



SKITTLES  
ROOM



## The New in Chess Experience

For a concept to survive in the world of chess for nearly twenty years – and hopefully a little longer! – what do you need? For the New in Chess Yearbook Series, quality, continuity, diversity and topicality have done the job so far. For an editor to stay on his toes for such a long period of time, something else is needed, too: a deep love of your product and your subject.

The *New in Chess Yearbooks* are a product made by chess lovers in the first place. And in the second and third place. It always rewards itself and may lead to fascinating discoveries, some of which we will present to you in this article.

Perhaps amazingly in this age of databases, our series is flourishing more than ever before. In the last couple of years the Yearbook has attracted thousands of new readers. For quality, diversity and topicality, we draw from our colorful team of contributors from all over the world – hailing from Ecuador or Greece and from Norway to Australia. Our authors also provide continuity though regular “updates.” Most of them are renowned chess professionals, all are serious and enthusiastic opening experts.

### The History of the Series

The first issue of the Yearbook appeared in 1984 as one of the cornerstones of the Elsevier International Chess Data Information System. In the late 1960s W.F.Andriessen (at right), together with some friends, founded the independent chess magazine *Schaakbulletin*. It struggled for a couple of years but with the arrival of Jan Timman, a rising star in the world of international chess, and later household names such as Hein Donner (“I would like to write for that little magazine of yours.”), Tim Krabbé, Alexander Münnhoff and Genna Sosonko, it started to thrive. By the time it had reached issue 200 in the early 1980s the time had come to take it to the next level – an international edition in the English language. *New In Chess* magazine was born.



That’s where publishing house Elsevier enters the picture. They set up the

company Interventura with the specific purpose of creating a database of chess games. Remember, we're talking mainframes here. This is the pre-PC-era, when the Chess Informant came out twice a year and the second main source of theoretical material was the Soviet periodical *Shakhmatny Bulletin*, containing some 200 games a month. That was it.

The new database soon reached the dazzling heights of 20,000 games. The Elsevier concept entailed distilling several products out of the database. Backed by a revolutionary opening classification system with over 15,000 key positions, which was devised especially for digital use, the *New In Chess Keybook* was published in 1983. This encyclopaedic analysis of current opening theory covered the years between 1970 and 1982. An editorial team would produce periodical updates, and these were called Yearbooks. One look in the 1984 colophon reveals that some of the original staff members are still closely connected to this series: W.F.Andriessen, G. Sosonko, C. Langeweg, L. Pliester, A.C. van der Tak and R. Olthof (above).



### **The Two-Year-Cycle of Change**

Strictly following the ramifications of the NIC-key, each Yearbook contained 30 chapters. Issue 1 kicked off with a hefty 89 pages and over 200 games in figurine (languageless) notation on the Sicilian Defence (SI) and ended with 5 pages and 12 games on the Réti Opening (RE).

In 1986 the New In Chess project bade the Elsevier company goodbye and was back on its own feet. The first of a series of adjustments to the basic concept, in order to better meet the readers' needs, was made in Issue 4. Each chapter started with an introduction authored by the editors Van der Sterren and Sosonko (at right), explaining the theoretical implications of the latest developments. Two years later the frequency of publication was doubled from 2 to 4 a year, reducing the size of each book from 496 to 240 pages. Issue 7 also marked the introduction of theoretical articles in the Yearbook.



In 1990 the idea of Database Surveys was launched in Yearbook 16. Each of the six sections of the book was preceded by a Survey. Under the heading "Chess Information in the Nineties" this development was completed in Yearbook 18 with the total disappearance of the Informant-concept of traditional game annotations. Apart from the usual theoretical articles, each Yearbook now consisted of some 35 Surveys, covering the entire opening spectrum.

The two-year-cycle continued when the NIC Statistics feature was added to the Surveys in Yearbook 23. In one glance the reader was offered statistical information from the ever-growing NIC Database regarding the opening line at hand.

No major changes came about in 1994, but in 1996 the Forum section saw the light of day in Yearbook 39. A platform for discussion – between readers, authors and editors – of developments in chess opening theory in general and particularly in variations discussed in previous NIC Yearbook issues.

To give the 10th installment of the Forum in Yearbook 48 a festive touch a new column was added in 1998. *g2-g4!* was the title of the first Sosonko's Corner. In this regular feature our editor shares his personal, often philosophical views on the chess opening. The move *g2-g4* was to return in his columns several times.

After the abolition of the separate Theory section we started to review opening publications in Yearbook 53 (2000). The first installment was called "Vintage 1999" and covered no fewer than 39 opening books! In 2002 Glenn Flear was contracted to continue this section, and he has done so to this very day. Another major change that year was the cover. The three diagrams with a gripping title were a thing of the past, now it was a picture of a top player in full color. In the book photographs and other illustrations were also increasingly used. The Photo Gallery is a case in point – eight contributors, great and small, to the issue at hand are highlighted and presented to the readership. Currently this feature represents the beginning of the Yearbook under the name Opening Highlights.

This is in a nutshell how the New In Chess Yearbook Series originated and became the product it is today.

### **Historical Research**

Throughout the years the vast network of contributors worldwide as well as the expertise of the editorial staff has guaranteed a high level of accuracy. At times it has even led to remarkable discoveries. A striking example was presented on the Forum pages of Yearbook 62 by our senior contributor A.C. van der Tak.



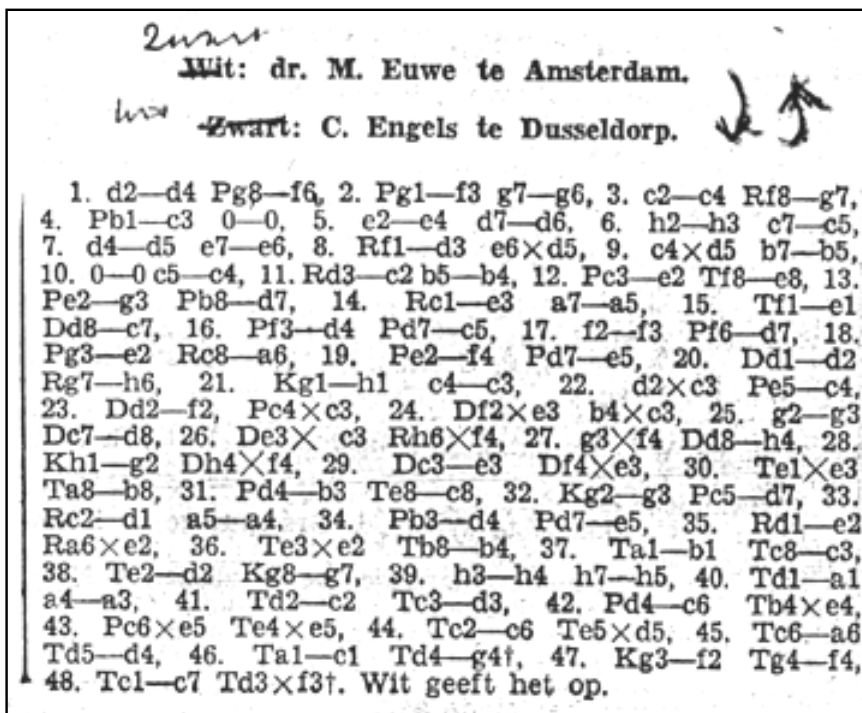
“Recently I was asked by Loek Mostertman, a rival of mine in my junior years, how the game Engels-Euwe, The Hague 1929, had continued after 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 ed5 5.cd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.h3 b5. Disbelief was my immediate reaction. Could it really be that the modern main line of the Modern Benoni was played in a game by the great Max Euwe (at left) 19 years before the alleged premiere Tolush-Aronin from the 1948 Soviet Championship and over half a century before the line came into fashion? And if so – why was this game nowhere to

be found in various anthologies of Euwe’s games? At the risk of being left empty-handed in the end I set out on a mission to track down the complete score of this ghost game.”

And then the story unfurls. Van der Tak visits various libraries and archives, and he tracks down the occasion. *Het Tijdschrift van den Nederlandschen Schaakbond* revealed that Euwe had indeed played in The Hague in 1929, in a 100-board encounter between The Netherlands and a team from the German province Rhineland/Westphalia. In it he won his two games against Ludwig Engels. One of them even made it into Kmoch’s classic *Euwe Slaagt!*. Murphy’s Law predicts that this was the game where Euwe was behind the white pieces. No trace whatsoever of the other game, however, in *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, *Deutsche Schachblätter*, *Kagan’s Neueste Schachnachrichten*, *Wiener Schachzeitung*.

This effectively put an end to his mission. Until one week later it dawned on Van der Tak that the position after 9...b5 could very well have arisen from a King’s Indian, at that time a Euwe specialty. And yes, there it was in Euwe’s own *Theorie der Schaakopeningen*, Volume 5, under 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 and now 6...c5 7.d5 e6 8.Bd3 ed5 9.cd5 b5! Unfortunately no further moves were given. The same goes for the reference in *Chess Archives* and Geller’s monograph on the King’s Indian. End of story?

“One last negligible chance: back to the Euwe Centre and scour the Lems Archives again but this time the King’s Indian section. And would you believe it – after leafing for over half an hour and with only a few pages to go – on February 21, 2002, over 70 years after a now long-forgotten chess enthusiast had cut it out from some Dutch newspaper, the original game score stared me right in the eye! Here it is, for everyone to enjoy.”



When was the Botvinnik Variation of the Slav Defence first played at master level? The answer to this question is partly a matter of definition. After 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 the move 6.a4 was already played in the B-section of Ostend 1907 in the game Von Scheve-W.Cohn.

Botvinnik first played the position after 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 in March 1941 (against Ragozin). Klaus Junge, the other person whose name is related to this line, used it for the first time two months later in May 1941 in Bad Elster against Rudolf Palme. However, the line had been used on several occasions in the previous decade, Van Scheltinga-Grünfeld, Amsterdam 1936, being an early example. The slightly bizarre 9...Nd5, usually named after Alatortsev on the grounds of his game against Lilienthal from January 1939, was already seen in the Hungarian Championship 1931, in a game between Szigeti and Michlo.

So far, this is common knowledge. However, all this information was reduced to zero when, in Yearbook 55, Adrian Mikhalchishin revealed the line's ultimate inventor. Richard Réti had played 9...Nd5 in a simul in Christiania, currently known as Oslo. In 1920! Would you believe it?

A.Beliavsky  
A.Mikhailchishin

Жив ли еще вариант Рети? D44.

Система Ботвинника исключительно сильно разветвлена, но есть один вариант, в котором черные совершенно меняют направление игры. Великий Рети за 20 лет до появления системы Ботвинника нашел свой путь в этом острейшем дебюте! Кстати, вариант Ботвинника впервые был применен (?) в 1907 г. Сohn, а в конце 30-ых разработал К<sup>1907</sup> Юнге.

Казалось бы вариант Рети является подвариантом системы Ботвинника, однако самая ранняя партия, похоже, сыграна именно этим вариантом в 1920 году. Сам вариант выглядит даже более логично, чем система Ботвинника, он более форсирован, и игра ведется конкретно на повку коня h8. Другое дело, что в системе Ботвинника у черных намного больше позиционных возможностей. Гроссмейстер Ю.Раууваев перефразировал слова Р.Фишера "Я, конечно, допускаю, что эта система корректна, но лично я в этом сильно сомневался." Черные жертвуют свой королевский фланг взамен за атаку на ферзевом. Однако при этом положение черного короля отнюдь не надежно. Игра при этом носит форсированный характер, хотя усиление игры каждой из сторон всегда можно найти. У некоторых шахматистов, таких как Тиммана, Свешников, В.Инкер и Михальчишин вариант вызывает какую-то ностальгию по молодости, и они его иногда применяют без большого успеха. Кубинцы же Ногейрас и Вера возродили в последнее время вариант, внося в него некоторые новые идеи. Так что же, давайте посмотрим, жив ли вариант ~~Щедрова~~ или нет?

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3. ♖c3 ♗f6 4. ♗f3 c6 5. ♗g5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8. ♗h4 g5 9. ♗xg5 ♗d5!?

Диаграмма

A. 10. ♗f3!

Авторы ставят этот знак не из-за слабости этого хода, а из-за того, что трусливый отказ от взятия на f7 в острой позиции не может дать белым перевеса по принципиальным соображениям. Вспоминается, как великий Лев Полугаевский говорил о судьбе своего острейшего варианта "Моя система может быть опровержена лишь в главном варианте и лишь одним способом!" Кстати, в самой первой партии белые избрали именно этот ход. 10... ♗a5.

В случае 10. ... ♗e7 11. ♗xe7 ♜xe7, Bolbochan-Molina, Buenos Aires, 1936, к перевесу вело 12. ♖e4 ♜b4 13. ♜d2 ♜xd2 14. ♝xd2.

11. ♜c1.

В одной из первых партий Flohr-Stahlberg, Zurich, 1934, было 11. ♜d2 b4 12. ♖xd5 cxd5 13. ♗e2 c3 (Можно и 13. ... ♖c6 14.0-0 ♜b6 15.b3 c3 16. ♜c2 ♗e7, с неплохой игрой, Budo-Bastrikov, USSR, 1938) 14.bxc3 bxc3 15. ♜c2 ♗d7 (Лучше 15. ... ♗a3 и 16. ... ♗b2) 16.a4 ♖c6 17.0-0 ♜c8 18. ♜fc1 ♖b4 19. ♜b3 ♜c7 20. ♖e1 a5 21. ♜d1, и здесь правильно было 21. ... ♗e7 со сложной игрой.

Но лучше 12. ♖e4 c3 13.bxc3 bxc3 14. ♜c2 ♖a6? (слабее 14. ... ♜g8!) 15. ♗c4 ♗a3 16.0-0 ♖ab4 17. ♜b3 c2 18. ♖fd2±, Krausser-Sulava, Velden, 1995.

11. ... ♗b4.

#### Диаграмма

Интересно 11. ... ♖d7 12. ♗e2 ♖f4 13.0-0 ♜g8? (хуже 13. ... b4 14. ♖e4 ♜g8 15. ♗xc4 ♖xg2 16. ♗g3 ♖f4 17. ♖fd2, у белых перевес, Dobosz-Lanc, Kecskemet, 1983) 14. ♗g3 ♖xe2 15. ♜xe2 ♗e7 и согласно Dobosz игра нежна.

12. ♜d2 ♖d7.

После 12. ... c5 13. ♗e2 ♗b7 14.0-0 ♖d7? (лучше 14. ... ♖c6 с нажимом на d4) 15. ♜fd1 ♖7b6 16.dxc5 ♖a4 17. ♗f6 ♗xc3 18.bxc3 ♜g8 19.c6! ♗xc6 20. ♖d4, у белых перевес, Guil. Garcia-Diaz, Bajamo, 1984.

13. ♗e2 ♗b7.

Хуже 13. ... ♖xc3 14.bxc3 ♗a3 15. ♜c2 b4 16. ♗xc4!, с перевесом, Uhlmann-Nikolic, Bania Luka, 1984; также после 13. ... ♖7b6 14.0-0 (Слабее было в первоисточнике Leif-Reß, Kristina, 1920, 14. ♗d1 ♖xc3 15.bxc3 ♗a3 16. ♗f6 ♗xc1 17. ♜xc1 ♜g8 18. ♖d2, и у белых, конечно, есть компенсация) 14. ... ♖a4 15. ♗f6 ♜g8 (Следует испытать 15. ... ♖xf6 16.exf6 ♜d8 17. ♜f4 ♖xb2) 16. ♜xb6 ♗xc3 17.bxc3 (хорошо и 17. ♜h7±, Szilagyi-Perecz, Hungary, 1982) 17. ... ♖axc3 18. ♜c2, с лучшими шансами, Bukic-P.Nikolic, Bania Luka, 1984. Можно и 13. ... c5, что после 14.0-0 ♗b7 приводит к главному варианту, но не 14. ♗g3? ♗b7 15.0-0 cxd4 16. ♖xd4 ♖c5±, Loeffler-Seidel, BRD, 1994.

14.0-0 c5.

Логичная игра в центре, есть и позиционное продолжение 14. ... ♖f8 15. ♗f6! (другой защиты от угрозы ♖g6 не видно, например, 15. ♜c2

Many hours of hard work are sometimes condensed into one sentence, one game reference or even one move. While leafing through old issues of *Shakhmatny Bulletin* in search of something totally different we stumbled upon the following game in issue 1975/2.

#### *Tigran Petrosian – Alexander Bangiev*

Moscow 1974 (4)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.d4 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 c5 6.Nf3 d5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Qc7 10.Qc2 Na5 11.Nd2 b6 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Re1 c4 14.Be2 Re8 15.a4 g6 16.Ba3 Bg4 17.Bb4 Nc6 18.Qb2 Bxe2 19.Rxe2 Re6 20.Ba3 Rae8 21.Qb5 Qd7 22.Rae1 Qb7 23.f3 Na5 24.e4 a6 25.Qb4 h6 26.e5 Nh5 27.g3 f5 28.f4 Qd7 29.Kf2 Kf7 30.Nf1 Nb3 31.Ne3 b5 32.axb5 axb5 33.Rb2 Ra6 34.Reb1 ½-½

Much to our surprise this game was not stored in our computer. Hadn't all

Petrosian games been entered? A quick look in Shekhtman's two-tome games collection revealed that there too the game was missing, as in fact was the entire tournament the game was played in!

Although our source specifically mentioned that all five of the games from the *Komandnoe Pervenstvo Spartakovtsev* Moscow 1974, were played by T. Petrosian, we noticed that his namesake Arshak had played in the event as well. More than enough reason to call in external help. From his home in Minsk, Albert Kapengut instantly provided the necessary information:

“You are absolutely correct regarding the games of Tigran Petrosian. In 1974 the Team Championship of the Spartak Sports Society among the Republics (in sports, Moscow and Leningrad were always given Republic status) was held in Moscow. On board one, first place with 5½ points out of 7 was shared by Naum Rashkovsky and myself, and Tigran took only third place with 5 points. Moreover, with white he was beaten in crushing style in 20-odd moves by Rashkovsky.

Immediately after the Championship he (it is rumoured) requested that this game should not be published in *Shakhmatny Bulletin*; later he altogether excluded this tournament from his list of appearances, and Shekhtman explained to me that he did not include the tournament, so as to fulfil his wishes.

Before moving to West Germany, Alexander Bangiev lived in the Crimea, and in the 1970s he played a great deal and with success in Spartak tournaments.”

An interesting case of manipulation of history, which got even more interesting when Ken Neat, who not only translated Kapengut's message, but also Shekhtman's books, informed us of the following: “Out of curiosity I looked in the weekly newspaper *64* for any mention of the Spartak Team Championship. In issue 1974 No. 34 I found a brief report by Efim Nuz where, not surprisingly (Petrosian was the editor-in-chief!), there is no mention of the Rashkovsky-Petrosian game, or indeed of Rashkovsky. All that it says about Petrosian is that, after his game with Bangiev (which ended in a draw), he found a brilliant win in the train on the way home.”





After **27...f5?**, instead of the game continuation **28.f4**, he could have performed magic with **28.exf6!!** At first the point seems unclear, since White is only marginally better after **28...Rxe2 29.Rxe2 Rxe2 30.Qf8+ Kh7** If **31.Be7 Rxe7** (the only reasonable way to stop **32.Qf7+ Kh8 33.Qe8+ Kh7 34.f7) 32.fxe7 Ng7 33.Qxg7+ (33.e8Q Nxe8 34.Qxe8 b5!) 33...Kxg7 34.e8Q** and now **34...b5? 35.axb5 axb5** is met by **36.Qe5+** and **Nf1-e3**. Closer

examination, however, reveals that White has even more tricks up his sleeve: **31.f7! Nf6 32.Ne4!! dxe4** (**32...Re1+ 33.Kf2 Rxe4 34.fxe4** brings little relief. The threat of **35.Be7** is still there and after **34...Nc6 35.Bc1 g5 36.e5** White's attack is just too strong) **33.Be7 exf3**. Now **34.Qxh6+ Kxh6 35.f8Q+ Kh7 36.Qf7+ Kh6** is only good enough for a draw by repetition, while **34.Bxf6?? f2+ 35.Kf1 Qh1+** even loses. Petrosian's crowning move is **34.Qg7+!!** which forces mate: **34...Kxg7 35.f8Q+ Kh7 36.Qf7+ Kh8 37.Bxf6**. The same line works after **33...Re1+ 34.Kf2 e3+ 35.Kxe1 Qxf3**.

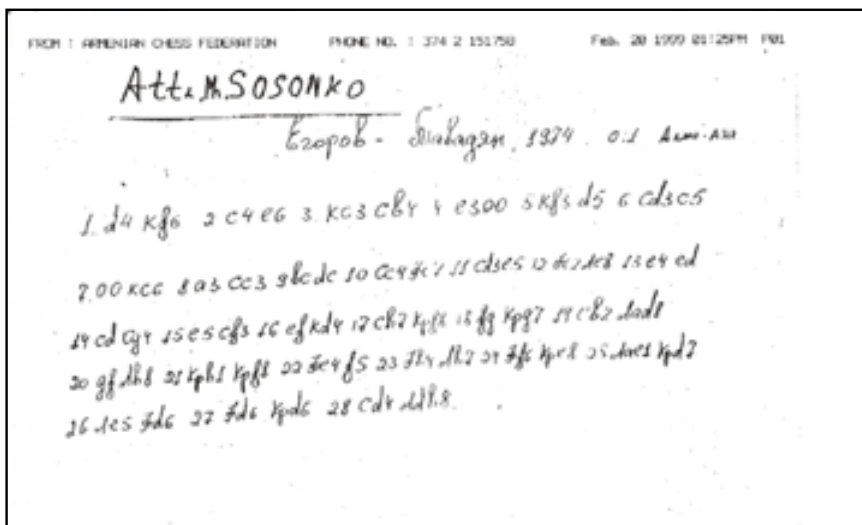
So five new Petrosian games have been unearthed. And it seems there are at least two more to be found.

Bangiev (at right), by now living in Hannover, confirmed some of the above details. And added a few – it had been the match Moscow-Ukraine in Round 4. However, he debunked the train story, which was just too good to be true. “He had seen the combination (**26.exf6!!** – sic!), I had looked at his eyes, but for some strange reason he played the move **26.f4** (sic!) relatively quickly. Unfortunately there was no post mortem analysis.”



You'll find the game on page 150 of Yearbook 50, but not the background information. The Survey by our former editor Paul van der Sterren is built around another rare defeat of a World Champion. In the 1999 Hoogovens tournament in Wijk aan Zee, Kasparov lost in spectacular fashion to Ivan Sokolov. After carefully studying this line for days, Van der Sterren managed to dissect its ramifications layer after layer and duly reports his remarkable findings, pointing out where Kasparov went wrong.

What he failed or rather chose not to mention is that after the game Kasparov had divulged that he had seen the correct move 21...Kf8 played 25 years ago, in a junior team championship in Alma Ata. There his team mate Ragik Tavadian scored a beautiful win for the Azerbaijani team.

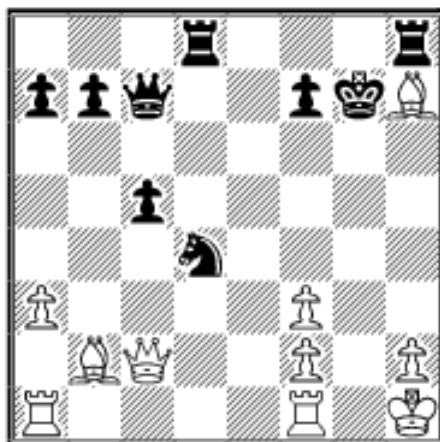


The hand-written game score of Egorov-Tavadian 1974

### *Dmitry Egorov – Ragik Tavadian*

Alma Ata 1974

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Nf3 d5 6.Bd3 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Qc7 11.Bd3 e5 12.Qc2 Re8 13.e4 exd4 14.cxd4 Bg4 15.e5 Bxf3 16.exf6 Nxd4 17.Bxh7+ Kh8 18.fxf7+ Kxg7 19.Bb2 Rad8 20.gxf3 Rh8 21.Kh1**



**21...Kf8!**

This seemingly risky continuation is by far superior to Kasparov's 21...Rxf7 22.Rg1+ Kh8 23.Rg3 Qe5 24.Rag1 Rh4?!, which turned out to more or less lose by force after 25.Qc1! Kh7? 26.Qb1+ Kh8 27.Qf1 Qe6 28.Qg2 1-0.

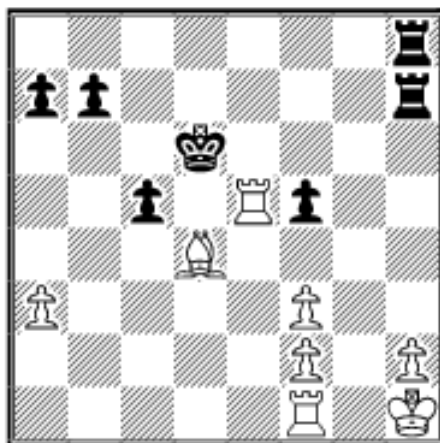
**22.Qe4 f5!**

22...f6 23.Qg6 Rxf7 24.Qxf6+ Ke8 offers White unnecessary chances to equalise, although Van der Sterren's proposal 25.f4 Rd6 26.Rae1+ Kd7 27.Qf8 Qd8(!) 28.Qxd8+ Kxd8, with equality, is invalidated by the tactical 27...Qc6+! 28.f3 Rxf2+! 29.Kxf2 Rh6+ when 30.Qxf6 is forced to stave off mate: 30.Kg2 Qg6+ 31.Kf2 Rh2+ 32.Ke3 Nc2 mate. White should play 26.Qe5+.

**23.Qh4 Rxb7 24.Qf6+ Ke8**

Compared to the previous line Black has an extra pawn on f5!

**25.Rae1+ Kd7 26.Re5 Qd6!? 27.Qxd6+ Kxd6 28.Bxd4 Rdh8!**



This clearly holds more promise for Black than 28...cxd4 29.Rxf5 Rdh8 30.Kg2 Rxb2+ 31.Kg3.

There is no doubt that Black won this game, but whether White actually resigned in this position is questionable. According to Van der Sterren, White has reasonable chances to hold a draw after 29.Rxc5! Rxb2+ 30.Kg1 Rh1+ 31.Kg2 R8h2+ 32.Kg3 f4+ 33.Kxf4 Rxf1 34.Rg5.

To be found on the same page of the Yearbook is the game score of the classic game B.Vladimirov-Lisitsin, Soviet Union 1955. In most databases this needs mending. The final move is clearly not the nonsensical 33...Rd3 but 33...Rd6, threatening mate. It's tiny little details like this that add to the flavor.

### Theory

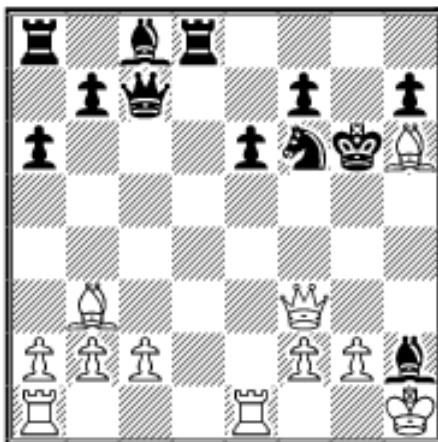
The traditional format for displaying theoretical knowledge is a theoretical article. We started publishing those in Yearbook 7. The very first by Henryk Dobosz on what he calls the Rellstab Variation of the Slav Meran caused grandmaster Valery Salov to bemoan: "some Polish nobody has published all my lines!"

A dozen years and some 125 articles later Sergey Ivanov's monumental 21-page exposé on the critical 13.Nf5 in the 4...Qxd5 French Tarrasch marked the end of this section. It contained wonderful pieces of analyses, but had one little flaw.

***Zaw Win Lay – Alexander Khalifman***

Denpasar 2000 (1)

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.Bc4 Qd6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nb3 Nc6 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 a6 11.Re1 Qc7 12.Bb3 Bd6 13.Nf5 Bxb2+ 14.Kh1 0-0 15.Nxg7 Rd8 16.Qf3 Kxg7 17.Bh6+ Kg6**

**18.Rad1**

Ivanov had dedicated over half a page to this interesting try to avoid the main line 18.c3 and its myriad of possibilities. To date, Oleg Korneev's move had scored two wins in grandmaster games. Khalifman shows it has just one small drawback – it loses instantly.

**18...Rxd1 19.Rxd1 e5!**

A dream novelty!

**20.Kxh2**

Zaw Win Lay spent about 40 minutes but there's simply no way out.

**20...Ng4+ 21.Kg1 Kxh6 0-1**

Singling out a small number of contributions for this brief summary is a cruel task – everybody has his or her likes and dislikes. Without a shade of doubt the masters of NIC Theory are Peter Lukacs and Laszlo Hazai. Their regular contributions would range from the Réti Opening and the English to the Vienna Variation and from the Queen's Gambit Accepted to the Scotch. Other specialists came to the fore as well: Shamkovich on the Marshall Attack, Sakaev on the Exchange Grünfeld, Sveshnikov on the French Advance Variation, Kapengut on the Benoni, Tiviakov on the Sicilian Dragon. And Matthias Wahls, who followed up on an inimitable survey by Tony Miles by having excerpts of an old manuscript of his published in Yearbook 38: the King's Gambit – Finally Refuted!

Throughout the years we also had a few articles where the author wrote about a line that was named after him or that he actually invented himself. In Yearbook 30 the late Alvis Vitolins, at right, (“whenever there is a sacrifice in the Sicilian, he was the first to have played it” is an appropriate John van der Wiel quote regarding this imaginative Latvian) explained the ins and outs of his idiosyncratic approach against the Najdorf Poisoned Pawn starting with 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Be2. Igor Glek wrote about the Glek Variation (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.g3) and about the first time he came across that line. Ashot Nadanian taught the reader all there is to know about his revolutionary Grünfeld-antidote 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Na4!?



### **Anniversary Poll**

Choose Your Favourite Survey. That’s the header of our Yearbook 75 [Anniversary Poll](#). Until October 1st 2005, everybody can cast their vote on which Survey from the past 25 volumes they like best out of a shortlist of 25 carefully selected candidates. If singling out the highlights among the long list of 125 theoretical articles is a cruel task, imagine the same thing for 910 Surveys. For that is the exact number of Surveys featured since Yearbook 50. Selecting a Top 25 for the readers to choose from was hard. Of course, there is no comparison between a two-page Survey by Jaan Ehlvest presenting a sophisticated idea to circumvent the Shabalov Slav and a four-part series by Tibor Karolyi covering every aspect of the Sicilian Polugaevsky Variation. Or Khalifman’s unique *The Old Notebook Story* in Yearbook 55 and Van der Sterren’s emotional *In Memoriam The Breyer* in Yearbook 66. When casting his vote on [www.newinchess.com](http://www.newinchess.com) an English IM expressed his “dismay not to see either of Lukacs and Hazai’s excellent English Attack surveys in your shortlist.” Different strokes for different folks.

### **Forum**

From the letters and e-mails we have received over the last ten years we may deduce that the NIC Forum, started in Yearbook 39, is the favorite section of many readers. For grandmasters and amateurs alike, it’s a place to vent your anger, show off your latest novelty, pose difficult questions to the editors or simply react to previous publications.

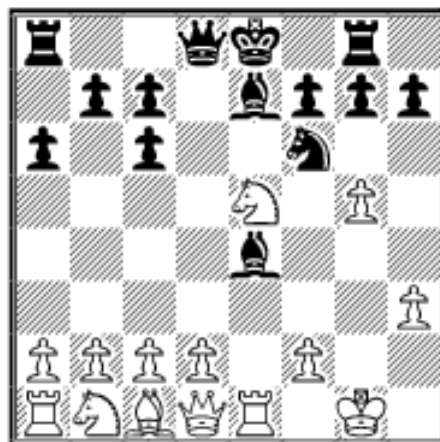
Correspondence grandmaster Vasily Malinin from Saint Petersburg submitted a game for publication in Yearbook 21, which features a stunning

rook move.

**Walter Wittmann – Vasily Malinin**

cr EU/M/GT/319 1989

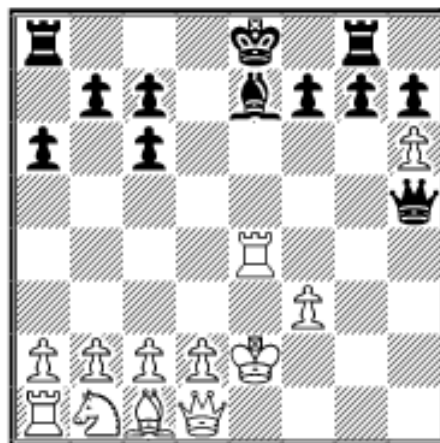
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.Re1 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.Nxe5 Bxe4 11.g5 Rg8!!**



**12.gxf6 gxf6+ 13.Ng4 f5 14.Kf1 Qd6 15.Nc3 Bh1 0-1**

Jan Przewoznik, in *Szachista* 1991/9, delved more deeply into the matter and questioned the soundness of Black's scheme. He claimed that White should win after 12.Kf1 Qc8 (12...Qd5 was also examined) 13.Ng4 Nxc4 14.Rxe4 Nh6 (14...Nf6 15.Rxe7+! Kxe7 16.gxf6+ Kxf6 17.Kg2 is promising for White with two pieces for a rook) 15.gxh6 Qxh3+

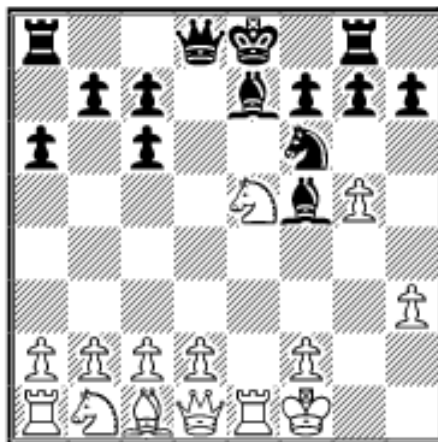
16.Ke2 Qh5+ 17.f3



17...Qxh6 etc.

Malinin did not agree. First of all, he offered 17...Qh2+ as an improvement (strangely enough the real test of this line seems to lie in other moves such as 17...f5, 17...0-0-0, or 17...gxh6), for "if White isn't satisfied with a draw (18.Kf1 Qh1+ 19.Ke2 Qh2+) he has to take risks with 18.Kd3 or 18.Ke3."

More importantly, he proposed the simple 12...Bf5 "to get a better, perhaps even won game."



“Now White can play neither 13.gxf6 Bxh3+ 14.Ke2 Qd4, nor 13.Qf3, when 13...Qc8 14.gxf6 Bxh3+ 15.Ke2 gxf6 seems best, while 13...Bxc2 14.d3 Qd5 15.gxf6 gxf6 16.Qxd5 cxd5 17.Nf3 Bxd3+ 18.Re2 0-0-0 is also strong.”

Thus far Malinin in Yearbook 48.

While this observation is certainly correct in general, 13...Bxc2? is actually a grave error in view of 14.Na3! and the

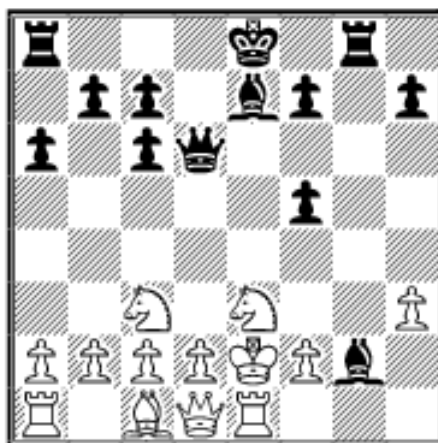
bishop has no decent flight square.

Since the publication of this letter in Yearbook 48, the final position of the stem game has actually been tested in the international arena. Of all places in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma.

***Than Soe Aung – Nay Oo Kyaw Tun***

Yangon 1999 (11)

**16.Ke2 Bg2 17.Ne3**



**17...Bxh3**

If Black is not satisfied with what he achieves in the two Burmese games below, 17...Qe6 18.f4 Bh4 19.d3 0-0-0 may be another direction.

**18.Rh1**

Still following Malinin’s original analysis. Two rounds later Zaw Oo (yes, him!) deviated against the same player

with 18.d4 f4 19.Nc4 Qe6+ 20.Kd3 Bf5+ 21.Ne4 b5 (21...c5 22.Bxf4 b5 23.Ncd2 c4+ 24.Ke3 c5, and Black is on top) 22.Ncd2 c5 23.c3 0-0-0 24.Qf3 Bg4 25.Qh1 cxd4 26.Nb3? (26.Kc2 Bf5, with compensation) 26...dxc3+ 27.Kc2 cxb2? (returning the favor. 27...Bf5 is strong, as 28.f3 loses to 28...cxb2 29.Kxb2 Bf6+) 28.Kxb2 Rge8 29.Bd2 b4 30.Rac1 Qe5+ 31.Kb1 Bf5 32.f3 Kb8 33.Qf1?! (after the more accurate 33.Rc2! Rd3!?) 34.Qh6! Rxf3! 35.Qxa6 Rxb3+! 36.axb3 Rd8 37.Qc6 Rd4 38.Ng3 Bxc2+ 39.Qxc2 Qd6 40.Ne4 Qd7 41.Bc1 White can harbor small hopes for an advantage) 33...Bh4? (the road to a draw goes 33...Rxd2! 34.Nbxd2 Bf6 35.Kc2 Qb2+ 36.Kd1 Rd8 37.Rc2 Qb1+ 38.Rc1 Rxd2+ (38...Qxa2?! 39.Qc4! Qxc4 40.Rxc4 is risky) 39.Nxd2 Bc2+ 40.Ke2 Bd3+ 41.Kd1 Bc2+) 34.Re2? (34.Rc5! Rd5 35.Rec1 Bxe4+ 36.fxe4 Qxe4+ 37.R1c2 looks

promising) 34...Bf6! and Black's win was only a matter of time.

**18...Qh6 19.d3 f4 20.Nc4 Rg2**



**21.Qe1**

Returning to e1 is refuted by the handsome 21.Ke1? Rxf2! 22.Ne5 Bh4! 23.Rxh3 Rf3+! 24.Rxh4 Qxh4+ 25.Kd2 Rf2+ 26.Ne2 f3.

**21...0-0-0**

This is where Malinin stopped and concluded that Black had a strong attack. 21...Bg4+ 22.Kd2 Rxf2+ 23.Qxf2 Qxh1

would be another option.

**22.Kd1?**

The king and queen have switched places, but this logical move allows Black a winning pin. After 22.Kd2, obstructing the bishop, nothing is decided yet.

**22...Bg4+! 23.Ne2 Qe6! 24.Nd2 Re8!**

This pressure on the pinned pieces is lethal.

**25.Ne4 f5 26.Bxf4 fxe4 27.d4 e3 28.Bxe3 Bg5 29.Qf1 Qe4 30.Rg1 Rxd1**

30...Bxe2+ or 30...Bxe3 are both even deadlier.

**31.Qxg1 Bxe2+ 32.Kxe2 Qxc2+ 33.Kf3 Rf8+ 0-1**

Pointing out errors and mistakes, in analyses and game scores, is another useful function of the Forum. A high-class example can be seen in the latest issue, the Anniversary Yearbook 75.



*Aleksandar Matanovic – Viktor Kortchnoi*  
Rijeka 1963 (3)

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Bc4 h6 8.Bxf6 Nxf6 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.0-0-0 e6 11.f4 e5 12.Nf5 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Nh4 g5 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.Rhf1 Be7 17.Ng6 Rg8 18.Nxe7 Kxe7 19.Rd3 Rad8 20.Rdf3 Rdf8 21.Qf2 Nd7 22.Rf7+ Ke8 23.h3 h5 24.Qf6 Nxf6 25.Rxc7 Rf7 26.Rc5 Ke7 27.Rxe5 b6!**

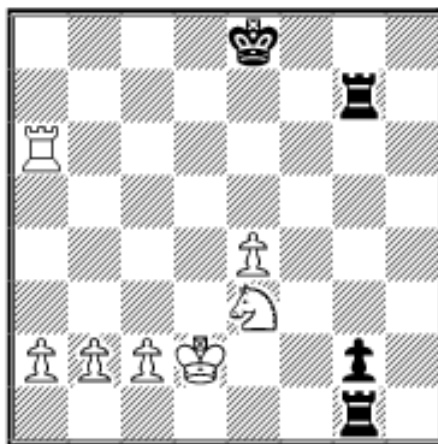


After having won the opening battle, White has suddenly drifted into the red zone because of the unfortunate position of his rook.

**28.Rd1**

28.Nd5+! Kd6 29.Rxf6 Rxf6 30.Nxf6 Rg6 31.Nd7 Kxd7 32.h4 holds the balance.

**28...Rgg7 29.Na4 Nd7 30.Rxd7+ Kxd7 31.Nxb6+ Ke7 32.g4 hxg4 33.hxg4 Rf4 34.Nc8+ Kd8 35.Nb6 Rxc4 36.Rxe6 Rg1+ 37.Kd2 g4 38.Nd5 g3 39.Rd6+ Ke8 40.Ne3 g2 41.Rxa6**



**41...Rb1 0-1**

Something must be wrong here. After 42.Ra8+ Kf7 43.Ra7+ Kf8 44.Rxg7! Kxg7 45.Nxg2 Rxb2 46.a3 Ra2 47.Kd3 Rxa3+ 48.Kd4, it is Black who has to fight for the draw! We concluded that we had detected an entry mistake in the databases and 41...Rd1+! was most likely to be the move played.

Just to be sure Mr. Kortchnoi (shown above) was contacted to verify our educated guess and much to our surprise he kindly provided a totally different solution to this mystery. 41...Rb1 was not the wrong move, but 39...Ke8 two moves earlier. "This should have been **39...Kc8 40.Ne3 g2 41.Rxa6 Rb1**, after which the line with 42.Ra8+ does not work because Black plays 42...Kb7! and White has no check on a7."

The Pope has spoken. Amen.



*by the NIC Yearbook editorial staff*

Genna Sosonko

Peter Boel (at left)

René Olthof

Alkmaar 20.07.2005

 [TOP OF PAGE](#)

 [HOME](#)

 [COLUMNS](#)

 [LINKS](#)

 [ARCHIVES](#)

 [ABOUT THE  
CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[ChessCafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Review\]](#)[\[Columnists\]](#)  
[\[Endgame Study\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#) [\[Links\]](#)  
[\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About The Chess Cafe\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

Copyright 2005 CyberCafes, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

"**The Chess Cafe**®" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.