

 Pomar Salamanca, Arturo (01.09.1931-26.05.2016)



Prodigy. IM 1950 (as youngest of all). First Spanish Grandmaster in 1962.

Pomar started to play in adult chess competitions at ten. At 13 years, Arturo Pomar drew with Alexander Alekhine in a tournament at Gijón in July 1944, becoming still the youngest player ever to draw an official game with a reigning World Champion at normal time control:

[Alexander Alekhine](#) - Arturo Pomar, [Gijón](#) (1944), [Apertura española](#) (C79) 1.e4 e5 2.Cf3 Cc6 3.Ab5 a6 4.Aa4 Cf6 5.O-O d6 6.c3 Ag4 7.d4 b5 8.Ab3 Ae7 9.Ae3 O-O 10.Cbd2 Te8 11.h3 Ah5 12.d5 Ca5 13.Ac2 Tc8 14.a4 c5 15.axb5 axb5 16.g4 Ag6 17.Ch4 Cd7 18.Cf5 Axf5 19.gxf5 Ag5 20.De2 c4 21.Rh1 Ta8 22.Tg1 Axe3 23.Dxe3 Df6 24.Tg4 Rh8 25.Tag1 Tg8 26.Cf3 Cb7 27.Th4 Ta6 28.Dg5 Cd8 29.Dh5 Cf8 30.Ch2 g6 31.Dh6 Dg7 32.Cg4 f6 33.fxc6 Dxc6 34.De3 Dg5 35.Th6 Dxe3 36.fxe3 Cd7 37.Tf1 Ta2 38.Cxf6 Cxf6 39.Thxf6 Txb2 40.Ad1 Tgg2 41.Af3 Tg3 42.Ag4 Tgg2 43.Ta1 Th2+ 44.Rg1 Thg2+ 45.Rf1 Th2 46.Re1 b4 47.cxb4 c3 48.Tc1 h5 49.Ad1 Rg7 50.Tf1 c2 51.Ae2 Cf7 52.Rd2 Txb4 53.Txc2 Cg5 54.Tc7+ Rg6 55.Rc3 Ta4 56.Ab5 Cxe4+ 57.Rb3 Taa2 58.Tg1+ Rh6 59.Tb1 Tad2 60.Ad7 Txd5 61.Rc4 Tc2+ 62.Rxd5 Txc7 63.Rxe4 Txd7 64.h4 d5+ 65.Rxe5 Te7+ 66.Rf5 Txe3 67.Tb6+ Rh7 68.Td6 Te4 69.Td7+ Rh6 70.Td6+ Rh7 71.Td7+ Rh6 1/2-1/2
replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1013576>

Seven-times National Champion of Spain in 1946, 1950, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1962 and 1966.

A participant for Spain in **12 Olympiads in a row from 1958 to 1980** (mostly on board one), in 1960 he was awarded a bronze medal for the third best performance at board two.

Best results: Paris 1949, 1st-2nd; **Santa Fé 1949, 1st** (ahead of Rossetto); *Hollywood 1952, 2nd*; *Gijon, 1950, 2nd*, **Gijon 1955, 1st**; Santander, 1959, 1st; **Madrid International, 1959, 1st-2nd**; Madrid (Zonal), 1960, 1st-4th (joint with Gligoric, Portisch, and Donner, the latter then failed in the play-out and did not advance); **Torremolinos (Costa del Sol) 1961, 1st-2nd**; **Malaga (Costa del Sol) 1964, 1st**, the inaugural edition of **Palma de Mallorca 1965, 1st-3rd** (as best on tie-break alongside with O'Kelly de Galway and Darga, ahead of Dückstein, ten players in a modest field), *Palma de Mallorca 1966, clear 2nd* (in a strong field only behind winner Tal, a full point ahead of third Portisch, followed by Ivkov, Matanovic, Pflieger, etc. 16 players), *Amsterdam – IBM 1966, clear 2nd* (Botvinnik won, Flohr was third), **Malaga (Costa del Sol) 1971, 1st**, *Wijk aan Zee (Hoogovens) 1972 2nd-3rd* (in a strong field behind winner Portisch, runner-up joint with Hort, above amongst others Browne, Smyslov, Savon, Benko, Ivkov, Smejkal, Donner, Timman, Ljubojevic, Adorjan, 16 players); **Alicante (III - Luis Gimeno Brotons Memorial) 1975, 1st**; Alès 1981, 1st-3rd. Note: **Pomar was shared first at the U.S. Open in New Orleans 1954**, joint with Larry Evans who had the better tie-break.

Pomar suffered a nervous breakdown in 1965, which affected his chess play. He had another nervous breakdown at the Dundee Centenary GM tournament in 1967 – but then continued to compete successfully on chess circuit, sharing later an excellent second place at Wijk aan Zee in 1972, sometimes overlooked in his biography, because as a former child prodigy, Arturito (Arturo) Pomar Salamanca was seen as a player who didn't fulfill his early promise. His top rating was ELO 2655 (according to SONAS chessmetrics), achieved in 1962. He was ranked World #23 at the time (FIDE rating was introduced later).

Despite enjoying the fame like Rafael Nadal in our times, Arturo Pomar was forced to take a regular job (Peter Doggers). Arturo and his wife, Carmen, worked in a post office in a village in Spain, near Barcelona. Contrary to some popular belief, he did not have intensive support of the Chess Federation under dictator Franco's regime. Pomar had to fit the tournaments in with his ordinary job as postal worker.



Young Pomar at London 1946: today a forgotten prodigy (photo: source unknown)

Notable games:

Pomar Salamanca, Arturo - Johansson, Martin Sr

Havana ol (Men) qual-A Havana (3), 1966

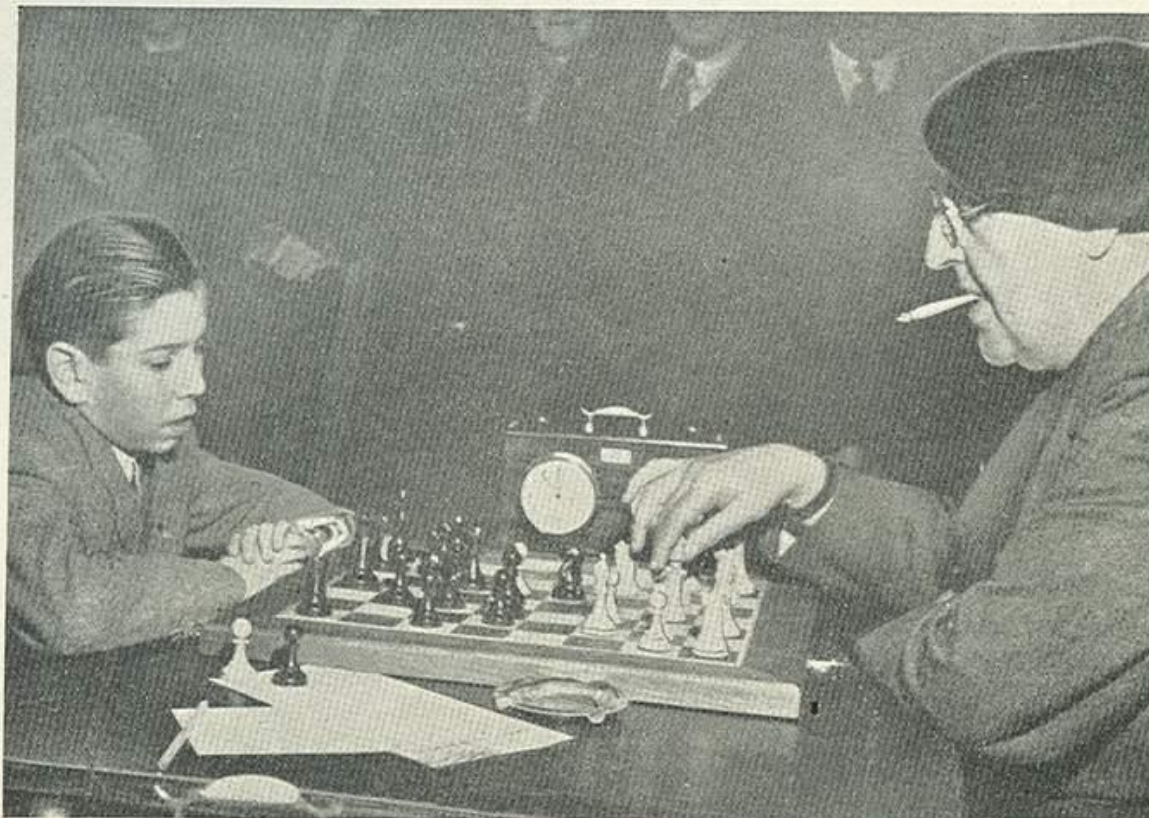
Pomar is Spanish national champion 1966, Johansson is Swedish national champion 1966

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 O-O 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 c5 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Qc7 9.Qc2 dxc4
10.Bxc4 cxd4 11.cxd4 b6 12.Qd3 Bb7 13.Bd2 Rc8 14.Rc1 Be4 15.Qe2 Qb7 16.O-O a6
17.Ng5 Bxg2 18.Bxe6 Bxf1 19.Qf3 Bg2 20.Qxb7 Bxb7 21.Bxc8 Bd5 22.e4 Nxe4 23.Nxe4
Bxe4 24.Re1 f5 25.Be6+ Kh8 26.Bxf5 Bc6 27.d5 **1-0**

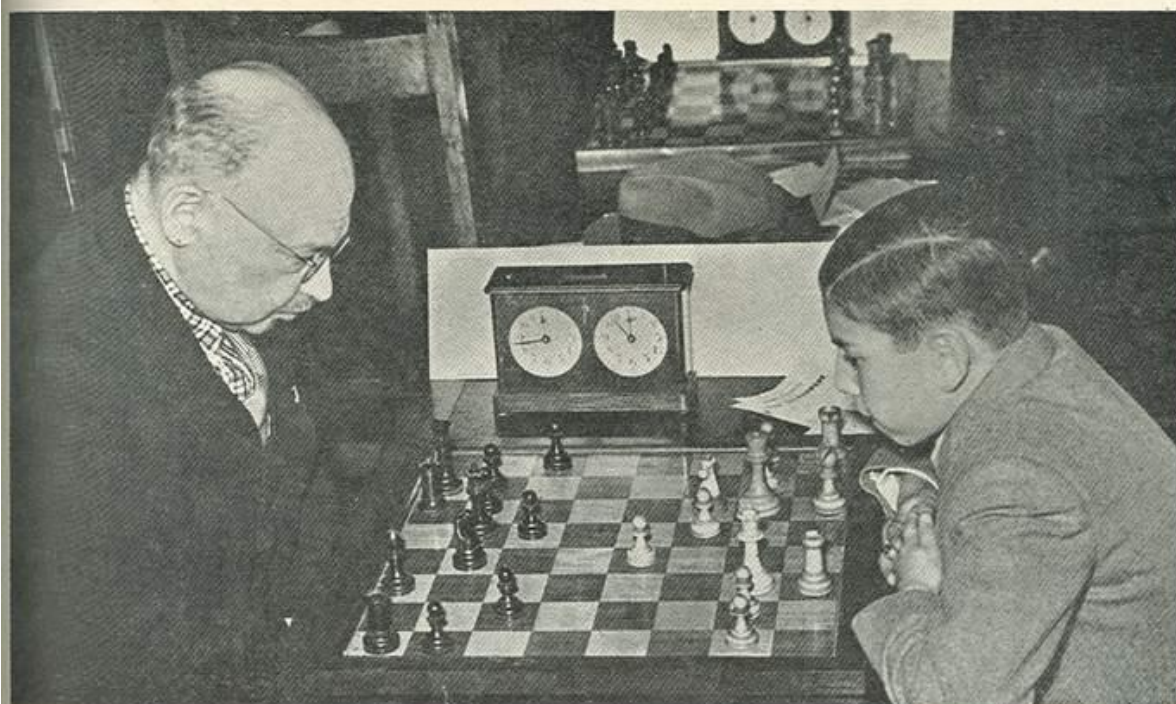
→ replay that game: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1333465>

Pomar vs. Sämisch 1-0, Madrid 1943: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1224704>

Pomar vs. Fischer ½-½, IZ 1962: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1044169>



Boy prodigy Arturito Pomar drew his game in the first round of the London Victory Tournament against seasoned veteran Dr. Bernstein. Now 14, Arturito has been playing for 11 years.



Dr. Savielly G. Tartakover (left) plays boy prodigy Arturito Pomar at the London Victory Tournament, held shortly after the Hastings event.

British Combine

The photo above, Pomar in play vs. Bernstein is from London 1946, but shows apparently not the official game (Arturito Pomar Salamanca is stated in all sources to play the white pieces):

<http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/winter70.html> (cp. Edward Winter's Chess Notes 6573)

Photos: <http://sah.hr/forum/index.php?action=dlattach;topic=516.0;attach=3405;image>

Some further footage of Pomar playing in London in 1946:

<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/wot-no-thrills-version-2>



Photo www.feda.org Federación Española de Ajedrez





Photo: https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CjZwi_qXEA8Fc-.jpg

Portrait and Palmarès (all in spanish language):

www.ajedrezdeataque.com/04%20Articulos/00%20Otros%20articulos/Pomar/Arturo.htm

www.ajedrezdeataque.com/04%20Articulos/00%20Otros%20articulos/Pomar/Palmares.htm

<http://ajedreztenerife.blogspot.ch/2009/05/arturo-pomar-una-vida-dedicada-al.html> (notes by Angel Jiménez Arteaga)

<http://www.fundacionlamarca.es/pomar.htm> (ARTURO POMAR, 80 AÑOS (2011))

http://deportes.elpais.com/deportes/2016/05/26/actualidad/1464290537_675087.html?utm_source=rtn_deportes&utm_medium=twitter#?ref=rss&format=simple&link=link (Obituary)

http://www.abc.es/deportes/abci-muere-84-anos-arturo-pomar-nino-prodigio-ajedrez-espanol-201605262055_noticia.html (Obituary)

<http://www.marca.com/ajedrez/2016/05/26/57476b61e5fdeac73d8b45c6.html> (Obituary)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIZAcTPS_QE (video in spanish)

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arturo_Pomar (Wikipedia in spanish)

Sources:

<http://www.chessnc.com/biography/person-1041.html> (CNC)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=26577> (Chessgames)

→ <http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/pomar.html> (Chesshistory by Edward Winter)

→ <https://www.chess.com/news/arturo-pomar-1931-2016-2284> (Great bio by Peter Doggers)

→ <http://soloscacchi.altervista.org/?p=50962> (Adiós Arturito, italian by Riccardo Del Dotto)

http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/Santa_Fe_1949/29010 (Santa Fé 1949)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=80944> (55th U.S. Open, New Orleans 1954)

<http://www.thechesslibrary.com/files/1959Madrid.htm> (Madrid 1959)

http://www.endgame.nl/costa_del_sol.html (Costa del Sol series, by Jan van Reek R.I.P.)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=83133> (Palma de Mallorca 1966)

<http://www.tatasteelchess.com/history/tournament/id/35/type/standings> (Wijk aan Zee 1972)

http://www.ajedrecito3.galeon.com/ibero/ti_alicante1975.html (Alicante 1975)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arturo_Pomar (Wikipedia in english)

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arturo_Pomar (Wikipedia in french)

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arturo_Pomar_Salamanca (Wikipedia in german)