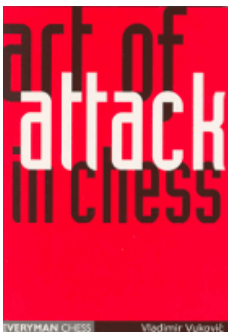




BOOK REVIEWS

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Hosted by Mark Donlan



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From the Archives...

Since it came online many years ago, [ChessCafe.com](#) has presented literally thousands of articles, reviews, columns and the like for the enjoyment of its worldwide readership. The good news is that almost all of this high quality material remains available in the [Archives](#). The bad news is that this great collection of chess literature is now so large and extensive – and growing each week – that it is becoming increasingly difficult to navigate it effectively. We decided that the occasional selection from the archives posted publicly online might be a welcomed addition to the regular fare.

Watch for an item to be posted online periodically throughout each month. We will update the [ChessCafe.com](#) home page whenever there has been a “new” item posted here. We hope you enjoy *From the Archives*...

An Enduring Attack

Art of Attack in Chess by Vladimir Vukovic, Everyman Chess 1998, Softcover, Figurine Algebraic Notation, 352pp., \$26.95 (ChessCafe Price: \$23.95)

The last few years have seen many of out-of-print books re-issued by a number of publishers. This trend is both evidence of the dearth of good new chess manuscripts suitable for publishing and tribute to the enduring value of the quality books, regardless of when released. British publishers have led the way in the re-release of these books, oftentimes employing the talent of GM John Nunn to update material, convert notation and generally make other additions that he deems appropriate. This time it is one of the great books of chess literature, *Art of Attack in Chess* by Vladimir Vukovic, first released in English in 1965.

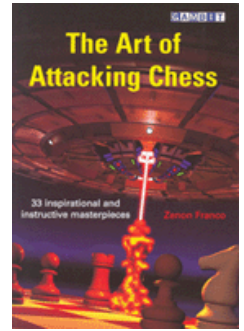
This particular version appeared at the end of 1998 and is the twelfth (!) edition of Vukovic's masterpiece. Nunn has done a reasonably good job of preparing the material for today's chess player. From his preface:

"As usual with classic books I have edited, I will take a little time to explain exactly how I have prepared this new edition. First and foremost is the conversion to algebraic notation. In addition to this, I have added 128 extra diagrams and in some cases, where it seemed appropriate, I have added further moves from the quoted games (for example, by giving the actual finish instead of 'and White won in another ten moves'). I have lightly edited the rather ponderous English of the original translation, and brought the method of displaying variations into line with current practice...There are also a fair number of analytical footnotes [added by Nunn]..."

The book is divided into twelve chapters:

- The attack against the uncastled king
- The attack on the king that has lost the right to castle
- On castling and attacking the castled position in general
- Mating patterns
- Focal-points
- The classic bishop sacrifice
- Ranks, files, and diagonals in the attack on the castled king
- Pieces and pawns in the attack on the castled king
- The attack on the fianchettoed and queenside castling positions

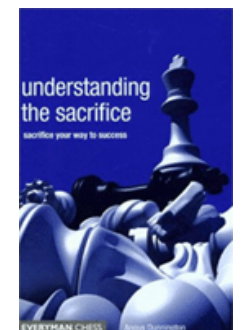
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The Art of Attacking Chess by Zenon Franco



Pawn Sacrifice! by Timothy Taylor



Understanding the Sacrifice by Angus Dunnington

- Defending against the attack on the castled king
- The phases of the attack on the castled king
- The attack on the king as an integral part of the game

This is supplemented not only by the author's original Introduction, but also by Nunn's Preface. It should be noted that for the most part, Nunn's work on this book complements the original material nicely, improving and occasionally correcting, without being overly intrusive.

If you think after perusing the Contents that this book represents a complete treatment of the Attack, you would be correct. The addition of more game moves and many more diagrams greatly enhances the original work. From Chapter 6, The classic bishop sacrifice...

Necessary conditions for the classic bishop sacrifice

White must firstly have a queen, a bishop and a knight. The light-squared bishop must be able to reach h7 in order to force the tempo of the attack, though it is not essential that it should put Black in check or take a pawn in so doing. The knight should be within easy and safe reach of the square g5, and the queen within reach of h5, though in some cases it is enough for it to be able to get to some other square on the h-file.

As far as Black's position is concerned, there should be two pawns standing intact at f7 and g7 (g7 may on rare occasions be occupied by a bishop instead of a pawn); the h-pawn should be on h7 (on h5 in exceptional cases), but it may be that there is no h-pawn at all. The position of Black's queen on d8 and a rook on f8 points to, but does not absolutely guarantee, the correctness of the sacrifice. What is more important is that Black's knight should not be able to reach f6 and that neither his queen nor bishop should be able to occupy the h7-b1 diagonal unharmed.

These are the basic conditions which need to be taken into account. In the examples which follow we shall examine to what extent each of these conditions is fulfilled; the positions are chosen in such a way as to show which is the critical continuation in each example; i.e., the one that is in doubt because a certain condition is apparently unfulfilled.

The variation with ...Kg8 is critical

In the following position the sacrifice is correct:



1 Bxh7+ Kxh7 2 Ng5+ Kg8

The continuation 2...Kh6 obviously fails; while if 2...Kg6, then 3 Qd3+ Kf6 (3...f5 4 Qg3! wins, for Black cannot play 4...Kf6 because of 5 Rxe6#) 4 Qe4 threatens both 5 Nh7+ and 5 Nxe6, and 4...Ke7 does not work because of 5 Qxe6+ fxe6 6 Rxe6#.

3 Qh5 Nf6

An example of the defence of the focal-point h7 by the knight, but in this case White's position is strong enough (thanks to the activity of his bishop on f4 and rook on e1) to withstand the loss of time.

4 Qh4 Re8

If 4...g6, then 5 Qh6!, followed by 6 Be5 and Re3-h3, wins, while 4...Bc7 would be met by 5 Be5, etc.

5 Be5 Qe7

If 5...Kf8, then 6 Qh8+ and 7 Qxg7 is decisive.

6 Re3 Bd8 7 Rh3 and White mates.

While many books have their fifteen minutes of fame and then fade into oblivion, others endure, retaining their value and usefulness from one generation of chess players to the next. Such is the case with Vukovic's *Art of Attack in Chess*. Do not be fooled into thinking that simply because the material in the book was written over three decades ago it is not worthy of careful study. In fact, it is difficult to imagine that this book would not help a player of almost any strength. So, what more can one say about one of the great chess books that has been reprinted a dozen times and that now appears in an expanded, improved edition? Thank you.

[Order](#) *Art of Attack in Chess*

by Vladimir Vukovic

This article first appeared at [ChessCafe.com](#) in March, 1999.

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