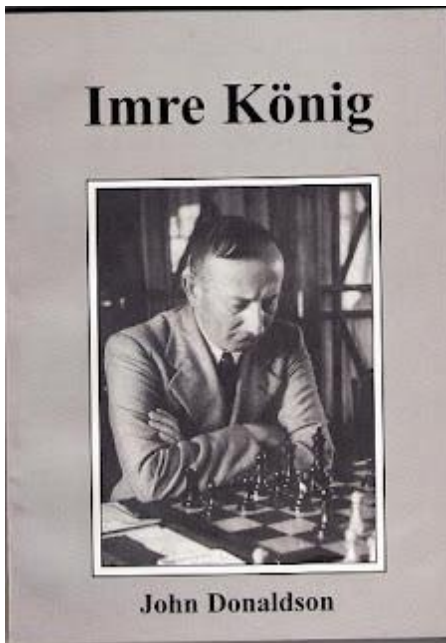


# GrandMaster Round Robin this Weekend @ Mechanics

September 17, 2012  
by NM Michael Aigner



This weekend, the *Mechanics' Institute* hosts one of the highest rated fields in its storied history. Here's the catch: the Grandmasters will play at a rapid time control. Read below how chess director IM **John Donaldson** described it in his newsletter on May 1.



GM Shankland

Thanks to the generosity of **Tibor Weinberger**, the Mechanics' Institute will be holding the **Third Imre König Memorial** on September 22-23. The event, which commemorates the 20th anniversary of the death of International Master **König**, the first top rate player to reside in San Francisco, will be held as a seven-player round-robin, featuring a rapid chess time control of Game in 25 minutes, with a 15-second increment from move one. The invited players consist of the **top six rated players from the Bay Area**, led by Grandmaster **Sam Shankland** (who by now is nearly 2600 FIDE and *top 10 in the country*). The last player, Grandmaster **Emil Anka** of Hungary, pays respect to König's ancestry as an international cosmopolitan who was born in the time of the *Austro-Hungarian Empire* in Kula, in today's Serbia.

- GM Sam Shankland (2597 FIDE)
- GM Jesse Kraai (2514)
- GM Vinay Bhat (2511)
- GM Nick deFirmian (2510)
- IM Daniel Naroditsky (2483)
- GM Walter Browne (2449)
- GM Emil Anka (2382)



GM Anka



IM Naroditsky

König studied in Vienna and improved his game in its chess cafe milieu, being particularly influenced by **Richard Reti**. Like the Czech, he earned a reputation as a fine author with his *Chess from Morphy to Botvinnik: A Century of Chess Evolution* serving as a useful instructional guide to several generations of chess players.

König was not only a fine writer, but also an excellent player, who twice represented Yugoslavia in Chess Olympiads. He is fondly remembered by Mechanics' old-timers for his Old World courtliness and generosity of spirit in sharing his chess wisdom. The Mechanics' Institute is honored to pay tribute to his memory.

The games will be broadcast on the *Chess.com* live server, from 10 to 6 on Saturday and 10 to 4 on Sunday. Each participant plays six rounds and gets a single bye