

Karl A. Baer
5111 Saratoga Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20016

August 10, 1967

Mrs. Gregor Piatigorsky
400 S. Bundy Dr.
Los Angeles, California 90049

Dear Mrs. Piatigorsky:

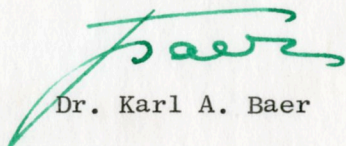
All the world has been following enthusiastically the support which you have given to chess in many ways, but particularly by the arrangement of the Piatigorsky tournaments.

A thought has occurred to me in this connection. During the last 40 years, I have assembled a chess library which I believe to be the largest private library in the United States, at this time. It contains some 4,000 items. The Library of Congress is interested in acquiring it as a gift, since it is so much superior to its own collection. Unfortunately, I am not in a position to dispose of it as a gift. It would however, as the Piatigorsky collection, serve as a permanent reminder of your activities if it were placed in one of the great libraries of this country. While both Princeton and Harvard have large collections, I don't think that any such collection exists in one of the Universities of California.

I wish to add that the collection is being kept up to date, and affords a survey of chess literature beginning with a reproduction of Caxton's book published in the late 15th Century, and originals of Vida (1527) and Damiano (1540), to the present day. I had some of these books especially hand bound by Mr. Bernard C. Middleton, binder to the British Museum.

If this collection should be of any interest to you, I should be happy to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,


Dr. Karl A. Baer

KAB:ets

*ans. Aug 12, 67
asked the price of
his library.
J.T.*