

= Adolf Anderssen =

Karl Ernst Adolf Anderssen ( July 6 , 1818 ? March 13 , 1879 ) was a German chess master . He is considered to have been the world 's leading chess player for much of the 1850s and 1860s . He was quite soundly defeated by Paul Morphy who toured Europe in 1858 , but Morphy retired from chess soon after and Anderssen was again considered the leading player .

After his defeat by Steinitz in 1866 , Anderssen became the most successful tournament player in Europe , winning over half the events he entered ? including the Baden @-@ Baden 1870 chess tournament , one of the strongest tournaments of the era . He achieved most of these successes when he was over the age of 50 .

Anderssen is famous even today for his brilliant sacrificial attacking play , particularly in the " Immortal Game " ( 1851 ) and the " Evergreen Game " ( 1852 ) . He was a very important figure in the development of chess problems , driving forward the transition from the " Old School " of problem composition to the elegance and complexity of modern compositions .

He was also one of the most likeable of chess masters and became an " elder statesman " of the game , to whom others turned for advice or arbitration .

= = Background and early life = =

Anderssen was born in Breslau ( now called Wroc?aw ) , in the Prussian Province of Silesia , in 1818 . He lived there for most of his life , sharing a house with and supporting his widowed mother and his unmarried sister . Anderssen never married . He graduated from the public gymnasium ( high school ) in Breslau and then attended university , where he studied mathematics and philosophy . After graduating in 1847 at the age of 29 , he took a position at the Friedrichs @-@ Gymnasium as an instructor and later as Professor of Mathematics . Anderssen lived a quiet , stable , responsible , respectable middle @-@ class life . His career was teaching mathematics , while his hobby and passion was playing chess .

When Anderssen was nine years old , his father taught him how to play chess . Anderssen said that as a boy , he learned the strategy of the game from a copy of William Lewis ' book Fifty Games between Labourdonnais and McDonnell ( 1835 ) .

= = Chess career = =

= = = First steps = = =

Anderssen first came to the attention of the chess world when he published Aufgabe für Schachspieler ( " Task for chess players " ) , a collection of 60 chess problems , in 1842 . He continued to publish problems for many years , both in magazines and as a second collection in 1852 . These brought him to the attention of the " Berlin Pleiades " group , which included some of the strongest players of the time , and he played matches against some of them . Anderssen 's development as a player was relatively slow , largely because he could spare neither the time nor the money to play many matches against strong players . Nevertheless , by 1846 he was able to put up a good fight against another Pleiades member , Tassilo von Heydebrand und der Lasa , who may have been the world 's strongest player at the time . In 1846 , he became the editor of the magazine Schachzeitung der Berliner Schachgesellschaft ( later called Deutsche Schachzeitung ) when its founder Ludwig Bledow , one of the " Berlin Pleiades " , died . Anderssen held this post until 1865 .

= = = London 1851 = = =

In 1848 Anderssen drew a match with the professional player Daniel Harrwitz . On the basis of this match and his general chess reputation , he was invited to represent German chess at the first

international chess tournament , to be held in London in 1851 . Anderssen was reluctant to accept the invitation , as he was deterred by the travel costs . However the tournament 's principal organizer , Howard Staunton , offered to pay Anderssen 's travel expenses out of his own pocket if necessary , should Anderssen fail to win a tournament prize . Anderssen accepted this generous offer .

Anderssen 's preparations for the 1851 London International Tournament produced a surge in his playing strength : he played over 100 games in early 1851 against strong opponents including Carl Mayet , Ernst Falkbeer , Max Lange and Jean Dufresne . The 1851 International Tournament was a knock @-@ out event in which pairs of competitors played short matches , and Anderssen won it by beating Lionel Kieseritzky , József Szén , Staunton , and Marmaduke Wyvill ? by margins of at least two games in every case . His prize was two @-@ thirds of the total prize fund of £ 500 , i.e. about £ 335 ; that is equivalent to about £ 240 @,@ 000 ( \$ 370 @,@ 200 ) in 2006 's money . When Anderssen and Szén found they were to play each other , they agreed that , if either won the tournament , the other would receive one @-@ third of the prize ; this does not appear to have been considered in any way unethical .

Although most chess books regard Wilhelm Steinitz as the first true world champion , one of the organizers of the 1851 London International tournament had said the contest was for " the baton of the World ? s Chess Champion " . In fact Anderssen was not described as " the world champion " , but the tournament established Anderssen as the world 's leading chess player , at the time it had same meaning . The London Chess Club , which had fallen out with Staunton and his colleagues , organized a tournament that was played a month later and included several players who had competed in the International Tournament . The result was the same ? Anderssen won .

= = = Morphy match , 1858 = = =

Opportunities for tournament play remained rare , and Anderssen was reluctant to travel far because of the expense . In his one recorded tournament between 1851 and 1862 , a one @-@ game @-@ per @-@ round knock @-@ out tournament at Manchester in 1857 , he was eliminated in the second round . Then in late 1858 he was beaten 8 ? 3 by the American champion Paul Morphy in a famous match held in Paris , France ( two wins , two draws , seven losses ) . Although Anderssen knew as well as anyone how to attack , Morphy understood much better when to attack and how to prepare an attack . Morphy had recently scored equally convincing wins in matches against other top @-@ class players : Johann Löwenthal , the Rev. John Owen and Daniel Harrwitz . However Morphy returned to the USA in 1859 and soon afterwards announced his retirement from serious chess . Hence Anderssen was once again the strongest active player .

Anderssen played the curious opening move 1 @.@ a3 in three games of his match against Morphy , and broke even with it ( one loss , one draw , one win ) . This opening move , now referred to as " Anderssen 's Opening " , has never been popular in serious competition .

= = = Other games 1851 ? 62 = = =

Shortly after the 1851 London International tournament , Anderssen played his two most famous games , both casual encounters which he won by combinations that involved several sacrifices . In the first , as Black , but moving first , against Lionel Kieseritzky in London just after the International tournament ( 1851 ) and now called the " Immortal Game " , he sacrificed a bishop , both rooks and finally his queen . In the second , played in Berlin in 1852 as white against Jean Dufresne and now called the " Evergreen Game " , the total sacrifice was more modest , but still exceeded a queen and a minor piece .

After the match with Morphy , Anderssen played two matches against Ignác Kolisch , one of the leading players of the time , who later became a wealthy banker and patron of chess . Anderssen drew their match in 1860 and narrowly won in 1861 ( 5 / 9 ; won four , drew two , lost three ; Kolisch was ahead at the half @-@ way stage ) .

=== London 1862 ===

Anderssen won the London 1862 chess tournament , the first international round @-@ robin tournament ( in which each participant plays a game against each of the others ) with a score of twelve wins out of thirteen games . He lost only one game , to the Rev. John Owen and finished two points ahead of Louis Paulsen , who had the best playing record in the early 1860s . Morphy had retired from chess at this time , so Anderssen was again generally regarded as the world 's leading active player .

Anderssen 's only known competitive chess between 1862 and 1866 was a drawn match ( three wins , three losses , and two draws ) in 1864 against Berthold Suhle , who was a strong player and respected chess writer .

=== Steinitz match , 1866 ===

In 1866 Anderssen lost a close match with 30 @-@ year @-@ old Wilhelm Steinitz ( six wins , eight losses , and no draws ; Steinitz won the last two games ) . Although Steinitz is now known for inventing the positional approach to chess and demonstrating its superiority , the 1866 match was played in the attack @-@ at @-@ all @-@ costs style of the 1850s and 1860s . This is generally seen as the point at which Steinitz succeeded Anderssen as the world 's leading active player . Although ideas of a contest for the world championship had been floating around since the 1840s , the 1866 Anderssen ? Steinitz match was not defined as being for the world championship , and many were opposed to the claim of such a title while Morphy was retired from chess and still alive . Furthermore , Anderssen remained dominant both in top tournaments & in personal matches against Zukertort until 1871 .

=== 1866 ? 79 ===

By this time tournaments were becoming more frequent , and the round @-@ robin format was adopted . At the same time , Anderssen , after losing the match to Morphy in 1858 and to Steinitz in 1866 , re @-@ dedicated himself to chess , particularly studying both endgames and positional play . The result was that Anderssen , in his early fifties , was playing the finest chess of his career . As a result , Anderssen compiled a very successful tournament record in the late stages of his career : five first places , two second places , two third places ; and a sixth place in the final year of his life , when his health was failing . One of his first places was ahead of Steinitz , Gustav Neumann , Joseph Henry Blackburne , Louis Paulsen and several other very strong players at the Baden @-@ Baden 1870 chess tournament . This is regarded as one of the top 20 strongest tournaments ever despite the proliferation of " super tournaments " since 1990 . One of Anderssen 's third places was at the strong Vienna 1873 tournament , when he was 55 . About half of Anderssen 's tournament successes came at championships of the different regional German Chess Federations ; but these were open to all nationalities , and most of them had a few " top ten " or even " top five " competitors . Anderssen usually beat Zukertort in matches but his dominance came to an end came 1871 .

The Leipzig 1877 tournament , in which Anderssen came second behind Louis Paulsen , was organized to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Anderssen 's learning the chess moves . The initiative sprang from the Central German Chess Federation . It is the only tournament ever organized to commemorate a competitor .

Still at Leipzig , Anderssen lost a match against tournament winner Louis Paulsen ( three wins , one draw , and five losses ) . Matches were Anderssen 's relative weakness ; his only match win in this period was in 1868 , against the 26 @-@ year @-@ old Johann Zukertort ( eight wins , one draw , and three losses ) .

=== Assessment ===

== = Playing strength and style == =

Anderssen was very successful in European tournaments from 1851 to early 1878 , taking first prize in over half of the events in which he played . His only recorded tournament failures were a one @-@ game @-@ per @-@ round knock @-@ out event in 1857 and sixth place at Paris 1878 when his health was failing and he had only about a year to live . His match record was much weaker : out of the 12 that he played , he won only two , drew four and lost six .

Arpad Elo , inventor of the Elo rating system , retroactively calculated ratings through history , and estimated that Anderssen was the first player with a rating over 2600 . Chessmetrics ranks Anderssen as one of the top five players for most of the period from 1851 to shortly before his death in 1879 .

Steinitz rated Anderssen as one of the two greatest attacking players of his time : " We all may learn from Morphy and Anderssen how to conduct a king ? s @-@ side attack , and perhaps I myself may not have learnt enough . " Although Anderssen is regarded as a member of the " heroic " attacking school , he was not in favor of mindless aggression , for example he said : " Move that one of your pieces , which is in the worst plight , unless you can satisfy yourself that you can derive immediate advantage by an attack " , a principle more recently labelled " Makogonov 's rule " . According to Fine , his approach to development was haphazard and he totally failed to understand why Morphy won .

Anderssen 's home town was so proud of him that in 1865 Breslau University awarded him an honorary doctorate .

== = Influence on chess == =

The " heroic " attacking school of play to which Anderssen belonged was eclipsed by Steinitz ' positional approach ? by 1894 it was generally acknowledged that the only way to beat Steinitz was to apply Steinitz ' principles .

Anderssen has had a more enduring influence on chess problem composition . He started composing in the last years of the " Old School " , whose compositions were fairly similar to realistic over @-@ the @-@ board positions and featured spectacular " key " moves , multiple sacrifices and few variations . He was one of the most skilful composers of his time , and his work forms an early stage of the " Transition Period " , between the mid @-@ 1840s and the early 1860s , when many of the basic problem ideas were discovered , the requirement for game @-@ like positions was abandoned and the introduction of composing competitions ( the first of which was in 1854 ) forced judges to decide on what features were the most desirable in a problem .

Outside the field of chess problems Anderssen was not a prolific author . However he edited the magazine Schachzeitung der Berliner Schachgesellschaft ( later called Deutsche Schachzeitung ) from 1846 to 1865 , and was co @-@ editor with Gustav Neumann of Neue Berliner Schachzeitung from 1864 to 1867 .

== = Personality == =

Steinitz wrote : " Anderssen was honest and honourable to the core . Without fear or favour he straightforwardly gave his opinion , and his sincere disinterestedness became so patent .... that his word alone was usually sufficient to quell disputes ... for he had often given his decision in favour of a rival ... " On the other hand , Reuben Fine , a 20th @-@ century player , wrote , " There is a curious contrast between his over @-@ the @-@ board brilliance and his uninspired safety @-@ first attitude in everyday affairs . "

== = Death == =

Anderssen died on March 13 , 1879 in his hometown . The Deutsche Schachzeitung noted his death in 1879 with a nineteen @-@ page obituary . Bombing raids during World War II damaged his

grave in Breslau . After the war , the city became part of Poland and is now known under its Polish name Wrocław . In 1957 , the Polish Chess Federation decided to re-bury Anderssen in a new grave at the Osobowicki Cemetery .

== Notable games ==

Adolf Anderssen vs Lionel Kieseritsky , 1851 , King 's Gambit : Accepted . Bishop 's Gambit Bryan Countergambit ( C33 ) , 1 ? 0 The " Immortal Game " . Anderssen sacrifices his queen and both rooks in order to win

Adolf Anderssen vs Jean Dufresne , Berlin 1852 , Italian Game : Evans Gambit . Pierce Defense ( C52 ) , 1 ? 0 The " Evergreen Game " . Another short game full of sacrifices and ending with a nice two-bishops checkmate

Adolf Anderssen vs Paul Morphy , Match , Paris 1858 , Anderssen Opening . 1 ? 0 Anderssen beats Morphy after opening 1 . e4 a3

Adolf Anderssen vs Johannes Zukertort , Barmen 1869 , Italian Game : Evans Gambit . Paulsen Variation ( C51 ) , 1 ? 0 Black resigned before allowing Anderssen to finish the combination : 29 . Qxh7 + Kxh7 30 . e6 + Kg8 31 . Bh7 + Kxh7 32 . e8Q + Rxg8 33 . Rh3 #

== Tournament results ==

Sources :

== Match results ==

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