

## PROLOGUE

The study of the History of chess constitutes a commendable undertaking, worth our esteem. But if it involves the origin of modern chess—the historic moment when both queen and bishop acquire their current movement—, we consider it a necessity.

It is ever surprising that a question such as this—the origin of modern chess—is still not fully resolved, today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The more so if we consider the fact that the dainty novelty does not belong to ancient legend or historical episodes a thousand years old. The birth and the gradual implantation of modern chess took place in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Since many years ago I am personally acquainted with José A. Garzón's researches, their seriousness, and the legitimate claim in them of being able to elucidate the birth of modern chess. His ever-present respect and recognition to the great personalities in his field stand out.

Throughout the years Garzón, in successive works, has been gathering proofs certifying that the earliest documents about the new queen come from Valencia, Spain. They are also documents that, unlike what will be found out later on in other countries, have authors with a name (*Scachs d'amor*: Fenollar, Vinyoles and Castellví), and a date (the 1495 treatise, with 100 problems, by Francesch Vicent). In the last years we have contributed personally to spreading these treasures to which the History of chess, and therefore all chess players, owes so much. It is something that belongs to all of us.

In our last visit to Valencia and Segorbe, we pointed out that these advances and recent discoveries would bring others, equally transcendental, and would promote studies, and meetings of specialists. I notice now that Garzón already was on the hunt for these new findings, which he presents in this new work. I am not going to dwell on them—the work speaks for itself, but the discoveries concerning the three first printed books about modern chess, Vicent, Lucena, and Damiano, are decisive.

Garzón makes a supreme effort, in pursuit of the truth, to analyse all the books and manuscripts from the period when the great revolution was conceived, consolidated, and expanded. Only thus the great truth of the History of chess can at last be revealed.

We welcome, then, this praiseworthy work, which the readers will be able to gauge for themselves, which the History of chess needed so much.

ANATOLY KARPOV  
WORLD CHESS CHAMPION  
(1975-1985 AND 1993-1999)