tournaments and chess matches is stored in these sources.

Virtually untouched by the author are the chess columns. Here it is necessary to point out that a great many national dailies with chess columns have been digitalized and approach to the internet is available from one's home computer or from a computer in a local library. We believe that for many tournaments from which now only the placement or the winner are known, tables could be found in chess columns or they could be reconstructed from partial results published in the daily press. The Bibliography is followed, in each volume, by the Index of Events and the Index of Players.

In my previous reviews I said that I feel immense respect for this gigantic and time-consuming work, which pushes the knowledge of chess history considerably forward with a large amount of data otherwise not accessible to the common reader. In spite of my critical comment on many minor errors and shortcomings, these books, thanks to Di Felice a McFarland & Company, are of major importance for chess history and meet the role of a fundamental reference work.

A very quick comparison of the four volumes will reveal a great increase in the number of chess tournaments. While in the war years and in 1946 (1941-1946) only 810 tournament crosstables were collected, in 1951 – 1955 altogether 1,620 and in 1956-1960 the total of 1,390 was reached. And reversely, when numbers of matches are compared, it is around 1,250 matches per year. This number is sure to be higher because the books register only the matches of major chess players. From my own experience I know that when lesser known players are included (lesser known, but important for national history), this number may rise several times. The same holds for international, national and club team matches.

In each review of the preceding volumes I tried to bring something new but now I admit my inspiration is running short. Moreover, Di Felice with his new volumes enters the period (chess history since 1946) that is more or less outside my interest. Still these books will be put in the front row on the shelf so as to be constantly at hand. Obtaining important data quickly is now valued beyond gold.

Harding, Tim: Correspondence Chess in Britain and Ireland, 1824-1987. Jefferson (NC) and London: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publisher, 2011. 433pp. ISBN 978-0-7864-4553-0

Tim Harding has for many years been a prominent man in correspondence chess. As editor of the *Chess Mail* he has kept informing us of topical events in correspondence chess and in his journal he gave room to attractive articles on the history of correspondence chess. In my review I

will not hide the fact that I have a closer professional relation to Tim Harding because as editor of the *Quarterly for Chess History*, I keep in contact with him as one of the major contributors because I have collaborated with him on several articles of my own. As a matter of fact, the community of chess historians is nor very wide so that it is not so hard to come to know in person the majority of the foremost chess historians in Europe and America (though there are exceptions). I promise that I will try to be as objective as possible.

Harding's love for correspondence chess and history found its best expression in his book "*Correspondence Chess in Britain and Ireland*", with which he finished one extensive stage of his chess research. At first sight the book looks grand. Well, the publisher McFarland & Company is unable to produce a different book. The reader will open the book of 433 pages packed with chess history and will be told of the complete beginnings of the correspondence play in the 1820s up to the 1980s. Even though the story ends in 1987, its statistics provide information almost to the present day (to 2010, to be exact). The second half of the 1980s was not chosen accidentally. You see, in 1987 Great Britain achieved a historical success in correspondence play when it won the Final of the Ninth Correspondence Chess Olympiad (1982-1987), thus breaking the Soviet Russian monopoly in this branch.

And yet this was not the only reason, why Tim Harding decided to conclude his research in that decade. In his view, previously to that decade it is possible to speak of correspondence play as an intellectual game because afterwards, with the arrival of computers it changed so that players with better chess motors and with computers having greater operational memory are going to win. It looks that correspondence chess is gradually bound to become extinct because it will become increasingly a contest of the best computers and the best chess programmes. By and by, one beautiful branch of chess play is on the way out. It enabled participation of strong amateurs who because of their jobs or for other reasons were unable to devote themselves regularly to practical play.

Although the title of the book by T. Harding implies that the history of correspondence chess will be limited to Britain and Ireland, he deals virtually with the whole of Europe and the world (especially in the second half of the book, when correspondence play became international and international correspondence chess tournaments were held).

The monograph under review is divided into 10 chronologically arranged chapters. From the historical aspect this method is definitely the right one, and yet the

author might have considered a different classification. For instance geographical, especially as in 1922 Ireland became an independent, sovereign state. On one hand there is no doubt that the roots of British and Irish correspondence chess are intermingled and it would be rather a problem to disentangle the two branches. In several cases, however, the author chose a different criterion than the strictly chronological, e.g. when he discussed telegraph chess or the development of correspondence play in Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

On the other hand, the ten principal chapters are too much for one book, I think. It would have been easy to split the book into five main sections: e.g. Beginnings of correspondence chess in the British Isles, with subchapters 1 to 4, The first correspondence chess tournaments and team matches (chapters 5 to 8), Correspondence chess in each British territory (chapters 9 to 11), etc. But this is a matter of personal choice, a formal aspect, not affecting the content of the book.

In a short introduction the author explains his decision to deal with the history of British and Irish correspondence chess, reveals the structure of the book, his method of research, and gives the main sources with which he worked. In a scholarly work of this type I would expect here an account of the contemporary state of research, that is a survey and assessment of the works on this particular theme. The long list of persons contributing to this writing shows the responsible approach of the author.

Chapter One, entitled "*Capital Letters: Edinburgh versus London, 1824-1828*", deals in detail with the beginnings of correspondence play in Europe and in Britain. The author quotes the first mentions of correspondence chess, dating from 1673, but the first really registered correspondence game took place as late as 1804. The next part of the chapter discusses the pre-match negotiations between Edinburgh and London. The reader will find here detailed information on the history of the two clubs and their players. The description of the dealings and the approval of the rules of the play could be reconstructed from the several books published in the 1820s as well as from the preserved documents and the correspondence between the two clubs. Of course the chapter brings all the five games played and analyzed in detail in 1824-1828. For the sake of completeness we should add that the decisive fifth game was won by Edinburgh, so that this city won +2-1=2.

The thrilling match, watched by all friends of this royal game, met with acclaim and encouraged other chess clubs and individual players to test their skills in this way. As early as in the 1820s, Liverpool encountered Leeds, Manchester contested Liverpool, and in the next

decade the Westminster Chess Club contested the Paris Chess Club (both games were won by the French). In the next few years, correspondence matches between chess clubs became very popular. Besides Leeds and Liverpool, the following clubs became involved in this new sport: Nottingham, Cambridge, Doncaster, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Kidderminster, Durham, Stockton-upon-Tees, Maidstone, Rochester, and many more.

In the early 1870s, matches between Cambridge and Oxford Universities took place. Phillip Sergeant says that the first known inter-school correspondence chess match was played in 1874 between Norwich and Felsted (Sergeant 1934: 163). Few readers can know, however, that the first correspondence match between schools and colleges was played as early as 1849, between Shrewsbury School and Brighton College. Soon before this encounter, several contests took place between British universities. The Hermes Club of Oxford University encountered in 1847-1848 Trinity College University. Special attention was always attracted to international correspondence matches of clubs. The match Westminster Chess Club versus a chess club in Paris in the 1830s was mentioned above, and a similar match was agreed upon between the London Chess Club and the Philidor Chess Club in the early 1850s.

At the end of the chapter Harding discusses the situation in the 1850s and 1860s, noticing (in connection with the increase in chess tournaments and congresses) a significant drop in correspondence matches of chess clubs and team matches, as against the preceding period. At the very end he makes a bit doubtful the claim of K. Whyld and D. Hooper, adopted from Bruno Bassi, of there being the "golden age" in correspondence chess in the first half of the 19th century. On the contrary he says that the next period, in which a great many players (mostly amateur) took a fancy to this kind of chess, should be reassessed from the aspect of the history of correspondence chess.

According to Harding, the key moment in the development of individual correspondence matches was the passing of the law introducing the penny post in 1849. He compared the situation to the 1990s, when email and internet chess clubs began to spread. Still, several early private correspondence matches survive, played prior to this date, often by unknown players. Private matches really began to flourish after 1840. The main promoters of chess in the British Isles in the next two decades was Howard Staunton, who by publishing chess columns (in particular in the *Illustrated London News*) and the journal named *The Chess Player's Chronicle* helped to raise interest both in practical chess and in correspondence chess. He

himself was always ready to play against individual players (e.g. E. Williams) or club teams (e.g. the Bristol Chess Club).

Likewise E. Williams, known for publishing his own games played in the London chess club Chess Divan (Horae Divianae 1852, reprinted by Moravian Chess Publishing House 2004), was in the 1940s one of the leading correspondence players in Britain. However, the list of these players is much longer. Here are at least several names of better known personalities in chess and in society: Capt. James A. Robertson, George Brunton Fraser, Lord George Williams Lyttelton. Harding deserves praise for his perfect work with chess sources (chess magazines, columns, monographs) and with archival documents, in particular the private correspondence. His research makes it possible to reconstruct e.g. the private Blackmore – Fedden match, played by these not very well known players in 1873-1874

A new impulse for correspond-dence play was brought by technological discoveries. The most important one in the 19th century was the telegraph and later the telephone. Still the sending of moves by post card (so called correspondence chess, though sometimes called postal chess) was not the only possible way of communicating the moves in the game. According to some sources, the moves could be passed by optical signaling systems (e.g. between two ships).

But let me return to the use of telegraph in correspondence play. Harding at first outlines the history of the invention of the telegraph and mentions the first telegraph games played in the USA (Washington vs. Baltimore). In the British Isles, the first experiments with telegraph games were made H. Staunton in April 1845, when the first telegraphic match was played between London and Dover.

In connection with this event, Harding mentions the complicated development of relations between H. Staunton a G. Walker, at that time two main publicists in Britain. When the two players faced one another in this experimental game (rehearsed one day before the official game), their personal controversy only became more intense. After the 27th move, when Walker stood obviously better off, the game was broken off due to technical failure and it was never finished. While Staunton assessed it as a draw, Walker demanded to be proclaimed the winner. The second official game was a draw.

Over the next few years and decades telegraphic chess became fairly popular and many games were played by this technology in Britain as well as in other countries. In the 1870s, telephone began to compete with telegraph. The first telephone match was played in 1877 in New York, in Britain one year later between John Cooper and Fred Thompson (p. 75). In the early 20th

century even radio began to be used for transmission of chess moves.

Chapter Five is probably one of the most interesting ones, from the aspect of historical research. Harding must be the first chess historian to have gone through all the chess columns in the *Home Circle* and *Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper*, and on this base he virtually reconstructed the first chess postal tournament. His book brings only one game from this tournament, but his database of correspondence games gives all 18 known games from this tournament. We reprint from the database the final game, which decided about the tournament winner.

Simultaneously with this tournament, the Birmingham Mercury Tournament (1854-1856) proceeded. For the first time the organizers decided that each player should play two games, one as White and the other as Black. A total of 16 players took part in the tournament, divided into two groups of eight players each. Unfortunately, since the chess column in the daily was abolished, it is not known whether the tournament was finished. The history of the other British correspondence tournaments is linked already with the chess column in *Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper*. Harding again did very well, he managed to reconstruct the whole first tournament (1856-1860) and collected in his database incredible 28 games. This weekly organized four more correspondence tournaments, from which Harding succeeded in finding 100 games. Very interesting is also the information that J. H. Blackburne opened his chess career in the correspondence tournament organized by the weekly *London Journal* (1859) but no game of it survives.

Chapter Six covers the 1870s and 1880s. The dominating event in the first decade was the keenly watched international correspondence match London-Vienna. The British team was originally comprised of Blackburne, Horwitz, Löwenthal, Potter, Steinitz and Wisker, while the Vienna team consisted of Berger, Czank, Fleissing, Gelbfuhs, Kolisch and Meitner. The first game opened with move 1. c4 (after this move the opening received the official name "English Opening") and was won by the "Brits" (native Englishmen were only Blackburne, Potter and Wisker), the second game was a draw. In the 1970s the popularity of inter-club correspondence chess matches grew and kept growing until the end of the 1980s. In the early 1970s, two correspondence matches were played between Oxford and Cambridge University teams. The first was won by Oxford, the second by Cambridge. Part of this chapter is the subsection dealing with Women and Correspondence chess. Harding mainly discusses the correspondence career of Mary Rudge but the book also contains two correspondence games of lesser players, Louisa

Down and F. A. Vincent.

Another very interesting chess event is described in Chapter Seven. It is completely devoted to the international correspondence match The United Kingdom vs. The United States, played in 1877-1881. 28 pairs of players took part, each player was to play four games. Several pairs resigned, others played only one game. Harding says that of the total of the 96 games played he succeeded in discovering 73. The U.S. team was represented by Mrs. J. W. Gilbert, who four times beat her British opponent, G. H. D. Gossip, later a very strong practical player. The match ended with a close victory of the U.S. team, 32 : 30 (+32-32=31), while the scores of two games could not be identified.

Chapter Eight treats the last third of the 19th century (1870-1897). Harding describes especially various correspondence tournaments, mostly organized by chess magazines. The first British chess journal to organize chess tournaments was *The Chess Player's Quarterly Chronicle*. During its existence (1870-1875) it held three correspondence tournaments, played as usual by the knock-out system. The third strongest was won by T. Hewan Archdall (p. 128). Other magazines made attempts at organizing correspondence tournaments, e.g. the *Edinburgh Magazine* and the *Recreationist*, but these magazines became defunct before the tournaments were finished. The most successful ones were the British Chess Association Tourney, held in 1873-1875, and the Bow Bells tournaments (1874-1890).

In the middle of the 1870s the so far popular knock-out-tournaments began to give way to all-play-all tournaments. The pioneers of these tournaments in Britain were especially T. Hewan Archdall and William Nash. The first all-play-all-tournament in Europe was organized by T. Hewan Archdall in the autumn of 1876. Finally only 17 players took part, the tournament lasted 18 months and was won by Crum. The direct follower of T. H. Archdall was William Nash, who held his first tournament with 21 participants in 1877-1878. A great many games in this tournament were unfinished or not played at all (87 games out of 210). The winner with 9 points out of 9 games was Rev. A. Skipworth. William Nash continued organizing correspondence tournaments in the 1880s. Harding reports that Nash in 1876-1888 organized seven correspondence matches.

Like in the preceding years, many major correspondence tournaments were run by chess journals and by editors of chess columns. Here it is necessary to mention the correspondence tournaments of the *British Chess Magazine* (1882-1883), *Brighton Guardian* (1882-1883), *Norwich Mercury* (1888-1889) and *English Mechanic* (1882-1889). A special attention is paid by Harding to the participation of British correspondence players at foreign

correspondence tourneys, in the first place in the tournaments *La Strategie* and *Le Monde Illustré*. A special subchapter is devoted to correspondence tournaments organized by the chess editors of the *Dublin Evening Mail and Warder* (five tournaments in 1889-1899). Harding mentions in his book only two games, but in the two journals he managed to find 293 games out of the 562 finished games (some 260 were not finished).

Chapter Nine deals with the history of Scottish correspondence chess up to 1918. Harding first turns his attention to its key personality, G. B. Fraser. Next he describes several matches of Scottish clubs and individual private matches. A special subchapter deals with the building of the Scottish Chess Association and its correspondence tournament, opened in January 1885. An extraordinary event in the late 1880s was the inter-country match Ireland vs. Scotland (1886-1887), with participation of 128 players. Harding in his book again reprints only one game but he managed to discover 38 of them. Part of this section is the United Kingdom International Tourney (1887-1889), organized by G. B. Fraser.

The next chapter discusses the history of Irish and Welsh correspondence chess to 1918. An important source of information about Welsh correspondence chess history is notably the daily *The Cambrian*, the first Welsh newspaper written in English. In the 1890s it brought a chess column of excellent quality. The beginnings of Irish correspondence chess history may be traced in particular in British chess magazines and even more in Irish chess columns in the *Weekly Northern Whig, Irish Sportsmen, Belfast News-letter, The Dublin Evening Mail,* and several more. Harding introduces some classical correspondence games played in the 1850s and 1860s, especially between chess clubs. Special attention is paid to the matches Sussex versus Ireland, Yorkshire versus Ireland, and a few more. One of the subsections in this chapter describes the significant role of Thomas Benjamin Rolland and Mrs. Frideswide Fanny Rolland in the development of Irish correspondence chess. Harding chronologically describes major Irish correspondence tournaments up to 1918 (Silver Queen Irish Correspondence Chess Championship).

The last regional chapter deals with the development of correspondence chess in England (also in the 1890-1918 period). Harding again mentions the most notable club matches, e.g. Cheltenham vs. Hastings, Liverpool vs. Ipswich, and continues with the description of the organization of various English correspondence tournaments. Important position was achieved by correspondence tournaments organized by the journal *Hobbies: A Weekly Journal of*

Amateurs of Both Sexes. The first tournament was opened in 1898, the next one started simultaneously in the autumn of 1899. Chess editor Major Archibald Keir Murray made several attempts to organize the Ladies' Division, which was to be the first women-only correspondence tournament, but failed in this. Before World War I, several interesting mass correspondence matches were played in England. One of them was the encounter of the players of the North versus the South in 1901-1902, with participation of 100 players. This gigantic match ended with the victory of the South, 57:43.

Harding also mentions minor correspondence tournaments organized by chess associations or editors of chess columns. One of them was the Kitchin Memorial Tournament series in Yorkshire (in the Chess Archive we mention the participation of F. D. Yates in this tournament) and five correspondence tournaments in *Womanhood*, organized in 1901-1907 by Rhoda Bowles. As a Czech historian I am not very satisfied with the relatively little space devoted to two international matches England versus Bohemia, played in 1905-1906 and 1907-1909. Fortunately, this shortcoming was made up for by historical articles printed in QCH No. 14 and 15. Still, in Harding's correspondence database we found two games that had escaped our attention. Not much more attention was paid to correspondence tournaments of *The Chess Amateur* and *The British Chess Magazine*. In defence of Harding it should be said that a detailed history of correspondence tournaments of *The British Chess Magazine* was also published in QCH No. 12 (pp. 199-275).

A separate subchapter deals with the origins and early years of the British Correspondence Chess Association, in which Harding describes the beginnings and the first correspondence tournaments of this organization founded in 1906, and brings the corrected list of its first champions (the Rev. E. Griffiths 1908, 1910, 1912-1913, J. Solari and the Rev. B. Reed 1907, E. Montague Jones 1909 and J. Jackson 1911).

Chess correspondence activities during World War I were not very rich, and a decline in interest in this branch of chess is also noticeable in the interwar period. In any case one should remember the gigantic match Great Britain against America on 1,000 chess boards, going on in 1936-1938. Nor should the British Correspondence Chess Championships be forgotten, which continued even during the Second World War.

The remaining five chapters deal with the history of correspondence chess after 1946. Harding at first informs of the founding of the International Correspondence Chess Association, which began to organize regular chess correspondence Olympiads of national teams, with participation of the team of Great Britain, and the Correspondence

Chess World Championship. British domestic competition (1946-1970) is treated rather briefly, though, with Harding giving only a few correspondence games from various local tournaments and the complete tables of the British Correspondence Chess Championships (25 tournaments in 1945-1969). A special chapter deals with the involvement of Britain in the chess tournaments of the International Correspondence Chess Federation (1951-1971). Harding reports especially the scores from the British National Correspondence Tournament and the scores of the British players at the World Correspondence Championship. In Chapter 17 he returns to the home ground and reports the scores form the British Correspondence Championships from 1970 up to 1993 (24 tournaments) and several more interesting correspondence tournaments, including women's correspondence chess tournaments. The last two chapters describe the rise of British correspondence players on the international scene, which in 1982 culminated with the first victory of the British correspondence team at the Chess Olympiad.

The book contains several important supplements. Appendix I gives the list of club matches from 1824 up to 1914 (a total of 166 matches), the list of British correspondence champions from 1907 up to 2010, the British Ladies' Correspondence Champions (1976-2010), Irish Correspondence Chess Champions (1908-2007), Scottish Correspondence Chess Champions (1885-2009), Welsh Correspondence Chess Champions (1992-1995), British Junior Correspondence Chess Champions (1946-1999) and other winners of British Correspondence Tournaments (Appendix II), Appendix III contains Excerpts from Rules and Other documents. Apendix IV. contains the list of the British and Irish Holders of International Correspondence Chess Federation Titles.

The notes are printed at the end of the book so that the reader must continuously look up the respective data. The method of marginal notes on each respective page is more user-friendly, in our opinion. Next there follows Select Bibliography, Index of Images, Opponents and Openings. The book concludes with a very much detailed General Index.

What should I say in conclusion? In my books and articles I mostly have to decide which texts to include and which not. In games I was waging a similar inner struggle but then came to the conclusion that I have no right to decide which game to omit because games provide direct information on the players and the chess events. For this reason I do not mind publishing even very weak games with gross blunders or very short games lacking in content. They are simply part of the history. The author, however, says that he succeeded in collecting thousands of

correspondence games played by well coordinated British correspondence players.

Here we face the problem what to do with such numbers of games. I would obviously divide the material into several volumes, perhaps classified by nation (history of English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, etc. correspondence chess) or classified by chronology and I would try to publish everything that I succeeded in discovering.

The second option is to add to the book an interactive CD disc with the database of all games of British and Irish players which have some relation to the text of the book. The book would be more expensive but it would be appreciated by the readers, I am sure. As a matter of fact, this option is not impossible, I can imagine Harding additionally providing, e.g. via ChessBase, this historical disc. I believe that it would be purchased by all those who own the book and maybe by other people interested in correspondence and practical chess. It is a great pity that the multitude of beautiful correspondence stories and games, due to lack of space, must remain in storage in the author's archive. Perhaps it will come to light in some of his next historical books.

The book is a real work of art, the author found the right measure in description, in the selection of the most notable chess events and inclusion of the most attractive or most important correspondence games. Unfortunately I do not own this quality and I admit that I would never be able to write a book like this. That is also one of the reasons why I am preparing a new series of historical chess monographs entitled *Historical Chess Yearbook*, which will cover chess activities in various countries and various years, in this way avoiding the dilemma of choosing what is important and what is not. I leave this decision to the readers. Harding, the Lord be praised for it, knows how to do it and the result is this splendid monograph, in which every reader will find something for himself. The maximalists like the present reviewer will be a little dissatisfied with the content of the book, but nothing can be done about it. The desire to publish every detail, every note or position does not imply that the final outcome will be as outstanding as the book under review. I can warmly recommend it.

Hilbert, S. John, Lahde, Peter P. Albert Beauregard Hodges. The Man Chess Made. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland and Company, Inc., Publisher, 2008.

I find it very difficult to be objective with books written by J. Hilbert because the manner of his historical research and writing books on chess corresponds in full to the modern conception of chess history. The effort made to study all available chess sources, to capture every little detail (often of no importance), and