Wo Was Chess Bulletin Supplement with no is:

CHESS COLUMNS IN THE UNITED STATES

(Written by DR: ALBRECHT BUSCHKE for the WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN)

In the last issue of "The Chess Monthly," May, 1861, appeared a list of diess coltumns published in America up to that date. Under the title, "The American Chess Colonade." the famous editor of this magazine, one of the most scholarly men of his profession, Daniel W. Fiske, compiled this admirable list of 85 periodicals carrying chess columns. In the introductory words, he pointed out that the "man who shall write the next chess bibliography will be obliged to deal much more largely with newspapers than his predecessors have done."

Since then, some of the most prominent writers in the field of chess have devoted time and labor to compiling lists of chess columns, among them no lesser luminaries than Alain C. White, J. G. White and H. J. R. Murray.

COLUMN LISTINGS YELP CHESS HISTORIANS

Mr Fisko did not claim that his "American Chess Colonnade" was complete or up-to date but, however that may be, there can be drawn fory interesting conclusions from the list he was able to publish in 1861, and the list has already made it possible for chess historians to discover facts of local chess history not accessible except in these chess columns. He mentioned at the end of his list of 87 titles (including two chess magazines which he listed only reluctantly) that of the 85 chess columns proper, he believed only 11 were still in existence.

So we notice that at the beginning of the Civil War therewas a dissapearance of most of the columns published up to that time in the United States, and especially those that had sprung up in the years immediately preceding the war: that is, at the time of the triumphs of Paul Morphy.

In going through the list, one finds that of these 11 chess columns then bolieved to be still in existence, eight were published in New York City, one in Brooklyn one in Boston, and one in Philadelphia. Of the eight columns published in New York City, one was in a German language newspaper. Considering the fact that the 85 titles mentioned by Fiske included also four columns published in Havana and one published in Canada, it is interesting to note that of the remaining 80, only il continued publication at the outbreak of the Civil War, and that of these 11, only two were published outside of New York—one in Massachusetts and one in Pennsylvania. The original list of 80 published in the U.S. showed the following states represented:

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One German language paper each in Missouri and Mississippi is included.

Of these 29 columns, 25 were published in New York City (22 in English, three in German); Brooklyn, Syracuse, Schenectady and Geneva Falls had one column each.

So the picture shows about two-thirds of the 34 states then in the Union were reptesented in the dist. It is of interest to compare this with the picture of the presont distribution of chess columns in the United States. (See Tables A. B and Cat the end of this article.)

There are no data of similar dependability available for the period between 1361 and the present time. It goes without saying that in this period of more than 85 years, chess columns sprang up in many American papers and disappeared again—some of them of no importance at all, some excellent examples of what a good chess column should be. Among the most famous editors of chess columns was Sam Loyd who, for a comparatively short time, dited a column in the supplement of the Scientific American in 1878 (and several others, usually short-lived). His column occupied a whole page in the Scientific American supplement, featured a portrait and a biography of a chess player, in every number and, of course, contained a good deal of problem materability as well as general chess articles. Some of the chess columns published shortly before the outbreak of the first World War were really elaborate weekly chess magazines with contributions from famous problemists such as Alain C. White, who wrote some of his most important problem articles for the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times and other papers.

Abin Govern Sweething South Lead Support

In 1905 or 1907 Alain C. White published a provisional list of chess columns in the "Norwich Mercury," an English newspaper whose chess column was conducted for many years in a very able fashion by John Keeble. This list of columns was, of course, not devoted exclusively to American papers but included all columns all over the world that had come to Mr. White's knowledge.

This list is the main source for another and much more extensive list compiled in 1933 by H. J. R. Murray, the greatest historian of the game of chess. Mr. White's list was arranged by countries; Mr. Murray's list (of which only four or five type-written copiesære in existence) is arranged alphabetically and its perusal has been notes somewhat difficult by the arrangement chosen, namely to enter the titles of the newspapers always under the main noun, usually the final word in the title, though not always. Thus, the London Times and the New York Times would both be listed under the word, "Times." Only an index supplied for one or two copies of this otherwise admirable list makes it possible to find chess columns published in certain countries. Or places, and edited by certain personalities.

HOW MANY COLUMNS IN THE WHOLE WORLD?

Under the circumstances, the following deduction drawn from Mr. Murray's list has to be taken with the understanding that it was arrived at only after considerable shuffling of the data given in his list; and while the greatest care has been taken to exclude errors, a really complete or correct survey cannot, at the present time, be guaranteed. So much, however, can be stated with a degree of accuracy: Of the altogether abut 1,900 columns given by Mr. Murray for all countries, slightly more than 400 are listed as published in the United States, including four unidentified columns and two published in Hawaii. This would mean that roughly 20 per cent of all the chess columns whose existence had been known to Mr. Murray for the period covered by his survey - that is, about 1823-1933 -- were published in the United States. Some of these columns. of course, were of very brief existence; some of them were published in outof-the-way places; but the figure of 20 per cent shown by a survey of almost 2,000 columns published in more than a century might be taken as a measure of the relation between the number of chess columns bublished in the U.S. and the number in other parts of the world. We will show later (Table C) that only about 20 chess columns ere being published in the United States and we wonder whether at presentnet more than 100 are being published all over the world. We are now receiving regularly some

39 solumn from foreign countries -- Argentina, Australia, Austria, Delguum, Drazil, Lire, England (25 from this country), India, Northern Ireland, Palestine and Scotland -- Dut our list, we suspect, is by no means complete. Canada has one column.

In going over Mr Murray's list, we notice the following states are not represente at all:

Utah North Carolina Montana Arizona Virginia North Dakota Arkansas Nevada West Virginia Oklahoma New Hampshire Florida Wyoming New Mexico South Dakota Idaho Maine

We are pleased to say that at least five of these states—Arizons. North Caroline, South Dakota, Virginia and West Virginia—may be taken out of the list of states which have never had a chess column.

Amound 1941 a nice and amusing these column was published in the Arizona Delily Star of Tucson. This was conducted by 0. W. Manney and contained, besides diese jokes, problems and games, biographies of these masters. Unfortunately, this column seems to have been discontinued about May 10, 1942.

TWO COLUMNS INWEST VIRGINIA

In West Virginia a chess column put in an appearance between 1932 and 1944. It was The Chessboard, "in the Charleston Daily Mail, was founded in 1932 by Milce Wren, an was taken overfrom him several months later by Walt Crede, who conducted it ably thereafter. This column was written in a conversational manner. Not many games were published and only occasionally was a chess problem found in it, but local diess news treated in an entertaining and attractive way.

William Challinor conducted a column, "Chess," in the Sunday Exponent-Telegram at Clarksburg, W.Va., from Oct.27, 1940, through September, 1941, when it was abandoned due to space limitations. It was a different sort of column, full of chess fantasy, as well as fact, and featured also local chess news and an occasional brief game from master play.

For a short time we found regular weekly feature of a chess problem by two ameteurs in the Arlington (Va.) Chronicle. The problems may not have reached the highest standards of this art, but the very unusual fact about this column, which started in September, 1942, and continued about two years, was that the type for the chess diagrams was made by hand by the editor, Earle huters baugh.

GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI IN SOUTH DAKOTA

For a time in 1946, World Elindfold Chessmaster George Koltanowski conducted a column in a Yankton, S.D., daily newspaper, containing, besides local chess news, many sprightly reminiscences of Kolty's career, both in America and on the continent. There is definite proof also of the publication of a column in North Carolina but details are not yet available.

In looking brough the various listings, it is evident that, to the best of present knowledge, certain other of the 31 states represented have not had more than one or two chess columns in the 102-year period covered. Among these are Alabama 2, Delaware 1, Indiana 2, Kansas 1, Mississippi 2, Oregon 1, Rhode Island 2, Vermont 2, Washington 1. On the other hand, this seeming lack of interest in some of the states will appear much less of a surprise if we consider that except for the state of New York; which is listed with at least 129 columns (nearly one-third as many as Mir. Mirray listed for the entire U.S.), there is only Pennsylvania listed with more than 20 columns for the whole period. The list for Pennsylvania comprises 40 titles, of which 22 were published in Philadelphia, six in Pittsburgh, and the rest in other parts of the state.

The 129 or more columns for New York state are made up of 94 for Manhattan; 12 for Brooklyn (includes Flathush and Williamsburgh); four for Staten Island, and 19 for places in upstate New York. Not even in New Jersey do we find more than 14 columns.

isted, and the states of Massachusetts and Missouri are shown with twenty choss colirus each of which 11 were published in Boston and 10 in St. Louis. Seventeen chess Columns are listed for Illinois, of which 14 were published in Chicago; and 15 for Chio, with nine in Cincinnati and only three in Cheveland. In Maryland, with all together 14 columns, 12 are listed for Baltimore. In Michigan, which had 13 columns, all but five were published in Detroit.

This servey of more than 400 columns listed by Mr. Murray and others for more than 100 years shows that in all this time the local interest inchess could not be made clear enough to the publishers and the managing editors of the local newspapers. Only Only in a few cases, where some enthusiastic mateur, perhaps with the cooperation of his friends, was able to present a convincing argument that a newspaper's readers wanted chess news, was it possible to start such a feature outside of New York of Rennsylvania. Typical is Kentucky, where in the eighties and particularly in the nineties, one after another column sprang up—usually conducted by Will H. Lyons, a dealer in chess books and an ardent chess fan.

ELBERT WAGNER'S COLUMN IN CHICAGO

It seems to be particularly significant that in a state of the importance and size of Illinois it has never been possible to find more interest in chess, and that is probably the easy explanation for the present lack of a chess column in the whole, state. A few years back, however, a column was conducted in the Chicago Sun, for a very short time, by Mr. Elbert A. Wagner, Jr., president of the United States Chess Federation. Mr. Wagner had to discontinue his column on account of the paper short-age.

The list of chess columns has here been considered mainly from a geographical point of view. It is also possible to dissect it chronologically and this can afford a very interesting study. A table of the distribution of chess columns in the United States, by five-year intervals, is attached to this article (Table A).

Coming to the present time, it will not be surprising to learn that in all the United States only about 20 columns can be counted. A geographical survey shows six of these columns published in the state of New York (four of them in New York City) and Brooklyn) and four in the state of Massachusetts (three in Boston). These 10 make up half the list; the rest are scattered about the country. Minnesota with three columns, two of them in Weekly papers, is the only other state which has more than two. Elsewhere in the Middle West only Cleveland and Milwaukee have columns; one each, and there is none at all in the state of Michigan. (A new listing gives California 3.—Ed.)

CLUB BULLETINS SEAN AS SOURCE MATERIAL"

A list of the columns actually being published in the United States at present and believed to be "almost" complete has been prepared by Gene Collett and is given herewith as Table C. It is our conviction that the lack of chess columns in newspapers at some important places has made it desirable, or even necessary, for the chess-low-ing public to express itself in another form; and that this means to be the justification for the many local chess dub bulletins which have sprung up in recent years, particularly in the Eastern States and in the Middle West.

Because of the lack of complete coverage of local chess for many decades, it is extremely difficult for a chess historian to write a history of American chess. It is hoped that as long as the newspapers underestimate or fail to comprehend the importance of this favorite recreation and continue to close their columns to one of the world's oldest games, this source material for a future historian of American chess will be preserved at least insuch local chess club bulletins.

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The above figures are based on the H.J.R. Murray 1933 list; plus data collected by Dr. A. Buschie and Gene Collect. The table is purely tentative and makes no pretense of being exhaustive. It is particularly weak in the current century. Research is now under way to improve the listings. Persons with knowledge of columns which apparent-ly are not included should write to Gene Collett, 125 Meritt Ave., Pittsbirgh 27, Pa. (Memo: One paper bearing datelines both for Elmira, N. Y., and Williamsport, Pa.,

is listed under both states above, but is not included in the five-year totals more than once . Its occurrence is confined to the 1881 485 and 1896

AND BEFORE OF THE MULBER OF THE STATES AND OFFICES

This list, like Table A, does not cover the field as well as we could wish, or as well as we hope some day to cover it. It supplements Table A by showing which cities have published how many chess columns in the period 1845-1947 and thus will give potential helpers in our research further clues to geographical distribution.

- S Managin impi B ALARAMA S
- ARIZONA Tucson.
- 13 CALIFORNIA -- Long Beach, Los Angeles 6, Sacramento, San Francisco 5,
- 3 COLORADO -- Denver 3.
- II CONKECTICUT -Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford 3, Meriden, New Haven, Winsted, Wolfcottsville 2, Norwich.
 - L DELAWARE -- Wilmington.
- A DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA -- Washington 4.
- GEORGIA -- Atlanta 2, Augusta, Macon.
- 14 TLLINOIS -Auburn, Chicago 15, Quincy, Rockford.
- INDIANA -- Indianopolis.
- DIOWA Davenport, Des Moines 2, DuBuque 2.
- KANSAS--Durela.
- 14 KWNTUGET-Covington, Lexington, Louisville 8, Newport 4.
 - LOUISTANA-New Orleans 7.
- MARYLAND -- Baltimore 12. Trederick 2.
- 20 MASSACHUSETTS Attleboro, Boston 11, Brockton, Holyoke, Lowell, Lynn, Newton 2, Pittsfield, Springfield.
- 13 MICHIGAN-Bay City, Detroit 8, Kalemazoo, Mt. Clemens, Muskegon, Pontiac.
 - 9 MINUESCTA Minneapolis 3, St. Paul 3, Stillwater, White Bear, Winons.
- MISSISSIPPI--Vicksburg 2.
- 20 MISSOURI Arcadia, Columbia, Hannibal 4, Kansas City, Kirksville, St. Louis 10; Springfield 2.
 - 4 NEBRASKA Lincoln 2, Omaha 2.
- 14 NEW JERSEY Bayonne, Bergenfield, Elizabeth, Hoboken, Newark 3, Oakhurst, Passaic, Paterson 2, Plainfield, Rutherford, Vineland.
- 129 NEW YORK Albany, Brooklyn 12, Buffalo 4, Elmira 2, Kingston, Middletown, New York City 94, Ossining, Peekskill, Rochester, Schenectady, Seneca Falls. South Falls burg 2, Staten Island 4, Syracuse 2, Water town.
 - I NORTH CAROLINA (name of town not available).
- 15 OHIO-Climati 9, Cleveland 3, Toledo 2, Youngstown.
- LOREGON-Albany.
- 40 PENNSYLVANIA -- Butler, Harrisburg, Morristown, Philadelphia 22, Pittsburgh 6, Pottsville 2, Scranton, Tunkhannock, Wilkes-Barrs 3, Williamsport 2.
- 2 RHODE ISLAND-Providence 2.
- 10 SOUTH CARCLINA -- Camden, Charleston 5, Columbia 3, Greenville.
- 1 SOUTH DAKOTA -- Yankton.
- 3 TENUESCEE Nashville 3.
- 5 TEXAS -- Dallas, Galveston 2, Houston 2, San Antonio.
- 2 VIRGINIA Arlington 2.
- 1 WASHINGTON -Seattle.
- 14 WISCONSIN-Fond du Lac, Milwaukee 13.
- 2 WEST VIRGINIA -- Charleston, Clarksburg.
- S HAWAII -- Honolulu S.

CHAND TOTAL FOR THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES -410 columns.

One paper, "The Board," published 1885-87, carried datelines for both Minira. N. Y., and Williamsport, Pa. In the listings above, the paper is shown under both states, but it is counted only once in the grand total.

TABLE C-CHESS COLUMNS NOW BEING PUBLISHED IN THE U.S. (AS OF NOVEMBER) 30, 1947)

In the December, 1945, issue of the West Virginia Chess Bulletin was published a list of 17 current chess columns, to which should have been added Dr.R.H.Kulns column the Mercury (Jos Angeles), included in our new listing, and Marvin Gilbert's in the Brockton (Mass.) Daily Enterprise, founded in November, 1944, and suspended in Sept ember, 1947. Three other columns also have been dropped—by the Milwaukee Septimel the Schenectady Union-Star and the Washington Post. The Post column was edited by WVCA Member Willard Mutchler, whose untimely death occurred last Jan. 7 in his home a Washington, George Koltanowski also edited a column for a short time in 1946 in a Yankton, S.D., newspaper.

The present list includes 23 columns, indicating that seven new ones; founded in the last two years, are still publishing. These appear in the Sullivan County (N.Y.) Evening News and its weekly edition, the Sullivan County Republican; the World in Books, a monthly magazine published at Boston; the White Bear Press and the Still water Post-Messenger, both in Minnesota; the Houston Chronicle; and the Home News, published at Oakhurst, N. J.

CALIFORNIA-

TOS ANGELES TIMES: Chess column founded about 1927 (reports the presente ditor: the H.J.R.Murray list shows the column to have been published at least as early as 1931) by Clifford Sherwood, and taken over from him July 9, 1933, by the current editor, Herman Steiner, 108 No. Formosa Ave., Los Angeles 36. Calif. Appears Sundays:

MERCURY (Los Angeles): We do not have the name of the founder of this column, but lished in a monthly magazine issued for the Los Angeles Athletic club, Hollywood Athletic club, Pacific Coast club (Long Beach), Santa Monica Deauville club, Wilmington Yacht club, Sacramento Gun club and Riviera Country club, with a circulation of over 10,000. It is now edited by Dr.R.H.Kuhns, 1256 W.7th St., Los Angeles 14, Califi, who took over in 1941.

SACRAMENTO UNION: Founded May 8, 1943, by the present editor, J.B.Gee, 5425 might Ave., Sacramento, 17, Calif. Carries the column head, "Chess." Sundays.

KENTUCKY--

COURTER-JOURNAL (Louisville): Founded Oct.28, 1945, by the present editor, Merrill Dowden, Indiana Editor, Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky. "Chess." Thursdays. (Murray shows Lee M.Hopper had a column in the C.-J. from May 29, 1891, at least until 1899, Dowden writes that the C.-J. also had two chess columns between 1900 and 1945, edited by Crittenden Young and Richard Waters, but he does not have the exact dates.)

MASSA CHUSETTS-

ATTLEBORO SUN: Founded in October, 1935, by John B. Stenberg, turned over by him I April, 1938, to Hy Fine, who in turn surrendered it in April, 1947, to the present editor, Franklin D. Gustafson, 17 Hodges St., Attleboro, Mass. Tuesdays.

BOSTON HERALD: Founded Nov. 25, 1945, by the present editor, Waldo L. Waters, 99 Beacon St., Reading, Mass.; has appeared regularly except for a few weeks shortly after it started. Sundays. (Franklin K. Young conducted a column in the Herald from March 8, 1889, to March, 1896, --Murray.)

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (Boston): Founded Nov.19, 1918, by the late George Bab bitt and, since his death in September, 1929, handled by F.R.Chevaller, 90 Greystone road, Rockville Centre, N. Y. Saturdays.

WCHID IN BOOKS (Boston-monthly): Founded June, 1946, by the present aditor, Charles S. Jacobs, 5 Bacon St., Winchester, Mass.

MINNESOTA--

MINNEAPOLIS STAR: Founded in January, 1931, by F.S.Hazard (the paper was then known as the Journal and later as the Star-Journal) and taken over from him in 1932, and since edited, by O.A.Holt, 825 W.5th St., Willmar, Minn. "The Pawn Pusher." Fridays. (A predecessor of this column is reported by W.J.Nolting of St.Paul to have been taken over by C.Luber from N.H.Nelson in May, 1914; and Murray says Emmett Hamilton conducted a column in the Minneapolis Evening Journal from Dec. 24, 1892, to January, 1899, and possibly later.)

SUTILIVATUR POST-MESSUNGER (weekly): Tounded in mid-1946, edited by U.S.Smith Willernie: Minn. "Oless Charters" Fridays.

WHITTE BEAR PRESS (weekly): Founded early in 1946, edited by U.S.Smith, Willernie, Winn, "Play Chess." Fridays.

NEW DECKEY

HOME NEWS (Cakhurst, Weekly): founded early in 1946 by the present editor, Harry T. Conover, 220 Roosevelt Ave., Elberon, N. J. "On the Chessboard." Thursdays.

FINT PRY (O) TIKE

AUFBAU (New York City, German language): Edited by S.Birnbaum. We got no answer to letters sent to Aufbau but Dr.Buschke says this foftnightly column still appears.
BROOKLYN EAGLE: Founded Oct.15, 1893; by Hermann Helms, the present editor, 150
Nessau St., New York 7, N. I. Has appeared regularly except from 1908 to 1910 and parts of 1907 and 1911; during which period news stories about chess, used almost every day, were substituted. Thursdays. (Marray lists Henry Chadwick as editor of a dolumn in the Eagle from 1973-93; Helms tells, Chadwick had chess articles but no regular column.)

NEW YORK POST: Edited by H.Rawson Bigelow, who failed to meply to our questionnaire, at though Hermann Relms assures us the columnappears regularly, as it has for more than 20 years. The Post has had chess columns, at least a part of the time, since 1927.

NEW YORK SUN: Founded in 1890 by the late Hartwig Cassel, who continued as editor, unit I the column was taken over July 19, 1929, by the present editor, Hermann Helms, 150 Nassau Sti, New York 7, N.Y. Saturday is the formal publication date but since that February, the column has appeared almost daily, except Sundays.

SUBLIVAN COUNTY EVENING NEWS: Founded February, 1947, by Antonio C. Balducci, South Fallaburg, N. Y. Published during the "chess season" each year. Suspended last April

15 and resumed Nov. 18. "Sullivan County Chess News." Tuesdays.

SULLIVAN COUNTY REPUBLICAN (Weekly): Founded February, 1947, by Antonio C. Balducci, This is a reprint of the column in the Sullivan County Evening News. Thursdays,

0:10-

CLIVELAND PLAIN DEALER: Founded about 1917, reports the present editor, David Robb, in care of Cleveland Plain Dealer, Cleveland, O., who has handled the column since October, 1927. Writes Robb: "I have been unable to learn who founded our column. I succeeded lester Brand, who came here from Cincinnati. Before Brand, the chess and checker editor was Joseph Schmidt; and John T. Bradford, now in New York, was checker editor before Schmidt." "With Chess and Checker Players." Sundays.

PENNSYLVANIA-

THY HADELPHIA INQUIRER: Founded 1897 by Harry N. Pillsbury, who was still editor in 1906; taken over in 1907 by Walter Penn Shipley, and surrendered by him in 1942 to the present editor, Isaac Ash, 1636 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. "Chess and Checkers." Sundays.

RHODE ISLAND-12

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL: Founded 1907 by E.N. Casey who was still editor in 1932, later edited by Harold Morton, from whom the current editor, Walter B. Suesman, 237 Calclawn Ave., Cranston 9, R.I., took over in June, 1939, Tuesdays.

THIXAS---

HOUSTON CHRONICLE: Founded December, 1946, by the present editor, Clay E.Merchant, 1321 Melbourne St., Houston 9, Texas. "The Royal Game of Chess." Sundays.

NISOONSIN-

MILWAUKER JOURNAL: Founded in 1928 by Ernest Reel, who continued as editor until 1935; then taken over by Ernest Olfe, who turned the column over in October, 1943, to the present editor, Averill Powers, 187 North Jefferson Street, Milwaukee 2, Wisconsin, Sundeys.