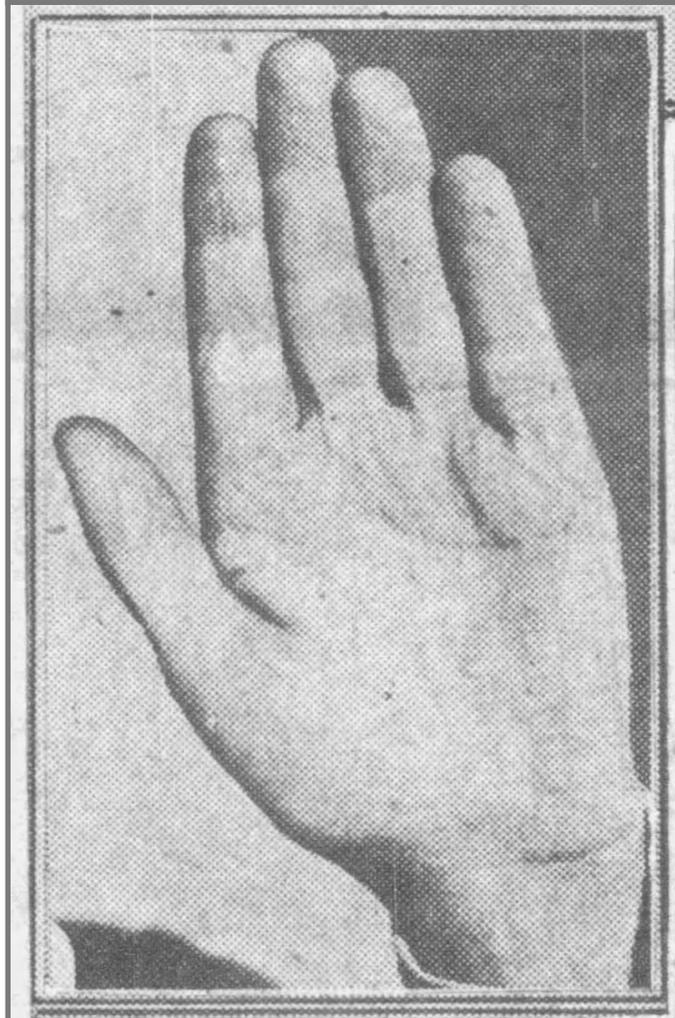


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SERGEI RACHMANINOFF admits feeling pessimistic before noon; and this photographic portrait, in his sitting room Thursday morning at the Biltmore, shows the great Russian pianist-composer in a reflective mood. The structure of his left hand might appeal to a student of sports as much as the lines would interest a palmist. The ring-finger is as long as the index finger, and apparently larger. The little finger is not so little, by contrast. The prodigious power in Mr. Rachmaninoff's hands is, of course, one of his distinctive features at the piano.—Staff Photo by Winn.