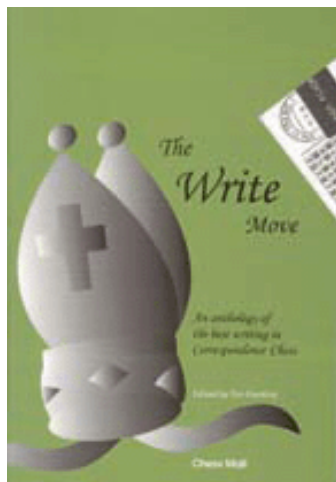




## COLUMNISTS

*The Kibitzer*

Tim Harding



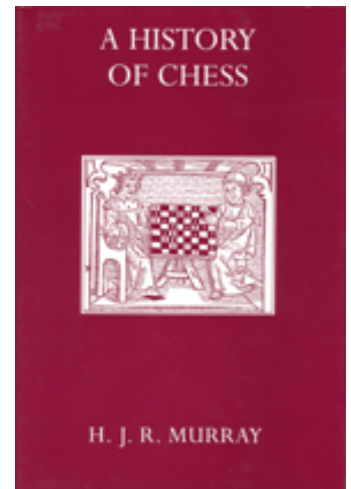
*The Write Move*  
by Tim Harding

## Snippets from Chess History

This month's column consists of a number of snippets from chess history; items that are interesting in themselves but none of which would make a full column. These are partly items about people and partly games you probably have not seen before. They mostly arise from some books and Internet articles that I have been reading recently.

Another [ChessCafe](#) columnist, Professor Spinrad, remarked in his January [column](#): "Although I love chess history, the history of chess leaves me cold," and he went out to try to explain what he meant. As my understanding of what "chess history" is, or should be, differs somewhat from that of Spinrad (whose professional field is computer science), maybe I had better make the difference clear. I do not believe that "chess history" is just about finding the facts about long-ago events (a collection of facts is never a history), but I respect what Murray and his contemporaries, such as John G. White and Daniel Willard Fiske, were trying to do. In their time, much of the story of chess origins and the evolution and transmission of the game to its modern form was obscured by a mixture old traditions and legends and research/writing of questionable accuracy done by their nineteenth century predecessors, especially Duncan Forbes and Antonius van der Linde.

To avoid the kinds of mistakes made by those men, who were learned and eminent in their own fields, Murray, White and (to a lesser extent Fiske) went to a lot of trouble to find important early manuscripts about chess and to learn whatever languages (often oriental) were needed in order to accurately read them: not only to get their literal sense but to contextualise them by date and culture. One only gets a sense of this by reading Murray's *A History of Chess*, which stands as the culmination of a twenty-year struggle to master this material, but Murray was no stylist and was certainly not writing for the airport novel market. This, admittedly almost indigestible, classic is presumably one of the books Spinrad meant when he said he was "left cold," but that book was never meant to be "hot."



There has been some important academic work on early chess history done since Murray but, not being a linguist or medievalist, I would not feel qualified to pass judgment on it. My interest is rather in the development of the game as a social activity, when it moved from being an elitist pastime to one which was extensively played in many countries with organised clubs, leagues, championships and other competitions, many of which are still held today (or at least were until the Internet era changed things). That inevitably means researching chess in the nineteenth century, which has been the subject of most of Spinrad's articles. My approach has been thematic rather than concentrating on individuals, but I have found out quite a lot of interesting stuff about some people, not all of which is directly relevant to my university thesis and possible future book. The material that ends up in this column is, generally speaking, interesting but peripheral to the main thrust of my research.

Spinrad prefers anecdotes about people or myths about chess origins, which are entertaining even though they may be tall stories or downright false. Spinrad, of course, only cites these as examples and for their entertainment value, which is acceptable in the context of an Internet column, as opposed to an academic article or monograph. Writing outside his own field gives him liberty to be

speculative or entertaining first and foremost.

What I really dislike are the kinds of web pages (or books) that give long lists of pseudo-historical “factoids” (statements purporting to be facts, but which are mostly incorrect), often under such headings as “chess trivia.” Some examples follow. The opposite to this approach is the kind of article one finds in Edward Winter’s *Chess Notes*, which has long been partly to expose various errors (sometimes deliberate deceptions) that have gone by the name of chess history in the popular sense. For example, he exposed several errors in the first volume of Kasparov’s *My Great Predecessors*. (I wrote about that once before and will probably come back to it when, if ever, Kasparov brings this money-spinning saga to its close.)

On a site called “Logical Chess,” run by the Huntsville Chess Club, I found (thanks to Google) a series of pages on “Chess Trivia.” At one time, chess writer Bill Wall was involved with this site and collecting/publishing trivia, but his name is not on the particular [page](#) to which I refer. As one specific area of my expertise is to do with correspondence chess, I chose to look at the page of articles indexed under C, which was attributed to a David Hayes and dated 2001.

(Note: I have saved in PDF format a copy of this page as 15:06 GMT on Saturday 3 March 2007, in case they change the contents after reading this article and then try to claim they were not wrong. If you find differences, please note the date and time you read the trivia page and notify me, through [ChessCafe](#), of the alterations.)

I also found the following [page](#) on correspondence chess with Bill Wall’s by-line. It contains more details and some similar errors, and plenty of information and misinformation, the correction of which will have to await my thesis and book.

Before giving some examples, I wish to state that just because an item on these pages is not criticised does not mean that I accept it is correct. Simply I have chosen to deal with a few where I have good evidence of inaccuracy or incompleteness. The first article on the Huntsville page is “Cable Match” and reads as follows:

*The first cable match (moves transmitted by telegraph) was between the British Chess Club and the Manhattan Chess Club in 1895. In 1897 a cable match between the British House of Commons and the U.S. House of Representatives resulted in a draw.*

There were such matches in 1895 and 1897, but the former was far from being the first chess match where moves were transmitted by telegraph. Some games were played between Baltimore and Washington DC in November 1844 and Staunton was involved in the first English telegraph chess match in 1845. Several team matches using the telegraph were played in the 1860s, including some between Dublin and English clubs, so 1895 is more than thirty years to be too late for the use of submarine cables for chess. The 1895 match may have been the first that a transatlantic cable was employed for this purpose.

*Cambridge-Oxford match  
Longest running annual match in chess. The traditional series began in 1873.*

This is the conventional wisdom, and not as obviously erroneous as the previous example, but it requires some qualification. There may be other less-well known series of this kind that have received less publicity. There were certainly earlier series that started, but may have discontinued because one of the clubs or associations involved ceased to exist, or amalgamated with another organisation, or fragmented into separate clubs. According to Alan Smith’s chapters in Eric Nowell’s *Chess and Manchester* (published in 1990 by the Manchester and District Chess Association), Manchester and Liverpool began annual matches in 1862 (and there were earlier matches in the 1850s, some by telegraph), but I am not in a position to say whether there has been a continuous series between the cities since 1862. Regular matches in Australia started before 1873 and could have continued. The Huntsville website also entry fails to specify that the Cambridge-

Oxford series is between the university clubs not the town clubs of Oxford and Cambridge, and that there were wartime breaks.

#### *CANUTE*

*King of Denmark and England in the 11th century. He learned the game of chess during a pilgrimage to Rome. The king had a Danish earl murdered when the earl overturned a chessboard after the King made a bad move and tried to take it back.*

Apart from the spelling error for “pilgrimage,” the chess element of this whole hoary anecdote is open to question, but is certainly of the type that Professor Spinrad and his readers may find of interest. I did some research into the matter last year and after checking some details, I shall devote a column (or a part thereof) to the story during the summer.

#### *CASTLING*

*As late as 1561 castling was two moves. You had to play R-KB1 on one move and K-KN1 on the next move. The longest delayed castling is believed to be in the game Bobotsov-Ivkov, 1966 when White castled on the 46th move.*

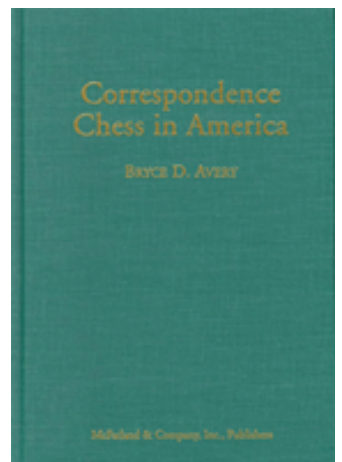
Maybe somebody can inform whether the statement in the second sentence is true. The first two statements might have been true in some places but not in general, and so are (at least) too categorical. I wonder where the writer found this factoid, but perhaps it comes from the Ruy Lopez book of 1561, which mentions two-stage castling of this type. There was considerable local variation on rules in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Murray dealt with the history of castling in his book, in some unpublished notes in the Bodleian Library and in an article published October 1905 in the *British Chess Magazine*. Going by Murray, the trivia page statement seems to have been true for Spain, but not necessarily for Italy, nor for France. On page 812 of the big *History*, footnote two includes a quotation of 1560 in French, where castling is made in one move, and Murray says that sometimes P-KR3 could also be made as part of the same multiple move!

Next one:

#### *CCLA*

*Correspondence Chess League of America. It is the oldest postal chess organization in America and second oldest in the world. It was founded in 1909 by three correspondence players.*

The authority on the history of the CCLA is Bryce Avery's book [\*Correspondence Chess in America\*](#), although it is unreliable on nineteenth century history and clubs other than CCLA. Avery says that 1909 was the foundation year of the Correspondence Chess League of Greater New York; CCLA was founded in 1917 when that merged with three other groups. Wall also states that CCLA was founded in 1909. The final statement of the Huntsville passage is also incorrect as it only applies to CCLGNY, and the same confusion spoils the paragraph about one of those men (Stanley Chadwick) on the same web page.



#### *CHURCHILL, LORD RANDOLPH (1849-1895)*

*Winston Churchill's father was elected vice president of the British Chess Federation in 1885. Lord Tennyson was the President of the British Chess Federation...*

In fact the British Chess Federation was founded in 1904. The above persons were in the final version of the British Chess Association which, like its predecessors, ultimately failed.

#### *COLUMN, CHESS*

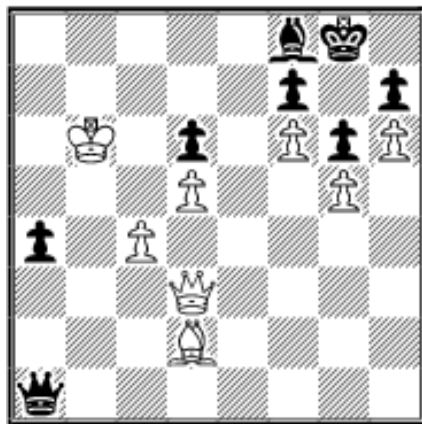
*The first newspaper chess column was that in the Liverpool Mercury in 1813. The oldest column still in existence is that of the Illustrated London News, which first appeared in 1842...*

The *Liverpool Mercury* information is correct, but the *Illustrated London News* (a weekly since its commencement in 1842) switched to monthly publication in 1971 and after 1989 publication was only of special issues at long intervals. The chess column was irregular until Staunton took over in February 1845. The last major columnist was B. H. Wood (until 1979) and, according to *Chess Columns: A List* (edited by the late Ken Whyld) chess coverage ceased in 1987. So this can by no stretch of the imagination be called "the oldest column still in existence." I don't know which periodical can claim that honour now.

#### CONSECUTIVE MOVES

*There were 72 consecutive Queen moves in the Mason-Mackenzie game at London in 1882.*

This is wrong if they mean thirty-six white queen and thirty-six black moves in succession.



The diagram position arose after Mackenzie's 71...a4.

It is hard for Black to move anything except the queen. From the diagram, play continued 72 Qc3 Qd1 73 Bc1 Qg4 74 Kb5 Qd7+ 75 Kb4 Qe8 76 Ka3 Qd7 77 Qb4 Qa7 78 Qxa4 Qg1 79 Qc2 Qc5+ 80 Ka2 Qa7+ 81 Ba3 Qe3 82 Bc1 Qg1 83 Kb1 Qd4 84 Qe2 Qc3 85 Bb2 Qg3 86 Qd2 Qg4 87 Qc1 Qg3 88 Ka2 Qf2 89 Kb3 Qb6+ 90 Kc3 Qa5+ 91 Kd3 Qb6 92 Bd4 Qb3+ 93 Bc3 Qb6 94 Qe1 Qb3 95 Qc1 Qa2 96 Qc2 Qa3 97 Ke4 Qa7 98 Bd4 Qd7 99 Qf2 Qg4+ 100 Qf4 Qe2+ 101 Qe3 Qxc4 102 Qd3 Qa2 103 Be3 Qa4+ 104 Kf3 Qh4 105 Qd4 Qh3+ 106 Ke2 Qc8 107 Kd3 Qa6+ 108 Qc4 Qa3+ 109 Kd4 Qa7+ 110 Ke4 Qd7 111 Kd3 Qf5+ 112 Kc3 Qb1 113

Qc6 Qe1+ 114 Bd2 Qe4 115 Qb5 Qg2 116 Qd3 Qg1 117 Kb3 Qg4 118 Be3 Qc8 119 Kb4 Qe8 120 Qd4 Qa8 121 Qc4 Qb8+ 122 Qb5 Qc8 123 Qc6 Qg4+ 124 Ka5 Qe4 125 Bc1 Qb1 126 Ka6 Qb4 127 Ka7 Qb3 128 Ka8 Qb4 129 Be3 Qa3+ 130 Ba7 Qg3 131 Bb8 Qa3+ 132 Kb7 Qb3+ 133 Kc8 Qg3 134 Kd7 Qg4+ 135 Ke8 Qe4+ 136 Kd8 Qe5 137 Bc7 Qf4 138 Kc8 Qf5+ 139 Kb8 Qe5 140 Kb7 Qb2+ 141 Bb6 Qe5 142 Bc7 Qb2+ 143 Kc8 Qe5 144 Kd8 Qf4 ½-½

So you can see that, assuming this score from a ChessBase database is correct (but I would like to see a primary printed source), Mason often moved his king and sometimes his bishop, but Mackenzie actually made *seventy-three* consecutive king moves.

#### COOK

*A composition term for an alternative key not intended by the composer. Named after Eugene Cook (1830-1915) who was so expert a solver, and found second or more solutions to so many problems, that his name came to signify the act.*

I have seen several alternative explanations of the origin of this term. Is this the one that chess problem experts accept? The next quoted section of the article is rather long, so I only show you the bits that are questionable or definitely wrong; I have corrected spelling errors.

#### CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

*The first reputed correspondence game of chess was played in 1119 by King Henry I of England and King Louis VI of France. The earliest postal game was between players in Brada and The Hague in 1824... In 1888 the first international correspondence tournament was held. Most correspondence games played at once is 1000 by Robert Wyller... The only two U.S. Correspondence Grandmasters are Hans Berliner and Victor Palciauskas...*

Egbert Meissenburg, the acknowledged authority on correspondence chess up to 1824, questions the validity of the improbable anecdote about Henry I and Louis VI (also in Wall's page), who were in mid-reign in 1119. He traces it to a 1962 article by J. Delannoy, "Le jeu par correspondance," in *Europe Echecs* magazine for September 1962, which I have not seen. He is inclined to believe there is evidence for a story that the two men had a row over an over-the-board game in the days before they had inherited their thrones. After losing some games, Louis called Henry a "bastard," whereupon the heir to the English throne smote his opponent with a chessboard and rode away.

The second assertion in the Huntsville article is based on a confusion. 1824 was the year the London-Edinburgh match began. The games between F. W. von Mauvillon in Breda (not Brada) and a brother officer in The Hague were played in 1804. Wall has the date right, but writes "Mauvillion" and incorrectly describes this as a match between chess clubs rather than individuals.

Wall's material on correspondence chess in part plagiarises the *Oxford Companion to Chess* article on the topic and repeats some errors. For example, he says London had previously challenged Paris to a match in 1824 – whereas it was 1823 and Paris had issued the challenge. Wall's article also has incorrect statements about the first British and Soviet correspondence championships, and numerous other mistakes too boring to mention here.

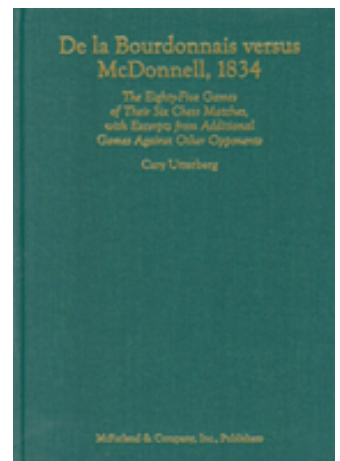
The first international correspondence tournament was earlier than 1888. The above (presumably referring to an event organised by the French weekly *Le Monde Illustré*) was a mistake in an article by Bruno Bassi just after World War II, which was repeated in the *Oxford Companion to Chess*. Anyway that event started in 1887, not 1888. Previously the French chess magazine *La Stratégie* organised an international tournament in 1884, and it could be argued that an earlier event involving United States and Canadian players should be regarded as an international tournament. At least Huntsville is not as bad as Wall's page, which said the first international correspondence tournament was won by Janos Balogh in 1932. Come back, Wikipedia, all is forgiven...

I do not know if Huntsville's information about Wyller and the thousand games was ever right. Wall says Wyller played 1,001 games simultaneously in 1948 and that Stan Vaughan broke this record with 1,124 games in 1988. Vaughan probably does hold the record, but is there good independent evidence for either of these claims? Maybe somebody has played even more games simultaneously on the Internet in recent times; it would certainly be much easier and cheaper than doing so by post.

The statement about Berliner and Palciauskas being America's only correspondence chess grandmasters is way out of date. Wall adds Alik Zilberberg and Joseph DeMauro, but now there are six: Robin Smith and John C. Timm got the title in 2004. Wall's page apparently dates from 2002. This is a reminder that many pages on the Internet remain visible, even when they are way out of date. It is really a totally unreliable medium unless you only go to reliable writers and reliable sites, such as Chess Notes and [ChessCafe](#).

### **The Last Games of Alexander McDonnell**

Lately I have been dipping into the book [De la Bourdonnais versus McDonnell, 1834](#), compiled by Cary Utterberg from various sources (including his imagination, as far as his picture of chess in 1830s London and Paris is concerned). The book was published by McFarland in 2005 and contains (quoting the subtitle) "the eighty-five games of their six chess matches, with excerpts from additional games against other opponents." The two following games, perhaps the last played by McDonnell and almost certainly the last he played in Ireland, are not in Utterberg's book. They can be found on page 58 of the *Oxford Encyclopaedia of Chess Games, volume 1* (edited by David Levy and Kevin O'Connell in 1981; no further volumes ever appeared), but without a date or further information. Levy and O'Connell's source was George Walker's *Chess Studies*



(1844).



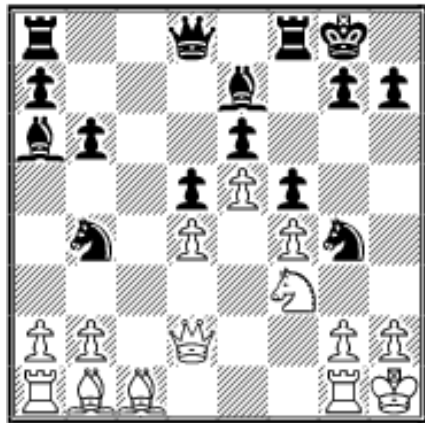
In fact these games can be dated very precisely, as they appeared in Walker's column in *Bell's Life in London* on 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 1836, and had been played the previous summer in McDonnell's native city. Utterberg seems to have been aware that this newspaper published many games from the McDonnell-La Bourdonnais matches during 1835, but he appears not to have seen these articles for himself.

McDonnell had a reputation for being able to surmount large odds, so it may be interesting to see his strategy in these games, where he began play without his queen's knight. The first of the games appeared with the following information.

*The next games of our series will be prized by the amateurs of Chess, as having been, in all probability, the last ever played by the late Mr McDonnell, the first player in England. They have been sent us from Belfast, where they played on the 25<sup>th</sup> of last July. Mr McDonnell's opponent was Mr B Gamble, his cousin, well-known in the London Chess-circle as a brilliant and promising player. Mr McDonnell's death took place in London on the 14th of September, and we regret deeply to learn that Mr Gamble died a very few weeks after. 1835. The latter was a young man, under thirty, and his premature decease is a loss to the Chess world, though secondary to the former great bereavement.*

Game One. (Remove White's knight from b1.)  
**Alexander McDonnell-B. Gamble**  
Belfast, 25 July 1835

**1 e4 e6 2 f4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 Nc6 5 Bd3 f5 6 Bc2 Nh6 7 Nf3 Be7 8 0-0 0-0 9 d4 cxd4 10 cxd4 b6 11 Kh1 Ba6 12 Rg1 Nb4 13 Bb1 Ng4 14 Qd2**



**14...Nd3!?**

Walker: "This appears to be a very good move, but the attack is premature, and loses a piece."

Kibitzer: If followed up correctly next move, this would win for Black, although 14...Nc2!! is even stronger, the point being that after 15 Qxc2 (If 15 Bxc2 Bb4, White has no safe square for his queen.) 15...Rc8 16 Qd2 Bb4 is crushing.

14...Rc8, although timid, preserves Black's material advantage. It is a sensible developing move, consolidating

Black's sensible play up to this point (Kibitzer).

**15 Bxd3 Bxd3?**

15...Bb4!, as in the previous variations would be a killer, but Walker failed to notice this. Still, since Black started with an extra knight, the miscalculation means that although the game will be continued on almost level terms, McDonnell is still in some danger. (Kibitzer).

**16 h3**

GW: "By this move, the Knight is driven off, and the Bishop remains captive. Mr G prefers, of the two, to lose the Knight, and, therefore retreats the Bishop."

Beginners, please note that 16 Qxd3?? does not just lose the queen: the reply 16...Nf2 is smothered

mate!

**16...Be4 17 hxg4 fxg4 18 Nh2 g3 19 Nf3 Bxf3**

Kibitzer: Black, who still has quite a good game with an extra pawn, still dreams of making combinations, despite his previous blunder. You have to admire his nerve.

**20 gxf3 Bb4!**

GW: "It is true, he has lost his piece, but he has still a fierce looking position."

Kibitzer: Too late, Gamble sees what would have been the winning idea at move 15.

**21 Qe2**

Not 21 Qxb4?? Qh4+ 22 Kg2 Qh2+ 23 Kf1 Qf2#.

**21...Qh4+ 22 Kg2 Qh2+ 23 Kf1 Qh4?**

Kibitzer: The queen will soon be exchanged anyway, so this loses a tempo. 23...Rac8 would be troublesome for White.

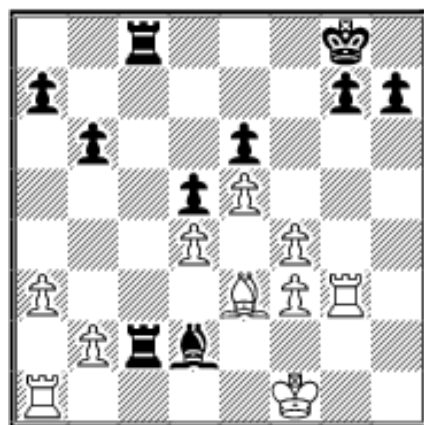
**24 Qg2 Rac8 25 Qxg3 Qxg3 26 Rxc3**

Now the pawn is regained, but Black still has some initiative to be neutralised.

**26...Rc2 27 a3 Rfc8**

Gamble continues to play aggressively: the right policy.

**28 Be3 Bd2**



**29 Ke2?**

This should lose, but, in a friendly game against his cousin, McDonnell was probably unwilling to exchange bishops and play for a draw. With his inferior pawn structure, he probably recognised that he would be likely to lose on the kingside if he exchanged both pairs of rooks, but 29 Bxd2 Rxd2 30 f5 exf5 31 e6 might have been a better way of creating complications.

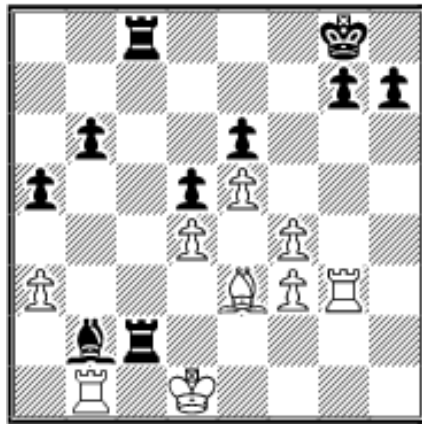
**29...Bc3+?**

Again, Gamble makes it hard for himself by missing the most precise move: 29...Bc1+! 30 Kd3 (Otherwise the bishop hangs.) 30...Bxb2. This threatens mate in one and so wins a rook, and White would have to resign soon.

**30 Kd1 Bxb2 31 Rb1 Rh2**

Hoping to double rooks on the seventh rank — decades before Nimzovitch — but McDonnell prevents this.

### 32 Bg1 Rhc2 33 Be3 a5?!



Somewhat strange, although not a blunder. Black intends to create a passed pawn on the queenside, but gives his eminent cousin the chance to make things a bit messy.

33...Kf7 and 33...b5 are better options.

**34 f5! exf5 35 e6 Bxa3 36 Rxb6**

White is two pawns down but has created a variety of threats that needed to be watched carefully, Black decides the best defence is attack.

**36...Ra2!? 37 Rb7 g6**

Forced, in effect, though he could check first.

### 38 Rh3

McDonnell transfers his attentions to the h-pawn and the situation becomes critical.

### 38...Ra1+

This lets the white king out of the box. 38...Bb4! is probably best, and if 39 Rhxh7 (39 Rbxh7 Ra1 + 40 Ke2 Re1+ 41 Kf2 Rc2+) 39...Ra1+ 40 Ke2 Re1+ 41 Kf2 (41 Kd3 Rc3+) 41...Rc2+ 42 Bd2 Rxe6!, and with care Black could still win in the end. Not 42...Bxd2 which allows White to draw by perpetual check.

### 39 Ke2 Ra2+!?

Other winning tries were 39...Rc2+ and 39...Bb4.

### 40 Kf1

40 Kd1 may be better but is not a clear draw. For example, 40...Rc3 (40...Bb4!?) when:

a) 41 Rhxh7 Rd3+! 42 Bd2 (42 Ke1? Bb4+) 42...Rdxh2+ 43 Ke1 Re2+ 44 Kf1 Bf8 45 e7 Bxe7 46 Rhxe7 Rxe7 47 Rxe7 and Black can probably win the rook ending.

b) 41 Rb8+ Kg7 42 Rb7+ Kf6 43 Bg5+ Kxg5 44 f4+ Kxf4 45 Rxc3 Ra1+ 46 Ke2 Bb4. Now Black has three pawns for the exchange, and 47 e7? does not work because of 47...Bxc3 48 e8Q Re1+.

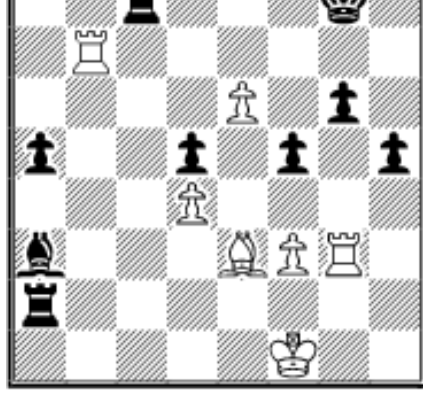
### 40...h5?!

Untrue to his name, Gamble fails to continue his aggressive strategy just when it might have paid off. 40...Rcc2 threatens ...Ra1+, so forces White to defend.

### 41 Rg3!



Now it should be a draw. Gradually Black has been swindled. McDonnell's strategy in this difficult game has been to hang in and opportunistically take advantage of



mistakes as they come, but he had to wait a long time.

**41...Ra1+**

This is one of several adequate moves.

**42 Ke2**

Walker observed correctly that “Mr M is still forced to move with great care, or he might easily step into error.”

**42...Rh1??**

Several moves would do, but not this. What was he thinking?

42...Bd6 prevents the disaster by covering f4, e.g. 43 Rxc6+ Kh8 44 Rh6+ Kg8. Also 42...Bb4 43 Rxc6+ Kh8 would save Black, because if 44 Bf4 Rc2+ 45 Kd3 Rc3+ 46 Ke2 Ra2+ there is perpetual check.

**43 Rxc6+ Kh8**

Or 43...Kf8 44 Bh6+ Ke8 45 Rg8+ and mates.

**44 Bf4 1-0**

The forgotten bishop strikes the final blow. Despite the loss, this game reflects some credit on Gamble, whose play would have been good enough to beat 99% of his contemporaries until he wilted at the end. His vigorous attempts to keep the initiative tend to bear out the comment made about him by Walker’s Belfast correspondent.

Gamble’s resistance in the next game is very poor by comparison, but it shows McDonnell’s risk-taking approach and combinative powers to more advantage.

Game Two. (Remove White’s knight from b1.)

**Alexander McDonnell-B. Gamble**

Belfast, 25 July 1835

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 b4 Bxb4 5 c3 Bc5 6 0–0 d6 7 d4 exd4 8 cxd4 Bb6**

This is the Normal Position of the Evans Gambit, except for the missing knight.

**9 h3**

Walker observed that “In giving the odds of a knight, this move is essential to restrain the adverse Queen’s Bishop.” McDonnell had used this move against La Bourdonnais and in 1971 the Italian master Mariotti beat Gligoric with it. The Evans player needs knights for trickery, hence Walker’s comment: Black could otherwise reduce the dangers by ...Bg4 and ...Bxf3.

**9...h6**

Timid.

**10 Bb2 f6**



Incidentally, while the *OECG* was a pioneering work in its time, Utterberg's belief that it "contained all significant recorded games that were played from 1485 through 1866" is misplaced and some day a much fuller collection of games from the 1820s onwards should be compiled (as a database). For example, two important compilations by Elijah Williams, of games played at the early Bristol chess club (or by its members) and of games played at the Grand Cigar Divan in London (*Horae Divanianae*) are not in Levy/O'Connell's bibliography, and I do not think you will find many (maybe not any) games from those books in *OECG*. Hundreds more games could be mined from chess columns; I only have time to collect the correspondence games.

### Next month

The April column, due to be posted on 11 April, should be the long-promised follow-up on the Najdorf Poisoned Pawn. It was delayed because I had an ongoing correspondence game, which has just ended – but too late to write it up properly this month.

---

Copyright 2007 Tim Harding. All rights reserved.

---

 [TOP OF PAGE](#)

 [HOME](#)

 [COLUMNS](#)

 [LINKS](#)

 [ARCHIVES](#)

 [ABOUT THE  
CHESS CAFE](#)

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

Copyright 2007 CyberCafes, LLC. All Rights Reserved.  
"ChessCafe®" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.