

2016-01-13

## In remembrance of Lasker

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On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the death of **Emanuel Lasker** (†11-01-1941) we give a short note of remembrance.

Below we give an obituary by Hermann Helms from the *Brooklyn Eagle*.  
The reprinted Lasker problem is an original from *Checkmate*, July 1903 (No 285)  
(see problem No 6, p.399 of the German Lasker monograph [2009]).

# World of Chess Deeply Moved By Loss of Lasker

**Cypress Hills Burial Plot Will Be  
Shrine for Devotees of the Game—  
Star's Friendship Was Treasured**

By **HERMANN HELMS**

It's a long cry from 1893 to 1941. Almost half a century ago a dapper young man of 24, who had been making his reputation in German and English chess circles, came to New York. He entered the Impromptu Tournament of that year and won it—13 straight. Before the New Year he had visited the Brooklyn Chess Club on Montague St., adjoining the library. Then and there he demonstrated to the satisfaction of all, that his talent was akin to genius.

They buried him on Monday at the ripe age of 72. Far away from his birthplace near

Berlin, his remains lie in Sheareth Israel Cemetery, Cypress Hills. To chess devotees the world over that plot of ground will be a sacred shrine.

Emanuel Lasker was a gifted man of many parts. He was scholar, mathematician, philosopher, writer, author and publisher of books—several of these apart from chess. Like a Colossus he bestrode the chess world. After the loss of his title even, he continued to perform miracles. A small man in stature, yet he was an intellectual giant and his achievements Olympian.

The world will miss Dr. Lasker. As a contender in the serious chess arena, his race had been run. His friendship meant much to those privileged to know him and even more to those who enjoyed his confidence. Such were Harold M. Phillips and Dr. Joseph Planz of the Manhattan Chess Club. They were close to him until the very end. It was fitting, too, that Edward Lasker (no relation, but also famous at chess) was there on the last day. Conspicuous among the old-timers at the funeral was Albert B. Hodges, now 79. The exhibition game he won from Lasker is historical. Frank J. Marshall also attended. As a match player he was not in Lasker's class, but he topped him at Cambridge Springs! Also at the obsequies were Reuben Fine and Isaac Kashdan who wear the older masters' shoes. Albert Pulvermacher and Oscar Tynner knew the old maestro in Berlin. Lest we forget!

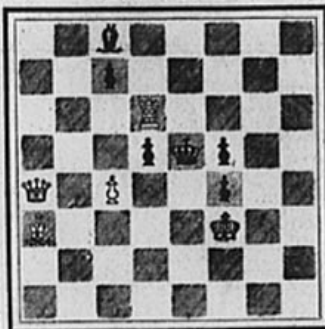
No finer tribute to Lasker's worth could have been spoken than the following by Rabbi David de Sola Pool at the Riverside Memorial Chapel, Monday:

"Emanuel Lasker drew from mathematics principles of thinking and living that made him a great moral figure. Unflinching in his absolute honesty of mind, his was an integrity that brooked no

Chess Problem No. 1,943

By DR. EMANUEL LASKER

Black—6 Pieces



White—5 Pieces

White to play and mate in three moves.

White—K on K3; Q on Q4; R on

Q6; B on Q3; P on P4.

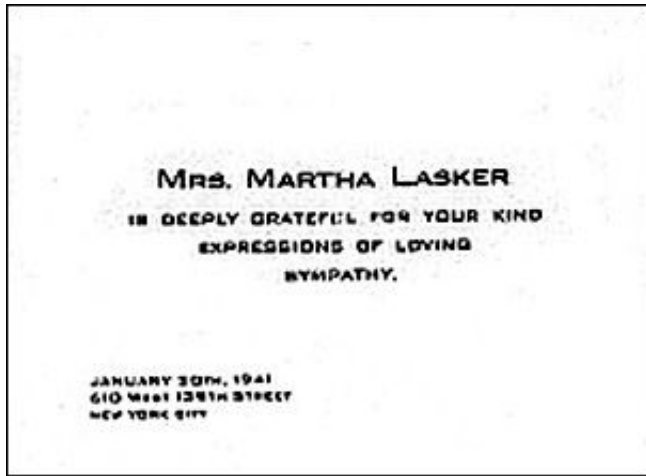
Black—K on K4; B on Q2; P on Q2,

Q4, K5 and K5.

compromise. He lived on a plane elevated from the conflicting standards of a confused world. Whether he applied himself to problems of chess, of philosophy, or of history, it was from the domain of pure and lofty thinking alone that he drew the rules by which he sought to solve them. On that plane of pure thought logic and morality became one. The inescapable relations of cause and effect, clear vision and unswerving rectitude created the man that he was, his moral stature and his intellectual eminence."

Dr. Lasker resided at 610 W. 139th St., Manhattan. Among the many messages of condolence received by Mrs. Lasker was one from Dr. C. Harold King of the Colgate University faculty, president of the New York State Chess Association, who had rare opportunities for discussions with Dr. Lasker at Hamilton during the Summers of 1939 and 1940. From a sick bed in the Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, Mich., Dr. Arthur E. West, a president of the erstwhile Western Chess Association, sent a glowing appreciation.

For photos of Lasker's grave see our column [Chess Graves](#).



Thanksgiving by Martha Lasker

Words spoken by the Rev. Dr. D. de Sola Pool at the funeral on Monday, 13 January 1941

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Words spoken by the Rev. Dr. D. de Sola Pool at the funeral  
of Emanuel Lasker. January 13, 1941.

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Emanuel Lasker is at rest. All weakness ~~ix~~  
~~xxx~~ has passed. His weariness is assuaged. The struggle  
is over. His last contest is finished. But who that knew  
him could have wished for another ending when a draw would  
have meant living on in disability, waging an inconclusive  
meaningless physical struggle? None of us could wish for  
Emanuel Lasker a life of growing burdens and physical  
dependence. That would not have been the man we know, the  
vital master, the creative mind, the luminous soul.

Let us think of him rather as the man who lived  
in realms of pure thought. In this he was the true son of  
his father, <sup>who was</sup> the spiritual leader of his community. Emanuel  
Lasker was always bringing the power of thought to bear on  
problems. His recent publication "The Community of the  
Future", bears witness to his attempt to solve the problems  
of stricken humanity by an application of human reason and  
goodwill.

By profession he was originally a mathematician.  
He was instructor of mathematics in the University of  
Manchester, a writer of mathematical books, a creator of  
mathematics. There is no discipline which exacts more honesty  
of thinking than does mathematics. None may transgress its  
laws with impunity. It demands absolute honesty of thought.  
Emanuel Lasker met that challenge superbly, for in the honesty  
of his thinking and integrity of his mind there was no  
compromise possible.

He was incapable of compromising his word. To

fail to keep one's word or to live up to the fullness of one's obligation even in trivial matters, was to forfeit the respect and the friendship of Emanuel Lasker. Such was the mental integrity by which he lived; such was the moral integrity by which he lived. For he drew from mathematics principles of living that made him a great moral figure.

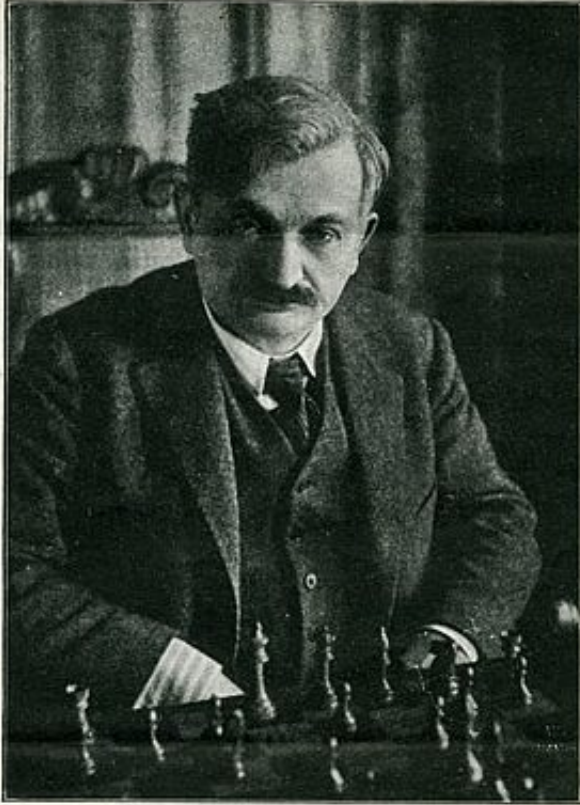
This utter rectitude was the foundation of his mastery of chess. Not for him were any tricks of the game or cheap flashy moves. He dominated it by clear far-seeing honesty of thinking and a careful weighing of the effect of every step taken. It was his unflinching morality applied to the chess board, the morality of mathematics with its emphasis on reason, order and the inescapable relation of cause and effect, which determined the rules by which he played the game. On the plane of pure thought, logic and morality became one in him and created that unswerving rectitude which made the moral stature and intellectual eminence of the man.

But we would not recall him only as an embodied man. We think of him as a warm-hearted friend and gentle companion with the simple directness of childhood. We think of the humor that so readily shed light on the sterner moments of life and triumphed over the cruel chances which troubled his later years. We think of him as humorous, human and humane. We think of the stimulating wealth of his broad literary culture. We think of him as a citizen of the world who had come before princes and brought honor not only to

himself but also to his Jewish people. With reverence we think of him as the devoted companion and lover of her who as his wife brought to him so complete an understanding, so perfect a companionship and so wonderful a happiness.

And now death has brought him peace and left to us cherished and sacred memories. He warned both hands before the close of life; it came and he was ready to depart.

"The ways of death are soothing and serene,  
And all the words of death are grave and sweet.  
A summer's night descending cool and green  
And dark on daytime's dust and stress and heat.  
The ways of death are soothing and serene,  
And all the words of death are grave and sweet."



Dr. Emanuel Lasker

DR. ALBRECHT BUSCHKE  
Books and Autographs — Specialty: Chess  
200 Hart Boulevard  
West New Brighton, Staten Island, N. Y.

Buschke catalogue No. 3, May 1941

with the "Emanuel Lasker Memorial Sale":

EMANUEL LASKER died on January 11, 1941. BUT HE IS NOT DEAD. The man who, for almost half a century, was the leading figure in the world of chess, who could be defeated but had always his "come-back", is alive in his immortal achievements—as a chess player, as a philosopher, as a writer.

The following list of "Lasker items" will, although giving only part of what really exists and deserves the distinction of being a "Lasker item", illustrate the wide range of his universal genius.

#### Lasker's Chess Career.

- M. Levidov: Steinitz-Lasker. Moscow, 1936. In Russian. (Vol. 8 of the Series: "The Life of Important Personalities"). The best and most authentic Lasker biography. Unbound ..... \$1.00
- F. Reinfeld: Dr. Lasker's Chess Career. Part I, 1889-1914. N. Y. (1935). Or. cloth, dust wrapper. .... New \$2.50; Used \$2.00
- The Chess Review. Lasker Memorial Issu. .30c
- Chess. Memorial to Emanuel Lasker. ....25c
- Australasian Chess Review. Lasker No. .... 20c
1889. Breslau. Der sechste Kongress des Deutschen Schachbundes. Leipzig, 1890. (In this tournament Lasker won the title of a "Master of the German Chess Federation"). The book contains some of his best games played in this tournament, and all the games of the principal tournament in which Tarrasch won first prize. Cloth \$3.00; ..... Unbound \$2.50
1892. Autograph letter signed. 1 page, to the editors of the "Muenchener Neueste Nachrichten" about his match for the English championship. In German. Dated June 18, 1892. .... \$6.00
1894. Championship Match with Steinitz: The 19 games of the match, as published with notes by J. Mason, in British Chess Magazine, April-July, 1894. .... \$1.00
- The same. Notes by L. Hoffer, in "Chess Monthly" vol. XV (1893-4). .... \$1.00
- The same. Notes and reports, in Dutch, in a volume containing Tijdschrift van den Nederlandschen Schaakbond, vol. I (1893) and vol. II, Nos. 1-8. Half leather. Scarce. .... \$2.25
- Announcement of a simultaneous display to be given by "Herr Emanuel Lasker aus Berlin" after his "victory over the famous old master W. Steinitz in America". 1 leaf. Very scarce. It is interesting to note that even after his victory Lasker was not called generally "chess champion of the world", (Leipzig, Sept. 9, 1894) \$2.50
1895. Hastings. (Lasker third). Ed. H. F. Chessire. N. Y. 1896. Half leather, worn, covers loose. .... \$1.50
- 1895-6 St. Petersburg. (Lasker first). All 36 games in: "Geistreiche Schachpartien", by L. Bachmann, vol. 6. Ansbach 1896, 12mo.

- Or. cloth. .... \$2.00  
(Contains also 100 games played in the Hastings tournament 1895).
1896. Nuremberg. (Lasker first). Ed. by Dr. S. Tarrasch. 2nd ed., Leipzig, 1921. Half cloth. Pencil marks. .... \$2.50
1899. London. (Lasker first). Limited edition of 500 copies. London, 1900. Or. cloth. Gilt top. .... \$5.00
1900. Paris. (Lasker first). Ed. S. Rosenthal. Paris, 1901. In French. Cloth. .... \$4.50
1904. Cambridge Springs. Lasker tied for second prize with Janowski; Marshall first; Ed. F. Reinfeld. N. Y. (1935). Or. cloth, dust wr. .... New: \$1.50; Used: \$1.00
1908. Match with Tarrasch. Notes by Lasker. Vienna, 1909. Unbound. Enout. In German. .... \$1.00
- The same. Notes by Tarrasch. Leipzig, 1908. In German. Unbound. .... \$2.00
- Autographed letter signed, 3 pages, 12mo. Lasker offers his daily reports about the match games to the chief editor of the Muenchener Neueste Nachrichten. Dated July 21, 1908. The fee he is asking for every report is very moderate: 30 marks (ca. \$7.50 at that time). .... \$12.50
1909. St. Petersburg. (Lasker ties for first with Rubinstein). Ed. by Dr. Lasker. N. Y. (1910). Unbound. .... \$2.50
- Or. cloth, as new. \$3.00. Or. cloth, as new, autographed by Dr. Lasker: .... \$5.00
- Somewhat dirty or damaged copies available at lower prices.
1910. Match with Janowski. Autographed letter signed, 1 page, dated Oct. 13, 1910, regarding the right of publication of the match games. .... \$6.00
1910. Match with Schlechter. Autographed letter signed, 2 pages, Dec. 22, 1909, regarding publication of the match games. .... \$8.00
1914. St. Petersburg. (Lasker first). Ed. Dr. S. Tarrasch. In German. Nuremberg, 1914. Or. cloth. Few pencil notes. .... \$1.25
- London, 1914. Or. cloth stained. .... 50c
- Philadelphia, no date. New. .... 75c
- Selection of games, in "Schachmeisterpartien des Jahres 1914", by B. Kagan. 2 vols. Cloth. German. .... \$1.50
1916. Match with Tarrasch. Ed. by Lasker. Leipzig 1917. Unbound. .... 75c

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1918. Grossmeister-Turnier im Karkau-Palast zu Berlin. (Lasker first). Notes by Dr. Lasker. Unbound. (ca. 1918) ..... \$1.00
1921. Match with Capablanca. Notes by Capablanca. Or. cloth. Limited edition. \$5.00
- Notes by Dr. Lasker. In German. Leipzig 1922. .... \$2.00
- Reprint Leipzig 1924. .... \$1.50
1924. New York. (Lasker first ahead of Capablanca and Alekhine). Notes by A. Alekhine. N. Y. (1925). Or. stiff cover. Almost new. .... \$2.50 New \$3.00
1925. Moscow. (Lasker second; Bogoljubov first). Ed. by E. Bogoljubow. Berlin-Leipzig, 1927. Or. cloth. With autograph presentation to Dr. Lasker (dated "Weihnachten 1926") by the author. In German. .... \$5.00
- Autographed letter signed by Capablanca, dated Dec. 1, 1925, regarding his and Lasker's chances in the tournament. 2 pages. .... \$5.00
1935. Moscow. Second International Tournament. (The almost unbelievable "come back" of the 66 year old Lasker who for almost 10 years had turned his back to the game that had made him famous: he wins third prize, only half a point behind the first prize winners, Botvinnik and Flohr). Russian edition. Moscow, 1936. Almost 600 pages for 190 games! Or. cloth. .... \$3.50
1936. Nottingham. Ed. A. Alekhine. Philadelphia, 1937. Or. cloth, gilt top. New. \$5.00
- Used ..... \$3.50
1936. Moscow. German edition. Keckskemet (1938). All the 90 games, in international notation, without notes. .... \$1.25
- Russian edition. Moscow, 1937. Original cloth. .... \$3.00
- The only tournament in which Lasker could not win at least 50%. He ends sixth in a field of 10.
- Lasker the Writer, Editor, Philosopher  
(See also: 1908 and 1916 Match with Tarrasch; 1909 St. Petersburg; 1918 Grossmeisterturnier; 1921 Match with Capablanca.)
- Lasker's Chess Magazine. Volumes 1 to 5, November 1904-April 1907. Or. cloth, 5 vols. (Also available in 4 volumes, vols. 1 and 2 bound in 1). .... \$6.50
- The same. Autographed by Dr. Lasker in vol. 1. .... \$9.00
- The Chess Player's Scrap Book. Lasker's Publishing Co., N. Y., 1907. Vol. I, Nos. 1-7 (no more published). Or. issues. .... \$3.00
- Common Sense in Chess. London, 1896. Or. wr. Stained. The scarce first edition. .... \$1.75
- The same: half cloth. .... \$1.75
- The same, unbound, worn. .... \$1.25
- Reprint. .... New: 50c. Used copies: 25c
- In Spanish (Sentido comun en ajedrez). Unbound. .... \$1.25
- Chess Primer. Cloth. New. .... \$1.00
- Lehrbuch des Schachspiels. Berlin, 1928. In German. First edition of the famous treatise. Or. wrappers. .... \$2.75
- Manual of Chess. New York, (1927). Or. cloth. Almost new. .... \$2.50
- Leerboek voor het Schaakspel. Rotterdam (ca. 1926). Or. cloth. In Dutch. .... \$3.00
- The same, 2nd edition. In Dutch. Or. cloth. As new. .... \$3.00
- Skakspillet Ide. Copenhagen, 1920. Stiff cover. New. Danish. .... \$1.00
- The 14 Games Played in Match Between Paul Keres and Dr. Max Euwe (Holland, 1939-40). With original notes to games Nos. 5 and 9 by Dr. Emanuel Lasker. N. Y., 1940. Unbound. Lasker's last publication. .... 75c
- The same. Autographed copy (only 80 issued). .... \$2.50
- The same. Autographed copy. Added are the 6p. manuscript sheets with Dr. Lasker's notes to the 6th game, with his signature at the head. .... \$15.00
- The same. Autographed copy. Added are the 7p. manuscript sheets with Dr. Lasker's notes to the 8th game, with his signature at the head. .... \$15.00
- The two items together. .... \$25.00
- Struggle. New York, 1907. Or. cloth. .... \$2.00
- Kampf. (German original of "Struggle"). New York, 1907. Preface somewhat different. Or. cloth. .... \$2.00
- The Community of the Future. New York, 1940. Or. cloth. New. (Dr. Lasker's last book dealing with the problem of Unemployment which he hopes to solve by education). .... \$2.50
- Das Skatenspiel. Berlin (1931). Unbound. .... \$1.00

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Photos partly from the Lasker scrapbooks in Cleveland ([CPL](#)) - kindly provided by Michael Negele and Wolfgang Angerstein (Buschke catalog)