

2013-05-13

## Conference in Kraków



At the first May weekend a group of chess historians met in Kraków to celebrate the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Kraków chess club (founded 1893). Tony Gillam has written a summary of the event and Marek Skrzypczak has provided a lot of photographs.



(Central Grand Square)

[Kraków, the "Rynek"](#)

A meeting of chess historians was held at the former capital of Poland, Kraków, from the evening of Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> to the morning of Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The venue was the Hotel Europejski, close to the main railway station, where the different age championships of Małopolska (Small Poland, an area which centres on Krakow) were also being held.

The venue and organisation (by Mr and Mrs Kusina) were excellent. About 14 historians assembled of

whom only Messrs. Meissenburg, Hebeker and Gillam were not from Poland. The programme included talks by several of the Polish historians present on matters with a Polish background and by Egbert Meissenburg on efforts to chart the development of castling and the reconstruction of a position from a medieval poem.

In between, the organisers took us on trips to the Hanseatic city centre, a major local library with some ancient chess books and to Wawel Castle (the royal residence when the city was the capital).

A well organised and entertaining trip.

Tony Gillam, May 2013

The [Conference Schedule](#) (PDF) gives an overview of the speakers and their topics, and the [Papers](#) contain more or less detailed summaries of the presentations.

Below we give a selection of photographs.



— A group photo with most of the participants, in the background the Wawel Castle.

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Invitation to  
outdoor chess



Rooks from the  
[Great Exhibition in 2011](#)

The following books belong to the inventory of the [Princes Czartoryski Library](#):

**Gustavo Seleno**

*Das Schach- oder König-Spiel von Gustavo Seleno*

Lipsiae, 1617

*L'Encyclopédie ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers*

Paris, 1789

Tome XI, Echecs, p.597

**François-André Danican Philidor**

*Traite du Jeu de Dames*

Amsterdam, 1785

**Juliusz Cesar**

*Najnowszy almanak dla grających w karty i w szachy*

Wrocław, 1810



Friedrich-Karl

Hebeker, Tony Gillam and Andrzej Filipowicz

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Egbert

Meissenburg and Tomasz Lissowski with the "Selenus"





Tomasz

Lissowski behind the glass cabinet



Andrzej Filipowicz'

welcome speech



Andrzej Filipowicz



The conference

has started



Friedrich-Karl Hebeker (on the right)

Tony Gillam and



Elżbieta Kusina



Jan Kusina

Małopolska Chess Association

The President of the

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Egbert Meissenburg

giving his talk

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Zofia Tabor

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Marek Mroczek

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Anthony Gillam

Our English member with a quite critical look ...

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Friedrich-Karl Hebeker

... just as our member from Düsseldorf.

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Jerzy Moras

This chess friend should already be known to our members - from Michael Negele's [Expedition no 18!](#)



Krzysztof Góra



The official

evening dinner

**All photos courtesy of Marek Skrzypczak.**

You may enjoy still more photographs in his [gallery](#).