



COLUMNISTS

The Kibitzer

Tim Harding

Shakhmatny Bulletin:
An Old Friend Revisited

Recently I was fortunate to be able to complete my set of one of the chess magazines to which I was a subscriber from the early 1970s until its closure in 1990. *Shakhmatny Bulletin* ('Chess Bulletin'), published by the Soviet Chess Federation in Moscow from 1955 until the break-up of the Soviet Union, was the most valuable resource available to serious players in its day.

It remains a very useful source for anyone engaged in chess research and theoretical work because in a typical year it published about 2,500 complete game scores. Until the modern computer era, nobody else did anything like that.

Chess players today are "spoiled rotten". You have at your disposal a huge variety of sources of chess information and current games, some of them free. Numerous websites offer chess news and game files for download or analysis. However, there was nothing like The Week In Chess or ChessLab when my generation was learning to study chess. For the first decade of *Shakhmatny Bulletin*'s existence, there was not even *Sahovski Informator*.

A typical issue of *Shakhmatny Bulletin* would begin with theory notes: usually a top GM would survey developments in an important tournament. The first few moves of some games would be cited, with an assessment and suggested improvements. The issues would also sometimes contain endgame articles or answers to readers' points. However, political material and general chit-chat, such as you would find in the other major Soviet monthly *Shakmaty v SSSR* ('Chess in the USSR') was absent from this magazine.

Shakhmatny Bulletin was about serious chess and it was the magazine for players who needed to know what was happening. The bulk of each issue consisted of bare game scores (never any notes, but there were some diagrams and tournament crosstables). In the early issues there were usually about 150 games, but this rose to 200 in the late 1980s.



The majority of the games were played in Soviet internal events or major international tournaments, but each issue usually also contained a selection of games from around the world, and sometimes correspondence games. (Games were indexed by opening and name.) Many issues had an historical article too: generally a selection of games from a classic event or old master; sometimes a career profile of a master who had reached a landmark such as a 50th or 60th birthday. There were sometimes photographs of such players.

I really started to study chess seriously in the mid-1960s when the Soviet Union dominated world chess — with the exception of a few top grandmasters from other countries, like Bobby Fischer and Pal Benko (USA), Svetozar Gligoric (Yugoslavia) and of course Bent Larsen (Denmark).

The general standard of play and intensity of competition within the USSR meant that a quality game of theoretical interest was as likely, if not more likely, to turn up in a semifinal of the Ukraine Championship or the USSR Armed Forces or Trade Union events as it was in the national championship final of a country like Britain or Holland.

Shakhmatny Bulletin reported such events with selections of games which otherwise would most probably have been lost to posterity. While some Soviet publications were unobtainable in the West as a rule (e.g. the *Central Chess Club Bulletin*), it was possible to buy a subscription to *Shakhmatny Bulletin*, *Sahs* (or *Shakmaty Riga*, edited by Tal and Gipslis) and some other chess publications. They would be mailed direct to you from Russia, with a bit of a time-lag. No doubt sales of subscriptions to various technical magazines like this were a useful earner of hard currency for the Kremlin and a bookseller called Colet's (in England) acted as their agent.

So far as chess literature — and especially up-to-date games and analysis — players in the West were almost starved of information. National chess magazines can only publish a small quantity of overseas games, so that one could not rely on *British Chess Magazine*, *Chess Life* or B.H.Wood's colourful *Chess* for a full picture of what was going on.

In the West, there was really only one publication that covered opening theory in the 1950s and the majority of the 1960s. *Chess Archives* ('Losbladige Schaakberichten') was edited by Euwe and some of his colleagues, in Dutch and English, in the format of monthly loose-leaf notes which could be arranged in a binder. They did take up some of the theoretical articles from Soviet publications but they could not publish anything like the quantity of games.

In England, IM Bob Wade edited *Chessman Quarterly* from 1968-72; it stopped when the Batsford chess book series got under way. This magazine

drew heavily on what its writers could glean from little-known Russian and East European sources. It is no coincidence that most of those writers were students at Oxford or Cambridge University at the time. Bob Wade wanted young researchers who had been trained to work methodically through research materials such as *Shakhmatny Bulletin*, looking for relevant games and theory notes, and who could then systematically arrange this material and compare it with other sources of the time such as the theory books of Euwe, Keres and Pachman.

I was one of the first contributors to *Chessman Quarterly*, with articles on the Poisoned pawn variation of the Najdorf and then on the Velimirovic Attack in the Sozin Sicilian.

Generally we found that when a new idea was published first in our magazine, or in the Batsford series, it might turn up without attribution later in Soviet sources! An exception here was the late GM Alexei Suetin who I noticed on a few occasions named me in *Shakhmatny Bulletin* as the originator some new move or other.

One of the great things about *Shakhmatny Bulletin* was that you did not have to be a great linguist to make almost full use of it. The main requirement was to know the Russian alphabet and initial letters for the pieces, and soon the names of the most famous players became instantly recognisable and you learned to decipher the others. Occasionally their Cyrillic transcription mangled western names in amusing ways.

After a while, especially if you learned a little Russian at school, you picked up basic terms like White, Black, draw, resigns, advantage, initiative, attack etc. A fairly small vocabulary was enough to get the gist of the theoretical articles and you did not even need that to play through the games.

The magazine began publication in 1955 with a print run of just 1,000. Its page size was slightly smaller than A4 and over the 12 issues there were 384 pages.

I doubt if many copies reached the West. However, in 1983 Tony Gillam of *The Chess Player* borrowed Bob Wade's set of the first volume and produced a hardbound facsimile edition with a print run of fewer than 200 copies. I managed to buy one of these a couple of years ago.

Issue 1 (January 1955) begins with a theoretical article in which grandmaster I. Boleslavsky surveyed developments in several tournaments from the year 1954: Leningrad championship, training tournaments for masters and candidate masters in Leningrad, and the FIDE zonals of Czechoslovakia and Munich. The crosstables of those zonals were in the back of the magazine. Some games in the Spanish, Sicilian, Petroff, King's Indian Defence,

Gruenfeld, Nimzoindian and Queen's Gambit were discussed. This article was only two pages; later such articles were usually longer.

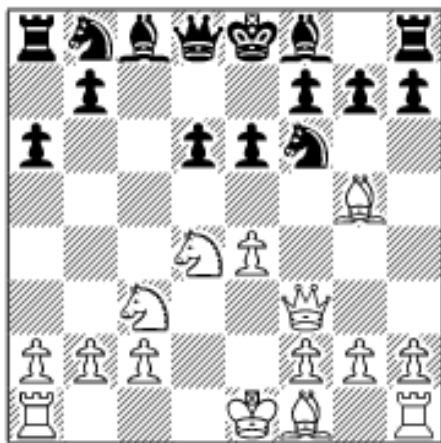
Next came an article by Pachman (reprinted from the FIDE Bulletin) on Panov's Counter-Attack in the Spanish and a short article by Krogius on a line in the Richter-Rauzer. At the back there was a short news section.

In between, there were over 20 pages packed with games: Belgrade international tournament (84 games), Championship of the RSFSR (i.e., Russia) 1954: 37 games, then 35 games from the masters and candidate masters event, six games in the Czech championship match between Filip and Pachman, 40 games from various national championships, 10 other OTB games and six correspondence games. In all, there were 218 game scores.

Here is a game from that very first issue.

Boris Spassky – Nikolai Krogius Najdorf Sicilian [B95] Training tourney masters & candidates Leningrad, 1954

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 Qf3



In those days, this move had not yet been superseded by 7 f4. White plans to use his queen on the kingside where it may be able to attack the g- and h-pawns.

7...Be7

This line was one of those covered in Boleslavsky's theoretical survey.

Instead 7...h6! was played by Krogius in the same tournament against Rovner: If 8

Bxf6 Qxf6 9 Qxf6 gxf6 while if 8 Be3 e5! and Boleslavsky said the Knight must retreat to b3 or e2, because 9 Nf5 is bad on account of 9...g6. So that game continued 8 Bh4 Be7 9 0-0-0 Qc7 10 Qg3 Nbd7 11 Bd3 and here Black played the risky move 11...b5. White sacrificed the bishop on b5 for a strong attack, but ultimately lost the game.

8 0-0-0 Qc7

Inaccurate says Boleslavsky. 8...Nbd7 is a better move, he said, as played in the game Neyding-Shamkovich, RSFSR Championship 1954: 9 Rg1 (not 9 Bc4 Ne5 or 9 Qg3 Nh5 10 Bxe7 Nxe3 11 Bxd8 Nxe1 12 Bh4 g5) 9...Qc7 10 g4 b5 11 Bxf6 Nxf6 12 g5 Nd7 13 Qe3 Nb6 14 f4 Bd7 15 f5 e5 16 Nb3 Rc8. Boleslavsky considered that Black had the better of it here since his knight is

watching d5, but unfortunately the magazine did not give the continuation of this game. 17 f6!? is attractive but quite possibly bad in view of the exchange sacrifice 17...b4 (17...gxf6 18 gxf6 Bxf6; 17...Bf8) 18 Bxa6 bxc3 19 Bxc8 cxb2+ 20 Kb1 Bxc8 21 fxe7 Nc4.

9 Qg3 Nc6 10 Nxc6 bxc6 11 f4 h6 12 Bxf6 gxf6

If 12...Bxf6 13 e5 dxe5 14 Ne4 with a strong attack, said Boleslavsky.

13 Qg7 Rf8 14 Bc4



Boleslavsky said that Black was in a difficult position. The attempt to win a piece by...

14...d5 15 exd5 Qxf4+ 16 Kb1 Qxc4

...brought Black disaster after...

17 d6!

The rest of the game could be found without comment in the games section

later in the issue. The end was:

17...Qf4

17...Bd8 is possible but White answers 18 d7+! Bxd7 19 Rxd7 and Rhd1.

18 dxe7 Kxe7 19 h4 Rb8 20 Rhf1 Qe5 21 Ka1 Rb4 22 Qxh6 f5 23 Qg5+ f6 24 Qd2 c5 25 Rfe1 Rd4 26 Qf2 Rxd1+ 27 Rxd1 Bb7 28 Re1 Be4 29 g4 Qd4 30 Qg3 Qd6 31 Qf2 Qd4 32 Qf1



After a repetition to gain time, the young Spassky tries another tack.

32...Rb8 33 a3 Bxc2

If 33...c4 Spassky would probably have chosen 34 gxf5 Bxc2 35 Qf3! invading via c6 or g3-g7.

34 gxf5 e5 35 Qxa6 Qd7 36 Rg1 Bb3 37 Ne4 Rf8 38 Rg7+ 1-0

No general editor of the magazine was named, although the Soltis book on Soviet chess says that it was GM Slava Ragozin, a friend of Botvinnik and the second correspondence world champion. Anyway, on the back cover, Yuri Averbakh was named as “special editor of this number”; after 1962, he would become overall editor of the magazine.

V. Alatortsev was named as editor of issue 2, Suetin of issue 3, P. Romanovsky of issues 4 and 8, A. Konstantinopolsky of issue 5, Ilya Kan issue 6, Oleg Moiseev of issue 7, G. Goldberg issue 9, Mikhail Botvinnik (!) of issue 10, Grigory Levenfish of issue 11 and David Bronstein of issue 12. I am not sure exactly what were the duties of the “special editor of the number” (maybe to select the games) but with this sort of company it was clearly a great honour to be chosen to do it. Some other masters were involved in 1957, which was the third year of publication.

I do not see Ragozin named in this way until the last two issues of 1957, after which the practice of naming a special editor ceased. (However in the 1980s, Averbakh resumed the practice of naming the chief editor and members of his team.) *Photo: Slava Ragozin*



This led me to suspect that the end of 1957 was when Ragozin really took over. However, the *Soviet Chess Encyclopaedia* says he was Editor of *Shakmaty v SSSR* (from 1946) and *Shakhmatny Bulletin* from 1955, which implies he was involved in some capacity from the start. Perhaps for a time he hold both jobs simultaneously? However, Ragozin died suddenly on March 11, 1962, after which Averbakh took over.



In the second year (1956), several of the same names get credits again, but Vladas Mikenas, V. Antoshin, L. Aronin and Boleslavsky were also involved as “special editors”. The chess world had never seen a magazine like this before, and basically they began the way they intended to continue, except that most issues had fewer games (around 160 would be typical) and rather more articles than at the beginning. *Photo: Yuri Averbakh*

Nevertheless, there were some innovations over the years. In 1961 an attempt at cover design replaced the plain printed title and issue number of early years. More robust covers with coloured paper and the familiar queen figurine logo were introduced in 1966. Each issue had a different colour but it was no easier to predict the cover colour than that of Informator; there didn't seem to be any system. Maybe they just used whatever ink was convenient for the printer. The page dimensions altered then, too, but not so as to be noticeable.

Inside, the formula never really changed through all these years. The Russian algebraic notation was the same (they never used figurines), with piece captures indicated by a colon, and check was never indicated.

In 1981 the page size shrunk from 29mm x21.7mm to 25.5x20.2mm but the number of pages per issue increased from (average) 32 to 40, so the reader got roughly the same amount of information as before. The new size was more convenient too.

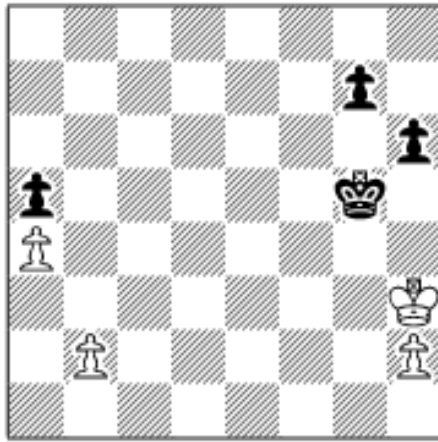
The following year saw two technical innovations and a major editorial change. One was the consecutive numbering of pages through the year was abandoned; from now to the end, each issue was numbered from page 1. The other change was definitely an improvement: the simple cover design changed to a fancier image based on a piece figurine set in a 2x2 matrix of black and white squares (see illustration). Instead of just the queen figurine, all the pieces were used in various issues but with no apparent system to the rotation.

The excellent editorial change was to make use of the back cover. Instead of plain colour, you now had a coloured border around a white area where six endgame studies were set for the reader to solve for the next issue.

In 1987 there was another innovation: one Informator-style annotated game (“Game of the number”) on the inside front cover. I see this as the beginning of the end: formerly *Shakhmatny Bulletin* published only such material as it could do better than any other publication; now it was doing what others did better.

In the final year, 1990, the page size was the same as in 1981 but issues varied between 32 and 48 pages. The high quantity of games was still maintained

The final issue (12/1990) begins with a 6-page article by Averbakh and V.Lepeshkin about the career to that time of the three Polgar sisters. Then correspondence master A. Korolev surveyed opening theory in some correspondence events and there was a page answering readers’ queries on some opening and endgame questions. Here is one of those positions.



Capablanca thought Black was winning and his main line continued 1 Kg2 Kf4 (Threatening 2...Ke4) 2 b4 axb4 3 a5 b3 4 a6 b2 5 a7 b1Q 6 a8Q Qe4+ 7 Qxe4+ Kxe4 8 Kg3 Ke3 9 Kg2 Kf4 10 Kf2 Kg4 11 Kg2 h5 and Black will win because, depending on White's reply, he has the choice of moving his g-pawn one square or two:

- (a) 12 Kh1 Kh3 13 Kg1 h4 14 Kh1 g5!-+.
 (b) 12 Kg1 Kh3 13 Kh1 h4 14 Kg1 g6! 15

Kh1 g5 etc.)

However, *Shakhmatny Bulletin* reader V. Lebedev (from Torzhok) discovered an improvement. After 1 Kg3! Kf5 the old Capablanca analysis went 2 b4 axb4 3 a5 b3 4 a6 b2 5 a7 b1Q 6 a8Q Qg1+ 7 Kf3 Qh1+ and Black wins. Instead of 2 b4, Lebedev found 2 Kh4! which threatens 3 Kh5. Now after 2...g6 now Black no longer has his options so White draws by 3 b4! axb4 4 a5 b3 5 a6 b2 6 a7 b1Q 7 a8Q for if 7...Qe4+ 8 Qxe4+ Kxe4.

The proof of this was left to the reader of the magazine, e.g., 9 Kg3 Ke3 10 Kg2 Kf4

11 Kf2 Kg4 12 Kg2 h5 13 Kg1 Kh3 14 Kh1 h4 15 Kg1. Here Black no longer has the tempo move ...g6, so play can continue, for example, 15...g5 16 Kh1 g4 17 Kg1 g3 18 hxg3 hxg3 19 Kh1 g2+ 20 Kg1 Kg3 stalemate.

There followed a two-page article with an annotated game by IM V. Vorotnikov and then a page of four annotated games. More than 200 games without notes then followed: from various international and internal USSR events. The concluding article, appropriate as it turned out to be the final one of the whole *Shakhmatny Bulletin* series, was an obituary of Aleksandr Konstantinopolsky (1910-1990) by Mikhail Tseitlin, with a large selection of his games.

№ 171 С86 Сd3 Фd7 З3 Кe4 f4 З4 Сe4
ГИГУРОВ **ГАБРИЛОВ** Ф-Ц 35. С.Ц. Черный слалом.

1. e4 e5 2. Kd3 Kd6 3. Cb5 a6 4. Cc4 Kd6 5. 0-0 Cc7 6. Jc1 b5 7. Cb3 a6 8. c3 0-0 9. b3 Jc8 10. a4 Cc7 11. Kd2 Cb8 12. Cc2 Kd8 13. a4 Kd7 14. Cc2 e6 15. Jd4 e5 16. Kd3 Jc8 17. Cc2 e6 18. e4 e5 19. bc Kc4 20. Cc5 Фe6 21. a6 d6 22. ba Cc8 23. Cb5 Jc7 24. Jc1 Jc8 25. Cb1 e4 26. Cc7 Jc4 27. Cc8 Kc5 28. Cc7 Фe7 29. Jc8 Kc3 30. Ф-Ц Cc5 31. Kc5 15 32. 24. b3 Фg5 25. C-14 Ф-14 26. Jc1 f4 27. Kc4 Kd5 28. Фd2 Фd4 29. Kc3 Фd4 30. Kc2 Jc7 31. Kc4 Фd2 32. Jc2 Jc8 33. Kc5 e6 34. g4 b6 35. g1 bc 36. a6 Jc8 37. Jg Jg 38. Jc1 Jc6 39. e7 Kc7 40. Jc5 Kc7 41. Jc5 e3 42. Jc5 Jc7 43. Jc7 Kc7 44. Jc4 Jc8 45. Kc3 Kc6 46. ba Jc4 47. Jc4 e4 48. Kc4 Kc5 49. b5 a6 50. a6 g5 51. Kc3 Kc5 52. b6 Kc6 53. f4 g1 54. Kc4 Kc5. **Ничья.**

№ 172 D04
ИЛЬИНСКИЙ **ЖЕЛЕЗНЫЙ**

1. Kd3 Kd6 2. e4 g5 3. Kc3 e5 4. a4 Cc4 5. e3 0-0 6. of Kd5 7. Cc4 Kd6 8. Cc3 Kc6 9. 0-0 e5 10. e5 Kd5 11. e4 Cc4 12. b3 Cc3 13. Ф-Ц Kc4 14. Фe2 Kc6 15. Cc3 Kd7 16. Cc4 15 17. Cc7 Фd7 18. Cc5 Jc7 19. 13 a6 20. Jc1 Cc6 21. Jc2 Jc8 22. a4 C14 23. Cc3 Фe7

24. Kc5 25. C-14 Ф-14 26. Jc1 f4 27. Kc4 Kd5 28. Фd2 Фd4 29. Kc3 Фd4 30. Kc2 Jc7 31. Kc4 Фd2 32. Jc2 Jc8 33. Kc5 e6 34. g4 b6 35. g1 bc 36. a6 Jc8 37. Jg Jg 38. Jc1 Jc6 39. e7 Kc7 40. Jc5 Kc7 41. Jc5 e3 42. Jc5 Jc7 43. Jc7 Kc7 44. Jc4 Jc8 45. Kc3 Kc6 46. ba Jc4 47. Jc4 e4 48. Kc4 Kc5 49. b5 a6 50. a6 g5 51. Kc3 Kc5 52. b6 Kc6 53. f4 g1 54. Kc4 Kc5. **Ничья.**

ПАМЯТИ А. М. КОНСТАНТИНОПОЛЬСКОГО
(1910—1990)

19 сентября 1990 г. не стало Александра Марковича Константинопольского.

Ушел из жизни выдающийся, добровольный, большой внутренней культуры человек, посвятивший всю свою жизнь шахматному искусству.

Александр Маркович являлся одним из основоположников шахматного движения в СССР.

Участник шести чемпионатов СССР, международный гроссмейстер ФИДЕ, международный мастер ИСЧФ, чемпион СССР по параллелю (1946—1951). В составе команды СССР — чемпионы 3-4 Всемирной эвонной Олимпиады.

Заслуженный тренер СССР, 1-й тренер женской сборной команды СССР (1956—1974), тренер сборной шахматистов-параллель в Удмуртии.

Привел женскую команду к завоеванию золотой медали на Олимпиаде.

Среди воспитанников Александра Марковича гроссмейстер Д. Бронштейн, гроссмейстер ИСЧФ А. Хасин, гроссмейстер ФИДЕ и ИСЧФ Макс Цейтлин,

известные мастера А. Банни, И. Демидов, К. Мухомов и многие другие.

Крупный теоретик и исследователь, автор нескольких книг и многих научных работ.

Несмотря на то, что с 1952 года его здоровье резко пошатнулось, он нашел в себе силы и мужество созреть великое дело в творческом труде.

В соавторстве с А. Вейдом вышла книга «Защита Каро-Канна», в последующие годы «Белая партия» в соавторстве с В. Лилиенталем.

Практически уже готово рукопись книги «Новый Ругар».

За достижения в области шахмат и безупречный труд Александр Маркович награжден орденом «Дружбы народов» и медалью «За трудовую доблесть».

Михаил ЦЕЙТЛИН.

Приведен избранный партии А. М. Константинопольского.

№ 173 A90 19... Фc5 20. Kd4 21. Kc6 Jg 22. Cb3 Kc5 23. Jc7 Jc8 24. Фe3 Kc8 25. Фe5 Kc7 26. Kc3 Фe5 27. Kd5 Cc5 28. e4 Фe6 29. Фe6 e4 30. Cc6 Jc6 31. de Kc6 32. Jc1 Kc5 33. Kc1 e5 34. Jc3 Jc8 35. Jc3 Kc6 36. Kc1 d4 37. Jc4 Kc5 38. Jc7 Jc8 39. Kc1 Jc6 40. Jc7 Kc6 41. Jc7 Kc5 42. Jc7 Kc5 43. Jc7 Kc6 44. Jc4 Jc7 45. a4 Kc6 46. Jc4 Jc7 47. Jc3 g5 48. b3 Kc4 49. Kc1 Jc7 50. Kc1 Jc6 51. Jc3 g4 52. Jc4 Kc3 53. Jc4 e6 54. Kc2 Jc5 55. a6 a6 56. Kc3 Jc6 57. Kc4 Kc3 58. Kc5 Jc6 59. Jc4 b4 60. Jc3 Kc4 61. Jc4 Kc3 62. Jc3 Kc4 63. Jc4 Kc3 64. Jc3 Kc2 65. Kc4 Kc2 66. Jc2 Kc1 67. Kc5 Jc6 68. Jc1 Kc2 69. Jc2 Kc3 70. Jc6 b3 71. Kc4 Jc6 72. Kc3 b2 73. Jc6 Kc3 74. Jc6 Kc2 75. Jc6

Kc1 76. Jc6 Jc8 77. Kc3 Kc1 78. Jc6 Jc7 79. Kc4 Jc6. **Белые слалом.**

№ 174 С00
КАТРИНСКИЙ **КОНСТАНТИНОПОЛЬСКИЙ**
 Ленинград, 1935

1. e4 e5 2. Фe2 e5 3. f4 Kc6 4. Kd3 Kd6 5. g3 Cc7 6. Cc2 0-0 7. e3 a5 8. e5 Kc7 9. 0-0 Фe7 10. e3 b5 11. Kc3 b4 12. Kc2 a5 13. Cc2 a4 14. Jc1 a3 15. b3 bc 16. Cc3 Kd4 17. Kc4 e6 18. Cc1 Kc5 19. Kc4 Cc6 20. Jc1 Kc4 21. Фg4 Kc3 22. Cc3 bc 23. 15 Фe5 24. Jc4 b5 25. Jc5 Jg 26. f4 e2 27. Jc8 Jc8 28. Kc6 e2 29. Jc1 Cc4 30. Jc1 Cc3 31. Cc5 215 32. Cc4 Cc4 33. bc Jc5 34. Kc4 Jc1 35. Jc1 Cc1 36. Kc3 Cc2. **Белые слалом.**

№ 175 A90 19... Фc5 20. Kd4 21. Kc6 Jg 22. Cb3 Kc5 23. Jc7 Jc8 24. Фe3 Kc8 25. Фe5 Kc7 26. Kc3 Фe5 27. Kd5 Cc5 28. e4 Фe6 29. Фe6 e4 30. Cc6 Jc6 31. de Kc6 32. Jc1 Kc5 33. Kc1 e5 34. Jc3 Jc8 35. Jc3 Kc6 36. Kc1 d4 37. Jc4 Kc5 38. Jc7 Jc8 39. Kc1 Jc6 40. Jc7 Kc6 41. Jc7 Kc5 42. Jc7 Kc5 43. Jc7 Kc6 44. Jc4 Jc7 45. a4 Kc6 46. Jc4 Jc7 47. Jc3 g5 48. b3 Kc4 49. Kc1 Jc7 50. Kc1 Jc6 51. Jc3 g4 52. Jc4 Kc3 53. Jc4 e6 54. Kc2 Jc5 55. a6 a6 56. Kc3 Jc6 57. Kc4 Kc3 58. Kc5 Jc6 59. Jc4 b4 60. Jc3 Kc4 61. Jc4 Kc3 62. Jc3 Kc4 63. Jc4 Kc3 64. Jc3 Kc2 65. Kc4 Kc2 66. Jc2 Kc1 67. Kc5 Jc6 68. Jc1 Kc2 69. Jc2 Kc3 70. Jc6 b3 71. Kc4 Jc6 72. Kc3 b2 73. Jc6 Kc3 74. Jc6 Kc2 75. Jc6

Kc1 76. Jc6 Jc8 77. Kc3 Kc1 78. Jc6 Jc7 79. Kc4 Jc6. **Белые слалом.**

№ 176 С00
КАТРИНСКИЙ **КОНСТАНТИНОПОЛЬСКИЙ**
 Ленинград, 1935

1. e4 e5 2. Фe2 e5 3. f4 Kc6 4. Kd3 Kd6 5. g3 Cc7 6. Cc2 0-0 7. e3 a5 8. e5 Kc7 9. 0-0 Фe7 10. e3 b5 11. Kc3 b4 12. Kc2 a5 13. Cc2 a4 14. Jc1 a3 15. b3 bc 16. Cc3 Kd4 17. Kc4 e6 18. Cc1 Kc5 19. Kc4 Cc6 20. Jc1 Kc4 21. Фg4 Kc3 22. Cc3 bc 23. 15 Фe5 24. Jc4 b5 25. Jc5 Jg 26. f4 e2 27. Jc8 Jc8 28. Kc6 e2 29. Jc1 Cc4 30. Jc1 Cc3 31. Cc5 215 32. Cc4 Cc4 33. bc Jc5 34. Kc4 Jc1 35. Jc1 Cc1 36. Kc3 Cc2. **Белые слалом.**

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Above: The obituary of Aleksandr Konstantinopolsky in the final issue of Shakhmatny Bulletin.

Konstantinopolsky, a leading USSR trainer and the first USSR correspondence champion in the late 1940s, had been involved in the magazine in its very first year. He was both a grandmaster of FIDE and an IM of ICCF. Here is one of his games that Tseitlin selected. Notes are based on those by the winner, which I found elsewhere.

Aleksandr Konstantinopolsky – A. Lilienthal Classical French [C14] Moscow, 1936

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Be7 5 e5 Nfd7 6 Bxe7 Qxe7 7 f4 a6 8 Nf3 c5 9 dxc5 Qxc5

If 9...Nc6 10 Bd3 Qxc5 11 Qd2 b5 12 a3 Bb7 13 Qf2! Konstantinopolsky-Makogorov, Leningrad 1936.

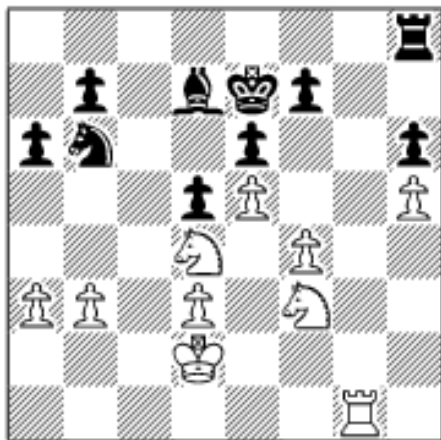
10 Qd4 Nc6

Or 10...Qe7 11 a3 Nc6 12 Qf2.

11 Qxc5 Nxc5 12 Bd3 Ke7 13 Kd2 h6?!

If 13...f5 14 Ne2 Ne4+ 15 Ke3.

14 Ne2! Bd7 15 Ned4 Rac8 16 Rae1 Rc7 17 g4 Nb4 18 a3 Nbx d3 19 cxd3 Rhc8 20 Rc1 Kd8 21 h4 Na4 22 Rxc7 Rxc7 23 b3 Nb6 24 h5! Ke7 25 g5 Rc8 26 gxh6 gxh6 27 Rg1 Rh8



If instead 27...Kf8 28 Nh2!.

28 Nh2 Be8 29 Ng4?

The immediate f5 was strong.

29...Nd7?

Better was 29...Rg8 but Konstantinopolsky intended 30 f5 Rg5 31 f6+ Kd8 32 Ke3 Nd7 33 Nf3 (33 Kf4 Nxf6! 34 exf6 e5+) 33...Rhx5 34 d4

followed by Ng4-f2-d3-f4.

30 f5 exf5 31 Nxf5+ Ke6 32 Ng7+ Ke7 33 d4 f6 34 e6 Nb6 35 Re1! Rg8 36 Nf5+ Kd8 37 e7+ Kc7 38 Nxf6 Rg2+ 1-0

Studying games in *Shakhmatny Bulletin* was a bit like playing through games acquired nowadays from a source like TWIC; you have to try to find out for yourself where the errors and missed opportunities occurred, and what thinking lay behind surprising moves when the main line did not actually occur. This is good training for budding masters but may leave the average player with a false impression of the game.

Inevitably, the start of *Informator* hit the overseas market of *Shakhmatny Bulletin* in its later years. Early *Informators* did not have many in-depth notes but as the years went by, the Yugoslav publication became most players' first choice source for important games. The start of *New In Chess* magazine in 1984, may have hit subscription levels too. However, Averbakh and his magazine soldiered on with their formula little changed until the end.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics formally ceased to exist on December 21, 1991, but in that final year of its existence there was no *Shakhmatny Bulletin*. In the final issue, I see no announcement of closure in the 12/1990 issue. Presumably it was unexpected, although the Soviet Union was in financial and political crisis that year.

Colet's subscription service informed its subscribers that a similar publication

Express-Shakmaty was to take its place. I only subscribed for one year and I doubt if it lasted much longer than that. The new publication had the same ISSN reference code (ISSN 0037-3230) that, technically perhaps, should not have been allowed since the title and format differed. However, Averbakh was still the editor and “Fizkultura I Sport” was still the publisher. I imagine that they must have been suffering grave financial difficulties.

Express-Shakmaty was a pale imitation of its great predecessor. It came out fortnightly, with 16 pages per issue, so over the whole year one might have expected the same service as before. However, the paper was of even poorer quality (similar to the early years of Sh. Bull.) and, worse, the type was larger to disguise the smaller number of games. The average was about 60-70 games and although a few had over 100 games, one had only 51. There was also less in the way of theory articles and most of the information could be found elsewhere.

The 1990s would have been a difficult time for *Shakhmatny Bulletin* anyway. Although the Internet was not in general usage in the first half of the decade, more and more players were using programs like ChessBase and subscribing to game services on diskette. The era of storing one’s information in hard copy on card indexes, scrapbooks or loose-leaf notebooks was almost at an end.

Over the years, I have managed to buy missing years and occasionally single issues to cover the gap between the 1955 volume and the run, which I began in 1972 when I took out my subscription. The year I found hardest to acquire was 1957 and I had to be satisfied with a set in which one issue is only a photocopy. So I am still in the market for an original copy of number 2/1957!

P.S. My series on the Guioco Piano will be continued in the new year, probably February/March. Thank you to those readers who have sent in analysis, games or comments. These will all be dealt with in the final part of the series.

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