

LODZ

Łódź, a city in Poland or Russia, according to the period in history, which hosted a great number of tournaments and matches before World War I + II.

Lodz was the venue for several national and international chess events of note (Matches, Triangular, Quadrangular, and larger round robin tournaments), and simultaneous exhibitions or consultation games with Capablanca and Alekhine.

The strongest and most prominent of these chess summits had been held in

1905 (Triangular) 1./2. Rubinstein and Salwe, 3. Duz-Khotimirsky

1906 (Quadrangular, played in triple round Mini-match format)

Rubinstein (ahead of veteran Chigorin, 3. Flamberg, 4. Salwe)

1907/08 (5th All Russian Master's tournament of Imperial Russia, organised then in Lodz) Rubinstein (→ Rubinstein's Immortal game)

→ **Rubinstein's Immortal**: Rotlewi vs. Rubinstein is a game of [chess](#) played between [Gersz Rotlewi](#) and [Akiba Rubinstein](#) in [Łódź, Poland](#) in 1907. It features a brilliant [sacrifice](#) by Rubinstein to win the game (of a queen and rook for two [minor pieces](#)), in an example of an [overload](#). [Garry Kasparov](#) described the game as "Rubinstein's truly 'immortal' game" and "his most famous creation".

→ **Replay**: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1119679> (Chessgames) or https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotlewi_versus_Rubinstein (Wikipedia)

1908 (Triangular) Rubinstein (above 2. Marshall, 3. Salwe)

1909 Danuchevsky and Rotlevi

1912/1913 Bogoljubov

1913 Salwe

1927 Rubinstein

1935 Tartakower (ahead of Fine, Kolski, Opocensky, Winter, L. Steiner; round robin 10 players)

1938 Pirc (ahead of Tartakower, Petrovs, Stahlberg, Eliskases, in a field including H. Steiner, Foltys, Kolski, young Najdorf, and WC Vera Menchik, round robin 16 players),

plus fifty years later, **1978 Inkiov** in a minor (16 players)

Matches, amongst others: Rubinstein-Salwe in 1903 (+5-5=4), in 1904 and again in 1907 (Rubinstein won both), Chigorin-Salwe in 1906 (Chigorin won), Rubinstein-Mieses in 1906 (Rubinstein won), Salwe-Rotlevi in 1909 (Salwe won) and in 1910 (Rotlewi won), or Bogoljubov-Salwe in 1913 (Bogo won).

Further sources:

<http://www.thechesspedia.com/blog-post/lodz/> (Chesspedia, Lodz)

<http://www.edochess.ca/locations/196.html> (Edochess, Lodz 1903 — 1913)

<http://polbase.w.interiowo.pl/it.html> (POLbase)

<http://polbase.w.interiowo.pl/lodz35i.htm> (POLbase, 1935)

<http://polbase.w.interiowo.pl/lodz38i.htm> (POLbase, 1938)

<http://polbase.w.interiowo.pl/lodz78i.htm> (POLbase, 1978)



Akiba Rubinstein (Photo: Chessgames)

Akiba Rubinstein and his annus mirabilis in 1912

In chess history there are only a few individuals that stand out really among the rest, Akiba Rubinstein, is one of these players.

In 1912, Rubinstein won five chess tournaments in a row in the same year: **San Sebastián** (ahead of joint Nimzowitsch and Spielmann, followed by Tarrasch in a very strong field), **Bad Pistyan** (Piešťany), **Breslau (DSB Congress)** shared with Oldřich Duras, **Vilnius (All-Russian Masters)**, and **Warsaw (City Championship 1911/12)** at the beginning of this incredible consecutive string! A growing demand for there to be a match between Rubinstein and Lasker emerged.

Rubinstein was scheduled to play a match with Emanuel Lasker for the World Chess Championship in 1914, but it was cancelled because of the lack of fundraising success and the outbreak of World War I.

Akiba Kowelowicz Rubinstein (born 1880 – died March 1961) was a famous Polish chess Grandmaster at the beginning of the 20th century. Rubinstein was Jewish and his family planned for him to become a rabbi. However, in 1903, after finishing fifth in a tournament in Kiev, Rubinstein decided to abandon his rabbinical studies and devote himself entirely to chess. Between 1907 and 1914, Rubinstein established himself as one of the top leading players in the world.

But at St. Petersburg 1914, Rubinstein faced a poor result. The top five played a final and are reported to be given virtually the title of “Grandmaster” (not to mix with the FIDE titles). Rubinstein surprisingly did not qualify for that final (with Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine, Marshall and Tarrasch).

At the time when it was common for the reigning world champion to handpick his challengers, Rubinstein was never given a chance to play Lasker for the championship because he was unable to raise enough money to meet Lasker's financial demands. Unfortunately due that bad result at St. Petersburg, the beginning of Rubinstein's deep psychological problems and the rise of the Cuban chess star Capablanca combined with the break out of World War I was the beginning of the end for Rubinstein title aspirations.

After 1932, Rubinstein who was awarded the official grandmaster title at its inauguration in 1950, never competed in chess tournaments again, all though he was invited to do so. Shortly after his retirement from chess, Akiba checked into a psychiatric clinic. The final years of his life he spent in Belgium with his family until his death in 1961.

Historical Ratings from Chessmetrics are placing Rubinstein between mid-1912 and mid-1914 as world no. 1 of the world.

Historical context:

The **Kingdom of Poland**, informally known as **Congress Poland** or **Russian Poland**, was created in 1815 by the [Congress of Vienna](#) as a [sovereign state](#) of the [Russian part](#) of [Poland](#) connected by [personal union](#) with the [Russian Empire](#) under the [Constitution of the Kingdom of Poland](#) until 1832. Then, it was gradually politically integrated into Russia over the course of the 19th century, made an official part of the Russian Empire in 1867, and finally replaced during the [Great War](#) by the [Central Powers](#) in 1915 with the theoretically existing [Regency Kingdom of Poland](#) and the Second Polish Republic with [the re-creation](#) of the [independent Polish state](#) in 1918, until the joint [Invasion of Poland](#) by [Nazi Germany](#) and the [Soviet Union](#) in 1939 at the onset of [World War II](#).

The two decades of Poland's sovereignty between the world wars are known as the [Interbellum](#).

The **Peace of Riga**, also known as the **Treaty of Riga**; [Polish](#): *Traktat Ryski* was signed in [Riga](#) on 18 March 1921, between [Poland](#), [Soviet Russia](#) (acting also on behalf of [Soviet Belarus](#)) and [Soviet Ukraine](#). The treaty ended the [Polish–Soviet War](#) from [the re-creation](#) of the [independent Polish state](#) in 1918, until the joint [Invasion of Poland](#) by [Nazi Germany](#) and the [Soviet Union](#) in 1939 at the onset of [World War II](#).

The Soviet-Polish borders established by the treaty remained in force until the [Second World War](#). They were later redrawn during the [Yalta Conference](#) and [Potsdam Conference](#).

In September 1939, [World War II](#) started with the [invasion of Poland](#) by [Nazi Germany](#), followed shortly thereafter by [invasion](#) by the [Soviet Union](#), both in accordance with the [Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact](#).

More than six million Polish citizens died in World War II.

[After the war](#), Poland's borders were [shifted westwards](#). With the backing of the Soviet Union, a communist [puppet government](#) was formed, and after a falsified [referendum](#) in 1946, the [People's Republic of Poland](#) was established as a Soviet [satellite state](#).

During the [Revolutions of 1989](#) Poland's Communist government was overthrown and Poland adopted a new constitution establishing itself as a democracy.

Despite [the large number of casualties](#) and destruction the country [experienced during World War II](#), Poland has managed to preserve much of [its rich cultural wealth](#), including more than a dozen of [UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#). (Source: Wikipedia)

Łódź is the third-largest city in [Poland](#) after [Warsaw](#) and [Kraków](#). Located in the central part of the country, it has a population of approx. 700,000 (as of 2016). The city's [coat of arms](#) is an example of [canting](#): depicting a boat. It alludes to the city's name which translates literally as "boat."

After Poland regained its [independence](#) in 1918, Łódź grew to be one of the largest Polish cities and one of the most multicultural and industrial centers in [Europe](#). The interbellum period saw rapid development in education and healthcare.

After years of prosperity during the [socialist era](#), Łódź experienced decline after the [fall of communism](#) throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The city, however, is internationally known for its [National Film School](#), a cradle for the most renowned Polish actors and directors, including [Andrzej Wajda](#) and [Roman Polanski](#). (Source: Wikipedia)

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