

CHESS GIANTS IN AN UNSEEN WAR - 15.9. - 29.11.1927

I have flung myself back into that 'temps perdu' of the age of giants, and hope to uncover some traces of the memorable chess encounter which took place in 1927. The city was still "La Gran Aldea", not yet the enormous Buenos Aires we know today. The present avenues, including the '9 de Julio', wider than New York's Broadway, replace now the small, constricted streets of the past. In 1977 nobody can find their way alone through the labyrinth of its extinct lives. But I searched in the memory of the survivors Luis R. Piazzini, Amilcar Celaya and Paulino Alles Monasterio, for help in this journey in which I have to be my own guide. The Club Argentino de Ajedrez, founded in 1905, opened its archives to me which have been zealously preserved by Dr. Raúl Cruz, the chairman, and by Luis Alfredo Carozzi, whose memory is like a filing cabinet.

The Argentinian chessplayers were very ambitious from the beginning. The Club engaged the "maître aux échecs" Boris Kostic (1913) to play simultaniousses five hours daily and thrice weekly during a month. Capablanca visited it twice: 1912 and 1914. The cable-match (April 1922) between the Club Argentino and the Manhattan Chess Club was won by the six players of New York, but Capablanca in Paris decided the final score: 3 1/2 to 2 1/2 (1). Alekhine signed a contract, "lu et approuvé", for 60 days of chess exhibitions here (1926).

The nexus was made and rooted.

The Personnages

On the ship 'American Legion' (2), José Raúl Capablanca y Graupera was coming. The commotion extended over th land: "Don Juan of the chess board", who "never made a mistake" (3); the "chess machine", "the chess genius" Lasker recognized and in whose favour he tried to resign (18.6.1920) the title of World Champion that Capablaca had "earned by brilliant mastery" (4), but the fiery Cuban fought him and won; a "player without vulnerable point" (5); "the king of all the moves", "chess itself" (6); "always for jokes; beween defending his Queen on the chess board and real women, he prefers the last" (7); "perfection in chess", said the Anglo-Saxon world. "If my fate will give five victories rapidly to me, you shouldn't marvel on the quantity of draws, so much do I love your city" (8). Capa, 39 years old, middle height, brown and robust, was the man, who considered his challenger "stronger than Lasker". He spoke against "the hypermodern transitory school". "Nimzowitsch didn't bring novelties. Their spiritual attitude is different from Alcibiades' cutting the tail of his dog", a renovation of an old idea, and "Réti is the greatest enthusiast of them" (9). "The Europeans analyse much, but they play wrong" (10). "Capablanca hammers, Lasker thinks, Alekhine fights, Réti plays with logarithms and Bogoljubow with phantasy", prescribes Savielly Grigoriewitsch Tartakower (11). "An admirable and ingenious

man". "I have more chance", he said, "than Alekhine, who analyses very well, but that work is excessively cumbersome for me and I am not fond of this effort" (12). "Chess is a pastime for me and represents only a part but no more of my interest. I take it seriously when I am seated at the chess board" (13). This "charming, amusing fellow, a perfect gentleman" was contracted to write 20 articles for 'Critica'. Capa is the "World Champion at poker too" (14). He was the favorite, including in New York (15), but he counsiled his fans: "Don't give too great odds! Hundred is too much, but five to one is enough" (16). "I know you affirmed it is easy to overcome Alekhine, but with a man who plays like the Russian master is not feasible for anyone. He is the strongest of all the chess players" (17). "I am disposed to retain the title" (18). "It could impossible to win six games from Capablanca, but it is impossible for me, also, to lose six", Celaya remembered Alekhine answering one.

A few days after the 'American Legion', it was 'Massilia', a French ship (19), which brought the "excentric and sadistic" (20), the taciturn man of the cold Slav north winds, accompanied by his Russian wife, to meet the "great genius whose like we shall never see again" (21), he said. Since 1913, when Capablanca visited St. Petersburg, the young Slav master began to study his style, "its minutest detail" and "found some flaws" in Capa's technique, such as a tendency to simplify at the wrong time and to play inexactly in the endgame" (22). He studied him just as Tunney, the Shakespearian reciter, studied sour Dempsey's fault, I observed (23). "It's right! Capablanca believed the Boxing World Champion had to be the loser", Celaya underlines my thoughts.

Since 1913, Alexandr Alexandrovich Alekhine mentally declared war (24). Someone asked him how he trained. "It is correct", he answered, "to have the widest vision at the chess board". Later he didn't smoke nor drink anymore, living like a puritan. Capablanca was interviewed at his arrival, if he practised chess during his journey (25). "No", he said, "because training has very little importance" (26).

(1) From Dr. Jorge Canale: Teleajedrez Epistolar (MS), now president of the Liga Argentina de Ajedrez por Correspondencia (LADAC), who considered Capa's "spiritual disciple" (cf. La Capital, Rosario, Aug. 29, 1971). (2) El Diario Aug. 23, 1927. (3) Reuben Fine: The Psychology of the Chess Player, New York (1956), p. 49 s. (4) Anne Sunnucks, The Encyclopaedia of Chess, London (1970), p. 64. (5) El Plata, Montevideo, Aug. 14. (6) El Dia, Aug. 31. (7) Critica, ug. 30. (8) La Nación, Sept. 1. (9) El Dia, Aug. 31: from the interview taken by Amilcar Celaya, when he led the delegation of the Club Argentino de Ajedrez to Montevideo for accompanying Capa towards Buenos Aires. (10) La Prensa, Aug. 31. (11) Cronica de Paraná, art. by José Gangli, Aug. 6. (12) Critica, Aug. 31. (13) Ib., Sept. 1. (14) Ib., Aug. 24. (15) La Nación, Aug. 15. (16) Anecdote of Celaya. (17) El Dia, Aug. 31. (18) La Acción, Aug. 31. (19) La Razón, Sept. 7. (20) R. Fine, op. cit., p. 49s. (21) Anne Sunnucks, op. cit., p. 62. (22) Ib., p. 4. (23) Before the boxing-match in Soldiers' Field, Chicago; cf. La Epoca, Nov. 14, too. (24) La Nación, Nov. 30. (25) LA Razón, Sept. 7. (26) Caras y Caretas, Sept. 15, art. by Ernesto E. de la Fuente.

Chile sent over the Andes Mountains and the Pampa its "enfant terrible", 13 year-old Rodrigo Flores, the greatest South American hope (27), as observed. He stood face to face with Capa, who, with his nasal voice, counseled him: "Do progress, son, do progress, not to beat me, because I'll be retired from competition, but to defeat another. And don't forget: the chess crown of the world has to stay in America" (28). The new prodigy believed "Capa has to win", but "I am an Alekhine fan", he added (29).

The Prelude

Alekhine challenged Capablanca by a cable (September 2, 1926). This threw down the gauntlet (September 27, 1926) and unsheathed his sabre. In March 10, 1927, both agreed to September, the spring in Buenos Aires, when they were received in the "Casa Rosada" of the Republic by Dr. Marcelo T. de Alvear himself. He personally drew the colours officially (September 15) in the "Club Argentino de Ajedrez" situated in the 449 Carlos Pellegrini Street. Black went to Alekhine who had to tell the inquisitive journalists, if he was superstitious "Soon, I'll have white" (30), but he trusted on the number '26' and on a lost horseshoe he found in the Suipacha Lane (31). President Alvear had only half an hour free time, but he made the first moves in the chess exhibition: Capablanca ./.. Carlos M. Portela, champion of the Club Argentino, and Alekhine ./.. Julio A. Lynch, a strong national chessmaster. The guests both won quickly in the time of 20 minutes (32).

The news crossed the air. The masters and amateurs stirred human hearts. "The Crown must remain in America", wrote the New York Herald Tribune, because "a defeat signifies a sensational disturbance". Tarrasch argued: "Capablanca is invincible. His stylistic compactness undoes the clever complications of the Slav master" (33). Réti manifested another opinion: "Capablanca is apathetic. His natural talent pushed him upwards, but he didn't love chess. He does not possess energy for severe training. He has, indeed, admirable nerves supporting him in all situations. Pure genius can fail. Alekhine has a solid luggage of novelties and a great combinative spirit, always in pursuit of victory" (34).

Capablanca went alone to all the receptions. Alekhine exclaimed: "Ah non, je ne peux pas jouer sans ma femme" (35)! The Champion stood, as Latin American, surrounded by three Slavs, but he was the favourite of all the Night Clubs, suppered at 3 o'clock in the morning at the restaurant El Tropezón, Callao Avenue. Already in his special theatre box, he was a permanent client at "Porteno", non-existent today, and "Maipo", an imitation of "Folies Bergères" (36). The girls sang couplets referring to chess and to their Capa, the play-boy never alone, but "surrounded by a bevy of admiring women" (37). A shop launched the new fashion of the necktie "Ajedrez", with its fields of blue and white squares (38). Capa, pursuing the style of his life, was really comparable to a happy trout running in a fresh rocky rivulet.

(27) La Nación, Sept. 15. (28) Critica, Sept. 14 (29) La Vanguardia Sept. 16 (30) La Epoca, Sept. 16 (31) Critica, Nov. 29.

In Homeric excitement, they started

The honorary judge was Don José Pérez Mendoza, assisted by Dr. Carlos A. Querencio. Enrique Ibanez was the second, as in a duel, for Capablanca and Daniel Deletang, for Alekhine. Dr. Lizardo Molina Carranza was the Club's president.

September 16, 1927: the first game. The protagonists have to submit themselves to the inborn principle of the royal Macedonian law: natural selection, like the walrusses do it.

Black is an elegant colour for the high education Alekhine received. The battle of that night was interrupted at 42. Qh1 Qf4 (39). Next day, new luck: Capa moved 43. h5 and provoked instantly the counter-stroke 43. - Rf2, "a mortal blow, because the white king remains without any possible defense". Like Middle Ages' survivor, "Capa stood up and shook Alekhine's hand". In the opinion of the fans, "this victory represents no more than small hazard" the Champion conceded (40). "Only at the chess board, the Russian master learned that he could checkmate in this position" (41)!

The happiest person of this night was, surely, Mrs. Alekhine, when Capa himself congratulated her.

Special notice of the day: "Alekhine! The Russian aristocrat and multimillionnaire, born into a gold cradle in the empire of the tsars, the trench soldier, the infalible judge, the writer condemned to death, the fugitive, the Dr. in Law of Sorbonne, won the first round for the World Chess Championship" (42).

"Why and how I was defeated", explained Capablanca in his first article: "My crude mistake gave him a pawn and he obtained a better position" (43).

The fans were impatient. They tried to lend courage to their idol and lit a world conflagration. An incendiary pen, signed "Last Reason" (sic!), written in the patois of Boca's slums, his arguments like the idioms of the race track: "Old and shaggy little Cuban, we put our creole faith of our latinism in you /.../. Show for manly strenght. Europe has not to smile triumphant and America must keep in her hands now and for ever the honour to have seen growing up the crack of the game-science. Alekhine has not to swell up his vanity, like an giant peacock when he moves himself around" (44).

And Capa won the third game. "I don't understand it absolutely with respect to the strategic subtleties" (45), he said, but both adversaries analysed these three games amicably, face to face, on the same beautiful chess table that the Club Argentino de Ajedrez preserves as a souvenir with its pieces and the clock. The unique privileged observer was Paulino Alles Monasterio, charged with gathering the weapons of the battle and keeping them in custody till the next time. He remembers Capablanca's mental rapidity and intuition, contrasting with Alekhine's slowness and analysis (46). They considered

32] Eñ Diario, Sept. 7 (33) La Nación, Sept. 19 (34) Ibid., Sept. 17. 35) Critica, Sept. 7 (36) Related by Paulino Alles Monasterio, a fan of Alekhine (37) R. Fine, opus cit., p. 49 s. (38) Paulino A. Monasterio 39) La Nación, Sept. 17 (40) La Prensa, Sept. 18.

no other game together, avoiding any future contact. What happened, nobody knew.

Before the seventh, Alekhine secretly received a message from Europe. Arnold Ellerman gave it him. Dr. Milan Vidmar had analysed the Cambridge Springs and asked for a trial of this defense. The unsuspecting Russian master did so without success (47). It should lead to a draw. "In the 7th game, Alekhine made a mistake, when he tried to obtain an advantage by means of the move 9. - c5", commented Tartakower (48). But he won the 11th. Capablanca caught a pawn and Alekhine, suprised by this unlikely gesture, decided to be cautious. He studied his black pieces and thought for one hour and five minutes only for 45. - Kg8. After that, he reached to queen a pawn (in 64.), but his opponent did the same operation at once (in 65.). Capa was "nervous enough" and "the lips of the slav crack were smiling" (49).

POR EL CAMPEONATO
LA MANO FEBRIL DEL CAMPEON RUSO
ALEKHINE

MUNDIAL DE AJEDREZ
LA MANO TRANQUILA Y CLASICA DEL CAMPEON DEL MUNDO
CAPABLANCA

... (text partially obscured) ...

After this encounter, Capa said he couldn't "complete favorable plans. I don't know what happened to me. I am like poor Janowski, in his last years. I have splendid combinations, but I cannot re-
 41) Celaya's remembrance. C. was a fan of Capablanca. (42) Critica, Sept. 17 (43) Ib., Sept. 19 (44) Ib., Sept. 20. Free translation, not from patois to slums. (45) Ib., Sept. 22 (46) From our interview given to Paulino Alles Monasterio (47) Ibidem (48) La Prensa October 31 (49) La Epoca, Oct. 11

lize them". Alekhine himself was very disconcerted by the Champion's errors in the 12th game, and he changed his own idea: 39. Rf2 40. Rc2, where he could win a rook without any risk. The applause was frantic. The emotion uncontrollable but justified (50). Capa lost again.

"Is the sun beginning to set?", the newspapers phrased their insinuating doubt (51).

Anyone is his own style. Alekhine's wife accompanied him everywhere, even to the "pursang" stables, because he liked horses very much (52). Capablanca continued to let himself be seen in the red "voiturette", a Rambler, with C.V., the most famous actress. He was very popular at the race track Palermo, where he participated regularly with his friends of the Jockey Club (53). He seemed to be the same. Was he really? Capa had at least a hunch. Psychologically, he let himself go and sent a letter (15 Oct.) to Julius Finn, the Manhattan Chess Club's Manager, because "I am not doing as well as I expected". This was to begin preparation for a new World Championship Match against Alekhine in 1929, and suggested a match of 20 games (54), in order "to win who plays better". Alekhine reacted: "I can't explain to myself how the Champion should solicit from me revenge for something that doesn't exist yet" (55).

Then, a chain of draws. Symptom of the fatigue, or they loved the town too much? On the 16th game, "they repeated with absolute fidelity the 14 moves of the opening" (56). "The 26 strokes of the 24th party are identical to the 22nd" (57). General boredom. The organizers of the match introduced a psychologic strategem and changed the Arena. They had to play in the Hall Guguereau of the Jockey Club, which contributed about 10.000 \$ for this epocal encounter (58). But these draws, even there, provoked noises, whistles. Did Capa's fans try to help their idol? Alekhine couldn't take more. He refused to play further in that Salon. Jockey's members attacked him. "A pile of nerves of sufficient tension to electrocute half of humanity" (59). Dr. Carlos A. Querencio gave the correspondent satisfaction to Alekhine. Capablanca offered a neat draw (60). The Russian master wrote down his detailed complaint: "The conditions and the atmosphere were against the spirit of the 18th rule of the match. My adversary considered himself in his rights to stop the clock, suspending the game, a unique case, probably, in the history of the World Chess Championship" (61). But Capa affirmed those circumstances were not important for him, "not even the whole world falls down in pieces" (62).

This chess war lasted. The champion entered quickly, took a chess board and set, retired alone to the suspended 20th game for almost an hour. He met Alekhine and asked him "what is your secret move today"? The challenger answered with an indefinable look, pushing Capa to return to his own place. "Why did you move 15. Bd3?", questioned a journalist. "For two reasons", replied Alekhine: "First, I have changed my mind with respect to this move, and second, for simple curiosity, because Capa bragged in front of me he would discover something more worthy. I analysed, but I found nothing better. My opponent adapted himself strictly to my analysis. Instead I offered the exchange, and I wanted to play this ending without

analysing in advance at home. This game is, as Capablanca anticipated, almost a draw" (63).

Well, it was one, but the challenger won the next.

Alekhine permitted himself to make experiments. No fissures in his soul. "The Queen Gambit is dead. It was murdered by the Swiss theoretician Henneberger (7. - a6). After Stamma's rudimentary practice, Philidor's wrong advice, Steinitz Lg5, allowing the Pillsbury Attack, and after his apocalyptic anathemas against the Slav defense, only one way remains to renew chess wasted by the analysts: good or bad - the ultramodernism" (64) and "I'll improve my contribution to the Henneberger Defense" (65). He waited more than 40 days without answering Capa's initial loud affirmations. But, now, with facts, he broke his last resistance, pushing him to desperation. And that is the magistral Alekhine's psychological move chosen at the best moment of the match. An ideologic aspect, a new frontier, a cultural curtain traced on that beautiful chess table Buenos Aires preserved.

Capablanca intended to have the 11th November a free holiday. The Club refused this expressed wish. Alekhine did not give him this favour. "I cannot change that decision, in the spirit of the London declaration" (66) were his words alluding to the Capablanca's own proposition in the Chess Congress of 1922 (67). He said nothing about the future possible return match, but Capablanca underlined his desire. A soothsayer forecast that "1927 is a fatal year for you" (68).

22 draws can annihilate the patience of the most crazily passionate fan. The Championship was no longer new. The idol of the South Americans ceased to be a legendary hero. The press openly published attacks against the match itself. These reproduced a German cartoon with the caption: "Mr. Voronoff, please, make them younger. We fear they will die before they finish" (69). Inspired, the Argentinian draftsmen showed them with grotesque long beards playing chess. The caption explained "May 1972! They continue to draw. The chess war follows in 1972. Capa and Alekhine move their Knights, Bishops, Rooks and Pawns from one to another side of the table. Their vivacity is as fresh as at that time long ago when they began. Also, they conserve their best sports form. Voronoff consolidated for ever his glory. Even dead, the poor is the modern fountain of youth" (70). That's an indirect invitation to go home.

From Chile, Capablanca was called to play in other Arena "with living figures in the Field of Mars" (71).

50) La Epoca, October 11 (51) La Razón, October 12 (52) Critica, November 25 (53) Told to my by Paulino Alles Monasterio (54) Critica, Nov. 11 (55) La Epoca, Nov. 14 (56) Critca, October 21 (58) El Dia, Sept. 13 (59) Critica, Oct. 21 (60) Critica, Oct. 21 (61) Alekhine's original letter of October 18, 1927 (62) Critica, October 21 (63) Ibidem, October 25 (64) Ibidem, November 2 (65) Ibidem, November 10 (66) Ibidem, November 10 (67) La Strategie No. 12, December 1923 (68) Critica, November 11 (69) Die Lustigen Blätter, Berlin, October 30, 1927 in: El Diario, November 16 (70) Critica, November 17 (71) La Razón, Nov. 28.
57) Critica, November 3

Alekhine tried the Cambridge Springs again, newly suggested by his European friends, but he had to resign at the 70th move. "It was fate, exclaimed the Slav master, it was written, it was destiny" to lose this 29th party. "I kept it drawn all the time, but I lost it by means of a childish ambush" (72).

No special treatment for Capa. He had to play the 30th game, another draw, even on November 19, his birthday. No more favouritism for him.

After winning the 32nd, Alekhine conquered in the last: the 34th. This game was adjourned twice. First at 40. Rd2 Qb6. Second with the move 81. Rf4: Kc6. Capablanca "delayed" a lost game, he said: "I'll analyse and, if my opinion is confirmed, I'll send a letter to the Club announcing my resignation" (73). Alekhine waited and waited on this third day. Victorious, he was nervous. At the chess board, he still waited the entrance of his ever-smiling opponent. But Capa preferred to send a letter and maybe that attitude hurt the Russian sensibility. "I resign the game", wrote Capa, "you are the World Chess Champion and I congratulate you upon this success. My congratulations for Mrs. Alekhine too" (74). Is there a reproach, a regret, in these conventional words? After hearing the speech, Alekhine, 35 years old, fell on his chair, leaned his temples in the palm and remained in an absolute immobility. "We let him alone", remembered Dr. Carlos A. Querencio, "few days before his departure, in that room of his victory" (75). In front of him, on the chess table, his Kh5 defended by Rf7 and the faithful pawns f4 and h4 expecting the white flag of surrender of the black Kc6, accompanied only by a too remote Rh1, Alekhine had no more opportunity to write the last magistral move he put down the day before: 82. Re7! (76), but his tension finished in this moment in prostration. He began this chess war with the black figures and won with the white like in a pedagogic story. From 1913 to 1927 (77), fourteen years of delay, preparation and dreaming with open eyes all vanished. While every night he analysed his combinations, spying from far Capa's most hidden secrets of his mind, he tested the profoundest weakness of his adversary's personality. Maybe he moved the figures on the chess board even in his bed and, mentally, he pricked them like a witch did in a doll materialising his next victim. Alekhine asked himself "how will Capablanca endeavour to win the six games he needs" (78). In that year, 1913, he knew that only two young players could have defeated Lasker. One was Capa. He was sure but he didn't pronounce the name of this second, but worked hard to be one. "I reached an aspiration" (79), he murmured, "I reached it". In that moment a new reality began: alone on the summit, without objective. A dangerous position for a man who overcame his vices in order to be a conqueror. From the top, only a way is possible: where, but only abruptly or slowly downwards? He was proclaimed the Chess World's Champion, now, in the Club Argentino de Ajedrez (80). The final score: + 6, - 3, = 25. Capablanca didn't sign the last protocol of the match. "I am against any ostentation", wrote this extravert exhibitionist in another letter asking for the part of the purse (81). And he began to formulate curious declarations, repeating or retracting: "I am in decline since 1917. When I played the match with Lasker, then commenced my descending parabola" (82). Capa was interviewed and he appeared "in bedroom slipper",

like a sick man (83). "I have to confess", he amplified, "that I reached the World Championship because on efforts were demanded of me. I don't believe this game is important enough to sacrifice all to it. Special study or analysis, I never cared to do. I am an old player and Dr. Alekhine is, comparatively, a new one. Nevertheless I am tranquil" (84). This seemed like a protest of his own conscience: a late awakening. "American cleverness opposed to Slav tenacity. How sad to see him falling without the will to fight, without being conscious of his responsibility" (85). The idol was abandoned, the crowd that needed the spectacular victory to complement its own failures, crumbled in pieces now. The fans were disappointed and struck him painfully by showing him their backs.

E p i l o g u e

Capa returned to New York. From Rio de Janeiro he said: "Alekhine is a calculator, a cool enemy of imagination" (86). But, behind him, in Buenos Aires, many-many women regretted, for other reasons, his departure. Only one, the maid at Dr. Querencio dwelling, didn't. She hated openly: "He had sixty, the number I know", she cried (87). No more secrets, if she did not conceal the unexpressed motive of her complaint.

The new champion travelled to Chile. Step by step, he reconciled himself with his temporarily betrayed Bacchus. "Capa possesses", he said, "a great heart for struggle" (88). Mysterious words, because from the other side of the Atlantic, from Paris, he added like a correction: "I am happy to overcome Capablanca. Especially for having uprooted the prejudice of his invulnerability. Truly, my adversary of Buenos Aires never should have been the World Chess Champion. He hadn't any passion for his noble game. And more: he never loved it" (89).

"Despite of his haughty declarations which he mad in the emotion of defeat and, which shamed our fondness of chess / ... /, Capa tries again" (90), wrote the South American disillusion Roberto Grau.

But Réti's original idea (91), Capa's inner truth, the illusions and disappointments of the fans, the resentiments of the epoch's world chess masters, all the glows that warm the human soul and

72) Critica, November 16 (73) La Prensa, November 29 (74)
 Capablanca's letter, published in Critica, Nov. 29 (75) Told by
 Paulino Alles Monasterio (76) La Prensa, November 30 (77) La
 Nación, Nov. 30 (78) Ibidem (79) Critica, Decem. 8 (80) Ibidem
 81) Capablanca's original letter of December 8, 1927 (82) Atlan-
 tida, December 8 (83) Critica, November 29 (84) Ib., Nov. 30
 85) Diario del Plata, Dec. 1927 (86) Critica, Jan. 14, 1928
 87) Told me by Amilcar Celaya (88) La Union, of Valparaiso, Chile
 89) Critica, Febr. 13, 1928 (90) El Ajedrez Argentino, Oct. 1928,
 p. 386 (91) La Nacion, Sept. 14 and 17 (92) Norman Knight: Chess
 Pieces, Sutton Coldfield 1962, p. 59 (93) Critica Nov. 25.

CAMPEONATO MUNDIAL DE AJEDREZ



José Raúl Capablanca, campeón mundial de ajedrez, hoy nuestro huésped.

AUTOGRAFO DE CAPABLANCA PARA NUESTRA REVISTA:

Para "Caras y Caretas", con un saludo afectuoso para la Nación Argentina.

J. R. Capablanca.

TRADUCCION DEL AUTOGRAFO DE ALEKHINE

Me es muy grato poder expresar en "Caras y Caretas" a los ajedrecistas argentinos el placer que siento al volver a esta hermosa tierra, de la que guardaba un tan feliz recuerdo.

A. Alekhine



Alejandro Alekhine, que ha venido a disputarle el título al anterior.

and effloresce incandescending our culture, seemed to be synthesized by Lord Dunsany, in the "Epitaph on José Raúl Capablanca": "And who is it lies here?" (92).

Symbolizing the same vanity, "potteries and little pots of earthenware" to 'eat' the "old wine", said my Vlachs of the Danube and anywhere, as an extracted quintessence of that proustian apparently "lost time".

I know no similar verse about Alekhine. He left America on the ship "Julio Cesare", a arranged one. If for Capa a hopeless maid cried yet, behind the new World's Champion neighed in the Stud Renacimiento the two year old colt, son a "Panther" and "Pas-si-Mal", baptized by himself and his wife with the nickname "Alekhine" (93) as an Argentine souvenir.

Our protagonists are no longer alive. Only in the Club Argentino de Ajedrez perhaps their ghosts play together night by night in the 1972 of that cartoon I mentioned, at the same chess table with the same old Staunton pieces, touching the same clock, these proudest inanimate mementos of the hidden chess war between giants in that "Gran Aldea" of 1927, because of the public hadn't any access to the Arena.