

# In Memoriam: William G. Addison

**George Mirijanian**

On October 29, 2008 international master William "Bill" Addison died at age 74 in San Francisco. He rose to the top ranks of U.S. chess in the 1960s, when he was rated among the top ten players on USCF rating lists. But tragically, his chess career would be of short duration. Born William Grady Addison on November 28, 1933 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Addison moved to San Francisco in 1952, where his playing strength was assessed as that of a low-rated expert. But after years of hard work and perseverance, he became a master to be reckoned with.

His first encounter with the late Bobby Fischer was on August 15, 1957, when he played Fischer in the 11th round of the U.S. Open in Cleveland, Ohio. Although he lost the game, Addison improved his play to the point where he was able to make his debut in the 1962-63 U.S. Championship in New York City. He was the big surprise of the tournament, finishing in a tie for third place with GMs Larry Evans and Sammy Reshevsky - all with scores of 6½-4½ behind tournament winner Fischer (8-3) and GM Arthur Bisguier (7-4).

Addison suffered a setback in the 1963-64 U.S. Championship, where he could only muster a score of 3½-7½,

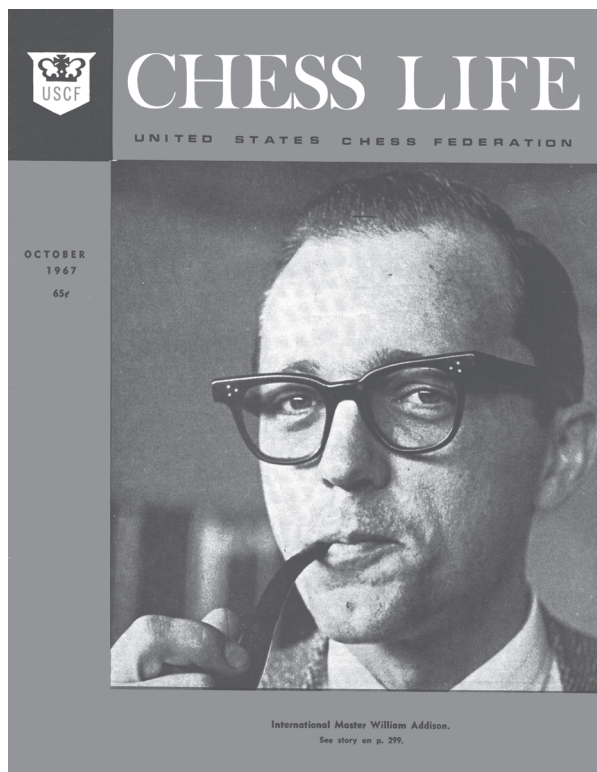
tying for ninth place with Edmar Mednis. But he bounced back in the 1965 U.S. Championship, tallying 6½-4½ and tying for fourth place with Bernard Zuckerman. The following year's Championship saw Addison chalk up a score of 5-6, which gained him a tie for sixth place with Anthony Saidy. His final U.S. Championship appearance was in the 1969-70 event, where he surprised just about everyone by finishing second (!) - with a score of 7½-3½ - behind winner Sammy Reshevsky. [Note: Fischer did not compete, citing in an open letter to the USCF his demand for a 22-round event and reiterating his argument that the longer the tournament the more likely the best player would emerge the winner. The USCF rejected Fischer's argument, stating that there was simply no money available to make the tournament longer.]

Addison's second-place finish earned him a spot in the Interzonal tournament at Palma de Mallorca, Spain, in 1970. It proved to be his last tournament of record, for after scoring 9-14 and ending up tying for 18th place, Addison quit chess. It was a sad day in American chess. For the player who had represented his country twice in Olympiads - 1964 in Tel Aviv, Israel, and 1966 in Havana, Cuba - and had played well in U.S. championships, had decided to pursue a career in banking, working for the Crocker National Bank of San Francisco, later acquired in 1986 by Wells Fargo Bank, before he retired.

Addison made a surprise visit to Massachusetts in 1964, when he competed in the 4th Central New England Open tournament on June 27-28 in Fitchburg. He won the 82-player event, finishing ahead of fellow masters Shelby Lyman of New York City, Edgar McCormick of East Orange, NJ, Yugoslav native Milan Vukceovich of Ohio, and the "Dean of New England Chess," John Curdo of Chelmsford, MA. Three years later, Addison was awarded the International Master title by the World Chess Federation (FIDE). Many considered him of grandmaster strength at his peak. His last published FIDE rating was 2490, while his peak USCF rating was 2595. The chess world mourns the passing of one of the true great gentlemen of the royal game: William G. Addison.

*Steiner, Herman - Addison, William*  
USA, 1955 [D10]

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 Bf5 5.Qb3 Qb6 6.c5 Qc7 7.Nh4 Bg6 8.a3 e5 9.dxe5 Nfd7 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.e6 fxe6 12.Qc2 Kf7 13.Nf3 Be7 14.b4 a5 15.Rb1 axb4 16.axb4 Ne5 17.Rb3 Ra1 18.Qb2 Bf6 19.Nd4 Ra4 20.Qc2 Na6 21.Rh3 Rxh3 22.Qxa4 Rc3 23.Bd2 Nxc5 24.bxc5 Rc4 25.Qa2 Rxd4 26.e3 Rh4 27.g3 Rxh2 28.Rxh2 Nf3+ 29.Ke2 Nxh2 30.Bh3 g5 31.f4 g4 32.Bg2 b6 33.Qb1 bxc5 34.Qh7 Qb7 35.Qxh2 Qb5+ 36.Ke1 Qb1+ 37.Ke2 c4 38.Qh1 Qd3+ 39.Ke1 c3 40.Bc1 Qc2 41.Ba3 Qb1+ 0-1



William G. Addison on the cover of the October 1967 *Chess Life*.

## Chess Horizons

*Fischer,Robert - Addison,William*

Ch United States, Open Cleveland OH, 1957 [B10]

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6  
6.Bc4 Bd6 7.Qe2+ Qe7 8.Qxe7+ Kxe7 9.d4 Bf5 10.Bb3  
Re8 11.Be3 Kf8 12.0-0-0 Nd7 13.c4 Rad8 14.Bc2 Bxc2  
15.Kxc2 f5 16.Rhe1 f4 17.Bd2 Nf6 18.Ne5 g5 19.f3 Nh5  
20.Ng4 Kg7 21.Bc3 Kg6 22.Rxe8 Rxe8 23.c5 Bb8 24.d5  
cxd5 25.Rxd5 f5 26.Ne5+ Bxe5 27.Rxe5 Nf6 28.Rxe8 Nxe8  
29.Be5 Kh5 30.Kd3 g4 31.b4 a6 32.a4 gxf3 33.gxf3 Kh4  
34.b5 axb5 35.a5 Kh3 36.c6 1-0

*Addison,William - Mednis,Edmar*

Ch US/Rosenwald New York City NY (8), 1962 [E66]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6  
7.0-0 a6 8.d5 Na5 9.Nd2 c5 10.Qc2 Rb8 11.b3 b5 12.Bb2  
Bd7 13.Rfb1 Qc7 14.Nce4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Bxb2 16.Rxb2  
bxc4 17.bxc4 Rxb2 18.Qxb2 Rb8 19.Qc3 Rb4 20.a3 Rb7  
21.h4 h5 22.Bc2 Qb6 23.Rb1 Qd8 24.Re1 Qb6 25.Bd3 Qd8  
26.f4 Bg4 27.Rf1 Qb6 28.f5 gxf5 29.Bxf5 Bxf5 30.Rxf5 f6  
31.Rxh5 Kf8 32.Qd3 Ke8 33.Rh8+ 1-0

*Addison,William - Berliner,Hans*

Ch US/Rosenwald New York City NY (10), 1962 [D29]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0-0 a6  
7.Qe2 b5 8.Bb3 Bb7 9.Rd1 Nbd7 10.Nc3 Qc7 11.e4 b4  
12.Nd5 exd5 13.exd5+ Be7 14.dxc5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Bxd5  
16.Rxd5 Nxc5 17.Be3 Nd7 18.Bg5 f6 19.Re1 Nb6 20.Bf4  
Qb7 21.Rc5 Rc8 22.Bd6 Rxc5 23.Qxe7+ 1-0

*Addison,William - Byrne,Donald*

Ch United States, Closed New York City NY, 1963 [E60]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Bg2 a6 7.a4  
0-0 8.e4 e5 9.h4 Nbd7 10.Bh3 Rb8 11.Nf3 Nb6 12.Bxc8  
Qxc8 13.b3 Na8 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.a5 g5 17.Nh2  
Bd8 18.h5 Nc7 19.Ng4 Kh7 20.Ne3 Ne8 21.g4 Bc7 22.Ra3  
Qd8 23.Qa1 Ng7 24.Ke2 Qc8 25.Qa2 b6 26.axb6 Rxb6  
27.Ra1 Qb7 28.Rxa6 Rxa6 29.Qxa6 Qxb3 30.Qa3 Qb8  
31.Rb1 Qd8 32.Rb5 Qe7 33.Qa7 Rc8 34.Rb8 Qd8 35.Qa6  
Kg8 36.Rb5 Bb8 37.Qb6 Qxb6 38.Rxb6 Rd8 39.f3 Kf8  
40.Rb7 Kg8 41.Kd3 Kf8 42.Kc2 Kg8 43.Kb3 Kf8 44.Ka4  
Kg8 45.Ka5 Kf8 46.Ka6 Ke8 1-0

*Suttles,Duncan - Addison,William*

Memorial, Stamer, San Francisco CA (5), 1964 [A00]

1.g3 Nf6 2.Bg2 d5 3.d3 c6 4.Nc3 e5 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bd2 d4  
7.Nce2 Bxd2+ 8.Qxd2 Qe7 9.f3 c5 10.Nh3 Nc6 11.Nf2 Rb8  
12.0-0 0-0 13.f4 Ng4 14.Nxg4 Bxg4 15.Rae1 b5 16.h3 Bxe2  
17.Rxe2 c4 18.Kh2 Qc5 19.b3 Rfd8 20.Ref2 Rb6 21.h4 h6  
22.f5 f6 23.g4 Kf7 24.g5 hxg5 25.hxg5 Rh8+ 26.Kg3 Rbb8  
27.Bf3 Qb4 28.Qe2 fxc5 29.Bh5+ Kf6 30.Rg2 Rh6 31.Qg4  
Rbh8 32.Rh1 cxd3 33.Kf3 Ke7 34.Qxg5+ Kd6 35.Qxg7

Kc5 36.Rg6 Qd2 37.b4+ Kb6 38.Qxe5 Qe3+ 39.Kg2 Rxg6+  
40.Bxg6 Nxe5 41.Rxh8 Qf3+ 0-1

*Bisguier,Arthur - Addison,William*

Ch US, Closed New York City NY (5), 1965[A48]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 c5 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4  
Nc6 7.e3 0-0 8.a3 h6 9.Bh4 d6 10.Bc4 Bf5 11.h3 Rc8 12.0-  
0 e5 13.e4 Bd7 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Ba2 g5 16.Bg3 Qe7 17.Re1  
Rcd8 18.Nh2 Be6 19.Bxe6 Qxe6 20.Nhf1 Rd3 21.Re3 Rd7  
22.Qb3 Qe7 23.Nf3 Rfd8 24.Rae1 Nh5 25.Rc3 Qf6 26.Ne3  
Nd4 27.Nxd4 exd4 28.Ng4 Qg6 29.Rd3 Nxg3 30.fxc3 Rc7  
31.Nf2 Rdc8 32.Re2 Rc1+ 33.Kh2 h5 34.Qxb7 Be5 35.Qd5  
R1c5 36.Qd7 h4 37.Nh1 Rc1 38.Rf3 g4 39.Qxg4 Qxg4  
40.hxg4 Kg7 41.Rf5 Rxh1+ 0-1

*Addison,William - Fischer,Robert*

Ch US, Closed New York City NY (1), 1965 [E45]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6 5.Nge2 Ba6 6.a3 Bxc3+  
7.Nxc3 d5 8.b3 0-0 9.a4 Nc6 10.Bb2 dxc4 11.bxc4 Na5  
12.Nb5 c6 13.Na3 Qe7 14.Qc2 c5 15.Be2 cxd4 16.exd4 Rfc8  
17.0-0 Rc6 18.Bf3 Nd5 19.Bxd5 exd5 20.Rfe1 Qf8 21.Qf5  
dxc4 22.d5 Rg6 23.Nc2 Nb3 24.Ba3 Qd8 25.Be7 Qc8  
26.Qxc8+ Bxc8 27.Ra3 Bd7 28.Ne3 Nd4 29.Rd1 Nf5  
30.Nxf5 Bxf5 31.d6 Bd7 32.Rc1 Rg4 33.f3 Rd4 34.Kf2 Rc8  
35.Rac3 f6 36.Ke3 Rh4 37.g3 Rxh2 38.Rxc4 Rxc4 39.Rxc4  
Kf7 40.Rc7 Ke6 41.Rxa7 Rb2 42.f4 Rb3+ 43.Kf2 f5 44.g4  
g6 45.gxf5+ gxf5 46.a5 b5 47.a6 Rb4 48.Kg3 Ra4 49.Bf8  
h5 50.Be7 Bc6 51.Bf8 h4+ 52.Kh3 Bd7 53.Bh6 Kxd6  
54.Kxh4 Bc8 55.Kg5 Bxa6 56.Ra8 Kc7 57.Bg7 b4 58.Be5+  
Kd7 59.Kf6 1/2-1/2

*Addison,William - Gligoric,Svetozar*

Palma de Mallorca, 1970 [E62]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Nc3 Nc6  
7.0-0 e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.e4 Ne8 10.Nh4 c5 11.dxc6 Nxc6 12.h3  
Nc7 13.Nf3 Ne6 14.Nb5 Ned4 15.Nbxd4 exd4 16.b3 Re8  
17.Re1 Qb6 18.Bb2 a5 19.a4 Bd7 20.Rb1 Re7 21.Ba3 Nb4  
22.Qd2 Rae8 23.Bxb4 axb4 24.Rbd1 Qc5 25.Nxd4 f5  
26.Qd3 fxe4 27.Rxe4 Rxe4 28.Bxe4 Bxh3 29.Nb5 Kh8  
30.Qd5 Rf8 31.Qxc5 dxc5 32.Bxb7 Bf5 33.a5 Bc2 34.Rc1  
Bxb3 35.a6 Ba2 36.a7 b3 37.Rf1 b2 38.Na3 Bc3 39.a8Q  
Rxa8 40.Bxa8 Bb4 41.Nb1 Bxc4 42.Rd1 Be6 43.Be4 Kg7  
44.Rd6 1-0

*Taimanov,Mark - Addison,William*

Palma de Mallorca (1), 1970 [D16]

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Na6 6.e4 Bg4  
7.Bxc4 e6 8.0-0 Nb4 9.Be3 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.Ne5 Bxe2  
12.Qxe2 c5 13.Rfd1 cxd4 14.Bxd4 Qb8 15.Nc4 Nc6 16.e5  
Nd5 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Na3 Re8 19.e6 Qf4 20.Nb5 Rac8  
21.Bxa7 Nxa7 22.Nxa7 Rcd8 23.Nb5 Bc5 24.Qc2 b6 25.g3  
Qf6 26.Nc7 Rf8 27.b4 Bxb4 28.Rab1 Bc5 29.Nxd5 Qxe6  
1/2-1/2