UMBC Kuhn Library Receives Marvin B. Cooper Chess Collection

July 11, 1995

The University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) is pleased to announce the donation of the *Marvin B. Cooper Chess Collection* to the Albin O. Kuhn Library. Consisting of over one hundred books and numerous journals, the collection is the generous gift of Mr. Cooper's family. A life-long chess enthusiast and champion player, Cooper was killed in 1994 at the age of 46. Born and raised in Baltimore, he was an attorney in private practice in Baltimore City.

Cooper's fascination with chess began as a child. By the time he was a teenager, he was one of the nation's top players in his age group. As an adult, while Cooper continued to play competitively, he shifted his energies and focus to sharing his chess knowledge with young people, particularly those in the inner city. His passion for chess was matched only by his love of teaching.

"Chess was more than an avocation for Marvin," noted his widow Gusty Taler Cooper. "It was part of his being. He often said that one could spend an entire lifetime studying the game, and still never learn all that it had to offer. It would thrill him to know that the books and magazines he selected and cherished will continue to inspire and enlighten children of all ages. His family and I chose the Kuhn Library because of UMBC's interest in and dedication to chess. We are delighted to have found a home that will treasure Marvin's collection and appreciate its true value."

Computer Science Professor Alan T. Sherman, who advises the UMBC Chess Club, is delighted about the collection: "The Marvin B. Cooper Chess Collection is a wonderful resource that will be of significant use to our club and team, and to all chess players in the greater Baltimore area. The collection contains numerous excellent chess books, such as David Bronstein's *Zürich International Chess Tournament 1953*, P. H. Clarke's *Mikhail Tal's Best Games of Chess*, and Aron Nimzovitch's *My System*. Of special interest to the competitive player, there is an extensive set of *Chess Informats*, which list games from major international tournaments. In addition, there are a large number of opening books, as well as books on the oriental games of go, shogi, and chinese chess. It is especially appropriate that Cooper's books will continue to guide and inspire young minds."

Library Director Larry Wilt explained, "Chess is a subject in which our library was weak—especially in comparison to the strength of the Chess Team—so these materials are a much needed addition to the library." UMBC is eager to continue building its chess collection.

At the request of Gusty Taler, each book in the collection will have a bookplate that includes the following quotation, which eloquently distills the essence of chess:

> *"Chess is the constant quest for better concepts, a better plan, the post powerful moves, the discovery of concealed, clever ways to achieve a goal."*
>
> Vasily Vasilyevich Smsolv, Born 1921
> Opera singer and chess Grandmaster

Dr. Wilt expects that the collection will be available to the public by September 16, on which day UMBC will host a scholastic chess festival. Anyone wishing to donate more chess books to the collection is encouraged to contact Robin B. Moskal, Collection Management Librarian, (410) 455-3812 and Alan T. Sherman.