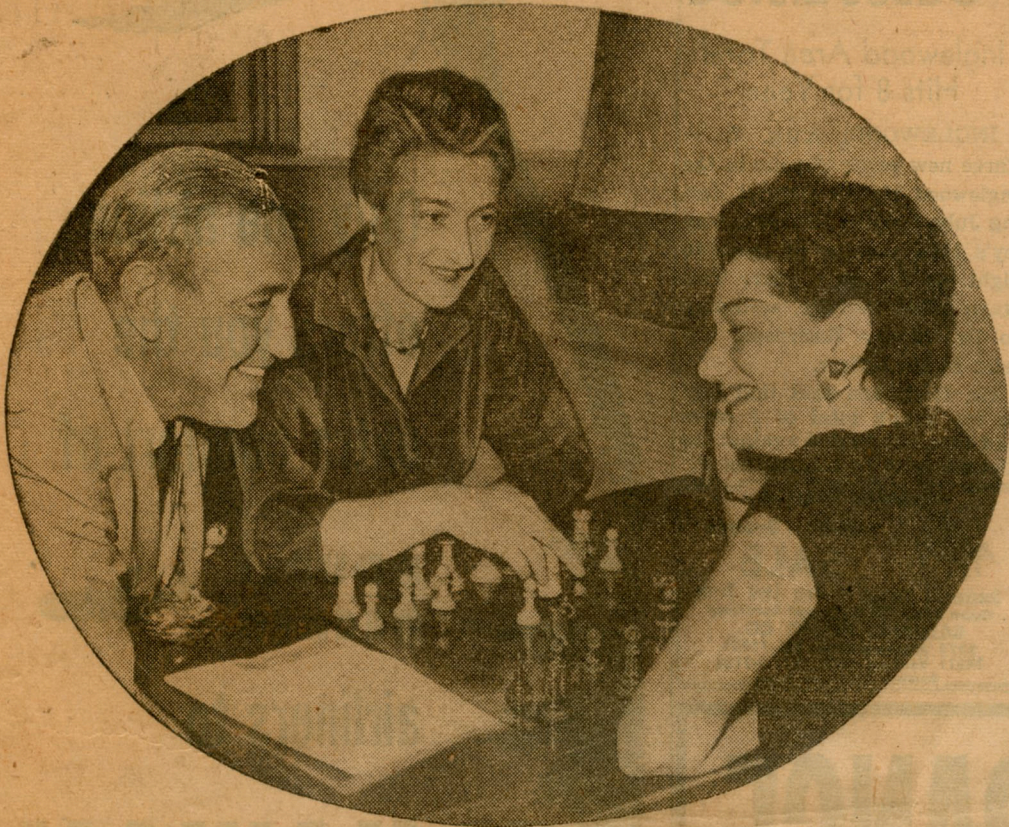


Los Angeles Examiner
Aug. 8, 1955

Woman Chess Star Checks Mate



WATCHING a chess game between his wife, Jacqueline (center), and Mrs. Lena Grumette is Cellist Gregor Piatigorsky. The two women will compete in the United States chess championship for women among 12 top distaff players.

—Los Angeles Examiner photo.

The so-called battle of the sexes can come up with some surprises.

Take chess. It's pretty well conceded that in this endeavor at least men are superior to women.

Not necessarily so, says a man. He's Gregor Piatigorsky, the world-famed cellist who lives in Brentwood. Women, he asserts, are superior to men in many respects, and in chess there's no reason why the distaff side shouldn't be capable of the cerebral gyrations necessary to play well.

But his wife, Jacqueline, who will compete this month in the annual United States chess championship tournament for women, doesn't quite agree with him.

EMOTIONS

Mrs. Piatigorsky, handsome mother of two children, holds that:

"Women are not as emotionally fit as men for the rigors of tournament play. They don't have the same nervous stamina. They have a tendency to waste energy. When they get into a difficult position on the board they are more than likely to think with their emotions instead of heads."

Mrs. Piatigorsky, who is also a talented painter and pianist, feels nevertheless more women should play chess—"if only to get their minds off their household problems."

She learned the game as a child in the Paris home of her father, Baron Edouard de Roth-

schild. When she grew older she played correspondence, or postal, chess, but it wasn't until five years ago she began to play seriously.

AMONG TOP 5

She joined a club, took lessons from a professional, and showed such aptitude she is now among the five top women chess players in the country.

To her, the game is "intellectual fun—I enjoy analyzing various moves." She finds tournament play taxing on what she calls her "nervous resistance," but she is determined to fight it.

In the upcoming tournament, opening August 23 in New York City she will be joined by three other women from this area, the only ones to represent the West Coast in the 12-woman competition.

The other three are Mrs. Sonia Graf Stevenson of Palm Springs; Mrs. Lena Grumette, of 1539 Laurel avenue, and Mrs. Nancy Roos, of 3660 West Third street.

Mrs. Grumette, incidentally, agrees with Mrs. Piatigorsky on men vs. women in chess.

"Women just cannot concentrate the way men do."