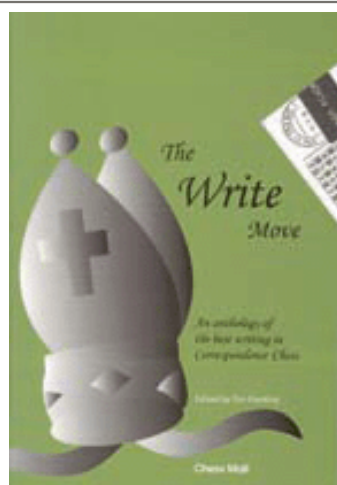




## COLUMNISTS

*The Kibitzer*

Tim Harding



*The Write Move*  
by Tim Harding

## The World's Greatest Chess Library

In previous articles in this series, I wrote about some libraries that have fine collections of chess literature. [Kibitzer 126](#) dealt with the second largest chess collection in public hands, the Van der Linde-Niemeijer collection at the Royal Dutch Library in The Hague, which I have been fortunate to visit on two occasions. Previous to that, I wrote about the chess collections in the British Library ([February 2005](#)) and the Harold Murray collection in the Bodleian Library, Oxford ([February 2006](#)). Only recently, however, have I had the opportunity of visiting the world's largest chess library, the John G. White Collection at the Cleveland Public Library in Cleveland, Ohio, I spent a week there from 16-20 April.

My other main purpose in visiting the U. S. was to deliver a conference paper on 14 April to do with part of my historical research, dealing with the USA-UK postcard chess match of 1877-81. The Middle Atlantic Conference on British Studies was held on Saturday 14 April at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus. I have several people to thank for making this trip possible and successful. The trip was partially funded by the Trinity Trust (alumni organisation of the University of Dublin) and Trinity College Dublin's history department where I am doing my research. I am grateful to the conference organisers for inviting and encouraging me. The [ChessCafe.com](#) proprietor and resident genius, Hanon W. Russell, and his wife Nancy Kierstead, made me welcome on my first two days in the U.S., before I went to Baltimore, and facilitated my first library visit, to the State Library of Connecticut, in Hartford, where Bonnie Linck was especially helpful.



*The Kibitzer in Cleveland*

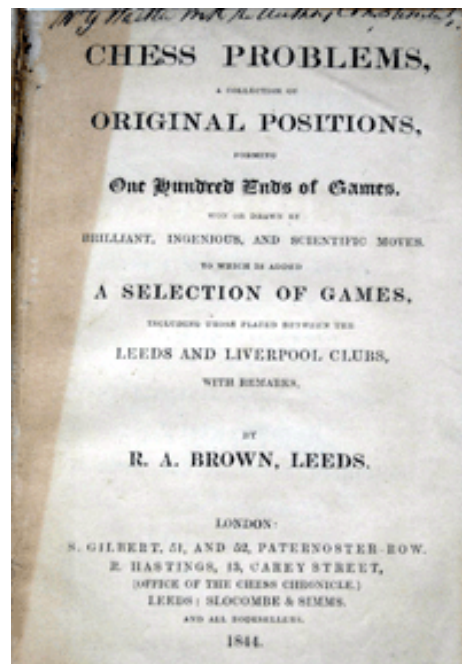
Finally, in Cleveland itself, I received fantastic assistance well beyond the call of duty from special collections librarian Lissa Waite, who helped me plan my visit and found all kinds of surprising things for me to read. Many thanks are due to her, Pam Eyerdam and her other colleagues who assisted me. They are always glad to see readers who are interested in the White Collection,

especially if you can help them increase their own knowledge of what the library holds.

When I said I was going to this library, several people (not historians) assumed that I was going to look at books. It has to be stressed that when history researchers go to archives, it is usually not printed books that they are looking for, unless they are rare or very old, but manuscript materials (such as letters and diaries), scrapbooks and periodicals that are not widely available. It is here that the primary information for history projects is most likely to be found, whereas books tend to contain the end-product of research. Where chess is concerned, even monthly magazines tend to be less important than the weekly chess columns, where the information being sought was probably published first, in its rawest and most immediate form.

However, one book I was keen to see, having failed to find elsewhere, was *A Selection of curious and entertaining games at Chess, that have been actually played*, compiled and published anonymously for private circulation in 1817. This book is not in the British Library, whose catalogue says their copy was destroyed, probably in World War Two. This book is not included in the standard bibliography of English-language chess books by Best, but may be found as item 1817:2 in *Chess texts printed before 1850* by Whyld and Ravilious. The book is attributed to John Cazenove, an article about whom may be found in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, and a dedication on the title page of the Cleveland copy seems to confirm this.

There is a manuscript dedication on the title page: “H. Lawson Esq. with John Cazenove’s kind respects” and subsequently it seems this became George Walker’s copy. An ink note on the inside back cover shows he purchased it from a bookseller in 1831. It contains anonymous games only printed on the right-hand pages, players and events being unidentified. There are a few notes on left-hand pages and there are some ink annotations by Walker, probably made when he was compiling *Chess Studies*. For example the first game bears the comment: ‘**GW poor game**’ written at head in ink and pencil.



Another little book in Cleveland that I wanted to see, and which also is not in the Betts bibliography, is R. A. Brown’s *Chess Problems* of 1844 (item 1844:1 in Whyld & Ravilious). This book was dedicated to Staunton and printed by the *Chess Player’s Chronicle* printer. Apart from problems, it contains a few games by Brown and the Leeds chess club. Here is one of them, not of high quality I must admit, but with some interesting points in the endgame phase. The games in the book have a few notes but no diagrams.

***NN – R. A. Brown***

corr, 1844

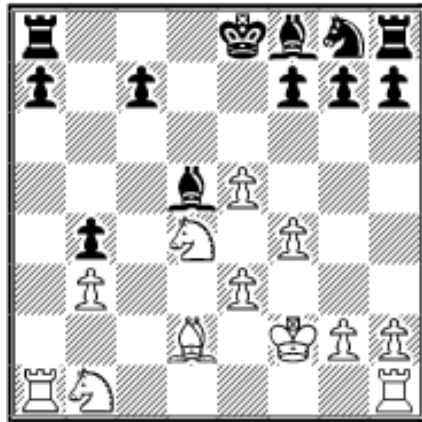
Queen's Gambit Accepted [D20]

Notes by R. A. Brown of Leeds, unless otherwise stated: "Played by correspondence between the Author and Mr. ----."

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e3 e5 4 dxe5 Qxd1+ 5 Kxd1 Nc6**

Mr. Lewis says 5...Nd7 would have been a better move.

**6 f4 Be6 7 Bd2 Rd8 8 Ke1 b5 9 b3 cxb3 10 axb3 b4 11 Bb5 Bd7 12 Bxc6 Bxc6 13 Nf3 Ra8 14 Kf2 Bd5 15 Nd4**



**15...a6**

This is a better move than advancing queen's bishop's pawn two (i.e. 15...c5).

**16 Rc1 c5 17 Ne2 Nh6 18 h3 Be7 19 Be1 Bxb3 20 Nd2 Be6 21 e4 f5 22 exf5 Bxf5 23 g4 Bd3**

Here the book has a misprint: "QB to K sixth."

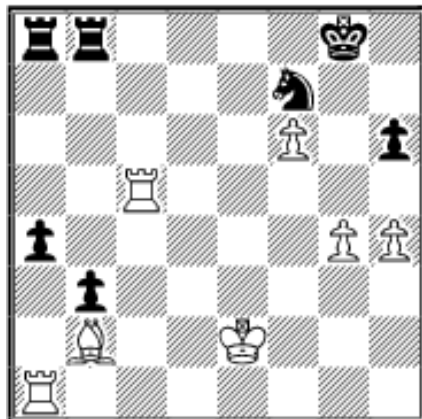
**24 Ng3 0-0 25 f5 a5 26 Ke3 Rfd8 27 Nge4 Bxe4 28 Nxe4 a4**

Black should have played his rook to queen's fourth (28...Rd5).

**29 f6 gxf6 30 exf6 Bf8 31 Nxc5 Nf7 32 Ke2 Bxc5 33 Rxc5 b3**

King's rook to queen's knight's square (33...Rdb8) would perhaps have been preferable.

**34 Bc3 h6 35 Bb2 Rdb8 36 h4**



Well played. White from this position should have drawn the game without difficulty.

TH: Actually, I think Black is still winning until his mistake at move thirty-eight.

**36...Rb4 37 Kf3 Rd8 38 Rg1 Rd2?**

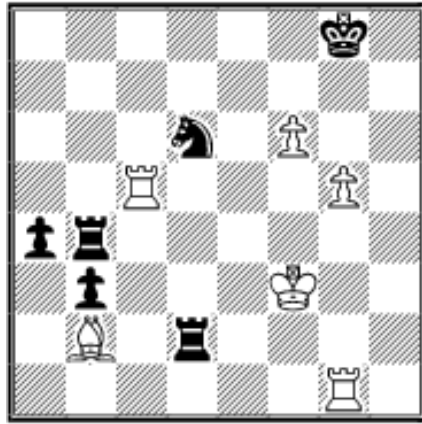
TH: now probably White really would be drawing, if only he had played 39 Bc3!, e.g. 33...Rd3+ 40 Ke2 Rxc3 41 Rxc3.

**39 g5? hxg5**

Black would have lost the game if he had taken the bishop.

TH: That is right because if 39...Rxb2 40 Rc8+ Nd8 (of course not 40...Kh7 41 g6 mate) 41 Rxd8+ Kf7 42 g6+ Kxf6 43 g7 etc. However, Black retains some advantage by 39...Rb8.

**40 hxg5 Nd6**



Brown still fails to see the defence 40...Rb8.

**41 g6**

A good move (says Brown), but 41 Bc3 is even better.

**41...Rxb2 42 Rf1??**

This move loses the game, which, with proper play, must have been drawn thus: 42 Rd1 Rc2 43 Rxd6 Rb8 44 Rxc2 bxc2 45 Rc6 Rf8 46 f7+ Kg7 Drawn. (TH: To which can be added the alternative variation 42...Rb8 43 Rxd6 Rb1 44 Rc7 Rf1+ 45 Ke2 b2 46 Rg7+ with perpetual check.

**42...Rc2 43 Ra5 Rc8 44 Ke2 b2 45 Rb1 Ne4 0-1**

“White abandoned the game.”

Because my personal research interests are primarily in the nineteenth century, I did not call up many rare books apart from those mentioned, and a couple of others that are not held by the main west European chess collections. I had no time to look at pre-nineteenth century printed or manuscript works while in Cleveland, with one exception. Another visitor would probably make a totally different choice of things to look at and be equally fascinated and rewarded.

The one early work I consulted was the Caze manuscript of 1706 (mentioned in Harold Murray’s standard work *A History of Chess* and relevant to my project), which White bought from the Duke of Marlborough (elder brother of Sir Winston Churchill’s father, Lord Randolph Churchill). This manuscript book, containing observations on chess and examples of the King’s Gambit played in Paris at the start of the eighteenth century, was compiled by a man named Caze (possibly a French army officer) resident in Amsterdam and given to an English nobleman, the Earl of Sunderland, whence it found its way ultimately to Blenheim Palace. Caze believed that White’s advantage in chess was too great and he proposed some modifications to make the struggle more equal. Then he suggested that a correspondence match be played, using his modified rules, between the best players of London and Paris to test his idea! When the Churchills were hard up for money around 1880, they sold a lot of art and this manuscript also came on the market and so reached John G. White.

The White collection also holds complete runs of two Irish manuscript chess magazines from the 1880s, of which probably no copy still exists in Ireland: the *Saint Patrick’s Chess Club Pamphlet* and *The Irish Chess Chronicle*. These were hand-written on wax stencils and reproduced in small runs by a duplicating process. (It was only in the 1890s that stencils were produced, probably first by Gestetner, that were strong enough to be typed on and then put in a rotary duplicator.)



*Trolleys of reading material*

Apart from these, and some files of letters, my main emphasis was on some chess magazines and on scrapbooks of chess columns from a wide variety of British and American periodicals. The main purpose of the former was to complete my study of the *Chess Player's Chronicle* (Cleveland has two late issues from 1900 that are missing in the British Library) and to see some rare American chess magazines of the nineteenth century.

I particularly wanted to clarify the confused bibliographic history of the American *Chess Journals* of the 1870s and 1880s. If you have the Betts bibliography to hand, turn to pages 36-38. **Betts ref 7-14** shows that the *Dubuque Chess Journal* was started by Professor Brownson in 1870 and he stopped it after number 73 in summer 1876. He thought he had sold the rights to W. S. Hallock, who produced the first two volumes of *The American Chess Journal*, beginning with June 1876 and numbered consecutively from Brownson, i.e. he started with number 74. This is **Betts 7-22** and it had a problem department by the famous problemist Sam Loyd.

Hallock's series exists in Cleveland in two books, one complete and one not. It was published in Hannibal, Missouri, from June 1876 to December 1877. The first volume ends March 1877. The second was in a box marked *American Chess Journal 1876-77*, which is complete and also in better condition than the other one. All the Hallock issues are bound in that one book.

Hallock apparently did not pay Brownson (or at least that is what Brownson said) so Brownson restarted his magazine as *Brownson's Chess Journal* in February 1877, also resuming with number 74. At different times, Brownson varied his titles. Hence, plenty of confusion, which Betts clarified. Having re-established his rights, Brownson stopped in 1878, but resumed again many years later, as Betts says.

The last three Hallock issues (his incomplete volume 2) were bi-monthly, with the November-December issue very short. Here he announced he had sold his rights to Dr. C. C. Moore in New York, with Sam Loyd continuing as problem editor. Because of moving everything to another city, there was a delay and the new series of *The American Chess Journal* began March 1878. This is **Betts 7-24** (foot of page 37). This was just one volume as Betts says, and Moravian Chess have reprinted it. It ended July 1879. Moore then sold to Barbe, in Chicago, who did his best to continue *The American Chess Journal* as a quarterly. This is **Betts 7-26**. Betts had little information, but he guessed correctly that the Barbe series was a successor to Moore's volume. At Cleveland, a large bound volume titled *American Chess Journal March 1878-April 1881* has both the Moore and Barbe series.

Betts wrote that Barbe published Vol. 1-Vol. 2, no 3 (Oct 1879-Dec 1881), but actually number 3 was April 1881. To increase the confusion, the issue of October 1880 was headed volume 1 no 5 on the title page, but as this was a quarterly, it should have been vol. 2 no. 1, as Barbe must have realised subsequently. So then comes January 1881, headed Vol. 2 no 2, but the page numbers are continuous from October 1880. Then April 1881 was the last issue in Cleveland's book (blank pages follow). If Betts is right, no more were published. If there had been more issues, we can assume White would have obtained them, since he was active then. After the end of Barbe's series, there were no Journals until Brownson resumed in 1886. At present the Cleveland catalogue does



not reflect the publishing history and their holdings quite accurately, but they tell me that this will be fixed. It is not simple, as national bibliographic and cataloguing agencies may have to be informed.

As for the scrapbooks, in several cases it was a question of assessing the original scrapbooks and deciding whether it would be worthwhile to purchase prints of the microfilms, which I am now doing for study in the summer vacation.

It is also worth mentioning that I was allowed to make whatever copies I needed, either from microfilm or photocopy or by digital camera as appropriate, for ten cents a copy. This is an important factor, because, with limited time for research at a distant location, one naturally wants to bring home as much material as possible to study at leisure. Photocopying is also very cheap in The Hague but quite expensive in the British Library, especially for items that they insist have to be scanned by staff.

### **About the White Collection**

The John G. White Collection of Chess, Checkers, Folklore and Orientalia is almost certainly the largest collection in the world of chess literature and manuscripts. Of course, there are also a few large private collections, notably that of German grandmaster Lothar Schmid, but the White collection is accessible to anyone who can visit Cleveland and it contains numerous rare and unique items, as well as an up-to-date collection of modern chess literature.

This was possible because wealthy Cleveland lawyer John Griswold White (1845-1928) spent most of his lifetime building his collection and always planned to leave what he accumulated to the city library, of which he was one of the trustees. As one of the city fathers, he was involved in planning the layout of the central downtown area, in which the main library building (opened in 1923) has a beautiful setting overlooking the main plaza (known as the Mall) with a view towards Lake Erie. The room housing the John G. White collection, on the third floor, is particularly impressive and is high enough to have an excellent view. As the collection title indicates, White collected not only chess literature and chess artefacts but also everything he could do with the game of checkers (draughts and its variants) and also orientalia and folklore, which he became interested in because of the oriental origins of chess.



*Part of the reading room for the John G. White collection*

Not only did he bequeath his collection, and arrange a superb setting for it; he also left a trust fund that enables the library to keep the collection up to date. So it is an important fact about this collection, as with the other three that I mentioned, that they not only have old materials given or bequeathed to them but also up-to-date books and periodicals also. However, the British Library

and Bodleian are reliant on the “legal deposit” system, which means they obtain free copies of whatever is published in the United Kingdom; they generally do not acquire chess literature published elsewhere. As for the Royal Dutch Library, like Cleveland they have to buy what is newly published, but they do their best to obtain everything that comes out in their specialist areas, from wherever it is produced in the world.

If a chess researcher had the opportunity of visiting one or other of the two great public chess libraries, their choice would most likely be dictated by their place of residence. Cleveland is obviously easier for Americans to visit; The Hague is easier for Europeans. Either is a goldmine for researchers; you could hardly exhaust what you would wish to see in half a dozen visits of several days each. So far as holdings of modern (twentieth and twenty-first century) books and periodicals are concerned, they are probably of equivalent value. Both seem to hold nearly everything. One difference between the two libraries is that The Hague does have a certain amount of the most popular books and periodicals on open shelves for consultation, which can be very useful. All Cleveland’s holdings and the majority of The Hague’s holdings have to be ordered from closed stacks, but it usually takes less than an hour to fetch items in either case.

For holdings of nineteenth and early twentieth century materials, the Cleveland collection is more complete; there are very few gaps, so far as I can see. This is partly explained by the fact that Antonius van der Linde died in 1897, and also was not as wealthy as White. Also White appears to have started collecting in earnest in the second half of the 1870s when two major collectors died. In America, George Allen (who wrote the life of Philidor) died in 1876 and his collection was put up for sale. In Europe, the collection of James W. Rimington Wilson (1822-77) remained in the family (and so was available to Harold Murray when he was doing his researches). Eventually this collection was sold off in the 1920s and some of it came to Cleveland.

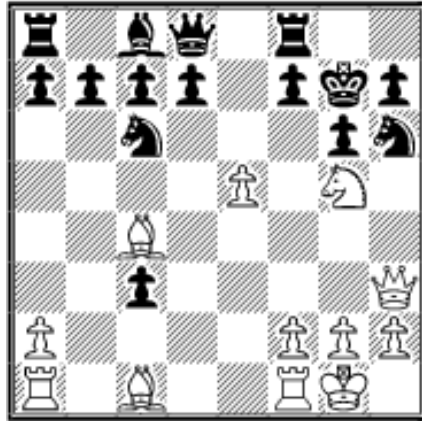
In the years when these men were active and collecting (as was Tassilo Heydebrand von der Lasa), they were communicating and co-operating to some extent. I discovered that one of White’s main agents for buying chess literature in Europe was George Brunton Fraser from Dundee. There is a lot of correspondence between the two men in Cleveland detailing this. In a letter to Harold Murray in 1916, White said his collection of columns began with exchanges he made with Professor Brownson, who edited the *Dubuque Chess Journal*. Fraser sent him the most important European columns up to Fraser’s death in 1905, and when Seguin left the (New Orleans) *Times Democrat* White purchased that collection. After Fraser, Murray dealt with Bernard Quaritch in London as his agent for his purchases and loans of manuscripts to Murray.

After Von der Lasa (1818-99) and Van der Linde died, the latter’s collection went to The Hague. The former’s remained with the family in East Prussia, and is now at Kornik Castle in Poland, but nothing new was bought and some valuable items were later sold off. So the Cleveland lawyer probably had the chess collecting field much to himself for a time. He acquired many other collections that came on the market in the last decades of his life. For example, I noted in a recent item on Edward Winter’s *Chess Notes* that the April 1907 issue of *American Chess Bulletin* announced the forthcoming sale of the “large and valuable chess library” of *New York Clipper* chess columnist Miron Hazeltine (1824-1907). “The collection includes scrap books, cuttings from exchanges and a complete file of the *Clipper* from the 50 years he edited its chess column.” The item on *Chess Notes* does not say where that fifty-year file ended up. I give you one guess. The material being so voluminous, I had time to look only at the five years or so of most importance to my research. In some cases, Cleveland has duplicate items of books or periodicals, or more than one scrapbook covering a chess column, because of acquisitions from various sources, some more complete than others.

Here is a miniature I found in one of the *Clipper* scrapbooks.

**J. C. Gore (USA) – Dr. Fowler (CAN)**  
USA-Canada postcard match 1875-6  
Evans Gambit [C52]

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 b4 Bxb4 5 c3 Ba5 6 d4 exd4 7 0-0 Bxc3?! 8 Nxc3 dxc3 9 Ng5 Nh6 10 e5 0-0?? 11 Qd3 g6 12 Qh3 Kg7



13 Qxh6+! Kxh6 14 Nxf7+ Kh5 1-0 White announced mate in five moves.

It seems that John G. White probably tried to acquire originals or scrapbooks of every major chess column, as well as trying to buy up every different edition of chess books and subscribing to all current periodicals. Unfortunately, he sometimes lost material because of accidents, which accounts for why there are some gaps. A letter he wrote to Harold Murray on 26 September 1916 tells the sad story. Many books of chess columns that White had sent to a binder last February were not done and "they were all burned last night." At this point, he believed that the Seguin, Hazeltine and A. C. White

columns were all lost. In another fire years ago, he had lost the *Kaleidoscope* and *Liverpool Mercury* columns "nearly complete in a book." He had just succeeding in replacing them after many years of search and they were burned in the new fire. (A letter from Fraser to White dated 23 May 1899 refers to a "great fire in Cleveland," which White must have told him about.) Both those columns were edited by Liverpool entrepreneur and journalist Egerton Smith, the *Kaleidoscope* being the most important chess series in a periodical prior to the 1835 start of George Walker's *Bell's Life in London* chess column.

Having read this letter before my visit, I was somewhat doubtful about what I should actually find when I got to Cleveland. A follow-up letter dated 18 December 1916 says that some volumes survived the binder's fire, but the Hazeltine (ten volumes) and some others (unspecified) seem to be ruined. It seems that either White managed to replace the *Clipper* columns (or at least the ones I saw did not appear to be damaged), or a later curator did so. Among the chess column volumes I saw that were in a poor or very bad state were the *Western Daily Mercury* (Plymouth), which however has now been microfilmed. Only two columns from Egerton Smith's *Liverpool Mercury* remain in a slim volume in the White collection; nor does the British Library have a complete set of the early years of that paper by any means. Cleveland does have several hard-copy volumes of the *Kaleidoscope*, incomplete, but importantly it does have two duplicate negative microfilms that appear to be complete, so were probably acquired by a curator of the collection in relatively recent times, possibly the late Alice Loranth, who looked after the collection for many years and retired around 1997.

The account of these fires probably explains why the library's holdings of some important chess columns, such as the *Dublin Evening Mail* and the early years of *Bell's Life* are incomplete. White possibly had these at one time, but was unable to replace them. A few large American collections did not come on to the market until after White died, and so are not in Cleveland. Both Harvard and Princeton have holdings that I have unfortunately been unable to see; I was staying close to Yale, but they don't seem to have any significant holdings of chess literature. Cleveland has a lot of correspondence between White and the chess problem expert Eugene Beauharnais Cook (1830-1915), which I did not have time to see, but Cook's own collection ended up in Princeton.

Harvard has the Howland Collection, which I believe incorporates the collection of Charles Alexander Gilberg (1835-1898), another problemist with whom White conducted extensive correspondence. I believe there are also important holdings in Philadelphia (Allen and Willings Collections) but unfortunately my email enquiries to that city in advance of my visit did not elicit any response. Probably nobody since Dr. Albert Buschke has examined all this material for any length of time, and the problem with university libraries acquiring materials, for which they have no real research motive or funds to maintain the collection, is that neglect may follow. The Buschke correspondence with Murray laments some of his unsuccessful attempts to obtain research grants to follow up his preliminary investigations. No doubt, then as now, chess was not considered important enough and now perhaps it is too late. Apparently Dale Brandreth visited Princeton in



the 1970s and reported that the bulk of the letters had been thrown out. This would not have happened if they had gone to Cleveland. For this reason alone, it is important that today's collectors should support the libraries in Cleveland and The Hague, because they are the ones that have a continuing interest and funding for chess literature.



*A book display on the day of the Kibitzer's visit*

While White was wealthy, he was probably interested primarily in content and did not expend large sums on buying many early rarities, being sometimes satisfied with transcripts and copies. Of course, it was much harder in his day to make satisfactory copies by slow photographic processes and his letters to Murray sometimes reflect dissatisfaction with results.

White actually wrote very little on chess, except in manuscript. His many interests seem to have been bibliographic and in the history of the game, and his writing efforts went into his correspondence. However, in one of the scrapbooks, of the Ohio paper *Cincinnati Commercial Gazette*, I did find an article he wrote about the history of the Cleveland chess club, which was founded as early as 1851 and revived or reconstituted in the early 1870s. *The Cleveland Herald* of 15 October 1851 had a one paragraph item saying: "The Chess Club will meet at their rooms in Williams' Block on Thursday evening at half-past seven o'clock." And *The Daily Cleveland Herald* had one paragraph on 2 March 1859, saying: "The game of Chess between Cleveland and Brooklyn, L.L., has not progressed very far yet, owing to the moves being exchanged by mail. The Cleveland player keeps his board at Jewett's book store." Unfortunately, I saw no moves of this match. It would be an interesting research task for some local person in Ohio to retrace and update the history of Cleveland's chess clubs. One great thing about chess history research is that you do not have to be a master or expert player to do good work in chess history.

A visit to this library is highly recommended to any scholar or student who has reason to visit Ohio. Much of the collection, but probably not all, can be found in the [online](#) catalogue.

At present I am still digesting the large quantity of notes and copies that I made during my recent visit, but in my next column I expect to have some more observations to make about the Cleveland library. I shall also take that opportunity to review some books that have recently been submitted to me, but for which time has not been available for proper study until my return to Europe.

I shall conclude with two games of an American correspondence match that I found in an online database of early American newspapers. This match is not mentioned in the collections of early correspondence matches between clubs that have been compiled by Professor Carlo Pagni. It was played between the cities of Milwaukee and Madison in the state of Wisconsin, and reported from time to time in the *Milwaukee Daily Sentinel*. The issue of Friday 22 January 1858 reported that the Wednesday meeting of the Milwaukee club read a letter from the Madison Chess Club, naming its committee of players for the match: Edward Ilesley, John Wright, C. Ainsworth, J. Richardson and

Jno. R. Baltzell.

Milwaukee would be represented by Winfield Smith, Chas E. Jenkins, and Rufus King. Meanwhile a different Milwaukee committee (Byron Paine, Sigmund Wise and G. W. Chapman) were going to invite the newly-formed Germania club of this city to play a match, but no more was seen of this. The 4 January issue of the paper had reported the formation of the Germania Chess Club (president H. Hoger).

### ***Milwaukee - Madison***

First game, commenced 21 January 1858

Evans Gambit [C51]

*Notes based on those in the Milwaukee Daily Sentinel, 6 September 1858*

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 b4 d5 5 Bxd5 Nxb4 6 Bc4 Nc6 7 d3 Nf6 8 Bb2**

In this open game this post is not a good post for this bishop. 8 Bg5 would have been stronger.

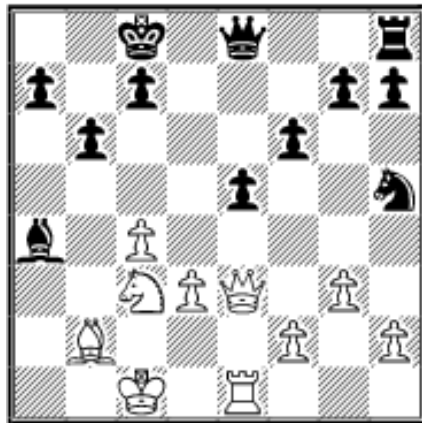
**8...Bg4 9 Nbd2 Qe7 10 c3?**

This hasty move was the origin of White's difficulties. He should have castled.

**10...0-0 11 a4 Na5! 12 Qe2 Nh5! 13 g3 Qf6 14 Bd5 Rxd5 15 exd5 Nb3 16 Nxb3 Bxf3 17 Qd2 Bxh1 18 Nxc5 Bxd5 19 c4 Bc6 20 0-0-0 Qe7 21 Re1 f6 22 Qe3 b6 23 Ne4 Bxa4 24 Nc3**

TH: During the early summer, the paper also reported a visit of German chess master Louis Paulsen (then living in Dubuque, Iowa) to give a blindfold exhibition in Milwaukee.

**24...Qe8**



**25 Kd2**

White might now have recovered one of his pawns as follows: 25 Nxa4 Qxa4 26 Qf3 Qe8 27 Qa8+ Kd7 28 Qxa7 but as Black might then have forced an exchange of queens, it was deemed better to forego the advantage.

**25...Bc6 26 Ne2 g5 27 Ra1 Kb8 28 Ng1 Qe7 29 Ba3 Qd7 30 Nf3 Rd8 31 Ne1 Ng7 32 Rb1 Nf5 33 Qe2 Nd4 34 Qe3 f5 35 f3 f4 0-1**

A final note praises the Madison committee for managing the game "with skill and most painstaking watchfulness"

whereas the Milwaukee players did not give it the required attention. "A match by correspondence should be conducted by at least three players, and each of them should study carefully every move. It is not too much to say of the Milwaukee club that some its members have exhibited over the board better play than in any of the match games undertaken by the club." Similar negative comments about the dedication of Milwaukee's players had been expressed when the second game (to start) had earlier ended in favour of the smaller city.

### ***Madison - Milwaukee***

Second game, commenced 22 January 1858.

Sicilian Defence [B44]

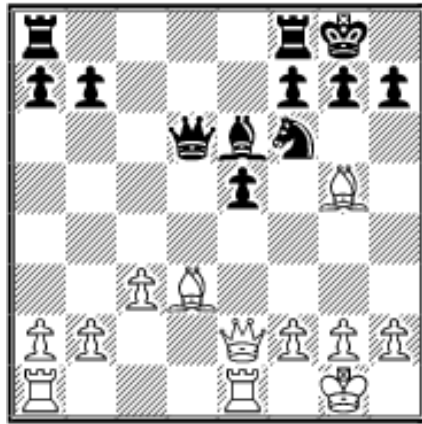
*Notes based on those in the Milwaukee Daily Sentinel, 21 April 1858.*

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 e6 5 Be3 Nf6 6 Bd3 d5 7 Nd2 Bd6 8 exd5 Nxd4 9 Bxd4 e5**

10 Be3 Nxd5 11 Nc4 Be6 12 0-0 Qc7 13 Nxd6+ Qxd6 14 c3 Qc6 15 Qe2

Threatening Bb5.

15...0-0 16 Bd2 Qd6 17 Rfe1 Nf6 18 Bg5



18...Rae8?

The game, which was quite even (and uninteresting) up to this point, is now lost at once by this slip. The move was made in haste, and the obvious reply of QR to Q sq., which had been considered on previous occasions, was momentarily overlooked. But for that, Black could have moved K to R sq., with a good game, but to save his queen he must now move it, and White thus gains an irresistible attack.

It is due to the Milwaukee committee to add that, owing to absence and other engagements, their force was reduced to two players, and that it was found impossible to give the time to these games which the exigencies of a match by correspondence demand.

19 Bxf6 gxf6 20 Rad1 Qc5 21 Qh5 f5 22 Qg5+ Kh8 23 Qf6+ Kg8 24 Re3 1-0.

This game, carefully played from the beginning by White, is handsomely finished. Black resigns for if 24...f4 to avert mate, then 25 Rxe5 and must win the queen.

Can this have been a case of what the old song says: *What made Milwaukee famous made a loser out of me?*

---

© 2007 Tim Harding. All rights reserved.

---

 [TOP OF PAGE](#)

 [HOME](#)

 [COLUMNS](#)

 [LINKS](#)

 [ARCHIVES](#)

 [ABOUT THE  
CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[ChessCafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Review\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)  
[\[Endgame Study\]](#) [\[Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)  
[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About The Chess Cafe\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

© 2007 CyberCafes, LLC. All Rights Reserved.  
"ChessCafe.com®" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.