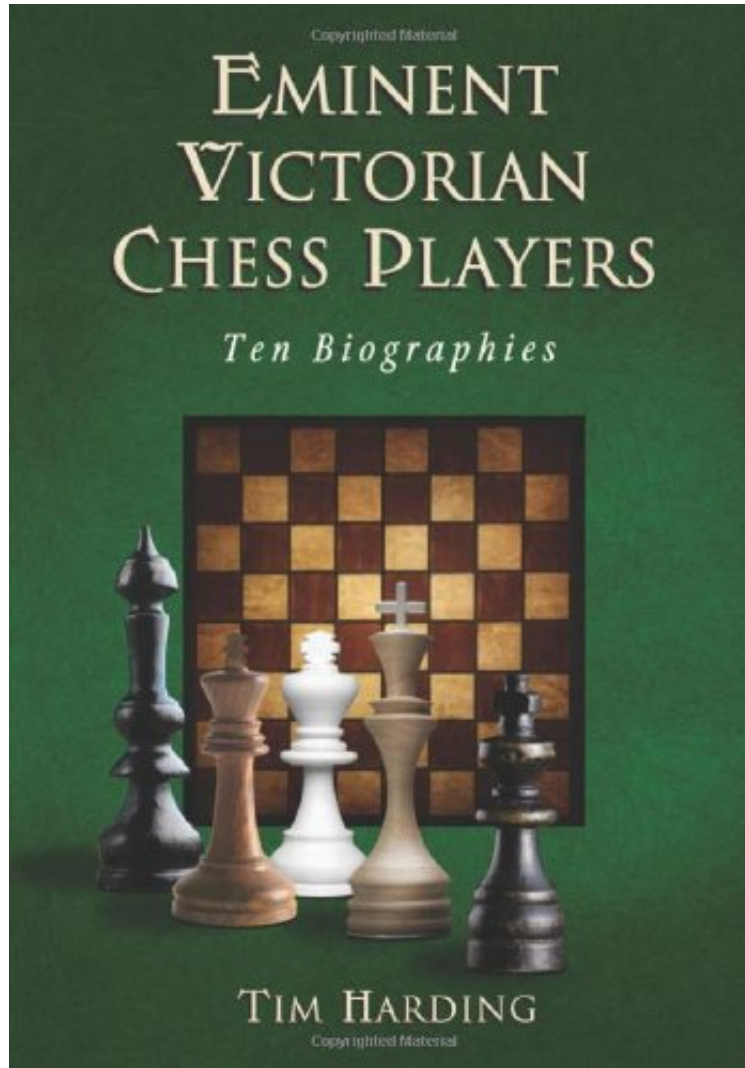


[FREE] Eminent Victorian Chess Players: Ten Biographies

Eminent Victorian Chess Players: Ten Biographies

Tim Harding

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#378012 in Books McFarland 2012-04-20 Original language: English PDF # 1 1.20 x 6.90 x 10.001, 1.55 #File Name: 0786465689406 pages | File size: 72.Mb

Tim Harding : Eminent Victorian Chess Players: Ten Biographies before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eminent Victorian Chess Players: Ten Biographies:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By eric h. Just what I was looking for! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.) A joy to read By David Geoffrey Mills Eminent Victorian Chess Players. Ten Biographies. Tim Harding. McFarland Company. Softback. 400 Pages. 24 Photographs. 36 Sketches. 182 Diagrams. A portrayal of British chess life in the Victorian era during which time vast social, economic and scientific advances took place. The author, a respected chess writer and historian, has penned ten biographical essays featuring players who made a significant contribution towards shaping the modern game. Several of these individuals resided in other

countries in the course of their lives, so emphasis has been placed upon their years spent in Britain. Understandably, the largest chapters take as their subjects Staunton and Steinitz whilst others deal with Evans, Lwenthal, Bird, Skipworth, Blackburne, Zukertort, Burn and Gunsberg. The final 75 pages comprise appendices, notes and indices. The depth of research undertaken by Tim Harding in the course of writing this book is impressive. Frequent references are made to 19th century chess magazines and magazines that featured chess, thereby providing signposts for readers who may wish to pursue their own lines of investigation. By their nature, historical publications reveal important information about many lesser lights players, patrons, journalists, etc. thereby offering a clearer backdrop to events. Games, where annotated, quote a mixture of contemporary notes, stating their source and the views of the author. To steal the authors words, this book is likely to be a first round draft pick for the vast majority of chess historians. (If clarification of this expression is required, I suggest a crash course on North American sports, baseball being an ideal first port of call!) A joy to read, the photographs and sketches help illuminate a bygone time during which the chess capital of the world moved from Paris to London. Average club players, such as your reviewer, are likely to comprehend more easily and relate to the openings featured rather than many of the systems that currently predominate at the pinnacle of chess. On his website, Tim Harding mentions that he has just completed a large biography of J. H. Blackburne that should be ready later this year (2015). I look forward with anticipation to obtaining a copy. This book was received free of charge from the publisher for review. David G. Mills, Hull, England. February 2015.

This book portrays British chess life in the nineteenth century through biographical studies of ten players who shaped the modern game. From Captain Evans, inventor of the famous gambit, to Isidor Gunsberg, England's first challenger for the world championship, personal narratives are blended with game annotations to reassess players' achievements and character. The author has combined deep reading in primary sources with genealogical research to reveal new facts and correct previous misunderstandings. Major chapters on Howard Staunton and William Steinitz, in particular, highlight the tensions between Englishmen and immigrants, amateurs and professionals. The contrasting long careers of Henry Bird and Joseph Blackburne provide a thread of continuity. The lives of several other important figures in Victorian chess are also presented. More than 160 games (with diagrams), several annotated in detail, and 50 photographs and line drawings are included. Appendices provide career records for all ten; there are extensive notes, a bibliography and indexes.

"meticulously researched...Harding has written many fine books, but this may be his best...warmly recommended"--IM John Donaldson (JeremySilman.com); "a major work on the history of the top personalities from the period...outstanding...highly recommended"--Carls Planet; "I would place Eminent Victorian Chess Players at the top of his achievements as an author. The book is simply packed with material.... Surely this is one of the best and most accessible pieces of chess history ever written"--The Week in Chess; "should both enlighten and enthrall...sheds light on a select group of players, and the clubs and publications they founded and funded...exhaustively researched...finely produced...exquisite...Harding has amassed a cornucopia of scholarship. Harding is a fine researcher, author, and an eminent historian. This book is a fine guide to British Victorian chess and honors the contributions of these ten men and others immortalized between its covers"--ChessCafe.com; "this is a welcome, deeply researched work that fills a void in our understanding of the lives of nine prominent Victorian chess players and a tenth, slightly unusual choice...excellent"--Chess; "wonderful"--Huffington Post; "valuable"--Dale Brandreth, Caissa Editions; "diligently researched and vividly written...an excellent book"--Manchester Chess Foundation; "impressive"--Chess Direct; "the depth of research undertaken by Tim Harding in the course of writing this book is impressive. A joy to read, the photographs and sketches help illuminate a bygone time"--Hull District Chess Association. About the Author Tim Harding played for Ireland at the 1984 FIDE chess olympiad in Thessaloniki, and is a Senior International Master of correspondence chess. A well-known writer on many aspects of chess, he was editor of Chess Mail magazine from 1996 to 2005. Since 1996 he has contributed the monthly articles in chesscafe. He lives in Dublin, Ireland.