

# Chess Life



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## National Chess Ratings

Ranking List No. 10 Shows Effect of Performances  
in Contests Held during the Year 1955

By KENNETH HARKNESS

USCF Rating Statistician

In this issue we publish the tenth national chess rating list. The players whose names appear in this list have competed in rated contests held during the calendar year 1955. With four exceptions, performances in tournaments ending after December 31st, 1955, were not included when computing the averages for the current list. (The four exceptions: the Rosenwald Trophy Tournament, the Tennessee Open Championship, the Greater Miami Championship, and the Natchitoches Chess Club Championship.)

Previously rated players who did not take part in 1955 tournaments or matches are considered inactive and their names are not published. (An exception is made in the case of inactive masters, for the reasons explained below.) Tournament directors who wish to find the latest ratings of inactive players should consult the previous lists, published in Chess Life as follows:

List No. 1	November 20, 1950.
List No. 2	March 5, 1951.
List No. 3	October 5, 1951.
List No. 4	March 5, 1952.
List No. 6	May 20, 1953.
List No. 7	December 20, 1953.
List No. 8	June 5, 1954.
List No. 9	May 5, 1955.

It will be noted that we have been unable to maintain the schedule of semi-annual publication during the past two years. While this is regrettable, circumstances have made it impossible for us to do the necessary work. It takes about three months to prepare a rating list for publication. Your Rating Statistician can no longer devote so much time to labor for which he receives no compensation. Unless a solution is found, we may be forced to publish lists annually, instead of semi-annually.

### New Classifications Adopted

To make our classifications conform more closely to the standards used in some countries of Europe and elsewhere, we have lowered by 100 points the minimum and maximum requirements for each category. In the current list, and until further notice, our classifications are as follows:

Grandmaster	2600	Points up
Senior Master	2400 to 2599	points
Master	2200 to 2399	points
Expert	2000 to 2199	points
Class A	1800 to 1999	points
Class B	1600 to 1799	points
Class C	Below 1600	points

Hitherto, our standards for recognition as a master have been higher than those of many other countries. There are players regarded as masters abroad (and a few FIDE "International Masters")

whose USCF ratings are below 2300 points. On the other hand, Russia has a tough qualification system which makes it extremely difficult for a player to reach the master rank. He has to work his way up through five classes, make a good enough showing as a first category player to be accepted as a Master Candidate, then turn in a 45% score in an all-master tournament, or up to 75% in a tournament with only a few non-masters.

It is natural that the USSR has the strictest of all qualification systems, for there are probably more strong players in Russia than in all of the rest of the world combined. In countries with fewer powerful players, it is the custom to qualify (or nominate) the strongest tournament contestants as national masters. There is no harm in this practice, so long as it is understood that the titles are national and do not necessarily represent the strength of these players in international competition. Several countries have adopted ranking systems and give their

### FIFTEEN TOP-RANKING ACTIVE WOMEN PLAYERS

1. Gisela K. Gresser	2056
2. Sonja Graf	2040
3. Nancy Roos	2008
4. Mona May Karff	2004
5. Mrs. Dan McLeod	1977
6. Irene Vines	1956
7. Jacqueline Piatigorsky	1885
8. Kathryn Slater	1872
9. Lucille Kellner	1782
10. Dorothy Williams	1762
11. Helen Ivanoff	1760
12. Willa White Owens	1755
13. Rachel Daniel	1747
14. Mary Selensky	1747
15. Lena Grumette	1744

players national titles in accordance with their methods of classification. The systems used in Great Britain and Canada are based on the numerical ratings developed by this writer and adopted by the USCF in 1950. Germany has its "Ingo" system which is similar to our own in some respects, although the two methods were produced independently of each other.

It is not our intention to make it too easy to become a U.S. Master. If the minimum requirement is made too low, the title becomes meaningless and farcical. It may be noted, however, that only 39 active players, out of a total of about 3200 in the current rating list, have earned average ratings of between 2200 and 2299 points. About half of these men formerly had ratings of 2300 points or over, but have fallen off lately. We cannot feel, therefore, that we have lowered our standards too much.

We believe that the recognition of 2200-up players as Masters will be beneficial to chess in general. Attention will be focussed on the strongest players in some areas without previous representation in the master class. Players may now seek the title of Master with new ambition and enthusiasm, without feeling that they have to meet standards too difficult of achievement. In any case, we feel sure that this change will make the rating system more popular than ever! And this is as it should be, for a popular rating system creates contests, increases the number of entries in tournaments, develops strong players, improves the quality of play in general, adds zest and interest to competitive chess.

### New Regulations Governing Master Competition

Now that we have lowered the minimum requirement of the master class, we have revised our regulations governing the publication of master ratings and the conditions under which a master may compete *hors de concours* in a contest which does not meet certain standards.

In the past, we have retained in the master class, for six months, a player whose rating fell slightly below 2300 points. In future, a master whose rating goes below 2200

### FIFTEEN TOP-RANKING ACTIVE U. S. PLAYERS

1. Samuel Reshevsky	2663
2. Larry Evans	2593
3. Robert Byrne	2590
4. Donald Byrne	2557
5. N. Rossolimo	2533
6. Arthur B. Bisguler	2529
7. Isaac Kashdan	2525
8. I. A. Horowitz	2442
9. James T. Sherwin	2436
10. Max Pavay	2429
11. Herbert Seidman	2426
12. Arthur W. Dake	2412
13. Arnold S. Denker	2407
14. Alexander Kevitz	2405
15. George Kramer	2404

points will be demoted immediately.

We shall continue to ignore the performances of masters in contests that do not meet the requirements of master play. As stated in paragraph 3 of the USCF National Rating Regulations, the performances of a master affect his average rating only when he competes in tournaments and matches which meet the following conditions:

(a) All games must be played with clocks and the time limit must not exceed an average of 20 moves per hour. The total period of play for any session must not exceed five hours.

(b) Not more than one round may be played in any one day.

(c) All games must be played to a finish during the course of the contest.

However, the following sentence is now added to this regulation:

If, during the twelve months prior to the closing date of a rating list, a master does not compete in any contest which meets the standards of master play, as described above, his performance ratings in other events will be included when computing his current average rating.

This means that a master cannot retain his rank for more than one year by merely playing in week-end tournaments and other contests intended mainly for non-masters. He must confirm his rating by competing in at least one tournament or match meeting the required standards of master play.

### Provisional Ratings

A player's rating does not become accurate until he has competed in enough tournaments to provide an average representing his true strength. In particular, the rating of a player who has taken part in only one rated contest may be wide of the mark. An asterisk (Please turn to page 2, col. 3)

## U. S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

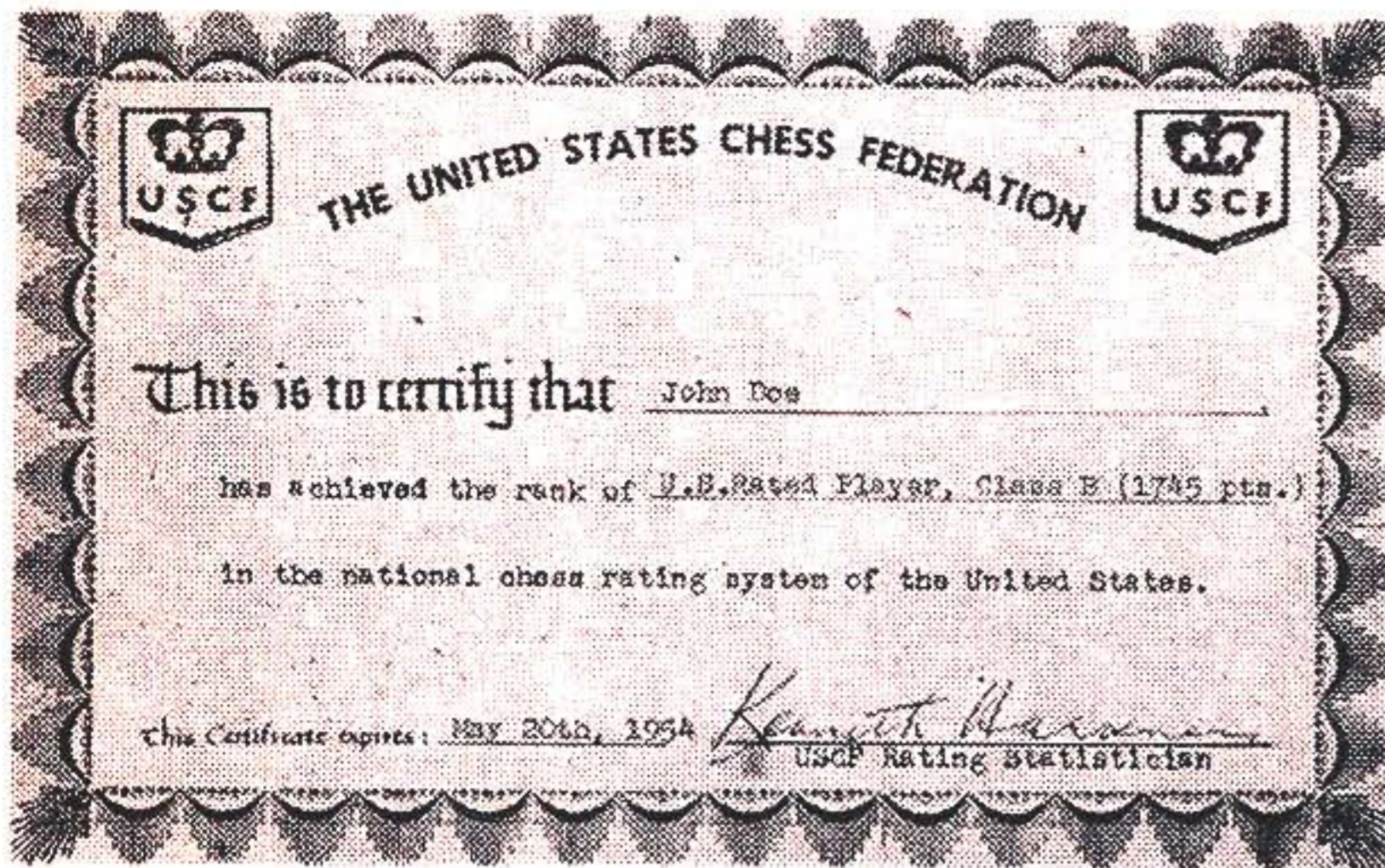
July 16-28, 1956  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

## U. S. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

July 1-7, 1956  
Philadelphia, Pa.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to American and Canadian players who are not yet 21 years old on July 1, 1956.  
**TIME OF PLAY:** First round 7:00 p.m. July 1; two rounds per day on July 2, 3, 5, and 6; final round July 7; no round on July 4.  
**ENTRY:** No registration or entry fees; but each player must be or become a member of the USCF (\$5.00 annual dues)—players may join the USCF upon registering.  
**PRIZES:** Many valuable prizes and trophies.  
**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Every effort will be made to obtain most reasonable accommodations for all contestants.  
**REGISTRATION:** 5:00 p.m., July 1, 1956; advance registration may be made by mail to: William A. Ruth, Tournament Committee Chairman, 15 Gorman Ave., Collingswood, N.J.  
**EQUIPMENT:** Players are urged to bring clocks; other equipment furnished.

# USCF RATING CERTIFICATE



This handsome certificate, bearing your name and national rating, gives you official standing in the world of chess, brings you recognition for your achievements, conveys the honor and prestige of an official title—U. S. Rated Player (Class A, B, or C), U. S. Expert, Master, Senior Master or Grandmaster. The certificate is suitable for framing, the actual size being 8" x 5" (twice the size of the reproduction above)—or it may be folded and carried in your wallet.

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## Tournament Life

Send to CHESS LIFE, 123 No. Humphrey Ave., Oak Park, Ill. for application form for announcing tournament in this column.

Unless otherwise specified, all tournaments announced in this column are 100% USCF rated. Rating fees, if any, are included in specified entry fee; no additional rating fee for non-members USCF.

May 26-27

### Texas State Championship Houston, Texas

Restricted to Texas Residents and Military Personnel stationed in Texas; at Houston Chess Club, 2112 Smith St.; six highest rated players will play round robin while everyone else competes in 5 rd Swiss; entry fee \$5 plus \$5 USCF dues for non-members; for details, write: M. M. Williams, South Coast Life Bldg., Houston, Tex.  
100% USCF rated event.

June 2-3

### 32nd Trans-Mississippi Championship Davenport, Iowa

Open to all; at Chamber of Commerce, Davenport; 6 rd Swiss from 10:30 a.m. CST June 2 to 7:30 p.m. June 3; entry fee: \$7.50; entries close 10:00 a.m. June 2; \$125 1st prize, with totals of \$70, \$60, and \$40 prizes in Classes A, B, and C; total prize list \$475, plus merchandize; for details, write: John Warren, Moline Dispatch, Moline, Ill.  
100% USCF rated event.

June 1-3

### North Carolina Open Wilmington, N. C.

Open to all; register 6-7 p.m., June 1 at Community Center, Orange Street; 6 rd Swiss, 50 moves in 2½ hrs; entry fee: \$3.50 plus \$2 NC dues; first prize: Trophy plus \$50, other cash prizes; Beautiful beaches ten miles away; for complete details, write: Norman M. Hornstein, M.D., Southport, No. Carolina.  
100% USCF rated event.

Say You Saw It in CHESS LIFE

Chess Life Sunday, Page 2  
May 20, 1956

June 2-3

### North Dakota Championship Bismark, No. Dak.

At World War Memorial Bldg.; restricted to North Dakota residents; 6 rd Swiss, 30 moves per hr.; entry fee: \$3.00; trophies; TD D.C. Macdonald; for details, write: Johannes Folstad, 506 2nd St., Bismarck, N.D.  
100% USCF rated event.

July 4-8

### Southern Chess Ass'n Championship Miami, Fla.

Open; 7 rd Swiss; trophies and cash prizes; details later.  
100% USCF rated event.

July 19-22

### The Carolinas' Open Championship Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Open; at Ocean Forest Hotel; 7 rd Swiss (Solkoff tie-breaking); 1st rd begins 7 p.m. Thursday, July 19; 1st prize \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$30 plus trophies for first three places; Junior prizes: 1st \$25, 2nd \$20 and 3rd \$15; four other senior prizes; entry fee: \$4 plus membership (\$2) in SCCA or NCCA and USCF; special convention rates on rooms at Ocean Forest Hotel; for further information, write: L. L. Foster, 121 Saluda Ave., Columbia, S.C.  
100% USCF rated event.

September 1-3

### St. Paul Open Tournament St. Paul, Minn.

Open; at St. Paul Dispatch-Pioneer Press Auditorium, East 4th, between Cedar and Minnesota Sts.; entry fee: \$7 with \$3 fee for high school student entrants; first prize \$125 and Trophy, with other cash prizes and trophies and cash prizes for Class A, B, and C; Robert C. Gove tournament director; 7 rd Swiss, 45 moves in 2 hrs.; for details, write: Robert C. Gove, % Downtown YMCA, 9th and Cedar Sts., St. Paul, Minn.  
100% USCF rated event.

# NATIONAL CHESS RATINGS

(Continued from page one, column four)

after a player's rating in the list indicates that he has played in only one tournament or match.

We call attention to these provisional ratings because some areas of the United States are now sending us reports of tournaments in which only a small number of rated players competed. For example, the Cleveland Chess Association turned in reports showing the performances of 600-odd entrants, and the vast majority had no previous ratings. Obviously, the provisional ratings issued to these contestants may be incorrect. However, if Cleveland and other similar areas will continue to report the results of their tournaments and matches, the national ratings of their players will become increasingly accurate.

### What Happened to Reshevsky?

To forestall the expected barrage of questions about Reshevsky's rating in the current list, let us hasten to explain that our No. 1 player fell off from 2770 to 2663 as a result of his poor showing (for him) in the Rosenwald Trophy Tournament. In contests with other American masters, it is extreme-

ly difficult for Reshevsky to improve his rating. But if he fails to win, he takes a nose-dive. This is the penalty of being at the top of the heap. As Sammy stated, it is unusual for him to blunder four times in one tournament, so he will probably recover his former rating when he wins one or two master tournaments or competes with other players in his own Grandmaster class.

Incidentally, Reshevsky did not lose points by tying with Rossolimo at the 1955 U.S. Open. When a player wins, or ties for first place, his rating is not recorded if he is playing below his class, as indicated by the fact that it would be impossible for him to earn a performance rating at least equal to his last average. This was the condition that prevailed at Long Beach. Even if Sammy had made a 100% score, he could not have earned a performance rating of 2770 points. Since Reshevsky and Rossolimo made the same game score at the top of the field, Sammy's performance rating is not recorded. Tie-breaking points are not taken into consideration by the rating system.

# NATIONAL CHESS RATINGS

## MASTERS EMERITUS

Jacob Bernstein (New York, N.Y.)  
Roy T. Black, Sr. (Williamsville, N.Y.)  
Adolph J. Fink (San Francisco, Calif.)  
Albert W. Fox (Washington, D.C.)  
Herman Hahlbohm (Chicago, Ill.)  
Herman Helms (New York, N.Y.)  
Lewis J. Isaacs (Chicago, Ill.)  
Charles S. Jacobs (Winchester, Mass.)

Abraham Kupchik (New York, N.Y.)  
Edward Lasker (New York, N.Y.)  
W. R. Lovegrove (San Francisco, Calif.)  
Frank E. Perkins (Boston, Mass.)  
Harold M. Phillips (New York, N.Y.)  
William A. Ruth (Collingswood, N.J.)  
Morris A. Shapiro (Brooklyn, N.Y.)  
I. S. Turover (Bethesda, Md.)

## GRANDMASTERS

(Now 2600 points up)

Reshevsky, S. (Spring Valley, N.Y.) ..2663

## SENIOR MASTERS

(Now 2400 to 2599 points)

Bisguier, A. B. (New York, N.Y.) .....2529  
Byrne, Donald (Ann Arbor, Mich.) .....2557  
Byrne, Robert (Valparaiso, Ind.) .....2590  
Dake, Arthur W. (Portland, Ore.) .....2412  
Denker, A. S. (New York, N.Y.) .....2407  
Evans, Larry (New York, N.Y.) .....2593  
Horowitz, I. A. (New York, N.Y.) .....2442  
Kashdan, I. (Tujunga, Calif.) .....2525  
Kevitz, A. (Bronx, N.Y.) .....2405  
Kramer, Geo. (Philadelphia, Pa.) .....2404  
Pavey, Max (Brooklyn, N.Y.) .....2429  
Rossolimo, N. (New York, N.Y.) .....2533  
Seidman, H. (Brooklyn, N.Y.) .....2426  
Sherwin, J. T. (New York, N.Y.) .....2436

## MASTERS

(Now 2200 to 2399 points)

Addison, W. G. (San Francisco) .....2244  
Avram, H. (Arlington, Va.) .....2231  
Berliner, H. (Washington, D.C.) .....2276  
Blonarovich, L. (Newark, N.J.) .....2209  
Brandts, Paul (New York, N.Y.) .....2296  
Brasket, C. J. (U. S. Army) .....2209  
Burger, Karl H. (Brooklyn, N.Y.) .....2275  
Cross, Robt. G. (Santa Monica, Cal.) .....2246  
DiCamilo, A. (Philadelphia, Pa.) .....2215  
Dreibergs, L. (Saginaw, Mich.) .....2291  
Eastman, C. J. (Rego Park, N.Y.) .....2203  
Greenwood, B. (Provo, Utah) .....2220  
Hearst, E. S. (New York, N.Y.) .....2268  
Henin, C. C. (Chicago, Ill.) .....2222  
Hesse, H. V. (Bethlehem, Pa.) .....2238  
Howard, F. S. (Sayreville, N.J.) .....2338  
Kalme, Chas. (Philadelphia, Pa.) .....2295  
Klugman, R. (New York, N.Y.) .....2214  
Konig, I. (San Francisco) .....2322  
Kovacs, Z. (Los Angeles) .....2247  
Lapiken, P. (Los Angeles) .....2209  
Levin, Eugene (Los Angeles) .....2228  
Levy, Louis (Paterson, N.J.) .....2281  
Lombardy, W. J. (Bronx, N.Y.) .....2349  
Martin, R. J. (Santa Monica, Cal.) .....2212  
McClain, G. (San Francisco) .....2240  
Mednis, Edmar (New York, N.Y.) .....2350  
Mengarini, Dr. A. (New York, N.Y.) .....2202  
Moskowitz, Jack (Los Angeles) .....2287  
Owens, B. E. (Great Neck, N.Y.) .....2222  
Pilnick, Carl (New York, N.Y.) .....2323  
Pinkus, A. S. (Mohegan Lake, N.Y.) .....2258  
Pitschak, R. (Cleveland) .....2207  
Platz, Dr. J. (E. Hartford, Conn.) .....2203  
Poliakoff, D. (San Francisco) .....2200  
Radoicic, M. (Forest Hills, N.Y.) .....2284  
Rivise, I. (Los Angeles) .....2213  
Romanenko, I. (Plainfield, N.J.) .....2216  
Saidy, A. F. (Douglaston, N.Y.) .....2350  
Sandrin, A. N. Jr. (Chicago) .....2231

Santasiere, A. E. (Bronx, N.Y.) .....2236  
Shaffer, J. I. (Philadelphia) .....2306  
Shipman, W. (New York, N.Y.) .....2377  
Sobel, R. D. (Philadelphia) .....2211  
Steinmeyer, R. H. (St. Louis, Mo.) .....2330  
Suesman, W. B. (Providence, R.I.) .....2208  
Tautvaisas, P. (Chicago) .....2200  
Turner, Abe (New Rochelle, N.Y.) .....2373  
Ulvestad, O. (Seattle, Wash.) .....2218  
Wachs, Saul P. (Philadelphia) .....2235  
Yarmak, S. N. (Los Angeles) .....2206

## INACTIVE MASTERS

(The players listed below earned average rating of 2200 points or more during the years 1950 through 1954.)

Bernstein, Sidney (Brooklyn, N.Y.) .....2322  
Collins, J. W. (Brooklyn, N.Y.) .....2375  
Cross, James B. (Glendale, Cal.) .....2330  
Eastman, G. C. (Detroit, Mich.) .....2212  
Fine, Reuben (New York, N.Y.) .....2676  
Halper, Nat. (New York, N.Y.) .....2295  
Hanauer, M. (New York, N.Y.) .....2239  
Hill, Bernard (New York, N.Y.) .....2309  
Jackson, E. S. Jr. (Flushing, N.Y.) .....2209  
Mazner, S. (Los Angeles) .....2214  
Miller, P. Z. (Brooklyn, N.Y.) .....2214  
Mugridge, D. H. (Washington, D.C.) .....2293  
Reissman, Paul (Puerto Rico) .....2220  
Rubinow, S. (Boston, Mass.) .....2224  
Schmidt, Dr. Paul (Philadelphia) .....2398  
Schwartz, E. (New York, N.Y.) .....2223  
Shainswit, G. (New York, N.Y.) .....2358  
Simonson, A. C. (Hicksville, N.Y.) .....2338  
Skema, Kazys .....2249  
Spinner, L. (Montrose, Calif.) .....2248  
Stark, M. C. (Bethesda, Md.) .....2236  
Sussman, Dr. H. (Brooklyn, N.Y.) .....2349  
Thompson, J. C. (Texas) .....2200  
Vine, K. (New York, N.Y.) .....2244  
Willman, Robt. (New York, N.Y.) .....2270  
Zemgalis, E. (Seattle, Wash.) .....2281

## EXPERTS AND CLASSES A, B & C

Note new classifications, as follows:

Experts: 2000 to 2199 points  
Class A: 1800 to 1999 points  
Class B: 1600 to 1799 points  
Class C: Below 1600 points

Abarno, F. P. (Bergenfield, N.J.) .....1680  
Abell, Chas. (New York, N.Y.) .....1750  
Aberhazyo (Cleveland) .....1500\*  
Abolins, A. (Columbus, O.) .....1963\*  
Aboms, N. (Wichita, Kans.) .....1829  
Abrahamson, C. (Cleveland) .....1675\*  
Abrams, Dr. A. (San Francisco) .....1865  
Abrams, Larry (Chicago) .....1400\*  
Abrams, Ralph (Milwaukee) .....1896  
Abramson, Dr. J. (Milford, Del.) .....1800\*  
Achterberg, E. (Visalia, Cal.) .....1930  
Ackerman, D. (Omaha, Neb.) .....1979



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