



**CHESS COLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL**  
**Western Hemisphere Conference**  
**September 4 – 7, 2025**

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, USA**



An utterly  
unique city ...

Hikaru Nakamura,  
Baylee Badawy  
and Jude Acers  
enter The Chess  
Cave





With a  
Chess History  
like no other.

MORPHY  
vs.  
LOWENTHAL





**Building display cases  
from scratch at the  
historic Beauregard-  
Keyes House.**

**Took five days. (We'd  
planned for one.)**

**I left some of my  
blood in those historic  
old floor boards.**





**Building risers on  
the dining table.**





Final adjustments





And last-minute  
cleaning.





Assembling  
chess charms  
and chess-  
themed *Gris-  
Gris* or Voodoo  
pouches back  
at the hotel.

More on this  
later.





Setting the scene at  
Brennan's Restaurant.

More on this later.





Finally, the  
day arrived.





Even this took a little last-minute prep, with the timely assistance of Gordon and Mary Clapp.

















The Front  
and Back  
Covers of  
our  
Program:



**CHESS COLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL**

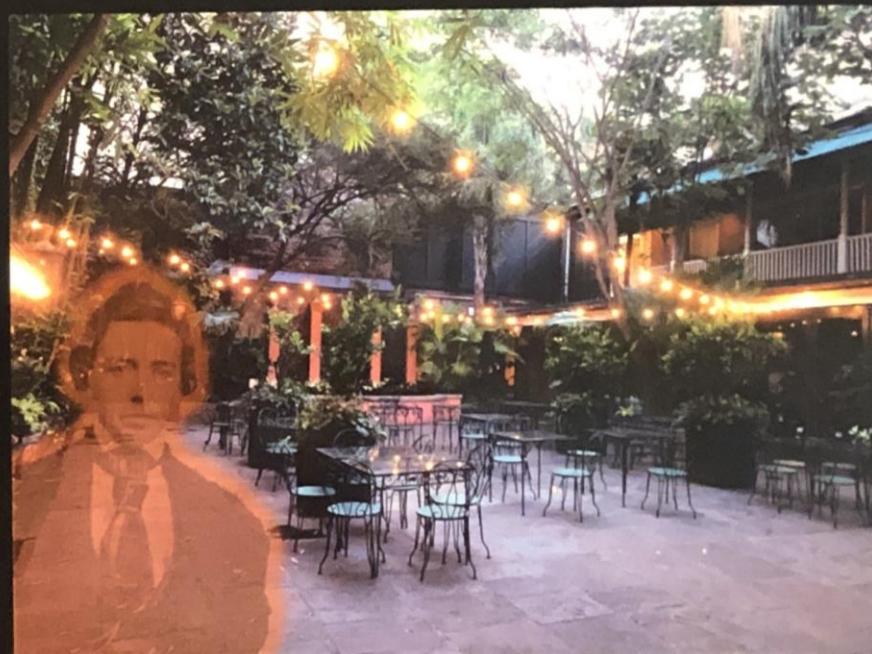


*Following in the  
footsteps of ...*



**Western Hemisphere Conference  
September 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA**

*Il plantera la bannière de Castille sur les murs de Madrid  
au cri de Ville gagnée, et le petit Roi s'en ira tout penaud.*



*(He will plant the banner of Castile upon the walls of Madrid to the cry of  
City Won, and the little King will go away looking very sheepish.)*

*Paul Charles Morphy, 1837-1884*



Jon Crumiller  
brought along a  
couple of old chess  
watches to show.



He was able to have  
them repaired at a  
local shop during  
our meeting.





# The BOURBON ORLEANS HOTEL

As it appears  
today.

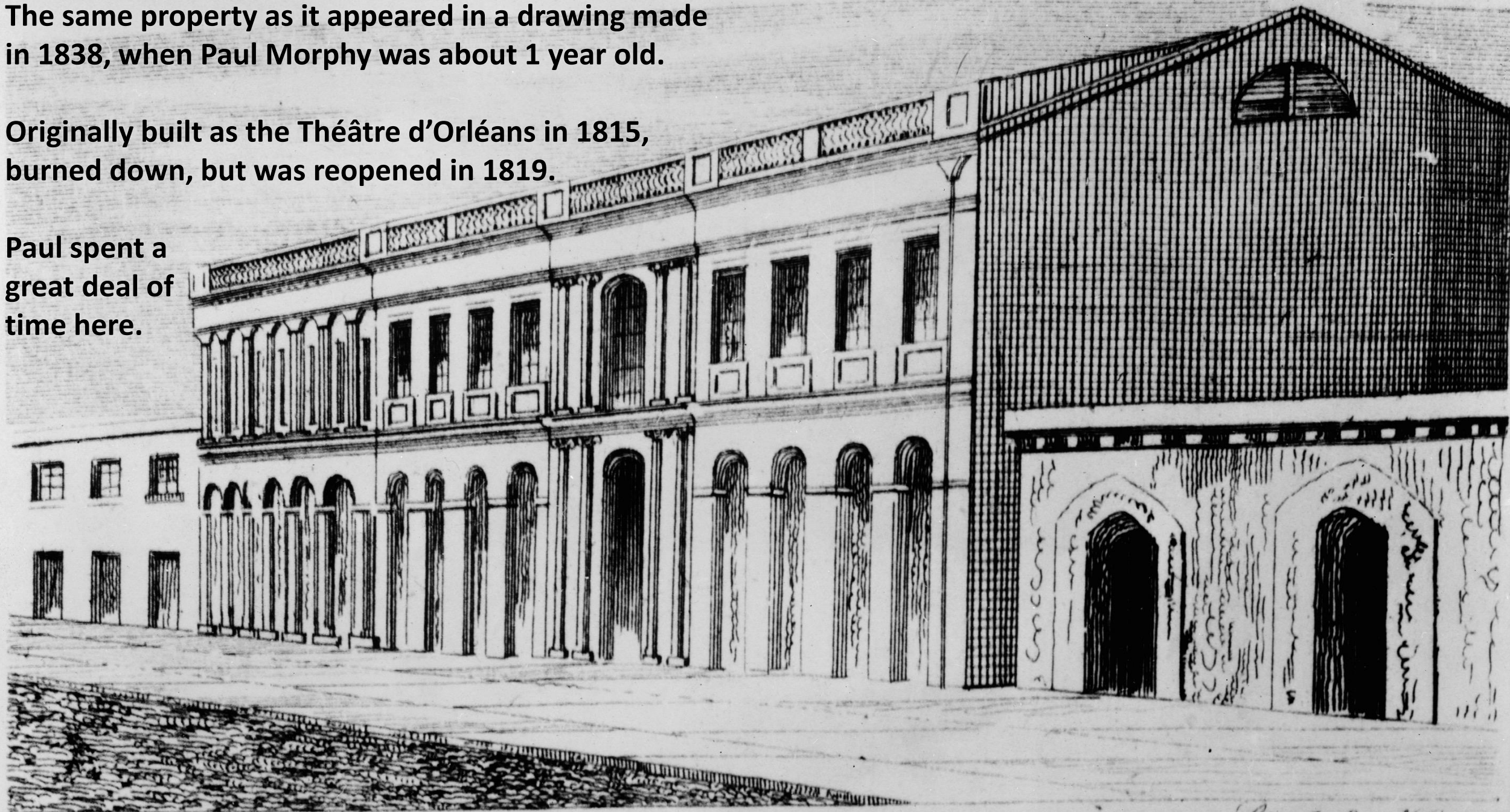




The same property as it appeared in a drawing made in 1838, when Paul Morphy was about 1 year old.

Originally built as the Théâtre d'Orléans in 1815, burned down, but was reopened in 1819.

Paul spent a great deal of time here.



Orleans Theatre.

Clark. Sc. N.O.



Left, another view of the chess cave.

Right, Jude at his table on the first day of our conference.



PHOTOS: RICK KNOWLTON



Dinner in St. Ann's  
Cottage.

(Part of the hotel  
property, one  
street over.)





After dinner, we  
watched the award-  
winning documentary,

## *The Man in the Red Beret*

The Man in the Red  
Beret was there to  
watch it with us.

So was the filmmaker,  
Derek Bridges, and  
several others involved  
with the film.

Afterwards, Jude lead  
the discussion and  
answered questions  
from our members.





Friday morning, we had just few talks.

Rick Knowlton (a last-minute substitute) spoke about the Chess Variants show which recently opened at the WCHOF. Rick was a major contributor to this show.

Jon Crumiller spoke on Chess Sets of the East India Company.

Tom Gallegos spoke on Chess & Money: How Times Change. (This paper included in the conference program.)





**Tom Gallegos speaks  
in the Cruise Room  
of the Historic New  
Orleans Collection.**





**Luncheon was served,  
one block away at the  
historic Napoleon  
House Restaurant  
(1797), named for the  
Emperor Napoleon  
who might have lived  
in these rooms if he  
had been rescued from  
exile on St. Helena.**

**As was the plan, way  
back in 1821 ...**





Kay McCrary had recently broken her leg, so she and John were unable to join us upstairs.

Their consolation prize was getting to eat lunch downstairs on the lovely old stone-topped chess table featured in our conference program.





Back at HNOC after lunch, Luann announces the Show & Tell event.

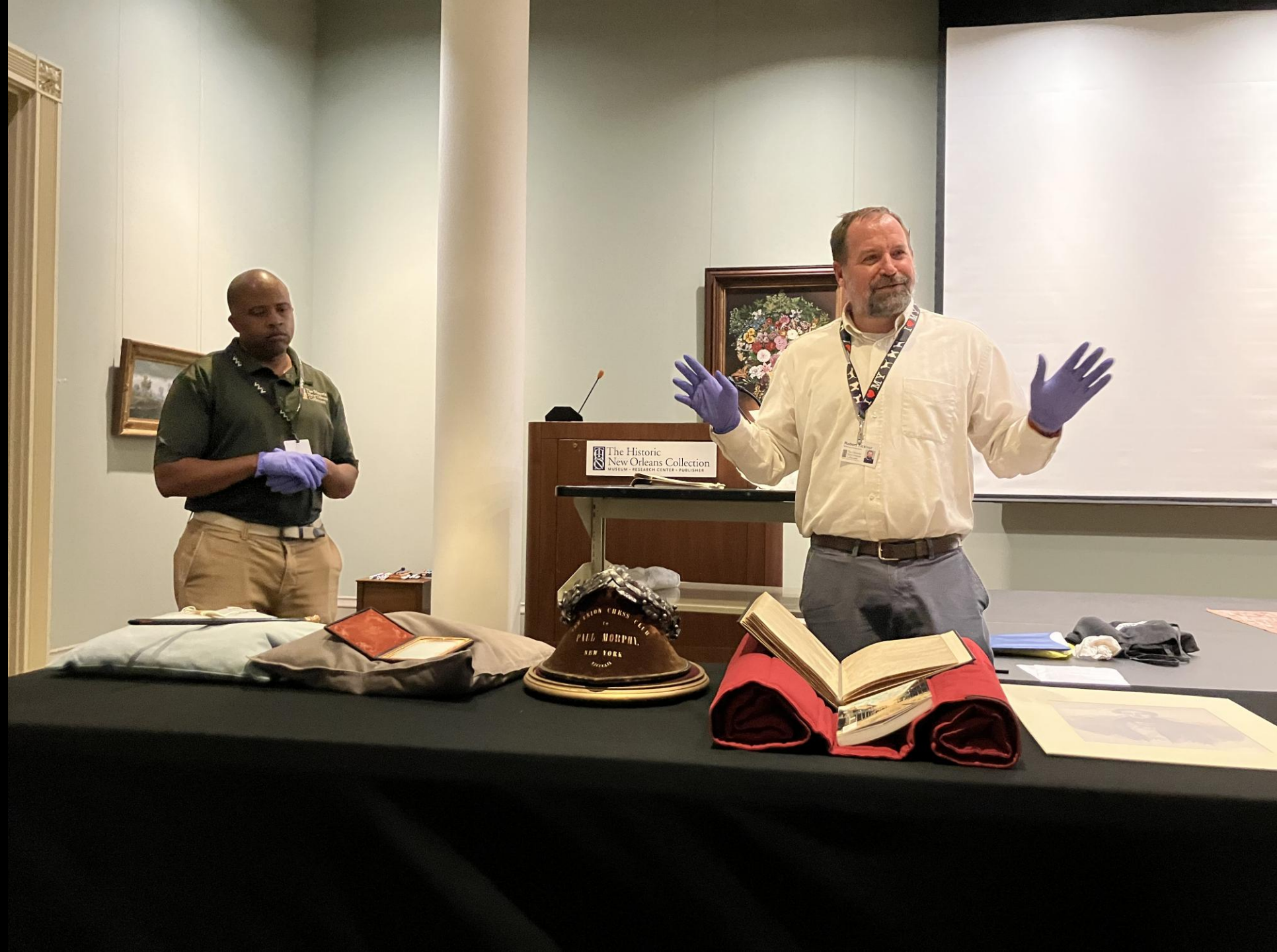




## Show & Tell of Morphy Artifacts at HNOC.

Kendric Perkins (left),  
and Bobby Ticknor.

Seen are the walking  
stick, daguerreotype,  
silver laurel wreath  
trophy, and the  
unpublished Leona  
Queyrouze  
manuscript.





**First row, left to right:**

**Derek Bridges,  
documentary  
filmmaker (filming),**

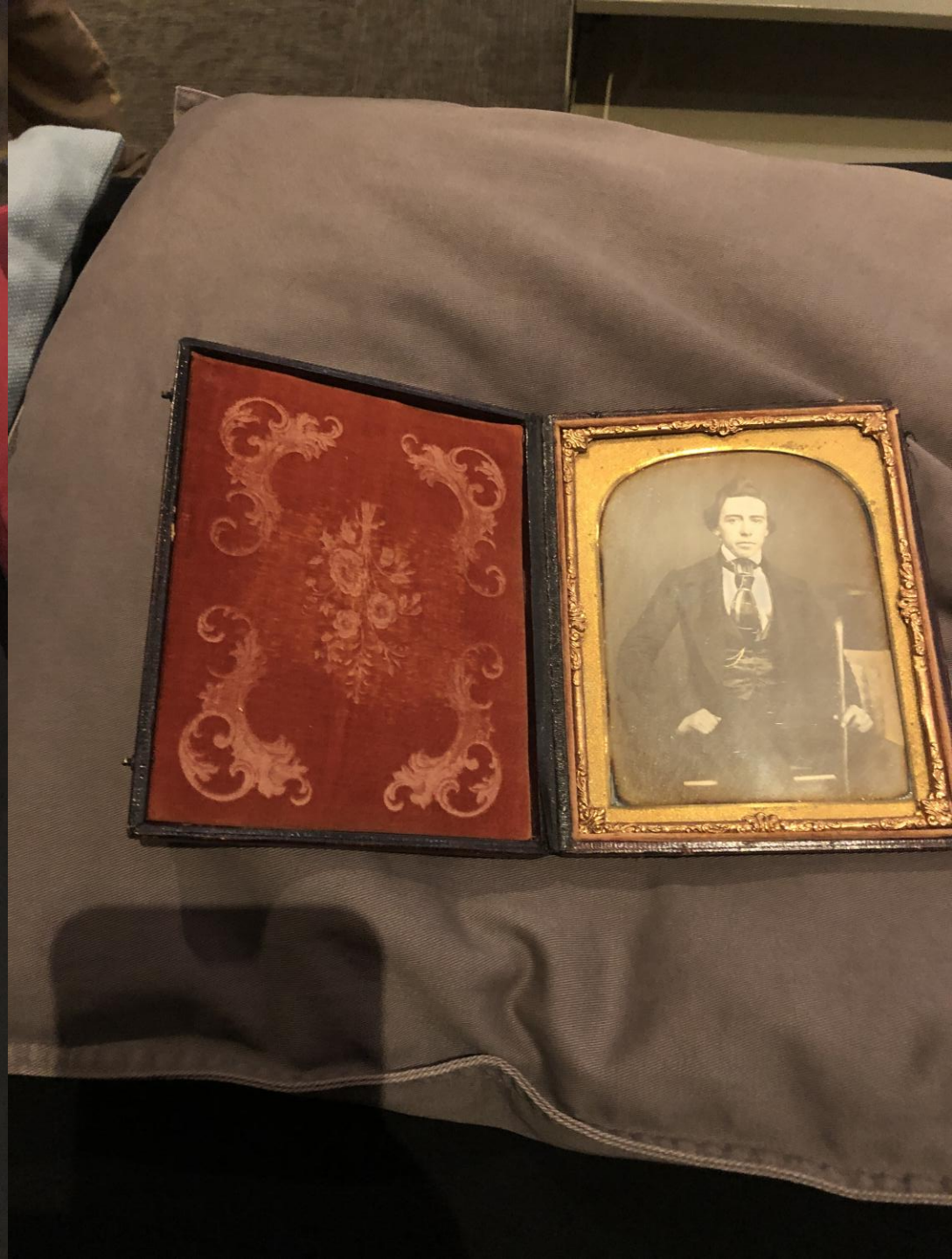
**Sir Jude Acers, chess  
master and raconteur,**

**Baylee Badawy, of  
the Chess Cave.**



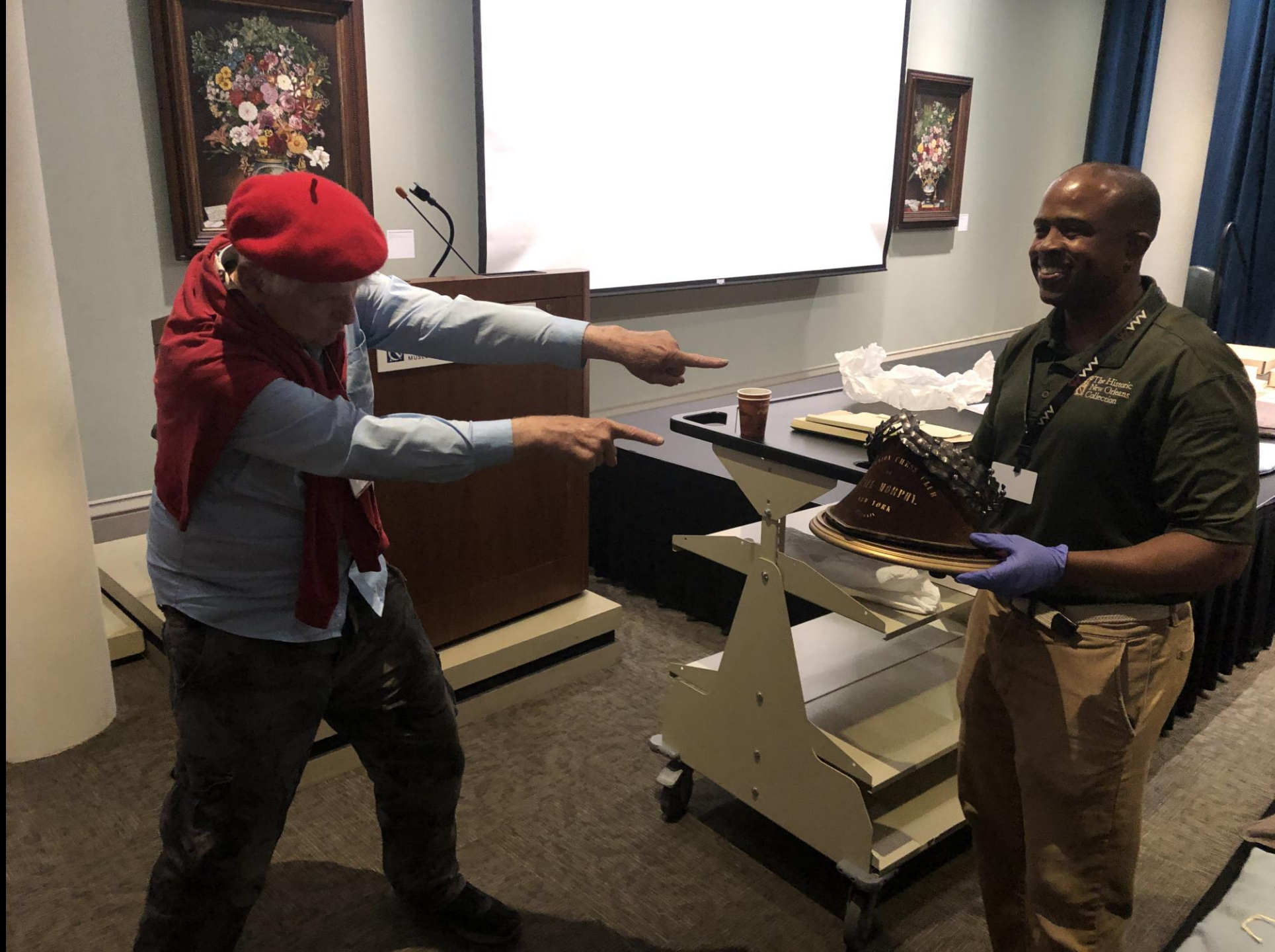


Two highlights:  
Morphy's silver  
laurel wreath  
trophy from  
1859, and the  
famous  
daguerreotype.





**Sir Jude lends his own  
personal brand of PR  
wizardry to Morphy's  
silver laurel wreath  
trophy from 1859.**





**We also held a general business meeting, in which the following officers were elected or re-elected:**

- **President of CCI-USA: Tom Gallegos**
- **Vice President: Doug Bandow  
(replacing Israel Raphaelli, who has been in an accident and asked to withdraw)**
- **Treasurer: Luann Woneis**
- **Secretary: Myron Samsin**

**We also discussed possible sites for the next Western Hemisphere Conference in 2027, after next year's Biennial currently scheduled for Bonn, Germany. Leading candidates were:**

- **San Antonio, Texas (Jon Crumiller collection)**
- **Maryhill, Washington State (Maryhill Museum of Art, permanent chess collection)**
- **Dayton, Ohio (Lari LaVerne's soon-to-open Dayton Chess Museum)**
- **Cleveland, Ohio (John G. White Chess & Checkers Library)**



Then Kendric Perkins led us on a tour of the HNOC main galleries.

But there was really only one thing our members wanted to see.

The Jaques chess set and folding leather board said to have belonged to Paul Morphy himself.





Here's a  
closer shot:



**Chessboard and pieces owned by Paul Morphy**

ca. 1850; pasteboard, leather, ebony, fruitwood, felt  
by Jacques of London  
1987.57.1

Born into a wealthy French Quarter family—his childhood homes are known today as the Historic BK House and the site of Brennan's Restaurant—Paul Morphy was a child prodigy in chess. In 1858 the 21-year-old Morphy traveled abroad to challenge the top European chess masters. He

easily defeated all who faced him, confirming his reputation as the world's best player. Some of his matches from this trip are still taught today, including his famous "opera game," so named because he overcame the two-man team of the Duke of Brunswick and Count Isouard de Vauvenargue during a live performance at the Palais Garnier, Paris's world-renowned opera house. Morphy is considered the greatest player of the Romantic era of chess, which was characterized by bold moves and the swift defeat of opponents.



**We all wanted  
our picture taken  
with the set.**

**Left to right:**

- Gordon Clapp
- John DeMoor
- John McCrary
- Tom Gallegos  
(seated)
- Kay McCrary





Then, as we all mobbed the set, a lively discussion took place between CCI members and the HNOC staff.

Jaques authority Frank Camaratta pronounced the set correct for the period.

Possible methods of further researching its provenance and connection to Morphy were discussed – at length.





This discussion  
went on ...





And on ...





And on ...





**No one noticed that we were also standing directly beneath the famous plaster bust of Morphy.**

**A significant work of art, this bust was created by sculptor and N.O. Chess Club member Achille Perelli in 1891.**

**Too focused on the board and pieces, we missed it.**





Then we hung  
out in a bar  
and drank  
until it was  
time to get on  
the boat.



PHOTO: THE KINGFISH



Mississippi Riverboat

## ***CITY OF NEW ORLEANS***

(Scheduled was the  
*NATCHEZ*, but they  
swapped boats on us  
at the last minute.)





CCI  
GROUP  
PHOTO:



PHOTO: ELEMENTS IMAGING



In its  
decorative  
frame:



September 5, 2025

PHOTO: ELEMENTS IMAGING



A nice dinner ...

In the foreground,  
Frank & Gwen  
Camaratta are seen  
dining with Brian  
Flowers and Emily  
Allred of WCHOF  
(backs to camera).





Jude gives a few  
impromptu lessons  
after dinner:





This draws a crowd:





Then something  
happened that has  
apparently never  
happened before ...









The first known  
USCF-rated chess  
tournament ever  
held on a Mississippi  
riverboat.

Organized by Baylee  
Badawy of the Chess  
Cave, and Andrew  
Squitiro of Downriver  
Chess Club.





**A small tournament,  
with a short time  
control, but which  
may portend bigger  
things to come.**





**Important PR work  
taking place in the  
background as we  
played.**

**(This may be the only  
time Jude Acers has ever  
been seen in a hat that  
was NOT a red beret.)**





**Saturday morning our destination is the historic Beauregard-Keyes House, built by Morphy's grandfather, Joseph Le Carpentier in 1826.**

**Many sources claim that this is the house where Paul Morphy was born in 1837. But historian Kendric Perkins of the HNOC and others dispute this, saying it was only one of many family properties in the area, and that Paul was likely born in a different house, somewhere nearby.**



**1113 CHARTRES STREET**



A view of the courtyard.

Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard did live here for a time, and so did novelist Frances Parkinson Keyes, who wrote *The Chess Players* in this house in 1960. (A fictionalized biography of Morphy.)

Most of our Saturday events would take place here, except the gala dinner.

Starting with the morning's chess market.





## CHESS MARKET

Rick Knowlton's table.

*A WORLD OF CHESS*



PHOTO: RICK KNOWLTON



**Rick Knowlton with  
Patrice and Annie Plain.**





## CHESS MARKET

Artworks by local N.O.  
artist Jon Guillaume.

(Some of his work is in  
the WCHOF.)



PHOTO: RICK KNOWLTON



**Emily Allred and Brian  
Flowers of WCHOF  
(backs to camera)  
speak with artist  
Jon Guillaume.**





## CHESS MARKET

Prototype chess pieces designed and created by Ben Guillaume (Jon's brother).



PHOTO: RICK KNOWLTON



**Deanna Antiporta and  
Judy Huey speak with  
chess designer Ben  
Guillaume.**





## CHESS MARKET

Tom & Luann's table.





## CHESS MARKET

Tom & Luann's table.





**Dr. Bernard Christenson  
checks out the offerings  
at Baylee Badawy's table.**





**It was also time for the long-awaited viewing of the temporary display of chess antiques by Jon Crumiller, Tom Gallegos, and Luann Woneis.**

**We did not have time to put out a general call to display member's treasures before this meeting, but Jon Crumiller was kind enough to come to our rescue, and agreed to exhibit alongside us.**



**A stunning queen from one of Jon's sets.**





Luann with part of  
our collection.





**This is the entire display. Just two pairs of display cases placed back to back, in the parlor of the home.**





FIRST PAIR

Crumiller





## HIGHLIGHTS









**RÉGENCE FIGURAL BUST SET**

French

Circa 1900

Ivory, one side stained red

King height: 4" (10 cm)







CHES & LIQUEUR CHEST  
French  
Circa 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Yew, boxwood, cherry, burr walnut, holly  
With gilded glassware





**EUROPEANS vs. AFRICANS SET**  
French, Dieppe (very rare in blue)  
Circa late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Ivory, natural (Europe) vs. blue (Africa)  
King height: 3.3" (8.5 cm)

*habitations de l'Angleterre il a en conséquence...  
Voyageur et son nom est...  
toutes les circonstances qui y sont...  
belle Duchesse de...  
est entre au service de l'impératrice de Russie...  
on l'a vu...  
l'impératrice...  
l'impératrice...*

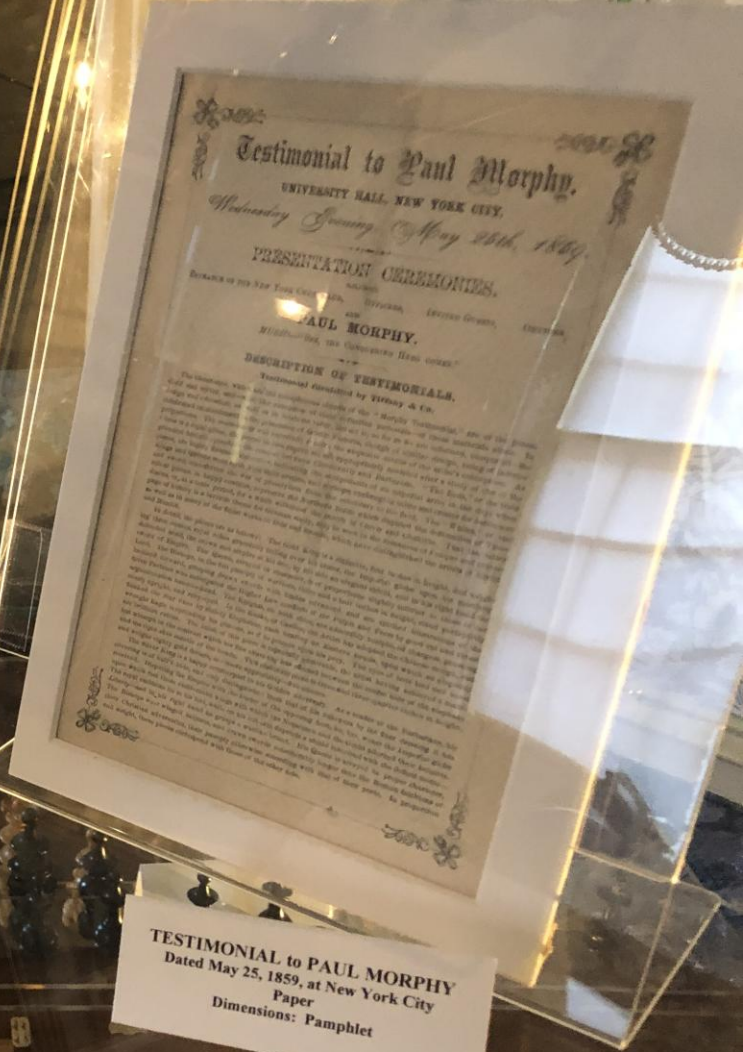
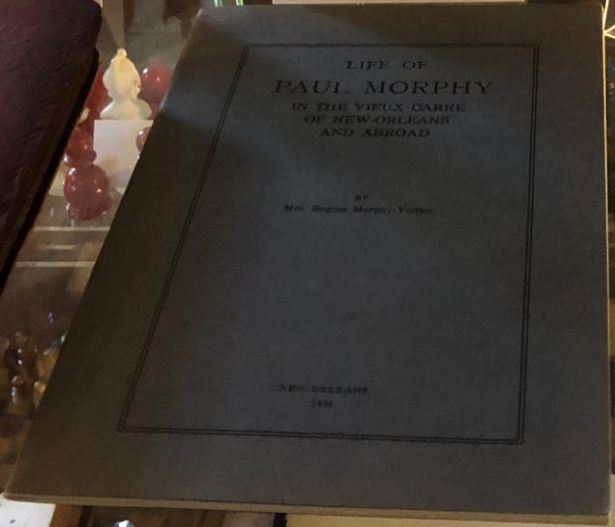




CHES PRAXIS  
By Howard Staunton  
(Copy owned by Paul Morphy)  
Cloth binding, dated 1866, 1<sup>st</sup> edition  
Dimensions: Octavo



LIFE OF PAUL MORPHY  
By Regina Morphy-Voitier  
Dated 1926, at New Orleans  
Paper covers, paper  
Dimensions: Octavo



TESTIMONIAL to PAUL MORPHY  
Dated May 25, 1859, at New York City  
Paper  
Dimensions: Pamphlet



SECOND PAIR

Gallegos-  
Woneis





HIGHLIGHTS



LEATHER FOLDING BOARD  
European, Circa 18<sup>th</sup> century  
Leather, pasteboard  
Dimensions: 15.75 x 15.25 (40 x 39 cm)

ENCYCLOPÉDIE SET  
French, Circa 1750 – 1780  
Wood, stained red on one side  
King height: 4" (10 cm)

TAROT DE LA REINE  
French, one of the world's rarest tarots  
Circa 1811 (two complete decks known)  
Pasteboard, 120 cards (incomplete)  
Dimensions: 4.4 x 2.5" (11.2 x 6.3 cm)



An old deck  
of tarot  
cards set up  
as a chess  
set?

What's that  
doing here?

(Probably a  
first.)





Here is a short essay  
on How Chess Helped  
to Create the Tarot.

Part of the display.

(New Orleans is a huge  
tarot town. That's why  
we thought this would  
be so appropriate.)

## HOW CHESS HELPED TO CREATE THE TAROT

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Historians and scholars have long speculated about a possible historical relationship or link between chess and tarot, without much success. But in fact, there are a number of things that can be said with some specificity. This is just a brief summary. Chess is by far the older of the two, developed in northern India (some say Persia) in the seventh century. So it is chess that would have influenced the tarot, and not the other way around. Contrary to popular belief, the origin of chess is a far bigger mystery than the origin of tarot.

Tarot was developed in the early 1400s by Renaissance nobles of northern Italy. Cities such as Milan, Ferrara, Bologna, and Florence were all involved. Particular people from certain powerful families can be identified as having been most likely involved in the creation of the first few hand-painted and gilded *tarocchi* decks, namely the Visconti family, the Sforza, the d'Este, the artist Bonifacio Bembo, and others.

Chess had been around for some 800 years by this time, and in Europe for at least a few centuries. Chess was already a favorite game among the same Italian noble families who would later develop tarot. Tarot was an offshoot of regular playing cards which had arrived in Europe from the East some time around 1300. But by the 1400s, a fifth suit, which we call the *major arcana*, was added to the deck. This fifth suit originally represented a series of personages from the *Trionfi*, civic parades which hearkened back to ancient Roman military triumphs. In a Roman triumph, each succeeding car (or float, if you will) outranks the one before it, ending with the victorious general. But this conquering hero, who ranks highest, always has a fool clinging to the back of his car, who ranks lowest. The purpose of the fool is to serve as a *memento mori*, constantly whispering in the general's ear, "Remember that you too, are mortal. Remember that even you will one day die." To keep the mighty humble was the duty of the fool. This is why today's tarot fool is neither the highest nor lowest card in the series, but might be either. In these Italian *Trionfi* civic parades, which still take place today, certain characters, personages, or floats were occasionally chess-themed. (Even in today's Mardi Gras, some krewes or floats have often been known to feature chess or chess-like themes.)

It has been common for mainstream playing card historians to assert that tarot cards were originally invented only for playing games, and that any use for divination or fortune telling came much later, in the late 1700s. But this is factually incorrect. People in the Renaissance commonly used *absolutely everything* in their world for divination in some fashion, from lightning to footsteps to dripping candle wax to placenta to the sound of a dog barking or a stomach growling. You name it, there was a form of divination associated with it. They certainly made no exception for tarot cards, or regular playing cards, for that matter. In fact, the Renaissance itself is often said to have begun with an act of divination. (The poet Petrarch climbs Mont Ventoux in 1336, and at the summit commits an act of *bibliomancy*, flipping randomly through the pages of St. Augustine's *Confessions* until he alights on a passage, which he then interprets as a personal prophecy.)

Chess, as a simulacrum of war which the *Trionfi* celebrated, was often used to discuss the outcomes of battles past, or even divine the outcomes of battles yet to come, but this ancient use of chess pieces has of course left no historical trace. Yet the earliest chess books were *moralities*, which discussed the proper functioning of societies and the fates or *lots* of individuals, just as any tarot reader might do. The fact that chess and playing cards both involve kings, queens and other royal personages, both reached Europe from the East, and both present allegories of the world, is much more than a coincidence, even if we cannot find simple one-to-one correspondences between the chess pieces, the squares of the board, and the cards.

Most modern historians have long forgotten, but in the strictest ancient classical sense, *all games* are acts of divination, since you are playing to see who wins. This is a *sortes* in the Greco-Roman tradition, or the casting of lots, of which there were countless means and methods (which we would recognize as different games and gaming pieces). Yet the casting of lots, any kind of lots, was always divinatory, an act which is tantamount to propitiating the gods.





ENCYCLOPÉDIE SET  
18th-19th century  
natural ex. green  
height: 3.8" (10 cm)

**KILLARNEY SET & BOARD**  
Irish, the board inlaid with arbutus & fern  
Circa early 19th century  
Arbutus unedo (relative of strawberry)  
King height: 5.25" (13 cm)





**GAMBLER'S ENSEMBLE.**  
French, English & American components  
For chess, draughts, backgammon, poker  
Circa 1850s - 1920s  
Wood, leather, ivory, paper



Collection of  
TOM GALLEGOS

PULPIT SET  
Probably Napoleonic-era POW work  
French. Circa mid-18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Bone, stained dark on one side  
King height: 5.125" (13 cm)

SAILOR-MADE WATERLOO SET  
English, Circa 1815 - 1830  
Elephant & Walrus Ivories  
King height: 3" (7.5 cm)

TRAITE  
THEORIQUE ET PRATIQUE  
DU JEU  
DES ECHecs.  
PAR M. DE LA HAIE  
PARIS.





**DIRECTOIRE SET**  
French, Circa 1770 – 1780  
Boxwood, ebony  
King height: 3.75" (9.5 cm)

**LEATHER FOLDING BOARD**  
English, Circa 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Leather, pasteboard  
Dimensions: 14" square (36 cm)

NAPOLEON AT SAINT HELENA  
"The King Falls to the Ground"  
French



An old chess  
sandglass?  
What's that  
doing  
there??



BOARD  
century  
(36 cm)

TREATISE OF AMATEURS  
French, published at the Café de la Régence  
Dated 1775  
Pasteboard binding, paper  
Dimensions: Small octavo

A CHESS SANDGLASS ???  
5-minute game timer with scoring pegs  
Possibly the first type of chess clock  
Possibly English, Circa 1850  
Height: 12.5" (32 cm)





**THE GAME OF CHESS**  
(Philidor plays at the Café de la Régence)  
French, litho after Louis-Léopold Boilly  
Circa 1837 (orig. painting c. 1792)  
Paper

**ENCYCLOPÉDIE SET**  
(Transitional to Régence Style)  
French, Circa 1750 – 1790  
Wood, stained black on one side  
King height: 3" (7.5 cm)



**Luncheon was catered by Luann and Company. Near her you can just see one of the chess pies we went out of our way to find, because it is a Southern specialty. We would serve chess pie twice today, at both lunch and dinner.**

**But it turns out chess pie isn't really very good.**

**"It's jess' pie," as they say.**





After lunch,  
we featured  
historical  
presentations  
by Sir Jude  
Acers of the  
World Chess  
Table,



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



Baylee Badawy,  
founder of the  
Chess Cave,



new orleans chess, checkers, and whist club  
baronne & canal







PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



These two  
make a  
good team.



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



Our  
videographer,  
Derek Bridges,  
hard at work



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



**And a panel discussion on Morphy history, moderated by Jon Crumiller, with**

**John McCrary, past president of the US Chess Federation,**

**Kendric Perkins, of the Historic New Orleans Collection,**

**and Rick Dean, a descendant of the Morphy family.**



**PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN**



Kendric Perkins of the HNOC discusses some nearby Morphy-associated properties.



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



Later, Kendric took our group outside and led a quick tour of the area, pointing out some of these sites nearby.

Just at that moment, Paul Morphy himself pulled up in a carriage.

(Just kidding.)



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



Back at the historic BK House, Jude conducted an eight-board simul. You might say it was,

***DEATH IN THE AFTERNOON***

A clean sweep for Jude, 8-0.



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



**Paul Morphy's  
Family Home**

**89 Royal Street**

**(The family lived  
here for 50 years,  
from 1841 to 1891)**





Brennan's  
Restaurant

417 Royal  
Street





# The MORPHY ROOM

Upstairs in  
Brennan's.

History records  
this is the room  
where Paul  
Morphy died in  
his bath tub,  
July 10, 1884.

(Redecorated  
since that time.)

For the next few  
hours, it would  
serve as CCI's  
own private  
chess club.



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



**The chess set we found here this evening was a bit strange. Perhaps because this place is a restaurant?**

**Frank Camaratta says these sets are commercially available. It is not a put-together.**

**No wonder there are no salt and pepper shakers to be found on the tables in the restaurant.**

**They're all in here.**





Doug Geib salts  
the pepper.





I got to play  
Jude, at one  
point.

Our game  
was  
seasoned to  
perfection.



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



There were also  
chess sets to be  
found out on  
the veranda.

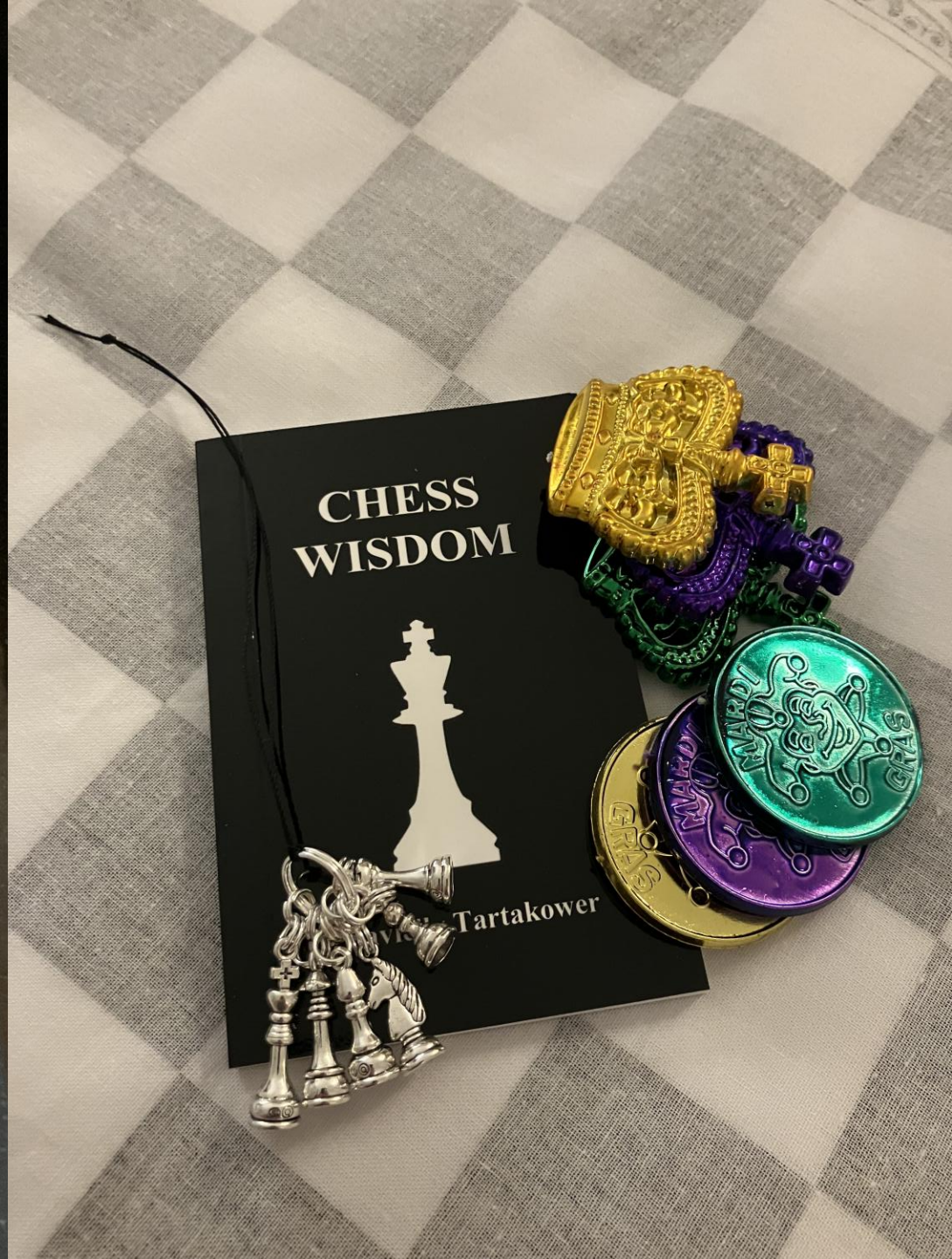




A chess  
*GRIS-GRIS*  
bag:

Also called  
an amulet  
bag or  
conjure bag.

And its  
contents.





Our table setting, complete with chess *gris-gris* bags, and Mardi Gras beads with chess charms.

And flickering lantern light.



Photo: JAMES CULLEN



**People gather  
for dinner in the  
adjacent Havana  
Room.**

**This room may  
just possibly  
have been Paul's  
bedroom.**

**(Jon Crumiller  
looks as if he's  
seen a ghost.)**





Gala Dinner  
at Brennan's









**Jon Crumiller of CCI (left) talks with HNOC historian and Paul Morphy expert Kendric Perkins.**

**We are hopeful that the many contacts made and the collaboration begun at this meeting between CCI and the historians of New Orleans can continue into the future. There is still more work to be done.**



**PHOTO: RICK KNOWLTON**



Meanwhile ...



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



The  
VOODOO QUEEN

Our Special  
Guest ...

Madame  
Marie Laveau  
(1801 - 1881)

waits on the  
*HAUNTED*  
*VERANDA*



PHOTO JAMES CULLEN



TOP  
SECRET:

# The *Ghost* *Play*





Here is a long-awaited chance for Paul Morphy to have his say, after all these years. To silence his critics, and to finally set the record straight.

An opportunity to speak in his own voice ...

From his own point of view ...

***IN HIS OWN HOUSE***



**The Host Rises  
to Make an  
Announcement.**

**Ringling a silver  
bell, he calls the  
room to order,  
explains the  
situation, and  
introduces our  
special guest.**



**PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN**



**Madame  
Laveau  
glides in  
silently on  
the night  
breeze.**



**PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN**



Just what is  
the connection  
between chess  
and Voodoo?

“... and we are  
hoping to speak  
with him tonight,  
no?”

PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



“... I first met him when he was a very small boy, since his mother and I were such good friends.

I gave him a small bundle of herbs and charms to help him with that silly game he liked so much.”



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



She begins  
to conjure in  
earnest ...

“... we must appeal to  
Baron Samedi, Loa of the  
Dead, Baron La Croix, and  
of course Baron Cimetière,  
Guardian of the Cemetery.  
We wish to make contact  
with ...”



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



**The Voodoo  
Queen  
conjures the  
ghost of  
Morphy with a  
puff of magic  
dust from her  
gris-gris bag.**



**PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN**



Paul appears from nowhere, as if he has just returned from his daily walk through the Quarter.

He looks a bit confused ...



*"Bonsoir! My goodness, what are all you people doing in my home? I do not wish to be rude, but I have no memory of inviting you. The last thing I remember is taking a nice, cold bath, just in the other room there ..."*

PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



A man in a black top hat and a dark pinstripe suit stands in a room with light-colored paneled walls. He has a mustache and is looking towards a man seated in the foreground. The seated man is older, balding, and wears glasses and a dark suit. The standing man holds a wooden cane. In the background, there is a decorative wall sculpture of a plant and a gold-colored column.

**“Are you clients of mine?  
Why exactly have you come?”**

**PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN**



A man in a black top hat, a dark pinstriped three-piece suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie stands in the center of a restaurant. He has a skeptical or questioning expression on his face. He is holding a thin wooden cane in his right hand. A gold chain with a medallion hangs from his waistcoat. In the background, several people are seated at round tables with white tablecloths. The tables are set with plates of food, glasses of wine, and festive decorations including colorful beaded garlands and small lanterns. A man in a red beret and a woman with glasses are visible at the tables. The restaurant has large windows with multiple panes and ornate interior decor.

*“Chess?? All of you? Oh, why should I be surprised, really?”*

PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



A man wearing a black top hat and a dark pinstriped suit is leaning forward, looking intently at someone out of frame. He is wearing a white shirt and a patterned tie. In the background, several other people are seated, and a white door is visible. The room has light green walls and a decorative wall sconce.

“... but surely you  
must be aware:  
*Chess is only a game!*  
I am a qualified  
practicing attorney,  
after all!”

PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



**This  
statement  
has an  
immediate  
and  
unforeseen  
effect.**

**“Of course I still play  
occasionally, with friends ...  
and the ghosts of friends ...  
but you cannot make a  
living at it. That is unheard  
of! Nor should you! Why,  
even if people were willing  
to pay, a true gentleman  
must not accept ...”**

**PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN**





The ghost of  
Bobby Fischer  
rises to  
object.

"Excuse me, I don't mean to  
eavesdrop, but I couldn't help  
but overhear ..."



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



A photograph of two men in suits shaking hands in a room with large windows and a lantern. The man on the left is holding a top hat. In the foreground, an older man and a woman are seated, looking towards the two men. The room has green and white striped awnings over the windows and a decorative lantern on the wall.

“You *what??* I must ask Monsieur, just who the *devil* are you?”

PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN





“Another chess player, and a big admirer of yours, Paul. May I call you Paul? Bobby Fischer of Reykjavik, Iceland, at your service. Reykjavik’s a long, long way from here, but for some strange reason, I found myself *rolling over in my grave* just now.”

PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



The two ghosts argue late into the evening, about the proper role of money in chess, and about the kinds of things that just may have happened to Paul and his family during the Civil War.



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN





**“Remember, young man,  
not everything that  
happens makes it into  
the newspapers.**

**Or into the history  
books, for that matter.”**

**PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN**



“And on top of all this,  
the ruined city, the  
endless strife over my  
father’s estate, to have  
people constantly  
pestering me about  
chess ... it was  
irritating ... not  
*maddening*, I say, but  
certainly irritating...”

“... to have so many  
chasing after me,  
expecting and wishing  
me to be some sort of  
chess playing *monkey* ...”

PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



A man in a dark pinstripe suit and patterned tie is standing and gesturing with both hands while speaking to an elderly couple. The couple, consisting of a man with grey hair and a woman with white hair and glasses, are seated in a room with large, multi-paned windows. Another man in a dark suit and blue tie stands in the background near the windows. The room has light-colored walls with decorative sconces. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

“And what about you, young man? You said that you too, became chess champion of the world. You said that you too, walked away from it all, at a young age. What’s the matter? Didn’t they offer you enough *money*?”

PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



**Audience  
reaction  
was good.**



**(Paul exits to  
applause.)**

**PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN**



In some  
cases, *very*  
good.



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



Brennan's famous Bananas Foster was then served for dessert, along with more Chess Pie, of course.





*Not Exactly a Séance:*

An Evening with  
Paul Morphy  
and  
Bobby Fischer

## THE CAST

(Note: Matt  
Martinez is an actual  
descendent of the  
Morphy family, the  
second such person  
at our conference.)



*The ACTOR'S APOTHECARY PLAYERS*



The cast  
members chat  
with Jude Acers  
and Baylee  
Badawy.

(The ghost of  
Bobby Fischer  
greets his old  
friend, Jude.)



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



One for  
the  
history  
books.



PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN



**The Ghosts of  
Paul Morphy  
and Bobby  
Fischer play Salt  
& Pepper in the  
Morphy Room  
prior to the  
performance.**



**PHOTO: JAMES CULLEN**



## SUNDAY

After the farewell breakfast, a small group of us made the customary pilgrimage to Morphy's family tomb.

St. Louis Cemetery No. 1.

If Paul's ghost was there, watching over us, he made no sign ...





## SUNDAY

An even smaller group stopped for a late lunch at Broussard's Restaurant, which includes the site of Morphy's old childhood schoolhouse, Jefferson Academy.





The  
END

