

 Canal Esteban (19.04.1896 - 14.02.1981)



Peruvian Grandmaster Hon. (1977 at eighty-one years) and IM since 1950, born in Spain of a Spanish mother and a Peruvian father, he lived the youth years of his life in Peru but from 1923 onwards, Canal was domiciled in Italy. He died in Varese, Italy.

Champion of Leipzig in 1916. **Winner of the Hungarian Championship in 1933 hors concours\***.

**Best results:** *2nd Trieste Internazionale 1923* (Paul Johner, Switzerland, won the top group ahead of 2. Canal, then 3. Yates, 4. Tarrasch, etc.), = *2nd Merano 1926* (Colle won), *2nd Budapest 1932* (Maroczy won, international championship), **1st Budapest (international championship) 1933**, compare the footnote below\*, **1st-2nd Reus 1936** (joint with Silbermann), = *2nd Venice 1947* (Tartakower won), **1st Reggio Emilia (Prequel) 1947**, 1st Bari (national) 1948, **1st Venice 1953**.

Canal played in one **Chess Olympiad**, representing Peru on board 1 at Dubrovnik in 1950.

\*Biggest success: From April 8-26, 1933, the 11<sup>th</sup> Hungarian National Championship was held in **Budapest** as International Tournament and won by Esteban Canal, who scored 10 out of 14 points, followed by **Pál Réthy** (9½), **Andor Lilienthal** (9), **Lajos Steiner** (8½), and **Erich Eliskases** (8).

According to the French Wikipedia, Canal and Eliskases played *hors concours* concerning the national title of the Hungarian Federation, stipulating that Pál Réthy was awarded as national champion of Hungary. Certainly, Canal was clear first in a very strong tournament.

- <http://www.thechesslibrary.com/files/1923Trieste.htm> Trieste International 1923
- <http://www.belgianchesshistory.be/tournament/2nd-master-tournament-merano/> Merano 1926
- [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Championnat\\_de\\_Hongrie\\_d%27%C3%A9checs](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Championnat_de_Hongrie_d%27%C3%A9checs) see Budapest 1933
- <http://clubescacsantandreu.blogspot.ch/2012/08/torneo-internacional-de-ajedrez-de-reus.html> Reus 1936 (in spanish language)
- <http://www.belgianchesshistory.be/tournament/international-tournament-venice-2/> Venice 1953
- [https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torneo\\_scacchistico\\_internazionale\\_di\\_Capodanno](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torneo_scacchistico_internazionale_di_Capodanno) Reggio Emilia
- <http://www.endgame.nl/paoli.html> Reggio Emilia series and Venice series, by Jan van Reek

Author of *Staunton Gambit of the Dutch Defense*.

In Historical ELO rating by Sonas chessmetrics, Esteban Canal was best-ranked as **8th of the world in 1933-34**, soon after the tournament at Budapest.

**Portrait:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esteban\\_Canal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esteban_Canal)  
<http://alchetron.com/Esteban-Canal-1304996-W>,  
[http://www.chessgames.com/player/esteban\\_canal.html](http://www.chessgames.com/player/esteban_canal.html),  
<http://www.ajedrezdeataque.com/04%20Articulos/36%20Varios2/Canal/Canal.htm> (ESP),  
[http://www.ajedrez365.com/2012/08/torneo-internacional-ajedrez-reus-1936-esteban-canal-campeon\\_24.html](http://www.ajedrez365.com/2012/08/torneo-internacional-ajedrez-reus-1936-esteban-canal-campeon_24.html) (ESP)

**Palmarès:** <http://www.ajedrezdeataque.com/04%20Articulos/36%20Varios2/Canal/Palmares.htm>

**Picture:** <http://storiascacchi.altervista.org/storiascacchi/foto/canal.jpg>

**Famous game:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peruvian\\_Immortal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peruvian_Immortal),  
<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1264050>,  
<http://www.ajedrezdeataque.com/02%20Partidas/Simultaneas/Canal-NN.htm>,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oo0PNO2pdXo> (Video)

**Toran Albero, Roman - Canal, Esteban, Venice International Tournament, Venice 1953**

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 Nc6 5.fxe4 e5 6.dxe5 Nxe5 7.Nf3 d6 8.Bf4 Bg4 9.Bxe5 dxe5  
10.Qxd8+ Rxd8 11.Nxe5 Bb4 12.Bd3 Bh5 13.O-O O-O 14.Rae1 Rde8 15.Nf3 Ng4 16.Nd4 Rxf1+  
17.Bxf1 Bc5 18.Nce2 Rxe4 19.c3 Ne5 **0-1**

Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1565002>

Source: <http://www.chessnc.com/biography/person-455.html> (CNC)

Dec-11-13 **Karpova**: A bit more on Canal's life:

Born 1897 in Peru, at the age of 13 he visited Spain to study and then two years later France. As a student, he also stayed in Belgium, but moved to Germany in 1914, where he learned to play chess.

Already in 1916, he won a tournament in Leipzig, wherein also some masters participated. Apart from serious games against Teichmann and H. Johner in Switzerland in 1917, this was his only serious chess event until Trieste 1923.

After the war, he returned to America, but choose Italy as his second home. At the moment (i.e. late 1923), he works in Turin. Alekhine toured Italy and also visited Turin, thereby rousing Canal's desire for chess again. Soon afterwards, Canal drew a match against Rosselli del Turco (+1 -1 =2), the then reigning Italian Champion. He is also good at blindfold chess, and 10 games are not a problem for him.

Source: Page 286 of the November 1923 'Neue Wiener Schachzeitung'

Sep-07-15 **zanzibar**: <Karpova> gives dob as 1897, from NWS, <CG> bio intro gives it as 1896 (specfically Apr-19-1896), his gravestone gives it as 1893:



<http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/...> In fact, Winter has this to say:

<Canal's year of birth is given as 1893, whereas standard reference books (e.g. Chess Personalia and the Dizionario enciclopedico degli scacchi) state that he was born on 19 April 1896, in Chiclayo, Peru.>

Our correspondent mentions that doubts as to the facts were expressed by Alvisè Zichichi on page 2 of his book Esteban Canal (Brescia, 1991). According to Zichichi, Canal sometimes said in private that he was born before 1896 and in Spain, not Peru. The book also noted Giancarlo dal Verme's statement in L'Italia Scacchistica, April 1981, pages 106-107, that Canal was born in Santander, Spain of a Spanish mother and a Peruvian father.>

<http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/...> (about 1/2 way down)

Postings taken from <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=20061>