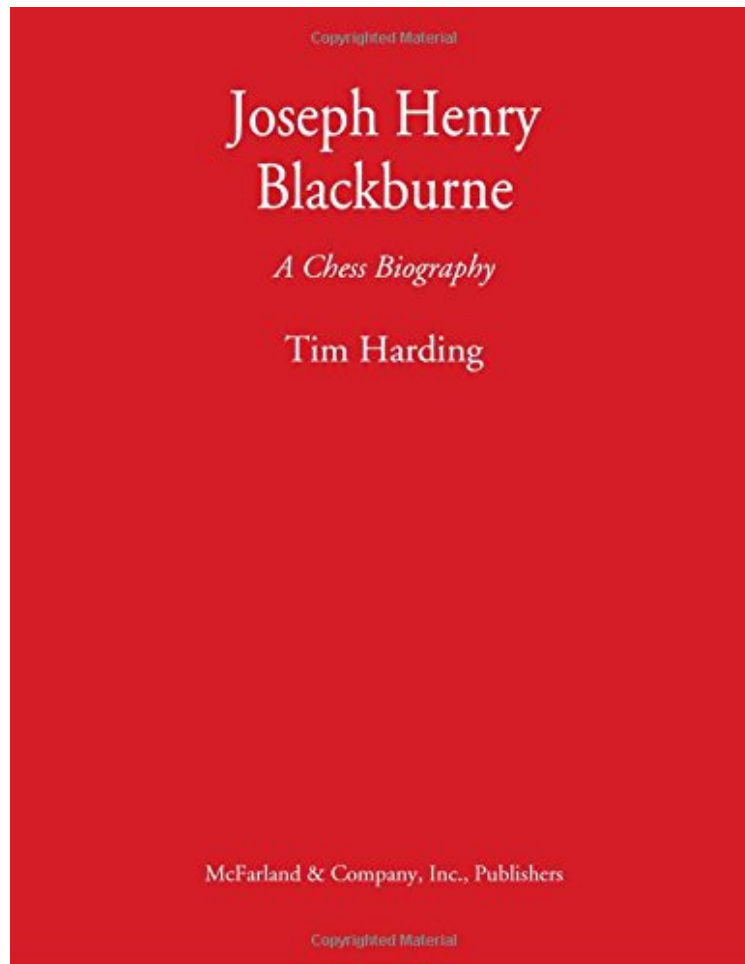


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Joseph Henry Blackburne: A Chess Biography

Tim Harding

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582 pages in total. I have never seen a better biography than this one. Tim Harding has done an excellent work with Blackburne. It covers everything. You will not be disappointed with this book12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A Book to TreasureBy Ross JacksonThis is a magnificent book. A combined biography and annotated game collection of one of the strongest and most famous chess players of the latter part of the 19th century ,Joseph Henry Blackburne . Blackburne was renowned for his attacking chess style and his prowess at blindfold chess. His activity stretched from Anderson to Alekhine and games against all the contemporary greats are presented and annotated by the author Timothy Harding. There are 1184 games. Win or lose, Blackburne's games were invariably attractive. At 582 pages , 18 chapters , 4 appendices, and with extensive referencing this is a work of impressive scholarship - as one is accustomed to from McFarland Books. One of the Appendices is of Blackburne's chess compositions.The book is beautifully presented with occasional interspersed photographs or contemporary cartoons. It is a must for any reader with an interest in chess history but will appeal to anyone who enjoys exciting chess.

During a career spanning more than 50 years, J.H. Blackburne (1841-1924) won the British Chess Championship and several international tournaments, at his peak becoming one of the world's top three chess masters. A professional player who derived his livelihood from annual tours of chess clubs in England and other countries, entertaining and teaching amateur players, he astonished his contemporaries by the ease with which he played the game without sight of the chessboard. At 21, he set a world record for such exhibitions, competing against 12 club players simultaneously, and he continued to perform "blindfold" into his sixties. This first comprehensive biography of Britain's greatest chess player of the 19th and early 20th centuries presents more than 1,000 of Blackburne's games chronologically, including all his surviving games from serious competition, annotated in varying detail. Many are masterpieces containing beautiful combinations and instructive endgame play. Blackburne's unusual family and social background are fully explored.