

2020-08-24

News regarding the CCI Meeting in St. Louis

—

Tom Gallegos and Luann Woneiss, the organizers of the scheduled meeting of the CCI in St. Louis in September, write us:

Dear CCI Members and Friends,

We hereby announce that CCI's 19th Biennial will be what is called a "hybrid" event – part in-person, and part online. We cordially invite you to attend, from the comfort of your own home.

PLEASE ATTEND OUR SCHEDULED WEBINARS, 9 am to noon, CDT, September 3 and 4, 2020.

It breaks our hearts that so many of our friends and fellow collectors cannot be with us in St. Louis for our meeting in September. We'd been hoping to welcome as many as 60-80 of you on the originally scheduled date, back in May. Now, with our September postponement date just around the corner, and the pandemic grinding on and on, it looks like the actual number of attendees will be much closer to 10. (And we need every last one of these folks!)

With this in mind, we have decided to share as much of the conference as possible with the rest of you. [We know the morning lecture series is only part of the overall conference, but it's an important part. These lectures, at least, can be broadcast as Zoom webinars. Most of the lectures will also appear in our printed program (currently over 100 pages, and counting) which will be available to non-attendees shortly after the conference. For a small donation to the club to cover costs, of course.

A few days to a week before the conference, you will receive a Webinar invite from our Zoom account, luannwoneis@gmail.com. This is not spam, though some of you may find it in your spam folders. To register, please click on the link you will find in that invitation. You will have complete

flexibility to attend as much or as little of the talks as you wish. The talks will hopefully also be recorded, so as to be available for posterity, just like the printed versions. They will be posted, either on our new CCI website, or possibly on YouTube.

We have a wonderful group of talks scheduled. You will hear a great deal about the relationship between chess and pandemics; the French Enlightenment as it relates to chess history, and John McCrary of the USCF will speak about the evolution of chess rules. We will even have Dr. George Dean presenting some of his 18th century sets; and Allan Savage to enlighten us about Thomas Jefferson as a chess player, both of them speaking to you remotely. We will also squeeze in a short business meeting on Friday. Our latest revised schedule is as follows:

Thursday, September 3rd

09:00 – 09:15 CONFERENCE WELCOME – Tom Gallegos & Luann Woneis
09:15 – 10:15 HOW TO CHECKMATE A VIRUS (Keynote Address) – Luann Woneis
10:15 – 10:30 Fresh air break, and coffee
10:30 – 11:30 ENLIGHTENMENT – Tom Gallegos
11:30 – 12:00 CHESS MASTERWORKS OF THE 18th CENTURY – Dr. George Dean

Friday, September 4th

09:00 – 10:00 THE EVOLUTION OF CHESS RULES – John McCrary
10:00 – 10:15 Fresh air break, and coffee
10:15 – 10:45 JEFFERSON AS A CHESS PLAYER – Allan Savage (online)
10:45 – 11:15 CAISSA, A POEM – Read by Tom Gallegos
11:15 – 12:00 CCI BUSINESS MEETING – Tom Gallegos & Gordon Clapp

Our timeframe for these talks is an estimate. We will endeavor to stay on schedule, but you may find one or more sessions do not begin or end exactly on time, depending on what is happening in the room. There will be a Q&A button for you to ask questions at the end of each speech. The speaker will repeat your typed question, and will normally answer it verbally.

This time schedule is a lot like those at other CCI meetings you have attended: Three hours of talks each morning, September 3rd and 4th from 9 am CDT until noon.

This means we will be scheduling TWO SEPARATE, 3-HOUR WEBINARS. One for each morning, starting at 9 am. However, you should only need to register one time, for both. You may then attend as much or as little of the talks as you desire.

This is **CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME**. If you are in another part of the country, please adjust for your time zone. If you are in the UK, the talks will begin at 15:00 (3 pm) your time. Most of the Continent of Europe will find the talks beginning at 16:00 (4 pm).

There is no cost to register and attend these two webinars. If you have a reasonably up-to-date computer and an internet connection, you should be able to attend.

I'm afraid with only Luann and I running the system while also speaking, there will not be a tech support person to help if you have system issues either morning, but we will record these talks and post them later for those of you who are interested, but cannot attend the live version for whatever reason.

Luann and I have been taking a crash course in how to host webinars on Zoom, so our skills are still

somewhat fresh, but we really think we can do this. We hope the webinars will allow everyone to participate in our conference, at least to some extent.

The **CHESS AUCTION** at Link Auction Galleries is scheduled to take place the next day, at 10:00 am on Saturday, September 5th. That's 16:00 (4 pm) for the UK; and 17:00 (5 pm) for most of the rest of Europe. You will find it online at Link Auction Galleries at the following link:

<http://www.linkauctiongalleries.com/infinitebidding.asp?method=getCatalogLots&catalogref=KQ5GVJX97S>

The auction will also be available on invaluable.com at the following link:

<https://www.invaluable.com/catalog/kq5gvjx97s>

The auction is one more segment of the conference that you can enjoy from the comfort of your own home. Link has 267 lots of chess sets and other chess items ready to go. Get ready to bid!

And ... "SEE" you in Saint Louis!

Best Regards,

Tom Gallegos & Luann Woneis
Organizers

See also:

- [CHESS COLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL](#)