

# **Chess Competitions, 1824–1970**

*An Annotated International Bibliography  
of Books, Bulletins and Programs*

*Compiled by*

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## Introduction

### *Scope*

This bibliography aims to provide, for the first time and comprehensively, an extensive record of publications (books, bulletins, and programs) on chess competitions held the world over from 1824, year in which the correspondence match between the Edinburgh and London Chess Clubs began, up until 1970. Various countries and languages are covered, whereas past bibliographies on this subject only addressed publications in a given language or country.

This work neither can, nor pretends to, be complete, let alone flawless. At a minimum, a bulletin has been published for each main competition registering the matches played therein; many of these bulletins, often printed in small numbers, have been lost forever, while others live on in the hands of a few private collectors. To gather and list them all would verge on the impossible, even more so for a single individual, and would require far more than one volume.

This book is therefore offered humbly, and only records the publications I was able to line up. Nevertheless, as many as 3,096 chess competitions have been tracked through 5,066 publications. This should offer both chess enthusiasts and historians a useful basis to find their way into the various intricacies of chess contests—the players, the games, behind-the-scenes secrets, and more.

### *General Plan of the Work*

The book is divided into five parts, based on the type of competition. Part I deals with individual tournaments; Part II with individual matches; Part III with team tournaments; Part IV with team matches; and Part V with correspondence competitions.

In each section, competitions are listed in alphabetical and chronological order; they are numbered continuously across sections, while publications associated to each event can be found as second-level items, so that 1.1 indicates the first publication related to competition No. 1, 1.2 the second, and so on. Publications related to the same competition are arranged in chronological order by date of print and, where several works were published in the same year, in alphabetical order within that year. Publications covering more than one event are only presented in full under the first event listed, with cross-references in following instances. Cross-references are highlighted in bold.

Whenever available, for each publication I include, in the following order: Title (in bold); subtitle (in bold); possible variants of the same title (in bold); issue number (for bulletins); author or editor; place of publication; publisher; year; series to which the publication belongs (if any); description [number of pages, content, e.g., illustrations, photographs and diagrams, and dimension]; language; some brief explanatory notes; and source from which the information was taken. For the sake of exhaustivity, reprints and further editions are also recorded.

As for the order in which tournaments (both individual and team) are presented, I have decided to first identify them by the city where they were played, followed by the date and the name of the event. For cities, I keep the original spelling—Moskva instead of Moscow, Praha instead of Prague, Firenze instead of Florence, and so on.

Two criteria were chosen for matches. Individual matches are first identified by the name of the winner, followed after a dash by the loser's name, the year, and the location. Names are displayed alphabetically in case of a tie. Team matches, on the other hand, are identified by the home team, followed after a dash by the visiting team, the year, and the location.

Correspondence competitions have been grouped in one section, regardless of their being tournaments or matches, individual or team events. Quite obviously, they are identified by name only.

The book is completed by a list of sources and a general index of competitions.

### *Sources*

All information used to compile this work was taken from the main bibliographies in existence to date, and from the printed and online catalogs of the most famous public chess libraries. For a full list, see the "Sources" section following.