



BOOK REVIEWS

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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*...

Unquestionable Historical Value

Buffalo 1901 and 1894 Chess Tournaments, by John S. Hilbert, 1996 Caissa Editions, English Algebraic Notation, Hardcover, 99pp., \$28.00 (ChessCafe Price: \$25.00)

Over the last decade and a half, American historian and antiquarian book dealer Dale Brandreth has given the chess world a small but steady stream of outstanding books of enormous historical value. They have been well produced, if a bit pricey. Goldman's masterpiece on Carl Schlechter and the *Baden Baden 1925* tournament book both come to mind. The latest offering from Caissa Editions, *Buffalo 1901 and 1894 Chess Tournaments* by John S. Hilbert is another extraordinary release.

Chances are that you have not heard of either of these tournaments. As it turns out, Buffalo 1894 was an important training event for Pillsbury, who only a year later won one of the greatest tournaments of all time at Hastings. By 1901, Pillsbury and Marshall stood atop American chess. Marshall was in his prime, though in Buffalo 1901, he was clearly off form, finishing fifth out of six players.

The author, John Hilbert, has done a superb job in researching these tournaments from all known sources. Extensive biographical and background material of great interest, especially to American chess aficionados, is presented throughout the book, making it an outstanding read even if you are not inclined to play through the games. To this core material, the author has added appendices that include all known tournament games between Pillsbury and Marshall as well as Pillsbury's own account, written in 1900, of how he played blindfold chess exhibitions.

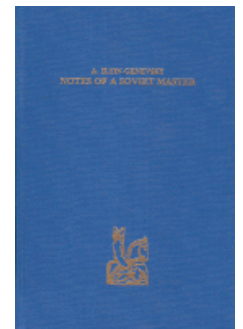
A short excerpt... "The real interest of the day, however, was in the great game between Showalter and Albin, which was a splendid test of skill between these giants, and which, after 27 moves had been played, was finally adjourned until [the next] morning. Albin had the move, and used the Giuoco Piano opening. It was a brilliant game throughout, and at the time of adjournment Albin appeared to have the advantage." Indeed, Showalter resigned the game the next day without resumption. According to the somewhat melodramatic local press, Showalter "took a desperate chance and resolved not to resume the unfinished game, but [decided rather] to save his resources for the final and decisive fight with Pillsbury."

Albin - Showalter

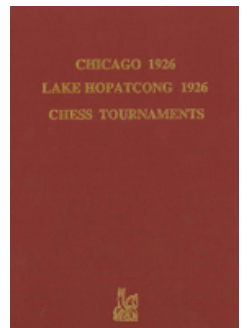
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Baden Baden 1925
by Jimmy Adams



Notes of a Soviet Master
by A. Ilyin-Genevsky



*Chicago 1926 &
Lake Hopatcong 1926*
by Robert Sherwood

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 c3 Nf6 5 0-0 d6 6 d4 exd4 7 cxd4 Bb6 8 Nc3 Bg4 9 Be3 0-0 10 h3 Bxf3 11 gxf3 Nh5 12 Kh2 Qh4 13 Rg1 Nf4 14 Rg3 Kh8 15 Qd2 g5 16 Nd5!



In keeping with Herr Albin's bold and old-school style. The game now becomes very interesting. **16...f6 17 Nxb6 axb6 18 Bxf4 gxf4** If 18...Qxf4 19 Qc3 and Black's game is still greatly restricted. **19 Rg4 Qh6 20 Rag1** Not 20 Rxf4 Nxd4 21 Qxd4 Qxf4+. **20...Ne7 21 Qc2 c6 22 Be6 Ng6 23 Qc3 Rae8** Of no avail, as the reply menaces Bf7, followed by Bxg6. **24 Qb3 c5 25 Bf7 Rc8 26 Bxg6 hxg6 27 Rxg6 Qh4 28 R6g4** Black resigns. If the Queen retires the weak pawns go to smash, while if 28...Qxf2+, then 29 R1g2 Qe1 30 Qd1 Qxd1 31 Rh4 mate.

Caissa Editions is to be commended for bringing out another fine work of unquestionable historical value. These are not books that will challenge the Informants or the latest opening books as best sellers in the chess world. And not all chess book dealers may carry this book, a book that will probably be perceived as appealing to a very narrow segment of potential buyers. But make no mistake - Hilbert and Caissa Editions have produced a gem that will be appreciated by anyone with an interest in chess history, particularly in America.

[Order Buffalo 1901 & 1894](#)

by John Hilbert

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