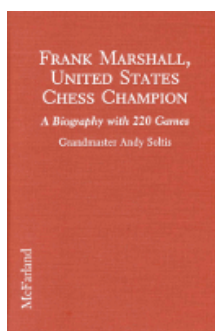




COLUMNISTS

Past Pieces

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Sketches and Engravings

Part One

In an age when insufficient technical progress made publishing a photograph an expensive proposition, newspaper chess columns and magazines relied on artists to craft pen portraits of chess masters and tournament scenes. Eventually, with the advent of photography, this art waned; however, for disciples of chess history, such sketches, line-drawings, and engravings remain an appealing artifact. Periodically, we'll feature such items in our column with some brief explanatory notes. Here is a first installment:

Johnston vs. Marshall

The following line-engraving depicting Sidney P. Johnston and Frank J. Marshall is gleaned from the pages of *The Chicago Tribune* of December 31, 1899. The two men played a match in December 1899 in Chicago, the winner being the player who first scored seven wins (draws not counting). It took fifteen games for Marshall to win the match on January 21, 1900 after a very balanced struggle. It was one of the first signs of Marshall's rise on the American chess scene.

No 1



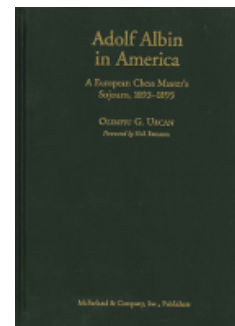
Sidney P. Johnston vs. Frank J. Marshall at Chicago Chess and Checker Club
 [Click [here](#) to enlarge image]

Chicago Chess Players

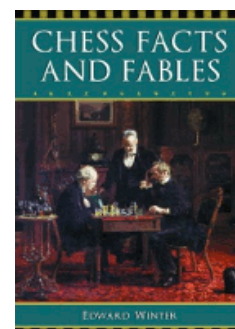
New York area chess clubs are better known to today's fans of chess history, while well-written accounts of activities at clubs such as the Chicago Chess and Checker Club are lacking in comparison. Below is a fine artwork of the strongest chess players in Chicago at the turn of the century. It appeared printed in *The Chicago Tribune*, December 10, 1899:

No 2

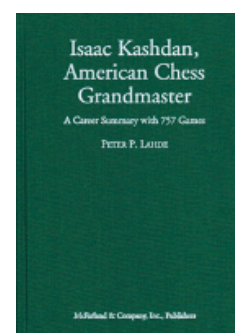
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Chicago Chess Players
[Click [here](#) to enlarge image]

Pillsbury

After his legendary triumph at Hastings (1895), Harry N. Pillsbury's portrait appeared in a multitude of newspapers and journals on both sides of the Atlantic. Here is a rather atypical depiction of the American genius as appeared published in *The San Francisco Chronicle* of September 7, 1895. The source mentioned the portrait was first printed in *Harper's Weekly*:

No 3



Harry N. Pillsbury after Hastings (1895)
[Click [here](#) to enlarge image]

A London Dinner with Merry Oxford Students

Artworks depicting chess events at lower levels, such as inter-university matches, are considerably rare. The drawing below was published in *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, April 6, 1895. It features scenes from the dinner that took place following the conclusion of the twenty-third annual inter-varsity match (won by Oxford) played in the rooms of the British Chess Club on March 29, 1895. Among the better known figures here are Sir George Newnes, the Lord Mayor of London, W. Donisthorpe, Philip W. Sergeant, and H. J. Snowden.

No 4



Inter-University Chess Match Dinner (1895)
[Click [here](#) to enlarge image]

West Coast

Very few chess historians are focused on the history of chess on the American West Coast. Faces of players of the prestigious San Francisco's Mechanics Institute Chess Club are seldom seen in the body of current chess literature. Here is a fine artwork that was published in *The San Francisco Chronicle* of February 9, 1895. It identifies many leading players of the club around 1895.



Leading Players & Judges - Mechanics Institute Chess Club (1895)
[Click [here](#) to enlarge image]

Another London Dinner

The next artwork presented in the current column is arguably the most elaborate. It features scenes from the City of London Chess Club's annual dinner held at the Holborn Restaurant on April 15, 1896. We notice the excellent depictions of Emanuel Lasker, M. F. Gastineau, C. Moriau, A. Mocatta, and even J. H. Blackburne, "a regretted absentee." It was published in *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* of April 25, 1896.



City of London Chess Club Annual Dinner (1896)
[Click [here](#) to enlarge image]

Politicians and Chess

The first international cable chess match between the United States House of Representatives and Britain's House of Commons was widely publicized in the press between April and June 1897. The match took place from May 31 to June 1, 1897 and it received splendid attention from the *American Chess Magazine*. The editors opened the inaugural issue with six pages dedicated to "the match of the Parliaments," which was disputed on five boards. The essay had a number of interesting drawings and the individual portraits of players from both teams. The encounter ended as a 2½-2½ draw. The American side was represented by Richard Pearson, John F. Shafroth, Robert N. Bodine, T. S. Plowman, and Levin I. Handy. The little known drawing offered below was published in *The Morning Times* of June 2, 1897. Identifying the players may be quite a challenge however. Comparisons with the portraits offered on page three of the *American Chess Magazine* (Vol. 1, No. 1, June 1897) may not be of great help, even if we are told for instance that "Mr. Shafroth is sandy-complexioned and looks something like Showalter." Interested readers are also invited to read Edward Winter's [feature article](#) ("Chess and the House of Commons") on related items.



The American Team during the U.S. House of Representatives vs.
British House of Commons Cable Match (1897)
[Click [here](#) to enlarge image]

The author wishes to thank Joost van Winsen (The Netherlands) for his assistance with the two London-related sketches provided in the present column.

Interested readers, authors, collectors, researchers, or librarians are encouraged to [contact the author](#).

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