



**C. S. Lewis**  
**THE CHESS MONOGRAPH**  
**(PART I)**

Chessaries, as we all know, are institutions for the lodging of Chessmen, for head-quarters of the Chess society, all over the world. When we look upon such a handsome edifice as the Royal Chessary (Murry), or the Northern Isle Chessary (Fuczy), we are inclined to take these things as a matter of course, and to think that Chessaries have been in existence, every since man lived in houses.

To correct this notion, we must carry our thoughts back to the 12th, 13th, 14th centuries: – and what shall we see there? We shall see Chessmen, few, scattered, unhoused, hunted, disliked, and pennyless, what a terrible state! Just as the Jews were treated in England at the same time; so were Chessmen treated, in Animal-land, India, Dolfin-land, Prussia, Pongee, and a great many more places, which I could mention, had I paper and time.

Not until the early years of the 15th century, was any 'stir', so to speak, made at all. Then a certain Chess king appeared full of determination to put an end to the ill-treatment of his fellow-Chessmen. This individual, as no doubt you know, was the famous Gengleston Herbert Flaxman..

It is all very well to sit in your study reading this essay, and think of all the things in favour of Flaxman; but for him it was hard, very hard. Now: - a man in not *very* good circumstances wants to start an undertaking of great importance, and difficulties; - how can he begin? This was the problem which confronted King Flaxman, when first he got the idea. Never baffled, however, he tried to raise voluntary contributions from Animal-landish people. This was worse than a failure, for it earned him the hatred of the people, who didn't trust in him. His idea was to found the first Chessary, near Boot; as we have seen, the difficulties in Animal-land had proved too insurmountable, so he must try elsewhere.

Accordingly (in company with 2 pawns, and a certain Castle Richards, who were faithful to him), Flaxman set-sail, in a trading ship, for Clarendon. On his arrival there the semi-civilised inhabitants made an attempt to (though they didn't mind the traders) drive out the 4 strangers. Flaxman, however, drove his way into the interior; and, having settled, sent a message back by the ship in which he came. This message was sent to Chessmen in India and Animal-land, telling them of Flaxman's scheme and bidding them come, - he would help with the expences. Soon they came: and the first Chessary in the world, of but 90 Chesspeople, was founded in Clarendon.



In a former treatise I have described the foundation of Cherraries, and discussed the matter. In that little work (owing to lack of some requisites), I omitted to say, (1.) How King Flaxman put down the natives. (2.) How he paid for the building of the treasury. (3.) Anything about these orders, and social organisation. On the ~~des~~ request of my father, I am now penning an essay to supply these wants, on try to, rather.

In the first place we must remember that Flaxman's Cherrymen were civilised, and had, naturally, better ways than the crude and savage.

## (PART II)

In a former treatise I have described the foundation of Chessaries, and discussed the matter. In that little work (owing to lack of some requisites), I ommited to say, (1) How King Flaxman put down the natives, (2) How he paid for the building of the Chesary, (3) Anything about Chess orders, and social organisation. On the request of my father, I am now penning an essay to supply these wants, or try to, rather.

In the first place, we must remember that Flaxman's Chessmen were civilised, and had, naturally, better weapons than the crude and savage natives of Clarendon. But before the little colony of Chessmen could do anything, they must have somewhere to live in. Flaxman caused the Chess-people to work at the building of the Chessary, with their weapons on, as assaults were frequently made by the natives. The work, Flaxman decided, was to be done methodically: 2 or 4 men were always posted on the outskirts of the scene of labour, to warn the workers of an attack. One body of men felled the trees, another chopped them up, another carted them to the site of the Chessary, and a fourth body built. Flaxman did as much work as any other two put together!

In about a month the work was finished. And while they had been working, new Chessmen had been arriving, so they were now in a condition to fight.



