

Sangre y Ajedrez en el Parque

The happy circumstance of being with an article by prominent journalist of La Nation Eduardo A. Maschwitz (1930-2010) was the common thread for the finding of a notable chess match in 1890, not mentioned in the famous book El Ajedrez en la Argentina, José Pérez Mendoza. It said note, posted on July 12, 1990, in section "One hundred years ago":

On July 12, 1890, the Buenos Aires Club of chess players, first established at the Oriental Club, an interesting match was concluded between Eduardo Gijena and Pablo Tagliaferro. The first one, a known Professor of latin, the second one, a strong player who had just face to the famous Russian Chigorin, winning a game and losing two.

Subsequent research led me to scrutinize the newspapers La Nación that year, and subsequent historical verification that the chess match had been interrupted by the revolution of the 90. An Argentine had won a game at the famous Russian master Chigorin! Would it be true?

At the beginning, I thought that it was very difficult for an Argentine would have traveled to Petersburgo at that time. But soon I found that Chigorin was in Cuba in those moments! And then, I met with that Tagliaferro was an important merchant, and that travel to Cuba were frequent. So, Yes, it was possible that Tagliaferro found face to face with Chigorin in 1889 / 1890!

I later found that the 1890 revolution, developed in an area perfectly squared in the centre of Buenos Aires, had consisted of a brief but very bloody battle of two days, which killed about 800 people, and that it had been decided in favour of the Government troops on the basis of a chess strategy.

By these three circumstances, I was interested strongly in these facts, both from the point of view of chess and from its historical and sociological context.

"Blood and chess in the Park" is a sample, only one, the lights and shadows that marked and mark our society. While chess was looking for a course, the revolution of the 90s was a great missed opportunity.