

Introduction

In the year 1840 our continent, in terms of chess, was a wasteland. At that time there certainly were important chess masters and self-sacrificing chess devotees, but their intentions and yearnings had no chance of being realized. The intellectual seeds that were to be sown remained in a latent state; it was reserved for a later time to bring them to flower and ripeness.

The muzzling of the various chess clubs and of the press made the exchange of ideas for the most part impossible. The exorbitant postage fees at that time made the sending of letters a privilege of the rich. The book trade—today a world-transforming power—was still in diapers. The publication of books was therefore a very risky venture for the publisher and a hardly sensible enterprise for the author. Consequently, new ideas could find only a limited distribution.

The result was the complete stagnation of intellectual life in all fields. The launching of a chess column in the *Leipzig Illustrirten Zeitung* (1846), and, in a few years, the founding of the *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, signified the beginning of a new era in the art of chess. It was an occasion to rejoice (a fact that probably can no longer be appreciated by today's generation) when the Austrian censor board graciously permitted their beloved "subjects," who up to that time had been limited to the meager diet of the official *Wiener Zeitung* and the additional reading matter in the *Leipzig Illustrirten*. This paper and the *Deutsche Schachzeitung* were the centers around which the scattered atoms of the chess world became crystallized. A fresh stimulus was provided by the international tournament at London (1851), the first event of its kind, in which a German, Anderssen, won the first prize and with it world fame.

Since then, Europe has become a dense network of chess locales, and hundreds of chess columns in the best-read journals report weekly—and, on important occasions, daily—on the various occurrences in the chess world. Evidently, chess, like theater and music, was now a cultural necessity in many circles. Private and municipal corporations now came to the aid of those patrons who promoted chess. The Bank of Monte Carlo organized four international tournaments under the protectorate of Prince Albert of Monaco. The Kurhaus administration at Ostende arranged several splendidly endowed grandmasters' and masters' tournaments. The hotel corporation Rider, with the assistance of the Erie Railway Company, staged an international tournament at Cambridge Springs (Pennsylvania, U.S.A.), in which the most important American and European players took part. The municipalities of Munich and Düsseldorf, through a substantial grant of seven thousand

marks, made possible an inspiring world championship match conducted by the *Deutsche Schachbund*.

It will always be to the glory of the city of Karlsbad that, even earlier, her city fathers showed a proper appreciation of chess. In August 1901, Karlsbad hosted the Albin-Marco match; in 1902, she sponsored the match between Janowsky and Schlechter. Both spectacles took place thanks to the initiative of the Karlsbad Chess Club and the munificence of the Karlsbad city council.

The Karlsbaders had even loftier intentions: an international tournament. City councilman Victor Tietz, the world-renowned president of the Karlsbad Chess Society, was the *spiritus rector* and *genius loci* of this undertaking, as he was of the earlier efforts.

The proposals issued by this distinguished friend of chess met with agreement on all sides: from the Karlsbad chess club, the Karlsbad city council, and the city's most distinguished mayor, Dr. Josef Pfeifer. The preparations were quickly settled, the invitations to the experts on chess art took flight in all directions, and twenty-one masters pursued their honorable profession. The elite of the international master circle were present at Karlsbad, and for a month's time the public's interest was concentrated on the tournament in this smallest of world cities. After passing the prescribed "Becher," the devotees of chess made their pilgrimage into the high, airy colonnade of the Kurhaus, where, daily, they were offered rich intellectual stimulation. Although they did not find a feast for the ears as in a concert hall, or the sensual delights found in the theater, they took the greatest interest in everything that occurred in the course of the struggle. This is proof that mankind is becoming more serious, and that with the progressive development of the intellect we are able to be enthusiastic also about the wholly abstract. Today, chess is not merely a game that offers us a pleasant diversion; it is an art upon which genius has imprinted its stamp. It is a science that grants a progressive thinker insight into a microcosm that is the innate creation of his spirit. This three-fold root of our most noble spiritual recreation has in barely sixty years conquered a world.

For visitors to the spa, however, chess has yet another prominent significance. Used in moderation it is a healing factor of the greatest hygienic value. It helps us through the gloomy periods that so often beset the infirm; it diverts us from the moody self-reflections for which the capriciousness of human nature gives abundant reasons. The delight in combinations exhilarates the soul, and the ability to look into the future heightens one's mental powers and brings an intellectual pleasure that hardly any other mental recreation can offer. Chess, then, is a dispeller of cares and worries. It preserves, strengthens, and exhilarates, thereby working in a

direct way to prolong our lives. The lively activity of the central nervous system prevents the stagnancy of blood circulation that is characteristic of those who resign themselves to intellectual inactivity.

The Karlsbad tournament offered the chess world in both hemispheres an abundance of excitement; chess journalism was given excellent material for a lengthy period. And when the tournament came to its conclusion many may have thought, "A few more weeks of this really would not be bad."

First class in its cast of players and its achievements, in its enjoyments for those who sojourned at the site, and in the excellence of the tournament direction, of which councilman Mr. Tietz assumed the burden, the tournament was a source of pleasure and instruction for the participants, the spectators, and for all those who, far from the spectacle of the struggle, turned their attention to the study of the games.

And all those who took part in the tournament hope for an early reprise of the event in similar circumstances in this El Dorado for the healthy and the infirm.

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At the eighth general meeting of the Karlsbad Chess Club, on 18 March 1907, the organization of the great Karlsbad chess masters' tournament was decided upon; the board of directors ordered that preparations for it be initiated at once. The necessary means were soon provided: the city council of Karlsbad itself approved a contribution in the amount of 12,000 crowns for the cost of the tournament, thereby furnishing us with a shining example of munificent cultural feeling and appreciation.

In early April the following program was printed and sent out:

The Great International Chess Tournament
at Karlsbad 1907

The Karlsbad Chess Club, in its eighth general meeting, has approved the organization of a Great International Chess Masters' Tournament that is to begin on the 19th of August, 1907.

Accordingly, kind invitations have been sent out to chess masters of all countries.

The necessary preparations have been made in the hope that the tournament would be placed alongside the greatest and

finest events of its kind, all the more so as the amenities and pleasures of a lengthy stay at Karlsbad—the splendid natural location of the spa and its environs, especially the refreshing forest air—offer sufficient assurance that the tournament participants, after a hard day’s work, will also find in rich abundance the relaxation necessary for further activity and that the preconditions for a sustained and unhindered unfolding of their full mastery will be seen to be in evidence.

The Tournament Committee
Victor Tietz, President

Dr. S. Buxbaum
Hans Feller, Jr.
Dr. L. Knöspel
Dr. H. Neustadt

Dr. A. Charmatz
Dr. C. Hahn
G. Löbl
J. Regenstreif

Franz Drobny
Dr. J. Hoffman
L. C. Mader
A. Schwalb

Prizes

1 st prize	3000 crowns
2 nd prize	2000 crowns
3 rd prize	1400 crowns
4 th prize	1000 crowns
5 th prize	800 crowns
6 th prize	600 crowns
7 th Prize	500 crowns
8 th prize	400 crowns
9 th prize	300 crowns

The tournament committee may increase the prize amounts and may offer special prizes.

Tournament Rules

The tournament will take place in the Kurhaus at Karlsbad and will begin on August 18, 1907.

Applications for entry into the tournament are to be received by June 30 and should be directed to the president of the tournament committee, Councilman Victor Tietz, at “Daun” House, Karlsbad.

Permission to enter the tournament is subject to the independent decision of the tournament committee, who will notify the invitees by July 15.

A deposit of 60 crowns is required with the player's entry application; this will be refunded to the player after due completion of all the games.

Every participant will play against every other participant. Should the number of participants unexpectedly fail to exceed fourteen, a second tournament will take place with colors reversed.

Each won game will be counted as 1 point, each drawn game $\frac{1}{2}$ point. The total of points won will determine the order of prize-winners.

If two players finish the tournament with an equal number of points, a match (until one player scores two wins) will determine the winner. Should more than two rivals finish in the first place with an equal number of points, each contestant will play two games against each of the others. With respect to the other places, matches can determine the prizes if the players agree.

There will be five days of play per week, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and from 3 P.M. to 7 P.M. Only one game is to take place on each scheduled day of play; adjourned games are to be completed on the free days.

Each player will have two hours for his first thirty moves, thereafter one hour per fifteen moves. Exceeding the time limit will result in loss of the game. When a player fails to appear for his game after two hours, the game will be counted as lost for him and won for his opponent. If both players overstep their allotted time, the game will be considered lost for both players.

When the indication is given to adjourn a game, the player whose move it is will write down his next move and put it into an envelope with his and his opponent's game score and will give the envelope to the tournament director. Both players will note their clock times on the outside of the envelope.

Analysis of an adjourned game in the presence of the game's players is forbidden.

Inadmissible arrangements between tournament participants or actions contrary to the purpose of tournament play may result in dismissal from the tournament and loss of prize money and the deposit money.

Rules of play are governed by the relevant provisions of the German Chess Federation. A game that has not reached the 45th move can be agreed drawn only with the permission of the tournament director.

Within one hour after the completion of play, each player must deliver to the tournament director or his designee a correct and legible game score. The games are the property of the Karlsbad Chess Club.

If a player withdraws from the tournament not having completed half his games, his results will be stricken from the tournament list. If a player completes half or more of his games and then withdraws, the remaining games will be counted as lost for him and as won for his opponents. If a player who has already drawn lots withdraws before the beginning of the tournament, a regulation for the drawing of lots stipulates that every player with a number higher than that of the withdrawn player will have his number decreased by one.

If there are differences of opinion regarding the interpretation of the tournament regulations or the rules of play, the final decisions about these will be the responsibility of a five-member arbitration committee, whose members or representatives will have been chosen by the participants before the beginning of the tournament.

The tournament committee reserves the right, for all matters that have not been foreseen, to take steps that are considered to be in the interest of the tournament.

Program

Monday the 19th of August, in the course of the afternoon: reception and greeting of the tournament participants in the rooms of the Karlsbad Chess Club in the Kurhaus.

At 5 P.M.: the drawing of lots for the tournament, announcement of all round pairings, and the selection of the arbitration committee.

Tuesday, August 20, 9 A.M.: the beginning of the tournament.

Wednesday, August 21, and the following days, each morning at 9 A.M.: the continuation of the tournament.

The planned festivities, excursions, etc., to take place on the free days will be announced in turn at the appropriate time.

At the close of the tournament: a celebratory awarding of the prizes.

The members of the German Chess Federation enjoy free entry for the duration of the tournament.

For other visitors, tickets will be issued at 1 crown, and an entry pass for the whole tournament will cost 20 crowns.

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The announcement of the tournament met with unanimous approval in the world's chess centers. The *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, in its number for April 7, 1907, wrote, "The program for the masters' tournament, which the Karlsbad Chess club is organizing in August and September from the almost unprecedented patronage of the Karlsbad civic administration, is about to come to pass. Our readers will recognize that we are speaking here of a chess event of the first rank, one that will arouse the utmost interest of the entire chess world and for which we all owe gratitude to those who are involved in bringing it about. It is not out of place in the first instance to direct our thanks to the address of Mr. V. Tietz, who, as president of the Karlsbad Chess Club and as city councilman, is an excellent intermediary for eliciting the interest of the government of an international resort city in organizing a great chess tournament. The German Chess Federation has special reason for gratitude, as their members have free entry to the tournament. It is our wish that these members will make abundant use of this opportunity. Such an excursion to Karlsbad will be most worthwhile, both in terms of chess and otherwise."

The most pre-eminent masters from all countries were invited to participate. We regret the non-acceptance of Dr. Emanuel Lasker, who in his letter to the tournament committee justified his absence by ... an uncertainty

of success. After the expiration of the application deadline (of the thirty-eight applications received, only twenty-four could be accepted, so as not to extend the duration of the tournament excessively), the following participant list was determined and announced:

From Austria: Berger, Duras, Marco, Schlechter, Tartakover, Vidmar, Wolf.

From Hungary: Maroczy.

From Germany: E. Cohn, W. Cohn, Spielmann.

From Great Britain: Burn, Teichmann.

From France: Janowsky.

From Russia: Bernstein, Chigorin, Dus-Chotimirsky, Nimzovich, Rubinstein, Salwe.

From Sweden: Leonhardt.

From the Netherlands: Dr. Olland.

From America: Johner, Marshall.

The list was amended later, when Bernstein, Burn, W. Cohn, and Marco withdrew their entries. Mieses then appeared on the list; after his recent successes at Vienna and Ostende his absence would have been most regrettable.

The tournament opened according to schedule on Monday, August 19, 1907. The chairman of the tournament committee, councilman V. Tietz greeted the gathered chess masters with heart-felt words, as he did the representatives of the press from all lands—especially Mr. L. Hoffer, the special correspondent of the *Field* (London), G. Marco (Vienna) and H. Fährdrich (Vienna), etc. He drew attention to the munificence of the city of Karlsbad, so deserving of gratitude, a city that made possible the organization of a tournament that brought together nearly all of the world's leading masters. He also made mention of the considerable financial contribution of Baron Albert von Rothschild (Vienna), who offered two prizes for beauty in the amount of 300 crowns and 200 crowns; of professor I. L. Rice of New York, who offered the seventh prize in the amount of 500 crowns; and of Mr. Heinrich Edlen von Mattoni, who endowed the third prize for beauty in the amount of 100 crowns. He spoke, further, of the dedication of the German Chess Federation of a silver cup as an addition to the first prize. Owing to other contributions, the number of prizes was increased from nine to twelve, and honoraria for the non-prize-winners were established.

For the arbitration committee, Mr. F. Drobny (Karlsbad), H. Fährdrich (Vienna), L. Hoffer (London), G. Marco (Vienna), and Dr. H. Neustadtl (Karlsbad) were chosen. V. Tietz assumed the responsibilities of tournament director.

Tournament play began on Tuesday, August 20 at 9 A.M. All the participants fought fiercely throughout the whole tournament—nothing but sharp and incisive games, hardly any tame draws! The tournament rule stipulating that no game may be broken off as a draw before the 45th move may have contributed much to this happy fact. This policy disposed the participants to give the maximum effort in just about every game. Certainly the pleasant stay in the splendid resort city also stimulated the dispositions of the players. The fresh forest air offered tired players the necessary relaxation. And the playing area, recognized by all as eminently suitable—three beautiful, lightsome, and airy halls in the municipal Kurhaus, two serving as playing halls and the third given to reporters and analysts—contributed significantly to the mood of joyful combat. And so it turned out that of all the great international tournaments of the past several years, it is just the Karlsbad tournament that produced the smallest percentage of drawn games. And what drawn games! We see only the most animated, even sometimes wild games; for example, Nimzovich–Vidmar, Salwe–Vidmar, Marshall–Spielmann, Teichmann–Mieses, Berger–Nimzovich, Olland–Teichmann, etc. We utterly approve of such drawn games. In these encounters we find nothing of timid fear or the anxious avoidance of dangerous complications. The battle rages briskly and joyfully, and only after all the cunning and force have proven fruitless does the game arrive at a peaceful balance.

The entire chess world followed the struggles with growing excitement. Every day, telegraphed reports flew to all corners of the earth, and the great daily newspapers in every country kept their readers abreast of the results of every round. A great number of chess devotees, both native and foreign, for whom this coverage did not happen quickly enough, spent the duration of the tournament in residence at Karlsbad to follow the struggle *in situ*. Those from all lands taking the cure at Karlsbad also developed a great interest in the tournament. Occasionally the attendance swelled, especially on the two days when the games Schlechter–Maroczy and Maroczy–Rubinstein took place; the numbers increased to the point where barriers had to be placed around the tables to eliminate the disturbances to the players caused by the onrush of the spectators. And the human wall did not remove from the tables until the decisions had come down from the cast of the dice. Then we saw as many joyful as disappointed faces, after the favorites of the persons concerned had emerged either victorious or vanquished. And almost everyone had his favorite player, the choice being decisively determined by the patriotism of the spectator. Thus the Hungarians placed their hopes on Maroczy, the Russians on Rubinstein, the Americans on Marshall; nearly every nation wanted to see its representative in the top position.

In the second half, the tournament came down to a duel between Maroczy and Rubinstein for the honor of the first prize, after Teichmann (until the 10th round) and Vidmar (until the 15th round), who had been close on the heels of the two leaders, at last fell back. Only the last round brought a decision: Rubinstein emerged as the victor by a half-point margin. Leonhardt stormed into the third place with six successive victories in the final rounds.

The final results were as follows:

First prize (3000 crowns and a silver cup endowed by the German Chess Federation): A. Rubinstein (Lodz), with 15 points.

Second prize (2000 crowns): G. Maroczy (Budapest), with 14½ points.

Third prize (1400 crowns): P. S. Leonhardt (Stockholm), with 13½ points.

Fourth and fifth prizes (1000 and 800 crowns): shared by A. Nimzovich (Riga) and C. Schlechter (Vienna), 12½ points.

Sixth prize (600 crowns): M. Vidmar (Vienna), 12 points.

Seventh and eighth prizes (500 and 400 crowns): shared by O. Duras (Prague) and R. Teichmann (London), with 11½ points.

Ninth prize (300 crowns): H. Salwe (Lodz), with 11 points.

Tenth prize (250 crowns): H. Wolf (Jägendorf), with 10½ points.

Eleventh and twelfth prizes (200 and 150 crowns): shared by F. I. Dus-Chotimirsky (Moscow) and Frank Marshall (New York), with 10 points.

Each of the remaining participants received an honorarium in the amount of 100 crowns.

The special prizes for beauty were awarded by the prize judges Hugo Fähndrich and Georg Marco, as follows:

First prize (300 crowns): to G. Maroczy for his game with Tartakover (Round 1).

Second prize (200 crowns): shared by E. Cohn for his game with Chigorin (Round 15) and by P. S. Leonhardt for his game with Tartakover (Round 19).

Third prize (100 crowns): shared by D. Janowsky for his game with Berger (Round 15) and by J. Mieses for his game with Tartakover (Round 13).

Master Amos Burn (Liverpool) endowed an additional prize for beauty from his deposit money (60 crowns). This honor fell to R. Spielmann for his game with Rubinstein (Round 13).

With the awarding of the prizes on September 18, the tournament came to a close. The event went as planned from beginning to end with the most agreeable harmony; and, as tournament director V. Tietz said (to general applause) at the end of his farewell address, "This was the first tournament in Karlsbad; it is hoped that it will not be the last." The participants then left the hospitable Kurhaus with the wish that they would soon be invited back for the second international masters' tournament at Karlsbad.

Other details of the event are recorded on the following pages. Here are a few words about the first-prize winner: Akiba Rubinstein (born October 12, 1882 in Stawisk, Poland) debuted in the international chess congress at Barmen, 1905, with the most brilliant success by tying with Duras for first prize, thereby winning the championship of the German Chess Federation. At the Ostende tournament in 1906 he placed third out of thirty-six entrants (Schlechter took the first prize, Maroczy the second). At the Ostende tournament in the following year he earned the newly created title of grandmaster by sharing the first prize with Dr. Bernstein ahead of twenty-eight other competitors.

Adolf Zinkl correctly said of Rubinstein (*N. Fr. Presse* of September 18, 1907), "His play is exceedingly solid. Rubinstein does not avoid fine and elegant combinations, but he does not strive to bring them about. His unerring positional vision enables him to spot every minute weakness in the enemy camp, which he exploits with great energy all the way to the win. Rubinstein's game is nearly error-free, an advantage that shows him to be a dangerous rival to world champion Lasker."

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Newspaper Accounts of the Karlsbad Tournament

Dr. Falk, the most worthy expert of the *Moskauer Deutschen Zeitung* (October 12), expressed most heart-felt words, to which every true friend of chess must assent with all his soul:

“It was with a great feeling of tension that the entire chess world followed the last phase of the Karlsbad tournament. It became more and more clear that only two candidates came into consideration for the first prize, Maroczy and Rubinstein. The scale finally tipped in favor of the latter, even if only by a half point. But this half point gave the young master from Lodz an additional 1000 crowns and the fame of having emerged the victor in this most important of tournaments.

“From the beginning it was a most difficult tournament, for all the players were well known and felt called upon to enter into the arena of suitors for the prizes. The past two to three years have altogether revealed many skilled players: Duras, Nimzovich, Rubinstein, Salwe, Tartakover, Vidmar. In this last tournament the name Dus-Chotimirsky was added to the list, who, after early defeats, won game after game. The old gods must finally come down from Olympus and find a new seat. We see already how entirely mistaken was the idea of the grandmasters’ tournament at Ostende. Schlechter, Marshall, Janowsky, Chigorin, who participated there, had a woeful tournament—with the exception of Schlechter, but even he achieved only a relative success.

“We are currently living in a brilliant era in chess. Thanks to numerous tournaments, which follow closely upon one another, it is becoming possible for a chess player, when he is successful, to make a living for himself as a result of his exertions. Thus encouraged, a new school of masters is forming that threatens to put the old, most distinguished notables quite in the shade. Tarrasch has solemnly declared that the Ostende tournament was the last in which he would participate. It is understandable—the exertions that today’s tournaments require is too much for a man in his riper years. Only younger powers can join in, players in their twenties. Lasker long ago renounced his participation in tournaments under the pretext that the outcome of a game, around which so many different forces are at work, is uncertain, that the strength of the individual player is by no means the decisive factor. We permit ourselves to entertain some doubt about this last statement.

“Rubinstein’s victories at Karlsbad and Ostende show incontestably that we are presented here with a first-class personage. Doubtless we must see in Leonhardt a significant power, just having competed in Copenhagen, where Schlechter and Maroczy also played, taking the first prize, and who at Karlsbad finished third (losing only to Cohn and Schlechter), a player whose

star is in the ascendant. Equally, we cannot fail to prophecy a brilliant future for Nimzovich, who in two tournaments back to back placed just behind the leading prize winners. We see also that on the whole the result of the tournament gives an accurate picture of the relative strengths of the players. The older players of repute have not lost their strength—they play with their former powers—but the younger players have overtaken and surpassed them. We wrack our brains trying to discover why Janowsky, Chigorin, and Mieses are not in good form, why in the past several years they have lost their former strength. The explanation is simple: they are considerably older than most of the younger masters and are consequently no longer up to the strain of such a difficult struggle. Tarrasch would probably fare the same if he participated, or else he would subsequently break under the strain of the enormous exertion. Last year he failed completely at Nuremberg.

“When we go through the tournament in detail, we come across many fine games. Maroczy received the first prize for beauty (300 crowns) for his victory over Tartakover. The second prize (200 crowns) was shared by Cohn for his victory over Chigorin and by Leonhardt for his win against Tartakover. The third prize (100 crowns) was shared by Janowsky for his victory against Berger and by Mieses for his win over Tartakover. We observe that in most cases Tartakover was the threshold over which the gentlemen had to pass in order to gain their prizes. The non-prize-winners, too could be satisfied. Each received a special prize of 100 crowns.

“We hope that the Karlsbad tournament inaugurates a series of further contests in the beautiful city in the Tepl Valley. For this rich community the sum required for a tournament is the amount they offer to the poor wretches of the town, merely an insignificant mite, whose loss the town’s purse would scarcely notice. Whereas the Ostende tournaments, by virtue of their proximity to the gaming rooms, have a somewhat sour flavor, the Karlsbad tournament furnishes a model, like a modern civic society governed by generous and high-minded motives, that is to say, an art that in the Middle Ages prospered only at court and in castles, encouraged to further development by affluent munificence.”

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In the *Neuen Augsburger Zeitung* of September 11, L. Bachman gives an interesting summary, from which I excerpt the following:

“This splendidly arranged tournament constitutes a momentous step in the development of chess, for it is the first time that a municipal community has expended such a substantial sum for a chess tournament. The cast of players is considerably stronger than that last year at Nuremberg. The participation of Maroczy, Mieses, Rubinstein, Teichmann, and Nimzovich

significantly elevated the importance of the tournament. The municipal Kurhaus, with its large, well-lit, and airy playing halls conferred a further advantage to the event. The experience was embellished by the friendly mien and kindness of the tournament director, councilman V. Tietz, a man also known and praised throughout the chess world as a practitioner of the game. It is to his credit that this tournament came into being. He gave to the whole event the right harmony, always seeing to the well-being of his guests, heartily greeting all the visitors, and not showing a single furrow on his brow when a keen young chess devotee made notes of the proceedings. All this had a very agreeable effect and was most beneficial to the tournament.

“Now to the masters! Most of the visitors turned their attention to Maroczy, the favorite of the tournament, who seemed to be in very good form and who looked quite confident. Next to him, Rubinstein enjoyed the highest reputation among most people; he is one of the most clever players of the modern school and possesses great patience. If Mieses possessed it in equal measure he would have to be given greater chances, for in recent years he has shown repeatedly that he has the makings of a grandmaster. Schlechter did not start off well this time; nevertheless he has to be regarded as a definite candidate for the first prize.

“Teichmann is a very dangerous competitor, who is often able to see more with his one eye than others do with two. He was admitted to the Karlsbad tournament gladly, for he is and remains one of the foremost masters of the German-English school. Chigorin, too, is here, always striving indefatigably for the palm that the contentious younger players make more problematic for him. Age and physical infirmities have proved inimical to his playing strength, causing him to let slip many victories that before he would have secured. Ever since Janowsky granted preference to gambling over chess, his star has been in decline, for his nerves are often not strong enough to endure the strain of both; this is regrettable, in view of his talent.

“Marshall of late has had his match, but he has not lost his courage, even on this occasion, when his game left something to be desired. Now he is of the opinion that things will go better for him, and we are hoping right along with him! Leonhardt in this tournament displayed very good form; shortly before Karlsbad he carried off the first prize at Copenhagen ahead of Maroczy and Schlechter. At Karlsbad he created a sensation with his victory over Maroczy. With remarkable freshness, Altmeister Berger assumed his place in the tournament, and in spite of his advanced years made a strong stand against the other contenders. Bohemia is as ever distinguished by its representation by Duras, Silesia by H. Wolf. Both will cause trouble for the “grandmasters.” Russia has two further representatives in Salwe and Dus-

Chotimirsky. The first is well known and feared as cunning and resourceful; the second must show what he can do.

“Holland has sent its best player in Dr. Olland, though he has so far battled with little luck. From Munich we have Spielmann, a skilled young player who throughout remained in the midst of things. Entitled to greater hopes surely is the twenty-year-old Nimzovich, who conducted himself fearlessly at Ostende and here has already defeated Mieses and Rubinstein. His bold attacking play, especially, which is interlaced with many original ideas, draws the attention of the visitors.

“Tartakover and Vidmar are noteworthy contestants; both ascribe the reason for their facility in chess to living in Vienna. The latter, because of his subtle play, is feared even by the best opponents; his career is clearly still on an upward path. The young masters Erich Cohn and P. Johner looked troubled, as their luck did not hold on this occasion. They are still very young; next time it will go better for them.

“In the ante-room the critics attend to their serious duty. Hoffer, the correspondent for the English newspapers, looks glum; the results do not always seem satisfying to him. He meanwhile dresses down an impertinent young man who has dared to interrupt his meditations. Marco handles his time-consuming duties more joyfully.”

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The *Bohemia* of September 29, 1907 gave an appreciation of the course of the tournament in a fine exclusive report:

“A victory by the powerful, charging youth, which we witnessed last week and record with pleasure, one that bears witness to the keen, self-sufficient striving and to the systematic construction upon the foundations—the teachings of Steinitz—that an entire generation of chess masterminds have succeeded in building. We find no fewer than seven of the eleven young masters among the prize winners, players whose names the chess world had no idea of three or four years ago.

“As the telegraph wires announced to the whole world on September 17, the Russian A. Rubinstein, who gained the title of master only two years previously at Barmen, emerged as the victor with a final tally of 15 points. He therefore scored 75 percent, which, in view of the great abilities of the participants bore eloquent witness to his powerful playing strength. He has by no means a captivating playing style—no brilliant sacrificial combinations have made an impress on his style—and his main strength lies not in attack but in defense. He possesses a pronounced gift for

understanding correctly the resulting position, and he knows how gradually to accumulate the slightest advantages and decisively consolidate them. His enormous knowledge (which young players almost invariably gain as a result of their unflagging stamina) makes him a dangerous opponent, and one finds in his temperament nothing rash—an asset whose value is not to be underestimated. If he is given the slightest opportunity for an attack, he takes hold of it and conducts it deliberately and dryly, but irresistibly. He has shown that his victory at Ostende was no flash in the pan and that the chess world possesses in him a great master who is justified in shaking the throne of world mastery.

“Geza Maroczy, “only” second, somewhat disappointingly abandoned the scene of his exploits; the fact that he could not win against Rubinstein (Round 17) had robbed him of his courage, and Chigorin finished him off by losing to Rubinstein after declining the latter’s offer of a draw. Maroczy’s nature is an artistic one, at once kind and lofty. A small example: Marshall is in terrible time trouble and he, Maroczy, lets his own clock run on for an hour so that he does not have to win the game through an overstepping of the time limit.

“In third place is Leonhardt, with the ‘high quarte’ on his cheek, but who otherwise has kept his studious nature. His success is a most estimable one and follows upon his most recent victory at Copenhagen. He lost only two games and in the last six rounds was victorious in every one. Among his victories we note especially that against Maroczy, a brilliant, fresh game, the only game by the way that the Hungarian let be taken from him.

“The fourth and fifth prizes were shared by a dissimilar pair, Schlechter and Nimzovich—the former a master of international repute and the latter a young, upcoming talent, whose supporters will have to help curb his temperament if he is to attain successes at the chessboard and in the intercourse of society. Schlechter seemed indisposed. Among his games we find draws that in normal circumstances he certainly would have successfully avoided. But his play, deep and on a large scale, always merits our admiration.

“Former diplomat and now mechanical engineer, Vidmar, who during the first half of the tournament was the chief candidate for the first place, had in the end to be satisfied with the sixth prize. He is very strong and is, along with Rubinstein, certainly the most talented of the young players. In the middle of the event he lost to Johner, who after a series of eleven losses and a draw was able to score his first victory.

“Two masters with quite different fortunes in this event take the seventh and eighth prizes: Teichmann and Duras. Lady Luck shunned the first and

avored the latter. Teichmann, who comes across rather more as a wrestler than as a fine chess player, possesses a powerfully strong game. He recklessly gave away a few points that, had he won, would have put him dangerously close to the first-prize winner. He remained for everyone one of the most difficult opponents, and the combinational character of his game has already brought to light many chess jewels. Duras really did not fulfill the hopes that were placed in him after the events in Nuremberg and Vienna; but we believe that he is capable of more than he achieved in this tournament. Especially in the opening he lacked the necessary sureness; nevertheless, it was his fortune to bring some games to victory in which he had lost positions.

“Salwe, a Russian businessman, who speaks German only in a Yiddish dialect—frequently giving rise to quite comical reactions, which often gave occasion to his colleagues for *bon mots* and recurring phrases—was much beloved of the masters for his *bon homie* and his great kindness. He is possessed of considerable chess ability and presents a fearsome opponent. Had he not suddenly fallen off in the last rounds he would easily have been able to press for the third prize.

“Following him is the equally kindly as well as careful Jägendorfer, Wolf, who first of all can claim to have won the longest tournament game of all time. His game with Duras required 22 hours and boasts the respectable length of 168 moves. Along with Berger he was the king of draws, with 11 undecided games. Remarkable is his series of victories over Chigorin, who finds in Wolf an irresistible opponent, having already lost seven games in a row to him.

“The two final prizes also saw a pair of quite different contenders. The genial and gentlemanly Marshall, with his grandiose schemes and his inevitable spittoon, once again proved a sore disappointment to his friends. His result did anything but credit to the hero of Cambridge Springs, Scheveningen, and Nuremberg, by sharing a place with a contestant who is in fact a virtual unknown to the wider world. Dus-Chotimirsky, a young Moscow player, introduced himself well with this maiden success and acquitted himself honorably, though admittedly a certain amount of luck was involved.

“Of the non-prize winners, Spielmann, with 9½ points, assumed the highest place. He is an ingenious player, full of ideas, and always mindful of the beauty of his combinations; but he does not calculate the consequences of these with sufficient correctness, so that he often gives his opponent the opportunity for a decisive counter-thrust. He produced some fine games, for example, those against Rubinstein and Janowsky. Following him, with a similar style of play (only far more joyful in attack) and a few years

younger, is Tartakover, who was the losing player in most of the brilliancy prize games. His witty play, always with an eye to the attack, brings to light some brilliant winning games. We mention especially his encounters with Dr. Olland and Marshall, games that certainly would have won prizes for beauty had the victor not overlooked the immediately decisive continuation at the critical moment. In any case, he is an original, aspiring talent who bears watching.

“And now Janowsky, with 8½ points! That really speaks for itself. Unpredictable as always, he was so at Karlsbad also. In his next event, he will probably finish first. It would be opportune if he would again strive to rejuvenate something of his old fame. Three great masters, Berger, Mieses, and Chigorin, have reached what in life is called the third stage. Altmeister Berger is hardly up to the strain of a modern tournament; all the more amazing are the elasticity and freshness with which he confronts his most difficult opponents. Mieses played the second half of the tournament without success. Rash sacrifices—seemingly brilliant, certainly, but insufficiently thought through—caused him to lose many a game needlessly. Chigorin, formerly such a great player, was offered many draws, but he obstinately and confidently disdained them, so that in the end he even lost the game. Dr. Olland certainly did not fulfill the hopes of his countrymen. His result, just like that of the young Berlin master E. Cohn (who is possessed of a subtle game), could, in view of his playing strength, have been better. The bottom finisher, the American cellist Johner, was beset by misfortune in the first half of the tournament; his determined improvement in the second half strikes us as all the more commendable. His games against Duras and Vidmar bespeak an opponent of notable strength.

“There is one more master whom we cannot overlook in our discussion, the indefatigable Marco. With remarkable diligence he recorded all the games of the tournament, also taking down the extensive comments and explanations of the players themselves, so that the tournament book presented here is to be looked upon as a most valuable enrichment of chess literature.

“In conclusion, we wish to make a most laudatory mention of the industrious committee and its chairman, councilman V. Tietz. The participants departed the tournament with a feeling of satisfaction and with the greatest feeling of pleasure from their participation in the Karlsbad tournament—and with the greatest hope that there would soon be a second such tournament. May an awareness of these facts serve as the finest praise for the organizers for their tireless efforts.”

Dr. E. Dyckoff, in the *Suddeutschen Schachblättern* (Number 17, page 217), struck a warm tone:

“Again, one of the greatest events of this eventful year has come to and end—probably the most distinguished as regards the participants, the execution of the tournament, and the prize endowment. We especially note this last: 24 prizes of 100 to 3000 crowns for 21 participants, for the most part bestowed by the magnanimous municipality of Karlsbad, was truly splendid and stands in sharp contrast to the 14 days of longer battles at Ostende, where the victor was awarded not quite 1000 francs. Rubinstein’s ever brightly shining star succeeded in besting a veritable elite corps of masters. He who has followed his career and studied his games knows that at Karlsbad his desserts found their due reward. In Rubinstein we again have one of those rare chess artists whose feel for positional evaluation and positional treatment is uncommonly fine and sensitive. This in-born artistic sense, combined with a complete mastery of theory, a strong initiative—all based upon sound fundamentals and a dogged endurance, made doubly impressive in view of his youth—and his steady, uninterruptible attention-span make him a fearsome opponent. Who knows whether he will not be one of Lasker’s next opponents. And who knows which of these two similar chess styles will prove itself the better in the long run? *Hannibal ante portas.*”