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<p>Batgirl</p>  <p>Joined: 06 Dec 2003 Posts: 165 Location: North Carolina</p>	<p>■ Posted: Thu Apr 15, 2004 5:40 pm Post subject: State of Chess in 1838</p> <div></div> <hr/> <p>Anders Thulin (ath@algonet.se - homepage) kindly digitalized this article, making it available.</p> <p>from <i>the Philidorian</i>, February, 1838 (issue 3), p. 118-121</p> <h2>CONTINENTAL CHESS-CLUBS, AND PLAYERS</h2> <p>For the information of visitors to the continent, we here note down a few Chess institutions, in various countries. Chess is properly considered a species of free-masonry, and the visit of a brother is duly appreciated; particularly should he speak a foreign language. We only pretend to point out a small proportion of the clubs; but, at a future time, hope</p>

to give them in more ample detail; and request, accordingly, to be favoured with additions to our catalogue. In rating the players, we must be excused, should we omit, through ignorance, many names, who have a just claim to distinction.

Beginning north, the best Russian players are Baron Schilling, Baron Pogogogef (sweet name!) Prince Mystersky, Prince Labanof, and M. Petrof, of Petersburg; who has published a large work on Chess, something in the style of Koch, or Alexandre.

At Copenhagen, there is a professorship of Chess in the Royal Military College; the chair of which is filled by M. Osterberger. We understand this gentleman to have written on Chess; but have tried ineffectually to procure his work.

The Chess-players of Vienna meet at the Café de l'Argent; their strongest amateur being M. Witholm. The Hungarian, M. Szen, resides at Pest; and he and Witholm are about equal in power. M. Szen has never met with any other player in Germany, who could make a stand against him, though he has visited Berlin, Dresden, &c. M. de la Bourdonnais could give the Pawn to either Szen or Witholm; though M. Szen, when in London, beat all the good players who could screw up their courage to face him.

Dr. Smeichael, of Hamburg, is a stout player, as are M. M. John, and Popert. The men of Hamburg conquered those of Berlin, a few years since, in a match by correspondence. We have heard M. Rust, of Leipzig, spoken of, as playing a strong game.

At Frankfort, the leading players are M. M. Goldsmit, Shiereck, and Erhman. The two former have printed a German translation of Mr. George Walker's work on chess. M. Silberschmidt is a player of a high order; and the author of several works on the game. This gentleman is famed for his romantic contest with the players of the Chess-village, Strobeck.

M. Mauvillon, the writer on Chess, is resident at Essen. Berlin can boast of two clubs; the strongest players being M. M. Beledow [sic], Mendheim, Netto, Mayet, Hanstein, and Sarbruck. Mendheim's Chess problems are, doubtless, familiar to some of our readers; as are those of M. Schmidt, of Breslaw.

Holland possesses many players, but none of eminence. The best is M. Kopman, of Amsterdam. There is a club in the Dutch capital, the president of which is M. Donker Curtius, head of the Post-office department. This society has played three matches, by correspondence, with the clubs of Rotterdam, Antwerp, and the Hague, and won them all three.

The strongest player in Leyden, is M. Oliphant, surgeon. At Utrecht, M. Van Reede bears the bell; and has a good collection of Chess-books.

In Belgium, Chess is much played. There is an excellent club at Antwerp, the leading players in which are M. D'Orville, M. Schauffer (president), A. de Bie, The Chevalier Cocquiel, Solvyns, Wouters, Colonel Loix, &c. In Brussels, the chief amateurs are M. M. Michaelis, Fetis, Destroope, Previnaire, De Mevius, Mosselman, The Chevalier de Berhr, Capt. Muller, and Col. Moyart. At Ghent, resides M. Mettepening, Advocate, an enthusiast in the cause; and we must not omit to make honorable mention of M. Lebeau, the governor of Namur, for his zeal in the service.

Jumping to the south of Europe, the names of four Spaniards have been given to us, as good players; viz.--- General Vigo, the Duke de Frias, Santa Maria, and Hernandez.

The players of Italy are little known here. The Grand Duke of Florence is fond of the game, and has a collection of works relative to the subject. Several good Italian players have visited Paris and London; among whom must be particularized Calvi, Robello, and Lavagnino. At Rome, the *sacred fire* is kept burning at the Café de Scacchi, by Ciccolini and others; M. Leati, of Ferrara, and Prince de Cimilile, of Naples, are also of the initiated.

Modena, once the Chess capital, still holds practitioners worthy to succeed the Lollis, Ponzianis, and Del Rios of the last century. Among others may be quoted Signori Bianchi and G. B. Borsari; the latter of whom is said to be in possession of some unpublished MSS., by his whilom friend and master, Ercole del Rio. Should this be true, and should our magazine catch the eye of Signor Borsari, we request he will forthwith transmit these said papers to head-quarters; that we may give them to the Philidorians of

Britain.

Come we lastly to France. There exist Chess clubs in the following, among other French cities and towns: ---Blois, Bordeaux, Paris, Tours, Rouen, Lille, Strasburg, Douay, Valenciennes, Toulouse, Auxerre, Laon, and Arras. Time players of Bordeaux meet at the Café Montesquieu. Their chief, is the venerable M. Foy. This gentleman, during the sixteen years he has kept the lists at Bordeaux, has only twice met with a conqueror; the visitors upon these two occasions being M. M. de la Bourdonnais, and St. Amant. After M. Foy, the best players in Bordeaux are M. M. Ristord, Boiteaux, Burnard, Moussey, Cart, Grangeneuve, Delasalle, Martinelli, Sasportas, &co.

The clubs of Douay and Valenciennes are engaged in a match by correspondence. The president of the Douay club is General Guingueret, a scientific player. The president of the rival society, at Valenciennes, is the Chevalier de Barneville; an aged amateur, and a contemporary of Philidor; of whom he was wont, in the days of yore, to receive Knight, for Pawn and move. The match is being stubbornly contested.

The Paris players are mostly known, personally, to our metropolitan amateurs. The Paris club, at the present time, is the strongest Chess institution which ever existed. Their "locale" is No. 89, Rue Richelieu; the president of the club being General Count Duchaffault, and the vice president M. Jouy, the well known author. We need not state, that the secretary of this club, M. de la Bourdonnais, is the first Chess player in Europe. The two next players in the Paris circle are M. M. St. Amant, and Boncourt; who are to the full as strong as M. Szen. After them, we might notice many skilful amateurs; including M. M. Devinck, Bonfil, Chamouillet, Calvi, Azevedo, Alexandre, Lecrivain &c. The members of the Paris club shew the greatest hospitality, in the reception given to British visitors. M. de la Bourdonnais, their hero, stands pledged, in print, to give the Pawn and move to any player in the world. We believe there is no one in England, who could win of him at these odds. The inferior class of players continue to meet, *en masse*, at the Café de la Regence. The French players have recently sustained a loss, in the death of M. Mouret; distinguished for having been the invisible sprite, who conducted that clever imposture, the automaton Chess player, during the time it gave Pawn and Move to all comers. The printed selection

from those games is well known; and comprises specimens of the play of some of the first English amateurs of that period; as Brand, Cochrane, and Mercier. Mouret was Chess preceptor to the family of Louis Philippe.

The celebrated M. Des Chapelles, the Napoleon of modern Chess, is, also, a member of the Paris club; but to the deep regret of his contemporaries, perseveres in his retirement from the circle of war.

~Batgirl

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