Frans de Vreugd Biography

Frans de Vreugd is a building engineer, working in an architect's practice in The Hague, Netherlands. He studied architecture in Delft, and that is where his interest in puzzles started. He’s been collecting puzzles for over 25 years. He found many inspirations in architecture as a puzzle person, some of them being the use of advanced CAD programs, the knowledge of materials and their applications, ancient wood joinery and a magnificent workshop for model making.

For many years he has also been designing puzzles, mostly interlocking puzzles, and some packing puzzles. Since 1996 he has been one of the editors of an international puzzle magazine called CFF, published in the Netherlands. His interest in puzzles combines nicely with his other great passion, travelling around the world. On his trips to far and exotic countries he has found many interesting puzzles (e.g. from Romania, South Africa, India, Mongolia, Brazil, South Korea).

In 1996 he started visiting the International Puzzle Parties, an international conference alternately organised in Europe, the US and Asia. Apart from attending these events, he has also been involved in organising these events in Antwerp in 2002 and in Australia in 2007. These events are organised by the IPCA (International Puzzle Collectors Association), of which he is the International President since 2012.

Although he does not have a formal education in mathematics, he does have great interest in it. Every two years he attends an international conference in Atlanta, Georgia called the Gathering for Gardner, where puzzlers, mathematicians and magicians meet and exchange ideas.

Finding puzzles in foreign countries is great fun, but it is also very nice to share the information with other puzzle people. Apart from writing articles about puzzles in CFF, he has written two books on puzzles, and is currently co-writing a third one about antique trick-boxes from Switzerland.