

Jacqueline Piatigorsky

Patron, Player, Pioneer

COLLECTION OF WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME, GIFT OF THE FAMILY OF JACQUELINE PIATIGORSKY (PHOTO BY PHIL BATH)

Just like the fine arts, chess has always been largely dependent on the passion and vision of wealthy patrons. Jacqueline Piatigorsky (née de Rothschild), who died last year at the respectable age of 100, was an ardent chess player herself, but will primarily be remembered for the tournaments that she organized together with her husband Gregor Piatigorsky, the renowned cellist.

The Piatigorsky Cups, held in 1963 and 1966 in Los Angeles and Santa Monica, gathered the world's best players and set a new standard for elite events. The exhibition *Jacqueline Piatigorsky, Patron, Player, Pioneer* is on view from October 25, 2013 to April 18, 2014 at the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis. Among the exhibits is this fine photograph from the 1966 tournament of Jacqueline Piatigorsky modestly watching Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky, the ultimate winner, after their draw in Round 17(!). Clearly the American and the Russian were already on excellent terms well ahead of the World Championship match in 1972 that would forge a lifelong friendship.

Robert J.

Boris
Spassky