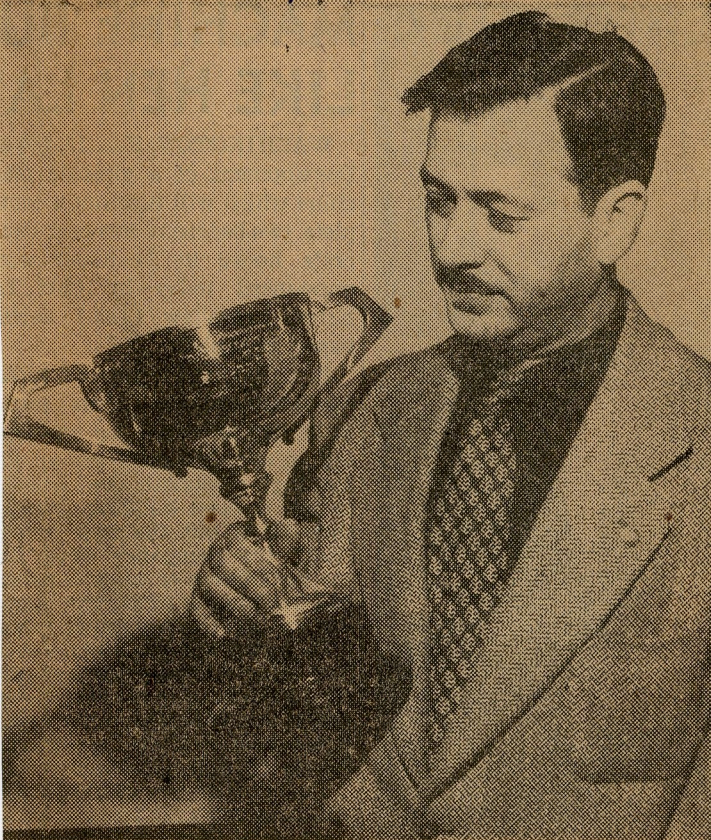


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Times photos

VICTORY—Herman Steiner, California State chess champion, shows trophy he won in London tourney last month.

Steiner to Play Chess Champion for U.S. Title

Inspired by his chess triumphs in Europe last month, Herman Steiner, California State champion and chess editor of The Times, yesterday announced that he has challenged the United States champion, Arnold S. Denker, to a 10-game match for the national title to be played here in May.

Steiner, who returned last week, from the East, where he, gave a number of exhibitions following his prize-winning performances abroad, also disclosed plans to return to Europe next summer for more matches with Old World masters.

Beaten by Denker

The Denker-Steiner match will come as the aftermath to their joint participation in two international tournaments in December and January. At Hastings, Eng., they tied for third, but the New Yorker had beaten Steiner in their individual game. Then in the London tourney in which 24 masters from 10 countries participated, they were placed in separate sections. The Angeleno finished first in Section A and Denker, in Section B, again wound up third.

Since they did not play each other in the London tournament, Steiner had no opportunity for revenge for his Hastings defeat. Hence he promptly challenged Denker for the U.S. title, which the New Yorker won in 1944, and last week arrangements were completed.

10-Game Event

The 10 games will be played from May 18 to June 1 at the rate of five a week for a minimum fund of \$2000. The money will be divided 60 per cent to the winner and 40 to the loser.

Soon after completion of the match in June, Steiner and Reuben Fine, grand master studying at the University of Southern California, will go to Europe to compete in tournaments in Holland, Czechoslovakia and other countries. In August they will travel to Moscow to join the other members of the U.S. 10-man team for a return match with the Russians.

Last night members of the Hollywood Chess Group held a victory celebration for the Los Angeles master at its headquarters, 108 N. Formosa Ave. Steiner gave a talk on his experiences overseas—he says he is the first chess master ever to fly the Atlantic—and he was presented with a set of luggage as a testimonial.