



## C O L U M N I S T S

**Checkpoint**

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**Reviewed this month:**

*Nimzo-Larsen Attack*  
by Byron Jacobs & Jonathan Tait

*Ultimate Colle*  
by Gary Lane

*4...Qh4 in the Scotch Game*  
by Lev Gutman

*ECO A 4th Edition*  
by Aleksander Matanovic et al

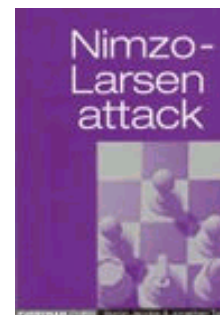
**In or Out of the Books?**

This month we are featuring books on openings that are not covered very frequently. This of course should allow the authors of these monographs to present a lot of fresh and original material, something I value immensely. Below I will try to answer whether the authors of these books have succeeded in doing so. Finally, I will take a brief look at the most recent volume of ECO from Sahovski Informator. In the last couple of years, ECOs have not exactly been known for fresh and original material; I will check to see if this trend has changed.

*Nimzo-Larsen Attack* by Byron Jacobs and Jonathan Tait, 2001  
Everyman Chess, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 143 pp., \$19.95

The Nimzo(witsch)-Larsen Attack, 1 b3, is not exactly an opening that makes you tremble with fear, even if some of my worst defeats as a junior came as Black against this simple little move. Its name reveals much about its origins, my compatriots; the distinguished gentlemen Nimzowitsch and Larsen have done a lot to popularize the opening while they respectively were at the summit of the chess world. Nimzowitsch played 1 b3, but usually preferred 1 Nf3 and only then b3, giving his opponent the opportunity to enter a reversed Nimzo-Indian. Larsen played 1 b3 in the late 1960s and the early 1970s, often with good results, although most people only remember his terrible defeat in the hands of Spassky in the USSR vs Rest of the World match in 1970. It's probably not that game that inspired Fischer to take 1 b3 up on a couple of occasions, but the soon-to-be World Champion won a couple of good games with it.

Not much of the above is mentioned in the introduction; in fact both Nimzowitsch and Larsen are only mentioned once in the introduction, not much for the people who gave the opening its name. Instead, the introduction discusses move orders, what has been included in the book and why you should play the Nimzo-Larsen Attack. Regarding the last, I must commend the authors for their hands-down honest approach. They write: "Many opening monographs have enthusiastic titles of the form *Winning with*





*the...* and invite the reader to ingest some marvellous system or other and rack up points - either by encyclopaedic knowledge of main lines or the methodical application of simple strategies. So let us make it clear, first of all, that White has *no* advantage in the Nimzo-Larsen. The lines in *ECO*, for example, conclude mostly in '= ' (equal) or 'unclear', with just a few '+=' (White stands slightly better) and even these '+=' seem optimistic. Nor is the Nimzo-Larsen a 'system' opening in which the first moves are played parrot-fashion regardless of the replies. There *are* system-like elements in some variations - the plan Bb5, Ne5, f2-f4 in the reversed Nimzo-Indian (Chapter 4) for instance - but more often White (and Black) can do just about anything. Anyone who likes to win their games in the opening should therefore look elsewhere."

How about that? No advantage in the opening, and if you have this simple ambition in life, try something else. Well, at least they are honest. The authors? Jacobs is a name we have seen several times over the last year as an opening author, but I suspect he is busier editing books at Everyman Chess than writing books himself, given the terrifying pace at which Everyman releases books. Jonathan Tait was a name that I was not familiar with before this work, but the back cover of the book tells us that he is a former British Correspondence Champion and editor of the quarterly magazine *Correspondence Chess*. He should also be 'well-known for his analytical articles on many tactical opening systems'.

First is the contents page, then the Bibliography, which is one of the most extensive I have ever seen. Many of the titles do not make much sense in the larger scope of things, but I assume that the books they list have been used for the study of a line or two. My two books on the English Opening are listed, but inside the book I see no references to either of the books or me and the same goes for many of the other titles. But other titles are downright odd such as Nunn's *Secrets of Rook Endings* or Bronstein's *200 Open Games*. At least I didn't come across a title like *Guidebook to Zen and The Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, which can be found in the bibliography to Rowson's *The Seven Deadly Chess Sins*. Despite Keene and Reinfeld's books about Nimzowitsch, I found it rather strange that none of Nimzowitsch's own works, *My System* and *Chess Praxis*, found their way into the bibliography.

Returning to the contents of the book, it is divided as follows:

- **Part One: 1 b3 e5**
  - 1 1 b3 e5 2 Bb2 Nc6 3 e3 d5 4 Bb5 Bd6 (23 pages)
  - 2 1 b3 e5 2 Bb2 Nc6 3 e3 (19 pages)
  - 3 1 b3 e5 2 Bb2 other lines (23 pages)
- **Part Two: 1 b3 d5 and 1 Nf3 d5 2 b3**
  - 4 Reversed Nimzo-Indian: 1 Nf3 d5 2 b3 c5 with ...Nc6 and Bb5 (17 pages)
  - 5 Reversed Queen's Indian: 1 Nf3 d5 2 b3 c5 (18 pages)
  - 6 Black plays 1...d5, 2...Nf6 but not ...c7-c5 (21 pages)
  - 7 Black plays 1...d5, 2...Bg4 (16 pages)
- **Part Three: Other lines**
  - 8 Black plays an early ...g7-g6 (25 pages)
  - 9 Black plays 1...c5 and other moves (20 pages)

To me the above is a bit sketchy and, without a comprehensive index, I found the

book quite difficult to navigate. I know there is a little index at the end of each chapter, but having to look for the individual indexes every time you have to locate a particular variation is extremely annoying. It may work with some openings where the lines are less transpositional, but with this opening it was definitely not a success. I hope Everyman and Byron Jacobs soon give up this concept.

The book is structured like previous Everyman releases: each chapter has a number of main games in which the main body of theory is given and as well as explanations of key strategic, positional and tactical elements. All of these points are covered very well in each chapter. In fact I got the feeling that the authors put in a lot of work putting together an extraordinary book about the Nimzowitsch-Larsen Attack. Everywhere I looked I came across plenty of new ideas and independent analysis. This blended with intelligent prose constitutes the recipe for an excellent opening book.

As an example I will take the following game by one of the most prominent regulars behind the White pieces in Nimzowitsch-Larsen Attack:

**Minasian-van der Werf Groningen 1991** (game 23 in the book - Annotations from move 5 as in the book; my remarks are marked CH)

### 1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Ne2

Minasian has a liking for this move against ...d7-d6 systems. White can break with either d2-d4 or develop quietly by 5 g3, 6 Bg2 leading to an English (after c2-c4) or perhaps a Hippopotamus (after d2-d3 and Nd2).

4.d4! is the most forcing move since Black cannot ignore the attack on e5. After 4...exd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Bb5 White is again more active. Instead 4...e4?! is inappropriate without a Nf3 to hit, then 5.d5!? isolates the e4-pawn and opens the diagonal for the bishop. Magomedov-Neverov, Minsk 1990, continued 5...c6 6.c4 cxd5 7.cxd5 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Nge2 Bf5 10.Ng3 Bg6 11.Qd4 (threatening Nxe4) 11...Qa5 12.Be2 Re8 13.0-0 Bf8 14.Bd1 Nbd7 15.Bc2 Qb6 16.Rad1 Nc5 17.b4 Rac8 18.Na4 Nxa4 19.Bxa4 Qxd4 20.Bxd4 and White was better.

4...Nbd7 5.Nf3! e4 6.Nfd2 d5 7.c4 c6 creates a reversed Tarrasch French. Usually the reversed Frenchs are fine for Black, but here the knights are misplaced occupies the traditional home of the d7-knight (c.f. 3...Nd7 above). White should therefore attack the centre before Black has reorganised, to which end Dunnington's 8.Nc3 Bd6 9.f3!? exf3 (9...Qe7 10.fxe4) 10 Qxf3 looks effective.

### 4...g6 5.f4!?



Minasian's pet continuation; e.g. 4...Bf5 5.f4!? Nc6 6.Ng3 Bg4 7.Be2 h5 8.0-0 Qd7 9.h3 Bxe2 (9...Bxh3 10.gxh3 Qxh3 11.Rf3 defends) 10.Nxe2 0-0-0 11.c4 Be7 12.Nbc3 Qe6 13.e4 Rdg8 14.d4 exd4 15.Nxd4 Qd7 16.Nxc6 Qxc6 17.Nd5 Bd8 18.Qd3 and White was better in Minasian-Piskov, Minsk 1990.

### 5...Bg7

A later game did not turn out so well: 5...Nc6 6.fxe5 Nxe5 7.Nf4 Ne4!? (threatening ...Qh4+) 8.g3 Bg4 9.Be2 h5 10.d3 Ng5 (preventing the desired development Qd2, 0-0-0) 11.Nc3 (better 11.Nd2 to cover f3 and then 12 d4) 11...c6 12.h4 Nh7 13.Qd2 Bg7 14.Bxg4 (not 14 0-0-0? Nf3) 14...Nxc4, and with the outpost secured at g4 Black was better. Minasian-Bagaturov, Protvino 1993, concluded 15.0-0-0 0-0 16.d4 Re8 17.e4 b5

18.Rhe1 a5 19.Re2 Ra7 20.Qe1 Qb6 21.Kb1 Rae7 22.Rdd2 Qb8! 23.Qh1 Nhf6 24.e5 dxe5 25.dxe5 Nxe5 26.Rd1 a4 27.Rde1 axb3 28.axb3 Nfg4 29.Ne4 Qa7 30.Nc3 Qa5 31.Nd3 Ra8 32.Nxe5 Nxe5 (intending ...Kh7, ...Nc4 and wins) 0-1.

### **6.fxe5 Ng4**

The usual pin along the long diagonal enables Black to recapture.

### **7.h3 Nxe5**

Threatening 8...Nf3+ (or 8...Nd3+) discovering on the bishop, as well as 8...Qh4+ 9 g3 Qe4. Now if 8.Nbc3 (blocking the long diagonal and covering e4) Black can cause some disruption by anyway playing 8...Nf3+!? 9.gxf3 Qh4+ 10.Ng3 Qxg3+ or 9.Kf2 Ng5. So White makes room for his king to go leftwards.

### **8.d4!? Qh4+ 9.Kd2 Ng4!**

Showing up the weaknesses at f2 and e3. If now 10.Nec3 Nxe3! 11.Kxe3 Bh6+ 12.Kd3 Bf5+ 13.Kc4 Nc6 and Black has a dangerous attack; e.g. 14.Ne2 b5+! 15.Kc3 b4+ 16.Kc4 Rb8! intending ...Na5+ and mates, or 15.Kxb5 Rb8+ 16.Ka4 Nb4 (threatening ...Bd7+ and ...Nxc2).

The best defence is 10.Nf4! (threatening 11 hxg4 Qxh1 12 Bb5+) 10...Nf2 (or 10...0-0 11.g3 Qh6 12.Qf3) 11.Qe1 Qg3 (otherwise 12 Ke2 [CH: However, it seems like they haven't considered 11...Bf6! which seems to take advantage of the weak dark squares on White's kingside better, e.g., 12.Rg1 (obviously the suggested 12. Ke2 is met with 12...Nxb1) 12...Ne4+ 13.Kd1 Qxe1+ 14.Kxe1 Bh4+ 15.Ke2 Bf2 (this is not strictly forced, but it seems to work) 16.Rh1 Ng3+ 17.Kxf2 Nxb1+ 18.Kf3, and with the knight apparently stuck in the corner, Black has to use brute force to get it out, before White clears the way for his rook on a1: 18...h5 19.Na3 g5 20.Nd5 Kd8 21.Nb5 Na6 22.Bc4 g4+ 23.Kf4 Nf2 24.Rf1 g3 25.Kxg3 Ne4+, and the knight has escaped] 12.Rg1 Ne4+ 13.Kd1 and White has avoided the worst. Instead he tries a speculative exchange sacrifice.

### **10 Nbc3?! Bh6!**

Accepting the challenge. 10...Nf2 11.Qe1 Ne4+ 12.Nxe4 Qxe4 13.Nc3 (planning Qf2/Qg3, Re1, Kc1) or 10...Nf6 11.Nf4 are roughly equal.

### **11.hxg4**

White has little choice now: if 11.Nf4 Nxe3 or 11.Nd5 Nxe3 12.Nxe3 Qf2 both win a pawn for nothing.

### **11...Qxh1 12.Nd5 Kd8**

Not 12...Na6? 13.Ng3 Qh4 14.Qf3 threatening 15 Bxa6, or if 14...c6 15.Nf6+ Ke7 16.Bxa6 bxa6 17.d5 intending 18 Rh1 Qg5 19 Nge4.

### **13.Qe1**



Activating the white queen and preventing the black queen returning into play via h4. Black should seek to extricate her majesty as soon as possible; e.g. 13...Bg5 makes room at h6 and if 14.Qf2 Rf8 [CH: 14...Nd7!? also makes sense] 15.Nf6 Nd7 16.d5 (Riemersma) then 16...Qh6 17.g3 Ne5 [CH: 17...Ke7 looks even better] or 17.Ng3 Bh4 defends. Also there seems to be nothing wrong with 13...Bxg4 since if 14.Qg3 (or 14.Qf2 f5 15.Nef4 Bxf4 16.exf4 Qh6) 14...Be6 15.Nef4 (intending Be2) 15...g5! gives the queen the h4-square, while 16.Nh3 Bxh3 17.gxh3? Qxd5 wins, so it seems the sacrifice was unsound. [CH:

That may be the case, but in this last line, White can play 16.Nxe6+ instead of the poor 16 Nh3?, e.g. 16...fxe6 17.Ba6 Qxa1 18.Bxa1 Nxa6 19.Nf6 and White is probably even holding an edge. However, 15...Bxd5 seems to improve, e.g. 16.Nxd5 Qh5 or 16.Be2 Bxf4 17.Qxf4 Qxg2 18.Qf6+ Kd7 19.Qxh8 h5 and despite White having won back the exchange, Black is clearly better.]

### 13...Re8 14.Qf2 f5

If 14...Be6 15.Nf6 Rf8 [CH: 15...Re7 is possibly better 16.Ng8 Re8 17.Nf6 Re7 can be a draw or White can try 18.Nf4 Bxf4 19.Qxf4 or 19.exf4 c6 20.d5 cxd5 21.Ng8 Re8 neither of which is particularly clear] 16 Nf4(threatening Nxh7 or Ba6)16...Bxf4 17.exf4 Qh6 18.d5 Bd7 19.Re1 leaves White in control. Now 14...Bxg4 is only good enough for a draw: 15.Qf6+ Kc8 16.Ne7+ Kd7 17.Nd5! Kc8 (not 17...Be6? 18.Nef4) 18.Ne7+ etc.

### 15.Nef4 Bxf4

If 15...c6 16.Nh3! cxd5 17.Qh4+ Kc7 18.Qxh6 with counterplay, e.g. 18...fxg4 19.Qg7+ Bd7 20.Nf4 Qh4 21.Nxd5+ Kd8 22.Ba3.

### 16.exf4 Nd7??

The losing move. Black covers f6 but obstructs the bishop on c8 and leaves a weakness at e7. Better to retreat the queen by 16...Qh6 and after 17.Nf6 (if 17.Re1 Rxe1 18.Qxe1 Nc6 defends e7) 17...Rf8 18.g5 Qg7 19.d5 Nd7 20.Re1 Nxf6! 21.Bxf6+ (or 21 gxf6 Qf7 22 Re7 Qxd5+) 21...Rxf6 22.gxf6 Qxf6 intending to unravel by ...Bd7, ...c7-c6, ...Kc7. [CH: Two other ideas are 16...c6 17.Nf6 Re7 and 16...Qh2 17.Nf6 Rf8]

### 17.Re1!

Now if 17...Rxe1 18 Qxe1 and Black cannot defend e7.

### 17...Re4 18.gxf5 gxf5 19.Qg3 Qh6 20.Bd3 c6

If 20...Rxe1 21.Qxe1 Qf8 22.Qh4+ wins. White could take the exchange back (21 Bxe4 cxd5 22 Bxf5 but he finds something better:

### 21.Rh1!



White sacrifices a second rook at h1!

**21...Qxh1**

If Black declines by 21...Qf8 22.Qg5+ Re7 23.Nxe7 Qxe7 24.Qxe7+ Kxe7 25.Rxh7+ and White will get the f5-pawn as well to emerge two pawns up.

**22.Qg8+ Nf8 23.Qxf8+ Kd7 24.Qf7+ Kd8 25.Qf8+ Kd7 26.Bxe4!**


After an unnecessary repeat White plays the winning move.

**26...cxd5 27.Ba3! 1-0**

Black cannot defend d6.

Not a perfect game, but definitely one with some excitement. As you can see for yourself, there are a lot of annotations and plenty of analysis, although not all of it perfect, but that happens when you spread yourself out and allow yourself to analyse. This game is pretty typical for the game annotations you find in this book.

Bottom line, this book should be a must for everybody playing this opening as White; it lets you know everything there is to know about it and a bit more. Black players obviously can do without it, but if you fancy a collection of interesting combative games, then this book could be right for you as well.

**My assessment of this book:** 

*The Ultimate Colle* by Gary Lane, 2001 Batsford, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 176 pp., \$22.95

The author of this book hardly needs any introduction. Gary Lane is one of our most popular columnists at [ChessCafe.com](http://ChessCafe.com). His column is easy to understand and entertaining.

So what's ultimate about the Colle? The recent *Ultimate Dragon* was in my opinion anything but ultimate, but Lane may well show us that *The Ultimate Colle* is in fact ultimate.

In my youth I thought that Queen's Pawn openings like the Colle, London and Torre Attacks bordered on unsportsmanlike conduct. I found these openings extremely boring to face and quite difficult to win against as Black, even if you were rated a couple of hundred points higher than your opponent. Obviously I didn't play these openings myself, but I will not deny that a lot of my opponents when playing Black may have considered my 1 c4 as deeply boring too.

What is the Colle? White can play the Colle against several black set-ups. One common set-up is the following: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 Bd3 followed by b3 or c3, depending on what kind of game White prefers.

The book opens with the table of contents, which also doubles as the index of variations. It is quite detailed so the idea works well in this case. The general scheme of things is as follows:

- Introduction (10 pages)



- 1 The Colle - 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 Bd3 c5 5 c3 Nc6 6 Nbd2 (45 pages)
- 2 The Colle with ...Nbd7 - 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 Bd3 c5 5 c3 Nbd7 6 0-0 Be7 and 6Nbd2 Bd6 (13 pages)
- 3 The Colle-Zukertort - 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 Bd3 c5 5 b3 Be7 6 Bb2 0-0 (12 pages)
- 4 The Colle-Zukertort - 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 Bd3 c5 5 b3 Nc6 (27 pages)
- 5 The Colle against a Queen's Indian defensive system (19 pages)
- 6 Beating the Benoni (11 pages)
- 7 Beating the King's Indian Defense (4 pages)
- 8 Various (7 pages)

Lane opens the book with the following statement: "The Colle is a simple opening to learn and leads to middlegames where White has a clear-cut plan: after mobilising his pieces behind a solid pawn centre he will then cut loose with a fierce kingside attack. This makes the opening popular with players who want something reliable yet with an aggressive option. As the distinguished chess teacher and first world correspondence chess champion Cecil Purdy wrote: 'A player who specialises in the Colle System needs to spend only about a tenth of the time studying the openings (for White) that he would otherwise have to. The Colle is the safest of all openings systems for White, and yet it is designed for kingside attack and therefore seldom leads to dull games'. An excellent recommendation."

That sums it up very nicely why so many people are attracted to this opening. Next Lane takes us through the history of the Colle. He starts with Johann Zukertort who used the set-up with b3, then moves on to Rudolf Charousek, then Edgard Colle and finally George Koltanowski, and rounds the history part off by mentioning that amongst others, both Anand and Khalifman have used the Colle on occasion. As with the rest of the introduction, this first part is nicely illustrated with beautiful and interesting games such as the following:

**Colle-Grünfeld Berlin 1926** (the notes are those by Lane in the book)

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 b6 4.Bd3 Bb7 5.Nbd2 c5 6.0-0 Be7 7.b3**

(This queenside fianchetto defines the Colle-Zukertort System.)

**7...cxd4 8.exd4 d6 9.Bb2 Nbd7 10.c4 0-0 11.Rc1 Re8 12.Re1 Qc7 13.Qe2 Rac8 14.Nf1 Qb8 15.Ng3 Qa8 16.Ng5 g6?**



**17.Nxf7!**

(Colle wrecks Black's defences with an impressive piece sacrifice.)

**17...Kxf7 18.Qxe6+ Kg7 19.d5!**

(A key move that introduces the dark-squared bishop to the attack and cuts off Black's queenside pieces.)

**19...Nc5 20.Nf5+! Kf8**

(If 20...gxf5 then 21.Qxf5 Nxd3 22.Rxe7+ Rxe7 23.Qxf6+ Kg8 24.Qxe7 Nxb2 25.Rc3 wins)

**21.Qe3 gxf5 22.Qh6+ Kf7 23.Bxf5 Bxd5 24.Rxe7+ Rxe7 25.Qxf6+ Ke8 26.Qh8+**

**Kf7 27.Bxc8 1-0**

Not a lot of annotations, but that is hardly necessary in the history section. The game annotations are generally more in depth than what we saw above, but there could have been more examples and explanations throughout this introduction. Since a lot weaker players and club players will probably buy this book, I'm sure they will look for some guidance regarding typical strategic themes, positional explanations, typical tactical ideas etc. However, it has to be said that much of this can be obtained by studying the games in the theory chapters.

While we are on the subject of games, it bothers me that there is no index of games or players in this book; nor did I find a bibliography, although the latter is not particularly important in this opening. The books that have been written on this opening are few and not necessarily worth getting.

Moving over to the theoretical chapters, I found the structure very similar to the books that Everyman Chess is publishing nowadays; each chapter consists of a number of main games, where the underlying theory is knitted into the game annotations. The main concern about this set-up is that it is easy for the author to omit some lines without the reader noticing. In repertoire books this is of extra concern, since critical lines can then be omitted by the author if they prove too problematic, something that is all too common in this type of book. However, all lines do seem to be covered, although my limited knowledge of this opening does not allow me to give any definite guarantees.

While the book give guidance for both sides, this book is mainly written from White's point of view, as reflected in the much larger number of wins for White than Black. The last four chapters are also clear evidence for the coverage from White's point of view; the Black options are discussed, weighed and destroyed. One such example is the following game by my compatriot and namesake, Carsten Høi, who aside from the Colle Attack also is a specialist in the Richter-Veresov Attack. The game is almost thirteen-years old, but I still remember when I first played through the game, which could be found in pretty much any chess magazine and newspaper back then. In my opinion, it is absolutely extraordinary the energy and imagination with which Høi conducts the attack against the black king. The annotations given below are abridged from those by Lane in the book.

***Høi-Gulko* Thessaloniki OL 1988**

**1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 c5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bd3 b6 5.0-0 Bb7 6.Nbd2 cxd4**

The American grandmaster chooses to avoid a number of lines by exchanging in the centre. The slight drawback is that it opens up the e-file for White's king's rook.

**7.exd4 Be7 8.Re1 0-0 9.c3**

This advance supports the d-pawn and returns to the traditional pawn structure of the Colle.

**9...d6 10.Qe2**

White is playing a waiting game to see how Black reacts before committing his pieces. The queen on e2 is well placed to support Nde4 and it also allows the rooks to centralise.

**10...Re8 11.Nf1**

11 a4, intending a5 to open the a-file, deserves to be tested.

**11...Nbd7 12.Ng3 Bf8 13.Bg5 h6**

If Black needs to find a different set-up then 13...g6, followed by ...Bg7, suggests itself.

#### 14.Bd2 Qc7 15.Bc2 Bd5 16.b3 Qb7 17.Nh4!



At the moment it would not be wise for White to allow the knight to be taken because it would reduce any prospect of attack. On h4 it offers options of Nh5, exchanging the defensive knight on f6, and also the attractive Qd3, when ...g6 to block the b1-h7 diagonal, runs into the sacrifice Nxf6. [CH: analysing the game with one of my silicone friends, it came up with a very radical approach for Black that most people would not even bother thinking about: 17...g5 18 Nf3 e5 19 dxe5 Bxf3 20 Qxf3 Qxf3 21 gxf3 Nxe5, but White should be better in the endgame due to his two bishops, Black's messy pawn structure, weak light

squares and bad bishop on f8.]

#### 17...b5 18.Qd3

[CH: This set-up with White's light-squared bishop on c2 (or b1) and queen on d3, was named 'Dicke Berta' (after a German WW1 canon) by the Danish players during this Olympiad.]

#### 18...g5 19.Nf3 Bxf3?

An instinctive move, played on the principle that it is advantageous to damage the enemy castled position. However, sometimes it is good to break the rules and this is a case in point. Since Black has already weakened his own kingside pawn structure with a lunge of the g-pawn, the semi-open g-file will now be exploited by White's king's rook. Therefore 19...Bg7 should have been preferred.

#### 20.gxf3 Bg7 21.h4!

Høi is quite happy to offer a pawn in return for an opening of the g-file. It instantly makes clear the folly of exchanging on f3.

#### 21...gxh4 22.Ne4 Qc6 23.Kh1 Nh5 24.Rg1 Kf8

What else? 24...f5 runs into 25 Bxh6! fxe4 26 Rxf6+ Nxf6 27 Qg5 winning. [CH: Other than 27 Qg5 not being a legal move, this is a nice line, but quite possibly problematic for White.]

#### 25.Rxf6!

White's command of the kingside and the disarray of the opposing pieces have made this sacrifice possible.

#### 25...Kxf6 26.Bxh6+! Kxh6 27.Rg1

Cutting off the king in anticipation of a decisive check.

#### 27...f5 28.Qe3+ f4

28...Kh7 leads to a rout after 29 Qg5.

#### 29.Nxd6 Qxd6

The queen can be taken but only by allowing a quick mate. For example, 29...fxe3 30 Nf7 or 29...Ng3+ 30 Rxf6 fxe3 31 Nf7+ Kh5 32 Rg5 mate.

## 30.Qd3



## 30...Nf8

Gulko allows a finish that the puzzle-solving connoisseur will relish. 30...Ng3+ keeps the game going for a few more moves although after 31 Rxg3 Nf8 32 Rg6+ Kh5 33 Rf6 Qe7 34 Rxf8 Qg7 35 Rxf4 White wins.

## 31.Qh7+ 1-0


Of course 31...Nxf7 32 Rg6 is mate.

It is quite clear that a lot of new moves have been suggested by the author throughout the book. This

is obviously something you should be able to find in any good opening book, which this is. Perhaps Lane could have analyzed more deeply once in while, simply for the sake of exploring a complicated position, much like John Watson does in his books or like Gutman does in the book that you will find reviewed below. But this is obviously a balance that each author has to decide upon for himself. The key ingredients in an opening book are the following (in no particular order): theory, new ideas, independent analysis, and explanations. The problem is that some of the key ingredients demand more effort than others, and what may be the right balance in one book may be completely wrong in another. This of course also depends on the audience you are targeting. For a book like this one, which I think is primarily aimed players rated below 2200, the balance in this book is excellent, perhaps to the extent that even stronger players can use this book to their advantage.

Should you play the Colle as White or need a White opening that doesn't demand too many hours of theoretical studies, this book is *the* choice for you. You will find a well-written book about a subject that is far more interesting than its reputation. I have been pleasantly surprised how versatile this opening is.

*The Ultimate Colle* is perhaps not ultimate in every sense, but it a heck of a lot closer than previous 'Ultimate' attempts by other authors, and without a doubt the best book that is available on the opening.

**My assessment of this book:** 

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by Gary Lane

*4...Qh4 in the Scotch Game* by Lev Gutman, 2001 Batsford, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 272 pp., \$23.95

Right from the preface, you know that this book is something out of the ordinary. In fact, at first I was a bit worried. The preface consisted of five quotes which all referred to and praised his 1992 work in German, *Gewinnen mit Schottisch*. Next follows the introduction and more quotes – 9½ pages of them. A bit too much? Yes. Interesting? Yes. Worth reading? Definitely. I enjoyed reading the many statements from various authors, world champions, grandmasters and other fine people. Everybody was saying something about either the Scotch Opening or the Steinitz Variation.



This is merely the beginning of the most extensive compilation of quotes from other authors on the same or related topic in an opening book. Most quotes pertain to a specific position, but on a couple of occasions, you can find quotes by Danny King from his book on the English Defence, which is truly bizarre, since the positions to which the quotes refer are very different. Although the quotes fit the positions, I have to object to this practice. Why can't the author come up with something original? All these quotes together probably account for at least 50 pages. This is of course way too much, and it can only help to make the book more expensive, which I doubt is in the interest of the publisher.

The quotes notwithstanding, I was surprised that this much material on this variation could be found. After all, how often is 4...Qh4 played? When I played 1 e4 regularly, the Scotch Game was part of my repertoire, and it wasn't until an American CC-IM, Bart Gibbons, played 4...Qh4 against me in CC-match between USA and Denmark that I looked at this line seriously. Without doubt it is one of my most complicated games ever, both in correspondence and regular over-the-board chess. I lost the game, but what a game it was.

Let's see how the material is divided up. The 'Contents' page really doesn't give us much of an idea (the opening moves are: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Qh4):

- Part 1: 5 Qd3
- Part 2: Less Popular Variations
- Part 3: Horwitz Variation
- Part 4: Modern Variation
- Part 5: Fraser Variation

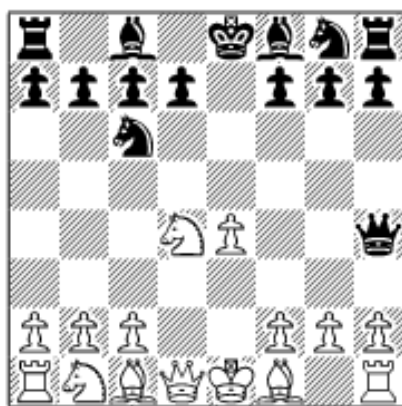
Huh? So we have to turn to the Index of Variations at the end of the book, an index which, by the way, is very detailed. Then things begin to make more sense:

- **Part One: 5 Qd3**
  - Chapter 1: 5...Ne5 (5...Bb4+, 5...Nxd4, 5...Nb4) (2 pages)
  - Chapter 2: 5...Bc5 (4 pages)
  - Chapter 3: 5...Nf6!? (12 pages)
- **Part 2: Less Popular Variations**
  - Chapter 1: 5 Nf5, Paulsen Variation (2 pages)
  - Chapter 2: 5 Nxc6 (4 pages)
  - Chapter 3: 5 Be2 (1 page)
  - Chapter 4: 5 Be3!?, Braune Variation (28 pages)
- **Part 3: 5 Nb5, Horwitz Variation**
  - Chapter 1: 5...Qxe4 (5...Kd8, 5...Nf6) (5 pages)
  - Chapter 2: 5...Bb4+ (42 pages)
  - Chapter 3: 5...Bc5!? (31 pages)
- **Part 4: 5 Nc3 Bb4, Modern Variation**
  - Chapter 1: 6 Nf5 (1 page)

- Chapter 2: 6 Nxc6 (1 page)
- Chapter 3: 6 Qd3 (6 Qd2) (10 pages)
- Chapter 4: 6 Nb5 (62 pages)
- Chapter 5: 6 Be2 (11 pages)
- **Part 5: 5 Nf3!?, Fraser Variation**
- Chapter 1: 5...Qxe4+ (5...Qh5) 6 Be3 (4 pages)
- Chapter 2: 5...Qxe4 6 Be2 (22 pages)

Let's take a look at some of the analysis by Gutman. There is so much of it that it really has left me wondering if I have ever seen a book with so much original analysis. Gutman did that in his book on the Spanish; I can really only think of John Watson's works that are similarly packed with this burning desire to find another truth in something we have taken for granted.

To find a suitable recent game, I made a quick search on my database, where I found 742 games with the position after **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Qh4**,



the starting position for this book. A remarkably small number I have to admit. When I wrote my book on the Symmetrical English, I had chapters for which my base showed over 2000 games, and which I had to compress into a mere 10-20 pages.

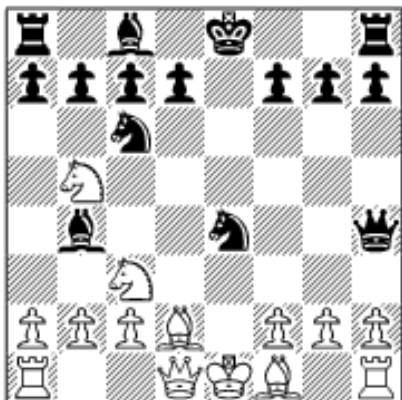
Going through the list of games, there are remarkably few names that I know, at least for the recent games, but that's hardly a surprise. The Scotch Game, despite its use by Kasparov, is not really a terribly popular opening, and 4...Qh4 is considered too risky by many to play in an over-the-board game. After all, Black races around

with the queen to pick up a pawn and often has to give up the right to castle playing ...Kd8 to protect the c7-pawn from a white knight on b5.

My first example:

**Najer (2572) - Solovjov (2449) St Petersburg 2000** (Analysis by Gutman, unless indicated otherwise)

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qh4 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Ndb5 Nf6 7.Bd2 Nxe4**



Gutman's main line is 7...Bxc3!, after which he offers the following options:

**A)** 8.bxc3 Kd8 (8...Qxe4+ 9.Be2 Kd8 10.0-0 Re8 "is also fine for Black") 9.Be2 Nxe4 10.0-0 d6, "when White has yet to prove that he has enough for the pawn".

**B)** 8.Bxc3 Nxe4 9.g3 Qe7 10.Qe2 Kd8 11.Bxg7 Re8 12.f3 f5 ("another option is 12...Nxc3 13.hxc3 Qb4+ 14.Bc3 Rxe2+ 15.Bxe2 Qe7 16.Rxh7 d6 17.g4 a6 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.Bxd4 c5") 13.fxe4 Qxg7 14.0-0-0 fxe4 "with an edge for Black".

**C)** 8.Nxc3 Nxe4 (8...d6 9.g3 Qg4 10.f3 Qe6 11.Be3 Ne5 12.Qe2 Bd7 13.0-0-0 "looks

good for White"), with a further branching:

**C1)** 9.Qe2?! "fails due to 9...Nd4 10.Qxe4+ Qxe4+ 11.Nxe4 Nxc2+".

**C2)** 9.g3 Nxc3 10.Bxc3 Qe7+ 11.Be2 0-0 12.0-0 d5 "White stands worse".

have to mention that 7...Bxc3! is not mentioned by anyone other than Gutman.

## 8.Qe2

At this point Gutman actually gives preference to 8.g3! Qe7 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.N7d5, with the following options:

**A)** 10...Nxc3+ 11.Nxe7 Nxd1 12.Nxc6+ dxc6 13.Bxb4 Nxb2 14.Bc3 Re8+ 15.Kd2 Na4 16.Bxg7 Nc5 17.Bd4 Ne4+ 18.Kc1 "with a promising ending for White". [CH: This line is very long, but fairly accurate. The endgame is in my opinion clearly better for White due to Black's weak kingside pawns and White's bishop pair.]

**B)** 10...Bxc3 11.bxc3 Qe6 12.Be3 is not given any evaluation or comment by Gutman, but one suspects that he prefers White.

**C)** [CH: 10...Qc5 threatens mate and is not mentioned by Gutman. One possibly continuation is 11.Be3 Qa5 (11...Nxc3 is likely to transpose into line A above after 12 Bxc5 Nxd1 13 Nxb4 Nxb2 14 Nxc6+ dxc6 15 Bd4 Re8+ 16 Kd2) 12.Nxb4 Qxb4 13.a3 Qa5 14.Qd5 Nxc3 15.Qxa5+ Nxa5 16.bxc3 b6, which is better for White, although Black can generate some counterplay as a result of White's disrupted pawn structure on the queenside.]

The last option is 8.Nxe4?!, which is good for Black after 8...Qxe4+ 9.Qe2 Bxd2+ 10.Kxd2 Qxe2+ 11.Bxe2 Kd8 "is in Black's favour."

## 8...Kd8

8...Bxc3!? "is the correct reply" 9.Nxc3 (or 9.Bxc3 Kd8), and now:

**A)** "After 9...Nd4 10.Qxe4+ Qxe4+ 11.Nxe4 Nxc2+ 12.Kd1 Nxa1 13.Bd3 0-0 14.Ke2 Re8 15.Kf3 d5 16.Nc3 Nb3 17.axb3 c6 18.b4 I prefer White".

**B)** 9...f5 10.0-0-0 0-0 (10...Qxf2 11.Nxe4 Qxe2 "can be met by the annoying 12.Nd6+ cxd6 13.Bxe2 d5 14.Bf3") 11.Nxe4 Qxe4 12.Qxe4 fxe4 13.Bc4+ Kh8 14.Bd5 d6 15.Bxe4 Bd7 16.f3 Rae8 "is satisfactory for Black."

[CH: Here I must object; White's bishop pair in an open position, combined with a pawn majority on the kingside, where Black sorely misses his f-pawn for the defense of his king, White must be better. Black of course is not without chances of defending himself, but I prefer White.]

## 9.Nxe4

"Another method is 9.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 10.Nxe4 Re8 11.f3 f5 12.c3 Bf8 13.Bg5+ Be7 14.Ned6 cxd6 15.Bxe7+ Rxe7+ 16.Kf2 d5 17.Rd1 keeping the pressure."

**9...Re8 10.c3 Rxe4 11.Bg5+ Be7 12.Bxh4 Rxe2+ 13.Bxe2 Bxh4 14.0-0**

"And Black had inadequate compensation for the exchange." The rest of the game went as follows.


**14...d6 15.Rfd1 Bf6 16.Na3 Be6 17.Bc4 Kd7 18.Re1 Ne5 19.Bxe6+ fxe6 20.Re2 c5 21.Rd1 d5 22.f4 Ng6 23.f5 Nf4 24.fxe6+ Kc6 25.Re3 Re8 26.Nc2 Rxe6 27.g3 Rxe3 28.Nxe3 d4 29.gxf4 dxe3 30.Kf1 b5 31.Ke2 b4 32.cxb4 Bxb2 33.bxc5 Kxc5 34.Rd7 a5 35.Rb7 Bf6 36.a4 Kd6 37.Kxe3 Ke6 38.Ra7 Bc3 39.Kd3 Be1 40.Rxg7 Kf5 41.Rf7+ Kg6 42.Re7 1-0**

However, instead of 7 Bd2, Gutman actually advocates the obvious looking 7 Nxc7+! Kd8, and then 8 N7d5!, as 8 Nxa8 allows a nasty attack after 8...Nxe4 9 Be3 Nxc3 10 bxc3 Bxc3+ 11 Ke2 b6!. Therefore Black does best to play 6...Ba5, which seems to lead to a decent game for Black, although the dangers are far from over. As you can see, Gutman provides a lot of analysis; this is typical for the book. You may debate his evaluations, but overall he is fairly objective in his positional assessments throughout.

Gutman knows this and actually addresses this, appropriately enough, with a quote by Emanuel Lasker, from his *Manual of Chess*: "Enough, there are still problems to be solved; the whole truth in Chess is not by any means all known yet - fortunately". So, this book is by no means the definitive work on this line, but it certainly takes the theory of this line a giant leap forward.

This book is a great work on a little known line that is definitely not played enough. The complications in this line are tremendous and that will scare a lot of people away, but hopefully even more will be attracted because of it.

I have no problems recommending this book, which provides the reader with a valuable and – in opening books – an often rare commodity: original analysis. This book is good value for your money.

**My assessment of this book:** 

[Order](#) *4...Qh4 in the Scotch Game*  
by Lev Gutman

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*ECO A 4th Edition* by Aleksander Matanovic et al., 2001  
Sahovski Informator, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback,  
pp., \$36.00

My first question when I received this book was: What happened to the 3rd edition? But then I realized, much to my dismay, that the 3rd edition had come out as an electronic edition only. But then again, the 2nd and 3d editions were nearly identical anyway, so it wasn't all that important after all, except I guess, for those people who went out and bought it. But with the relatively short time span between the electronic 3rd edition and this printed 4th edition, I imagine that our friends in Belgrade realised from their slacking sales of this modern version of Bilguer, that people want their printed edition ECO like they want their MTV.



I will definitely not complain about the return to a printed edition. The feel the book has, dust jacket and hardcover, makes this book something special amongst chess books. Durable quality that will be with you for years to come. Furthermore, ECO has the nice quality that when opened, it will lay flat and stay on that page.

ECO is divided into five volumes:

- **A** - covering moves other than 1 d4 and 1 e4; 1 d4 openings where Black doesn't answer 1...Nf6 or 1...d5; 1 d4 Nf6, where White does not play 2 c4; and finally 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4, where Black does not answer 2...e6 or 2...g6.
- **B** - covering 1 e4 openings, where Black doesn't answer 1...e6 or 1...e5.
- **C** - covering 1 e4 e6 and 1...e5

- **D** - covering 1 d4 d5 and 1...Nf6 2 c4 g6 with 3...d5
- **E** - covering 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 and 2...g6 where Black does not play 3...d5.

As you can see the greatest variety of openings can be found in volume A. A lot of these openings don't see a lot of action at IM- or GM-level, e.g. 1 b3, 1 b4, 1 f4 and other more eccentric first moves. However, the English Opening is constantly being played by the strongest players in the world. Other popular openings featured in this volume are the Benko Gambit, the Modern Benoni and the Dutch Defense.


As I have mentioned in my reviews of other ECO volumes, the people in Belgrade have strayed from their original approach where they had a strong GM edit the subchapters in which they were considered specialists. Some examples were Keres editing many subchapters of the open games, Botvinnik much of the Grunfeld, Kasparov the Tarrasch Queen's Gambit and the list goes on. Then they went over to having anonymous editors, who only followed what was being published in Informator. This is of course an extremely limited approach and but for those openings that are not popular at GM-level at present, the theory of these openings in ECO would be at a complete standstill, something actual theory never is. This also meant that correspondence games were grossly misrepresented, merely by not being present despite the importance theoretically for the development of many openings. Finally, there was no original analysis by these editors, so the not always accurate analysis by some IMs and GMs made its way to ECO where it was often presented as the ultimate truth. Sad indeed.

Since the 2nd and 3rd editions were nearly identical, I will compare the printed 2nd and 4th editions. One new thing I noticed immediately is that the footnotes have been emphasized a bit by writing the foot number in a larger bold font, making it easier to locate what you are looking for. This is particularly important in a book like the ECO where each code covers a lot of ground. Therefore a code like A30, which covers Hedgehog and Double Fianchetto of the Symmetrical English, has 24 pages of foot notes - 522 foot notes, whereas in a work like *Nunn's Chess Openings* the foot notes cover normally 1-2 pages.

Returning to the A30 I mentioned above, there are major changes taking place. The number of foot notes is upped from 405 to 522. The material itself has also been tossed around so that the Double Fianchetto material now is before the Hedgehog lines. I am also pleased to see that the footnotes include several examples from games that have not been published in Informator. But there are only very few, if any, examples of independent suggestions by the editors. Only analysis and new moves that have already been published in Informator have found their way into this ECO. This is another example the relative theoretical standstill that exists in ECO. For example, analysis given in easily accessed theory presented in books or on the internet does not find its way to the ECO, giving a misleading picture of the current theoretical status of a particular opening. Having just worked extensively on the English Opening in the last two books of my own, I have found that many of the older and less analysed lines, such as the Anti-Benoni lines without ...Nc6 (e.g. 1 c4 c5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 e6), are full of potholes in the ECO version, merely because nobody has bothered to look at them for several years. Furthermore, as Tim Harding pointed out in a thread on the [ChessCafe.com Bulletin Board](#), the correspondence games are more or less completely ignored, and those that do find their way to Belgrade are often not those by the strongest players.

Going through this volume, I find that the material in general is much better and more current than in other recent volumes of ECO, but I also have to say that it was about time that it happened. While the theoretical coverage in the ECO generally is good and covers a lot of ground for a reasonable price, the coverage is not sufficiently

in-depth to satisfy specialists of a given opening.

My assessment of this book: 

<p><i>The Ratings</i></p>
<p> — A poor book, not recommended.</p>
<p> — Not a particularly good book, but perhaps useful for some readers.</p>
<p> — A useful book.</p>
<p> — Good book, recommended.</p>
<p> — Excellent book, highly recommended.</p>

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