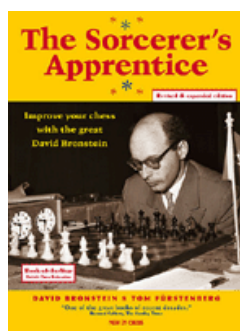




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Schottländer in America

May – August 1893

If Arnold Schottländer's livelihood had depended on him winning top prizes in chess tournaments, as often was the case for some late Nineteenth century professional players, he would have most certainly led a meager existence. Except for winning a Hauptturnier tournament in 1878, during his fifteen-year chess playing career, from 1877 through 1892, Schottländer never won a top prize. Yet in serious tournament play he defeated, often more than once, some of the best players of his time: B. Englisch, J. Mason, E. Schalopp, J. H. Blackburne and J. Mieses, to name but a few. Occasionally, Schottländer is remembered for his brilliancy over-the-board and his buoyant character, but more often he is remembered for being a wealthy businessman who manifested a certain generosity towards the chess community. The present essay takes a closer look at a rather forgotten episode of Schottländer's chess life: his journey to America and brief stay in the summer of 1893.

"To win a prize he has no ambition although the capacity."

Arnold Schottländer was born on April 2, 1854, in Münsterberg (today Ziębice in Poland) about sixty kilometers away from Breslau, today more commonly known as Wrocław, Poland. A number of accounts relate that from his earliest years, Schottländer suffered from infantile paralysis - today more commonly known as poliomyelitis. His condition did not allow him full control of his hands and legs. He strengthened his knowledge of chess under the guidance of the famous Adolf Anderssen. His earliest tournament participation seems to be in the Hauptturnier at Leipzig 1877.



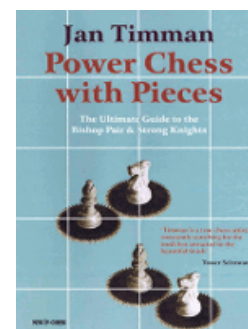
Arnold Schottländer, as seen in the
New York Sun, June 4, 1893

In the following year, at Frankfurt in 1878, Schottländer won the Hauptturnier tournament, thus earning the master title. In 1879 he played in the first congress of the Deutschen Schachbund. Although he finished 8-9th with 4½ points [+ 3 – 5 = 3] in a field of twelve players, Schottländer proved his strength by embarrassing Englisch, the winner of the tournament. The August 1894 issue of *The Chess Monthly* remarked that Schottländer handed Englisch his only loss. The game was not only a classic contest, but was remarkable because Englisch required two hours to lose it, while his young opponent used only sixteen minutes to win it brilliantly:

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Berthold Englisch – Arnold Schottländer

Leipzig, 14 July 1879 (Round Six)

Deutschen Schachbund Congress

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.a3 a6 7.Be2 d5 8.exd5
Nxd5 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Ne4 f5 11.Ng5 Be7 12.Nf3 O-O 13.O-O Qc7 14.c4
Nf4 15.Re1 Ng6 16.Qc2 e5 17.Bg5 e4 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Nd4 c5 20.Nb3 Bb7
21.Qc3 Rae8 22.Qa5 Qg5 23.Bf1



23...e3! 24.fxe3 Nh4 25.g3 Rxe3 26.Nxc5 Rxc3+! 27.Kf2 Rf3+ 28.Ke2 Rd8
29.Qxd8+ Qxd8 30.Rad1 Qe7+ 31.Kd2 Qxc5 32.Kc1 Be4 33.Rd8+ Kf7 34.
Red1 Qe3+ 35.R8d2 Rf2 36.c5 Nf3 37.Bc4+ Kf6 0-1

Next Schottländer played in the 1880 Wiesbaden master tournament. He finished 10-12th with $7\frac{1}{2}$ [$+6 - 6 = 3$], a similar score with that of Louis Paulsen. Once again Schottländer showed he was able to win games from the very best: Mason and Schallop had to acknowledge defeat at the hands of the twenty-six year-old master. Below is his imaginative win against Mason:

James Mason – Arnold Schottländer

Wiesbaden, 4 July 1880 (Round One)

Masters Tournament

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.a3 a6 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.exd5 exd5 8.Qe2+
Be7 9.Bb3 Bg4 10.h3 Nd4 11.Qd1 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nxb3 13.cxb3 d4 14.Ne4
Nd5 15.Bd2 f5 16.Ng3 O-O 17.Qc2 b5 18.O-O-O Rc8 19.Kb1



19...Nb4!! 20.Bxb4 cxb4 21.Qe2 bxa3 22.Qe6+ Kh8 23.Nxf5 Rf6 24.Qxe7
Rxf5 25.Qxa3

25.Qxd8 Rxd8 26.bxa3 Rxf3 was a hopeless endgame for White.

25...b4 26.Qxa6 Ra8 27.Qc4 Rfa5

Also possible was 27...Qa5! and if 28.Qc6, then 28...Rff8! 29.Qa4 Qb6 30.
Qd7 Qa6! and now if 31.Qa4, then 31...Qb7 is winning.

28.Rhg1 Ra1+ 29.Kc2 Rxd1 30.Rxg7 Rc8 0-1

During the third Deutschen Schachbund Congress held in Nürnberg in 1883, Schottländer finished 12th [$+4 - 5 = 9$], but he scored against Bird, Fritz and Gunsberg. Two years later, in the summer of 1885, he took part in the fourth

congress of the Deutschen Schachbund, this time held in Hamburg. He scored badly [+0 – 9 = 8] finishing at the bottom of the final standings.

Between 1888 and 1891 Schottländer maintained his interest in chess, although his tournament participation slowed down. He remained active in Breslau, and some accounts indicate that he tutored a young Edward Lasker when the latter lived in the city. His last appearance in a masters tournament occurred at Dresden in July 1892, where he tied 11th – 13th with 7 points [+5 – 7 = 4]. He won from Blackburne, Makovetz, Mieses, and W. Paulsen. Leopold Hoffer, while reporting on Dresden 1892 in August for *The Field*, wrote of Schottländer as “perhaps the most talented player of all (...). He plays fast, he has a good style, and has judgment of position; but, a gentleman of independent means, he plays only for amusement and for the love of the game. To win a prize he has no ambition, although the capacity.” His game against Blackburne was an exciting and dramatic affair worth being presented here:

Arnold Schottländer – Joseph H. Blackburne

Dresden, 20 July 1892 (Round Four)

Deutschen Schachbund Congress

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 g6 5.Bd3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nh6 7.h3 Nc6 8.Nge2 0–0 9.Qd2 Nf5 10.Bxf5 Bxf5 11.g4 Be6 12.f4 Bd5 13.Rh2 e6 14.0–0 a5 15.f5 a4 16.Bh6 Na5 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Nf4 Nc4 19.Qe2 Qd6 20.Rf2 Qb4

Tempting was 20...Nxb2?!, but after 21.Nb5! Bc4 22.Nxd6 Bxe2 23.Re1 cxd6 24.Rfxe2 Nc4 25.fxe6 Rfe8 26.e7 Black could not be satisfied with such a position.

21.Nd3 Qb6 22.fxe6 Bxe6 23.d5 Bd7 24.Qe7 a3

Once again, Blackburne could have opted for 24...Nxb2!?, but then it is difficult to guess what he might have thought of the position after 25.Rdf1 Nxd3+ 26.cxd3 Be8 27.Ne4 Qd4 28.Qxc7 a3 29.Kd2 even if Black seems all right.

25.b3 Rae8? 26.Qc5

Schottländer should have played 26.Qxd7! and if 26...Ne5, then 27.Nxe5 Qxf2 28.Nd3 Qd4 29.Nb1 Qe3+ 30.Nd2 Qxh3 31.Qxc7 with a winning position.

26...Nd6 27.Rdf1 Re3 28.Rf3 Rxf3 29.Rxf3 Qxc5 30.Nxc5 Bc8 31.Re3 b6 32.N5e4 Re8 33.Kd2 Nxe4+ 34.Nxe4 f5 35.Nf2 Rxe3 36.Kxe3 Kf6 37.Kf4 g5+ 38.Ke3 fxe4

Much stronger was 38...Ke5! 39.c4 f4+ 40.Kd3 h6 with a clear advantage for Black.

39.hxg4 Ke5 40.c4 b5 41.Nd3+ Kd6 42.Kd4 bxc4 43.bxc4 Bxg4 44.c5+ Ke7 45.Ke5 Be2 46.Nb4 Bc4 47.Kd4



47...g4??

Blackburne must have seriously miscalculated this missing the check on c6. Winning was 47...Bf1! 48.Nc6+ Ke8 49.Ke4 Bc4 50.Nb4 h5 51.Nc2 g4, etc.

48.Kxc4 g3 49.Nc6+ Kf6 50.Nd4 h5 51.Nf3 g2 52.Kb5 h4 53.Ng1 Ke5 54.Kc6 Kf4 55.d6 cxd6 56.cxd6 1-0 [*Deutsche Schachzeitung*, Nr. 8, August 1892, p. 240; *The Chess Monthly*, August 1894, pp. 367-368].

To America: in Manhattan and Brooklyn

Records indicate that Dresden 1892 was Schottländer's last appearance in a master tournament, although he lived another seventeen years. He had not meant it to be his last major tournament. In the summer of 1893 he expressed interest in another event. The occasion was the planned Columbian Chess Congress in America. The advertisements of the American organizers attracted a good number of foreign masters to the shores of America. Doubtlessly, having in mind as well visits to the Columbian World's Exhibition, Schottländer saw in this trip an opportunity both for sightseeing and chess.

6	Althorn Albert	1	58	Stangay H. G.
7	Schottländer Arnold	1	59	Bassler Edwin
8	Melchior Melchior	1	60	Schweitzer

Detail with Schottländer's name from the passenger list of
Auguste Victoria ship when sailing from Hamburg on May 1, 1893

"The steamship Augusta [sic] Victoria," announced the April 1893 issue of the Washington-based *Chess World*, "which will leave Hamburg on May 4 next will bring another European Chess celebrity to this country. The gentleman in question is Arnold Schottländer, a pupil of Anderssen and Zukertort, and the winner of the Chess Tournament of the German Chess Association at Frankfort [sic] in 1878." According to Ellis Island's immigration records, Schottländer reached New York on Saturday, May 13, on the board the steamer *Auguste Victoria*. "America seems just at present to be the Mecca of expert chess players," was the opening sentence of an announcement carrying a sketch of Schottländer that circulated in many newspapers on the American East Coast in mid-May of 1893, announcing his arrival in the country. "The faces of Steinitz, Lasker and Walbrodt, the famous German players, have for some time been familiar to American chess lovers and now Arnold Schottländer has joined his countrymen on this side of the Atlantic."

100	Alb. Althorn	57	W. W. W. W.
1	Arnold Schottländer	59	W. W. W. W.
2	Melchior Althorn	60	W. W. W. W.

Detail with Schottländer's name from the passenger list of
Auguste Victoria ship when arriving in Ellis Island on May 13, 1893

Because of the devastating financial panic of 1893, along with its subsequent depression, the plans for the Columbian Chess Congress had to be eventually canceled. Yet neither Schottländer nor the other foreign experts rushed back to Europe. He remained in America for nearly four full months, traveling and visiting the nation's strongest chess clubs.



Arnold Schottländer (1854-1909) as he appeared in a mid-1893 chess column of the New York Sun

On the very day of his arrival in the United States, Schottländer made his debut in the rooms of the City Chess Club. He played a number of off-hand games against some of the club's strongest players. He won a game from Charles Nugent, the vice-president of the club, and two games from Riccardo-Rocamora. The contests were memorialized two days later in the *New York Sun*.

Charles Nugent – Arnold Schottländer

New York, City Chess Club

May 13, 1893

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Bc5 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.Na4 Nxe4 7.Nxc5 Nxc5 8.d4 exd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 O-O 11.O-O Bf5 12.Bd2 Ne4 13.Rae1 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 c6 15.Bb3 d5 16.Re5 Be4 17.f5



17...Qf6 18.Qf4 Rfe8 19.Rxe8+ Rxe8 20.g4 Qxb2 21.h4 Qd4+ 22.Kh2 Qe5 23.g5 Bxf5 0-1 [*New York Sun*, May 15, 1893].

Arnold Schottländer – S. Riccardo-Rocamora

New York, City Chess Club

May 13, 1893

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 Be6 7.Nd5 Bxd5 8.Bxd5 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Bg3 Rb8 12.Rb1 h5 13.h4 g4 14.Nd2 Nd7 15.c3 Nf8 16.Nb3 Ne6 17.Qe2 f6 18.Rd1 d5



19.d4 Bd6 20.exd5 f5 21.dxe5 f4 22.exd6 fxg3 23.Qxe6+ Kf8 24.O-O Qxd6 25.fxg3+ Kg7 26.Qf7+ Kh6 27.Rf6+ 1-0 [*New York Sun*, May 15, 1893].

S. Riccardo-Rocamora - Arnold Schottländer

New York, City Chess Club

May 13, 1893

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Bc5 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bc4 Nc6 6.d3 a6 7.Nd5 Be6 8.c3 Ba7 9.Bb3 O-O 10.f5 Bxd5 11.exd5 Ne7 12.Nh4 Nxd5 13.Qf3



13...e4 14.dxe4 Re8 15.Bc2 Nxe4 0-1 [*New York Sun*, May 15, 1893].

On Sunday, May 14, Schottländer was at the Manhattan Chess Club, where he played two games against Dr. Charles B. Isaacson. Schottländer lost the first game, a Sicilian Dragon, due to a serious blunder. However, he won the second game in “brilliant style”:



*Dr. Charles B. Isaacson (1865-1909)
New York Daily Tribune, July 7, 1895*

Dr. Charles B. Isaacson - Arnold Schottländer

New York, Manhattan Chess Club

May 14, 1893

1.e4 e5 2.f4 Bc5 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bc4 Nc6 6.d3 a6 7.Qe2 Be6 8.Bxe6 fxe6 9.fxe5 dxe5 10.Nd1 O-O 11.Ne3 Nd4 12.Nxd4 exd4 13.Nc4 Nd7 14.

Bd2 b5 15.Na5 Ne5 16.O-O-O Bb6 17.Qh5 Ng6 18.Nb3 Qd6 19.g3 c5 20.
c3 Rfc8 21.Kb1 e5 22.c4 bxc4 23.dxc4 a5 24.Qe2 a4 25.Nc1 Rab8 26.h4
Nf8 27.h5 Bd8 28.h6 g6 29.Rhf1 Rb7 30.Rf3 Rcb8 31.Nd3 Ne6 32.Rdf1
Qa6



33.Nxc5 Rxb2+ 34.Ka1 Qb6 35.Rf8+ Nxf8 36.Rxf8+ Kxf8 37.Nd7+ Kg8
38.Nxb6 R8xb6 39.Qd1 a3 40.c5 Rb8 41.Qc1 Bc7 42.Qc4+ Kf8 43.Qc1
Ke8 44.g4 R8b5 45.c6 Rxd2 46.Qxd2 Ba5 47.c7 Kd7 0-1 [*New York Sun*,
May 15, 1893].

The next day, Monday, May 15, Schottländer was a guest of the Brooklyn Chess Club. During Schottländer's visit, Walbrodt gave a fourteen-board simultaneous exhibition scoring +10 –4. The chess column of the *New York Sun* for May 17 noted that "while Walbrodt was making the rounds at the fourteen boards, Arnold Schottländer, who was one of the visitors, attracted a little crowd of interested spectators by playing a series of three games on even terms with Tatum, Chittenden, and Helms." Schottländer won all three encounters. Whereas Tatum and Chittenden offered weak resistance, the score of Schottländer's game against Hermann Helms is far more interesting. It is given below.



Hermann Helms
New York Daily Tribune, March 8, 1896

Arnold Schottländer – Hermann Helms

New York, Brooklyn Chess Club
Three-board simultaneous exhibition
May 15, 1893

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd5 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.
cxd4 d5 9.O-O O-O 10.a3 Be6 11.Nc3 f6 12.Re1 Qd7 13.Bf4 Bg4 14.Bg3
Bxf3 15.gxf3 Nd8 16.f4 f5 17.Qh5 Ne6 18.Rad1 c6 19.Bc2 g6 20.Qh6 Rf7
21.Kh1 Bf8 22.Qh3 Nc8 23.Rg1 Ne7 24.Rg2 Kh8 25.Ne2 Ng8 26.Bh4 Nh6
27.f3 Ng8



28.Rxg6 Bg7 29.Rdg1 Ne7 30.Rxg7 Nxg7 31.Bf6 Rxf6 32.exf6 1-0 [*New York Sun*, May 17, 1893].

The same newspaper issue announced that Schottländer agreed to offer “a complimentary simultaneous exhibition” to the members of the Brooklyn Chess Club. Indeed, on Saturday, May 21, Schottländer gave his own simultaneous exhibition at the Brooklyn Club. The *Brooklyn Daily Standard Union* of May 27, 1893, announced that Schottländer’s exhibition of fourteen boards was “very well attended and many new faces were to be seen among the spectators. The Brooklyn Chess Club’s rooms have rarely been as crowded as they were last Saturday evening. Mr. Schottländer faced fourteen of the club’s players. Great interest was manifested, and in none of the games was there dullness.” The same newspaper column published the following description of the visiting master:

Arnold Schottländer is a remarkable chess player; that any man so afflicted physically should possess so much brightness of intellect is a matter of wonder; he is a paralytic having very imperfect control of his muscles. As he walked around the circle of tables in his exhibition, his steps were uneven, and his hands could hardly be made to grasp the pieces yet his conception of the problems in the games was keen; many gems were the result of a moment’s study, and all of the games were interesting. At the conclusion of the performance, Mr. Schottländer, through his interpreter, Mr. Cassel, stated that he was not feeling well, and that he would like to play for the club when he returned from Chicago; he believed he could make a better score.

Schottländer scored +7-3=4, losing to de Visser, A. J. Souweine and W. F. Eno. Two drawn games (against W. B. B. Ingalls and G. Ruth) were published in the *Brooklyn Daily Standard Union* on May 27, 1892.

An Encounter with Pillsbury: are the games extant?

On May 24, according to the brief news delivered by the *Syracuse Standard* of May 28, Schottländer arrived in Boston. There is not much evidence of his stay in the city, but a curious episode is his encounter with Harry N. Pillsbury. Jacques N. Pope’s excellent [Harry Nelson Pillsbury](#) (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Pawn Island Press, 1996) mentions, without an exact date or venue, that Pillsbury met Schottländer in a small match that ended with the American’s 2½-½ victory. The scores of these games were not provided and remain virtually unknown to date. Other accounts [for example, the *British Chess Magazine*, August 1902, page 341] placed this match in Boston. Circumstantial evidence might suggest that Schottländer played against Pillsbury at the Franklin Chess Club of Philadelphia.

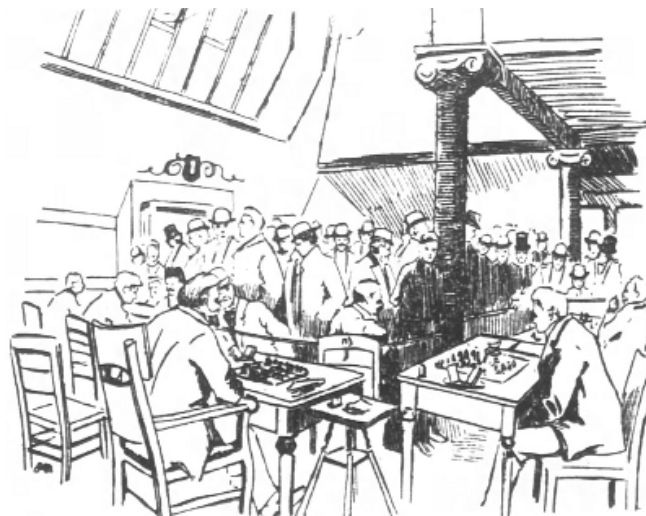
In the first day of June, Schottländer was a guest of the Franklin Chess Club. His visit coincided with Pillsbury’s engagement at the same club. According to the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* of June 2, on the previous day “Herr Arnold Schottländer, a noted German chess master, who is visiting America and the World’s Fair, incidentally dropped into the Franklin Chess Club, where he played several games with the members. It is probable that a game will be arranged between the two cracks now here.” The *Ledger* contains no further announcement until June 5 when it announced that Pillsbury finished his visit at the club on the Saturday of June 3. Thus, if the three games between Schottländer and Pillsbury were played in Philadelphia rather than

Boston, then they must have taken place either on June 2 or June 3.

While the scores of these games still await discovery, Schottländer's own words about this encounter leave no doubts about his opinion of the rising American player: "I do like to see the lad play chess," Schottländer was quoted saying by the *New York Sun* of June 4, 1893, "and allow me to add: Pillsbury plays chess. None of that book chess, without a combination, but the genuine article. Not waiting for an opponent to beat himself, as the saying goes, but playing in order to create a game over the board which contains pretty ideas and soundness withal."

Another stop in Manhattan

According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of June 5, Schottländer was back to New York where, on June 4, he gave a simultaneous exhibition at ten boards at City Chess Club scoring +6 -1 =3. Then, on his way out to Buffalo, New York, to visit that city's chess club, Schottländer made another stop at the Manhattan. He successfully met over the board some of the Manhattan's strongest players, including William de Visser, Eugene Delmar and August Vorrath:



Manhattan Chess Club
[San Francisco Chronicle, April 25, 1895]

William M. De Visser – Arnold Schottländer

New York, Manhattan Chess Club

May 1893

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Qd4 Qe7 8.f3 c5 9.Qf2 O-O 10.Be2 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Bd2 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Ba6 14.Kd1



14...Bxe2+ 15.Qxe2 Qd6 16.Qd3 c4 17.Qd4 c5 18.Qf2 Nxc3+ 19.Kc1 Qf6 20.Bxc3 Qxc3 21.Rb1 Qa3+ 22.Kd1 Rfe8 0-1 [New York Sun, May 26, 1893]

Eugene Delmar – Arnold Schottländer

New York, Manhattan Chess Club

June 7, 1893

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Bc5 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4 0-0 7.Nb3 Bb6 8.
Bc4 Re8 9.Qd3 Nc6 10.Bd2 Nb4 11.Bxf7+ Kxf7 12.Qc4+ d5 13.Qxb4 Nxe4
14.0-0-0 c5 15.Qb5 a6 16.Qf1 c4 17.Nxe4 Rxe4 18.Na1 Bg4 19.Re1 Qe7 20.
g3 Re8 21.Rxe4 Qxe4 22.Qe1 Qxe1+ 23.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 24.Bxe1 Be3+ 25.Bd2
Bg1 26.Be1 d4 27.h4 Ke6 28.b4 Kd5 29.a4 b5 30.c3 Be3+ 31.Kb2



31...d3 32.axb5 axb5 33.Nc2 dxc2 34.Kxc2 Bf5+ 35.Kd1 Bd3 36.f5 Ke4 37.
g4 Kf4 38.g5 Kxf5 39.Bg3 Kg4 40.Be5 Kxh4 41.Bxg7 Kxg5 42.Be5 h5 (...)
0-1 [*New York Sun*, New York, June 8, 1893].

Arnold Schottländer – Eugene Delmar

New York, Manhattan Chess Club

June 7, 1893

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Bg5 Ne7 8.Ne2
Ng6 9.Ng3 h6 10.Be3 Bg4 11.h3 Be6 12.Bb3 Qd7 13.Kh2 Rae8 14.Qd2
Bxe3 15.fxe3 d5 16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.e4 Be6 19.Ng1 Nf4 20.
N3e2 g5 21.Rf3 f5 22.exf5 Bxf5 23.Ng3 Bg6 24.Qc3 h5 25.Re3 Nd5 26.Qb3
Kh7 27.Rf3 g4 28.Rxf8 Rxf8 29.Rf1 Nf4 30.Qxb7 h4 31.Ne4 g3+ 32.Kh1
Bf5 33.Qb4 Qg7 34.Qd2



34...Bxh3 35.Rxf4 Rxf4 36.Nxh3 Rf1+ 37.Ng1 Qg4 38.Ng5+ Kg6 39.N5h3
Qf5 40.Qc3 Rb1 41.Qc6+ Kh5 42.Qe8+ Kh6 43.Qh8+ Kg6 44.Qxh4 Rxb2
45.Qxg3+ Kf6 46.Qh4+ Kg6 47.Qc4 Qd7 48.Nf3 Rb1+ 49.Kh2 Qg7 50.Qe4
+ Kf7 51.Nxe5+ Ke6 52.Qc6+ Ke7 53.Qxc7+ Kf6 54.Qd6+ 1-0 [*New York
Sun*, June 8, 1893]

August Vorrath – Arnold Schottländer

New York, Manhattan Chess Club

May 1893

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.
Bxc6 bxc6 9.0-0 Bc5 10.c3 0-0 11.f3 Ng5 12.f4 Ne4 13.Nd2 f5 14.N2f3 Bb6
15.Be3 c5 16.Nc2 c6 17.Qe2 h6 18.Rad1 Qe7 19.Nfe1 Be6 20.a3 Rfd8 21.
Nf3 Rd7 22.Qa6



22...Rb8 23.Nd2 c4 24.Nxe4 fxe4 25.Rd2 Bxe3+ 26.Nxe3 Qc5 27.Kf2 Rdb7 28.Rb1 Rb3 29.Rc2 Bc8 30.Qa4 R8b5 0-1 [*The Chess Monthly*, August 1894, p. 369].

At Niagara Falls and Buffalo Chess Club

Shortly thereafter, Schottländer arrived in Buffalo, where a visit to Niagara Falls was part of the entertainment provided by the local organizers. The *New York Sun* of June 18, 1893, reported the following: “When going to the [Niagara] Falls on Sunday he met with an accident hurting his leg which proved rather troublesome to him. However, after a day of rest he played a great number of games, gave a simultaneous performance, and also conducted a game against two members of the club in consultation.” His accident, however, did not affect his chess play, as he had another successful encounter in Buffalo, this time against a consultation team:

Farnsworth & Thomason – A. Schottländer

Buffalo Chess Club, June 1893, (white in consultation)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.Nbd2 O-O 7.Nf1 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Ng3 Kh8 10.O-O f5 11.Ng5 Be7 12.Qh5 Bxg5 13.Bxg5 Nf6 14.Qh4 Ne7 15.Rfe1 Ng6 16.Bxf6 Rxf6 17.Qh5 Bd7 18.Qd1 Bc6 19.Nh5 Rd6 20.Ng3 Qf6 21.f3 Rad8 22.Qd2 b5 23.Bb3 Rxd3 24.Qf2 Nf4 25.Rad1 Bxf3 26.Rxd3 Nxd3 27.Qxf3 Nxe1 28.Qxf5 Qxf5 29.Nxf5 Rd2 30.Nh4 e4 0-1 [*New York Sun*, June 18, 1893].

Yet, when Schottländer met Salomon Langleben, a Polish-born immigrant who found shelter at the Buffalo Chess Club in the early 1890s, he must have been certainly surprised by “the incisive style of the aspirant young Bison,” as William H. K. Pollock wrote of Langleben in his *Albany Evening Journal* column. The same column gave the scores of the original games played in the so-called “Langleben attack” with Schottländer taking the black pieces in both games:

Salomon Langleben – Arnold Schottländer

Buffalo Chess Club

June 1893

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bb6 5.a4 a6 6.b5 axb5 7.Bxb5 d6 8.d4 exd4 9.O-O Nf6 10.e5 dxe5 11.Nxe5 Qd5 12.Re1 Be6 13.Ba3 Ne4 14.Nd3 Nc5 15.Re5 Qd6



16.Rxc5 Bxc5 17.Bxc5 Qd5 18.Nxc3 Qb3 20.Qf3 Qxc3 21.Bxc6+ Kd8 22.Rd1 1-0 [*Albany Evening Journal*, July 15, 1893].

Salomon Langleben – Arnold Schottländer

Buffalo Chess Club

June 1893

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bb6 5.a4 a6 6.b5 axb5 7.Bxb5 Nf6 8.Ba3 d6 9.d4 O-O 10.dxe5 Nxe4 11.O-O Bg4 12.exd6 Qf6 13.Ra2 Rad8 14.Bd3 Nxd6 15.Bb2 Qh6 16.h3 Be6 17.Bc1 Qh5 18.Rb2



18...Nc4? 19.Rb5 f5 20.Qe2 Qf7 21.Rxf5 Qe7 22.Rxf8+ Rxf8 23.Bxc4 Bxc4 24.Qxc4+ 1-0 [*Albany Evening Journal*, July 15, 1893].

On June 17, 1893, Schottländer ended his tour in Buffalo with the general score of +9 –4 =1, as reported by the *Attica Weekly Herald* three days later. He left for Chicago on June 18.

In Chicago

Following his arrival in Chicago and his first encounters with the local experts, the German's injury received at Niagara Falls seems to have given him problems again. This obliged him to spend fewer evenings in the local chess club, and compelled him to rest in the German Hospital in Chicago. "Arnold Schottländer, the distinguished German amateur chess player," the *Chicago Times* wrote [and as quoted by the *Brooklyn Daily Standard Union* of July 15, 1893], "who is now in this city, is still confined to his room at the German Hospital. Two weeks ago yesterday he sustained a slight injury of his ankle, and although it is not serious or very painful, he is unable to walk. Before he met with the accident he was a daily visitor at the local chess club, and won a good majority of the games played with the members of the club." Against Louis Uedemann, one of Chicago's strongest players, Schottländer scored well enough. According to the news given by Steinitz in *The New York Tribune* of July 23 Schottländer scored +3 –3 =3 in the nine games he played with Uedemann, with two of these games being played blindfold. As often happened, however, it was his losses to Uedemann that found print in the local papers. The game given below is a rarity because of the fact that both players played without sight of the board.



*Louis E. Uedemann
Chicago Tribune, December 10, 1899*

Arnold Schottländer – Louis E. Uedemann
Chicago June 1893

Both players played without the sight of board and pieces

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 exf4 4.Nf3 g5 5.d4 Bg7 6.Nd5 d6 7.Bb5 Bg4 8.c3 a6
9.Ba4 b5 10.Bc2 Nge7 11.O-O O-O 12.Qe1 Bxf3 13.Rxf3 Nxd5 14.exd5
Ne7 15.Qe4 Ng6 16.h4 Re8 17.Qd3 Re1+



18.Kf2? Qe7 19.hxg5 Re8 20.Bd1 Rh1 21.Bd2 Qxg5 22.Rh3 Nh4 23.g4
fxg3+ 24.Rxg3 Rh2+ 25.Kg1 Rg2+ 0-1 [*Brooklyn Daily Standard Union*,
July 15, 1893; *Chicago Sunday Tribune*, January 5, 1913].

Returning to Europe



*Adolf Albin (1848-1920)
New York Daily Tribune, August 30, 1895*

After returning to New York, Schottländer met a fellow European, Adolf

Albin, over-the-board. The latter had just arrived in America at the end of July. By early August it was still unclear whether the planned Columbian Chess Congress could find proper funding. The foreign experts wasted no time and engaged in off-hand series or matches for purses against each other. Albin was one of the most active of them, and besides facing Schottländer, he also played that August against Jasnogrodsky and Albert B. Hodges. Schottländer played four off-hand games against Albin [+2 – 2]. One of Schottländer's efforts against the Romanian is offered:

Arnold Schottländer – Adolf Albin

New York, Manhattan Chess Club

Off-Hand Series August 1893

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Nf3 O-O 6.d3 d5 7.exd5 Re8+ 8.Kf2 Ng4+ 9.Kg1 b5 10.Nxb5 c6 11.dxc6 Nxc6 12.c3 Bc5+ 13.d4 Nce5 14.Be2 Nxf3+ 15.Bxf3 Qh4 16.g3 fxg3 17.Bf4 g2 18.Bg3 gxh1Q+ 19.Kxh1 Nf2 + 20.Bxf2 Qxf2



21.dxc5?

21.Bxa8 was offering some chances for redemption although Black's attack was still commanding.

21...Re1+! 22.Qxe1 Qxf3+ 23.Kg1 Bb7 0-1 [*New York Sun*, August 20, 1893].

Although both men shared an obvious familiarity with the German culture and shared an interest in the world of business, their financial assets and health status decided their different paths. The forty-five year-old Albin, a much poorer man for whom chess was his main source of income, remained in America for two more years seeking a new life. During that time Albin tried to open a private chess school, played in every major tournament, and played disputed matches against Hodges, Delmar, and Showalter. Unlike Albin and his poverty, Schottländer was insulated by his wealth from the pain of squeezing an income from chess. His trip to America was as much a vacation triggered by the vast Columbian World's Exhibition in Chicago as it was a desire to play chess against America's best players. According to the *Newark Daily Advertiser* of September 1, 1893, Schottländer sent an official entry for the Columbian tournament, also being billed at the time as being the Seventh American Chess Congress. On August 31, 1893, when it was clear the tournament would not take place, Schottländer returned to Europe. It is unclear if the injury he suffered at Niagara Falls, the wound that still troubled him a few weeks later, prompted an earlier leave for home than initially planned. It may very well be that even a relatively minor injury would have been quite problematic for a man with Schottländer's physical problems.

A year later, a brief biographical profile of Schottländer appeared, with portrait, in the August 1894 issue of *The Chess Monthly*.

A gentleman of independent means, chess is his favourite pastime, and nothing he likes better than to present at the German Congresses as "Schlachten-Bummeler", and to watch the progress of the games. On such occasions he does not confine his attention to any single game; but the whole "round" is reviewed critically, and his running comment is rarely at fault. But even when he is engaged himself, whilst his opponent

is considering over his move Schottländer makes the round of the boards, and he pays as much attention to the games of the other competitors as to his own. As stated above, he is physically unable to stand the severe strain of playing through a whole tournament, and where he really excels is in off-hand games. He is rapid, brilliant, full of ingenuity, and sound withal.

During the World's Columbian Exhibition he visited the United States, and the American Press was full of eulogium of Schottländer's skill.

Schottländer is an entertaining companion, full of sparkling wit and pungent chaff, but takes it good humouredly if he himself is made the butt, as he is never at a loss for a repartee.

In Wroclaw, Schottländer remained connected to the local chess life, although he would not play in a master event ever again. He gave financial assistance to both his local club and the Deutschen Schachbund, and his portrait decorated the walls of organizations. His deteriorating health became a serious issue. On September 9, 1909, during a train journey from Berlin to Wroclaw, he suffered a stroke, as announced by the obituaries that appeared in the German chess press. His grave, a picture of which is available on the website of the [Ken Whyld Association](#), carries the following tombstone inscription: "Sein Körper war schwach, sein Geist aber stark" ["His body was weak but his mind was strong"]. The funds Schottländer donated to the city (approximately half a million German marks) were managed by a foundation chaired by his brother Hermann, an instrumental leader of the city's Jewish community. Among other things his foundation helped build better hospitals in Wroclaw. The official [website](#) of today's city of Wroclaw pays a brief homage to Arnold Schottländer, a man who left us several brilliant games, and who deserves to be more widely remembered by the chess world.

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