

# YOUR MOVE !



## MEMBERS PAGE

### My Favorite Chess Item Dermot Rochford. USA.

One of my 'favorites' is an early German Games box (probably Nuremberg C1600.) It has 3 boards, one for chess, tric-trac and merels. It measures... Each square is beautifully inlaid with ivory and hardwoods and overall it is in great condition considering it is approx. 400 years old. It is a favorite of mine not just because of its quality and age but also because of the fortunate circumstances in which I was lucky enough to obtain it... In the mid 1980s when my teenage son and myself were starting to collect Chess sets, we were on holiday (in reality it was just a chess set hunt in every antique shop we could find) in Scotland. It wasn't going well, but on the last day we found an Old English pattern ivory chess set signed by Calvert in an antique furniture shop! As relatively new collectors this was our first opportunity to purchase a signed ivory set - however there was one major snag, the dealer did not want to sell or even put a price on it until the "very good" games box, in which the set

had been bought, came back from the restorer. The dealer eventually agreed to sell the chess set on the basis of a commitment from us that if the board was as good as he made it out to be that we might be interested in purchasing it; in reality at that point in our collecting career we had no real interest or knowledge about old games boxes.

About 4 weeks after returning home we got a formal letter from the dealer basically saying he expected us to fulfill our commitment to purchase the games box and he attached a Polaroid image of it. He wanted £450 for it (a lot of money for us at that time). My son recognised it for what it was and thereafter our only objective was to try to get it before some other collector or dealer saw it in his shop. A number of complex moves were necessary to make this happen. Anyway when we saw the games box in the flesh we could then really appreciate what an impressive item it really was. So apart from the good fortune of having a bargain 'forced' upon us we were also fortunate that through this purchase we as new collectors got an immediate appreciation of the very fine craftsmanship associated with early games boxes.



### Members Comments

"I let my membership in CCI lapse last year... My frustration with the CCI publications has been that they seem to be heavily weighted to what I would (uncharitably) characterize as social chatter, and have not recently had anything resembling quality of information...my personal passion is Staunton and playing sets, and I think the CCI membership regards them (particularly Staunton) as, BORING..." "I have now had a chance to review The Chess Collector, Vol XVI No 1. 2007. I want to thank you very much — up front — for sending it to me.

Unfortunately, it has persuaded me not to renew my CCI membership".

An Ex CCI member. USA

*Clearly not everyone is happy with the magazine. I can't please everyone! I think the comments above are a little exaggerated and I can only publish what members write and send me!*

Editor

"I have just received The Chess Collector, 2007 No 2. Congratulations for editing this magazine much appreciated."

Miquel Artigas. Spain