The 1st Chess Olympiad and creation of the FI(D)E - Epilogue (4/4)



L'Échiquier

Zooming in on the photo. From left to right: Mrs Holloway (England - 1st woman to play an Olympiad), Edgar Colle (Belgium), Alexandre Alekhine, Pierre Vincent, Jonet (Belgium), Lucien Sauphar (Mayor of the IXth arrondissement)

by Jean Oliver Leconte

Fourth and last article dedicated to the 1st Chess Olympiad and the creation of the FI(D)E.

Part one: The 1st Chess Olympiad and creation of the FI(D)E - The first steps (1/4)
Part two: The 1st Chess Olympiad and creation of the FI(D)E - Getting organized (2/4)
Part three: The 1st Chess Olympiad and creation of the FI(D)E - The Chess Tournament (3/4)

To begin with, here is a photo of the participants in the first Chess Olympiad, which appeared in the Belgian magazine L'Échiquier in 1925.

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L'Échiquier



L'Échiquier

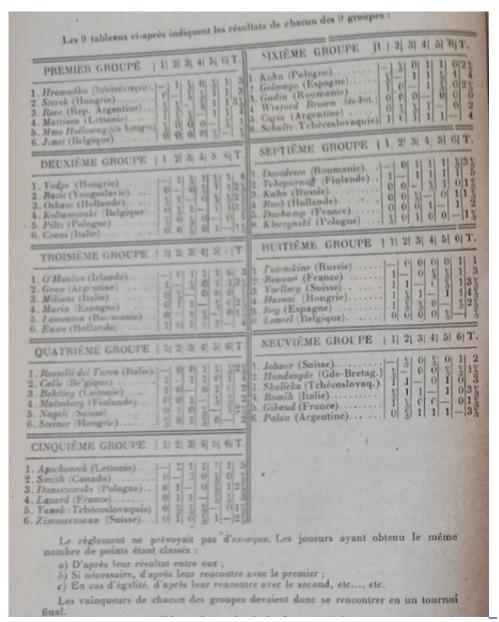
On the subject of the prize-giving for this first Olympiad, here is what <u>Georges Renaud</u> had to say in L'Éclaireur de Nice - quoted in Bulletin number 12 of the FFE.

"Sunday evening 20 July 20 h ½. The Salle des Fêtes in the town hall of the 9th arrondissement is brilliantly illuminated. To the right of the stage is hoisted the Latvian national flag in honour of Mattison. On the left were the Czechoslovak and Hungarian flags, celebrating the victorious nations.

Mr Mesureur, a former minister, was in the chair. He paid tribute to the organisers and the competitors who had fought so valiantly. He read an address of thanks to Mr Lucien Sauphar,

Mayor of the 9th arrondissement, for his warm and generous hospitality, and another address of thanks to Mr Pointel, Vice-President of the City Council, who, on the previous Wednesday, had received the referees, officials and competitors at the Hôtel de Ville. Amidst the applause, he praised Mr Vincent for his creative efforts.

He then expressed everyone's gratitude to Grand Master A. Alekhine who, as Chairman of the Referees' Commission, had assumed this difficult role with all the weight of his high authority at the same time as with the kindest devotion."



Bulletin number 12 of the

FFE (October 1924) - Result of the various preliminary groups.

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Bulletin number 12 of the FFE (October 1924) - Result of the

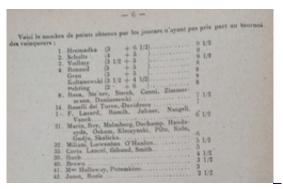
He then gave the floor to M. Vincent. The friendly secretary general of the FFE then read out the official prize list, which is as follows:

Winner of the tournament: Amateur Chess Champion of the VIII Olympiad (with the title of Master):

- 1st Armand MATISSON (Latvia) vermeil medal
- 2nd Apscheneck (Latvia) silver medal
- 3rd Colle (Belgium) silver medal

All three also received an art plaque, donated by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, depicting the nymph Caissa playing chess.

- 4th Euwe (Holland) silver bronze medal; Vajda (Hungary) silver bronze medal; Tchepurnoff (Finland) silver bronze medal
- 7th Palau (Argentine Republic) silver bronze medal
- 8th Golmayo (Spain) silver bronze medal
- 9th Havasi (Hungary) silver bronze medal.



Bulletin number 12 of the FFE (October 1924) - Result of the

subsidiary tournament.

Subsidiary tournament

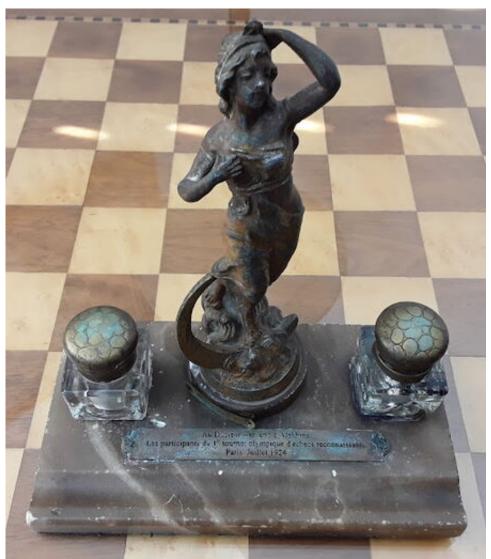
1st M. Hromadka (Czechoslovakia) silver bronze medal.

Team rankings

- 1st Czechoslovakia Four gilt bronze medals and an art plaque donated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 2nd Hungary Four silver bronze medals. Special mention for the participation of two players in the Final Tournament. Art plaque donated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 3rd Switzerland Four bronze medals.

All players, referees and delegates also receive a diploma and a commemorative bronze medal. An art plaque from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was also presented to Master Alekhine as a souvenir. (...)

Then Lieutenant Gudju, a Romanian competitor, asked to speak. He explained that the participants in the tournament, wishing to express their gratitude to Grandmaster Alekhine "in whom he salutes the genius of chess", and to Mr Vincent, the soul of the tournament, "who, for everyone, represents France, the land of justice and freedom", had decided to offer them, by subscription, a souvenir. And he hands Master Alekhine a magnificent marble inkwell and a blotter on which all the competitors have signed, and, to Mr Vincent, a superb silver cigarette case.



A photo of a quite

exceptional object from the collection of Mr Guy Gignac, whom I thank once again. This is the inkwell donated by the participants to Alekhine.

To Doctor Alexandre

Alekhine

The grateful participants of the 1st Olympic chess tournament Paris, July 1924

"(...) The large number of competitors and the limited time available meant that playing conditions were particularly arduous. You had to play two games a day, with only one hour to think about twenty moves, finish the games postponed from the previous day in the morning and therefore sometimes stay until ten o'clock almost consecutively... Yes, but it was an honest and fair Marathon, with the same strict rules for all, a Marathon that consecrated the triumph of the best... A Marathon destined to go down in history, and one that all the competitors have fond memories of.

Tribute must be paid to the French Chess Federation, promoter and organiser of this magnificent and unique international competition, which despite its youth - is it not the most recent of all similar federations? - It has not hesitated to assume responsibility".

It should be noted that a reception would be held to welcome the players, delegates and officials at the Hôtel de Ville in Paris late in the morning of Wednesday 16 July 1924.

Pierre Vincent indicated that the FFE planned to publish a book on the tournament "illustrated with numerous photographs". I must confess my ignorance on the subject, I do not know if this book ever saw the light of day, as I have not found any trace of it until now.

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Bulletin number 12 of the

FFE (October 1924). Income and expenditure account for the Paris Tournament.

Among the subscribers were some well-known names of the time. Tauber, Edouard Pape, Sauphar, Léo Nardus, Gavarry...

Bulletin number 12 of the FFE speaks of course of the creation of the FIE, whose acronym will be changed in 1925 by "FIDE", and whose meaning remains the same: Fédération Internationale Des Échecs. But as we have seen, it is above all the tournament that we are mainly talking about and which therefore occupies the main place. It was the first major international tournament organised in Paris since the 1900 tournament won by Lasker.

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Fédération Internationale des Echecs La Fédération Française des Echecs avait, en lançant l'idée du tournoi de Paris, invité les Fédérations étrangères, à assister à un Congrès le dimanche 20 juillet, pour fonder la Fédération Internationale des Echecs. Le monde des Echecs, qui s'affirme actif et nombreux, ne pouvant que tirer le plus grand bénéfice d'une direction unique et agissante. Pendant que se déroulait le tournoi, les délégués des différentes nations se réunirent en Commissions; et en plein accord, la Constitution de la Fédération internationale fut décidee. Le protocole stipule que la F. I. E. a été constituée sur l'initiative de la F. F. E. Pour la première année, le bureau a été ainsi constituée : Président, M. A. Rueb, président de la Fédération Néerlandaise des Echecs : vice-président, M. Leonard P. Rees, secrétaire général de la Fédération Britannique des Echecs : trésorier, M. Nicolet, trésorier central de la Fédération Suisse des Echecs. Le secrétariat général est rattaché à la présidence. Les nations suivantes ont donné leur adhésion à la F. I. E. République Argentine, R. Grau. Belgique, J. Weltjens. Canada, S.-F. Smith. Espagne, comte de Penalver. France, P. Vincent. Grande-Bretagne, major F.-H. Rawlins. Hollande, A. Rueb. Hongrie, E. Abonyi. Italie, T. Marusi. Pologne, M. Towbin. Roumanie, lieutenant Gudju. Suisse, M. Nicolet. Tcheco-Slovaquie, K. Skalicka. Yougo-Slavie, J.-M. Ovadia.

Les pays où il n'existe pas encore de Fédération sont invités à en constituer une au plus tôt, et à venir rejoindre les Fédérations groupées à la F. I. E.

Les délégués des nations adhérentes se réuniront au printemps prochain (avant le Les délégués des nations adhérentes se réuniront au printemps prochain (avant le une ville suisse qui sera désiguée, pour adopter les statuts définitifs de la F. I. E. une ville suisse qui sera désiguée, pour adopter les statuts définitifs de la F. I. E.

Les cotisation de chaque fédération nationale à la F. I. E sera de 300 francs français

Le rôle de la Fédération Internationale des Echecs sera fort important. Les questions suivantes ont déjà été présentées;

Codification un forme de la règle du jeu : règlementation des tournois internationals aux, des championnats nationaux : championnat du monde ; internationalisation des naux, des championnats nationaux : championnat du monde ; internationalisation des initiales des pièces : définition de l'amateurisme : admission officielle des Echecs aux initiales des pièces : définition de l'amateurisme : admission officielle des Echecs aux jeux Olympiques de 1928, à la Conférence de Prague 1923 : définition du titre de maître; jeux Olympiques de 1928, à la Conférence de Prague 1923 : définition du titre de maître; jeux Olympiques de 1928, à la Conférence de Prague 1923 : définition du titre de maître; jeux Olympiques de 1928, à la Conférence de Prague 1925 : définition du titre de maître; jeux Olympiques de 1928, à la Conférence de Prague 1925 : définition du titre de maître; jeux Olympiques de 1928, à la Conférence de Prague 1925 : définition du titre de maître; jeux Olympiques de 1928, à la Conférence de Prague 1925 : définition du titre de maître; jeux Olympiques de 1928, à la Conférence de Prague 1925 : définition du titre de maître; jeux Olympiques de 1928, à la Conférence de Prague 1925 : définition du titre de maître; jeux Olympiques de 1928, à la Conférence de Prague 1928 : définition du titre de maître; jeux Olympiques de 1928,

International Chess Federation

The French Chess Federation had, in launching the idea of the Paris tournament, invited foreign Federations, to attend a Congress on Sunday 20 July, to found the International Chess Federation. The chess world, which is now active and numerous, can only benefit from a single, active leadership.

While the tournament was taking place, the delegates of the various nations met in Commissions; and in full agreement, the Constitution of the International Chess Federation was decided. The protocol states that the F. I. E. was formed on the initiative of the F. F. E.



L'Échiquier 1925 Alexander Rueb, 1st President of FIDE

For the first year, the board was constituted as follows: President, Mr. A. Rueb, President of the Dutch Chess Federation; Vice-President, Mr. Leonard P. Rees, General Secretary of the British Chess Federation; Treasurer, Mr. Nicolet, Central Treasurer of the Swiss Chess Federation.

The General Secretariat is attached to the Presidency.

The following nations have become members of the F. I. E.

Argentine Republic, R. Grau.

Belgium, J. Weltjens.

Canada, S. F. Smith. S -F. Smith.

Spain, Count de Penalver.

France, P. Vincent.

Great Britain, Major F.-H. Rawlins.

Holland, A. Rueb.

Hungary, E. E. Abonyi.

Italy, T. Marusi.

Poland, M. Towbin.

Romania, Lieutenant Gudju.

Switzerland, M. Nicolet.

Czechoslovakia, K. Skalicka.

Yugo-Slavia, J.-M. Ovadia.

The countries where there is not yet a Federation are invited to form one as soon as possible, and to come and join the Federations grouped in the F.I.E. The delegates of the member nations will meet next spring (before the Prague Congress which is to prepare the programme of the Games of the IX Olympiad) in a Swiss town to be designated, to adopt the definitive statutes of the F. I. E.. The contribution of each national federation to the F.I.E. will be 300 French francs to ensure the running of the bureau.

The role of the International Chess Federation will be very important. The following questions have already been presented:

Uniform codification of the rules of the game; regulation of the International tournaments, of the national championships; world championship; internationalization of the initials of the pieces; definition of the amateurism; official admission of Chess to the Olympic Games of 1928, to the Conference of Prague 1925; definition of the title of Master; rights of the author for a game; badge, etc...

On the other hand, the F. I. E. intends to defend equally the professionals and the amateurs, whose interests are common for the progress in the game and its greater prosperity.

If Mr. A. Rueb was kind enough to congratulate the General Secretary of the F. F. E.., as the happy Father of the International Federation, at the end of a small banquet, at the Montmartre circle, Mr. G. Mesureur. fulfilling the functions of registrar, the great chess family is fully reassured to have entrusted the first steps of the F.I.E. to the expert hands of the distinguished President of the Dutch Chess Federation and of Mr. Strick van Linschoten, his devoted collaborator.



L'Échiquier The 1st Congress of the International Chess Federation (Paris - July 1925).

It is interesting to see that the 1st FIDE banquet was organised at the "cercle de Montmartre". This was the very young "Fou du Roi" created a few years earlier and which is close to my heart, as I was its president in the 90s!

Edward Winter quotes the late Luc Winants, who indicates that the December 1924 bulletin of the Belgian Chess Federation mentions a fifteenth signatory in the person of C. Tschepurnoff for Finland.

It is true that he was one of the players at the Olympiad, but it is surprising that neither La Stratégie (August 1924) nor the FFE's bulletin n°12 mentions his presence.

Finally, to conclude, here is the draft FIDE statutes as sent to members at the 1925 congress in Zurich - Indicated by Edward Winter who unfortunately does not cite his source.

STATUTS

DE LA

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ECHECS.

- Art. 1. 1. La F.I.E., fondée le 20 juillet 1924 à Paris, a pour but le développement de l'art des Echecs, comme jeu universel, de propager l'idée d'entente entre les unités échiquéennes et de favoriser toute manifestation internationale relative au jeu.
 - 2. Elle se propose de régler le championnat de la F.I.E. et les championnats par équipe et personnel de la F.I.E.
 - La F.I.E. n'est essentiellement constituée qu'au point de vue des rapports de caractère international.
 - Elle n'entend aucunement porter atteinte à la liberté d'organisation intérieure et de manifestation internatonale des unités qui la composant.
 - 2. 3. La F.I.E. est basée sur le principe de l'égalité parfaite de ses membres.
 - 4. Elle observe une neutralité absolue en matière de politique nationale et internationale.
 - 3. 1. Pourra adhérer à la F.I.E.: Toute unité, quel que soit son nom, tendant à régir le jeu d'Echecs sur un ou sur plusieurs territoires souverains, exception faite pour le cas ou une unité, régissant un territoire dont le territoire du candidat fait partie, aura déjà affiliée, ou vient de demander son affilation.
 - 2. Les états faisant partie d'un Etat Fédératif ou d'une Fédération d'Etats, ainsi que les domaines coloniaux, sont considérés comme des territoires souverains.
 - Toute unité adhérente contribuera aux frais de la F.I.E., moyennant une finance d'entrée fixe et une cotisation annuelle, relative à sa situation financière.
 - Le Comité Général et permanent de la F.I.E. est composé des représentants des unités affiliées.
 - Les membres du Comité Général ont le droit d'initiative auprès du Comité Central et auprès de l'Assemblée Générale.

STATUTES OF THE

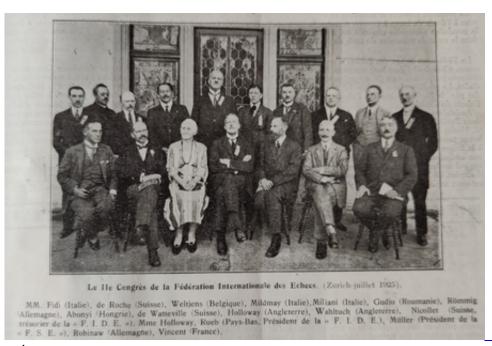
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ECHECS.

STATUTES OF THE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ECHECS.

- Art. 1. 1 The purpose of the FIE, founded on 20 July 1924 in Paris, is to develop the art of chess as a universal game, to propagate the idea of understanding between chess units and to promote all international events relating to the game.
- 1. 2. It proposes to regulate the F.I.E. championship and the F.I.E. team and personal championships.
- 2.1 The FIE is essentially constituted for international relations only.
- 2.2 The F.I.E. has no intention of interfering with the freedom of internal organisation and

international events of its member units.

- 2.3 The FIE shall be based on the principle of the perfect equality of its members.
- 2.4 The F.I.E. shall observe absolute neutrality in matters of national and international policy.
- 3.1 Membership of the FIE is open to: any unit, whatever its name, tending to govern the game of chess in one or more sovereign territories, except where a unit, governing a territory of which the applicant's territory is a part, is already affiliated, or has just applied for affiliation.
- 3. 2 States which are part of a Federal State or Federation of States, as well as colonial domains, are considered as sovereign territories.
- 4. All member units shall contribute to the costs of the F.I.E. by paying a fixed entrance fee and an annual subscription, depending on their financial situation.
- 5.1 The General and Permanent Committee of the F.I.E. shall be composed of representatives of the affiliated units.
- 5. 2. The members of the General Committee shall have the right of initiative before the Central Committee and the General Assembly.



L'Échiquier

The IInd Congress of the International Chess Federation (Zurich - July 1925)

In addition, to this series of 4 articles, you can consult:

In English, the page devoted to the history of FIDE by Edward Winter https://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/fidehistory.html
In French, 3 articles written in 2015 by Georges Bertola on the creation of FIDE https://www.europe-echecs.com/art/paris-1924-creation-de-la-fide-1-5784.html https://www.europe-echecs.com/art/paris-1924-creation-de-la-fide-2-5792.html https://www.europe-echecs.com/art/paris-1924-creation-de-la-fide-3-5799.html

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