

The China Labyrinth

This is a homage to Christian Freeling who was found dead on 19 May 2026 at the age of 79 in his home. In Enschede he was known as ‘De slangenman’ (The snake man) because he was keeping several snakes, including a 4 meter long Burmese python.

In the rest of the world Christian Freeling is known as a game designer and inventor of abstract strategy games. One of which is the game Havannah which is played on a hexagonal board with hexagonal cells and where players alternating place a stone of their color on one on an empty cells. The winner is the first player that either connects two corners, three sides (corner cells not included), or makes a loop around at least one cell.

The China Labyrinth was conceived in the early eighties by Martin Medema. Christian made a connection with the I Ching resulting in the I Ching Connexion. Below one of the many solutions to The China Labyrinth in a compact hexagon, which can also be used to play a game of Havannah.

