

2012-11-06

Michael Negele in New York City



A promising alternative ...

Now and then a welcome alternative arises from a cancelled appointment as it happened to me with my long planned meeting with my friend Andy Ansel at Long Island on 21/22 September. On short notice Andy had been occupationally recalled to Toronto where he stayed over the weekend.

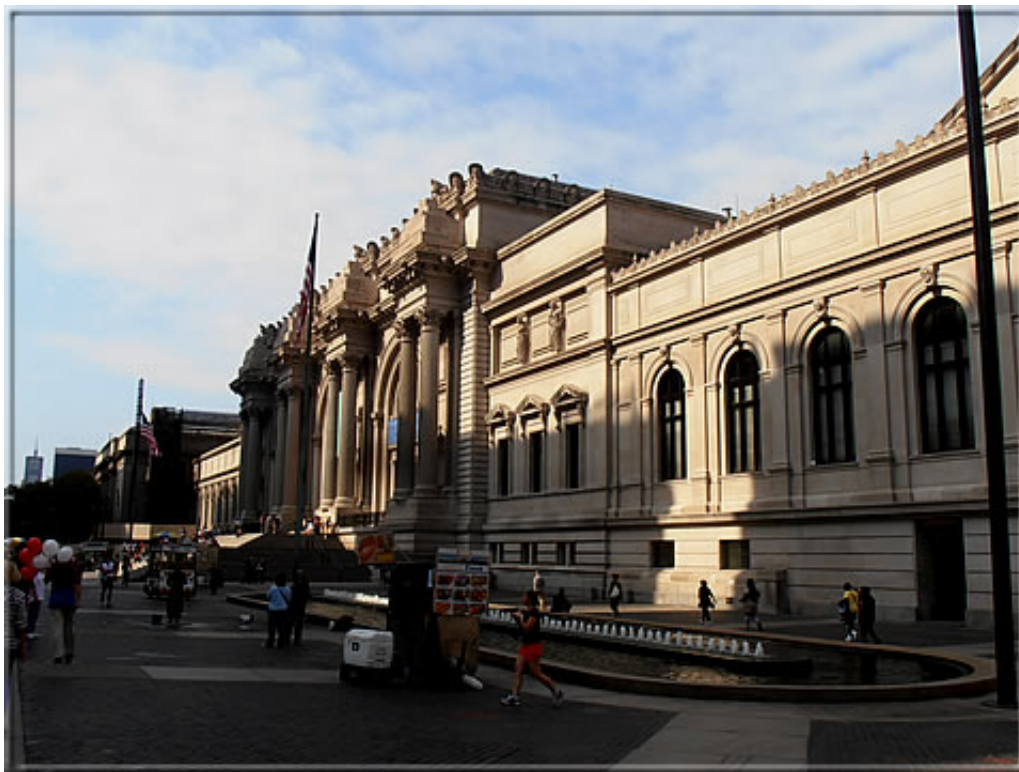
So the New York stopover on my business trip to North Carolina on Friday afternoon suddenly seemed senseless, and such a short-dated rebooking of my trans-Atlantic flight much too expensive. But a few weeks before a "strange fortune" had brought me in contact with our New York KWA member Larry List. (See our [Seewerk report](#).) Larry works as a free-lance curator for art exhibitions (with an essential focus on chess), so at the New York KWA meeting 2007, in his felicitous lecture on "The Imagery of Chess revisited" he had informed us about the artistic aspects of chess. Over the years I had kept loose contact to Larry, so it was a great pleasure for me to make a very short-dated meeting possible in Manhattan in the morning of September 22nd. But not only that: Larry helped me to organize the transfer from JFK to my hotel on Broadway (and back) for little money. Moreover he arranged quite spontaneously an extensive "sightseeing program" in the Metropolitan Museum of Art for the few hours in the morning. Thank you very much for that dear Larry, it was a great sign of American friendship.

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Larry List at

breakfast



The

Metropolitan Museum of Art



Michael Negele

and Larry List in front of the Museum



Hot dog stand in

front of the MET: with 310,000 US-\$ stall fee for 10 years the most expensive rent per sqm in whole New York City!



In the Museum

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Chess pieces and

dice

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Chess Set

Iran, Nishapur, Seljuq period (1040–1196),
12th century

Stonepaste; molded and glazed

Meifler Fund, 1971 (1971.193a–ff)

This nearly complete chess set is one of the earliest extant examples in the world. The pieces are abstract forms: the shah (king) is represented as a throne; the vizier (the equivalent of the queen) is a smaller throne; the elephant (bishop) has two tusklike protrusions; the horse (knight) has a triangular knob representing its head; the chariot (rook) is rectangular with a wedge at the top; and the pawns are faceted hemispheres with knobs.

6605



Larry List in
his element

Below a small selection of further photographs:

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CHESS TABLE

Ebonized fruitwood and ivory
Signed: Fabbrica C.V.
Italian (Parma), dated 1836

Under the chessboard are thirty-two velvet-lined compartments to store the chessmen. The decoration of the table combines chinoiserie, Neo-Rococo, Neo-Gothic elements.

Bequest of Gustavus A. Pfeiffer, 1963
53.71.126

CHESS SET

From a design of 1783 for Wedgwood
by John Flaxman (1753–1826)

Jasperware

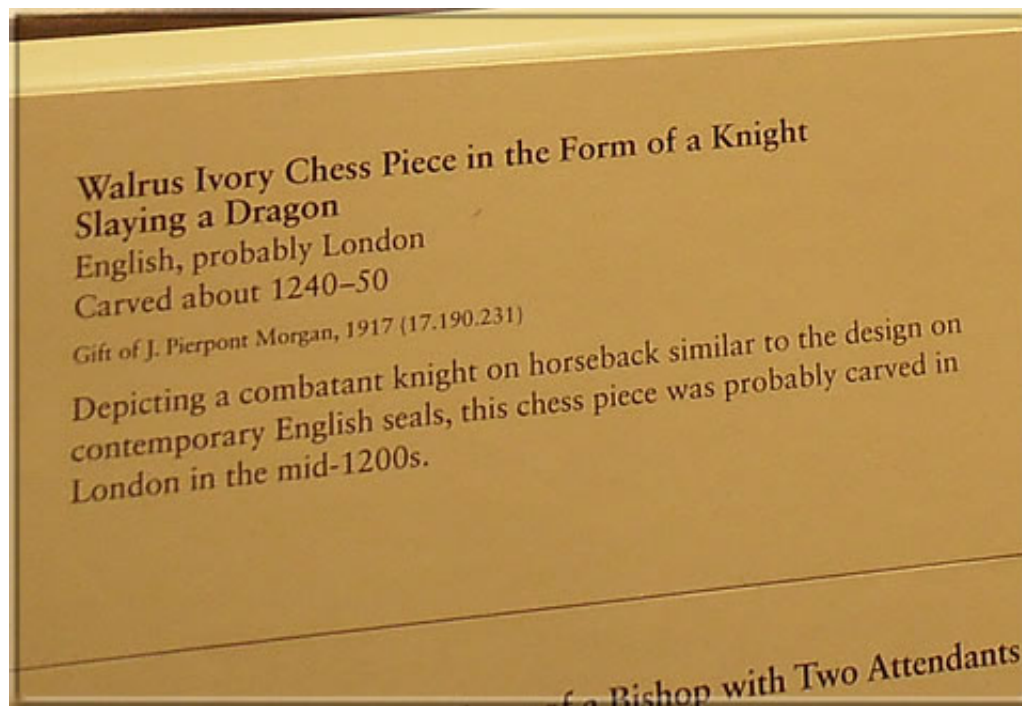
Josiah Wedgwood and Sons,
Staffordshire, Etruria, 19th century

Gift of Gustavus A. Pfeiffer, 1948
53.71.84a-p, aa-pp



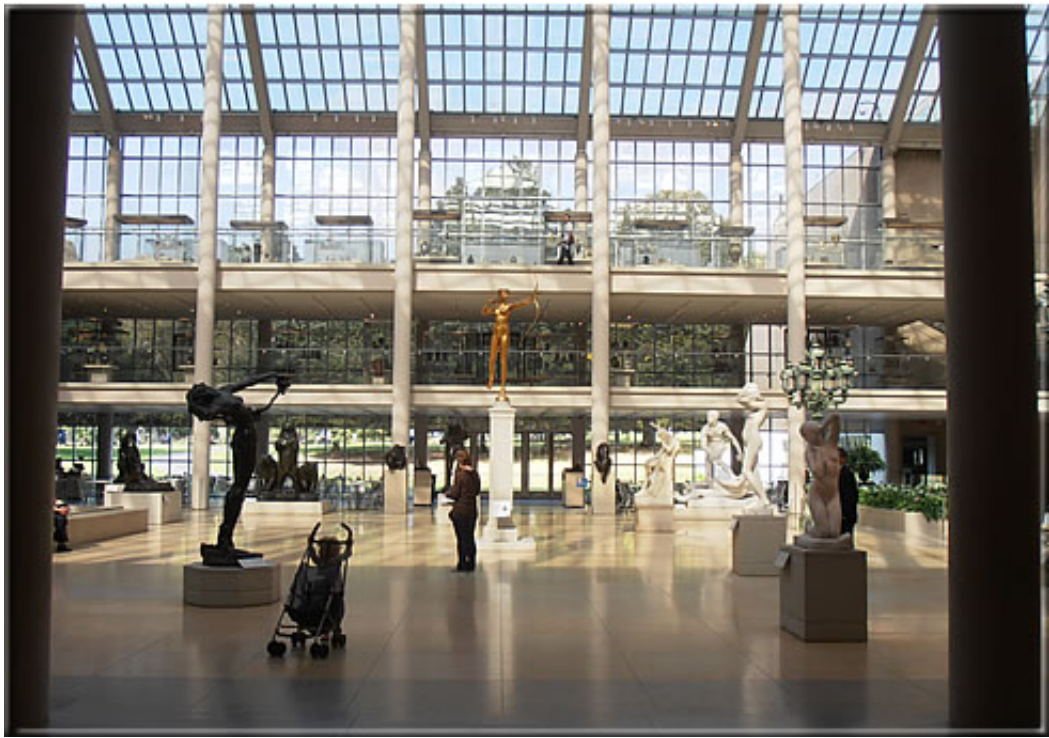
Game Piece in the Form of an Enthroned King
 Pumice stone
 North German
 Carved about 1200–1250
 Rogers Fund, 1978 (1978.494)

Ivory Game Piece with Samson Slaying the Philistines
 with the Jawbone of an Ass
 German, Rhine valley or Cologne



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fairly chess piece ... :-)

• Could be a new



A famous painting

(click to enlarge)

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Thomas Eakins (1844–1916)

The Chess Players

1876

Oil on wood

Gift of the artist, 1881
85.14

The artist's father watches a chess game between two friends in a Renaissance Revival parlor, possibly in his own home or in that of one of the players. Eakins honored his father with a Latin inscription on the drawer of the chess table, which translates as "Benjamin Eakins's son painted this in '76." A reproduction of a painting by Eakins's principal French master, Jean-Léon Gérôme, hangs over the mantel. Eakins adhered to Gérôme's academic lessons in his careful spatial construction and meticulous detail. In 1881 *The Chess Players* became the first work of art to be accepted by the Metropolitan Museum as a gift from a living artist.



group of bears

An imposing



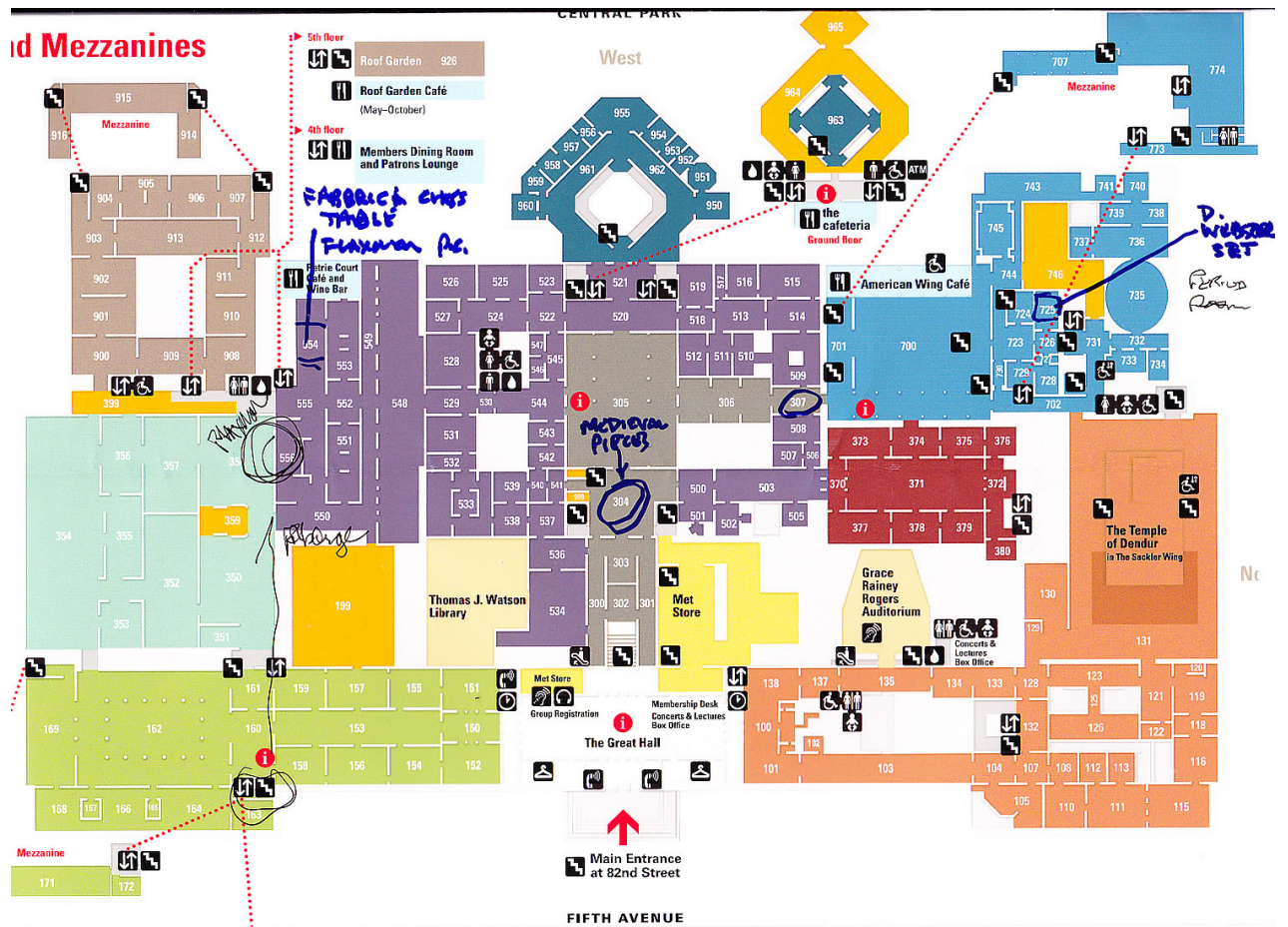
[_](#) A wonderful glass painting

More pictures of New York City and the MET in the following [gallery](#) (34 photos).

At the joint breakfast in my hotel (ideally situated for a night-time stroll to Times Square, passing the Empire State Building and the fantastically illuminated main building of the New York Public Library – see our picture gallery [New York City at night](#)) we could intensely compare notes on Larry's chess projects. He kindly gave me several documents on them which we can now present to our members and simultaneously to a broader chess audience as well.

1) Tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art with some picture maps

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MET chess items



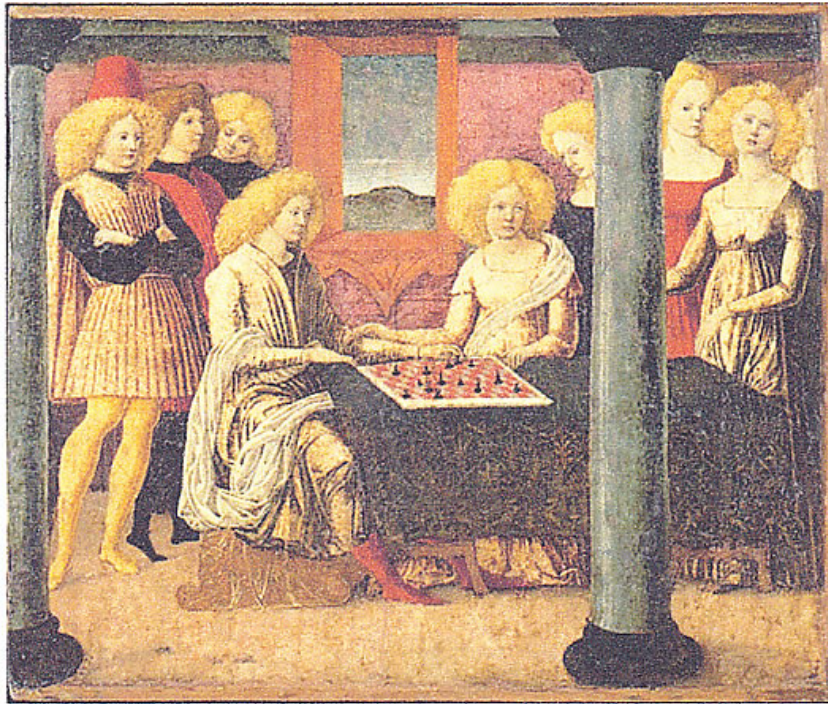
Chess set. 12th century. Iran, Nishapur. Stonepaste; molded and glazed. Largest piece (King) H. 2 in. 5.5 cm Diam. 2 1/8 in. (4.4 cm) Small piece (pawn) H. 3.3 cm. Diam. 2.9 cm. Classification: Gaming pieces. Pfeiffer Fund, 1971. Accession Number: 1971.193a–ff.

This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 453](#)

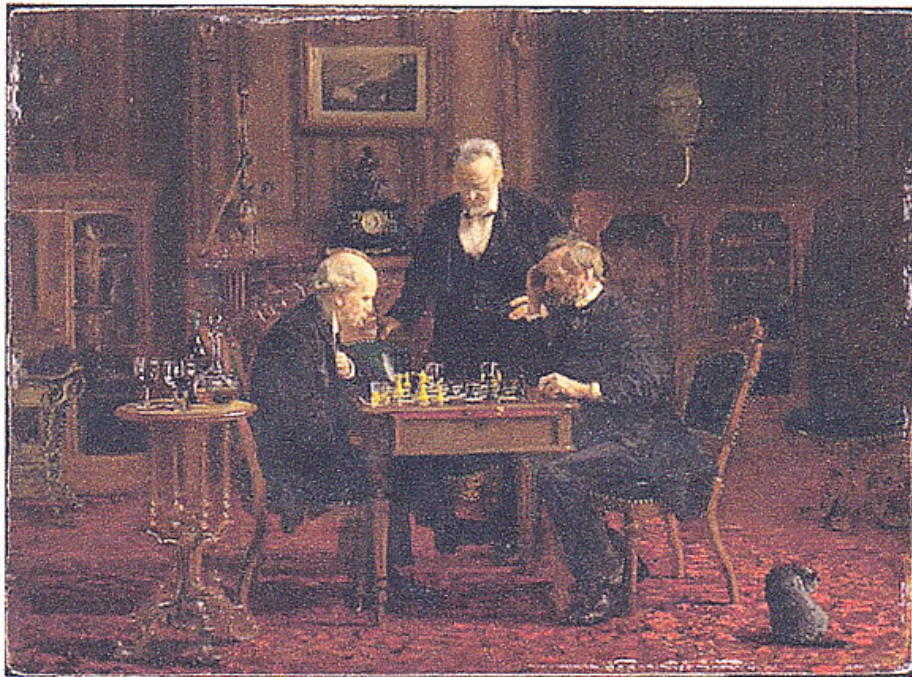


Chess piece, knight. 8th–10th century. Western Islamic Lands. Jet. 2 in. high 1 5/16 in. long (5.1 cm high 3.4 cm long). Gaming pieces. Purchase, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome A. Straka Gift, 1974. Accession Number: 1974.27.2.

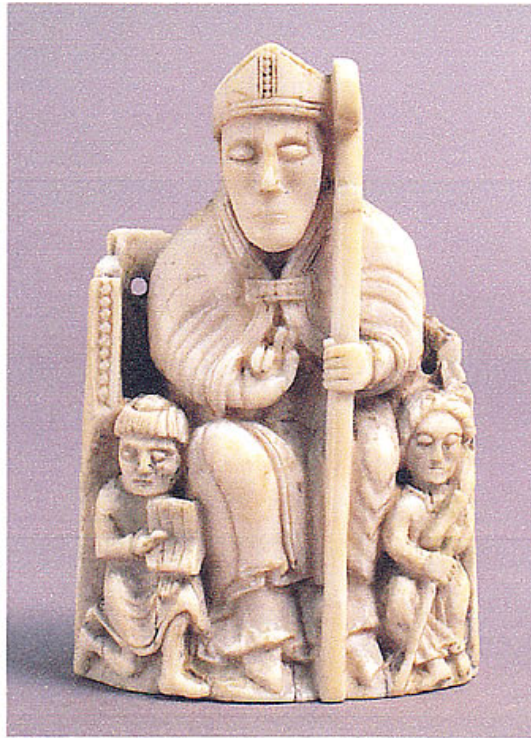
This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 001](#)



The Chess Players. Liberale da Verona (Liberale di Jacomo) (Italian, Veronese, 1445–1527/29) ca. 1475. Tempera on wood. Overall 13 3/4 x 16 1/4 in. (34.9 x 41.3 cm); painted surface 13 1/8 x 15 7/8 in. (33.3 x 40.3 cm). Maitland F. Griggs Collection, Bequest of Maitland F. Griggs, 1943. Accession Number: 43.98.8



The Chess Players. Thomas Eakins (American, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1844–1916 Philadelphia. 1876. Oil on wood. 11 3/4 x 16 3/4 in. (29.8 x 42.6 cm). Gift of the artist, 1881. Accession Number: 81.14. This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 767](#)
Signature: [on drawer of central table]: Benjamini. Eakins. Filius. Pinxit. 76



Chess Piece in the Form of a Bishop with Two Attendants. 1150–1200. Probably Trondheim, Norway
Walrus ivory. Overall: $3 \frac{3}{4} \times 2 \frac{1}{2} \times 1 \frac{7}{16}$ in. (9.6 x 6.3 x 3.6 cm). Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1917
Accession Number: 17.190.229. This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 304](#)



Chess Piece in the Form of Knight. ca. 1250. Probably London, England. Walrus ivory.
 $3 \frac{1}{16} \times 2 \frac{9}{16} \times 1 \frac{3}{8}$ in. (7.8 x 6.5 x 3.5 cm). Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1917.
Accession Number: 17.190.231. This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 304](#)
Georges Hoentschel (French, Paris 1855–1915 Paris)(until 1911; sold to Morgan); J. Pierpont Morgan,
London and New York (1911–1913); Estate of J. Pierpont Morgan(1913–1917)



Chess Piece of a King. Second half 14th century. Cologne, Germany. Walrus ivory.
 2 1/2 x 1 5/16 x 7/8 in. (6.4 x 3.4 x 2.2 cm). Pfeiffer Fund, 2000. Accession Number: 2000.153
 This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 307](#)
 Ernst and Marthe Kofler-Truniger, Lucerne and descendants (1950s–2000); Blumka Gallery, New York



Chess Piece in the Form of a Knight. ca. 1500. Netherlandish. Elephant ivory.
 Overall: 2 13/16 x 1 7/8 x 15/16 in. (7.2 x 4.8 x 2.4 cm). Ivories. Pfeiffer Fund, 1984.
 Accession Number: 1984.214.
 This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 307](#)



Chess piece, probably pawn. 11th–12th century. Western Islamic Lands. Ivory. H: 2 1/4 in. (5.7 cm). Classification: Gaming pieces. Pfeiffer Fund, 1947.

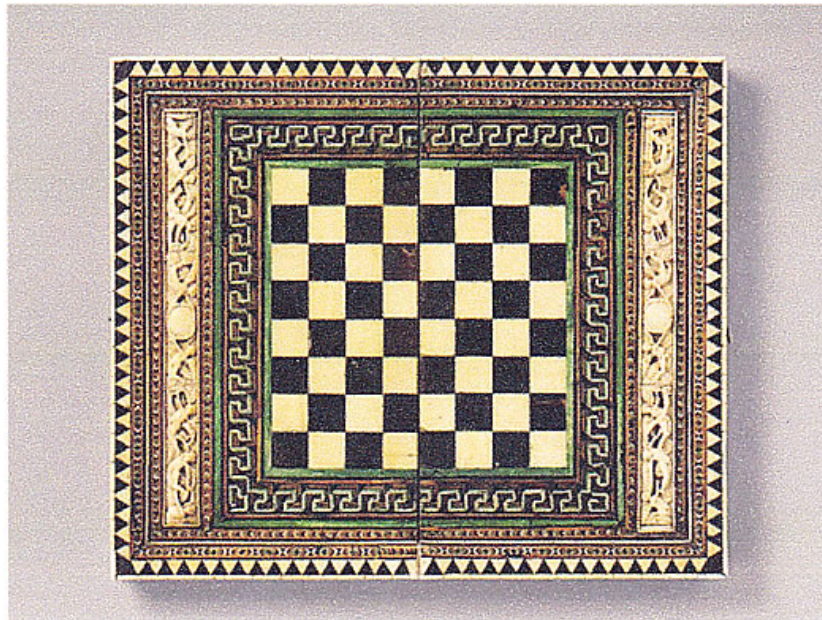
Accession Number: 47.68.

This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 001](#)

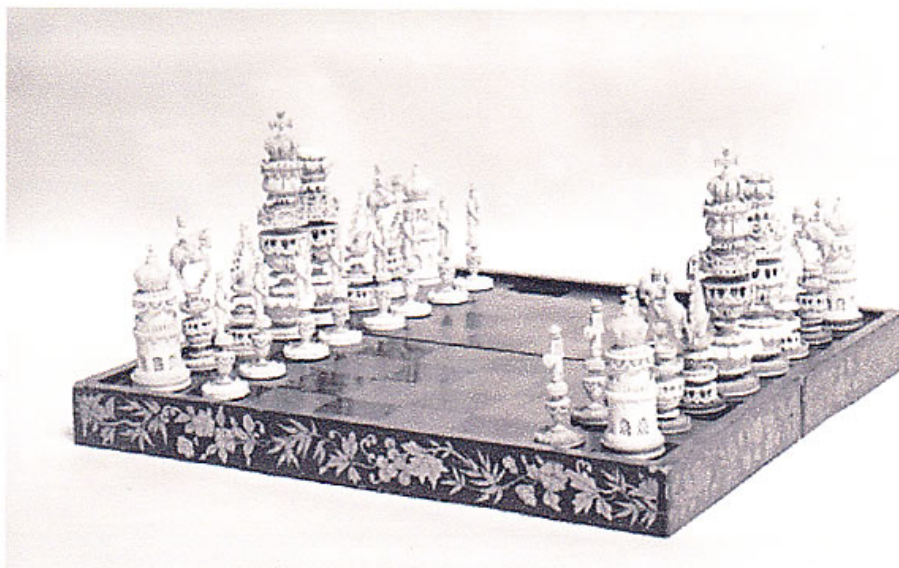


Chess piece, bishop. 7th–8th century. Western Islamic Lands. Ivory. H: 2 3/16 in. (5.5 cm) L: 1 15/16 in. (5 cm) Classification: Gaming pieces. Pfeiffer Fund, 1964. Accession Number: 64.262.1

This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 001](#)



Folding Game Board. 15th century. Venice, Italy. Bone, wood, horn, stain and gilding over wood core with metal mounts. Overall (closed): 16 5/8 x 9 15/16 x 2 9/16 in. (42.2 x 25.2 x 6.5 cm) Overall (opened): 1 1/4 x 16 5/8 x 19 5/8 in. (3.2 x 42.2 x 49.9 cm). Gift of The Salgo Trust for Education, New York, in memory of Nicolas M. Salgo, 2010. Accession Number: 2010.109.4 Currently on display in [Gallery 307](#)



Chess set. ca. 1800. India. Lacquered wood, ivory. Board: 1 3/4 x 16 5/8 x 16 5/8 in. (4.4 x 42.2 x 42.2 cm) Gift of the Members of the Committee of the Bertha King Benkard Memorial Fund, 1946. Accession Number: 46.67.74a-gg. This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 725](#)

Daniel Webster. from 1847; Mrs. Fletcher Webster, until 1876; Ruth A. Leonard, from 1876; her daughter, Eliza Leonard Knox; Mrs. Harry Horton (Bertha King) Benkard, Oyster Bay, New York, until died 1945; [Members of the Committee of the Bertha King Benkard Memorial Fund, Wilmington, Delaware, 1945–1946]

Four folios from Firdausi's *Shahnameh* (The Epic of Kings):



"Buzurgmihr Masters the Game of Chess", Folio from a Shahnama (Book of Kings)

Abu'l Qasim Firdausi (935–1020). Date: ca. 1300–30. Accession Number: 34.24.1

Illustrated manuscript, folio. ca. 1300–30. Iran or Iraq. Ink, opaque watercolor, and gold on paper.

Painting: H. 1 15/16 in. (4.9 cm) W. 4 13/16 in. (12.2 cm) Page: H. 6 3/8 in. (16.2 cm) W. 5 1/4 in. (13.3 cm) Mat: H. 19 1/4 in. (48.9 cm) W. 14 1/4 in. (36.2 cm). Purchase, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, 1934

Accession Number: 34.24.1. This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 455](#)



"Buzurjmihr Masters the Game of Chess", Folio from a Shahnameh (Book of Kings)

Abu'l Qasim Firdausi (935–1020) . ca. 1330–40. Accession Number: 1974.290.39

Illustrated manuscript, folio. Iran, probably Isfahan. Ink, opaque watercolor, gold, and silver on paper.

Entire Page: 8 1/16 x 4 7/8 in. (20.5 x 12.4 cm) Painting: 3 1/8 x 4 in. (8 x 10.2 cm) Mat: 19 1/4 x 14 1/4 Frame: 22 x 17. Bequest of Monroe C. Gutman, 1974. Accession Number: 1974.290.39

یار است دایمی ز مکار
مبارک کسب اکمل در دور
قلب از روز نواخته جای
بدست حش پیل خاکی
فشوار ستور و درشت
وزو تر استبان چکی
بزم و روزش نماید راه
سازان کی آید بالای راه
حب و راستی را بر کشتن
چو روز و چرخان سپه را
میاده سلسله ازین سیر
مهر آهمن در شگفتی ماند



عمی شد فرستاده همت
حکونه فرا آمدن شایان
یکی در دینار و اسپین
خردا دل روزنایان کرد
دولشگر حشید رهش
که در خیل باشد در دهم
یکی را جویتجا بگردون
بر کوفه بابر که نویش کلن
زمر و فرمان جلال شاه
بفرمود تا ساربان و فرزند
جوشند ازان شهران جفا
سربامه کردا فرزندش
همان را سطرین و ستاد
لبی ای دو ویدال راه
دختری که در افشادین
ورید و کجای با هم
جو خورشید چشیدند

ممانده ازان در هشیان
رکنی بگردگشتی جای
مدودا و کوشش آفرین
با سوز و اندیشه نهاده
هر روزم جواز کیر و کس
یکی از کور بگردگشت
ز لشکر مرزبانان
شد بی در شاه و سپاه
بکسترد و جودیل شاه
سپارد شمراد و شمران
دشاه ازان که رزاده
رزوان شاهنرزد و سوز
مشتند و چشم هر کوی
کاشناری از دما در کجای
فرستاده را بهندی کج
بکوشند را بهندی کج
برافروشد شاه و روز چهر

شکفته ازان در دما
جانی کشت کسی و دور
بشد مردان ازان که
دوخته و غنود کردن رواج
شکفته ازان در دما
جانی کشت کسی و دور
بشد مردان ازان که
دوخته و غنود کردن رواج

دشمنان را بدیده اندر شاه
که کشتی و زنجیر نمود
یکی بخت و یکا رخا در پیش
هر سکر عاچ هم رنگ سلاج
دشمنان را بدیده اندر شاه
که کشتی و زنجیر نمود
یکی بخت و یکا رخا در پیش
هر سکر عاچ هم رنگ سلاج

که ازین شطرنج هر کس
یکی جام فرودش کس
بشطرین و اندیشه همد
یکی ز مکه ساخت شطرنج
بستد و لشکر کوی جاسق
و فرمان افشان شاه اردو
عمی ازین دما ازان در دما
ازان در دما ازان در دما
همی کشت کای در دما
ز کج شمشیر کرد دما
یکی آمدندش ز دما
رسید از دما ازان در دما
ز دما ای همد و فرمان
کونماند ازان در دما
بر همد و فرمان
کند ازان در دما
دشمنان را بدیده اندر شاه
که کشتی و زنجیر نمود
یکی بخت و یکا رخا در پیش
هر سکر عاچ هم رنگ سلاج

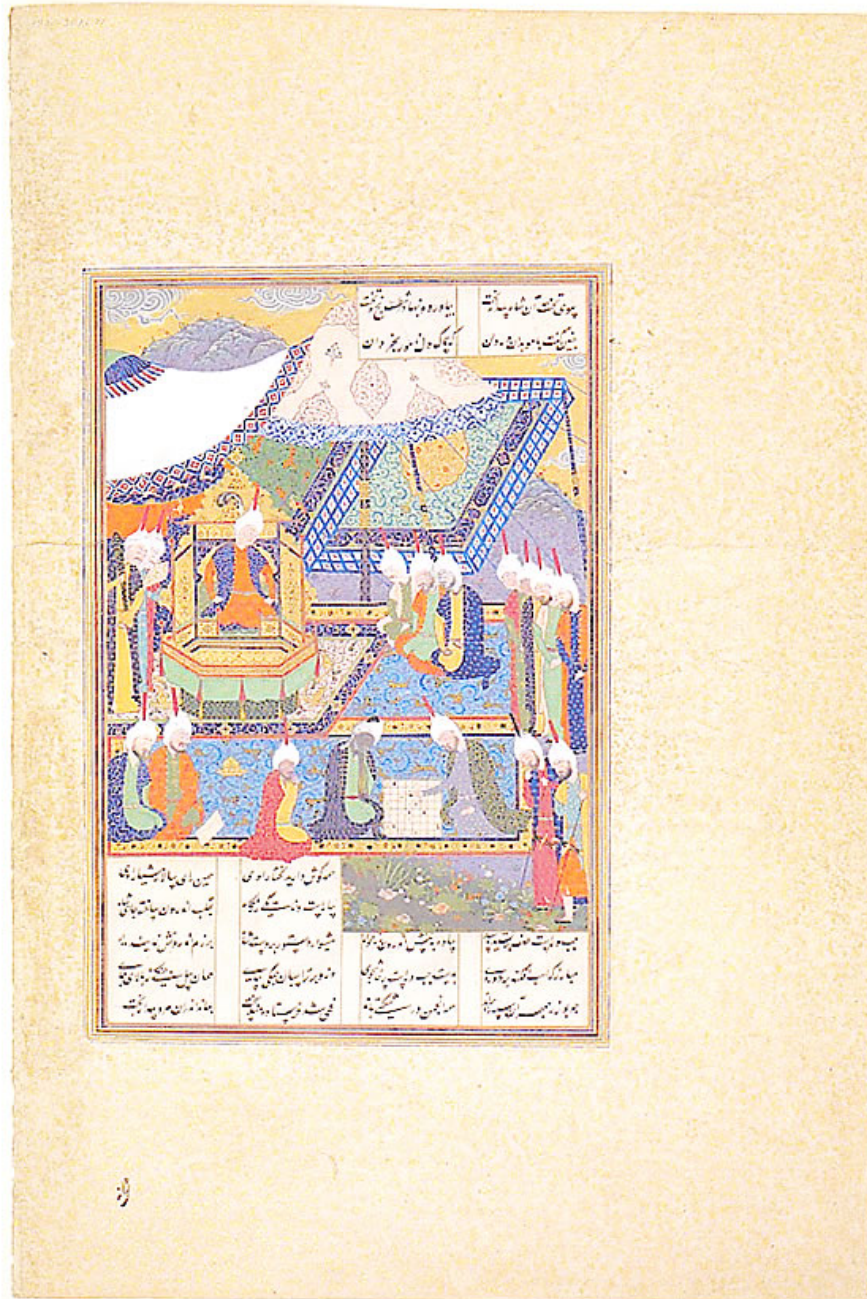
بند و سارکی که آید بنرد
بیمان کند را بهندی کج
دشمنان را بدیده اندر شاه
که کشتی و زنجیر نمود
یکی بخت و یکا رخا در پیش
هر سکر عاچ هم رنگ سلاج

"Buzurgmihr Masters the Game of Chess", Folio from a Shahnama (Book of Kings).

Abu'l Qasim Firdausi (935–1020). Illustrated manuscript, folio. ca. 1300–30. Iran or Iraq.

Ink, opaque watercolor, and gold on paper. Painting: H. 1 15/16 in. (4.9 cm) W. 4 13/16 in. (12.2 cm) Page: H. 6 3/8 in. (16.2 cm) W. 5 1/4 in. (13.3 cm) Mat: H. 19 1/4 in. (48.9 cm) W. 14 1/4 in. (36.2 cm)

Credit Line: Purchase, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, 1934. Accession Number: 34.24.1 This artwork is currently on display in Gallery 455. Provenance: Heeramaneck Galleries, New York, until 1934; sold to MMA



"Buzurjmihr Masters the Game of Chess", Folio from the Shahnama (Book of Kings) of Shah Tahmasp

Abu'l Qasim Firdausi (935–1020) (attributed to): Painter 'Abd al-Vahhab. Illustrated manuscript, folio.

Reign: Shah Tahmasp (1524–76). Date: ca. 1530–35. Geography: Iran, Tabriz. Opaque watercolor, ink, silver, and gold on paper. Painting: 9 5/8 x 6 7/8 in. (24.4 x 17.5 cm) Entire Page: 18 5/8 x 12 1/2 in. (47.3 x 31.8 cm)

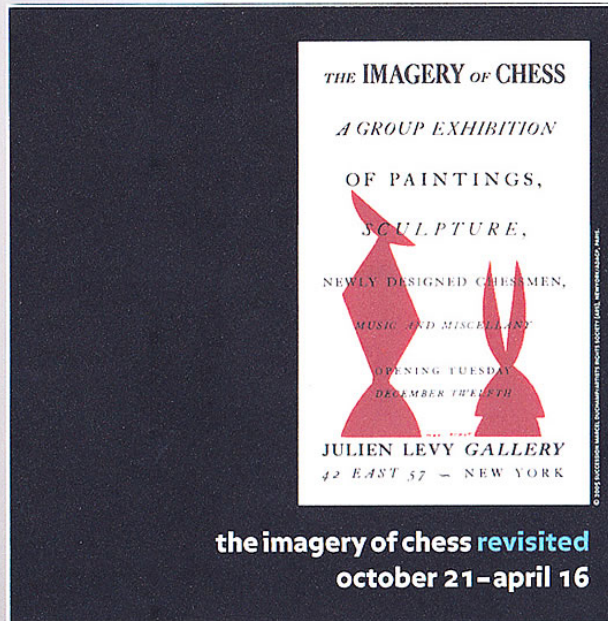
Gift of Arthur A. Houghton Jr., 1970. Accession Number: 1970.301.71

Provenance: Shah Tahmasp, Iran (until 1568); Sultan Selim II, Istanbul (from 1568); Sultan Selim III, Istanbul (by 1800); Baron Edmond de Rothschild, Paris (by 1903–d. 1934); his son, Baron Maurice de Rothschild, Paris (by 1955–d. 1957); [Rosenberg and Stiebel, New York, until 1959; sold to Houghton]; Arthur A. Houghton Jr., New York (1959–70)

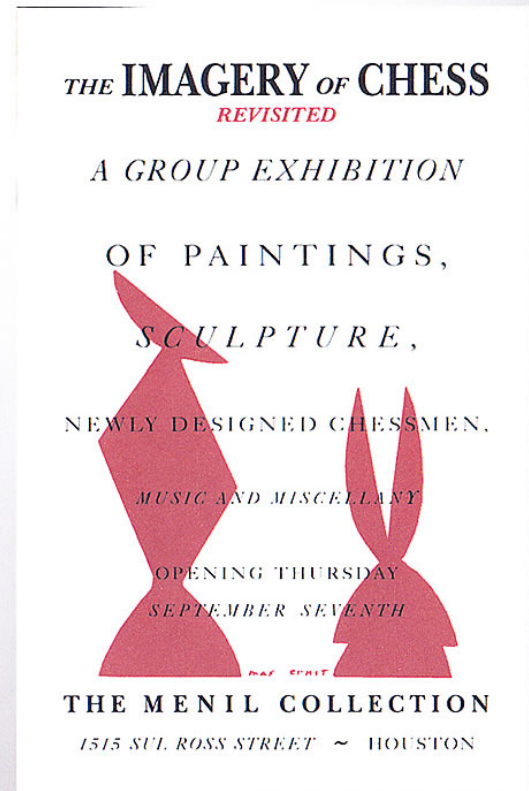
2) A documentation of his exhibition "Imagery of Chess Revisited"

Brochure [The Imagery of Chess ...](#) (PDF)

Museum Exhibition – 2 Different Venues



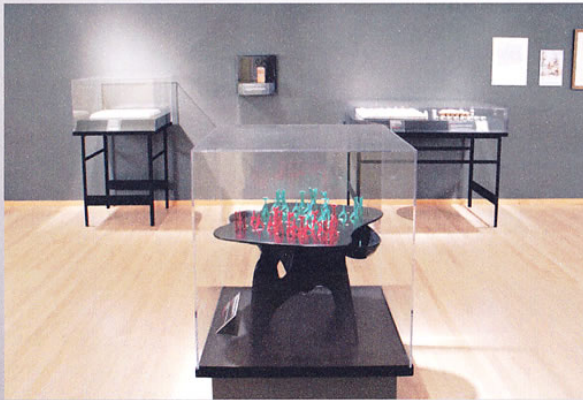
Noguchi Museum, NYC



Noguchi Museum Installation



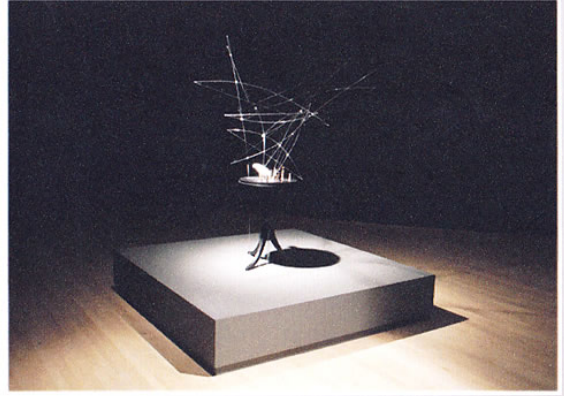
Noguchi Museum Installation



Noguchi Museum Installation



Noguchi Museum Installation



3) A further documentation of an exhibition in Reykjavik

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Contemporary Artists - Museum Exhibition

Rekjavik Art Museum



Listasafn Reykjavíkur
 Reykjavik Art Museum

24. janúar – 13. apríl 2009

32 pieces
Skák The Art of Chess

Listasafn Reykjavíkur býður yður að vera við opnun sýningarinnar á Kjarvalsstöðum laugardaginn 24. janúar kl. 16 og þiggja veitingar.

Gildir fyrir tvo.

Dagskrá
 Laugardag 24. janúar kl. 16
 Listarmálan Leikur á borði opnar í norðursal.
 Sunnudag 25. janúar kl. 15
 Pallborðsummarður sýningastjórnanna Marks Sanders og Larry List.
 Sunnudag 3. febrúar kl. 15
 Meistarar kalla með sýningarroti.
 Fimmtudag 19. febrúar kl. 18
 Samantekt: Rólfreyr dagsala.
 Sunnudag 22. febrúar kl. 15
 Faguræði skáklisannar.
 Sunnudag 8. mars kl. 15
 Sýning á skáklörðum káskíababanna.
 Sunnudag 29. mars kl. 15
 Fyrirlestur um sögu skáklisannar.
 Sunnudag 5. apríl kl. 15
 Meistarar kalla með sýningarroti.

Aðgangur ókeypis
 Opnð daglega 10 – 17

Reykjavík Art Museum invites you to the opening of the exhibition at Kjarvalsstaðir on Saturday, January 24th at 4 p.m. Refreshments.
 Valid for two.
Programme
 Thursday 24 January 8 pm.
 The workshop Creative Move opens in the North Gallery.
 Sunday 25 January 3 pm.
 Panel Discussion by the curators Mark Sanders and Larry List.
 Sunday 3 February 3 pm.
 Chess match with the chess sets on display.
 Friday 19 March 7:30 pm.
 Museum Night. Various events.
 Sunday 22 February 3 pm.
 The aesthetics of the art of chess.
 Sunday 8 March 3 pm.
 Exhibition of chess sets by children.
 Sunday 29 March 3 pm.
 Lecture of the history of chess.
 Sunday 5 April 3 pm.
 Chess match with the chess sets on display.

Free Entrance
 Open daily 10 am – 5 pm.

Listasafn Reykjavíkur.is Listasafn@reykjavik.is S 590 1200 F 590 1201

Contemporary Artists - Show Installation

Rekjavik Art Museum



SKÁKLIST
 32 PIECES: THE ART OF CHESS

Kusama, Kruger, Chapmans, McCarthy, Tunga, Hirst, Gudmundson



Yayoi Kusama



Mauricio Cattelan





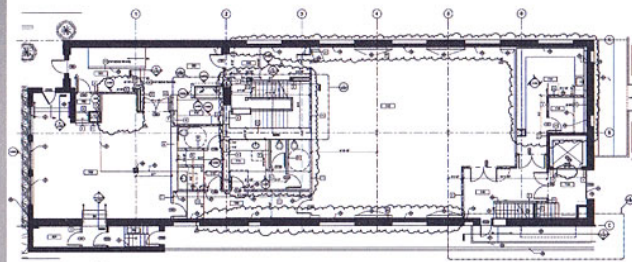
Oliver Clegg



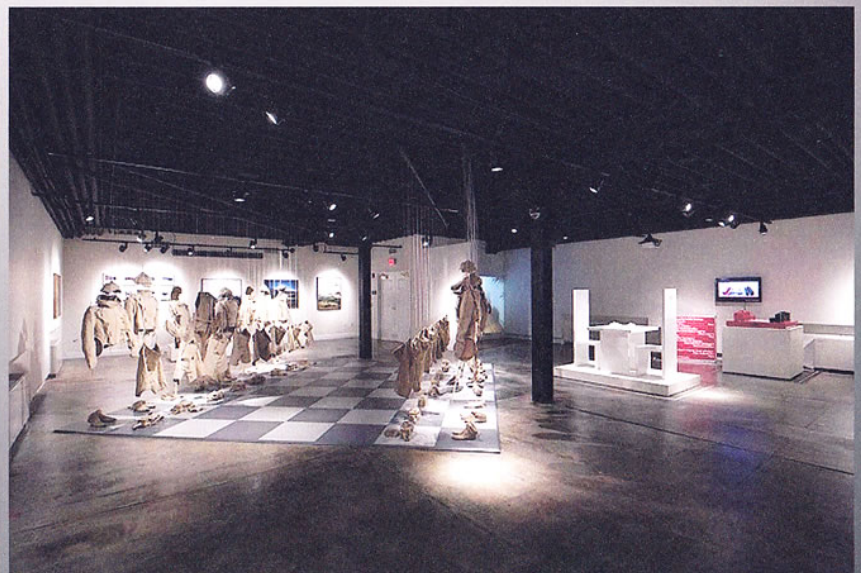
4) A brochure and some pictures of the [World Chess Hall of Fame](#) in St. Louis

[World Chess Hall of Fame Mission Statement](#) (PDF)

World Chess Hall of Fame

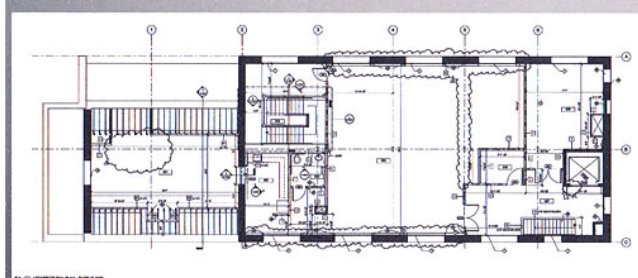
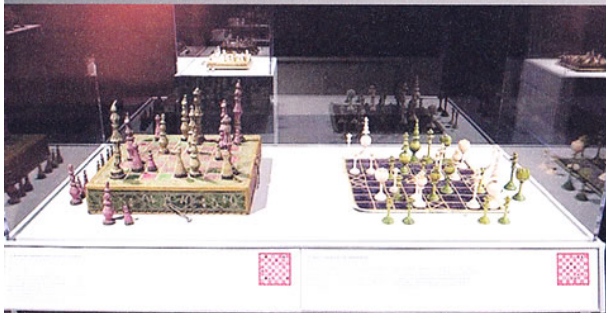
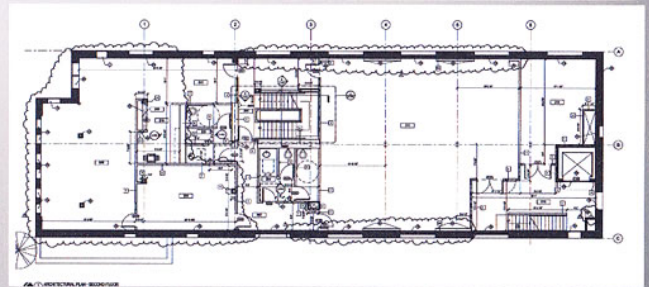


• **ART**
Entry, Bookstore
Gallery, Storage





2nd Floor **CULTURE**
 Offices, Gallery
 Restrooms, Storage



3rd Floor **HISTORY**
 Chess Hall of Fame
 Library, Storage

Especially the "World Chess Hall of Fame" in St. Louis (there is also Larry's brochure "Chess Masterpieces: Highlights from the Dr. George and Vivian Dean Collection" available – see www.worldchesshof.org/exhibitions/...) caught my close attention, as in the near future (2014?) we intend to hold there an annual meeting of the Ken Whyld Association with the friendly assistance of our American members. This institution in St Louis is particularly due to the personal commitment of Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield. I am really a little "aggrieved" if I imagine the problems to advance similar cultural chess initiatives in Germany (see for instance the Lasker touring exhibition).

From the "outside view" there is no understanding at all for this "German phenomenon". At least each American will wonder that in Germany – this "lighthouse" in the worldwide economic crisis – nobody succeeds in developing concepts for the world-famous German chess collections of Dr. Thomas Thomsen and Lothar Schmid. But in our country the decisiveness of individuals as to a long-lasting support of such an institution (i.e. a **German Chess Museum**) is obviously still lacking. It remains to be seen if a "diffident" pooling of interests becoming currently apparent with the German Chess Federation and the Emanuel Lasker Society could possibly be aimed at such a direction. Certainly a lecture of my friend Larry List in front of an interested audience would be a suitable advertising measure ...

Michael Negele