4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.3. World Championships



The world championship match between Karpov and Kasparov held in Moscow, and stopped by FIDE after five months of play, since both players failed to secure the six wins required to clinch the world title, as 48 games were played and the score was 5 – 3 in favour of Karpov with 40 games drawn and a rematch was scheduled 6 months later.





The second match in 1985 between Kasparov and Karpov was restricted for the first time in history to 24 games and was won by Kasparov (13 – 11) to become the youngest world champion in history.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.3. World Championships





After losing his title,Karpov played a revenge match in 1986 between Leningrad and London but could not defeat Kasparov nor regain his title.

The revenge match between Kasparov and Karpov was very dramatic after Kasparov's loss of 3 games in a row, and he only clinched the match with a sparkling win in the 22nd game to make the final score 12.5, 11.5 to his favour.

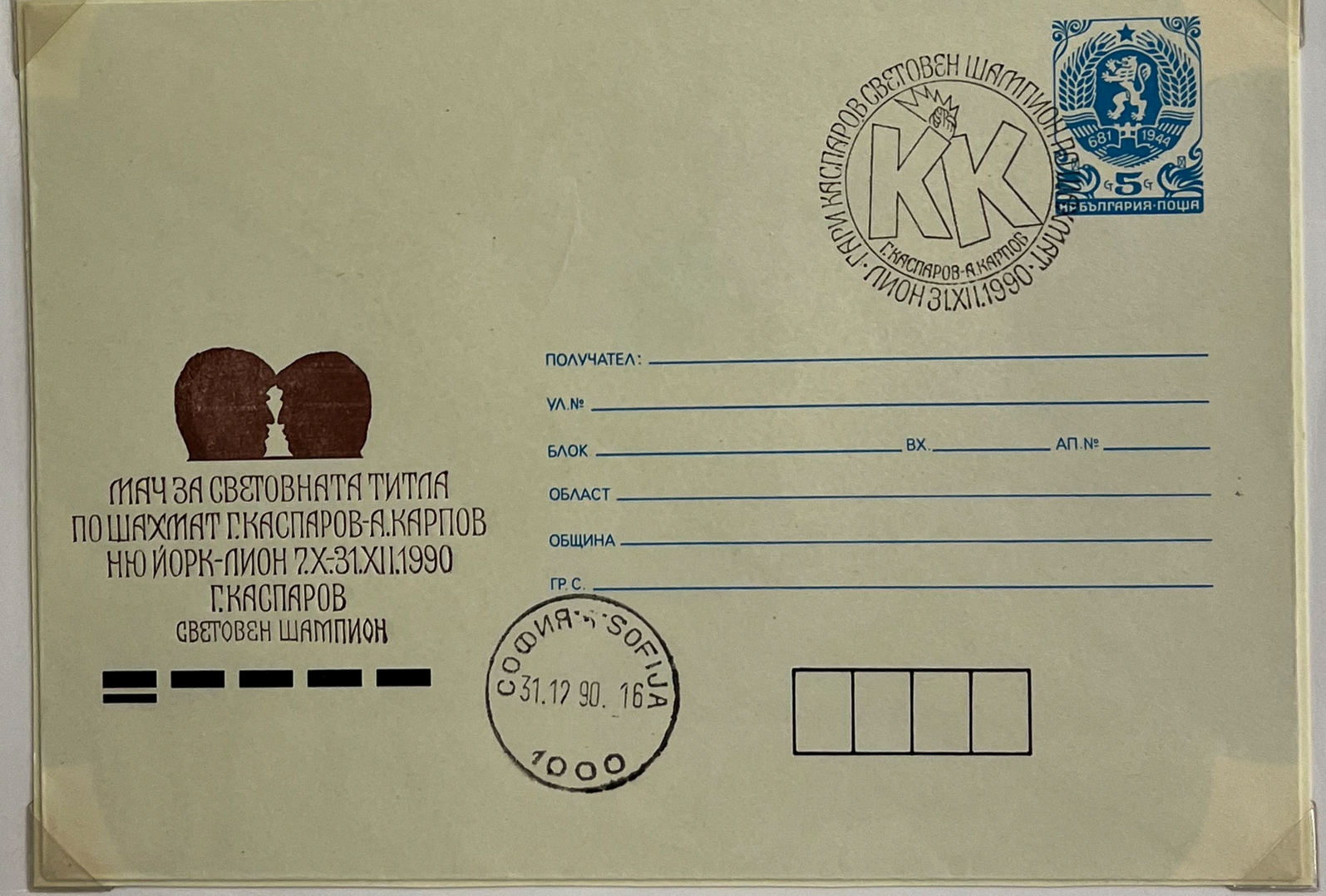


4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.3. World Championships



The two giant champions Kasparov and Karpov met again in another world championship match in Seville Spain. Karpov was on the verge of retrieving the title back, as the match was drawn 12/12 and Kasparov retained his title.



Kasparov and Karpov met for the last time in a world championship match in 1990 and for the fourth time Kasparov successfully defended his title.

3. THE PLAYERS

3.2. Champions

Bobby Fischer (1943 -), the American Fischer learned how to play chess when he was six and at the age of 14 he became the chess champion of the United States.



In a series of candidates' matches to determine who should challenge Spassky for the title, Fischer did almost something unheard of in chess by winning every game (6 - 0).



Fischer challenge match against Spassky in 1972 which held in Reykjavik Island and won by Fischer stimulated worldwide interest in Chess on an unprecedented scale.



3. THE PLAYERS

3.2. Champions

Anatoly Karpov (1951 -) Karpov learned to play chess when he was four and later studied with Botvinnik in Moscow to win the world junior championship in 1969.







As Fischer refused to play the championship match against Karpov in 1975, Karpov thus became the first champion to win by default.

Later in 1978 and 1981 Karpov successfully defended his title against Victor Korchnoi.

3. THE PLAYERS
3.2. Champions





Gary Kasparov (1963 -) Kasparov's rise to world champion was astonishingly rapid. At the age of 17 became a grand master and in November 1985, aged 22 he defeated Karpov to become the youngest world champion in history.



Kasparov is rated today as the strongest player ever in the history of chess.



Kasparov defeated Karpov in 1985 to win the title, but their first match in 1984 was abandoned in mid play after five and a half months and 48 games, 40 of them drawn.

3. THE PLAYERS

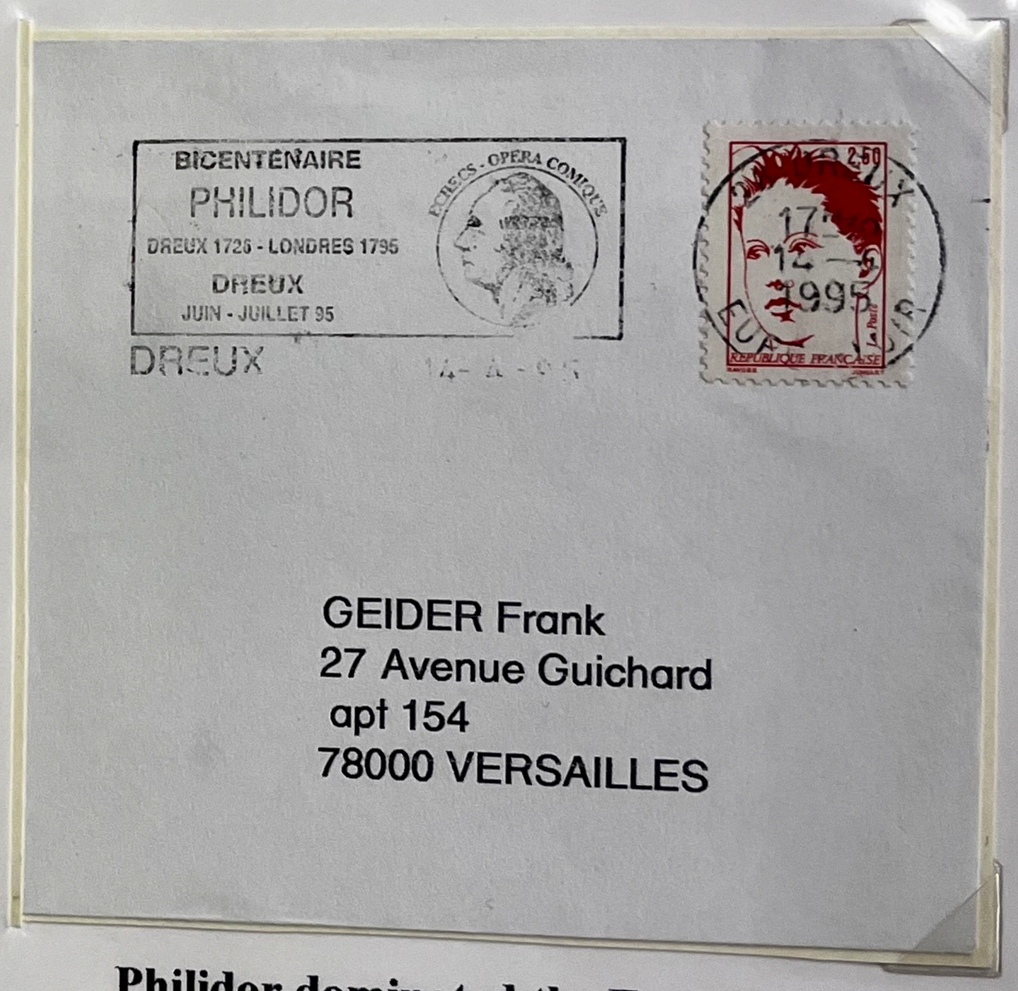
3.3. Legends



Ruy Lopez (1530 – 1580) The Spaniard, Ruy Lopez achieved his reputation by beating the best Italian players and by writing a collection of chess openings and analysis.



Francois Andre Philidor (1726 - 1795), Philidor a musician and composer was the first player to try to systemize the chess knowledge.



Philidor dominated the English and French chess circles for nearly half a century.



Philidor was the first great player to understand the importance of Pawns, which he described as the soul of chess.

3. THE PLAYERS

3.3. Legends



Paul Morphy (1837 - 1884), The American Genius Paul Morphy defeated all his challengers in America and Europe.



Adolf Anderssen (1818 - 1878), The German Anderssen was one of the most successful tournament players and the unofficial world chess champion.



Paul Keres, Called the unlucky, as he reached the final of the world championship several times but he never managed to clinch the world title.



3. THE PLAYERS

3.3. Legends

Paul Keres is one of very few players who were commemorated on stamps although he was never recognized as world champion, but Keres was very instrumental in all the winnings of the USSR team tournaments.







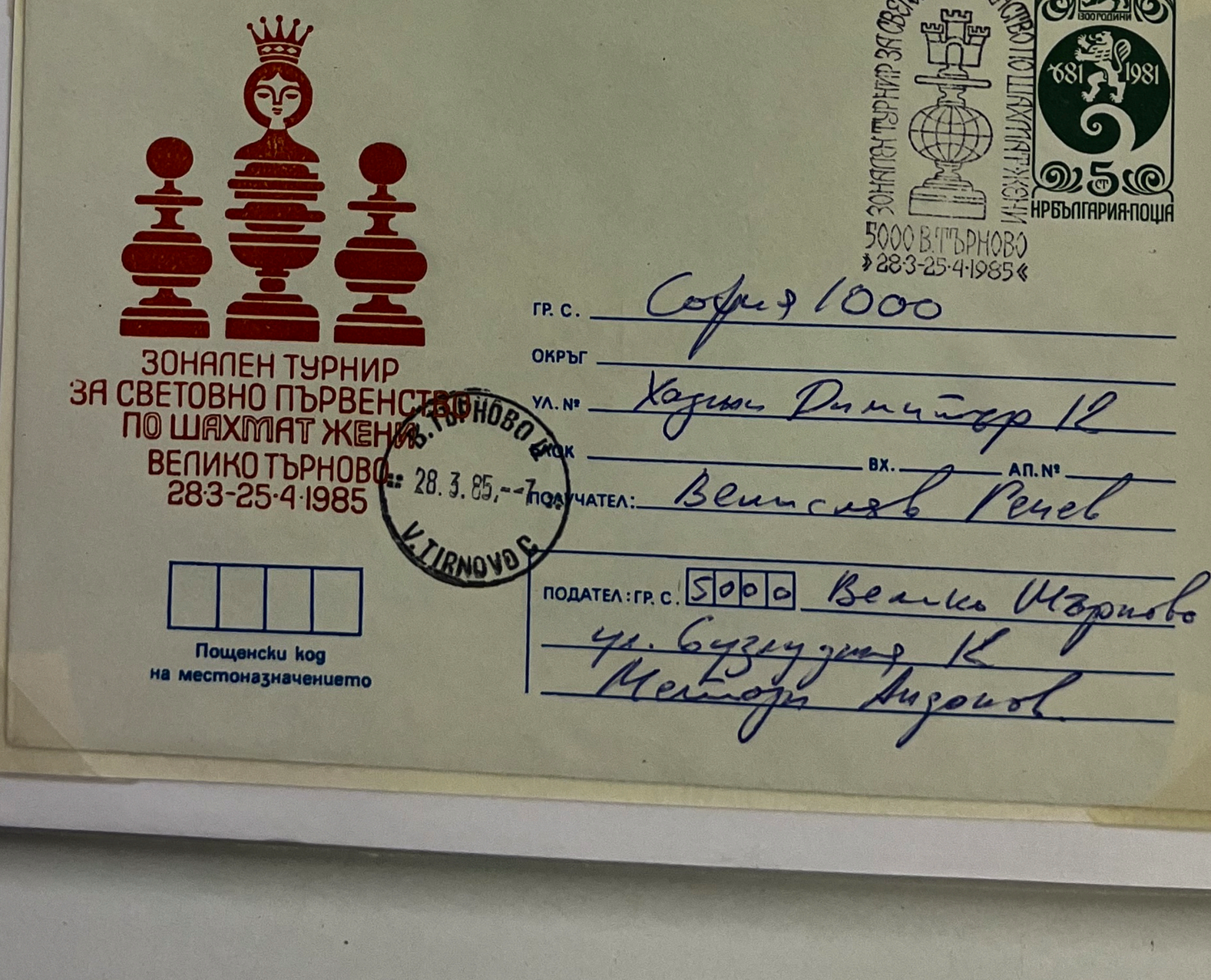
Michail Ivanovitch Tchigorian (1850 - 1908), Tchigorian was called the "founder of the Russian school" as he made a great efforts to popularize the game in his own country.

3. THE PLAYERS
3.3. Legends

Judit Polgar (1976-) The Hungarian Polgar is the uncrowned queen in the chess world. She is rated as the strongest woman in the history of the game.



Judit Polgar is the first woman to win the world chess Oscar awarded by the International Association of the chess press.



3. THE PLAYERS
3.3. Legends

Judit Polgar convincingly defeated many prominent figures in the chess world and Boris Spassky the ex-world champion was one of her victims.



Anatoly Karpov The FIDE world champion lost several games to Judit Polgar



4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.1. National

Playing at club and tournament level, players must use a chess clock, which has two clock faces, one shows the amount of time used by the white and the other the time used by the black while one clock is running the other is stopped.





Playing in clubs and tournaments is the best way to improve the game of every individual.



October of every year is the month of chess in Belgrade, where the Yugoslav chess clubs are obliged to organize a chess event.

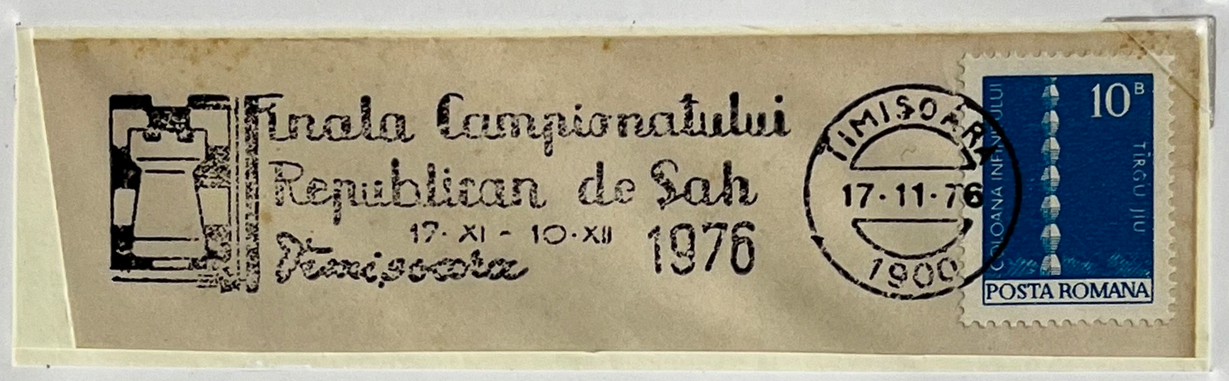


4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.1. National

France like other European countries had her own chess festival in 1966 held in Leharve, France.





The Rumanian national championship which was held from 17/11 to 10/12 (1976) is a form of a competition that nearly every country has.



The German Government in Poland during the Second World War held a local competition in Radom Poland from 24 to 31 January 1943.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.1. National

In 1947 Vienna was the champion in the Austrian provincial championship held in Hartberg Austria, from 14 to 21 September 1947.





There are many national tournaments held every year worldwide like the kings chess tournament held in London from 26 April to 11 May.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.1. National

Chess competitions can be sponsored by local companies for promotion, as Hungarian Pharmaceutical Industry arranged a local chess competition in October 1997.



National chess societies usually arrange for local chess tournaments as the Swedish chess society did in July 1976.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.1. National

Chess is the most popular national sport in Russia. It is most popular there than football and the famous union building in Moscow is a luxurious place for chess which was dedicated for chess tournaments repeatedly.





Local chess festivals are an annual event in most European countries where all countries and provinces participate in this distinguished national activity.



The 64th French national championship took place in August 1989.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.1. National



Countries, who organize international exhibitions like EXPO, seize the chance to arrange some local tournaments for chess to celebrate the occasion.



Holland is very concerned to develop the chess game in the country in order to revive the glory of their ex-world champion Max Ewe therefore they organize annually several local chess competitions.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.1. National



The national tournaments remain the most important among all other local tournaments for they decide the national champion in chess.



There are many different types of national tournaments like the regular Yugoslav workers open championship.

2. THE GAME

2.1. The Board

The diagram shows how chess pieces are positioned on the board at the beginning of the game.







The modern board is a distinguished hand craft in many parts of the world.



The board was the main part of the chess art work as illustrated in many manuscripts



2. THE GAME

2.2. The Pieces



Chess pieces looked different in every culture as illustrated in this Siamese style set of pieces.



The chess pieces are King, Queen, Rook, Bishop, Knight and Pawn.



An abstract modern chess pieces.



This is the printing shapes of all the chess pieces as used in books, magazines and publications.

2. THE GAME

2.2. The Pieces (The King)



The king is the most important piece and must be guarded all the times, since if threatened with checkmate the game is over.

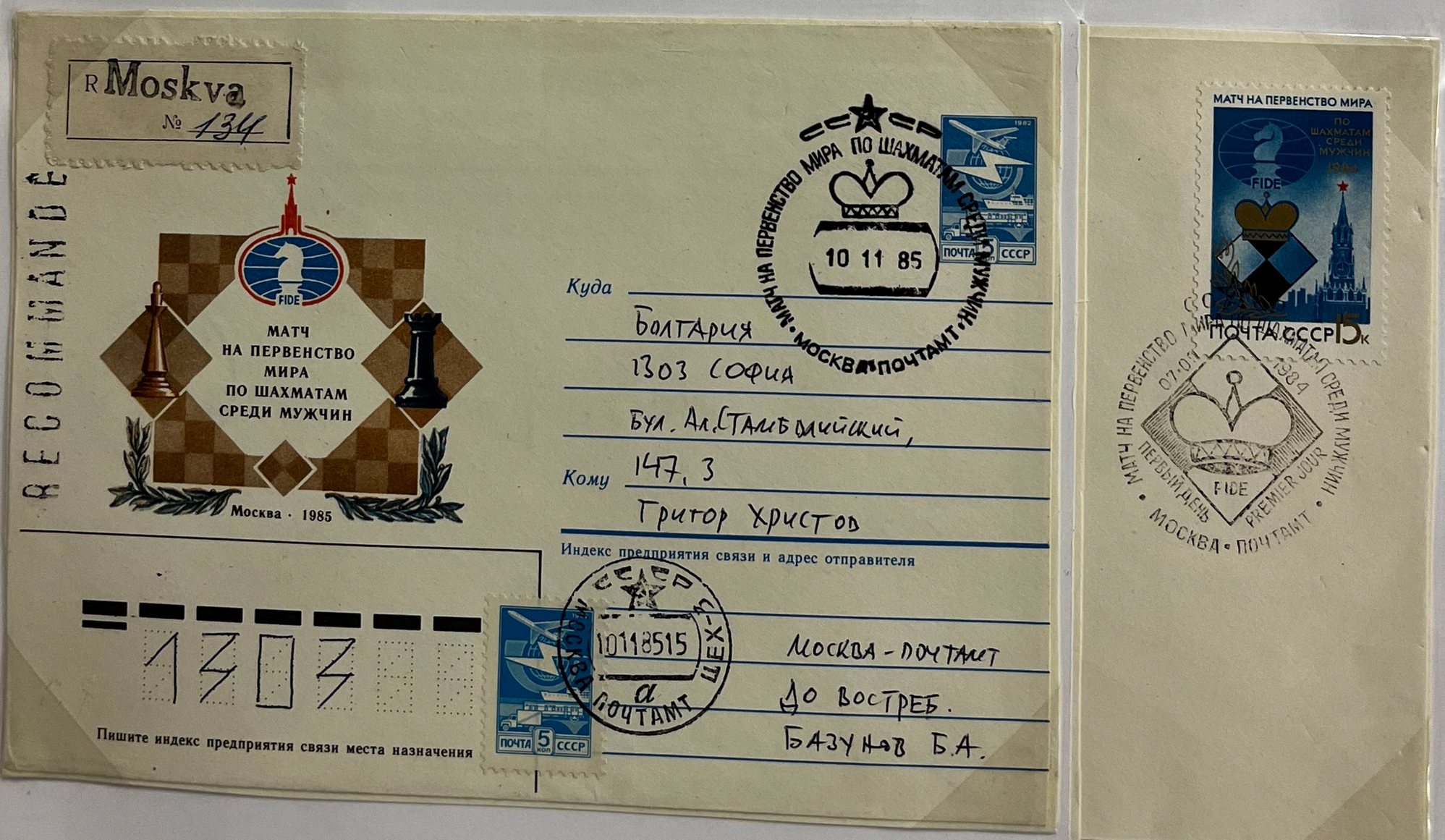


A King, heading his army in a deadly combat.





The King is the only piece which never changed as always the King was there, but always reflected the time and place he belonged to.



The King is always referred to by his crown symbol.

2. THE GAME

2.2. The Pieces (The Queen)





The troops of the ancient Indian army were led on to the chess board by the King and his chief minister the Vizier. in the west the design changed to reflect The society of Medieval Europe and the Vizier became the Queen making it the most powerful piece.





A medieval age Queen, a standard modern Queen and 18th century Queen.



The Queen is always referred to by her crown symbol.

2. THE GAME

2.2. The Pieces (The Rook)





The Rook is a major piece and the strongest after the Queen.



Medieval crusade style Rook.



Modern style Rook and 18th century Castle.



Europe in the medieval time replaced the old Indian Chariot with the Rook or Castle.

2. THE GAME

2.2. The Pieces (The Bishop)



This is the printing symbol of the Bishop as used in the chess publications.



The elephant was used by the ancient Indian army.



Europe in the medieval age replaced the elephant of the ancient Indian Army by the Bishop, which reflects the European society.



The Bishop is a minor piece, which is roughly equal to the strength of the Knight.



This is the standard modern Bishop used in tournaments .

2. THE GAME
2.2. The Pieces (The Knight)



This is the standard modern Knight used in Tournaments





The Cavalry of the Indian army was replaced by the Knight



The Knight is a minor piece and roughly is equal in strength to Bishop.

2. THE GAME

2.2. The Pieces (The Pawn)



The Pawns represented the foot soldiers of the ancient Indian army.





This is the modern standard Pawn used in Tournaments.



Each player has eight Pawns at beginning of the game.



Pawns are the least powerful pieces on the chess board.

2. THE GAME

2.3. The Moves



The King can travel in any direction one square at a time, capturing in the same way.



The Bishop moves diagonally, and can travel any number of squares along one diagonal each move until blocked by another piece.





The Rook can move any number of squares in a straight line vertically or horizontally, (along a rank or file).





The Knight's move is L-shaped and it can move in any direction. The Knight is the only chess piece that can jump over other pieces.

2. THE GAME

2.3. The Moves





The Queen is the most powerful piece in the chess set, because it can move any number of squares in eight different directions.





Pawns can move forward only one square at a time. They can not move backward or sideways, unless taking another piece.

3. THE PLAYERS

3.1. Amateurs



Chess seems to possess the perfect blend of strategy and tactics, which acquired a universal appeal.

Until the present century, chess was regarded primarily as a game for the wealthy and leisured classes in society. Today chess has a much boarder appeal and is played by millions of people throughout the world.





Chess is the national sport in Russia where chess boards can be found in public parks.

3. THE PLAYERS

3.2. Champions



Wilhelm Steinitz (1836 - 1900) the first official world chess champion from 1886 - 1894 Steinitz was born in Prague and studied in Vienna. He won the title in 1886 after defeating Adolf Anderssen.





Emmanuel Lasker (1868 - 1941) a German became the world champion in 1894 after defeating Steinitz and held the title of the world champion for a record 27 years.

Jose Capablanca (1888-1942) a Cuban with a great natural talent who defeated Lasker in 1921 and kept the title till 1927.



3. THE PLAYERS

3.2. Champions

After studying in the United States, Capablanca went to England in 1919 and won the Hasting tournament, and two years later took the world title from Lasker.



Capablanca revealed that he learned the chess at the age of four by watching his father playing.



There are several tournaments played regularly in Memorial of Capablanca.



3. THE PLAYERS

3.2. Champions

Alexander Alekhine (1892 - 1946) Alekhine won the title in 1927 and successfully defended it till 1935 when he was defeated by Max Euwe who held the title for 2 years before Alekhine won it back again and kept it till his death nine year later.



Alekhine won the first Soviet championship in 1920 and the following year he migrated to Switzerland and later settling in Paris.





Several Tournaments were held in memoriam of Alekhine.

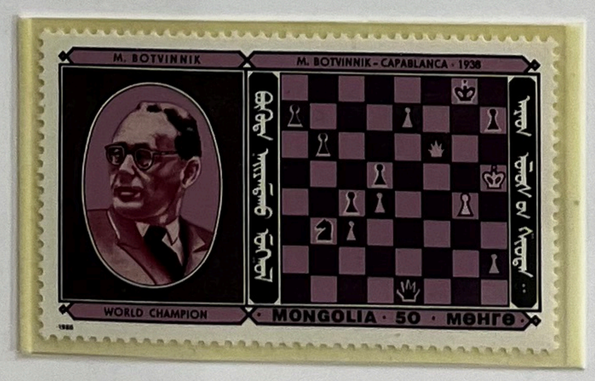
3. THE PLAYERS

3.2. Champions



- **Max Euwe (1901 - 1981) Euwe was taught to play chess at the age of Four by his mother. He was a mathematician as well as world champion. He won the title from Alekhine in 1935 and lost to him in a revenge match in 1937.**

- **Mikhail Botvinnik (1911 - 1994) After Alekhine death in 1946, The world championship left vacant.**



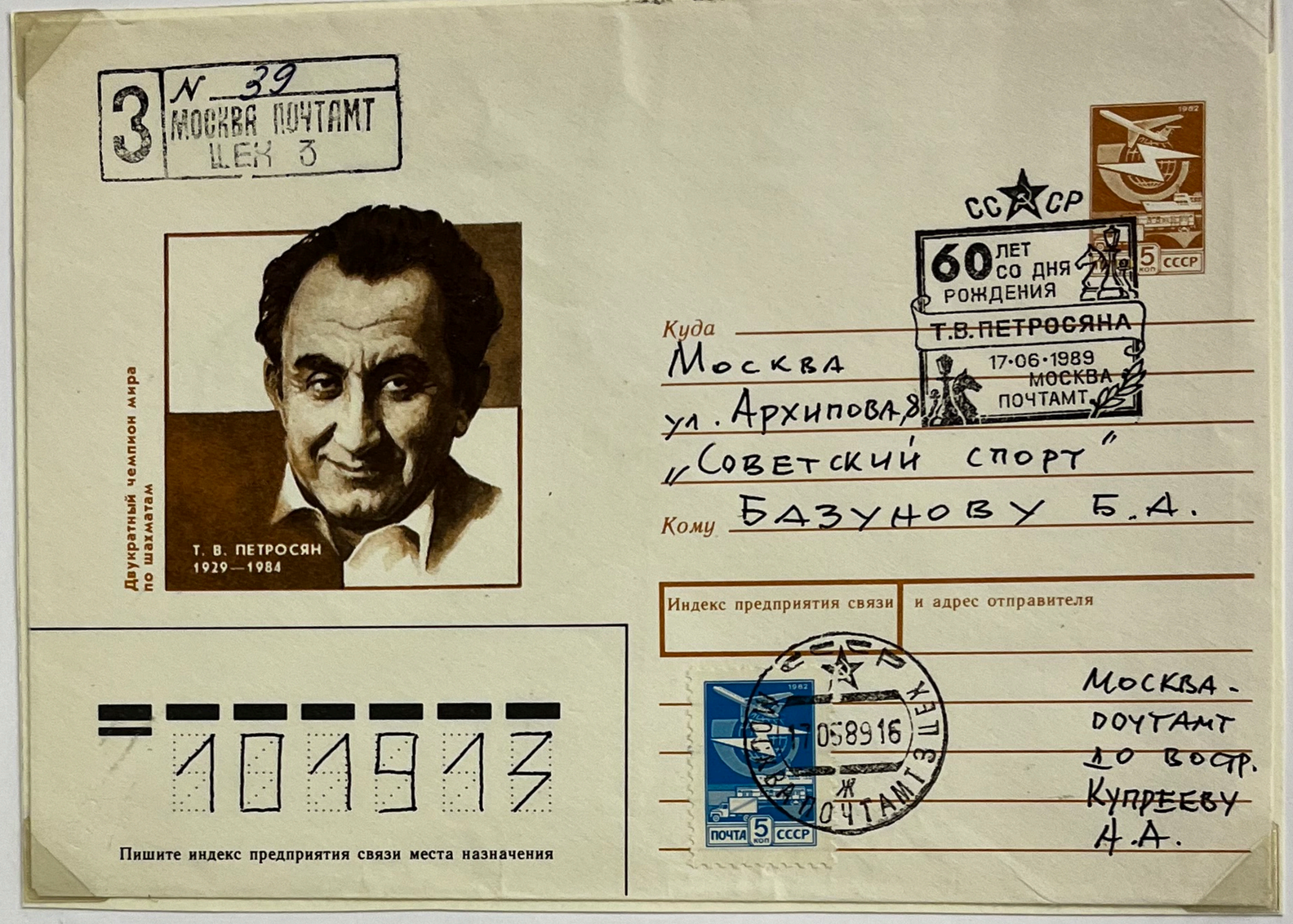
The FIDE selected four grand masters to compete for the title but Botvinnik won overwhelmingly.

- **Vassily Smyslov (1921 -) Smyslov was the world champion for one year only (1957 - 1958) and was the first player to defeat Botvinnik in a title match but Botvinnik regained his title the next year.**

- **Mikhail Tal (1936 - 1996) Tal won the title in 1960 to became the youngest champion in history till that time, but he lost the title to Botvinnik the next year.**

3. THE PLAYERS
3.2. Champions

Tigran Petrosian (1929- 1984) An Armenian born in Tiblisi the capital of Georgia. Won the title in 1963 after defeating Botvinnik and kept it till 1969.





Boris Spassky (1937 -) Spassky was born in Leningrad. He won the world junior championship in 1961 and the world title in 1969.



Petrosian successfully defended this title against Spassky in 1966 but he lost to him in 1969.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.3. World Championships

Botvinnik lost his title to Mikhail Tal in their match held in Moscow in December 1960 making Tal the youngest world champion in history at that time.



Botvinnik managed to regain his title in a revenge match against Tal held in Moscow from 13 March to 12 May 1961.



1. HISTORY

1.1. Origins





Chess is one of the world's oldest war games, it was invented in India sometime before AD600, and the original pieces were based on the infantry, cavalry elephants, chariots of the ancient Indian army. These troops were led on to the chess board by the king and his chief minister, the Vizier.



From India, chess spread to central Asia, China, Persia and the rest of the Arab world before reaching Europe in the 11th century.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.1. National



Many countries worldwide celebrates a national youth festival where the chess is a main activity.

In the Spring Festival in Budapest (Hungary), the chess competition is a traditional contest.





Most countries commemorate their national championships, as George Kieninger was the winner in 1947 West Germany championship held from 10 to 13 August 1947.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.4. Olympiads

The difference between world championship and Olympiads is that the championship is between individuals while Olympiads are among countries.





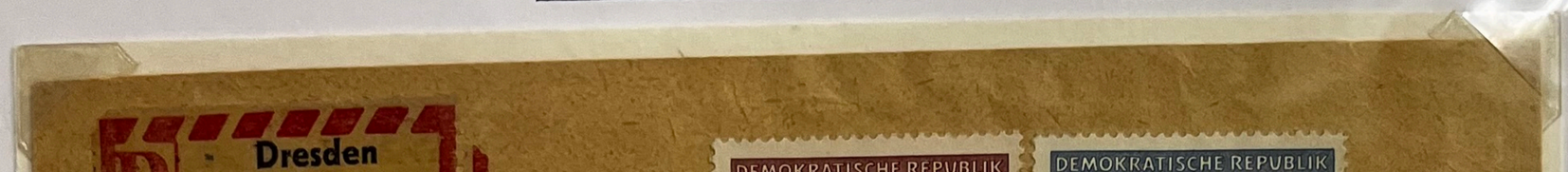
The first Olympiad, which was commemorated by an issue of stamps, was the 9th Olympiad held in Dubrovnik Yugoslavia from 20th August till 9th September 1950 and won by Yugoslavia.



Each country has 4 players to play at one table numbered from 1 to 4 against players from another country.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.4. Olympiads



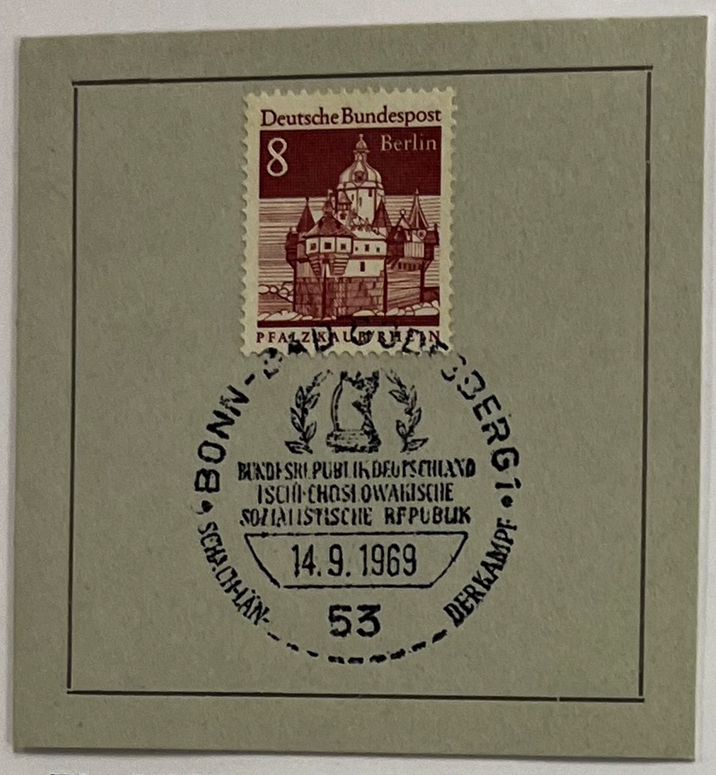
With the presence of several world champions (Botvinnik, Tal, Petrosian, and Paul Keres) USSR was the champion of the 14th Olympiad held in Leipzig, East Germany from 16th October to 9th November 1960.



Once more with the most powerful team of world champions, USSR easily managed to secure the first place in the 15th Olympiad held in Varna Bulgaria from 15th September till 10th October 1962.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.4. Olympiads





The USSR dominated all Olympiads in the sixties with his team of world champions (Botvinnik, Tal, Petrosian and Spassky) who won the 16th chess Olympiad held in Tel Aviv from 2 to 25 February 1964.



In 1964 Korchnoi replaced Botvinnik in the USSR team, who maintained their winnings of the Olympiads by adding the 17th chess Olympiad to their victory list.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.4. Olympiads







The 17th Olympiad held in Havana, Cuba from 25th October till 19th November 1966 and won by the USSR.



The 18th chess Olympiad was held in Lugano, Switzerland from 17th October till 7th November 1968 and won by the USSR who were represented by (Petrosian, Spassky, Korchnoi, Geller, and Smyslov).

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.4. Olympiads

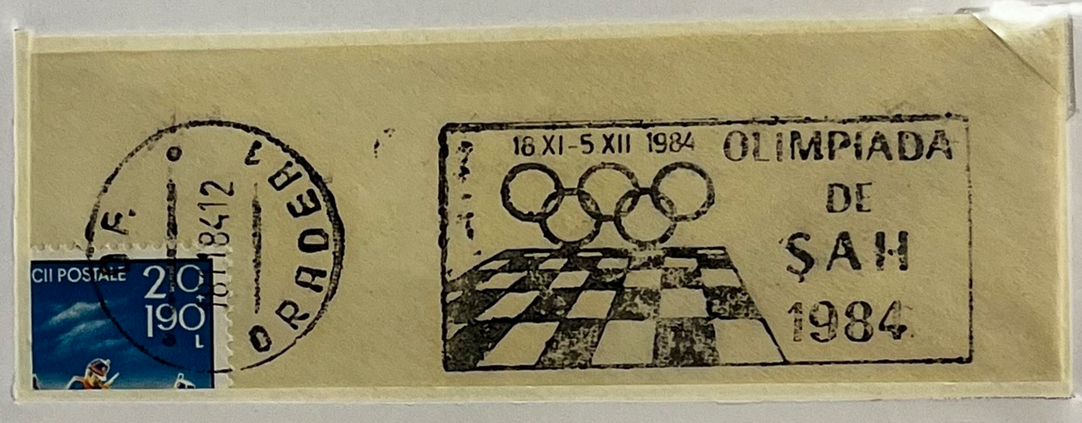
The 20th chess Olympiad that was held from 18th September till 13th October 1972 was attended for the first time by the young rising star Karpov who helped the USSR to maintain their winning march.

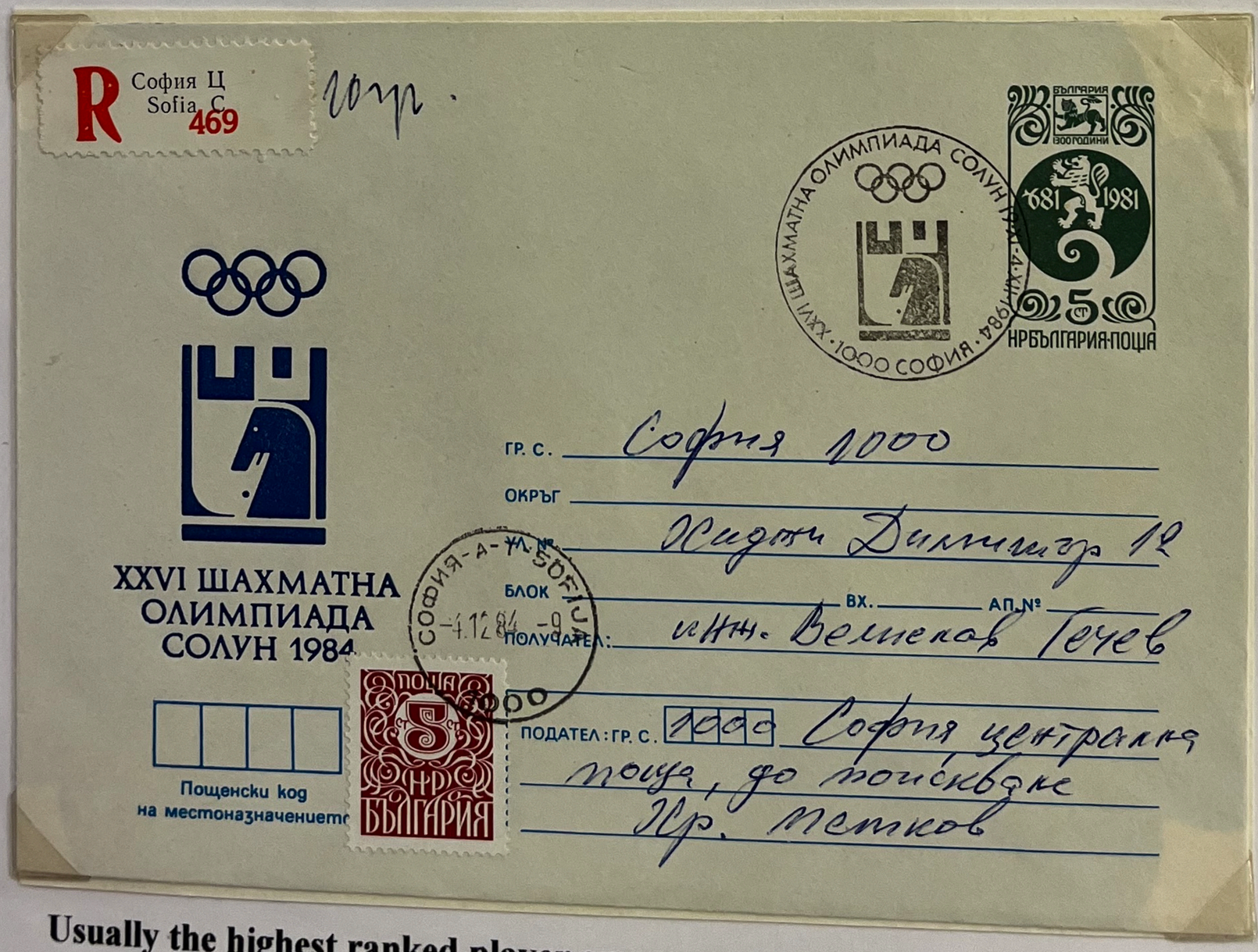






Some times the mediocre countries in chess place their strongest player on table number four in order to meet the weakest player of the other team in order to secure at least a win from this table.



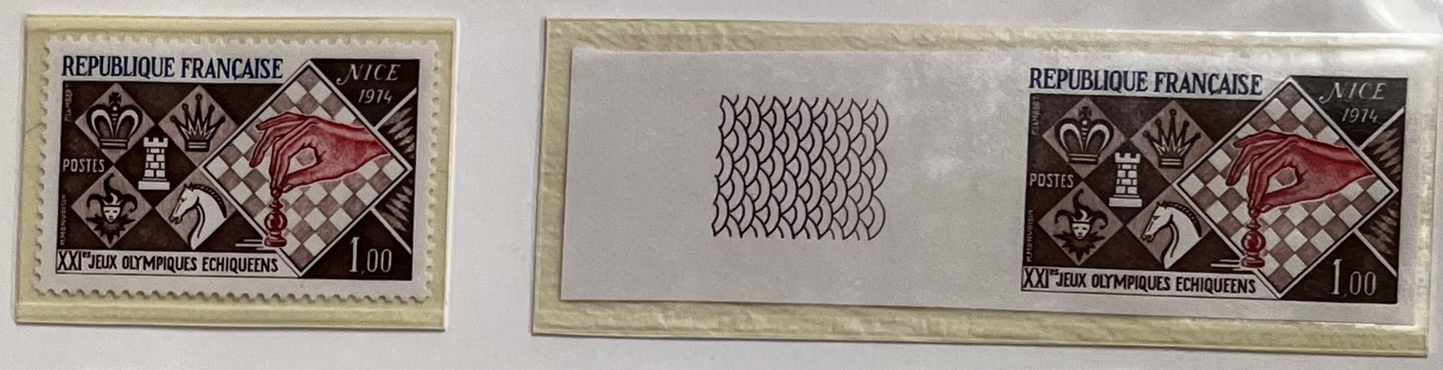


Usually the highest ranked player among every team sits on table number one at every Olympiad.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.4. Olympiads

The 21st chess Olympiad held in Nice France from 6th to 30th June 1974 and won by USSR.



Along with the ceremonial event of the chess Olympiad some times another chess tournaments take place at the same time, like the female team championship.



Many activities take place during chess Olympiad like exhibitions for chess boards and artistic pieces like the exhibition took place in Dubai during the 1986 Olympiad.



4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.4. Olympiads





The 23rd chess Olympiad that held in Buenos Aires Argentina from 25th October till 12th November 1978 is always remembered with the Hungarian Victory, securing the first place ahead of the Soviet Union and breaking his monopoly.



The USSR maintained the monopoly later by winning the rest of the Olympiads held in Greece and Yugoslavia.

4. THE COMPETITIONS

4.4. Olympiads



**The 27th chess Olympiad held in Dubai from 14th October till 2nd December 1986 and won by USSR.
The Olympiad was attended by unprecedented number of participating countries till that time reached 102 countries.**



The USSR sent for the first time Kasparov and Karpov together with Kasparov playing on table number one after defeating Karpov in the world title.

5. THE ORGANIZATIONS

5.1. Local





Clubs are the first step to organize the activities of the chess game. They are almost available in every city and town world wide.

Clubs are mandatory for every chess player who seeks to improve his playing standard, since certain formalities must be followed while playing at clubs which are quite different from playing with friends at home.

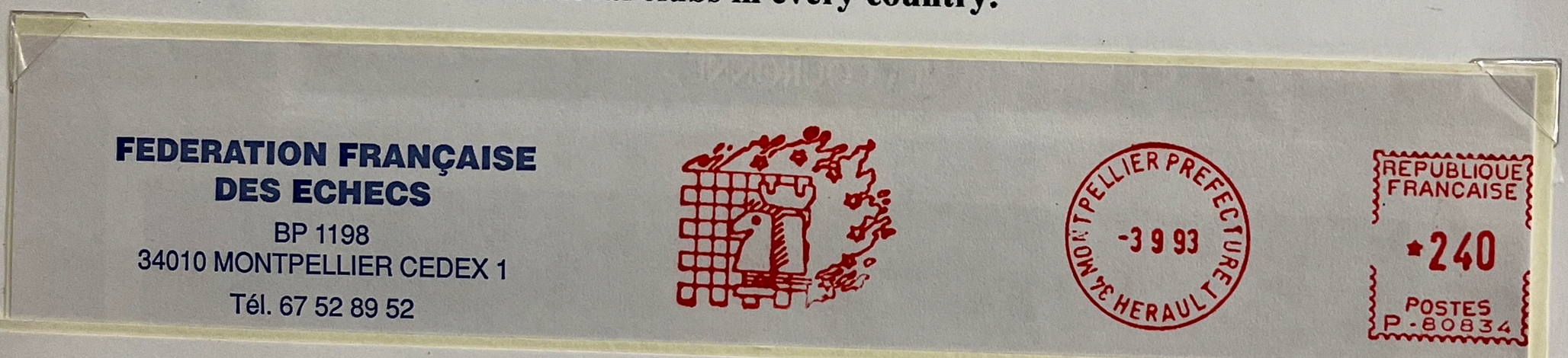


5. THE ORGANIZATIONS

5.2. National



The national federation supervises and coordinates the activities of the local clubs in every country.



Every country has its own national federation to organize the national championships and tournaments.





Every national federation must be a member of the international chess federation, in order to participate in the international championships.

5. THE ORGANIZATIONS

5.3. International







FIDE (Federation Internationale Des Echess) (International chess federation) founded in Paris in 1924.



FIDE is the world's governing body for chess, and the organization that determines the rules for the game and controls world championship events.

5. THE ORGANIZATIONS

5.3. International





Fide controls the awarding of titles such as international master and international grand master.



In 1946 the FIDE was involved for the first time since its foundation in 1924 in organizing a world championship competition after the death of the world champion Alekhine.

5. THE ORGANIZATIONS

5.3. International





In 1963 when Petrosian defeated Botvinnik, FIDE for the first time had removed the champion's right of a revenge match, and Botvinnik did not again attempt to qualify for world title contest.



A Polgár lányok
20. alkalommal elsők
a világranglistán

FIDE - World Rating Lists
Budapest, 1997. február 28.

Since 1963, The rule of revenge match was once only given exclusively by FIDE to Karpov in 1986 after his defeat by Kasparov.

5. THE ORGANIZATIONS

5.3. International





On the 20th of July 1974, FIDE (international chess federation) celebrated its 50th anniversary.





FIDE like other federations has a president, various committees and a congress. The most famous FIDE president was Florencio Campomanes from Philippine who was a personal friend to the world champion Karpov.

5. THE ORGANIZATIONS

5.3. International





FIDE issues an annual list of rating for all the registered players according to their annual performance. Kasparov was the first player in history to exceed the 2800 rating.



When Kasparov rebelled the rules of FIDE he was deprived from his throne which awarded to Karpov, and for the first time in history there were two world champions at same time, one is recognized by FIDE and the other is not.

5. THE ORGANIZATIONS

5.3. International

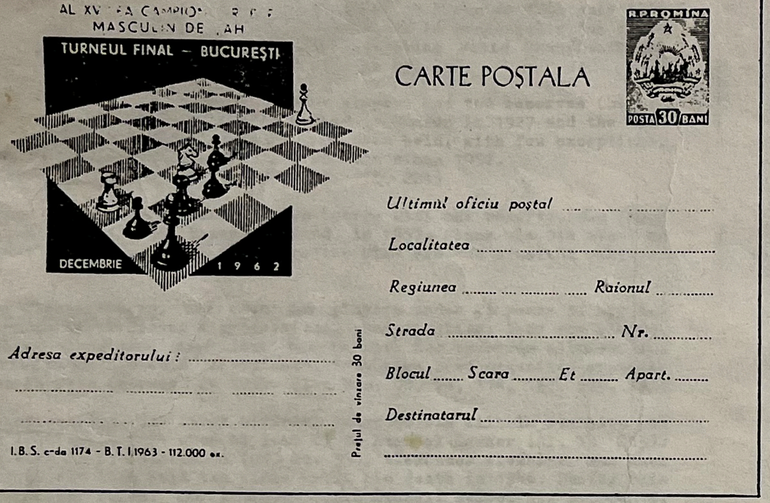




PCA is the (Professional Chess Association), that was founded in 1993 by Kasparov after he broke away with FIDE along with the English grand master Nigel Short to play their own world title. In the wake of that FIDE deprived Kasparov from his title and gave it to Karpov.



In 1995 Kasparov defended his PCA title against the Indian grand master Anand, and won the match convincingly.

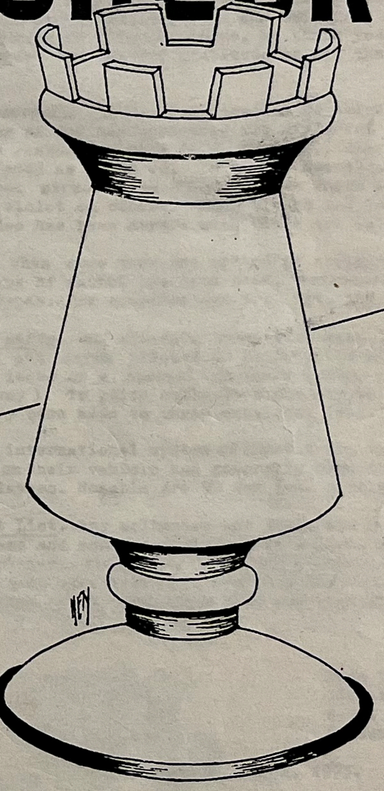


No. 98 B, see page 10



CHECKMATE

Part 1
1923-1968





A CATALOGUE OF PHILATELIC ITEMS WITH CHESS CONNECTION