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# Chess Notes: The Morphy Legend

By George Koltanowski

The anniversary of the birth of the greatest chess genius of the last century and chess champion, Paul Charles Morphy who held the title from 1858 to 1862, will be observed in chess circles this week.

Morphy was born in New Orleans June 22, 1837, and learned the game at the age of 10. Three years later he beat such masters as Eugene Rousseau and Lowenthal. In 1857 he won the first American Chess Congress in New York. Morphy then went to Europe where he defeated everyone in sight, including the then-recognized world champion, Adolf Anderssen of Germany, in Paris with a score of 7-2 and two draws.

Staunton, the English champion, needed Morphy but avoided playing him. After two years in Europe Morphy returned home and never again entered the chess arena.

Here is a little-known chapter in the Morphy legend:

Paul Morphy died a bachelor at 47, but long before he became the world-renowned chess champion he met and lost his first love. At the age of 17 he visited his uncle's farm, where he met a young lady and it was love at first sight for Paul. But he was not the only suitor. His cousin, Ernest, courted the same girl and this led to a strange duel. Over the chess board.

A match of six games was arranged, with the following conditions: (1) All six games had to be played with the Evans Gambit, an opening then in fashion. (2) Paul, considered the stronger player, could only take one minute per move; Ernest could think as long as he desired. (3) The winner would be left the field of pursuing the hand of the fair lady.

Paul won the battle, beating his cousin four times, losing one and one game was left as a draw.

But when Paul paid homage to the young lady, and told her of his victory, he was told in no uncertain terms that he was not the one she preferred. This may account for his victories soon afterwards on the chess battlefield, throwing his heart and soul into the game. But after a few years, at the height of his triumph, he retired, never to return to the field of chess battle. The old love wound never healed.

Of the above strange match, the third game was the most interesting. It was played in New Orleans, on June 13, 1853.

White: Paul Morphy

Black: Ernest Morphy

## EVANS GAMBIT

1.P-K4	P-K4	14.QR-N1(b)	
2.N-KB3	N-QB3		O-O-O(c)
3.B-B4	B-B4	15.B-R6	N-R4(d)
4.P-QN4	BxNP	16.KR-QB1	B-B3
5.P-B3	B-R4	17.QxN	PxB
6.P-Q4	PxP	18.QxRPch	K-Q2
7.O-O	BxP	19.RxB(e)	Q-B4
8.NxB	PxB	20.RxPch	K-K1
9.B-R3	P-Q3	21.Q-B6ch	Q-Q2
10.Q-N3	N-R3	22.R-N8(f)	QxQ
11.QxBP(a)	Q-B3	23.R-K7ch	K-B1
12.P-K5	PxP	24.RxRch	Q-K1
13.KR-K1	B-Q2	25.RxQ	Mate(g)

(a) The style of Morphy is already clear. All his pieces are developed and ready for action. (b) Knowing that Black will try to castle on the Queen's side, Paul places his pieces there where they will do most harm. (c) How could he see White's next move? (d) If 15...PxB; 16.Q-N3, B-K3; 17.Q-N7ch, K-Q2; 18.QR-Q1ch wins. (e) That does it. If 19...QxR; 20. Nxpch. Black could resign here, but with a "Queen" enterprise, he was justified in hoping for the impossible. (f) The mark of Morphy! This game had world champion class written all over. (g) The manuscript of the game does not state which Rook administered the death blow.

**LOOKING AROUND**—The Colle Chess Club of San Francisco won the Inter-club tournament at San Quentin. Carroll Ogden, C.C., S.F., placed second; Showalter, C.C., S.F., third and Livermore C.C., fourth. . . . Summer League results: Euwe C.C. of Los Gatos beat the Morphy Blue team of Redwood City 4-2. Botvinnik beat Showalter, of S. F., 4-1 and 1 adjudication.

### ALEKHINE

San Rafael 2

I. Post	0
S. Hope	1/2
H. Morgan	0
G. Sutherland	1/2
A. McDougal	1
W. Seaway	0

### BOTVINNIK

S. F. 4

G. Ramirez	1
H. Bullwinkel	1/2
Dan Taggart	1
Tom Tripodes	1/2
Elena Daniloff	0
W. Rawley	1