

„ ... Nobody, least of all the founder, then realized that this leaflet, which was offering short theoretical discourses of the simplest manner, some games and easy to solve problems, and was designed for the weaker players of the chess club „Brüderschaft“, would grow into a true chess journal ...“

As early as 1886 Albert Heyde, who was now the sole publisher, decided to print his journal in small sized weekly issues of about 4 pages at the Brunswick printing house Hacker, Nieper & Comp. By 1888 „Die Brüderschaft“ was well established, and developed, under the new name „Deutsches Wochenschach“, into one of the best German chess journals of all time. This high quality was also maintained after the sudden loss of the editor Albert Heyde in 1902, but only until the beginning of World War I.

Of course my interest was high, when I was informed by Tony Gillam (Nottingham, UK) in the summer of 2002, that Dr. Vlastimil Fiala (Moravian Chess publishing house, Olomouc, Czech Republic) was prepared to publish a reprint of the four volumes of „Die Brüderschaft“, using the originals of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (i.e. Royal Library), The Hague, Netherlands.

But a decisive, at first sight almost insurmountable hurdle had to be overcome: the volume of 1885 could not be reprinted to a reasonable standard using the copy in The Hague. (The original is handwritten in the Old German cursive writing, using handcoloured diagrams, and the mimiographed blue print has in places grown very pale.)

So I am very happy, that the first volume of „Die Brüderschaft“ is now available for all chess collectors and chess historians in a high-quality transcription produced by the extraordinary exertions of my chess friend Dr. Ralf Jürgen Binnewirtz (Meerbusch, Germany). To him my highest appreciation and many thanks for his detective shrewdness and the attention to detail, which was needed to decipher the very difficult to read photocopies in such a short time.

Further thanks to Dr. Vlastimil Fiala, who laboured to produce the photocopy of the original and to Mr. Henk Chervet of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague, who assisted our completion of the work in the Royal Library in his usual friendly style. Last but not least, thanks to Tony Gillam for checking the two English texts.

Two quite interesting details may be added as closing remarks:

The copy in the Van der Linde-Niemeijer Chess Collection at The Hague (L/N No. 6053) originally belonged to the clergyman Otto Schultze of Libbenichen (near Frankfurt on the Oder), who was mentioned expressly by Albert Heyde (in DWS 1895, p. 214) as the first outward subscriber. The copy was sold to the library of the New Vienna Chess Club (the purchase was registered in October 1893 as No. 279.), later it came into the Dr. Meindert Niemeijer collection.

This is already the second reprint of the 1885 volume of „Die Brüderschaft“. The first was edited about 1930 by the problemist Prof. Dr. Hugo Rohr of Breslau. It was a kind of piracy, which was extremely difficult to tell apart from the original. So sometimes this first volume is thought to be more numerous than that of 1886. (My thanks to Lothar Schmid, Bamberg, for this information.)

Michael Negele, Wuppertal, in December 2002