

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.