

The KWA. An introduction. (by Hans Engberts, October 2004)

The Ken Whyld Association was officially established in November, 2003 in Brunswick, after a first informal meeting of some chess book collectors at the house of Dr. Jurgen Stigter in Amsterdam the year before. Jurgen has a revolutionary idea in mind: he wants to describe all existing chess books in a data base accessible on the internet.

Of course, this is quite an ambitious project and he cannot do it on his own, he needs the help of as many possible chess book collectors from over the world.

One of the attendees was Mr Ken Whyld, the distinguished British chess historian, who died a few months after the first meeting.

As a tribute the group called itself after the great man.

Today the KWA has over 110 members from all over the world. A board has been formed and a professional website is up and running (www.kwabc.com). Every year a meeting of the members is organized (2004 in Forchheim, Germany) and the board has its regular meetings (the next is in Amsterdam at the end of November 2004).

Apart from the data base, at the moment still under construction, which is the *raison d'être* of the KWA, stimulation of chess culture in general is the organisation's aim. More specifically:

- Facilitating and stimulating contacts between chess book collectors (the website forum; annual meetings; chess book fairs).
- Help in the publishing of 'necessary' books, either with knowledge, money or labour.
- Stimulating specific historical studies (e.g., a study of Dutch periodicals will be undertaken by one of our members, helped by others).
- Improving the accessibility of chess literature, in public and private libraries.

A reprint of Mr. Whyld's magazine *The Chess Reader* has already been published; a book on Zukertort will be published next year; similar new projects are being discussed.

To fulfil these ambitions the organisation needs money, of course.

The membership fee for 2005 is 50 Euro (appr. \$60). Donations are welcome.

Payments can be made to account nr 3655 27 211

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Please visit our website <http://www.kwabc.com/> to discover more information.

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