

A query for you: a little chess mystery book

Here is a topic for you to ask people ... or maybe you already know the answer. It's about the secret limited edition chess problem book by John Keeble, 'Vive la beauté, being the tinted edition of a problematic work called the Caduceus'. The story about it is told by T. R. Dawson in British Chess Magazine 1939 pages 185-7.

So take a look at the article, and the question is where all the ten copies now?

According to the BCM article, by T. R. Dawson, they were all on pink paper but I think that was not correct. The Bodleian library catalogue says: [2 copies, the first on lemon, the second on pink paper].

One of these must be copy 7 which Keeble gave them and the other is copy 9 which came to them in Murray's bequest, but I won't know which is which colour was which until I can get to Oxford and call them up.

I tried to see copy 5 at the British Library but it was destroyed in WW2 so now there are at most nine copies left, of which Cleveland has two (JG White, copy 3A on pink paper and I think Alain White's copy must be the other one, on white paper) and Princeton have the copy which E. B. Cook received.

Where did Keeble's own copy go and Dawson's own copy? There is also one of the 10 whose recipient was unknown to Dawson. The Hague apparently does not have this or any Keeble book. Harvard seem only to have the regular Caduceus.

So we have: Oxford 2, Cleveland 2, Princeton 1, destroyed (BL) 1, still to be traced: 4. I expect Lothar Schmid has at least one and maybe the British Problem Society library got one or two? Maybe some KWA members have it.

If so, I should like to know the number (should be in the range 1A-10A), the colour of the paper and any inscription/dedication by Keeble

Please let me know if you find out anything about this.

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