



CHESS
HISTORY & LITERATURE
SOCIETY
founded as Ken Whyld Association

General Assembly, Valencia
5-6 September 2025

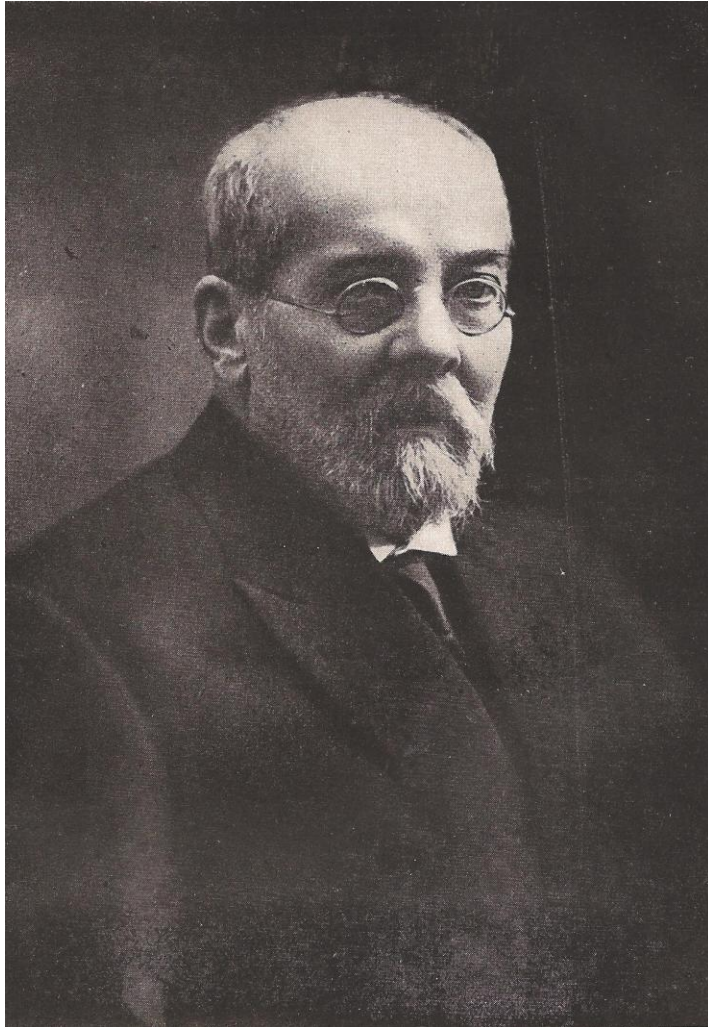
***NEBEA, Spanish Chess Bibliography:
Genesis, contributions and curiosities***

José A. Garzón



Valencia, September 5th 2025

The precedent: José Paluzíe (1912)



-*Ensayo de Bibliografía Española de Ajedrez* (1912). Culminates his *Manual de Ajedrez*

-Also published indepently in 1912

-13 manuscript entries, 57 printed books, 6 entries of dubious works and journals with a chess section

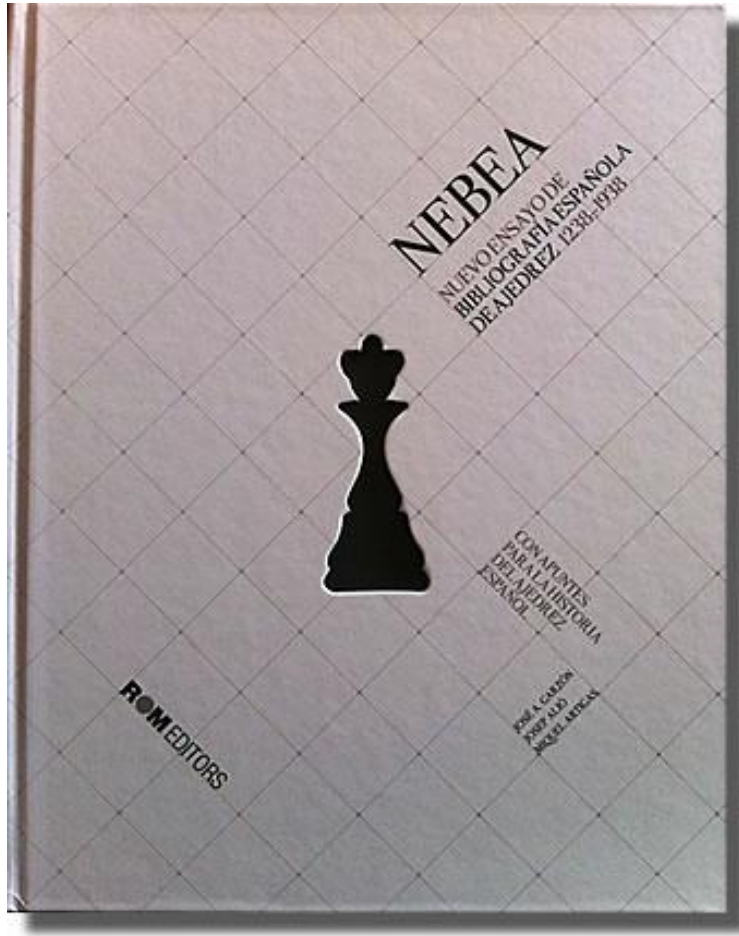
The genesis of NEBEA



- One of the authors, in 2001, stresses the need to update a Spanish Bibliography
- The creation of *Círculo Paluzie* was crucial
- Annual meetings in Sabadell (2004), Tarragona and Valencia
- 3 like-minded, complementary spirits

The authors: Miquel Artigas, José A. Garzón and Josep Alió

NEBEA, criteria and work methodology



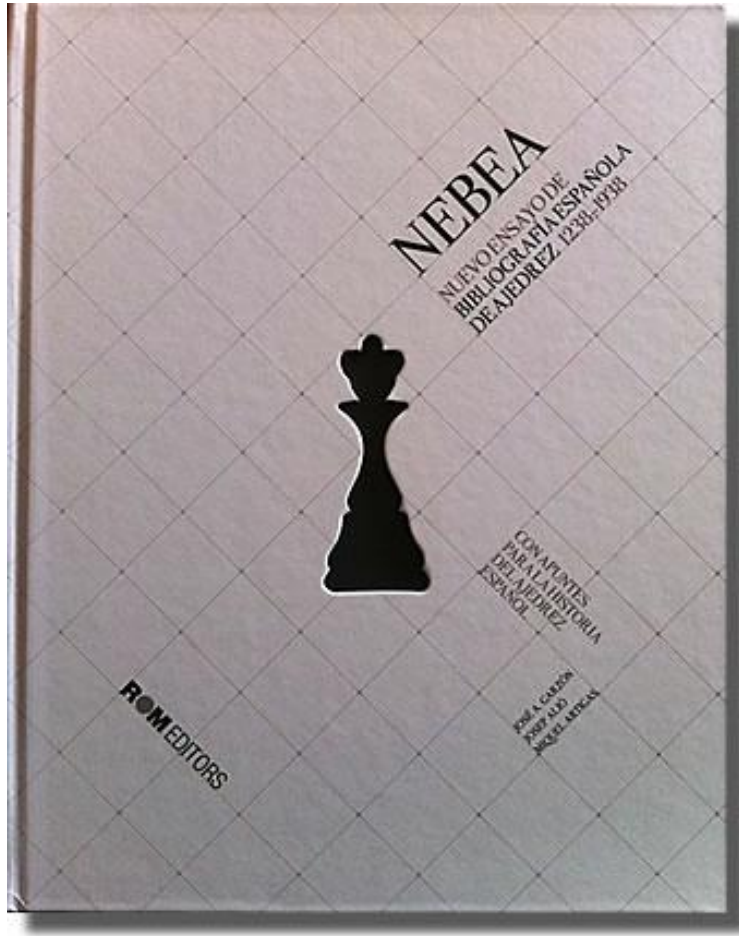
NEBEA, 2012

-Printed or manuscript works by Spanish authors, from the thirteenth century to 1938, are included.

-Information is provided on later editions of the works included in NEBEA

-Genuine works on chess. The turning point is the Liber of Cessolis, since it includes the movement of the pieces

NEBEA, criteria and work methodology



NEBEA, 2012

- Given the self-imposed criteria, no clear precedent can be found in the field of Humanities
- Study based on direct consultation of each work, in its original edition or manuscript form
- Images from all the works are reproduced. A total of 262 images, most of which were previously unpublished

NEBEA, criteria and work methodology

RELACIÓN POR ORDEN CRONOLÓGICO DE LAS OBRAS AJEDRECÍSTICAS QUE SE DESCRIBEN EN EL NUEVO ENSAYO DE BIBLIOGRAFÍA ESPAÑOLA DE AJEDREZ (NEBEA)

1. [?] 1283, Sevilla. Alfonso X el Sabio. *Libro de los juegos: Acordrez, dados e tablas*. Incluye estudio del poema de Abraham ben Ezra (siglo XII).
2. [?] 1385. Jaime Caualia. *Libre sobre el joch dels escachs*. Ms. 921, Biblioteca Nacional (Madrid).
3. [?] siglo XV, primeros años. Jaime de Caualia. *Lo libre de bones costumes dels homes e dels officis dels nobles*. Ms. 157, Archivo Capitular de Gerona.
4. [?] siglo XV, primeros años. Traducción catalana del *Liber de Casulis* (incompleta). Ms. 41 de San Cugat, Archivo de la Corona de Aragón.
5. [?] siglo XV, primera mitad. Jaime de Caualia. *Libre dels Escachs*. Ms. lat. 4801, Biblioteca Apostólica Vaticana (Roma).
6. [?] c. 1454. Jaime de Caualia. *Libre de bones costumes dels homes e dels officis dels nobles*. Ms. 951 de la Biblioteca Ingimbertina de Carpentras (Francia).
7. [?] siglo XV, 2ª mitad. Anónimo. *Libro de belli partiti al giuoco de scacchi composto per un valentissimo spagnolo*. Mag. Classe, XIX, códice 57, Biblioteca Nacional de Florencia.
8. [?] c. 1468. Jacobo de Caualia. *Libro del acordrez*. Ms. sign. H2705, Hispanic Society (Nueva York).
9. [?] c. 1470. Jacobo de Caualia. *De los costumbres de los ombres et de los officios de los nobles sobre el juego del acordrez*. Ms. 80, Biblioteca de Fundación Casa de Alba, Palacio de Liria (Madrid).
10. [?] c. 1475. Valencia. Bernat Fenollar, Narcís Viryoles y Francí de Castellví. *Scachs d'amor*. Copia en Biblioteca de Catalunya, AFMP (Archi fotogràfic Miquel i Planas, capes 12/1).
11. [?] 1495, 15 de mayo, Valencia. Francesch Vicent. *Llibre dels jochs partiti dels achachs*.
12. [?] c. 1497, Salamanca. Lucena. *Arte de acordrez con CL juegos de partido*.
13. [?] siglo XV, finales, o principios del XVI. Fernando de Zafrá. *Libro de Ajedrez*.
14. [?] c. 1500-1505. Anónimo. Ms. O.II.3 de la Real Biblioteca de San Lorenzo de El Escorial.
15. [?] c. 1502. Francesch Vicent. Ms. 775 (L. 27) de la Biblioteca Comunale Augusta de Perugia.
16. [?] c. 1502-1512. Francesch Vicent. Ludi Verti. Ms. 166,74 de la Biblioteca Malatestiana de Cesena.
17. [?] 1512, Roma. Damiano. *Questo libro e de imparare giocare a Scacchi et de le partite*.

-The chronological index, which is crucial, posed many difficulties

-164 works are included, 44 or 45 of them being manuscripts (the uncertainty involves Cerón's book)

-Innovative design (ROM Editors) and an interactive concept (for example, the order number of NEBEA can be found in the indexes, on every page of the entry, and in all the footnotes)

NEBEA, criteria and work methodology



-NEBEA allows for two levels of reading:

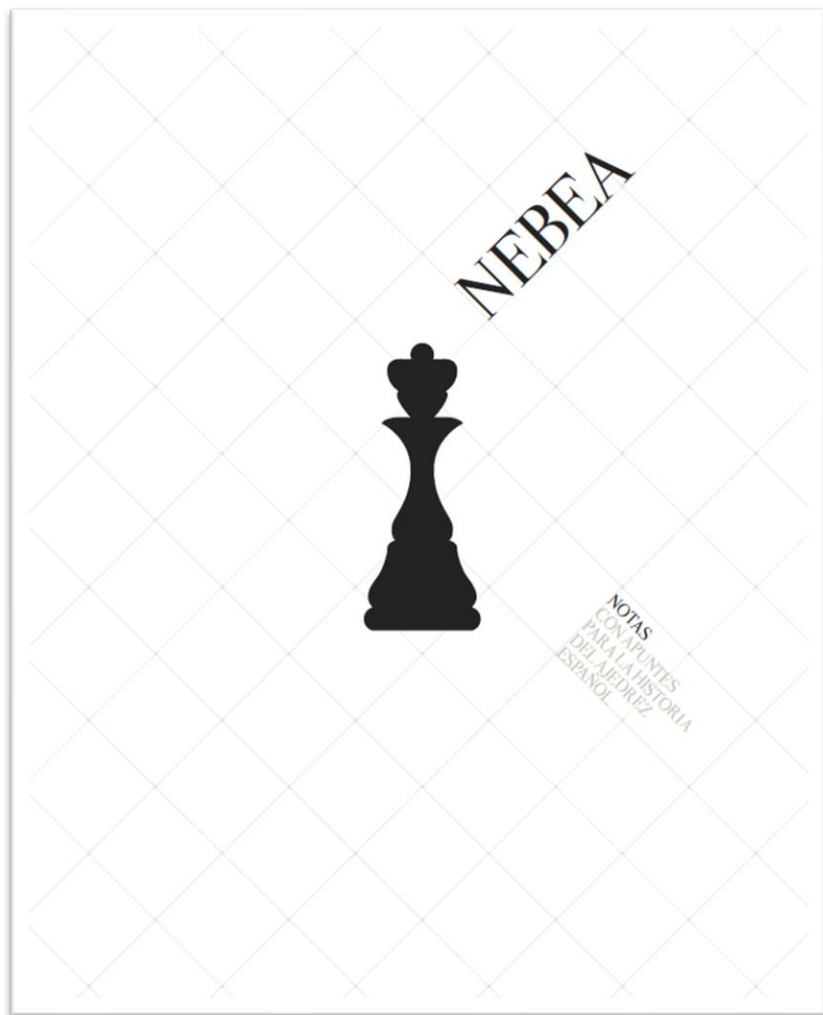
--**Main body :**

- .Full entry for each work with bibliographic description
- .Meticulous study of each work
- .Reproductions of title pages and other pertinent pages
- .Specific bibliography for each work

Book of Games of Alfonso X the Wise (NEBEA, work 1)

© Real Biblioteca del Monasterio de El Escorial

NEBEA, criteria and work methodology



-NEBEA allows for two levels of reading:

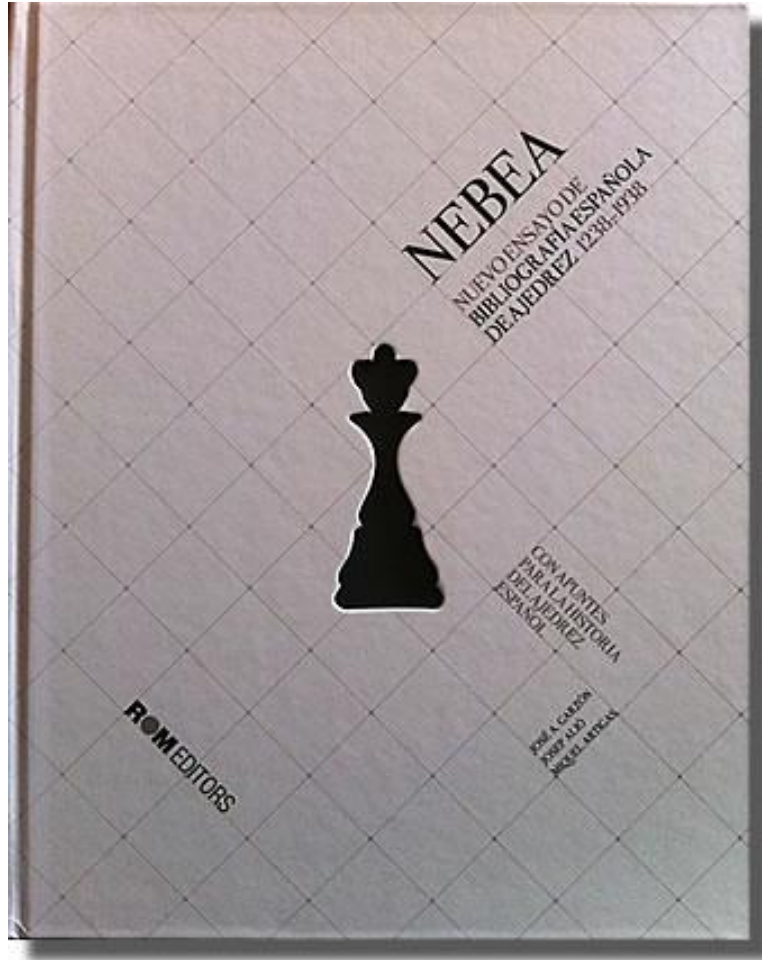
--**Annotations on the History of Spanish chess** (1002 footnotes):

.Brief history of Spanish chess from a bibliographic viewpoint

.Bibliographic and complementary information on the authors

.Significant expansion of the bibliography

NEBEA, criteria and work methodology

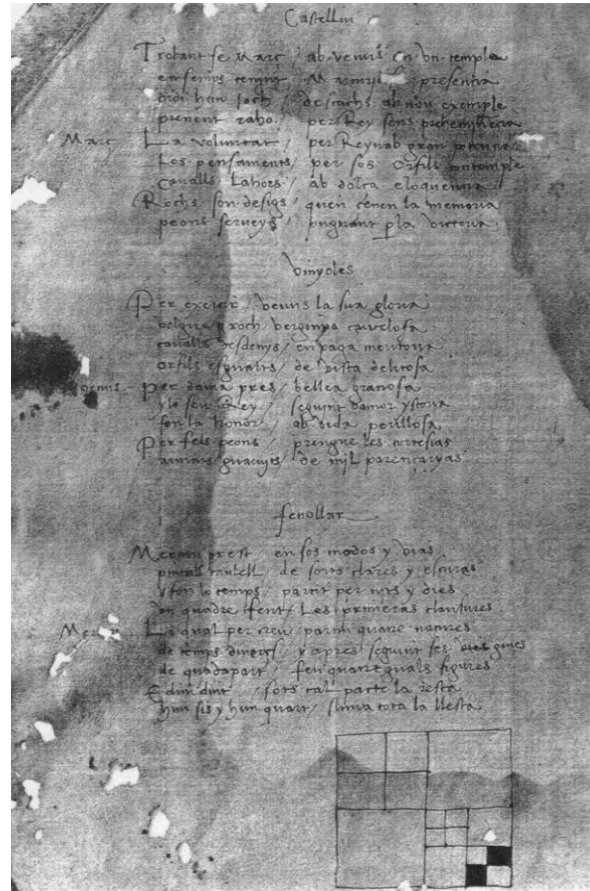


-This is a collaborative work: all entries have been reviewed by the three authors before achieving the final draft

- 2/3 of the images come from the authors' libraries

-In the years that have elapsed, we have learned of a few previously unknown works, a possibility noted in the introduction. None of them of significance

Important new contributions

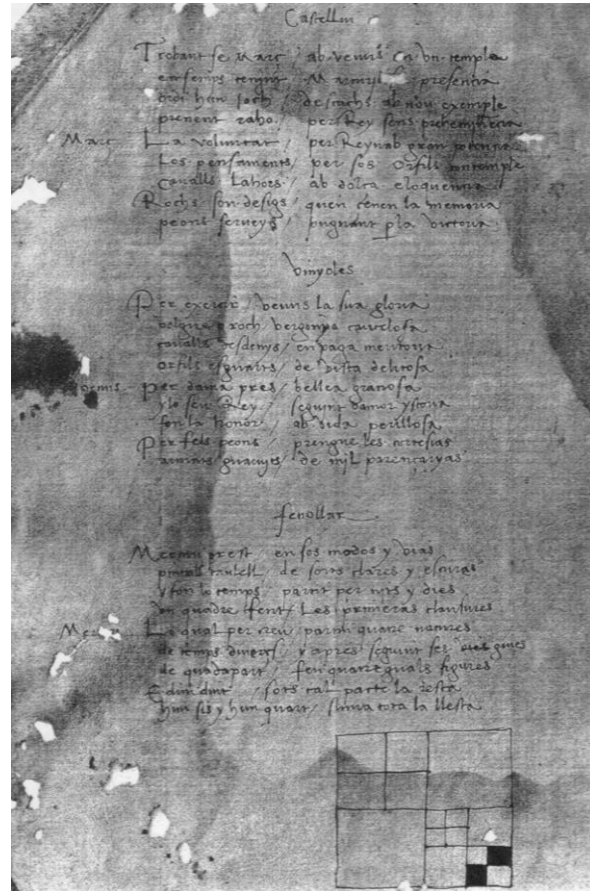


-89 additional entries to Paluzié's work

-All of Paluzié's known work has been compiled

-Novetly pertains to the biography of the authors of *Scachs d'amor*, Vicent, Lucena, Damiano and Ruy López

Important new contributions



Scachs d'amor

-Fenollar has probably died c.1490

-In 2021 I brought this issue to completion:
.Will of 1489

.No longer appears as a *sotsobrer* of the
Cathedral in 1490

.Bernat Fenollar, that lived in the 16th
century, was his nephew

Scachs d'amor (NEBEA 10)

Important new contributions

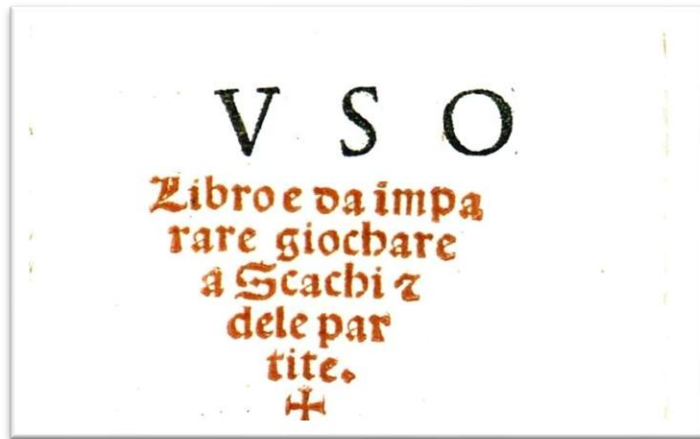


Von der Lasa Prize, 2012-2015)

Vicent (1495)

- In the Cesena MS, through the use of reverse translation (Spanish/Valencian), 45 modern chess problems from Lucena's book are identified
- Printer's proofs are found in the binding of an incunabulum (Diego D'Elia). An otherwise unknown project of a Spanish translation of Vicent, comprising 12 rules and problems, and omitting the 50 medieval problems added in 1497
- The "Von der Lasa Prize" is announced

Important new contributions



A possible cipher on Damiano's book authorship (Partial detail, ed. 1518)

Vicent/Lucena/Damiano/Ruy López

-An attempt at a comprehensive biography of the four great authors of Spanish chess

-Each bears an eloquent motto:

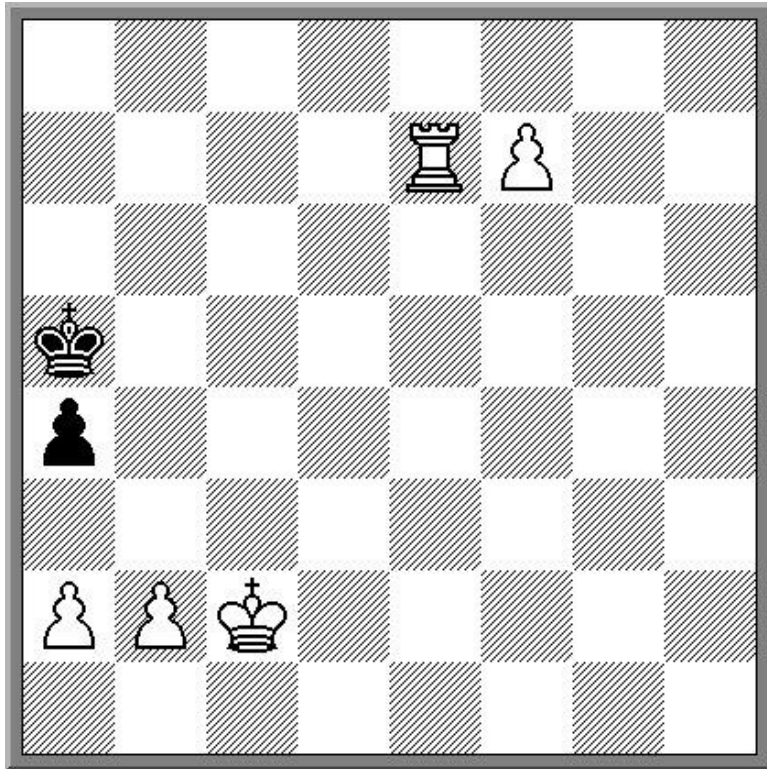
.Vicent: “An incomplete biography”

.Lucena: “An imposible biography”

.Damiano: “An adulterated biography”

.Ruy López: “Notes towards a biography”

Important new contributions

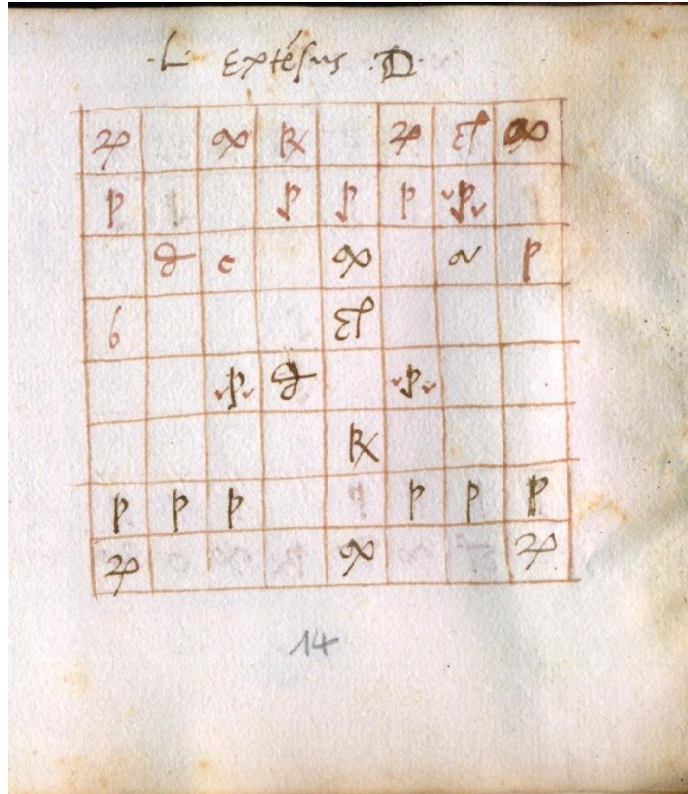


Esc. 87

Escorial MS (Nebea 14)

- We establish that, by the mid-16th century, the manuscript was in the Library of Jerónima Zurita, chronicler of the Crown of Aragon in Zaragoza
- We delve into the study of problems 87 and 88, regarding the absolute right to capture en passant, which was in effect in Spain in the 15th and 16th centuries
- One of the authors originates from Valencia

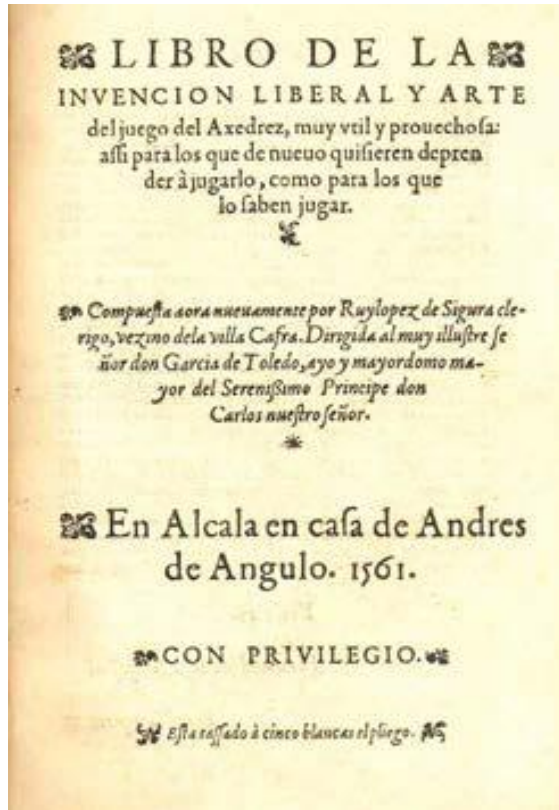
Important new contributions



Perugia and Cesena's codices

- In 2005 I proposed a solution to 65 problems in Perugia MS (= Cesena)
- We provided new evidence for its Spanish (Valencian) procedence and the probable authorship by Vicent
- First ever random chess position globally (Perugia 14)
- First ever use of the term gambito: “El ioco del Scambecto”, Cesena 5-2

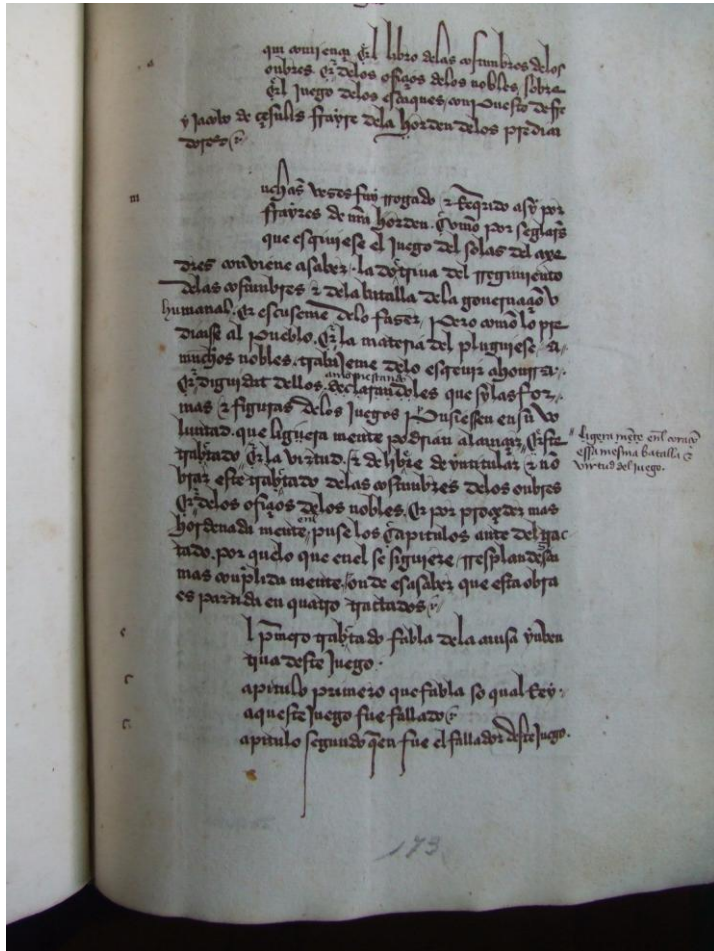
Important new contributions



Ruy López (1561)

- Printing license for his book granted in Aranjuez, 28th of February 1561
- We provide documents from 1568 and 1570 requesting permission to travel to Peru, where his brother Alfonso was found
- If the journey did take place, the Madrid Tournament must have been contested a few years earlier (1465-1472)

Curiosities and other contributions



- Nebea 9.** Cesulis MS. When this manuscript was consulted in the library of the Casa de Alba, Madrid, the first step was to look at chapter IV
- We sought to specify the name of the pieces: *rreyna* (*Reyna* en Cessolis de Hispanic Society of America, NY)
- The manuscript translation to Catalan (*regina*) and Spanish prove that the term *dama* does not make its appearance in Spanish chess until the arrival of modern chess (Valencia, c.1475)

Curiosities and other contributions

Alferza, reina y dama en tratados de ajedrez medieval y primeros textos de ajedrez moderno ¹				
Obra	Fecha	NEBEA	idioma	nombre
<i>Libro de los Juegos, El Escorial</i>	1283	1	español	alferza
Bonus Socius BN Florencia	finales siglo XIII		latín	regina/ferz
Cessulis BNE Madrid	1385	2	catalán	regina
Cessulis Girona	principios ss. XV	3	catalán	regina, reina
Cessolis ACA, Barcelona	principios ss. XV	4	catalán	regina
Casules, VAT, Vaticano	1 ^{era} mitad XV	5	catalán	reyna
Cessulis, Carpentras	mitad siglo XV	6	catalán	regina
Civis Bononiae, BN Florencia	2ª mitad s. XV	7	latín	regina/ferz
Cessolis BN Madrid (RES/299)	c. 1460-1500		español	reyna
Cessolis Hispanic Society, NY	c. 1468	8	español	reyna
Cessolis, Casa de Alba, Madrid	c. 1470	9	español	reyna
Giulio de Zelati, BR Turin	1460-1471		latín	regina/dona
SCACHS D'AMOR, VALENCIA	c. 1475	10	valenciano	dama/reyna
Francesch Vicent, Valencia	15 de mayo 1495	11	valenciano	dama
Ms. Add. 15820 British Library	finales del s. XV		francés	dama
Luca Pacioli, Gorizia	c. 1496-1500		italiano	donna
Lucena (Salamanca)	c. 1497	12	español	dama
Ms. O.II.3, El Escorial	c.1500-1505	14	español	dama
Ms. Perugia	c. 1501	15	varios	dama
Ms. Cesena	c. 1501	16	varios	dama
Ms. It (Mag. XIX 51 BN Florencia)	principios s. XVI		italiano	donna
Chacchi, Bib. Casanatense, Roma	30 de junio 1511		italiano	donna
Guarimus, Cheveland PL	1512		latín	regina/ferz
Damiano, Roma	1512	17	italiano/español	dona/dama
Ms. Göttingen	c. 1505-1515	18	latín	regina/dama
Ms. fo. allem 107, BNF	c. 1515-1520	19	alemán	fröwen
Ms. Paris/DeLucia, NY	c. 1530	22	francés, provenzal	dama
Martin de Reyna, Valladolid	1549	27	español	dama/reyna
Ms. Add. 28710 British Library	c. 1550	28	español	dama
Ruy López, Alcalá de Henares	1561	30	español	dama/reyna

¹ En negrita con fondo gris documentos técnicos del ajedrez medieval; sin atributos, obras de ajedrez moralizante; en negrita tratados de ajedrez moderno; destacado *Scachs d'amor* primera obra de ajedrez moderno.

-In an article currently in press, I undertake a study that attests to the almost exclusive use of the term *Dama* during the first century of modern chess

-The authors of *Scachs d'amor* have created a new piece with a new name and a new and powerful movement

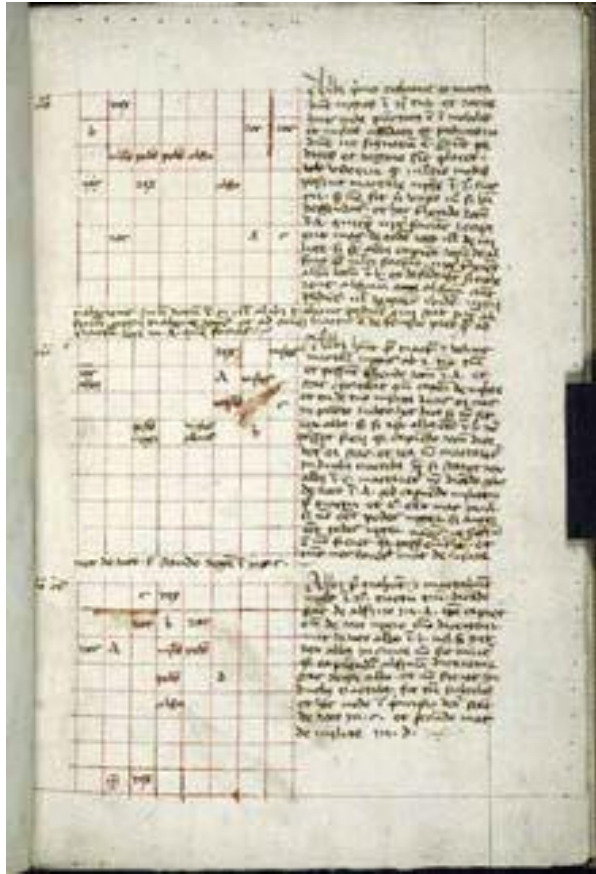
Curiosities and other contributions



-The extraordinary libraries of Miquel Artigas and Josep Alió were crucial for the study of the second half of the 19th century and start of the 20th

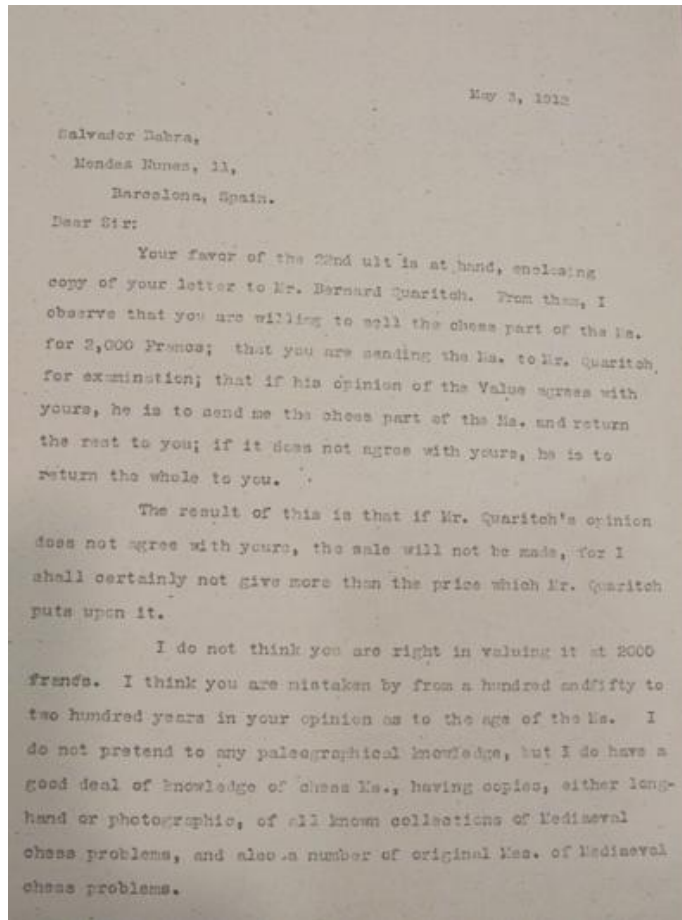
-Numerous updates related to the works of Tolosa y Carreras, José Brunet, José Paluzie and Esteban Puig y Puig

Curiosities and other contributions



- Some of the most significant contributions are found in the footnotes
- 5 pages of footnotes complete the study of *Scachs d'amor*
- Footnote 148, encompassing 6 pages, exclusively concerns the search for Vicent's book in the USA. This leads to the emergence of a new copy of Lucena, and the medieval manuscript that Babra sold (see image) to an American collector (G.A. Peiffer)

Curiosities and other contributions



-Correspondence between Babra and White, found by our friend Michael Negele (image)

-It seems very likely that a copy of Vicent's book is found in the USA in an unknown location

Curiosities and other contributions

GLOSARIO** DE TÉRMINOS, LOCUCIONES AJEDRECÍSTICAS Y TEMAS DE INTERÉS HISTÓRICO

aanca (pieza del *Gran Ajedrez*): 38, 40
acedrex: 31, 32, 38
acedrex de las diez casas (ver tb. *ajedrez decimal*): 31, 37, 38
acedrex de los cuatro tiempos: 31
agedrez: 214, 224, 226, 228, 230, 236, 580
ahogado: 35, 42, 98, 152, 154, 160, 208, 240, 510, 537, 577
ajedrez de la dama (o *axedres de la dama*): 37, 48, 56, 64, 65, 68, 74, 77, 82, 88, 93-97, 101, 103, 111, 117, 125, 508, 517, 521, 536, 537, 539, 542, 545, 559, 569
ajedrez decimal: 37, 618
ajedrez heterodoxo (ver tb. *Ludus extensus*): 37, 102, 547
ajedrez medieval: 7, 12, 34-37, 40, 42, 56, 57, 74, 76, 78, 82, 88, 93, 101, 104, 117, 118, 125, 220, 507, 508, 510, 513, 517, 519, 524, 527, 529, 533, 538, 539, 541, 545-547, 549
al partido (tb. *al viejo partido*, *al viejo*): 56, 68, 83, 93, 95, 97, 101, 111, 125, 509, 518, 520, 521, 537, 539, 545, 552
alferza: 34-38, 42, 94, 507, 509, 510, 513, 514, 548, 618
alfino (tb. *alfinus*): 56, 538
aliyat: 32
alla rabiosa (denominación italiana del ajedrez de la dama): 93, 118, 513, 537, 539, 541, 542
alphinus: 126
alquerque (*marro* en la Corona de Aragón): 31, 32, 542
alquerque de doce (precursor del juego de damas): 507, 542, 544, 545
alquerque de nueve: 54, 56, 100, 109, 110, 507, 513, 538
alquerque de tres (similar al juego de tres en raya): 507
alxedred: 190, 191
alxedrez: 196, 198-200
arfil: 123, 150, 191, 192, 198, 202, 210, 236, 555, 557
asecurat (atreguado, asegurado): 112
Assizes Lombarde: 35
atreguado (ver tb. pieza o peón atreguado): 98, 154, 208, 537, 538, 542, 547, 551, 574
avance doble del peón limitado (por la 1ª captura): 34, 42, 509, 510, 537
axedres: 31, 60, 61, 79, 82, 83, 85, 86, 90, 130, 140, 163, 507, 513, 514, 524, 528, 531-533
axedrez: 31, 58, 60, 92, 148, 158, 166, 172, 179, 202, 206, 207, 212, 507, 509, 528, 531, 533, 561, 573, 574
barra: 154, 536, 556

The **Glossary of technical terms**, in several languages, required a considerable amount of work

-It identifies first presentation of themes, ideas, words and positions of historical relevance

-Its diachronic nature (8 centuries) offers a view of the evolution of names and the game itself

-It was conceived with future researchers' needs in mind

NEBEA Deluxe and Collector's edition



-ROM Editors released an edition of NEBEA with two formats: Deluxe and Collectors

-The Collector's edition had a print run of 75 copies, numerated and signed by the three authors

Acknowledgements

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Chess History & Literature Society

Real Biblioteca del Monasterio de El Escorial

Biblioteca de Catalunya

Biblioteca comunale Augusta de Perugia

Biblioteca particular de Josep Alió (Tarragona)

Biblioteca de la Fundación Casa de Alba, Palacio de Liria (Madrid)

Biblioteca particular de Miquel Artigas (Sabadell)

The New York Public Library

Cleveland Public Library