

NEWS, INFORMATION, TOURNAMENTS AND REPORTS

THE MEPHISTO "BEST PUBLICATION" AWARD

The Board of ICCA

The Mephisto "Best Publication" Award for the first time announced in the June/September 1988 issue of the *ICCA Journal* has been presented annually to authors of a publication, which, in the opinion of the jury, has made the biggest contribution to computer chess in the year in question. The first Award was for publications dated between April 1st, 1987 and March 31st, 1988 (and won by Thomas Anantharaman, Murray Campbell and Feng-hsiung Hsu for their paper: Singular Extensions: Adding Selectivity to Brute-Force Searching. *Proceedings of the AAAI Spring Symposium, Computer Game Playing*, March 1988), the second Award for publications dated between April 1st, 1988 and March 31st, 1989 (adjudged to the book *Advances in Computer Chess 5*, edited by Don Beal).

The third Mephisto "Best Publication" Award, for publications dated between April 1st, 1989 and March 31st, 1990 is awarded to Feng-hsiung Hsu for his Ph.D. thesis, entitled *Large Scale Parallelization of Alpha-Beta Search: An Algorithmic and Architectural Study with Computer Chess* (February 1990, Report # CMU-CS-90-108, Carnegie-Mellon University).

The jury consisted of Jaap van den Herik, David Levy, Tony Marsland, Jonathan Schaeffer and Ken Thompson. Feng-hsiung Hsu has received the latest and strongest Mephisto Chess computer, in its nicest wooden board. With a special air flight, it arrived in time in New York during the 21st ACM NACCC. Richard Lang, Mephisto's best programmer-representative handed the prize to Dr. Feng-hsiung Hsu. The ICCA congratulates Feng-hsiung Hsu with the fulfilment of his excellent Ph.D. thesis and the achievement of his doctoral title.

The ICCA would once again like to thank Hegener + Glaser AG of Munich, for donating this award. The qualification dates for the 1990-1991 Award are April 1st, 1990 to March 31st, 1991, and this will include the June, September and December 1990 issues of the *ICCA Journal*, as well as the March 1991 issue. Once again, any publication on or related to computer chess may be considered, and the Award is not limited to papers presented in the *ICCA Journal*.

Due to a lack of nominations, the annual Mephisto "Young Programmers" Scholarship announced in *ICCA Journal*, Vol. 11, No. 4, p. 167, for high-school pupils or students under 19 years of age, who have written the best chess program, will not be awarded for 1990. Would all ICCA members please bring this valuable prize to the attention of any young chess programmers they know, so that the 1991 Award can be presented again.

Apology

Since the Editors and the Publisher have not found the cause of delay in delivering the Journal in time to our US and Canadian readers, we have changed the distribution method. We hope that our North-American readers will receive this issue within normal time limits. Meanwhile we apologize for the inconvenience caused by the late arrival of the last two issues.

H.J. van den Herik
Editor-in-Chief