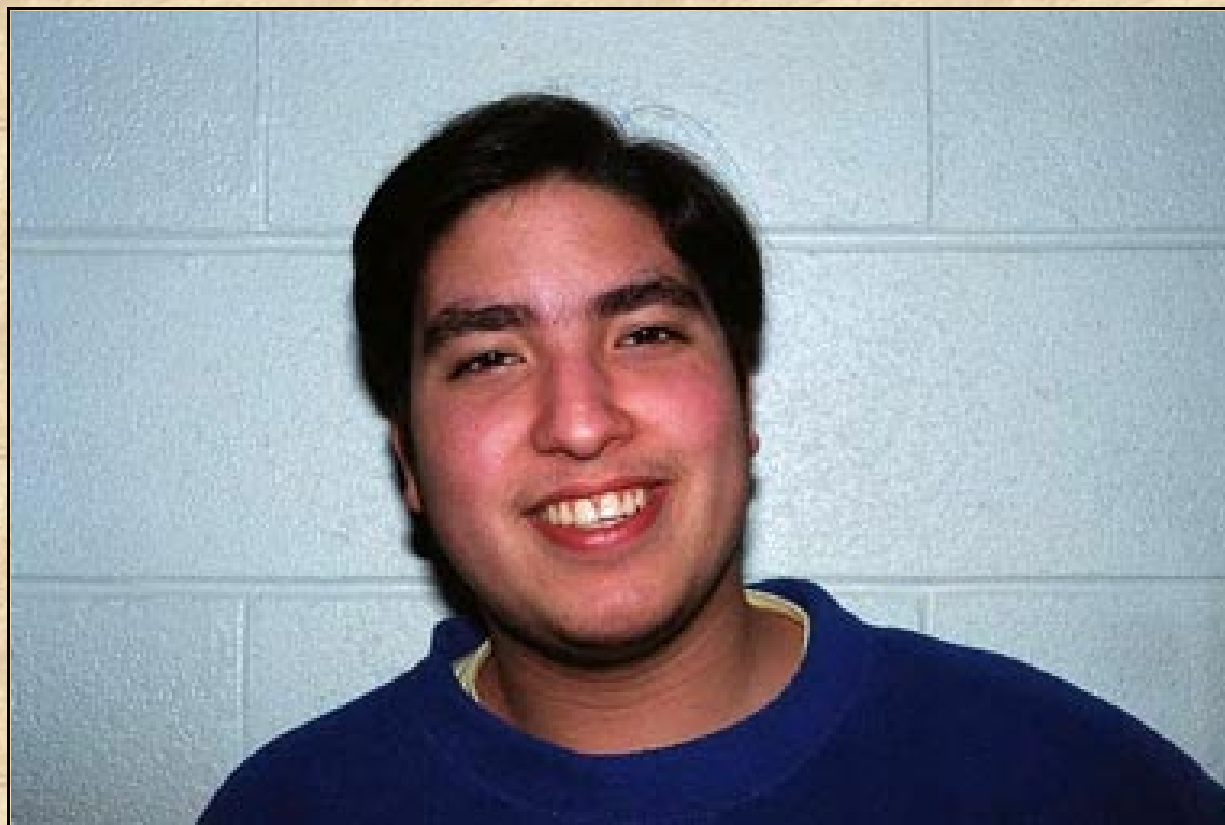


# New Hampshire Chess Journal

December 2013

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## ***Return of the King: Sharif Khater***



***Story, Page 2***

## Khater Returns as 2013 NH Amateur Champ

*Manchester*--Sherif Khater recaptured the State Amateur crown, which he first held in 2010, by beating Arthur Tang in the final round of the 38<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Amateur Championship, held at the Comfort Inn in Manchester on November 2. Only a second round draw with Brian Bambrough blemished Khater's score. Four tied for second place: Gerald Potorski, Jefferey Ames, Clay Bradley, and Joshua Cote. John Jay Naylor won the Intermediate section with a perfect 4.0 score. Thomas Allen of Maine scored a perfect 4.0 for first place in the Novice section. Sixty-four players competed in the four round, one day event. Hal Terrie directed with the assistance of John Elmore. The crosstable can be viewed [here](#).

## Bournival NH Open State Champ

*Manchester*—Brad Bournival was named the 2013 NH State Champion at the 63<sup>rd</sup> New Hampshire Open. GM Alexander Ivanov and Jonathan Yedidia, both of Massachusetts, shared first place. Yedidia caught Ivanov in the final round by beating Brian Salomon while Ivanov drew with state champ Brad Bournival, leaving the leaders with 4.0 points each. Bournival took third place. John Pythyon, Sr. of Maine won the under 1950 section, while Paul Kolojeski



Alexander Ivanov and Brian Salomon square off in Round 4. Ivanov won.



prevailed in the Under 1650 section. The Open drew 37 participants to the Manchester Comfort in on June 14-16. The tournament was directed by Hal Terrie with John Elmore assisting. You can review the complete crosstable [here](#).



**Brad Bournival and Yedidia battle in Round 4. They drew.**

## **Yedidia Takes 37<sup>th</sup> Queen City Open**

*Manchester*--Scoring 3.0 out of 4.0, Jonathan Yedidia took first place at the 37<sup>th</sup> Queen City Open in Manchester on January 26 and 27 with victories over John Elmore, John Vaughan, and Aashish welling. Yedidia fell to Joshua Quint in round three of the four round event. Elmore, Quint, and Vaughan tied for second place with 2.5 points each. Tim Chevalier, John Brady, and Robert Wezalis tied for the top spot in the Under 1950 section with 3.0 points each. Jason Havener and Wesley Parker tied atop the Under 1650 section with 3.0 points. John Harju was all alone atop the Under 1350 section, scoring 3.5 points. The field included 44 players from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont. Hall Terrie officiated with John Elmore's assistance. The complete crosstable is [here](#).



**Jonathan Yedidia**



**Brad Bournival is congratulated by Tournament Organizer and Director Alex Relyea. Nita Patel Photo.**

## ***Bournival 2013 NH Quick Champ***

*Portsmouth*--Brad Bournival claimed the 2013 NH Quick Championship in Portsmouth April 27 with a score of 6.5 out of 8.0. David Vigorito of Massachusetts claimed first place with 7.0 out of 8 points at the 2013 New Hampshire Quick Championship. Bournival's only loss came at the hands of Vigorito in Round 5. William Kelleher of Massachusetts finished third, with a score of 6.0. Kelleher and Bournival drew their fourth round match. Alex Reylea directed with Chief Assistant Director Nita Patel. Thirty-six players participated. See the complete crosstable [here](#).

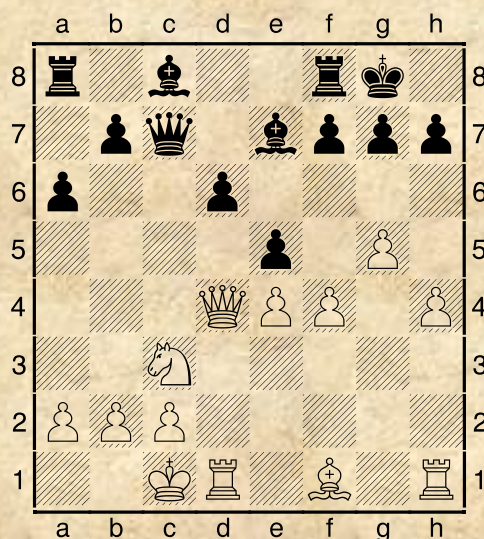
In Round 6, Bournival beat John Gaspar in an interesting Rook and Bishop vs. Rook endgame.



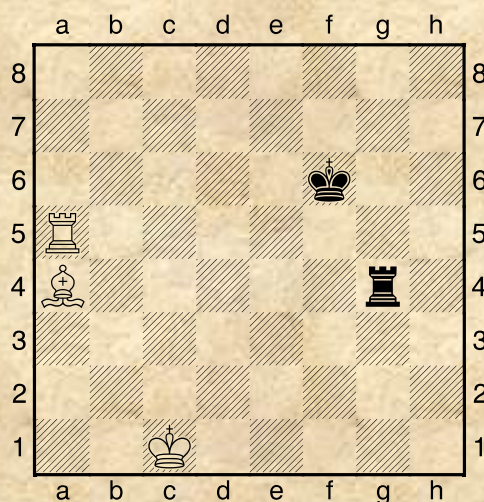
Bournival, Braden (2181) – Gaspar, John (1900) [B80]

NH Quick Chess Championship Portsmouth, NH (6), 27.04.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0 Qc7 10.g4 Nc6 11.g5 Nd7 12.h4 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 Ne5 14.f4 Nf3 15.Qf2 Nxd4 16.Qxd4 e5 Diagram

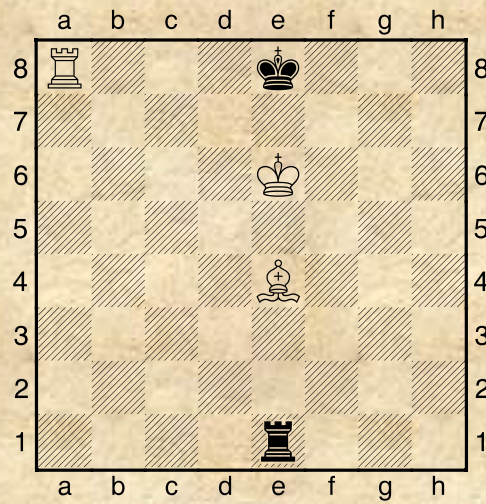


17.Nd5 Qd8 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.Qxe5 Bd6 20.Nf6+ Qxf6 21.Qxf6 gxf6 22.Rxd6 fxg5 23.hxg5 Be6 24.Bd3 Rfd8 25.e5 Rxd6 26.exd6 Rd8 27.Bxh7+ Kg7 28.Be4 Rxd6 29.Bxb7 Rb6 30.Be4 Bxa2 31.b3 Bxb3 32.cxb3 Rxb3 33.Rd1 a5 34.Rd5 a4 35.Bc2 Rb4 36.Ra5 Rg4 37.Bxa4 f6 38.gxf6+ Kxf6 Diagram



39.Kd2 Re4 40.Kd3 Re6 41.Bb3 Rd6+ 42.Ke4 Rd2 43.Rf5+ Ke7 44.Bd5 Re2+ 45.Kd4 Rd2+ 46.Ke5 Re2+ 47.Be4 Re1 48.Rh5 Kd7 49.Rh7+ Kd8 50.Kd5 Rd1+ 51.Kc6 Re1

52.Kd5 Rd1+ 53.Ke5 Re1 54.Ra7 Ke8 55.Kd5 Rd1+ 56.Ke6 Re1 57.Ra8# Diagram



1-0



An NOJ Dubrovnik 1950 set arrives from Slovenia. See story page 17.



## **2013 New Hampshire Scholastic Individual Championships Report**

***By John Elmore***

*Pelham*--On March 16, 2013, the NHCA held the New Hampshire Scholastic Individual Championships at Pelham Memorial School. Eighty-four players participated from across the state.

The championships differed this year from what has become commonplace over the past several years. First, the historical trend has included a disproportionately large elementary section. This year, that was not quite the case. To be sure, the elementary section (24 players) was still largest, but not by far as the high school section (20 players), junior section (19 players) and primary section (21 players) did a good job holding their own. The second key difference between this year and recent years at the championships was the emergence of Nashua as a producer of chess talent. This year, the tournament featured a large turnout from the Nashua area due to the emergence of Celestial Minds, a youth chess group run by Kavya Mallanna. Additionally, the Presentation of Mary Academy sent several players to the event. This was truly Nashua's year. To follow are the champions of the respective sections:

High School: Aashish Welling and Jamie Segee-Wright

Junior High: Arthur Tang

Elementary: Finn Garside

Primary: Kaival Shah

The crosstable can be viewed [here](#). Games from the event can be found in the Game Section.

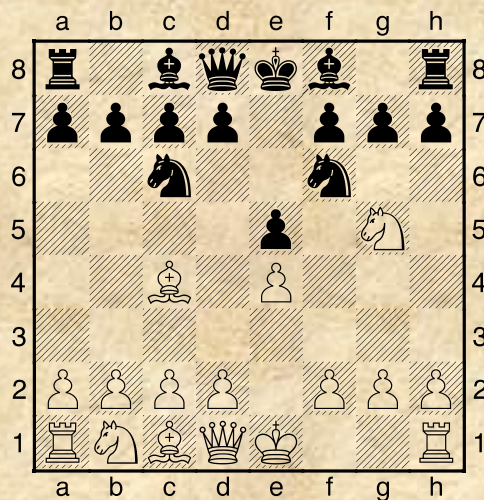
Of note is that Arthur Tang will represent New Hampshire in the Barber Tournament of K-8 champions. Aashish Welling, who took first place on tiebreaks in the high school section, has the honor of representing New Hampshire at the Denker, but he has not yet committed to the event. At the championships, Vince Bradley and Tom Cassar awarded the prize for the first ever New Hampshire Scholastic Grand Prix to David "DJ" Renaud of Pelham. This award was given in recognition to DJ's performance throughout the year at the various scholastic events across the state. The NHCA was well-represented at the event. I was assisted by Kerry McDermott, Doug Decker, Gerry Potorski, Vince Bradley, Tom Cassar and Gene Tappan. It seemed that all the kids had a good time.

Games follow.

**(1) Kaval Shah - Aarush Sathu [C57]**

Schol Champs Ind 3.16.13 (2)

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5** Diagram

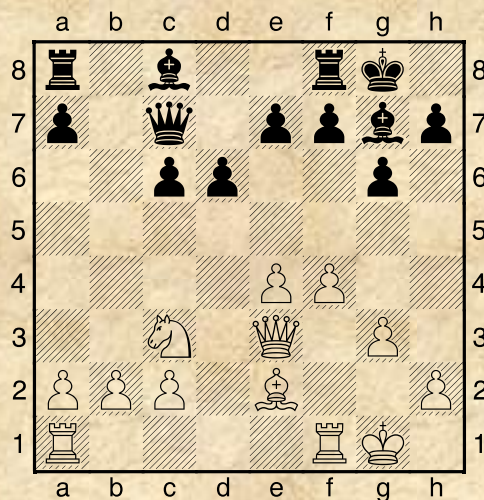


**4...Bb4 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nxf7 Bg4 7.f3 Qe7 8.Nxh8 Bh5 9.0-0 0-0-0 10.d3 Rxh8 11.Bg5 Qf7 12.Bxf7 Bxf7 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.f4 Rg8 15.f5 Rg5 16.h4 Bc5+ 17.Kh1 Rg4 18.Qxg4 Be3 19.Qg7 Be8 20.Nb5 Bb6 21.Rf3 Bd7 22.Qf8+ Nd8 23.Rg3 c6 24.Nxa7+ Bxa7 25.Rg8 Kc7 26.Qxd8# 1-0**

**(2) Hess,Chad William – Tang,Arthur [B34]**

Schol Champs Ind 3.16.13 (4)

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 d6 9.Nc3 Ng4 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qd2 Nxe3 12.Qxe3 Qc7 13.f4** Diagram





**13...Rb8 14.Rab1 Bd7 15.f5 Rb4 16.a3 Bd4 17.axb4 Bxe3+ 18.Kh1 Bd4 Line(3) Tang,Arthur – Becker,Alex [C41]**

Schol Champs Ind 3.16.13 (2)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Qe7 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 h6 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Be3 Qf6 9.Nd5 Qd6 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nf6 12.Rad1 0-0-0 13.Nxf6 Qb4 14.Qf5+ Kb8 15.Rxd8+ Nxd8 16.Bb3 Qb5 17.Nd7+ Ka8 18.Nxf8 Kb8 19.Qd7 Qxd7 20.Nxd7+ Kc8 21.Nxe5 Rf8 22.Rd1 f6 23.Ng6 Re8 24.c3 Rxe4 25.Bc2 Re6 26.Bf5 b6 27.Bxe6+ Nxe6 28.Ne7+ Kb7 29.h4 g5 30.hxg5 fxg5 31.Kh2 h5 32.Kg3 g4 33.Kh4 Ng7 34.Bh6 Ne6 35.Kxh5 Nc5 36.Kxg4 Ne4 37.Kf3 Nc5 38.g4 Na4 39.Rd2 c5 40.g5 b5 41.g6 Kb6 42.g7 b4 43.cxb4 cxb4 44.g8Q Kb7 45.Qc8+ Kb6 46.Rd6+ Kb5 47.Qc6+ Ka5 48.Qa6# 1-0

**(4) McLaughlin,Conner – Tang,Arthur [B36]**

Schol Champs Ind 3.16.13 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nxd4 7.Qxd4 d6 8.Bg5 Bg7 9.Qd2 h6 10.Be3 Ng4 11.Bd4 Nf6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nd5 Bg7 14.Be2 0-0 15.0-0 Bd7 16.Rfc1 Bc6 17.f3 e6 18.Nb4 Qb6+ 19.Kh1 Ba4 20.Re1 a5 21.Nd3 Rfd8 0-1

**(5) Hess,Chad William – Tang,Arthur [B34]**

Schol Champs Ind 3.16.13 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 d6 9.Nc3 Ng4 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qd2 Nxe3 12.Qxe3 Qc7 13.f4 Rb8 14.Rab1 Bd7 15.f5 Rb4 16.a3 Bd4 17.axb4 Bxe3+ 18.Kh1 Bd4 0-1

**(6) Renaud,David – Tang,Arthur [B21]**

Schol Champs Ind 3.16.13 (1)

*[Doug Decker]*

**1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qc3 e6 5.Nd2 Nf6 6.Bd3 Be7 7.f4** [7.f3 0-0 8.e5 Nd5 9.Qb3 Nxe5 10.Nc4 Nxd3+ 11.Qxd3 Nb4 12.Qd2 d5 13.Ne3 Qc7 14.Nh3 Bc5 15.c3 Bxe3 16.Qxe3 Nc2+ 17.Ke2 Nxe3 18.Bxe3 Bd7 19.f4 Rac8 20.Rhc1 e5 21.Ng1 exf4 22.Bd2 Bg4+ 23.Kf1 Qc4+ 24.Ne2 Qxe2+ 25.Kg1 f3 26.gxf3 Bh3 27.Be3 Qg2#] **0-1**

**(7) Gauthier,Lucas – Pedda,Sri [C24]**

Schol Champs Ind 3.16.13 (1)

**1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 d6 4.Bg5 Bg4 5.f3 Be6 6.Bxe6 fxe6 7.Nc3 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Nge2 Nc6 10.Qd2 0-0-0 11.0-0-0 a6 12.Ng3 13.Nh5 Qg6 14.g4 Nxf3 15.Qf2 Qxg4 16.Ng3 Be7 17.h3 Qf4+ 18.Kb1 Bh4 19.Rdf1 Qxg3 20.Qxf3 Qf4 21.Rhg1 0-1**

**(8) Tang,Arthur – Becker,Alex [C41]**

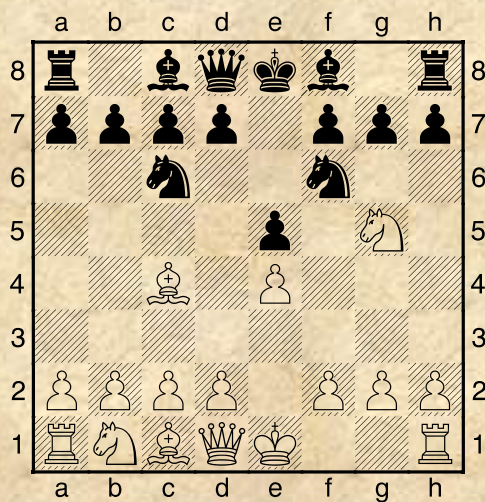
Schol Champs Ind 3.16.13 (2)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Qe7 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 h6 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Be3 Qf6 9.Nd5 Qd6 10.h3 Bxf3  
11.Qxf3 Nf6 12.Rad1 0-0-0 13.Nxf6 Qb4 14.Qf5+ Kb8 15.Rxd8+ Nxd8 16.Bb3 Qb5 17.Nd7+ Ka8 18.Nxf8  
Kb8 19.Qd7 Qxd7 20.Nxd7+ Kc8 21.Nxe5 Rf8 22.Rd1 f6 23.Ng6 Re8 24.c3 Rxe4 25.Bc2 Re6 26.Bf5 b6  
27.Bxe6+ Nxe6 28.Ne7+ Kb7 29.h4 g5 30.hxg5 fxg5 31.Kh2 h5 32.Kg3 g4 33.Kh4 Ng7 34.Bh6 Ne6  
35.Kxh5 Nc5 36.Kxg4 Ne4 37.Kf3 Nc5 38.g4 Na4 39.Rd2 c5 40.g5 b5 41.g6 Kb6 42.g7 b4 43.cxb4 cxb4  
44.g8Q Kb7 45.Qc8+ Kb6 46.Rd6+ Kb5 47.Qc6+ Ka5 48.Qa6# 1-0

**(9) Shah,Samarth – Pedda,Shreyas [C57]**

Schol Champs Ind 3.16.13 (3)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Diagram



4...d5 5.Bb5 Bc5 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.d3 Bg4 8.f3 h6 9.fxg4 hxg5 10.Bxg5 0-0 11.Nc3 Bd4 12.Ne2 Bxb2  
13.Rb1 Rb8 14.0-0 dxe4 15.dxe4 Qxd1 16.Rfxd1 Nxe4 17.Be3 f6 18.Bxa7 Rb5 19.c4 Rb4 20.c5 Ra8  
21.g3 0-1



## 2013 New Hampshire Scholastic Team Championships Report

***By John Elmore***

*Epping*--On April 13, 2013, the NHCA held the New Hampshire Scholastic Team Championships at Epping High School. Twenty-three teams and ninety-six players participated. The high school section was small but strong, including only three teams. Of these, an overmatched Pelham squad competed gamely but could not match two strong teams from the Nashua Chess Club and Phillips Exeter Academy.

After a competitive first round match-up, Phillips Exeter defeated Nashua and took the section's first place trophy for the third straight year, all courtesy of a powerhouse lineup including USCF candidate master Ellen Xiang, A-player Mandy Lu, B-player Mark Oet and rookie Joseph Bartkovich.

A dominant player and a dominant team highlighted the junior high section. Of the six teams and twenty-six players in the section, Arthur Tang of Oyster River was the class of the field, and he took top honors on board one. However, the top finishing team was the Seacoast Skewers, an Exeter-based club making its team debut at the championships. The Seacoast Skewers boasted a well-rounded squad including Jamie Segee-Wright, Connor McLaughlin, Chad Hess and Rooha Alexander.

As has become the rule, the elementary section proved largest at the event, with ten teams and forty-two players in total. Of these, the Celestial Minds Bicentennial Bishops team earned first place with an impressive young squad consisting of Suhaas Katikaneni, Akhil Kammila, Anish Kammila and Kanishk Pandey. In so doing, the Bicentennial Bishops outlasted a game Little Harbour team led by Finn Garside.

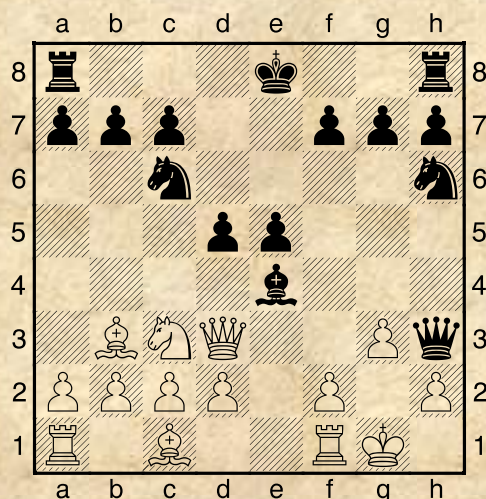
Four teams competed in the primary section, and yet again, Celestial Minds showed its dominance among the younger players. The Celestial Minds Mighty Blue Hawks swept its way to first place, behind the efforts of Kaival Shah, Saadhvi Raghav, Samarth Shah and Shreyas Pedda. The complete crosstable can be found [here](#).

We would do well to notice the emergence of the Celestial Minds group from Nashua. Kavya Mallanna has done a great job organizing a large group of young chess players, and Celestial Minds brought five teams to the event, including the two top finishing teams noted above. Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not mention those who made my job easy on the day of the event. The NHCA was well-represented, and I would like to thank Hal Terrie, Kerry McDermott, Doug Decker, Gerry Potorski, Vince Bradley, Tom Cassar and Gene Tappan for volunteering their time to make sure all the kids had the best day possible. Games follow.

**(1) Woo,Emma – Archibald,Dallon [A00]**

NH Schol Team Champs 2013 (1),

**1.e3 e5 2.Bc4 d5 3.Bb3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Qe2 Be7 6.0-0 Bh4 7.Nxh4 Qxh4 8.Qd3 Nh6 9.Nc3 Bf5 10.g3 Qh3 11.e4 Bxe4** Diagram



**12.Qe2 Qg2# 0-1**

**(2) Johnson,Sam – McLaughlin,Connor [B50]**

NH Schol Team Champs 2013 (1),

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 a6 5.0-0 b5 6.e5 dxe5 7.Nxe5 bxc4 8.Na4 Qc7 9.Re1 e6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Bf4 0-0 12.Qf3 Bb7 13.Qe3 Ng4 14.Qd2 Nxe5 15.Qe2 Qc6 16.Bxe5 Qxg2# 0-1**

**(3) Raghav,Saadhvi – Mitta,Aryan [C23]**

NH Schol Team Champs 2013 (3),

**1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.Qf3 Qh4 4.Qxf7+ Kd8 5.Nh3 Qg4 6.d3 d6 7.Be3 Bxe3 8.fxe3 Bd7 9.Qf8+ Be8 10.Bb5 Qxg2 11.Qxe8# 1-0**

**(4) Kenerson,John – Mitta,Aryan [A40]**

NH Schol Team Champs 13 (2),

**1.d4 e6 2.Qd3 Nc6 3.Bd2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nb4 5.Qe4 Nxe4 6.Nxe4 Nxc2+ 7.Kd1 Nxa1 8.Kc1 Bd6 9.Kb1 0-0 10.Kxa1 a5 11.a4 Bb4 12.Bc1 d5 13.Ng3 Ra6 14.f3 Rc6 15.Be3 Rc1+ 16.Bxc1 b6 17.e4 dxe4 18.fxe4 Qxd4 19.N3e2 Qxe4 20.b3 f5 21.g3 Qxh1 22.Bf4 Bc5 23.Bc1 Bxg1 24.Bf4 Qf3 25.Bxc7 Qxf1+ 26.Kb2 Qxe2+ 27.Kc3 Bxh2 28.Bd6 Re8 29.Be5 Qxe5+ 30.Kd3 Qxg3+ 31.Ke2 Qxb3 32.Kd2 Qxa4 33.Kc3 Rd8 34.Kb2 Rd3 35.Kb1 Qd1+ 36.Kb2 Qd2+ 37.Kb1 Rg3 38.Ka1 Rg1# 0-1**



**(5) Kenerson, John – Nino, Anthony [A40]**

NH Schol Team Champs 13 (3),

**1.d4 Nc6 2.Qd3 d5 3.Bd2 g6 4.Na3 Bf5 5.Qc3 Qd6 6.0-0-0 Qb4 7.Qf3 Qxd4 8.Be3 Qg4 9.Qxd5 Nb4 10.Qb5+ And White went on to win. 1-0**

**(6) O'Young, Anson – Miller, Kasey [C68]**

NH Schol Team Champs 2013 (3),

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d4 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.dxe5 Qxd1+ 9.Kxd1 Be7 10.Ke2 Bg4 11.h3 Bxf3+ 12.Kxf3 0-0-0 13.Nc3 b5 14.Rad1 f6 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Rd3 Rhf8 17.Ke2 Rde8 18.f3 g5 19.a3 h5 20.Rf1 Bxc3 21.Rxc3 Kb7 22.Rd1 g4 23.hxg4 hxg4 24.Rc5 Kb6 25.b4 Re6 26.Ke3 a5 27.c3 Ra8 28.f4 axb4 29.axb4 Ra3 30.f5 Rf6 31.Rf1 Ra2 32.Rg1 And white won in ten moves. 1-0**

**(7) Miller, Kasey – Oet, Mark [C45]**

NH Schol Team Champs, 2013 (2),

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Qf6 6.c3 Nge7 7.Bb5 Nxd4 8.Bxd4 Bxd4 9.cxd4 c6 10.Bc4 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Bxd5 cxd5 13.Qe2+ Be6 14.Nc3 0-0 15.0-0 Rfe8 16.Rae1 Qxd4 17.Nb5 Qb6 18.Rc1 Bd7 19.Qd3 Bxb5 20.Qb3 Bxf1 21.Qxb6 axb6 22.Kxf1 Rxa2 23.g3 Rxb2 24.Rc7 h6 25.Rxb7 d4 26.Rd7 Rb4 27.Kg2 Kf8 28.h4 f6 29.f4 Re7 30.Rd8+ Kf7 31.f5 Rb2+ 32.Kh3 Rd2 33.Kg4 d3 34.Kh5 b5 35.Rd4 Rb7 36.g4 b4 37.g5 hxg5 38.hxg5 Rh2+ 39.Kg4 fxg5 40.Kxg5 d2 41.Rd6 b3 42.f6 Rb5+ 43.Kf4 gxf6 And white resigned. 0-1**

## ***Ivanov and Vigorito Top 2013 Portsmouth Open***

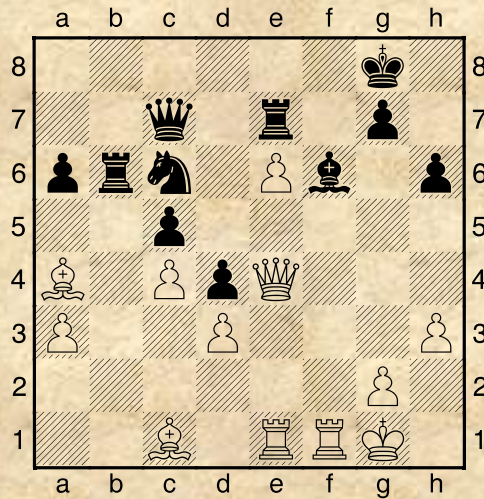
*Portsmouth*--Alexander Ivanov and David Vigorito (right) tied for top honors in the 2013 Portsmouth Open held on January 19 and 20 in Portsmouth, sponsored by Relyea Chess. Thomas Rein Laaman won the Under 1750 section. Follow the link to the full [crosstable](#). Twenty-eight players competed. Alex Relyea directed. Games follow.



**(7) Ivanov, Alexander (2658) – Gaspar, John (1955) [B50]**

Portsmouth Open Portsmouth, NH (2), 19.01.2013

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.Bc2 Bg4 6.d3 e6 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.h3 Bh5 9.Nf1 d5 10.Ng3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 d4 12.0-0 0-0 13.c4 Qc7 14.Qe2 Rfe8 15.f4 a6 16.e5 Nd7 17.Ne4 b5 18.b3 h6 19.Bd2 Rab8 20.a3 f5 21.exf6 Nxf6 22.Rae1 Nxe4 23.Qxe4 Bf6 24.Bd1 bxc4 25.bxc4 Rb2 26.Bc1 Rb1 27.Ba4 Rb6 28.f5 Re7 29.fxe6 Diagram**

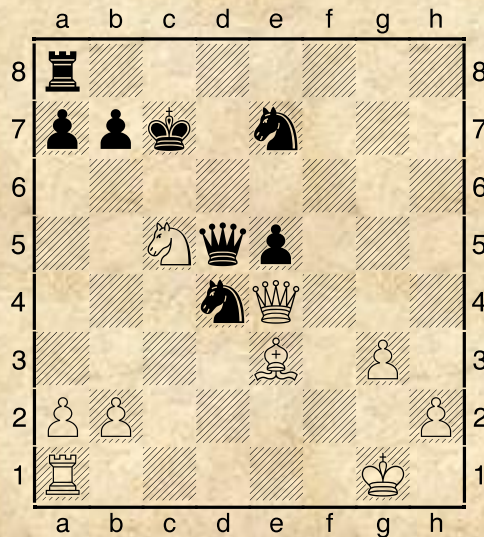


**29...Nd8 30.Rxf6 Rbx6 31.Rxe6 Rxe6 32.Qh4 1-0**

**(1) Gaspar,John (1955) – Carter,David (2176) [D02]**

Portsmouth Open Portsmouth, NH (1), 19.01.2013

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Bd3 Bd6 6.0-0 f5 7.Nbd2 Qf6 8.Re1 g5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Nb3 Bb6 11.Nxg5 Qxg5 12.e4 Bxf2+ 13.Kxf2 Qh4+ 14.Kg1 fxe4 15.g3 Qh3 16.Be2 h5 17.Rf1 Nge7 18.Rf4 e5 19.Rh4 Qf5 20.Bxh5+ Kd8 21.Bg4 Qf8 22.Rxh8 Qxh8 23.Nc5 Qg8 24.Bxc8 Kxc8 25.Qh5 d4 26.cxd4 Qd5 27.Qg4+ Kc7 28.Qxe4 Nxd4 29.Be3 Diagram**



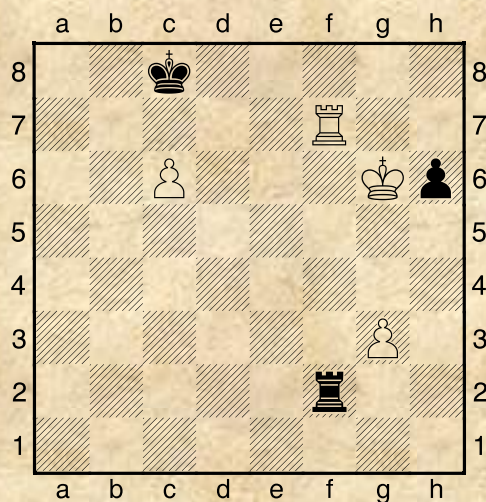
**29...Qxc5 30.Rc1 Ne2+ 31.Kf2 Qxc1 32.Bxc1 Nxc1 33.Qc4+ Nc6 34.Qxc1 Rf8+ 35.Kg2 e4 36.Qc5 Re8 37.Kf1 e3 38.Ke2 b6 39.Qc4 Re5 40.h4 b5 41.Qd3 Kb6 42.b4 Nxb4 43.Qd4+ 1-0**



**(2) Seedner,Mark (1500) – Klemme,Bill (1720) [C55]**

Portsmouth Open Portsmouth, NH (1), 19.01.2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.a3 a6 10.Bd2 Re8 11.Qc1 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Qxd5 14.Re1 Bf5 15.Nh4 e4 16.Nxf5 Qxf5 17.Re3 Rad8 18.Rg3 exd3 19.cxd3 Rxd3 20.Rxd3 Qxd3 21.Qc3 Qxc3 22.Bxc3 a5 23.g3 a4 24.Rd1 Rd8 25.Re1 b5 26.Re4 Na7 27.Re7 b4 28.axb4 Nb5 29.Re5 Nxc3 30.bxc3 Ra8 31.Re2 a3 32.Ra2 Kf8 33.Kf1 Ke7 34.Ke2 Kd6 35.Kd3 Kd5 36.c4+ Kc6 37.Kc3 Re8 38.Rxa3 Re2 39.Ra6+ Kd7 40.c5 Rxf2 41.c6+ Kd6 42.b5 Kc5 43.Ra7 Kxb5 44.Rxc7 Rf6 45.Kd4 Kb6 46.Rc8 Rf2 47.Kd5 Rxh2 48.Rb8+ Kc7 49.Rb7+ Kc8 50.Rxf7 g6 51.Kd6 Rd2+ 52.Ke6 Re2+ 53.Kf6 Rf2+ 54.Kxg6 Diagram



54...Rxf7 55.Kxf7 Kc7 56.Kg6 h5 57.Kxh5 Kxc6 58.Kg5 Kd7 59.Kf6 Ke8 60.Kg7 Ke7 61.g4 Ke6 62.g5 Ke7 63.g6 Ke6 64.Kh7 1-0

**(3) Hess,Chad (1016) – Chevalier,Tim (1732) [B96]**

Portsmouth Open Portsmouth, NH (1), 19.01.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 b5 8.Qf3 Bb7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.Qh3 Qc7 11.Bd3 Be7 12.a3 Qb6 13.Nf3 Rc8 14.Qh4 Rxc3 15.bxc3 d5 16.e5 Bxa3+ 17.Kd2 Ne4+ 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.Ne1 b4 20.cxb4 Qxb4+ 21.c3 Qb2+ 22.Nc2 e3+ 23.Kd3 Nc5+ 24.Kxe3 Qxc3+ 25.Ke2 Qxc2+ 26.Rd2 Qe4+ 27.Kf1 0-0 28.Be7 Rc8 29.Qg3 Qb1+ 30.Ke2 Qxh1 31.Qxa3 Qxg2+ 32.Ke1 Qe4+ 33.Kd1 Qa4+ 34.Qxa4 Nxa4 35.Rd4 Nc3+ 36.Kd2 h5 37.Bb4 Nd5 38.Bd6 Kh7 39.h4 Kg6 40.Kd3 Rc3+ 41.Ke2 Rh3 42.Kf2 Rxh4 43.f5+ Kg5 44.fxe6 Rxd4 45.exf7 Rf4+ 46.Kg3 Rxf7 47.e6 Rf5 48.e7 Nxe7 49.Bxe7+ Kg6 50.Kh4 a5 51.Kg3 a4 52.Kh4 Kf7 53.Bd6 Rf3 54.Kxh5 a3 55.Be5 a2 56.Ba1 Rf1 57.Kg4 Rxa1 0-1

**(4) Laaman,Tom (1709) – Seedner,Mark (1500) [C01]**

Portsmouth Open Portsmouth, NH (2), 19.01.2013

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 c6 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Re1 0-0 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.Qxe7 Qb6 11.Nbd2 Qxb2 12.Reb1 Qc3 13.Qb4 Qxb4 14.Rxb4 b6 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 c5 17.Rf4 c4 18.Bf1 h6 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Rxg4+ Kh7 21.exf6 Rae8 22.Nf3 Re6 23.Rf4 Rfe8 24.g3 b5 25.Bh3 Re2 26.Rd1 Rxc2 27.Bf5+ 1-0

**(5) Corrigan,Michael (1652) – Hess,Chad (1016) [B09]**

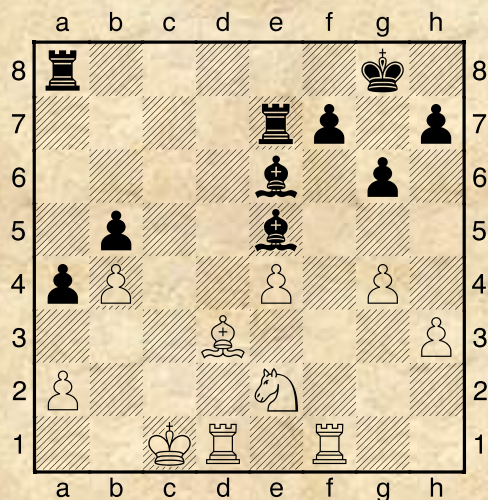
Portsmouth Open Portsmouth, NH (2), 19.01.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.e5 Ne8 8.0-0 c6 9.Qe1 f6 10.e6 Nb6 11.f5 g5 12.Qg3 h5 13.Ne4 h4 14.Nxh4 gxh4 15.Qxh4 d5 16.Nc5 Bh8 17.Rf3 Ng7 18.Rh3 Bxe6 19.Qh7+ Kf7 20.fxe6+ Ke8 21.Bg6+ 1-0

**(6) Klemme,Bill (1724) – Barkey,Dale (1710) [E90]**

Portsmouth Open Portsmouth, NH (2), 19.01.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.h3 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bg5 c6 10.Nxe5 Re8 11.f4 Nbd7 12.Bd3 Nxe5 13.fxe5 Rxe5 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.0-0-0 Re7 16.Ne2 Be6 17.b3 a5 18.Rhf1 Be5 19.g4 a4 20.b4 b5 21.cxb5 cxb5 Diagram



22.a3 Bb3 23.Rde1 Rc8+ 24.Kd2 Bb2 25.Nc1 Bxa3 26.Nxb3 Bxb4+ 27.Ke2 Bxe1 28.Rxe1 axb3 29.Bxb5 Rxe4+ 0-1



# ***The Joy of Chess Sets***

*By Chuck Grau*

Bobby Fischer once said that “all that matters on the chessboard is good moves.” Far be it from me to challenge Fischer on anything chess, but I beg to differ. Sure, good moves matter most, but I think good chess pieces matter too. No doubt this this emanates in part from the consumerist fantasy that good pieces generate good moves. Fetishism aside, well-designed and crafted pieces enhance the esthetic of the game. They make good moves better, and bad ones less painful. And since you always set them up for the next game, they embody hope.

So I want to share some thoughts and images of three of my favorite chess sets. While I have any number of really fine “classical” Staunton designs tracing their lineage back to [Jaques of London](#) and their contemporaries like the [British Chess Company](#), my three favorites are all variations on the Staunton theme. What do I mean by a “classical” Staunton design? This set from House of Staunton illustrates what I have in mind.



The King’s crown bears a cross. The Bishops are mitred. The Knight echoes the Elgin Marble Knights, taken by Lord Elgin to England from the Parthenon in Athens. My favorites are all Staunton designs, but they deviate from the classical form in ways I find both fun and esthetically pleasing.

## **The Mechanics Institute Chessmen**

I love my Mechanics Institute Chessmen. They are rugged, well-weighted and well-balanced with a low center of gravity. Quite suitable for rapid play. They feel good in your hand.



The King is of fairly typical Staunton design but with an exaggerated base, a trait shared by all the pieces. I think Henry VIII. Mine wears a cross, but there is a flat cap that can replace it, as shown on the Black King above. The Queen is dowdy. More Queen Victoria than Natalie Dormer's [Anne Boleyn](#). The Bishop's mitre is understated. I wonder whether he is more conspirator than cleric. The Knight is no elegant Elgin. Cartoonish yet powerful. Warhorses not show horses. The mighty Rooks are my favorite pieces.. Thick. Wonderfully detailed. Formidable. When these pigs take to the trough, they cannot be denied. The Pawns embody the themes of strength and power with their massive bases.

I like the story behind these pieces as well. The Mechanics Institute Chess Club of San Francisco is the oldest in America. In 1916, the Institute commissioned these pieces for a simultaneous match by Jose Raul Capablanca, shown playing with them at the right.



I bought my Mechanics Institute set, below, from the [House of Staunton](#), and play with it on a House of Staunton Superior Traditional mahogany, sycamore, and rosewood board with 2 3/8" squares.





## Romanian Staunton

As much as I enjoy my Mechanics Institute set, I banished it to its box once I discovered this Romanian set. Here are the red pieces from my set, in a photo taken by Mike Ladzinski, [GoodnightMike](#) on Ebay, from whom I purchased it.



The King reminds me of those you find in French Stauntons. A little top heavy, but with wider bases than many French sets. I haven't had any balance problems with them. I love the opposite colored finials on the Bishops, as it adds enormous visual interest and a very Eastern European flavor. The set mixes secular and religious motifs. The King's crowns bear crosses, but the Bishops are unmitred. The Rooks are less robust than I usually prefer, but I somehow don't mind them in this set. I really like the somewhat oversized pawns with their wide bases. But my favorite pieces far and away are the angular and funky Knights. Here are my Knights in a Mike Ladzinski photo:



I especially like the way these red and white pieces complement my ebony and maple board from House of Staunton, unique with its dark red border around the playing squares. The border really pops out with the red pieces. They fit comfortably on these 2 ¼" squares.





## Dubrovnik 1950

As much as I like my Romanian chessmen, the Dubrovnik 1950 pieces have stolen my heart. Here they are in maple and red, photos courtesy of [NOJ.si](http://NOJ.si), the Slovenian firm that is licensed to produce them using the original design drawings.



Designed by Croatian comic book artist [Andrija Maurovič](#) for use in the Dubrovnik 1950 Olympiad, these pieces were the favorite of Bobby Fischer, who bought a set in 1970 in Zagreb. It later was stolen. “This is the best set I have ever played on,” Fischer testified. “It is marvelous... Look at these pieces, smooth and light. No hard edges. Beautifully carved. The best set for playing I’ve ever seen.” [Here](#) is Fischer analyzing with the set. Fischer and Spassky played with these pieces in their 1992 rematch in [Sveti Stefan](#).

There are several more entertaining YouTube clips of the Dubrovnik set. Here is one by [Mike Ladzinski](#) that gives an intimate view of the pieces, and another by [Izmet Fekali](#), who authors the fascinating blog [Best Chessmen Ever](#). What a character!

I bought my set directly from NOJ in Slovenia. They were an absolute delight to deal with, and I corresponded frequently with Gregor Novak, who hand-crafted my set. He sent me pictures of the production process. These pictures by show the Kings, Queens, and Bishops after Gregor turned them, the Knights after he carved them, and the red pieces after he stained them.







[Here](#) is a video of the NOJ artisans producing the pieces for their Bestchessmenever line. If you ever wonder why good chess sets cost what they do, watch the time and care that go into making them. Finally, here are my red and maple 4" King Dubrovnik pieces set up on an Elm Burl board with 2.5" squares from House of Staunton. The pieces are so thick that they look crowded on 2 3/8" squares.



I like the proportions of the set. The finish and feel are superb. I find the knights a uniquely beautiful alternative to the steady diet of Elgin Marble knights I'm accustomed to. I like the strong Kings and Queens, the Bishops' opposite color finials, and the stocky rooks. They are well-weighted and very well-balanced. They feel good in your hand. The pawns are stout and sturdy foot soldiers. I also like the secularity of the pieces, as a ball replaces the cross atop the Kings, and the Bishops are unmitred. I asked NOJ's Novak about that. Having seen a [set from Vienna](#) with the Kings and Queens sporting turbans and unmitred Bishops with opposite colored finials, I wondered whether there was an Ottoman influence upon sets made in the Balkans. Novak explained that the original design called for either crosses or balls for the Kings' finials, but the Communist Yugoslavian government, which was sponsoring the Olympiad and had both monetary and political capital riding on it, did not want any religious overtones, so the set was produced in an entirely secular format.

That is a quick tour of my favorite sets. I hope you get as much pleasure out of your chess pieces as I do out of mine!



**Bobby Fischer and his Dubrovnik 1950 set**

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