



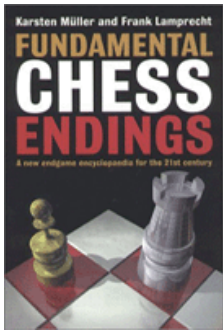
COLUMNISTS

Endgame Corner

Karsten Müller

[\[Find us on Facebook.\]](#)

Translate this page



Play through and download the games from [ChessCafe.com](#) in the [ChessBase Game Viewer](#).

**Free Shipping!**

On all Orders  
More than \$75!



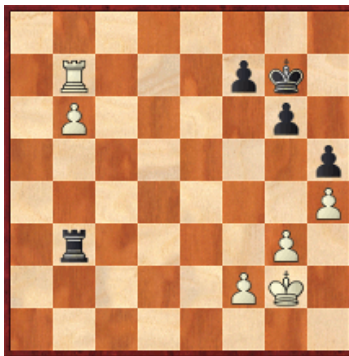
UPS GROUND Only.

A Theoretical Novelty

In general, endgame theory is very stable. However, from time to time new discoveries are made. Independently, W. Micawber from the Netherlands and Igor Yanvarev from Russia (in an article for the Chesspro website in 2008) have found an error that is important for the theory of rook endings in the analysis of the following famous classic. I wish to thank Mr. Micawber for his kind permission to use his extensive analysis, which I have shortened and edited.

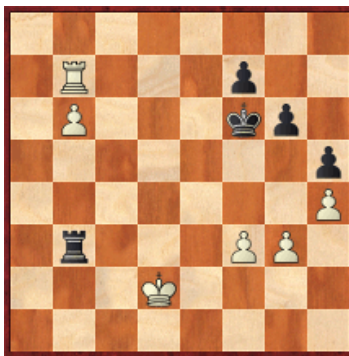
Hollis – Florian

Correspondence Game, 1972



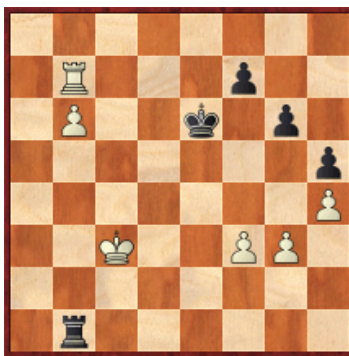
[FEN "8/1R3pk1/1P4p1/7p/7P/1r4P1/5PK1/8 w - - 0 0"]

1.Kf1 Rb2 2.Ke1 Kf6 3.f3 Rb3 4.Kd2



[FEN"8/1R3p2/1P3kp1/7p/7P/1r3PP1/3K4/8 b - - 0 3"]

The endgame theory assumed that the capture 4...Rxf3? still leads to a draw, but Yanvarev and Micawber proved that it loses. Only Kantorovich's ingenious defensive method draws: 4...Ke6!! 5.Kc2 Rb5 6.Kc3 Rb1



[FEN"8/1R3p2/1P2k1p1/7p/7P/2K2PP1/8/1r6 w - - 0 6"]

Purchases from our [chess shop](#) help keep [ChessCafe.com](#) freely accessible:



*ECE: Rook Endings*  
by Chess Informant



*ECE: Queen Endings*  
by Chess Informant



*ECE: Minor Piece Endings*  
by Chess Informant

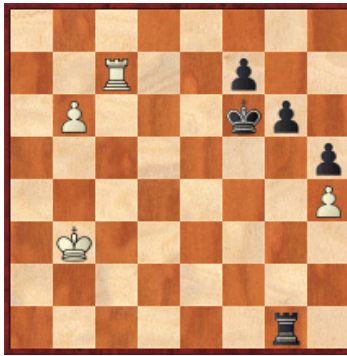
As Mark Dvoretzky has shown in his excellent [Endgame Manual](#).

### 5.Rc7!

This wins important tempi as Black's rook has problems dealing with the b-pawn now. In the game, Hollis played 5.Kc2? when Black could have defended with 5...Re3. However, Black played 5...Rf5?, which allowed 6.Rc7 and Hollis went on to win.

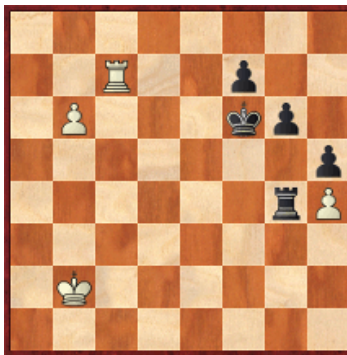
### 5...Rb3

5...Rxg3 6.Kc2! (van Wijgerden/Averbakh) 6...Rg2+ (6...Re3?! 7.b7 Re8 8.Rc8!+-) 7.Kb3 Rg1



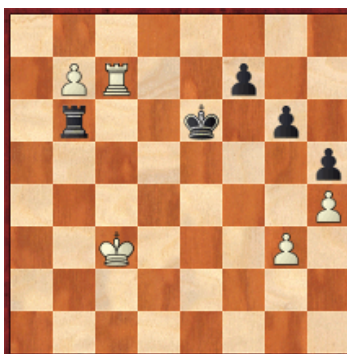
[FEN"8/2R2p2/1P3kp1/7p/7P/1K6/8/6r1 w - - 0 7"]

Now comes an important moment: 8.Kb2!! White retreats to make it more difficult for Black's rook to return 8...Rg4



[FEN"8/2R2p2/1P3kp1/7p/6rP/8/1K6/8 w - - 0 8"]

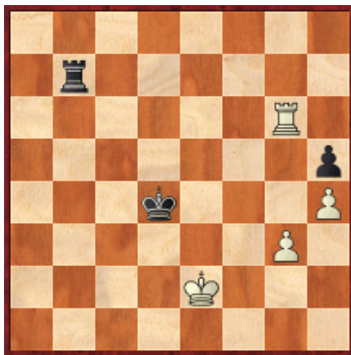
(8...Rg2+ 9.Rc2 Rg4 10.Rc3 Rxh4 11.Ka3 Re4 12.b7 Re8 13.Rc8 Re3+ 14.Kb2 Re2+ 15.Kc3 Re3+ 16.Kd2 Rb3 17.b8Q Rxb8 18.Rxb8 Kg5 19.Ke3 Kg4 20.Kf2+- (Averbakh cited by Yanvarev on Chesspro)) 9.Rc3! the rook will be well placed behind the passed pawn 9...Rxh4 10.Rb3 Re4 11.b7 Re8 12.b8Q Rxb8 13.Rxb8+-; 5...Ra3 6.b7! Rb3 7.Kc2 Rb6 8.Kd3+- (see the line 6...Rb1); 5...Ke6 6.b7 Rb3 7.Kc2 Rb6 8.Kc3



[FEN"8/1PR2p2/1r2k1p1/7p/7P/2K3P1/8/8 b - - 0 7"]

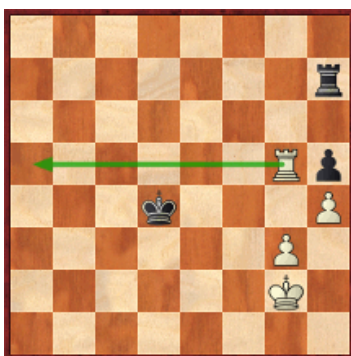
Now Black can again try a blocking defense with 8...Kd5!?, but White has made too much progress: 9.Rxf7 Kc5 10.Rg7 Kd5 11.Kd3 Rb3+ 12.Kd2 Kd4

13.Rd7+ This check breaks Black's defense, as the white king can now make progress on one wing. 13...Kc4 14.Ke2 Kc5 15.Rg7 Kd4 16.Rxg6 Rxb7



[FEN"8/1r6/6R1/7p/3k3P/6P1/4K3/8 w - - 0 16"]

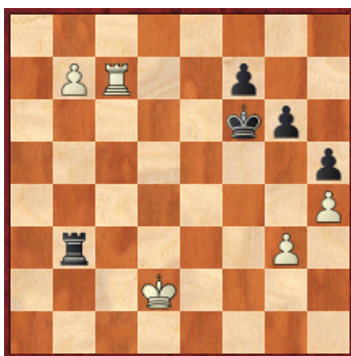
17.Rg5! Rh7 18.Kf3 Rf7+ 19.Kg2 Rh7



[FEN"8/7r/8/6Rp/3k3P/6P1/6K1/8 w - - 0 19"]

Now surprisingly 20.g4!! wins because of the cut-off: 20...hxg4 21.h5 Ke4 22. Kg3 Rh6 23.Kxg4 Rh8 24.Rg6 Ra8 25.h6+-.

**6.b7**

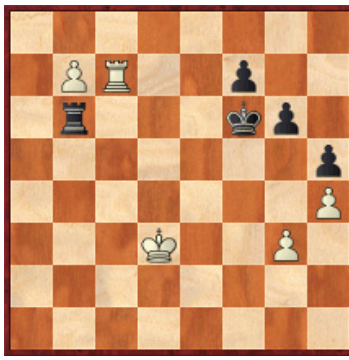


[FEN"8/1PR2p2/5kp1/7p/7P/1r4P1/3K4/8 b - - 0 5"]

Black has many different defensive options here, but he is not able to stop White's plan to approach with the king.

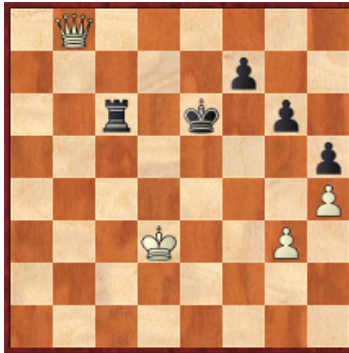
**6...Kf5**

6...Rb1 7.Kc2 Rb6 8.Kd3



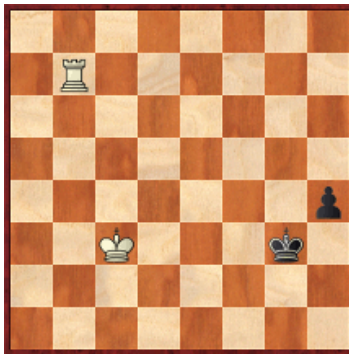
[FEN"8/1PR2p2/1r3kp1/7p/7P/3K2P1/8/8 b - - 0 7"]

Black is defenseless: 8...Ke5 (8...Ke6 9.Rc6+ Rxc6 10.b8Q+-



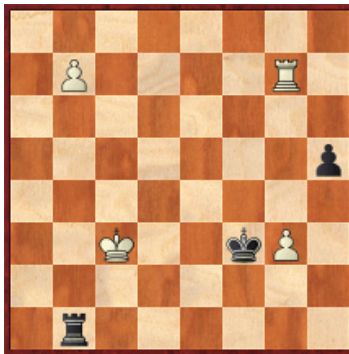
[FEN"1Q6/5p2/2r1k1p1/7p/7P/3K2P1/8/8 b - - 0 9"]

This is no fortress, as Black's king does not manage to reach g7.; 8...Kf5 9. Rxf7+ Kg4 10.Rg7+-) 9.Kc4! Kd6 (9...f6 10.Rd7! Ke6 11.Kc5+-) 10.Rxf7 Rb1 (10...Ke6 11.Rg7 Kf6 12.Rc7+-) 11.Rg7! Kc6 12.Kd4+-; 6...g5 This was even tried in a tournament game: 7.Kc2 Rb5 8.hxg5+ Kxg5 9.Rxf7 Kg4!?! (9... Kg6 10.Rc7 Kg5 11.Kc3 Kg4 12.Rc4+ Kxg3 13.Rb4 Rxb7 14.Rxb7 h4



[FEN"8/1R6/8/8/7p/2K3k1/8/8 w - - 0 14"]

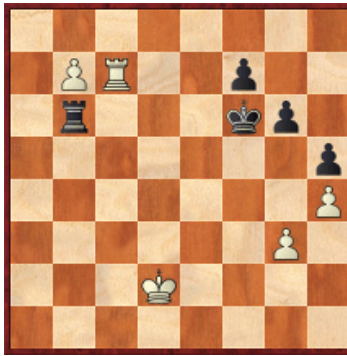
Now comes the typical technique: 15.Rg7+! Zwischenschach! 15...Kf3 16. Rh7 Kg3 17.Kd3 h3 18.Ke2! Kg2 19.Rg7+ Kh1 20.Kf3 h2 21.Re7 Kg1 22. Re1#) 10.Rg7+ Kf3 11.Kd3 Rb4 12.Kc3 Rb1



[FEN"8/1P4R1/8/7p/8/2K2kP1/8/1r6 w - - 0 12"]

13.Kd4 (The direct 13.Rd7!?! was already playable: 13...Kxg3 14.Rd3+ Kg4

15.Rd4+ Kg3 16.Rb4+-) 13...Rb5 14.Kc4 Rb1 15.Kd5 Rb6 16.Kc5 Rxb7 17.  
Rxb7 Kxg3 18.Rg7+ Kf3 19.Rh7 and Black resigned in the game B.Socko  
(2528)-A.Zubarev (2074), Polanica Zdroj 2000; 6...Rb6



[FEN"8/1PR2p2/1r3kp1/7p/6P1/3K4/8 w - - 0 6"]

This is met by 7.Kd3!+- (But not the hasty 7.Rc6+?? Rxc6 8.b8Q Kg7! and  
Black has a fortress like set up.) ; 6...Ke6 7.Kc2 Rb6 8.Kc3+-.

### 7.Kc2!

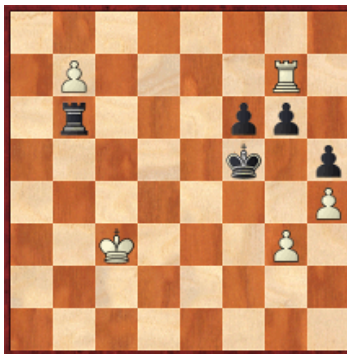
7.Rxf7+!? Kg4 8.Kc2 Rb6 9.Rg7+- transposes.

### 7...Rb6

7...Rb5 8.Kc3 Kg4 9.Rc4+ Kxg3 10.Rb4 Rxb7 11.Rxb7 Kxh4 12.Rxf7+-  
(Yanvarev on Chesspro).

### 8.Rxf7+!

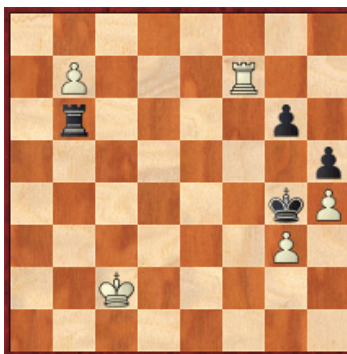
8.Kc3? spoils it as Black's counterplay is in time after 8...f6 9.Rg7



[FEN"8/1P4R1/1r3pp1/5k1p/7P/2K3P1/8/8 b - - 0 8"]

9...g5! 10.Kd4 Kg4 11.Kd5 (11.Kc5 Rb1 12.Kc6 Rc1+ 13.Kd7 Rd1+ 14.Kc8  
Rc1+ 15.Rc7 Rb1=) 11...Kxg3 12.hxg5 fxg5 13.Rxg5+ Kf4 14.Rg7 h4=.

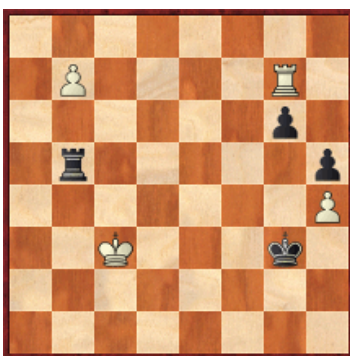
### 8...Kg4



[FEN"8/1P3R2/1r4p1/7p/6kP/6P1/2K5/8 w - - 0 8"]

### 9.Rg7!?

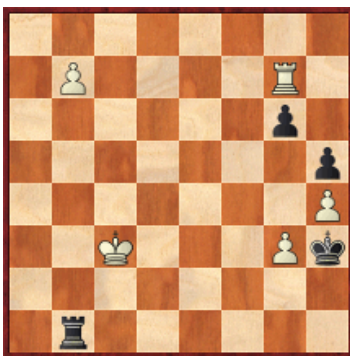
9.Rd7 wins as well: 9...Kh3 (9...Kxg3?! 10.Rd3+ Kxh4 11.Rb3! Rxb7 12. Rxb7+- (Kantorovich) 10.Rg7! Rb5 11.Kc3 Kxg3



[FEN"8/1P4R1/6p1/1r5p/7P/2K3k1/8/8 w - - 0 11"]

Here Micawber had made a mistake, but later corrected himself: 12.Kc4 (First he had given 12.Rxg6+?, but Black defends after 12...Kxh4 13.Rg7 Kh3=) 12...Rb1 13.Rd7+-.

**9...Kh3 10.Kc3 Rb1**

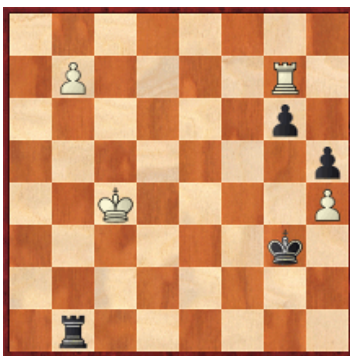


[FEN"8/1P4R1/6p1/7p/7P/2K3Pk/8/1r6 w - - 0 10"]

At this point Micawber's and Yanvarev's lines diverge: 11.Kc4

Yanvarev gives 11.Rd7 Rb6 (11...Kxg3 12.Rd3+ Kxh4 13.Rd4+-) 12.Kc4 Kxg3 13.Rd3+ Kxh4 14.Rb3 Rxb7 15.Rxb7+-.

**11...Kxg3**



[FEN"8/1P4R1/6p1/7p/2K4P/6k1/8/1r6 w - - 0 11"]

Now comes the final deep point 11...Rb2 12.Kc5 Kxg3 13.Rxg6+ Kxh4 14. Rb6+-.

**12.Rd7!!**

12.Rxg6+? Kxh4 spoils it.

**12...Kg2**

12...Kxh4 13.Rd4+ Kg5 (13...Kg3 14.Rd3+ Kg2 15.Rb3+-) 14.Rd5+ Kg4 15.

Rb5+-.

### 13.Kc3!?

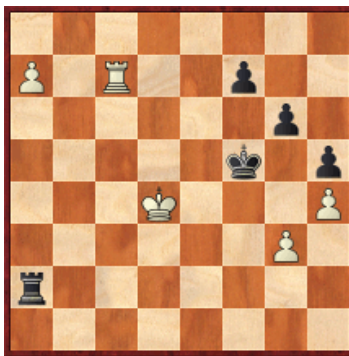
White just continues to threaten to bring his rook to the b-file.

### 13...Kg1 14.Kc2 Rb4 15.Rd1+ Kg2 16.Rb1+-

Finally the job is done. A really fascinating piece of work. Again many thanks to Mr. Micawber for allowing me to use his analysis. Igor Yanvarev was the first to give convincing proof that White wins and Micawber managed to make a few points clearer.

This reminds me of Johannes Steckner's discovery in another Kantorovich position, which is discussed in detail in the second edition of *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*:

Steckner, 2003



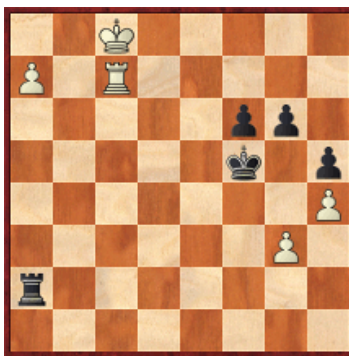
[FEN"8/P1R2p2/6p1/5k1p/3K3P/6P1/r7/8 w - - 0 1"]

### 1.Kc4!!

1.Kc5? Kg4 2.Kb5 Kh3 3.Rxf7 Kxg3 4.Kb6 Kxh4=; 1.Rxf7+? Kg4 2.Kc5 Kxg3 3.Kb5 Rb2+ 4.Kc6 Ra2 5.Kb7 Kxh4 6.Rf6 Rxa7+= (Kantorovich).

### 1...Kg4

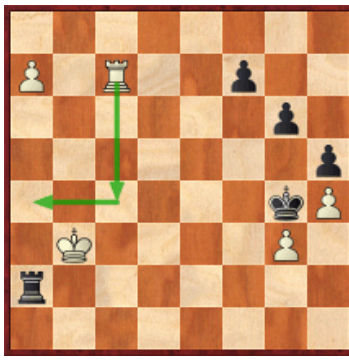
1...Ra1 2.Kb5 Rb1+ 3.Kc6 Ra1 4.Kb7 Rb1+ 5.Kc8 Ra1 6.Rxf7+ Kg4 7.Rg7 Kxg3 8.Rxg6+ Kxh4 9.Kb7 Rxa7+ 10.Kxa7 Kh3 11.Kb6+-; 1...f6 2.Kb5 Rb2 + 3.Kc6 Ra2 4.Kb7 Rb2+ 5.Kc8 Ra2



[FEN"2K5/P1R5/5pp1/5k1p/7P/6P1/r7/8 w - - 0 6"]

6.Rg7! g5 (6...Kg4 7.Rxg6+ Kh3 8.Rg7 Ra3 9.Kb8 Rb3+ 10.Rb7 Rxg3 11. Rb4 Rg8+ 12.Kb7 Kg3 13.a8Q Rxa8 14.Kxa8 f5 15.Kb7 f4 16.Kc6 f3 17.Kd5 f2 18.Rb1+-) 7.Kb8 Rb2+ 8.Rb7 Re2 9.a8Q Re8+ 10.Ka7 Rxa8+ 11.Kxa8 Kg4 12.Rg7+-.

### 2.Kb3



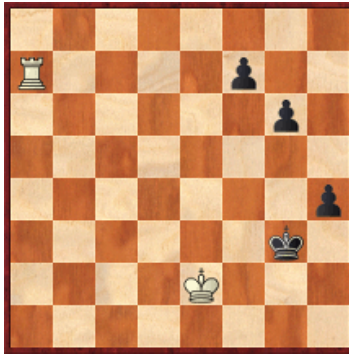
[FEN"8/P1R2p2/6p1/7p/6kP/1K4P1/r7/8 b - - 0 2"]

White's rook will interpose on the a-file.

**2...Ra6 3.Rc4+ Kxg3 4.Ra4 Rxa7 5.Rxa7 Kxh4 6.Kc3 Kg3**

6...f5 7.Kd2 g5 8.Ke2 g4 9.Kf2 Kg5 10.Rg7+ Kf6 11.Rg8 h4 12.Ke3 h3 13.  
Kf4+-.

**7.Kd2 h4 8.Ke2**



[FEN"8/R4p2/6p1/8/7p/6k1/4K3/8 b - - 0 8"]

**8...Kg2**

8...h3 9.Kf1 h2 10.Ra3+ Kg4 11.Kg2+-.

**9.Rxf7 h3 10.Rf2+ Kg3 11.Rf6 g5 12.Kf1 h2 13.Rh6+-**

---

© 2011 ChessCafe.com. All Rights Reserved.

---

Comment on this month's column via our [Contact Page](#)! Pertinent responses will be posted below daily.

---

 [TOP OF PAGE](#)

 [HOME](#)

 [COLUMNS](#)

 [LINKS](#)

 [ARCHIVES](#)

 [ABOUT THE  
CHESS CAFE](#)

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

© 2011 BrainGamz, Inc. All Rights Reserved.  
"ChessCafe.com" is a registered trademark of BrainGamz, Inc.