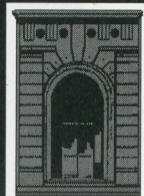


A large, dark green, serif letter 'M' is positioned on the left side of the cover. It is set against a light-colored background with a repeating pattern of white, scalloped shapes. A small, gold-colored paperclip is attached to the top left corner of the 'M'.

M E C H A N I C S ' I N S T I T U T E

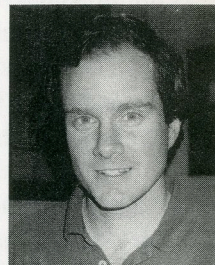
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*November 1998*

## CHESS ROOM UPDATE

International Master John Donaldson, the new Chess Room Director, learned to play during the 1972 World Championship Match between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky. He has been a full-time professional since graduating from the University of Washington in 1982 with a BA in History. Mr. Donaldson is a six-time captain of the United States Olympiad team and has authored or co-authored 18 books on different aspects of chess. For the past ten years, he was the Associate Editor of *Inside Chess*, published in Seattle.



John Donaldson brings a strong agenda with emphasis on training and workshops for those interested in teaching chess. He has also expressed an interest in increasing the Chess Club's computer capabilities and expanding the website.

The Mechanics' Chess Club will be hosting the Max Wilkerson International tournament from November 18 to 30. Players from England, the Philippines and Bosnia are among the invitees. The event runs daily from 3:30 to 10:00 pm and Mechanics' members are welcome to attend.

Grandmasters Walter Browne of Berkeley and Roman Dzindzichashvili of Sausalito will be representing the Mechanics' Institute in the United States Chess Championship held October 28 to November 15 in Denver. Browne, long the dominant player in the Bay Area, is a six-time U.S. Champion.

Congratulations go to GM Nick deFirmian for his excellent performance in the recent Chess Olympiad held in Elista, Russia. The former Mechanics' member, now residing in Copenhagen, was top scorer on the American team that took second, a point behind Russia.

A variety of events are scheduled during the next few months including Junior Chess on several Sundays at 12:00 noon (November 15 and 22 and December 6 and 20) and the Mechanics' Masters Tournament on December 11 to 13. Players of all abilities are welcome to participate in the Mechanics' Game in 15 on January 16, 1999, and the Mechanics' Linklater Qualifier on January 23, 1999.

The Chess Room also sponsors weekly events (listed on the left column of this page). For further information, please call the Chess Room at 415/393-0110.