

# Jaques Staunton Chess Sets: A Visual History 1849-1939



## Jaques Staunton Chess Sets 1849-1939 by Alan Fersht

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Jaques Staunton Chess Sets are among the most iconic and collectible chess sets in the world. First produced in 1849 by the British company Jaques of London, Staunton chess sets quickly became the standard for tournament play and remain highly prized by collectors today. This article will take a visual journey through the history of Jaques Staunton Chess Sets, from their early origins to their enduring legacy.

### **The Early Years (1849-1875)**



The first Jaques Staunton Chess Set was designed by Nathaniel Cooke in 1849. Cooke was a talented chess player and writer who was commissioned by Jaques to design a new set of chessmen that would be both aesthetically pleasing and functional. The resulting set, which became known as the Staunton pattern, quickly became the most popular chess set in England.

The early Staunton chess sets were made of boxwood and ebony, with the black pieces being stained. The pieces were relatively small and light, with a simple and elegant design. The knights were particularly distinctive, with their stylized horse heads.

### **The Golden Age (1875-1900)**



The Golden Age of Jaques Staunton Chess Sets was a period of great innovation and creativity. During this time, Jaques introduced a number of new designs, including the "London" pattern and the "English" pattern. These sets were larger and more elaborate than the early Staunton sets, and they often featured intricate carvings and decorative accents.

The Golden Age was also a time of great popularity for Jaques Staunton Chess Sets. The sets were used in major chess tournaments around the

world, and they were also becoming increasingly popular with casual players.

## **The 20th Century**



In the 20th century, Jaques Staunton Chess Sets continued to evolve. The company introduced new materials, such as plastic and metal, and they also began to produce sets in a variety of colors. The Staunton pattern remained the most popular design, but Jaques also produced a number of other popular patterns, such as the "Regency" pattern and the "Tudor" pattern.

Today, Jaques Staunton Chess Sets are still considered to be among the finest chess sets in the world. They are used in major chess tournaments and are highly prized by collectors. The sets are a testament to the

craftsmanship and innovation of Jaques of London, and they continue to be a symbol of the game of chess.



Jaques Staunton Chess Sets have a long and fascinating history. From their humble beginnings in 1849, they have become the standard for tournament play and are highly prized by collectors. The sets are a beautiful and functional work of art, and they continue to be enjoyed by chess players of all levels.

- Jaques Staunton Chess Sets
- Staunton chess set
- The History of the Staunton Chess Set



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