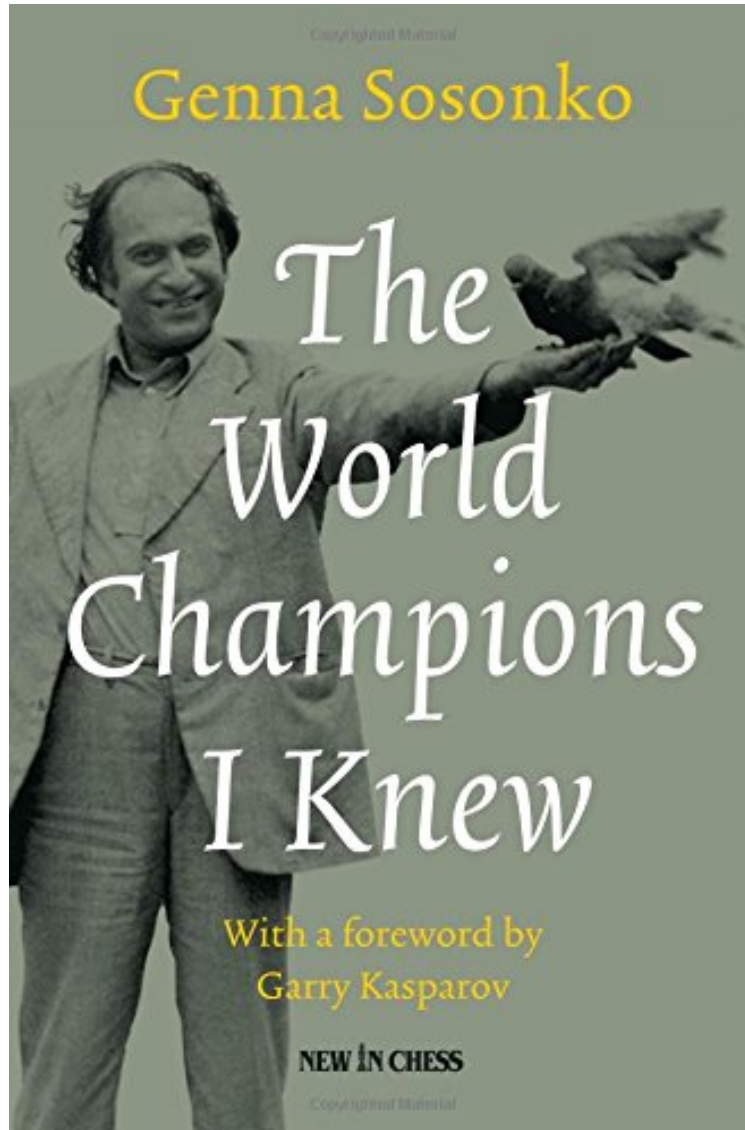


(Free) The World Champions I Knew

The World Champions I Knew

Genna Sosonko

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#1197273 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2013-06-16Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.64 x .79 x 5.771, .87 #File Name: 9056914189256 pagesAuthor: Genna SosonkoPages: 235Publication Years: 2013 | File size: 55.Mb

Genna Sosonko : The World Champions I Knew before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The World Champions I Knew:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous ReadingBy Larry M.I started playing chess near the end of Botvinnik's active days and all the World Champions, excluding Fischer, thereafter where a total mystery to me and I suspect most Western non-professionals players. This book is like a family reunion of sorts with a patriarch setting at

the head of a large table discussing family history. I kept saying to myself, "I never knew"! Amazing information about people we feel like we knew but we really didn't. The most dramatic section of this book for me was the one covering Mikhail Tal. Someone once said you don't really want to meet your heroes and that could not be more true in Tal's pages. It was almost heartbreaking to know some of the facts about Tal's life but other parts confirmed why he was so loved as chess player by so many. This is a unique and special book. Sosonko is the keeper of our chess history of those days. This is an easy "five" star for me. Keep writing Genna. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Revealing glimpses By Charles E. Blair I think of this as a continuation of RUSSIAN SILHOUETTES--- Interesting and unfamiliar anecdotes, no chess positions or games. Capablanca - This is the only item repeated from RUSSIAN SILHOUETTES, an account of several interviews with Capablanca's widow, later known as Olga Clark. Alekhine - specifically focussed on Alekhine's residence in Paris 1927-1937, in particular his writings for emigre Russian newspapers and involvement with a Masonic lodge. Euwe - a tribute to Euwe's ability as a player, his generosity, his work ethic, with glimpses of his home life through comments from his daughters. Regarding his passing interest in aviation: "Fortunately, ... he never got his pilot's license...he would have been called up, and almost all the pilots got shot down on the first day of the war." Botvinnik - Having written about him at length in RUSSIAN SILHOUETTES, Sosonko briefly recounts several cases in which Botvinnik was reprimanded by the authorities for public statements that did not follow the current party line. Smyslov - A series of endearing anecdotes over decades revealing, among other things, his passing interest in UFO's, Spiritualism, and various health fads. Tal - As in RUSSIAN SILHOUETTES, he is recalled fondly, but there is much more detail about his drug and alcohol problems. Petrosian - A balanced portrayal recognizing his unique understanding of chess, his difficult struggle, and the physical stress of actual play. At the same time, his activities as a "loyal Soviet citizen," and his willingness to use his hard-earned influence with the authorities to assist his chess results, are described. His wife, Rona, is presented in a more sympathetic way than elsewhere, while not overlooking that, like her husband, she may not always have had the highest standards of sportsmanship. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Bringing the Greats to Life By Brian A. Powell What a fun read this book is. Sosonko really brings Botvinnik, Smyslov, Petrosian, and Tal to life. The largest chapter is devoted to the chaotic genius that was Mikhail Tal. but he does a great job of sharing the humanity of Smyslov and Petrosian. This is a book that I will read many times.

The legendary chess players that Genna Sosonko brings to life in this new collection of his acclaimed writing have one thing in common: Capablanca, Alekhine, Euwe, Botvinnik, Smyslov, Tal and Petrosian, they were all world champions. Sosonko's riveting portrait of Mikhail Tal, the inimitable Magician from Riga who to this day mesmerizes chess fans all over the world, bears all the hallmarks of the author's writing. Few if any knew Misha Tal as well as his good friend and training partner. Here you get, for the first time, Tal in full: the nonchalant genius, the charming wit, the womanizer, the cult hero and the drug addict. Mikhail Tal is only one of the chess greats that Sosonko portrays in this book that brings together his best writings on the World Champions of chess. Two of them he could not possibly have met; his story of Alexander Alekhine is based on new research and his essay on Jose Raul Capablanca on unforgettable meetings with Capablanca's widow Olga. The other champions Sosonko got to know closely during his wide travels as a chess pro. Countless hours of private conversation as well as research in recently opened KGB archives form the basis of unique portraits of Max Euwe, Mikhail Botvinnik, Vasily Smyslov and Tigran Petrosian.

Sosonko brings genuine delight even to the most demanding readers, from professionals to amateurs or even non-players who are simply interested in chess history as a part of general human culture. (Garry Kasparov) Sosonko's portrait of Tal is no hagiography and is all the better for that. Beautifully written, heartfelt and moving. (Grandmaster Daniel King) If you love chess history, or history in general, or if you simply want to know more about some of your chess heroes, this book is a must buy. Beautifully written and rich with amazing content. I give Sosonko's *The World Champions I Knew* my highest recommendation. (Jeremy Silman, US Chess online, author of *How to Reassess Your Chess*) Sosonko's reminiscence of Mikhail Tal, the self-destructive, alcoholic, womanizing, half angel - half devil form the pulsing heart of his latest memoir. (Dominic Lawson Standpoint) A wonderful insight to the lives of the World Champions. (Gary Lane, International Master CHESS Magazine) Sosonko writes with uncommon grace. His free-form stories speak from the heart, and frame each subject within the context of the times. There is wisdom in his open and honest assessments, and each world champion's story has been told with unusual warmth, insight, and compassion. (John D. Warth, This title is destined to be a classic... Chess Club of Southern Indiana) An important addition to what we know about the lives of the world champions. This is chess literature at its very best. (Diplo: Towards more inclusive and effective diplomacy) About the Author Genna Sosonko lived the first 29 years of his life in Leningrad. He emigrated to Holland in 1972 and was one of the strongest grandmasters in the world. His bestselling book, *Russian Silhouettes*, was shortlisted for the world's premier chess book award, the British Chess Federation Book of the Year.