



SKITTLES ROOM

The Chess Cafe

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Parker Wins Fifth Annual ChessCafe Holiday Quiz

by Taylor Kingston and Hanon Russell

Scoring a record-breaking 91%, American Phaedrux Parker from Juneau, Alaska has won the Fifth Annual ChessCafe.com Holiday Quiz. The winner outdistanced 111 entrants from 26 countries to secure the first prize, the magnificent rosewood Professional Series Chess Set along with a folding wooden board, all provided by the House of Staunton.

Things actually started out rather slowly. The first entry was not received until December 22, 2001, a full three days after the quiz had gotten underway. Pavel Chernomordik, from Israel, was the first to submit his answers. By the end of the first week, there were only a handful of entries. What was going on? Was it too difficult? Was there simply no interest? No. People were just taking their time.

Then, with about a week left, the floodgates burst. The entries began rolling in. When the smoke had cleared, we had received a record number of entries, 111, from 26 countries. Here's how the top ten sorted out, listed in order of tie-breaks:

- (1) Phaedrus Parker (USA) [91]
- (2) Hans Engen (Denmark) [86]
- (3) Thomas Heine Bech (Denmark) [86]
- (4) Jouni Tolonen (Finland) [86]
- (5) Gert Villumsen (Denmark) [86]
- (6) Yves Trottier (Canada) [84]
- (7) Gunnar Finnlaugsson (Sweden) [82]
- (8) Lars Venø Jakobsen (Denmark) [82]
- (9) Michael Spiekermann (Germany) [80]
- (10) Miquel Artigas Isart (Spain) [80]

When asked for comments, the winner sent us this:

*Three years ago I happened upon the movie Searching for Bobby Fischer, and I've been interested in chess ever since. I really look forward to Wednesday mornings and those new **ChessCafe** columns. I learned an awful lot taking the quiz, as I knew very few of the answers offhand. With some digging, I was able to find about half the answers online. The rest I found in a mix of recent and classic chess books, nearly all available from the ChessCafe Bookstore. Thanks to those who created the quiz, it was a lot of fun, I look forward to next year's.*

The rest of the prize-winners: **(11)** Alasdair Alexander (New Zealand) [80]; **(12)** Daniele Ruggieri (Italy) [80]; **(13)** Arne Bjuhr [80]; **(14)** Dmitry Gorodin (Germany) [78]; **(15)** Jim Johnston (USA) [78]; **(16)** Sylvain Barbeau (Canada) [78]; **(17)** Calle Erlandsson (Sweden) [78]; **(18)** Pierre Bourget (Canada) [76]; **(19)** Peter Holmgren (Sweden) [76]; **(20)** Steve Wrinn (USA) [76]; **(21)** Francois Cousineau (Canada) [75]; **(22)** Terry Lee Tretter (USA) [74]; **(23)** Denis Proulx (Canada) [74]; **(24)** Peter Verschueren (The Netherlands) [72]; and **(25)** Thomas Gant (USA) [72]

Contestants were from the following countries (alphabetically): Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil,

Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United States, Yugoslavia

Comments:

Ricardo Salazar: *Wow... My first time entering, and it was a wonderful experience...just doing the research through my private library and the internet made me feel more knowledgeable about chess and computers.*

Pavel Chernomordik: *Beautiful quiz!*

Terry Lee Tretter: *My wife made me do it!*

Michael Spiekermann: *This was the first time that I took part in this very interesting quiz. To me, researching and finding out about things I didn't know before was a pleasure (more than writing down the answers), even if I wasn't able to answer everything properly.*

Jim Johnston: *Thanks for an awesome quiz.*

Hans Engen: *As always, a difficult and interesting quiz. I believe you will never get a 100% score.*

Thomas Heine Bech: *A cruel quiz – very hard and cleverly made questions!*

Alasdair Alexander: *Congratulations on a tough and addictive quiz. As always, the picture round kills me!*

Daniele Ruggieri: *I found it harder this year. The caricatures are very difficult.*

Peter Verschueren: *More difficult but certainly more fun than last year!*

Claes Løfgren: *Thanks for another wonderfully absorbing quiz! I'm afraid my family has had a hard time while I was working on it, trying to persuade me to eat or sleep.*

Alex Dunne: *This was lots of fun, but I'll have to improve my library for next year!*

Guenter Rier: *Please, a softer version next time!*

Jens Kristiansen: *Your quiz seems to become my annual occasion for dusting off my chess library.*

Paul Janota: *It was fun. Cheers!*

All prizes will be sent within the next few weeks. We thank one and all for participating.

Now, let's see how you did...

Answers: **The Fifth Annual** **ChessCafe Holiday Quiz**

(1) Several important Soviet grandmasters (e.g. Petrosyan, Korchnoy) have been completely or partially deaf. Who was the first deaf player to gain the title “Grandmaster of the USSR”? [2]

Boris Verlinsky (1888-1950). He was also the first chessplayer of *any* sort to gain that title. (Source: *Soviet Chess 1917-1991*, by Andrew Soltis) Incorrect answers included Petrosyan, Ilyin Zhenevsky, Bohatirchuk, Boleslavsky, Salov, Levenfish, Chigorin, Romanovsky, Zagorovsky, Kotov, Koltanowski (how the late Belgian/American master might qualify to gain the title “Grandmaster of the USSR” is a mystery...)

(2) The variation of the Najdorf Sicilian that begins **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 b5** is named after the late Soviet grandmaster Lev Polugaevsky. **(a)** Who was Polugaevsky’s opponent in the first serious tournament game in which he played this line? [1] **(b)** In what year was this game played? [1]

Polugaevsky first played it against **Alexander Nikitin** in the 26th USSR Championship held in Tbilisi, **1959**: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 b5 8 Qf3 Bb7 9 a3 Nbd7 10 f5 e5 11 Nb3 Be7 12 0-0-0 Rc8 13 Bd3 0-

0 14 Bxf6 Nxf6 15 Nd5 Bxd5 16 exd5 Qc7 17 Kb1
Rfe8 18 Nd2 Qb7 19 Ne4 b4 20 a4 b3 21 c3 Qd7
22 Nxf6+ Bxf6 23 Qe4 Rc5 24 Qb4 Qa7 25 Qe4
Ra5 26 Qb4 Qc7 27 Qxb3 Rb8 28 Qc4 Qb7 29 Qb4
Qxb4 30 cxb4 Rxb4 31 Bc2 e4 32 Kc1 Rc5 0-1

(3) In 1938 an important tournament was held. The players were Alekhine, Capablanca, Euwe, Botvinnik, Fine, Flohr, Reshevsky and Keres. Of the statements below about that tournament, only one is true. *Find the true statement.* [2]

- A. Keres and Fine finished tied for 1st, but Keres was declared official winner by the **Buchholz** tie-break system.
- B. The tournament was sponsored by the British aircraft manufacturer, AVRO.
- C. The tournament was held in the city of Avro.
- D. The tournament was sponsored by a broadcasting company.
- E. It was the last time Alekhine and Capablanca ever participated in the same tournament.
- F. Salo Flohr, who finished last, was coerced by Soviet authorities to do so, to improve Botvinnik's chances.

A is false. Keres and Fine did tie for first, but the Sonneborn-Berger tie-break system was used, not the Buchholz.

B is false. There was a British company with that name, but it had nothing to do with the tournament.

C is false. The tournament was held in several different Dutch locations, but none named Avro.

D is true. The tournament was sponsored by the Dutch company *Algemene Vereniging Radio Omroep* (General Society for Radio Broadcasting). Because the company's acronym is AVRO, the tournament came to be known as AVRO 1938.

E is false. Later Alekhine and Capablanca both

participated in the 1939 Olympiad in Argentina, though they did not play each other in it.

F is false. Flohr was not then a Soviet citizen, and there is no evidence that he was ever coerced to benefit Botvinnik.

(4) Several countries are renowned for dominating the chess Olympiads at various times, e.g., Hungary 1927-28, the USA 1931-37, and the USSR innumerable times 1952-1991. However what country finished last in a given year is a bit harder to remember. *Match each country below to the year it finished last in an Olympiad.* [4 points total – 1 point each]

- | | |
|---------------|---------|
| 1. Cyprus | A. 1937 |
| 2. Luxembourg | B. 1968 |
| 3. Scotland | C. 1964 |
| 4. Andorra | D. 1954 |

1-C (Cyprus, 1964); **2-D** (Luxembourg, 1954); **3-A** (Scotland, 1937); **4-B** (Andorra, 1968). (Source: *The Encyclopaedia of Chess*, by Anne Sunnucks)

(5) Chess has a way of making everyone feel like an idiot at one time or another. Yet some people have been more or less officially labeled as such. *Identify the “idiot” in each of the following situations:*

- (a)** After an embarrassing loss, this chess master actually had Emanuel Lasker fill out a paper certifying him to be a chess idiot. Who was he? [2]
- (b)** David Janowski once angrily told this man “You are indeed a chess idiot!”. To whom was he speaking? [2]
- (c)** Once after losing an important game, Nimzovich shouted “Gegen diesen Idioten muss ich verlieren!”, usually translated as “Why must I lose to this idiot?”. Who was “this idiot”? [2]

(a) Ossip Bernstein (b) Leo Nardus (c) Friedrich Saemisch

(6) True or false: after losing once to Capablanca and twice to Alekhine at the New York 1927 tournament, Rudolf Spielmann never again lost a serious game to either of them. [2]

True. After 1927 Spielmann scored +2 –0 =4 against Capablanca (at Bad Kissingen 1928, Budapest 1928, Berlin 1928, Carlsbad 1929 and Moscow 1935), and +0 –0 =4 against Alekhine (at San Remo 1930, Bled 1931, and Margate 1938).

(7) In their last match, in 1937, Alekhine beat Euwe +10 -4 =11 and regained the world championship. Who won their first match, and what was the score? [2]

The first Alekhine-Euwe match was *not* their 1935 world title match, won by Euwe +9 -8 =13, but a non-title match December-January 1926-27, won by **Alekhine +3 -2 =5**.

(8) Name the films in which:

(a) James Mason plays chess with Shelley Winters. [2]

(b) A king, speaking of an appointee to high office, tells his court "He'll checkmate the lot of you - including you, archbishop." A later scene shows Isle of Lewis chess pieces. [2]

(a) ***Lolita*** (1962). Nabokov, of course.

(b) ***Becket*** (1964), starring Richard Burton as saint-to-be Thomas Becket and Peter O'Toole as King Henry II of England.

Not: *Murder in the Cathedral, Slipper and the Rose, The Three Musketeers, Henry VIII, Alice in Wonderland, A Man for All Seasons, Anne of the Thousand Days, Henry V, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, The Seventh Seal or The Madness of King George*

(9) True or false: At London 1851, Boden beat Ranken in the final round to take 1st prize. [2]

True. While Adolf Anderssen won the main tournament, Samuel Boden won the "Provincial Tournament" held concurrently. (source: Gaige, *Chess Tournament Crosstables 1851-1900*)

(10) Which teams have won the German Bundesliga since 1981? [2]

Only 4: **Bayern München, SG Köln Porz, Solinger SG** and **Lübecker SV.**

(11) Who scored the most points in the German Bundesliga season 1996/97? [2]

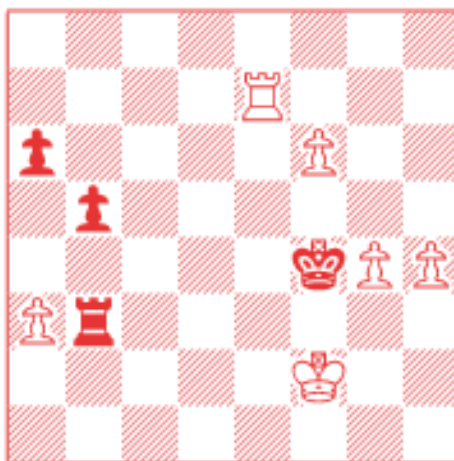
Rafael Vaganian with 14½ / 15

(12) (a) What was the title/heading of the longest thread on the **ChessCafe.com Bulletin Board**? [2] **(b)** How many messages did it contain? [2]

(a) Brain Games Investigated (b) 65. We thought this might be a very difficult question to answer, as it has been quite a while since the Bulletin Board threads have been included in the Archives. Not so. A surprisingly high number of entries got it right.

(13) Since January 1, 2001, who has written the most book reviews published at **ChessCafe.com**? [2]

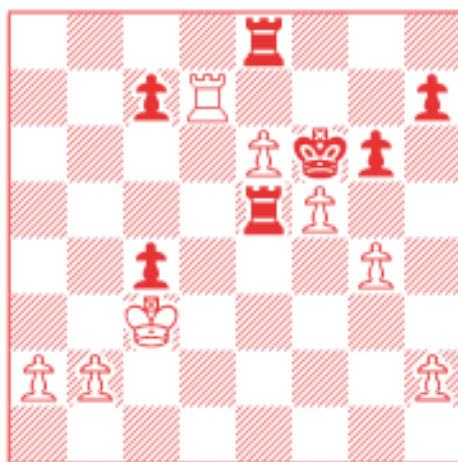
Carsten Hansen (Not Taylor Kingston). Carsten's *Checkpoint* column features only reviews, albeit mostly of opening books.



(a) White here could have won with 39. f7 Rf3+ 40. Kg2 Kxg4 41. Re4+, but instead he lost with **39. Re3?? Rxe3** (0-1, 41). [2]

Weaver Adams. The game is Adams-Denker, U.S. Championship preliminary section

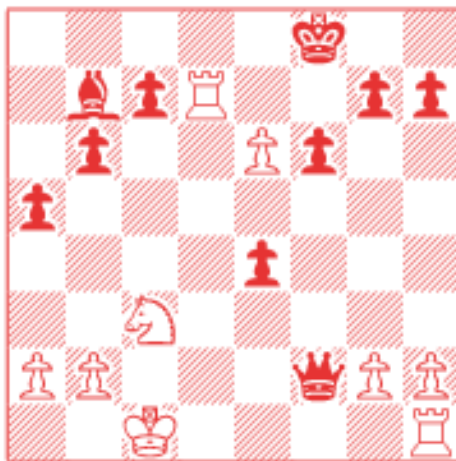
B, New York, 1936.



(b) Black here could have won with 35. ... gxf5, but instead he lost with **35. ... Re7?? 36. g5+ Kxg5 37 Rxe7** (1-0, 47) [2]

Max Rosenthal. The game is Adams-Rosenthal, U.S. Championship preliminary section

B, New York, 1936. Yes, in the same tournament Weaver Adams both won and lost a rook due to blunders.



(c) Black here could have won with 26. ... Qxg2 27. Rhd1 Qg4, but instead he lost with 26. ... Ba6?? 27. Nd5! Qc5+ 28. Kb1 Bb5 29. Rf7+ Ke8 30. Nxc7+ Kd8 31. e7+ Kc8 32. Nxb5, 1-0 [2]

Sammy Reshevsky, at age 12. The game is Carlos Torre-

Reshevsky, Detroit 1924. The only encounter between two of the major child prodigies of the early 20th century.

(17) Many people can name the winner of an important match or tournament, e.g. 1927 world championship: Alekhine, or Hastings 1895: Pillsbury. But tournament directors are often forgotten. *Here, match the event to the name of its director/arbiter/umpire:* [6 points total – 1 point each]

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Hague-Moscow 1948 | A. Karel Opocensky |
| 2. London 1883 | B. Norbert Lederer |
| 3. 1st Piatigorsky Cup | C. Geza Maroczy |
| 4. New York 1927 | D. Isaac Kashdan |
| 5. New York 1924 | E. James Minchin |
| 6. Botvinnik-Bronstein, 1951 | F. Milan Vidmar |

The correct match-up:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Hague-Moscow 1948 | Milan Vidmar |
| 2. London 1883 | James Minchin |

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3. 1st Piatigorsky Cup | Isaac Kashdan |
| 4. New York 1927 | Geza Maroczy |
| 5. New York 1924 | Norbert Lederer |
| 6. Botvinnik-Bronstein, 1951 | Karel Opocensky |

(18) A match-matching question. There have been many drawn matches in chess history, the most famous probably being Lasker-Schlechter 1910 and Botvinnik-Bronstein 1951. The scores of those two (+1 -1 =8 and +5 -5 =14, respectively) are also fairly well remembered by chess history buffs. Below is a list of less famous drawn matches. No two of these had exactly the same won-lost-drawn score. *Match each match from the left-hand column to its correct score on the right.* [6 points total – 1 point each]

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Paulsen-Anderssen, 1862 | A. +4 -4 =2 |
| 2. Burn-Mackenzie, 1886 | B. +1 -1 =3 |
| 3. Chigorin-Gunsberg, 1890 | C. +4 -4 =5 |
| 4. Tarrasch-Chigorin, 1893 | D. +9 -9 =5 |
| 5. Spielmann-Nimzovich, 1904 | E. +3 -3 =2 |
| 6. Mieses-John, 1917 | F. +9 -9 =4 |

Once again:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Paulsen-Anderssen, 1862 | +3 -3 =2 |
| 2. Burn-Mackenzie, 1886 | +4 -4 =2 |
| 3. Chigorin-Gunsberg, 1890 | +9 -9 =5 |
| 4. Tarrasch-Chigorin, 1893 | +9 -9 =4 |
| 5. Spielmann-Nimzovich, 1904 | +4 -4 =5 |
| 6. Mieses-John, 1917 | +9 -9 =4 |

(19) In the late 1940s this chess master published a book which he advertised as “THE GAME OF CHESS SOLVED!”. It sold for a mere one dollar. Who was he? [2]

Weaver Adams (Source: *Chess Review*, January 1948 p. 21)

(20) Not every victory by a great player has been in a famous tournament or match. Great masters have sometimes played in rather obscure events. The left-hand column below is a list of lesser-known tournaments, by venue and date. The right-hand column is a list of their winners or co-winners. *Match each tournament to its winner.* [6 points total – 1 point each]

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Trenton Falls, 1906 | A. Frank Marshall |
| 2. Buffalo, 1901 | B. Emanuel Lasker |
| 3. Paris, 1902 | C. Harry Pillsbury |
| 4. Coburg, 1904 | D. David Janowski |
| 5. Düsseldorf, 1908 | E. Edward Lasker |
| 6. Breslau, 1909 | F. Milan Vidmar |

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Trenton Falls, 1906 | Emanuel Lasker |
| 2. Buffalo, 1901 | Harry Pillsbury |
| 3. Paris, 1902 | David Janowski |
| 4. Coburg, 1904 | Milan Vidmar |
| 5. Düsseldorf, 1908 | Frank Marshall |
| 6. Breslau, 1909 | Edward Lasker |

Edward Winter Collection.

(26) **David Janowski**

Not: Romanovsky, Chekhover,
Atkins, Showalter, Kashdan,
Shipley, Kmoch, Smyslov,
Miles, Euwe, Medina



(27) **Savielly Tartakower**

Not: Spielmann, Thomas, Dake,
Gelfand, Schlage



(28) **Alexander Alekhine**

Not: Botvinnik,
Nimzovich, Krause,
Furman, Suetin,
Korchnoy, Em. Lasker, Heidenfeld, Gruenfeld



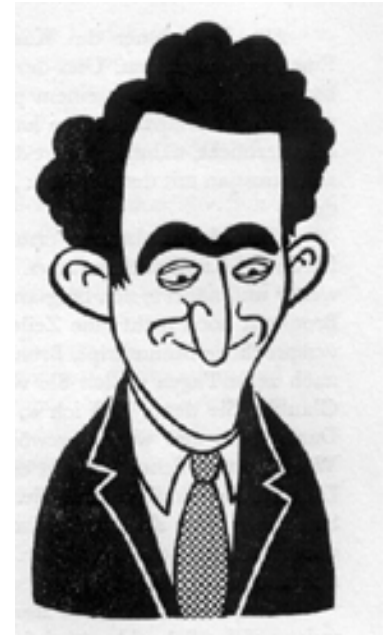
(29) Nikolay Riumin

Not: Annakov, Browne,
Ligterink, Tal,
Ljubojevic, Tkachiev, E.
Torre, Horowitz, Znoko-
Borovsky, Adams, van Wely,
Reti, Maroczy, Hort



(30) Tigran Petrosian

Not: Polugaevsky, Tal



So there you have it. And just in case you don't remember, here are the prizes...

First Prize



The First Prize Winner of **The ChessCafe Holiday Quiz** shall win (1) A magnificent **House of Staunton Rosewood Professional Series** wooden chess set; and to go with this set (2) A **folding wood veneer chess board** with 2¼" green and bird's-eye maple squares and a bird's-eye maple frame. The board utilizes invisible hinges and folds such that the playing surface is on the inside.

Full tournament-size, weighted and padded, **Professional Series** chessmen feature a full 3¾" King with a 1¾" diameter base. These chessmen, a modified Jaques Hartston design from the mid-1890s, were used on all boards in the 2000 US Open Chess Championships in Saint Paul, Minnesota. This set features exaggerated broad bases with finely turned detail normally only found in much more expensive chess sets. The chessmen are cushioned in green billiard cloth and come housed in a black leather case with "The US Open Commemorative Chessmen" printed in gold on the lid. Old-world craftsmanship, with an emphasis on fine detail, has made the House of Staunton sets a favorite of players and collectors worldwide. (Photo: Ebony set shown. Rosewood to be awarded.)

Approximate Retail Value, First Prize: \$325
[Provided by the House of Staunton]



Second Prize

The Second Prize Winner of **The ChessCafe Holiday Quiz** shall win (1) **Chess Assistant 6.1**. The latest full version of this powerful database management system will go to the second place finisher along with (2) The popular **ProChess Mentor** videos, two tapes, four hours, featuring Yasser

Seirawan; and (3) the **MasterChess 2000** 1.25-million-game database CD. All three will be awarded to this year's second-place finisher.

Approximate Retail Value, Second Prize: \$170
[Provided by Chess4Less]

Third Prize

The Third Prize Winner of **The ChessCafe Holiday Quiz** shall win a \$150 gift certificate from one of the world's premier chess publishers, Everyman Chess. Choose from some of the most popular books available on the market today.



Retail Value, Third Prize: \$150
[Provided by Everyman Chess]



Fourth Prize

The Fourth Prize Winner of **The ChessCafe Holiday Quiz** shall win five great books and an Informant CD-ROM: **Kings, Commoners and Knaves** by Edward Winter; **Power Chess** by Paul Keres; **The Human**

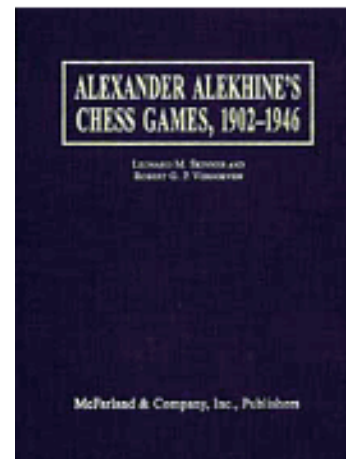
Comedy of Chess by Hans Ree; **The Life and Games of Carlos Torre** by Gabriel Velasco; **Tal-Botvinnik 1960** by Mikhail Tal; and the **Informant #80** on CD ROM. All six will be awarded to the fourth-place winner.

Approximate Retail Value, Fourth Prize: \$142

[Provided by Russell Enterprises]

Fifth Prize

The Fifth Prize Winner of **The ChessCafe Holiday Quiz** shall win *Alexander Alekhine's Chess Games, 1902-1946* 2,543 Games of the Former World Champion, Many Annotated by Alekhine, with 1868 Diagrams, Fully Indexed by Leonard M. Skinner and Robert G.P. Verhoeven; Foreword by Alex A. Aljechin



This is by a large degree the most comprehensive accounting of the games of this brilliant chess player. Presented are 2,543 of Alekhine's games, in an exhaustive catalog that is the result of many years of digging—an effort unparalleled in the history of chess game collections. Many of the games are annotated by Alekhine and 1,868 diagrams appear overall. The book includes games from his earliest correspondence tournaments in 1902 through his final match with Francisco Lupi at Estoril, Portugal, in January 1946.

Approximate Retail Value, Fifth Prize: \$95

[Provided by McFarland Publishing]

Sixth Prize

The Sixth Prize Winner of **The ChessCafe Holiday Quiz** shall win a complete set of Pickard Publishing's *Tactician's Handbook* series. Tactics, tactics, tactics! Everywhere!



Alekhine's Block, Combination Cross, Mitrofanov's Deflection, Lasker's Combination and *The Steeplechase*, by ICCF International Master Victor Charushin. All five will be awarded to the Sixth Prize winner.

Approximate Retail Value, Sixth Prize: \$70

[Provided by Pickard Publishing]

Seventh Prize

The Seventh Prize Winner of **The ChessCafe Holiday Quiz** shall win a copy of *Capablanca* by Edward Winter, autographed by the author.

Edward Winter's masterpiece on the life and games of the Cuban World Champion.

Approximate Retail Value, Seventh Prize: \$60
[Provided by ChessCafe.com]



Eighth Prize

The Eighth Prize Winner of **The ChessCafe Holiday Quiz** shall win a copy of *Winning Pawn Structures* by GM Alexander Baburin, autographed by the author.



Baburin's comprehensive study of the isolated d-pawn - the infamous isolani - is the best treatment of this difficult subject available anywhere.

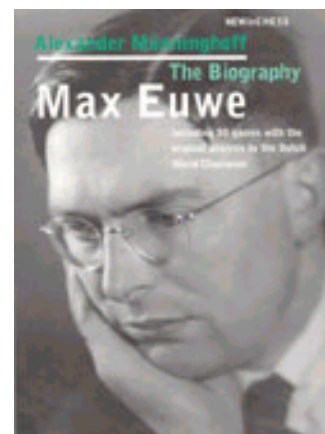
Approximate Retail Value, Eighth Prize: \$35
[Provided by Alex Baburin]

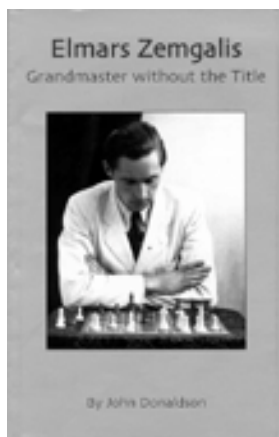
Ninth Prize

The Ninth Prize Winner of **The ChessCafe Holiday Quiz** shall win a copy of *Max Euwe: The Biography* by Alexander Münnighoff.

The author tells the unforgettable tale of the fifth World Champion. His gripping story is illuminated by numerous photos and fifty games with the original annotations of Max Euwe.

Approximate Retail Value, Ninth Prize: \$35
[Provided by New In Chess]





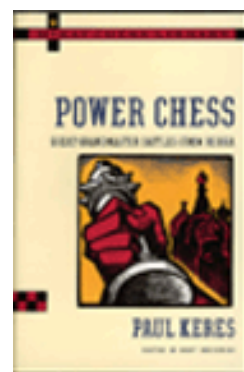
Tenth Prize

The Tenth Prize Winner of **The ChessCafe Holiday Quiz** shall win a copy of *Elmars Zengalis: Grandmaster Without the Title* by John Donaldson.

The author has signed this copy of the intriguing biography of this very strong but untitled player.

Approximate Retail Value, Tenth Prize: \$25
[Provided by John Donaldson]

11th-25th Prizes The 11th-25th Prize Winners of **The Chess Café Holiday Quiz** shall each win a copy of *Power Chess* by Paul Keres. It is sometimes said that the great Estonian grandmaster was the strongest player never to have become world champion. There is no doubt that he was one of the great annotators of all time. This is a collection of twenty-two of his best columns that appeared in *Chess Life* between 1968 and 1975 edited by Burt Hochberg then the editor of that magazine. One of the most enjoyable and instructive game collections available by one of the legends of the game.



Approximate Retail Value, 11-25th prizes: \$14
[Provided by ChessCafe.com]



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