In 1981, the monumental project to classify all of the finite simple groups appeared to be nearing its conclusion. Danny Gorenstein had dubbed the project the “Thirty Years’ War.” Gorenstein and Richard Lyons agreed that it would be desirable to write a series of volumes that would contain the complete proof of this Classification Theorem, modulo a short and clearly specified list of background results. As the existing proof was scattered over hundreds of journal articles...there was consensus that this was indeed a worthwhile project, and the American Mathematical Society agreed to publish this series of twelve volumes.

In tribute to Volume 7 of this series recently being published and Volume 8 due out within a year, series contributor Ronald Solomon provides a progress report on the GLS Project.

Some of those who have worked on the Classification Project. Left to right: David Goldschmidt, Ronald Solomon, Stephen D. Smith, Richard Lyons, Michael Aschbacher, John G. Thompson, and Richard Foote.