



## THE UNRELIABLE HISTORICAL

### RECONSTRUCTION BY MUSSINI

The picture, painted by Luigi Mussini in 1883, shows the triumphant Puttino after the victorious challenge with Ruy Lopez in the presence of Philip II (King of Spain).

The pictorial work, also appreciated in the execution, (respectful of the customs of the epoch), it is not, however, a precise historical reconstruction, in comparison to the historical sources that we know.

If we attentively read the Chapter V of the book "Il Puttino Altramente detto Il Cavaliere Errante del Salvio" (published in Naples in 1634), where the history of that challenge is narrated, we immediately acknowledge there the mistake.

Salvio writes, in fact:

*After the reverence of Lionardo and of Ruy Lopez, the King commanded them to rise. The King commanded that Ruy Lopez and Lionardo played in standing posture nearby to a table.*

Lionardo and Ruy Lopez played five games (the first two won by Lopez and the other three by the Puttino that it assured him the final victory): all the games were rigorously played in

standing posture.

To Court the etiquette is absolutely necessary.

To the Majesty presence was not possible to sit down for playing to chess as has shown in the painting of Mussini.

To the presence of the King it was had to play in knee. This concept is confirmed by the Carrera of it "Il gioco de gli scacchi" (1617), when it narrates an episode of the life of Paolo Boi:

*Don Sebastian (the King of Portugal) and Paolo Boi (the Syracusan) they played thick times together. And for a lot of hours a day. In one of these occasions the King played standing posture and Boi with a knee above a pillow. After a lot of hours of game the King it allowed to Paolo Boi of to change his position, and to kneel upon the other knee.*

The King Philip it showed her magnanimity because it allowed Ruy Lopez and the Puttino to play in standing posture and not in knee.

Carmelo Coco.

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[Back to Home Page](#)

[Back to Index "English version"](#)