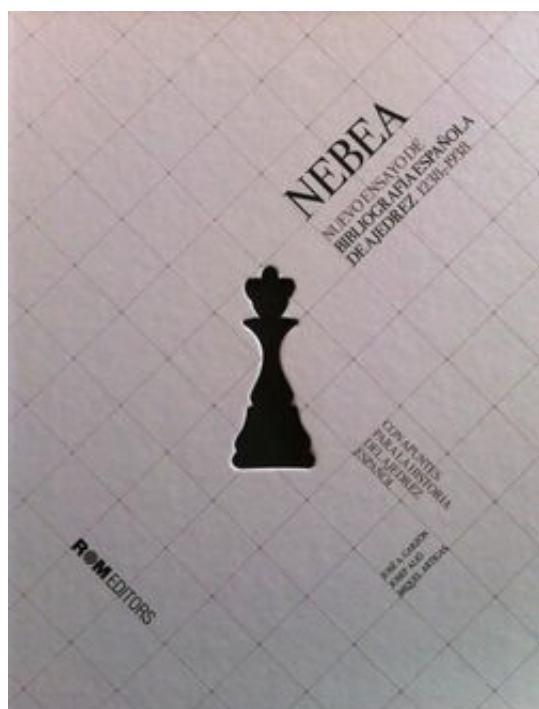


2025-09-26

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



General Assembly, Valencia
5-6 September 2025

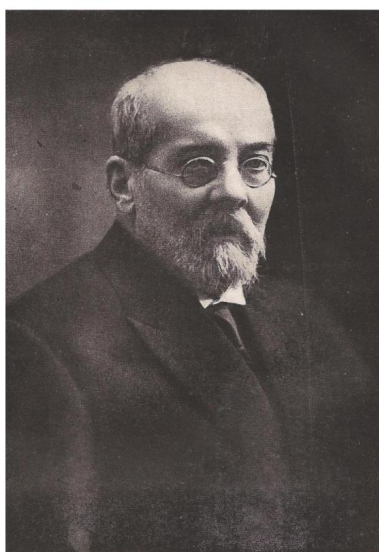
NEBEA, Spanish Chess Bibliography: Genesis, contributions and curiosities

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 indepently in 1912

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

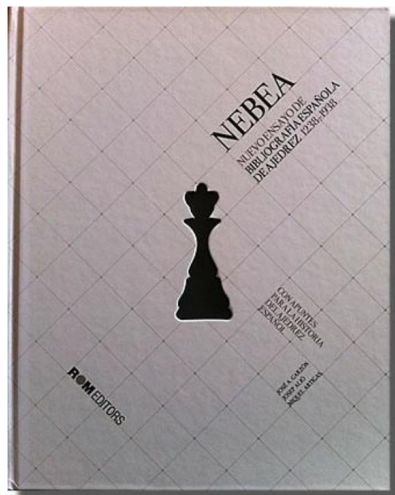
The genesis of NEBEA



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

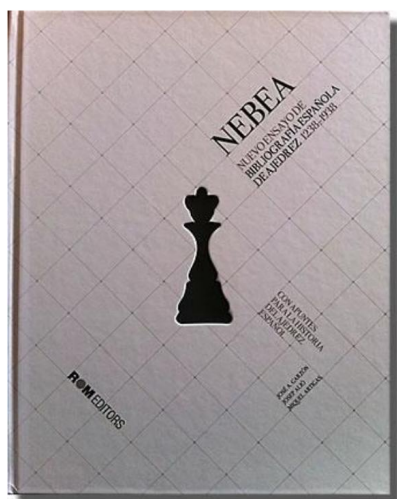
NEBEA, criteria and work methodology



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

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

1. 1648, Sevilla, Alfonso X el Sabio. *Libro de los juegos: Ajedrez, dados e naipes*. Incluye estudio del poema de Abraham ben Ezra (siglo XII).
2. 1376, Jaume Casals. *Libro sobre el juego de los dados*. Ms. 121, Biblioteca Nacional (Madrid).
3. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Jaume de Cassalla. *Lo libre de bones costumes dels homes e dels ofitios dels nobles*. Ms. 17, Archivo Capitular de Gerona.
4. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Trinchese catalana del *Libro de Cassalla* (Incompleto). Ms. 41 de San Cugat, Archivo de la Corona de Aragón.
5. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Jaume de Cassalla. *Libro de la Escuela*. Ms. lat. 4801, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Roma).
6. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Jaume de Cassalla. *Libro de bones costumes dels homes e dels ofitios dels nobles*. Ms. 121 de la Biblioteca Inquisitorial de Carpentras (Francia).
7. Siglo XV, 2ª mitad. Anónimo. *Libro de bell portito al juego de naipes compuesto por un sudamericano apogeo*. Ms. 121, folios 37, Biblioteca Nacional de Roma.
8. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Jaume de Cassalla. *Libro del andrés*. Ms. 121, Hispanic Society (New York).
9. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Jaume de Cassalla. *De los costumbres de los hombres et de los ofitios de los nobles sobre el juego del andrés*. Ms. 121, Biblioteca de Fundación Casa de Alba, Palacio de Liria (Madrid).
10. Siglo XV, primera mitad. Bernat Ferrer, Nació Vinyoles y Francesc de Castellví. *Scachs d'amor*. Copia en Biblioteca de Catalunya, APM (Arca Fotográfica Miguel i Planes, copia 12/1).
11. Siglo XV, 15 de mayo, Valencia. Francesc Vicent. *Libro de la jacha portito de los dados*.
12. Siglo XV, 1407, Salamanca. Lorenzo. *Arte de andrés con el juego de portito*.
13. Siglo XV, finales, o principios del XVI. Fernando de Zafra. *Libro de Ajedrez*.
14. Siglo XV-1510-1515. Anónimo. Ms. C.11.3 de la Real Biblioteca de San Lorenzo de El Escorial.
15. Siglo XV-1510. Francesc Vicent. Ms. 775 (L. 27) de la Biblioteca Comunal de Acquafredda (Perugia).
16. Siglo XV-1510-1512. Francesc Vicent. *Luigi Fiori*. Ms. 156/74 de la Biblioteca Malatestiana de Cesena.
17. Siglo XV, Roma. Domenico. *Questo libro e da imparare giocare a scachi 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:

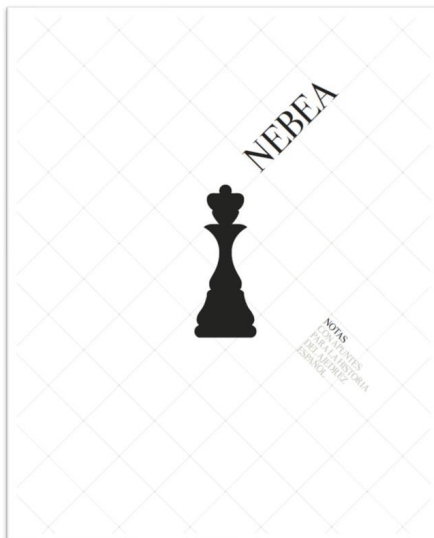
--Main body :

- .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

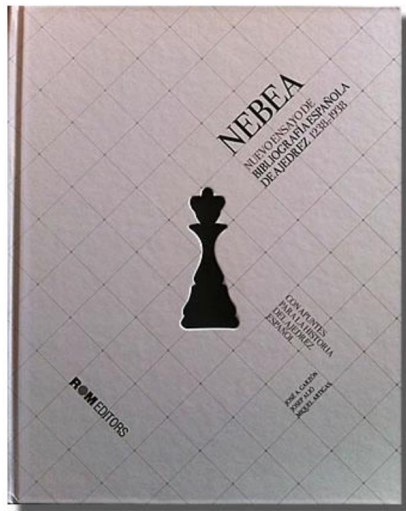


-NEBEA allows for two levels of reading:

--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

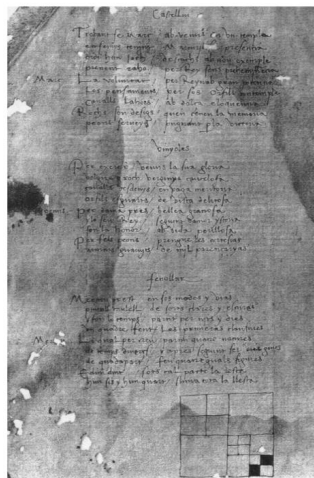


-This is a collaborative work: all entries have been reviewed by the three authors before achieving the final draft

- 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



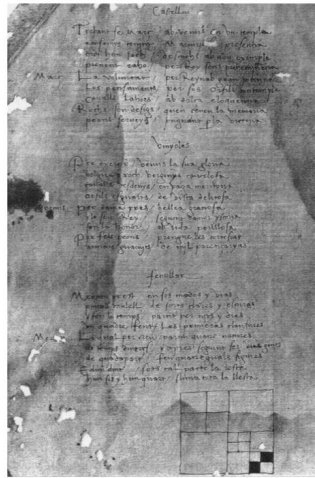
Scachs d'amor (NEBEA 10)

-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

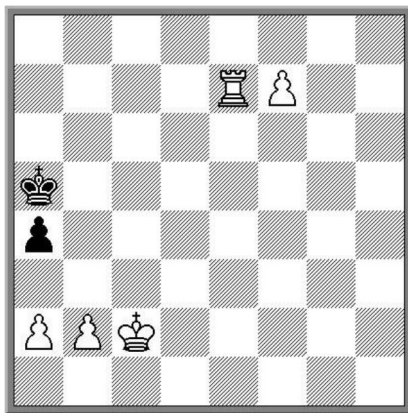
Vicent/Lucena/Damiano/Ruy López



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

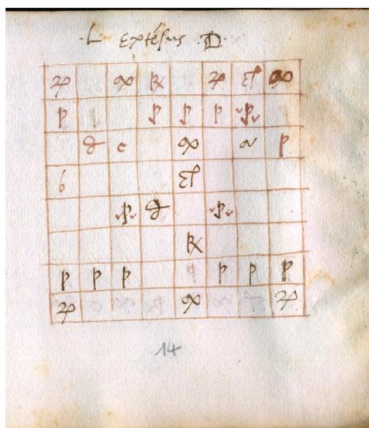


Esc. 87

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

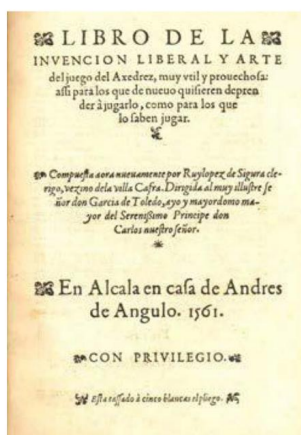


©Biblioteca comunale Augusta (Perugia)

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) 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

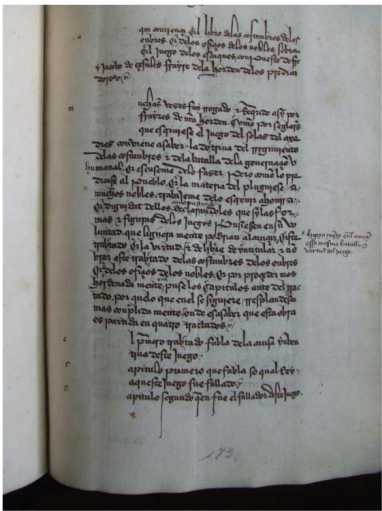


©Private Library of Josep Alió (Tarragona)

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 constested 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

Otra	Fecha	NEBEA	idioma	nombre
Libro de las Juegas, El Escorial	1283	1	español	alforza
Bonum Socium BN Florencia	siglos XIII-XIV		latín	regina/forz
Cesulis BNE Madrid	1385	2	castellano	regina
Cesulis Giroua	siglos XIV-XV	3	castellano	regina, reina
Cesulis ACA, Barcelona	siglos XIV-XV	4	castellano	regina
Cesulis, VAT, Vaticano	siglo XV	5	castellano	reyna
Cesulis, Carpentras	siglo XV	6	castellano	regina
Cesulis Hispanica, BN Florencia	siglo XV	7	latín	regina/forz
Cesulis BN Madrid (RES/299)	c. 1469-1500		español	reyna
Cesulis Hispanic Society, NY	c. 1468	8	español	reyna
Cesulis, Casa de Alba, Madrid	c. 1470	9	español	reyna
Giuoco de Zefari, BR Turin	1460-1471		latín	regina/forz
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	siglos XIV-XV		francés	dama
Luca Pacioli, Gorizia	c. 1496-1500		italiano	docna
Lacena (Salamanca)	c. 1497	12	español	dama
Ms. O.H.3, El Escorial	c. 1500-1505	14	español	dama
Ms. Perugia	c. 1501	15	uruguay	dama
Ms. Cesena	c. 1501	16	uruguay	dama
Ms. It. Mag. XIX.51 BN Florencia	siglos XIV-XV		italiano	docna
Chesche, BR, Casanovana, Roma	20 de junio 1511		italiano	dama
Giuoco, Cheshchad FI	1512		latín	regina/forz
Damiano, Roma	1512	17	italiano/español	docna/dama
Ms. Göttingen	c. 1505-1515	18	latín	regina/dama
Ms. fo. allem 107, BNF	c. 1515-1520	19	alemán	föwren
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
Ray López, Alcalá de Henares	1561	30	español	dama/reyna

¹ En paralelo con el estudio de documentos del juego medieval, un estudio sobre el juego moderno, en un libro de juegos modernos, dedicado a la obra de Scachs d'amor y a la obra de juegos modernos.

-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

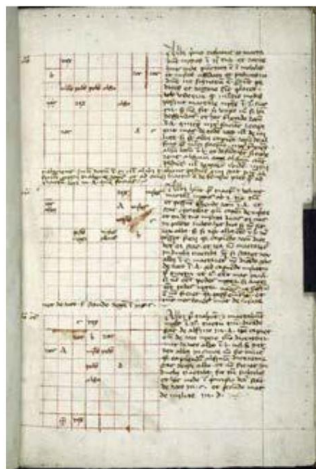


© Private Library of Miquel Artigas (Sabadell)

-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

Curiosities and other contributions



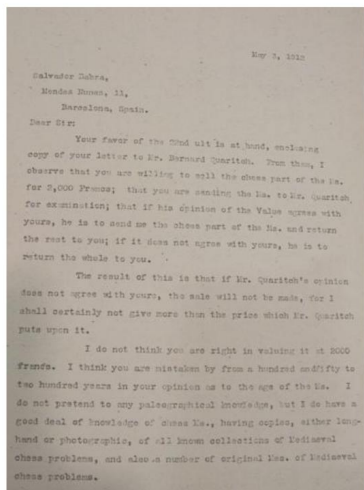
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-Some of the most significant contributions are found in the footnotes

-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



© 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

anaca (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: 214, 224, 226, 228, 230, 236, 280
ahogado: 33, 42, 98, 152, 154, 160, 208, 240, 340, 337, 377
ajedrez de la dama (o axedrez de la dama): 37, 48, 56, 64, 65, 68, 74, 77, 82, 88, 93-97, 101, 103, 111, 117, 125, 208, 347, 324, 336, 337, 339, 342, 345, 359, 369
ajedrez decimal: 37, 68
ajedrez heterodoxo (ver tb. Ludus extremus): 37, 102, 347
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, 316, 320, 324, 337, 339, 343, 352
alferax: 347-38, 42, 94, 307, 309, 310, 313, 314, 348, 618
alfino (tb. affinis): 56, 338
alfin: 32
alla rabiosa (denominación italiana del ajedrez de la dama): 93, 118, 313, 337, 339, 341, 342
alphiuna: 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, 56, 100, 109, 110, 307, 313, 338
alquerque de tres (similar al juego de tres en tres): 307
ahedrez: 190, 191
ahedrez: 196, 198-200
arfil: 123, 150, 191, 192, 198, 202, 210, 236, 335, 337
asecurat (atreguado, asegurado): 112
Assises Lombardes: 35
atreguado (ver tb. pieza o peón atreguado): 98, 134, 208, 337, 338, 342, 347, 354, 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
axedrez: 31, 58, 60, 92, 148, 158, 166, 172, 179, 202, 206, 307, 312, 307, 309, 328, 334, 333, 361, 373, 374
barra: 124, 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)
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jQuery.fn.rstSlider) { init(); } else { document.addEventListener('DOMContentLoaded', init); } function  
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ign": 0.5, "gapSize": "10%" }); // Fix missing lightbox links $(function() { if (!$.fn.colorbox) { return; } var  
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maxHeight: '95%' }; var lightboxUrls = ["files\\chls\\news\\2025\\09\\NEBEA\\NEBEA.%20English%20
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[The presentation as PDF file:](#)

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