



# My Publications for Sale

- **A FEW OLD FRIENDS.** Darien, CT., 2003. Hardback, 236pp.

This was my first compilation of some the highlights of my chess collection.

**Price: \$200**

- **A FEW OLD FRIENDS – Second Edition.** Darien, CT., 2007. Hardback, 394pp.

Here is what Edward Winter, the well-known chess historian had to say about the book:

## **5323. Most beautiful chess books (C.N. 3164)**

C.N. 3164 (see page 119 of *Chess Facts and Fables*) discussed *David DeLucia's Chess Library. A Few Old Friends* (Darien, 2003) – ‘a new book so stunning in terms of both production and content that we can only marvel at it’. Richly illustrated, it presented the highlights of Mr DeLucia’s vast collection of rare chess books, manuscripts, letters, photographs, equipment, etc., but now he has brought out a second edition which is even larger and better, in a limited edition of 225 copies.

The Foreword (page v) mentions that his most significant acquisition in recent years has probably been a collection of ‘over 100 Lasker manuscripts, 900+ letters, 75+ postcards, numerous signed books, honorary diplomas presented to Lasker as well as many other fine Lasker items’. He has also procured ‘the last remnants of the Capablanca estate which included many of his personal belongings like his alligator wallet, attaché case, top hat with leather carrying case, hundreds of letters written to him in the later years of his life as well as a number of unrecorded games. The book is a 394-page hardback of incomparable quality.

Dale Brandreth, well-known chess book dealer, wrote this about the book:

**A SPECTACULAR BOOK !! DAVID DELUCIA'S CHESS LIBRARY - A FEW OLD FRIENDS**, second edition, just published in a total edition of 225 copies of which only about 200 are for commercial distribution. hardback, 394 pages (glossy clay-filled paper), 9x11 in, 4.5 lbs. About five years ago DeLucia published a beautiful book within this same title with photos of some of the highlights of his fabulous collection of rare chess books, manuscripts, autograph letters, and ephemera in a 130-copy edition of which only 100 were by

distribution. That book had about 2/3 as many items as this one and it sold out very quickly with the price originally at about \$95. Today copies go at auction between \$300 to \$450. This second edition, is now \$350. My guess is that, disregarding inflation as a factor, within ten years it will be at least \$1000. Both volumes are notable for their fine photos, many in color. Among the treasured depicted in this volume are the Paris Lucena Manuscript, the first edition Damiano, a flawless Carrera, the three editions of Saul (1614, 1640, 1672), the first edition Ruy Lopez, three different-color editions of the London 1883 tournament book (pristine copies), the Dubuque Chess Journal (with collation of this very hard-to-get complete run), St. Petersburg 1895 Tournament book, letters and scores of Alekhine, a commemorative envelope from Em. Lasker to his wife Martha from Cambridge Springs 1904, the first page of the Cambridge Springs 1904 tournament bulletins (the first tournament bulletins ever), extracts from several Lasker manuscripts (some on mathematics), several Lasker letters, a letter from Einstein to Lasker, Morphy letters, scoresheets, photos, and his chess board, Capablanca scoresheets, Capa's top hat, passport, and watch...and hundreds more extraordinary items. These two volumes are unique in the history of chess literature. I lack enough superlatives to do these two volumes justice.

Bob Long, another well-known chess book dealer, wrote this:

**DELUCIA'S BITS OF CHESS HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHED!**

It's been my job for more than 30 years to steer my customers and friends in the right direction when it comes to chess. I'm at it again!

First of all, \$350. That's what it's going to cost you. So if that turns you off, read no further.

But, if you are like most, "What on earth am I getting for this kind of money?"

To be blunt, don't think about it too long as only 225 copies were made, with hardcovers. I am assuming you are not a nitwit and are waiting for the paperback edition because THIS is a collectible. There won't be a paperback edition.

It's from David DeLucia's chess collection of everything that pleases him. Dave must have part ownership in Fort Knox to have all this. Over the years I have been lucky enough to own some of these things--then selling them.

I won't start in chronological order, I will just mention what I recall from memory AND I have thrown in a couple photos in addition to the one of the cover, which isn't that easy to see (a nice dustjacket would have been a handsome addition).

Some of the personal effects are Capablanca's wallet with his initials stamped on the alligator's hide. There are letters and letters. There is even one from Bogoljubov which he signs off with a "Heil Hitler." Been eating the mushrooms again apparently.

The original issue of "Lasker's Chess Magazine" has a bizarre cover but almost seems like a "self portrait" of Lasker when he was a kid hustling chess customers in a cafe with his brother Berthold.



Many of us have seen those old time chess clocks which rocked back and forth. Primitive by today's standards but at one time I really, really wanted to own one. As Lawrence Totaro once said to me, "It makes you feel like you were there."

The beginning of the book is loaded with plates and plates of early chess publications in a variety of languages. The ONLY reason this stuff is not more popular among the non-collectors is that it either isn't translated, or the reproduction is just that, a facsimile of something that looks bad today but was the hit parade way back then. Wouldn't it be cool to read what those guys were writing about back then and to see how much they differed from us (maybe they differed only because we have chess software).

There is lots of Lasker, Capablanca, some on Alekhine, Steinitz, Pillsbury, Fischer and then some pretty interesting chessmen too. For other chess characters there are many including Botvinnik and group photos after a hard day at the gym.



The photo of Alekhine is beautiful in black (by the way, this book is in color, hence the cost)... I colored it a steel blue. The window shade effect is an accident of the Moire variety. If I had tilted the picture 45 degrees before scanning it, it probably would have disappeared entirely. Alekhine, with his imposing forehead, looks like a gentleman chessplayer doesn't he?

There are artifacts of Capablanca's purchased from the estate.

DeLucia himself is a monster-sized collector having bought several large collections such as Jeff Kramer's (of Lasker). That's always a way to a good start.

Years ago, I published a magic magazine which now is extremely rare, *The Sorcerer's Eyes*. In every issue the reviewer would say something like, "Don't miss out on this one, you will regret it if you do." Well, he was right almost every time because even back then I liked to feature the unusual and hard to get.

If \$350 is too much (I will admit, it is expensive) forget about it. Otherwise, hock something, eBay something, borrow money. When you look at the picture, read the captions, and look at the dollar signs on some of these items--you will be convinced you did the right thing.

Owning a book like this, where most of the copies go overseas, is a heck of a better investment than owning a second home in Florida or California. And after you look at it, be a nice guy and keep it safe and in excellent condition. You wouldn't believe how some people take care of their stuff.

**Price: \$200**

- **BOBBY FISCHER UNCENSORED.** Darien, CT., 2009. Hardback, 2009. Also, a paperback edition.

Review of Bobby Fischer Uncensored by Edward Winter – 2009

One of the most extraordinary of all chess books has just been published: *Bobby Fischer Uncensored* by David and Alessandra DeLucia (Darien, 2009). A richly-illustrated 394-page hardback of supreme quality, it presents hundreds of items from David DeLucia's collection of Fischer material, including photographs, game-scores, correspondence, contracts, books and ephemera.

For example, C.N. 4769 asked about the earliest known photographs of Fischer, and we note that page 11 has two which were taken in January 1953. A further shot on the same page shows 'Bobby studying chess in the bath tub'.

Regarding the 1995 Batsford edition of [\*My 60 Memorable Games\*](#) there is much documentation, including (on pages 204-205) reproductions of Graham Burgess's letter to Fischer dated 7 September 1994 announcing that Batsford planned a new edition ('no new errors will be brought into the book') and the reply from Fischer's lawyer John Hazard (14 November 1994) stating that 'Batsford Ltd. is mistaken in its assumption that it has the authority to publish a new edition of *My Sixty Memorable Games*'. The affair is also mentioned in detail in the extracts presented (on pages 248-261) from another item in Mr DeLucia's collection, dated 18 November 1997: 'a 100-page working typescript by Fischer entitled "What Can You Expect from Baby Mutilators"'.

Numerous illustrations are of books and other publications owned by Fischer, including such titles as *The White Man's Bible*, *The World Conspiracy* and *The Myth of the Six*

*Million*. His personal notebooks are also reproduced, and it would be impossible to overstate the anti-Semitism with which they are suffused. 'Hitler was right about the Jews: They want to steal everything I've worked for all of my life' (page 244). On page 285 another note, dated 21 May 1999, is also typical: 'It's time for programs against Jews and it's also time for vigilante killings of Jews – random killings of Jews.' Page 301 has a draft letter which begins:

'Dear Mr. Osama bin Laden allow me to introduce myself. I am Bobby Fischer, the World Chess Champion. First of all you should know that I share your hatred of ...', etc., etc.

Mr DeLucia presents such material without editorial comment, rightly leaving readers to supply their own revulsion. Fortunately, though, the book contains much chess material too, such as (on page 82) photographic reproductions of 'possibly four unrecorded games of Bobby's from his 1964 US simul tour'.

**Price for hardback: \$350**

**Price for paperback: \$150**

- **IN MEMORIAM**. Darien, CT., 2011. Hardback, 2 Volumes. 482pp., 635pp.

This was my description of the set in 2011:

This was a two-volume set I wrote in memory of my two sisters who passed away in 2010 and 2011. The set page total is 1,117 pages with over 1,700 scans/photographs with most of the images in color. I would describe the set as a more comprehensive and beautiful, *A Few Old Friends*, second edition. All proceeds will be donated to charity as I will absorb the full cost of publication. Due to the large number of color photos, the set will be expensive. I am only printing 150 sets, of which I am keeping 50, with an offer price of \$1,000.

Since that time, I have sold approximately 90% of the 150 sets. Due to the weight of this set, 5-6 kilos, postage is \$95.

Review by Dale Brandreth:

**DAVID DELUCIA'S CHESS LIBRARY. IN MEMORIAM - SPECIAL EDITION**, 2-volume boxed set, only 150 printed of which 100 are for sale. Vol. 1, books and title pages of choice items, 482 pages. Vol. 2, 635 pages, mainly letters and photos. Much material on Lasker, Alekhine, Capablanca, and Fischer, but wonderful material on Steinitz, Botvinnik, and other great players too. There are scarcely enough superlatives to describe this set of fantastically superb books, documents, and photos. The only comparable volumes are the others which DeLucia published on Fischer and the other two volumes of similar items in his wonderful collection. Even for relatively common books such as some of the many books on Fischer, signed by Fischer or others, the copies are beautiful mint or close-to-mint

examples. But the value does not end with gazing in awe at the treasures every chess aficionado will appreciate, for the letters—many in their entirety—contain much chess history which has either been unavailable or only so in dribs and drabs worldwide. The entire production is impeccable in the quality of the photos, color reproduction, binding, paper and layout. Other collectors, particularly in Europe now have been issued a challenge: before your passing into the great beyond, please do something equivalent in terms of giving to the chess world something similar. Even if not on such a grandiose scale, there are other collections around the world with items both precious and significant. In the case of DeLucia he had another noble motive too: the remembrance of his two lovely sisters who tragically passed away within seven months of each other in 2010 and 2011.

**Price: \$750**

- **BOBBY FISCHER – TRIUMPH AND DESPAIR.** Darien, CT., 2014. Hardback, 786pp.

These comments appeared in TOPSCHACH, 2014:

**Bobby Fischer - Triumph and Despair**

Limited Edition

by Alessandra DeLucia

Publisher: David DeLucia, 2014

Edition: Limited Edition

High quality paper

Pages: 785

Language: English

Bobby Fischer - Triumph and Despair

‘A dream for collectors, historians and anyone else fascinated by the American World Champion’. The largest body of primary source Fischer material in one publication.

Anyone familiar with David DeLucia’s monumental books ('A Few Old Friends', 'Bobby Fischer Uncensored', 'In Memoriam') will be fascinated by 'Bobby Fischer - Triumph and Despair', a beautifully produced tome of 785 pages (high quality paper, double stitched binding, elegant slipcase), written and arranged by his daughter Alessandra under Mr. DeLucia’s close supervision.

Some of the highlights include:

1. Complete 1999 diary written in Fischer's hand (300+ pages)
2. Eight Fischer annotated games from Herceg Novi 1970
3. Seven unrecorded training games (1992) between Fischer and Gligoric (6) and Torre (1)
4. Over 100 pages of correspondence between Fischer and Gligoric from 1973-1995
5. The Ed Edmondson notes from the early to mid-1970's regarding Fischer telephone conversations
6. 62-page typescript by Fischer elaborating the differences between the Batsford and Simon & Schuster editions of 'My 60 Memorable Games'
7. Two letters written by Fischer to the U.S. consulate while incarcerated in the detention center in Japan

## 8. Other letters and memorabilia of Fischer

Compared to David DeLucia's first book on the American genius ('Bobby Fischer Uncensored'), 'Triumph and Despair' contains about 65% new material.

**Price: \$550**

- **SEVEN DAYS IN BAMBERG.** Darien, CT., 2015. Hardback, 248.

This is a compilation of Lothar Schmid's best books with brief descriptions of the books.

**Price: \$400**

**EMANUEL LASKER.** Darien, CT., 2016. Hardback, 711pp.

Here are the comments by New In Chess:

**A Monumental New Year's Treat for Collectors passionate about Emanuel Lasker**

"There is no end to the treasures in David DeLucia's chess library, arguably the finest collection in the world", New In Chess said in 2010.

David DeLucia now presents the highlights of his Emanuel Lasker collection in an exclusive, splendidly produced book. The imposing book (711 pages, double stitched binding and printed on high-quality paper) comes in an elegant slipcase and is published in an edition of only 75 copies.

Emanuel Lasker presents, chronologically arranged, numerous pictures from his scrapbook, a number of letters and ephemera, the 10-page World Championship contract of his match against Steinitz, a 10-page typescript imagining a conversation with some past luminaries such as Aristotle, Julius Caesar and Sir Isaac Newton and other manuscripts that are, to the author's knowledge, unpublished.

These include:

- a 187-page typescript, "The Psychology of the Game.
- a 122-page typescript, "Creative Logic".
- a 39-page typescript, "Progress by unemployment?"
- 82 pages of Martha Lasker's, A Biographical Mosaic.

**Price: \$600**

- **MY YEARS AS A CHESS COLLECTOR.** Darien, CT., 2018. Hardback, 474pp. and paperback edition, without photos and printed on lighter paper, 222pp.

My comments regarding the book:

What I've tried to do in this book is to share, from an American perspective, what I've learned about chess collecting and certain individual chess items. I've included comments and communications that I thought pertinent from dealers' catalogs and collectors as well as my own collecting experiences. The American perspective is important since where one lives, one's perspective will be different.

Pertinent facts regarding My Years as a Chess Collector:

The book is arranged in four parts:

1. Putting the collection together (1985 – present), including articles written about it by New In Chess and Karl as well as an English translation of Mr. Negele’s article in Schach with my rebuttal, which I think will be informative for current and future collectors;
2. Random thoughts about collecting;
3. Book highlights, in chronological order and;
4. Autograph and ephemera highlights, in alphabetical order.

For those collectors who have purchased my other books, the majority of photos will be the same. There are some new additions like Lucena’s, *Repetición de amores, y arte de ajedrez. Salamanca, circa 1497* and Martin de Reyna’s translation, *Dechado de la vida humana. [Valladolid], 1549*. There is a 30-page photo gallery at the end of the book that has photos of the library and certain individual shelves within the library that showcase some of the special items.

**Price for hardback: \$600**

**Price for paperback: \$150**