

CHESS REVIEW

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November 21

Dear Jim, (If I may)

Thanks for your letter.

I will write to Henny Gross, whom I met in N.Y. some time ago and who seems to be a fellow who is willing to do things for chess. Naturally, I like to make a success of whatever I am doing; but really it isn't that important whether or not he comes through.

You made a point in your letter in which I am in thorough agreement. But few chessplayers see it that way. It is that chessmasters should be given the opportunity to make a living. One reason, and an important one why we lose to the Russians is that our chessmasters are not encouraged in the slightest. They have no incentive for being chessmasters.

I thought of one thing when you mentioned the rainy weather in S.F. If you are signing up players for the appearance, be sure to collect their fee when you sign them up. Then, it doesn't matter whether it rains or not - they will have contributed their fee. Otherwise, on a particularly bad night, you might have a poor showing.

February 21st, I think is much too late for me. I am hoping that it will be at least two weeks before then. The Harvard Club of Boston wants me for two appearances on the 21st and 22nd.

One reason I am unable to make dates yet is that I am expecting a reply from Mexico. If I am to go there, I will necessarily allow two weeks for my stay. If I am not to go there, I have the extra two weeks, to play with. Col. Araiza, about a week ago, told me that he would let me know in 15 days. When I get his reply, I'll be more definite about a date.

About Charlie Bagby, he really is a good friend of mine. But Charlie and I do not see eye to eye about encouraging chessmasters. Fortunately, I am not making the tour from hunger. Hence, I can be a bit choosy and I can turn down any offer that does not please me. Many people (and I would include Charlie in this group) prefer to see the chessmasters as glorified beggars.

You ought to hear from me shortly about definite dates.

Best,

