

copies is preserved. It is even rather hard to select a common subset, present everywhere with different additions.

There are several manuscripts which follow a different order – namely, that established by Civis Bononiae – and there are evident reasons to consider all of these last works as belonging to the same family. On the other hand, almost all of the remaining manuscripts are traditionally ascribed to the Bonus Socius family, which thus appears to consist of more scattered items. Also the dates of Bonus Socius manuscripts have a larger range, from the beginning of the 14th century up to the 16th.

### Civis Bononiae – Author and Collection

It is a fortunate circumstance for us that this *author* gives a definite indication of his provenance in the pen name selected (even if sadly adding his family name nobody-knows-where in his introductory poem). Bologna appears to be the only fixed point in the whole discussion about the two alleged authors: the identification of this personage (as that of Bonus Socius) appears to be an impossible task with the evidence available today.

The collections of Civis Bononiae are more homogeneous. Not so much in their specific contents, being in part derived from Bonus Socius, in part from elsewhere. A first section mainly ordered according to the increasing number of moves required by the solution, a second section with other, or none, ordering criteria. The greater homogeneity mentioned is among the different copies - there are several of them, kept (or at least originally made) in Italy. In some cases, the nature of a plain copy ready for the market or the specific customer is evident, especially among the Latin manuscripts. Together with them, a few manuscripts are known containing long excerpts, often in Italian, apparently made for one's own use.

This tradition of copying a collection like the Civis Bononiae lasted in Italy more than we could have expected. People were so accustomed to these traditional endings, that they went on copying them for decades after the introduction of the new rules of modern chess.

### The new rules in the collections

On the time and place marking the introduction of the new rules, there is at present much research and more discussion in course. Experts are now accepting that they originated in Spain. Certain is that, as everybody knows, the first chess books had been printed in