

THE CHESS: THE EIGHTH ARTE LIBERALE (LIBERAL ART)

A ancient encyclopedia in nine books, written in prose and in verses by the Carthaginian Marziano Capella (V century a. C.) with a meaningful and fascinating title "Her wedding of Mercury and the Philology", it brings the classification of the **liberal arts** (Arti Liberali)

The **Liberal Arts** are seven divided in two groups.

The first group includes the literary arts: grammar, rhetoric, dialectics.

The second group the scientific arts: arithmetic, geometry, music, astronomy.

All these arts need an intense application of the mental faculties (in opposition to the arts -defined "servili" - that need alone physical application and manual work).

Thanks to the Neapolitan writer **Alessandro Salvio**, needs, however, to increase the number of the liberal arts and to also add the **chess**.

In fact the book of Salvio, published in 1604, entitles him, with a happy approach, **Trattato dell'Inventione et arte liberale del gioco di scacchi**, "liberal art of the chess".

The chess are, therefore, **Art** worthy of the free mind of the man and, as for her "Philology of Marziano Capella, worthy of immortality.

Carmelo Coco.

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