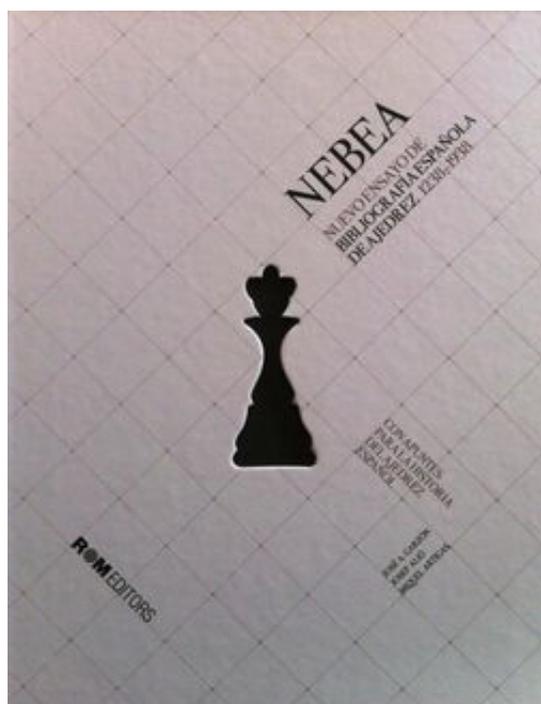


2025-09-26

New essay on Spanish chess bibliography



The programme for Friday 5 September included a title that was somewhat mysterious to me:

Collector's Corner: NEBEA, Spanish Chess Bibliography: Genesis, contributions and curiosities

With a presentation by José A. Garzón.

In fact, it allowed me to discover a remarkable work on the origins of modern chess in Spain. The acronym NEBEA finally found an explanation: Nuevo Ensayo de Bibliografía Española de Ajedrez 1238-1938, or in English, New Essay on Spanish Chess Bibliography.

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

José A. Garzón: NEBEA, Spanish Chess Bibliography: Genesis, contributions and curiosities



CHESS
HISTORY & LITERATURE
SOCIETY
founded as Ken Whyld Association

General Assembly, Valencia
5-6 September 2025

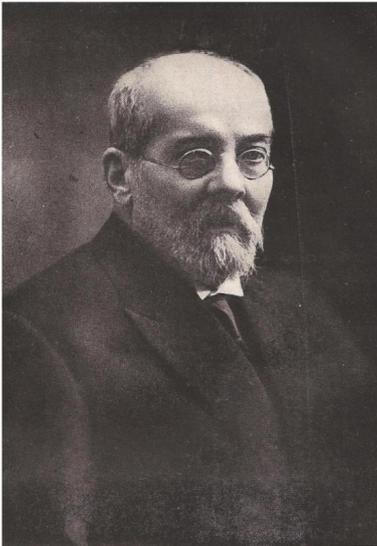
NEBEA, Spanish Chess Bibliography: Genesis, contributions and curiosities

José A. Garzón



Valencia, September 5th 2025

The precedent: José Paluzié (1912)



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

-Also published independently in 1912

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

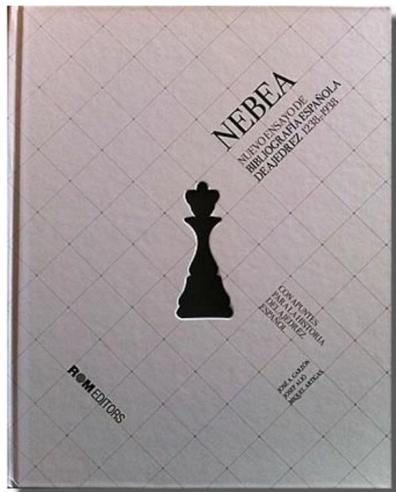
The genesis of NEBEA



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

- 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

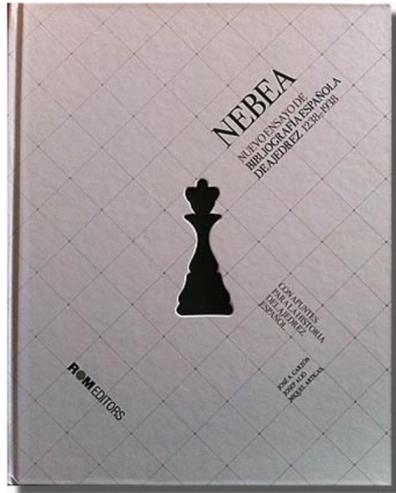
NEBEA, criteria and work methodology



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

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

1. 1648B, Sevilla, Alfonso X el Sabio. Libro de los juegos: Ajedrez, dados e nablao. Incluye estudio del poema de Abraham ben Ezra (siglo XII).
2. 1376, Jaume Casales. Libro sobre el juego de los dados. Ms. 921, Biblioteca Nacional (Madrid).
3. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Jaume de Caselles. Lo libre de bones costumes dels homes e dels oficis dels nobles. Ms. 37, Arxius Capitular de Girona.
4. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Traducción catalana del Libro de Caselles (Incompleto). Ms. 41 de San Cugat, Arxius de la Corona de Aragón.
5. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Jaume de Caselles. Libro de la Escucha. Ms. lat. 4810, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Roma).
6. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Jaume de Caselles. Libro de bones costumes dels homes e dels oficis dels nobles. Ms. 921 de la Biblioteca Impérial de Carpentras (Francia).
7. Siglo XV, 2ª mitad. Anónimo. Libro de bell portití al giuoco de scacchi compuesto por un académico apócrifo. Mag. Clow, 327, edición 37, Biblioteca Nacional de Roma.
8. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Jaume de Caselles. Libro del andrez. Ms. 469, Hispanic Society (Nueva York).
9. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Jaume de Caselles. De los costumbres de los hombres et de los oficis de los nobles sobre el juego del andrez. Ms. 80, Biblioteca de Fundación Con de Alba, Palacio de Liria (Madrid).
10. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Bernat Ferrillar, Nació Vinyoles y Ferrer de Castelló. Juego de amor. Copia en Biblioteca de Calixto, APM (Arxius Fotográfico Miguel i Ferrer, copia 12/1).
11. 1495, 15 de mayo, Valencia. Francesch Vinent. Libro de los juegos de partidas de nablao.
12. 1497, Salamanca, Lorenzo. Arte de scacchos con el juego de partidas.
13. Siglo XV, finales, o principios del XVI. Fernando de Zafrán. Libro de Ajedrez.
14. Siglo XV-1515. Anónimo. Ms. C.11.3 de la Real Biblioteca de San Lorenzo de El Escorial.
15. Siglo XV-1515. Francesch Vinent. Ms. 775 (L. 27) de la Biblioteca Comunal Augustea de Perugia.
16. Siglo XV-1515. Francesch Vinent. Ludii Flori. Ms. 166,74 de la Biblioteca Malatestiana de Cesena.
17. 1514, Roma. Diemano. Questo libro e da imparare giocare a scacchi et de la partita.

-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



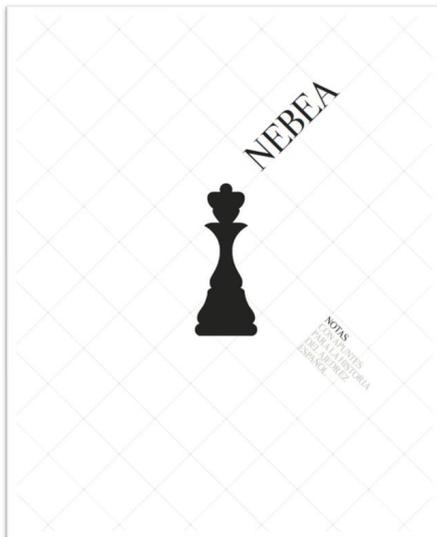
-NEBEA allows for two levels of reading:

--**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

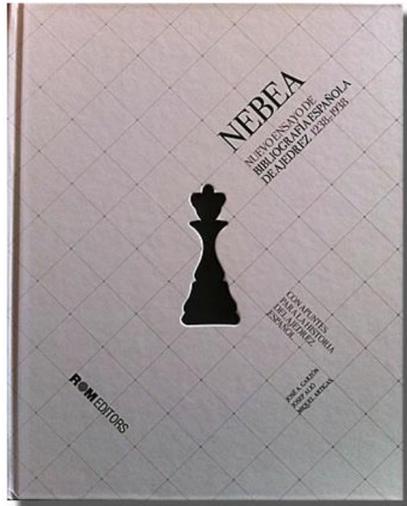


-NEBEA allows for two levels of reading:

--**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

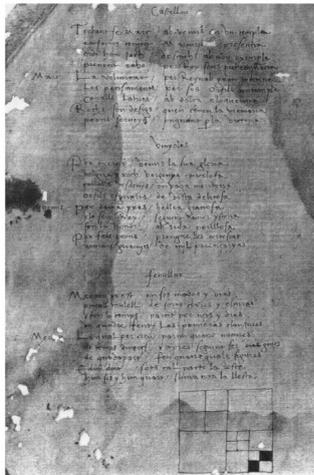


-This is a collaborative work: all entries have been reviewed by the three authors before achieving the final draft

- 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



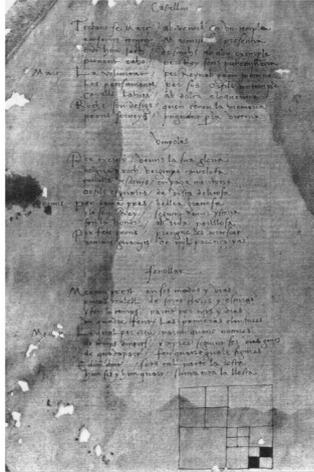
Scachs d'amor (NEBEA 10)

-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 (NEBEA 10)

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

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

Vicent/Lucena/Damiano/Ruy López



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

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

-Each bears an eloquent motto:

.Vicent: "An incomplete biography"

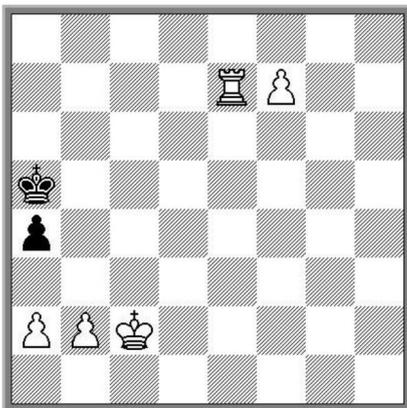
.Lucena: "An imposible biography"

.Damiano: "An adulterated biography"

.Ruy López: "Notes towards a biography"

Important new contributions

Escorial MS (Nebea 14)



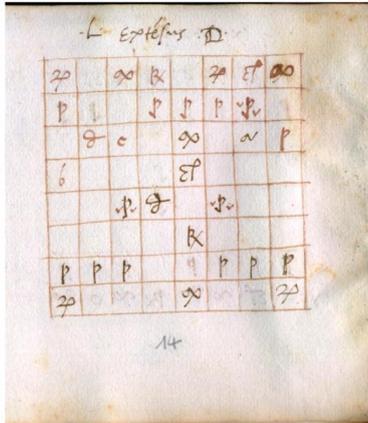
Esc. 87

-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

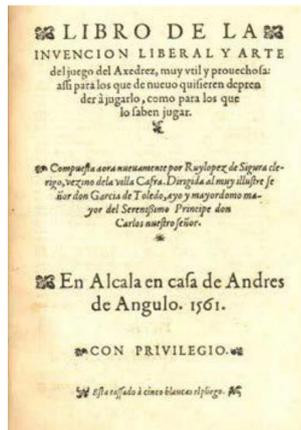


©Biblioteca comunale Augusta (Perugia)

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) precedence 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

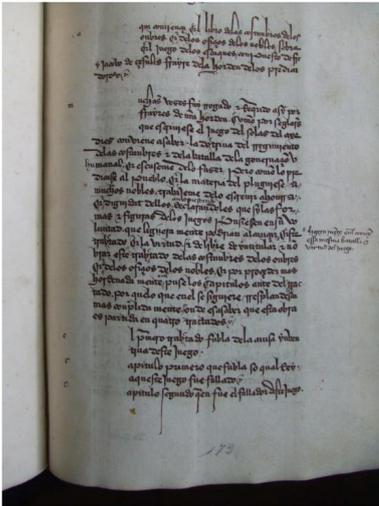


©Private Library of Josep Alió (Tarragona)

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



© Biblioteca de la Fundación Casa de Alba (Madrid)

-**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

Obra	Fecha	NEBEA	idioma	nombre
<i>Libro de las Jugas, El Escorial</i>	1283	1	español	alforza
Bonum Socium BN Florencia	finales siglo XIII		latín	regina/forz
Cesulis BNE Madrid	1385	2	catalán	regina
Cesulis Girón	principios ss. XV	3	catalán	regina, reina
Cesulis ACA, Barcelona	principios ss. XV	4	catalán	regina
Catalan, VAT, Vaticano	1 ^{ra} mitad XV	5	catalán	regina
Cesulis, Carpentras	finales siglo XV	6	catalán	regina
Crisa Bnambur, BN Florencia	2 ^a mitad s. XV	7	latín	regina/forz
Cesulis BN Madrid (RES/299)	c. 1469-1500		español	regina
Cesulis Hispanic Society, NY	c. 1468	8	español	regina
Cesulis, Casa de Alba, Madrid	c. 1470	9	español	regina
Giallo de Zolati, BR Turin	1460-1471		latín	regina/dama
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
Laura Pacioli, Gorizia	c. 1498-1500		italiano	donna
Larona (Salamanca)	c. 1497	12	español	dama
Ms. O.H.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
Chesck, Bib. Casanatense, Roma	20 de junio 1511		italiano	dama
Guarimmi, Chiesabianchi FI	1512		latín	regina/forz
Damiano, Roma	1512	17	italiano/español	dama/dama
Ms. Göttingen	c. 1505-1515	18	latín	regina/dama
Ms. fo. allem 107, BNF	c. 1515-1520	19	alemán	fröwen
Ms. Paris/DeLacis, 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
Roy López, Alcalá de Henares	1561	30	español	dama/reyna

En azul se muestra con fondo gris documentos anteriores al ajedrez moderno, sin abilitar, chess de ajedrez medievalmente, en azul se muestra con fondo gris documentos posteriores al 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

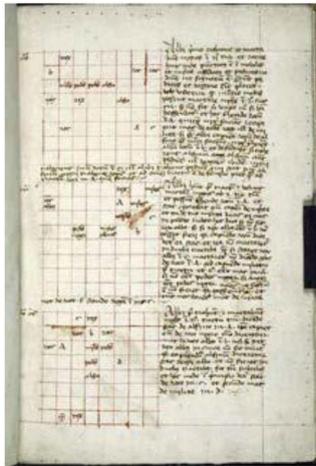


-The extraordinary libraries of Miquel Artigas and Josep Alió were crucial for the study of the second half of the 19th century and start of the 20th

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

© Private Library of Miquel Artigas (Sabadell)

Curiosities and other contributions



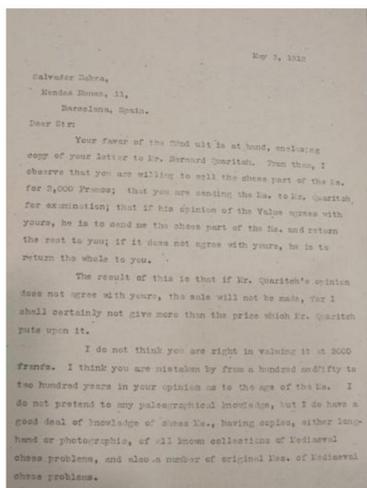
-Some of the most significant contributions are found in the footnotes

-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)

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Curiosities and other contributions



© Cleveland Public Library

-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

cañca (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 quatro tiempos: 31
ajedrez: 211, 221, 226, 228, 230, 236, 280
alopado: 13, 42, 98, 152, 154, 160, 208, 240, 310, 337, 377
ajedrez de la dama (o axedrex de la dama): 37, 48, 56, 64, 65, 68, 74, 77, 82, 88, 93-97, 101, 103, 111, 117, 125, 208, 247, 251, 336, 337, 339, 342, 345, 359, 369
ajedrez decimal: 37, 68
ajedrez heterodoxo (ver tb. Ludus extenuus): 37, 102, 247
ajedrez medieval: 7, 12, 34-37, 40, 42, 56, 57, 74, 76, 78, 82, 88, 93, 101, 104, 117, 118, 125, 220, 307, 308, 310, 313, 317, 319, 324, 327, 329, 333, 338, 339, 341, 343-347, 349
al partido (tb. al viejo partido, al viejo): 56, 68, 83, 93, 95, 97, 101, 111, 125, 309, 310, 320, 321, 337, 339, 345, 352
alferez: 34, 38, 47, 94, 307, 309, 310, 313, 314, 348, 618
alfino (tb. affinis): 56, 238
alfiyari: 32
alla rubiosa (denominación italiana del ajedrez de la dama): 93, 118, 313, 337, 339, 341, 342
alphiums: 126
alquerque (marro en la Corona de Aragón): 31, 32, 342
alquerque de doce (precursor del juego de damas): 307, 342, 344, 345
alquerque de nueve: 34, 36, 100, 109, 110, 307, 313, 338
alquerque de tres (similar al juego de tres en tres): 307
alxedrez: 190, 191
alxedrez: 196, 198-200
arfil: 112, 150, 191, 192, 198, 202, 210, 236, 335, 337
asecurat (atreguado, asegurado): 112
Assizes Lombardie: 35
atreguado (ver tb. pieza o peón atreguado): 98, 154, 208, 337, 338, 342, 347, 351, 374
avance doble del peón limitado (por la 1ª captura): 34, 42, 309, 310, 337
axedres: 31, 60, 61, 79, 82, 83, 85, 86, 90, 130, 140, 163, 307, 313, 314, 324, 328, 331-333
axedrex: 31, 58, 60, 92, 148, 158, 166, 172, 179, 200, 206, 207, 212, 307, 309, 328, 331, 333, 361, 373, 374
barra: 154, 336, 336

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

Fundación Deportiva Municipal de Valencia
Fundación Valencia Cuna del Ajedrez de la C.V.
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
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jQuery.fn.rstSlider) { init(); } else { document.addEventListener('DOMContentLoaded', init); } function  
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').css('display', 'none'); var dummyLinks = $([]); dummyLinksWrap.insertAfter(slides);
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lightboxId).appendTo(dummyLinksWrap); }); dummyLinks = dummyLinksWrap.find('a');
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dummyLinks.each(function() { if (href === $(this).attr('href')) { $(this).detach(); } }); });
links.colorbox(lightboxConfig); }; slider.on('rsts-slidestart rsts-slidestop', function(event) {
update(slides.find('a[data-lightbox]')); }); update(slides.find('a[data-lightbox]')); }); } }());
```

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[The presentation as PDF file:](#)

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[NEBEA, Spanish Chess Bibliography: Genesis, contributions and curiosities - José A. Garzón \(1.7 MiB\)](#)