



COLUMNISTS

**Checkpoint**

Carsten Hansen



**Reviewed this month:**

***Rapid and Complete Opening Repertoire for the Tournament Player for White***

by Roman Dzhindzhikhashvili

***Rapid and Complete Opening Repertoire for the Tournament Player for Black***

by Roman Dzhindzhikhashvili

***Der Linkspringer 1.Sc3***

by Harald Keilhack

***New in Chess Yearbook 67***

by Genna Sosonko & Paul van der Sterren (ed).

**Let's Go to the Video Tape!**

***Rapid and Complete Opening Repertoire for the Tournament Player for White*** by Roman Dzhindzhikhashvili, 2003

Roman's Lab, Figurine Algebraic Notation, VHS (North American Format), 120+ minutes, \$33.00





While chess instruction on video tape still is pretty new to me, the man behind this and the other tape reviewed this month is quite a pioneer in this kind of chess publishing. Roman Dzhindzhikhashvili is a fairly big name in the US, where he has been residing for many years, but it seems like he isn't playing much these days, which I think is a shame as he is a great personality. On a personal note, I remember when my father came back from the 1984 Chess Olympiad in

Thessaloniki full of fascination for Dzhindzhi who played an excellent endgame against Beliavsky, how he sent Ljubojevic packing in a miniature, and the way he crushed Noguieras with a kingside attack. For a while there was no higher power in the Hansen household than Dzhindzhi.

"Carsten, if you could only fight in all of your games like Dzhindzhi" was a phrase I heard more than once from my dad. But let's get back to what this is about - reviewing his latest videos. In this and the next tape he presents a repertoire for both White and Black in a little more than four hours. While this amount of time obviously is not enough to give a detailed coverage of all possible openings, it is good enough to give a reasonably good strategic introduction to a set of openings. Lev Alburt has been promoting this concept in both his books and his columns that appeared at ChessCafe.com.

On the first tape he presents an opening repertoire for White based on 1 d4. He covers the following openings:

- Queen's Gambit Declined and Accepted
- Slav Defence
- Albin Counter Gambit
- Chigorin Queen's Gambit and Baltic Defence
- Queen's Indian Defence



- King's Indian Defence
- Grünfeld Indian Defence
- Dutch Defence

In addition, there is some sloppy work on the cover, which contains several spelling and grammatical errors. E.g., "This video was design for the player who does not want to spend a lot of time studying and still get good results." The Grünfeld is given as "Grunfled" along with several other oddities.

But this is about the content of the tape. I like his choice of lines, many of which are very practical for people who don't play a lot or have time to study endless amounts of opening theory. In fact many of his recommendations are lines that have been or currently are included in my opening repertoire. Against the Queen's Gambit Declined and the Slav he recommends the exchange variations, which are easy to learn and play without too much preparation, although Roman often simplifies matters more than they ought to be and leaves a lot of variations in the closet. One major absentee on this tape is the Tarrasch Queen's Gambit. In the Slav Exchange, several minor options have been left out too, but this is of less importance. Against the King's Indian, he recommends the Bf4 line, and gives a few insights that I wasn't entirely familiar with, and I'm sure that those adopting his recommendations will pick-up many easy points against unprepared opponents. In fact, checking Gallagher's book, *Beating the Anti-King's Indians*, I didn't find an antidote to Dzhindzhi's line of choice. I did try it out in some blitz games on the internet and it worked like a charm, even against 2500-rated players, so it does have some bite. In addition he suggests an extra weapon against the Grünfeld Indian, should the unlikely happen and Black transposes to a Grünfeld from a King's Indian.

In his main choice against the Grünfeld Indian, Dzindzi is at his very best, presenting a system he has helped develop. It's

a sub-system of the Fianchetto Variation. The line he presents is not considered dangerous for Black, but the subtleties of this system and the dangers for Black become very obvious when Dzhindzhi explains the finesses. I will not reveal what he is up to as those who buy the tape should have some secrets for themselves in return for their investment. In addition, after having seen the presentation, you feel compelled to try his ideas out. Excellent stuff.

However, his presentation against the Bogo-Indian is far from being as detailed as it ought to be. After 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Bb4+ 4 Bd2, he only covers 4...Qe7, whereas the solid 4...Bxd2+ and 4...a5 as well as the strategically complicated 4...c5 go unmentioned. Particularly the last move can be difficult to meet if you have no idea what you are doing as it deals with a very different pawn structure and ideas than other lines in the Bogo. Against the Queen's Indian, his choice of line is considered completely harmless, but it certainly is playable and at least you know what you have to do to avoid trouble; in most lines in the Queen's Indian there usually is plenty of room for that.

However, it is odd that the case claims that there is coverage of the Nimzo-Indian, but on the tape it seems to be missing altogether

Regarding the Dutch, Roman tells us Black can enter it with both 1 d4 e6 followed by 2...f5 and 1...f5 straight away, but when it comes down to it, he only covers 1...f5 and the intricacies regarding the first option are left on the table. In addition, what if Black plays 1...g6 or 1...d6 followed by ...f5 later, such as in the following line: 1 d4 g6 2 Nf3 (he doesn't say anything about 1...g6, so we are left guessing here) 2...Bg7 3 c4 (necessary to enter the lines against the King's Indian) 3...d6 4 Nc3 and now 4...f5 or for that matter 4...Bg4, and White has something on the board he may know nothing about. Hmmm, not so good!

These are the kind of things you always see in opening repertoire books and that occur here: they are not that good when it comes to transpositions.

While the openings seem well-considered, the narrative that accompanies the theoretical presentation seem unrehearsed and therefore isn't particularly impressive. Unlike the tapes from Bad Bishop in the UK with Andrew Martin, Murray Chandler and most recently Tony Kosten (reviews of the tapes by Chandler and Kosten will follow in the next couple of months), the presentation is constantly broken into pieces by Dzindzi searching for the right word as well as numerous "eh, eh, eh" stalls. I don't expect everything to be perfect, but I found this quite annoying. Something I liked is the fact that during the presentation you see an electronic chess board on the left side of the screen, while you see Roman with his chess board on the right side. In comparison, the tapes from Bad Bishop have either the electronic board or the instructor, never both. On the same note, there are some problems with the electronic image depicting the same position as Dzindzhi is describing; the problems are only temporary, but happen every now and again, which again is a distraction that we could without, but I will not make a major deduction for this.

Overall I like the material on this tape. The choices he has made regarding the repertoire for White are very good; the repertoire is well-balanced, on the solid side, so you don't run into a hurricane. Sometimes he commits the sin of oversimplifying matters in his attempt to make everybody see how easy it is to play White, and doesn't consider Black's best and most ambitious ideas, but usually through his narrative he prepares the viewer to make educated decisions at the board if they encounter new ideas. In addition, the lines he has picked for White are, more often than not, lines that currently are not all that popular, so that the chances of your opponent having prepared something against it or knowing it in detail are not all that great. With all of the

above in mind, I will not hesitate to recommend this tape to those who doesn't have time for elaborate opening study, but who will need some fresh and simple ideas as White. But please keep in mind that some possibilities have been ignored and they include the Benoni, the Benko Gambit, 1...d6 and a lot of many lesser options and sidelines that should have been considered..

My assessment of this video tape: 

Order *Rapid and Complete Opening Repertoire for the Tournament Player for White*  
by Roman Dzhindzhikhashvili

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*Rapid and Complete Opening Repertoire for the Tournament Player for Black* by Roman Dzhindzhikhashvili, 2003  
Roman's Lab, Figurine Algebraic Notation, VHS, (North American Format), 120+ minutes, \$33.00

This is volume two and the companion to the previous tape. The technical criticisms of that tape also apply to this one.

The Black opening repertoire for Black against 1 e4 is based on the set-up 1...d6, 2...Nf6, 3...e5, which is fine for Black; I have played it myself with some frequency for years, but I have some reservations about his coverage, which is very cursory, and many, many possibilities for White go

unmentioned. For example, 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6, and here only 3 Nc3 is covered, but a very important alternative is 3 f3, as the queenside knight doesn't really belong on c3 after 3...e5



4 dxe5 dxe5 5 Qxd8+ Kxd8. This position is considered as better for White in ECO, if Black after 6 Bc4 continues 6...Be6 (which is his recommendation after 3 Nc3 e5 4 dxe5 dxe5 5 Qxd8 Kxd8 6 Bc4), but this variation isn't even mentioned. Nor are 6 Bg5 or 6 Nf3, which I personally don't find problematic at all, but both moves are considered by ECO somewhat better for White. Another 3rd move possibility that goes unmentioned is 3 Bd3, which several of the strongest players in the world, including Shirov, Adams and Anand, as well as many other strong GMs have played on occasion.

The main option for White is obviously to enter the Philidor Defence with 4 Nf3. The Philidor isn't and shouldn't be the opening that scares you from playing 1 e4, but it is certainly a solid alternative for Black that has to be reckoned with, and in that respect it fits perfectly into the repertoire Roman has put together for us. The line he has chosen isn't the super-solid (and also quite passive) Hanham variation, but instead he has picked the much less fashionable Antoshin Variation, which for some reason is quite popular in Romania, and has also been part of my repertoire for years; nobody seems to know what the best set-up for White is and therefore picks some lame line against which Black has no problems. This, by the way, even seems to happen in correspondence chess where I never seem to be able to get into the sharpest lines. Something I found quite puzzling though is that Dzhindzhi's recommendation against 6 Bf4 after 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 e5 4 Nf3 exd4 5 Nxd4 Be7 is the following: 6...0-0 7 Qd2 Nc6 8 0-0-0 Nxd4 9 Qxd4 Be6 followed by 10...a6, ...b5 and ...c5 with an attack for Black. He doesn't go into much more detail, but tells us that he has gotten bad positions against weak players in various games with short time limits. But in fact the line he is recommending was tried out in the game Tal-Kholmov, Riga 1968, which continued: 10 f3 a6 11 g4 Re8 (this cannot be right) 12 h4 b5 13 g5 c5 14 Qe3 Nh5 15 Bh2 Qa5 16 Kb1 c4 17 Nd5, and Black is clearly having considerable difficulties and quickly went down in

flames. ECO C gives several other examples but none of them are being mentioned by Dzhindzhi. His coverage of the other 6th move alternatives don't take ECO recommendations into consideration either. Although he tells several times us that we have to check the theoretical works if we want more information, and that we shouldn't just take his word for everything, I find it quite disappointing that the critical lines are covered in such cavalier fashion. And while he tells us "that if you see a move that I haven't covered, it isn't nearly as good as the ones I have covered", it isn't really so all the time.

Next follows 1 d4, against which he recommends a Nimzo-Bogo-Indian approach, but obviously there are numerous side lines to consider. At first we get a short introduction to the Trompowsky (about which Peter Wells has just penned a truly phenomenal book; we will review it soon), against which he recommends the following line: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 Ne4 3 Bf4 (he doesn't mention 3 Bh4 or 3 h4) 3...c5 4 f3 Qa5+ 5 c3 Nf6. Now on 6 Nd2, he gives 6...cxd4 7 Nb3 Qb6 8 Qxd4 Nc6 (which gets a '!' by Wells) 9 Qxb6 axb6, and now he only gives for White, the poor 10 f3 e5 11 Be3 d5, which of course is playable for Black, but White's best 10 Nd4!?, isn't even mentioned, and this could be a problem for Black. Wells spends several pages on this critical line.

When looking at White's 6th move alternative, 6 d5!?, we immediately run into more problems. Dzhindzhi gives 6...Qb6, against which, he claims White only has one move, 7 b3, as 7 Qd2? can be met with the simple tactic 7...Nxd5. But here the troubles are much more hazardous for Black, as White has a very dangerous option in 7 Bc1!?, which Wells analyses in depth. This move is far better than 7 b3, and with players like Hodgson, Speelman, Knaak, and several other GMs taking it up as White, it should have been considered by Dzhindzhi. So in order to avoid ending up like an accident waiting to happen, Black players are recommended to look carefully at Wells' book or play something else.


Then he moves to the Nimzo-Indian, 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4. The first line he looks at is 4 Qc2, which is the Classical or Capablanca Variation, against which he recommends 4...Nc6. In general, his coverage of the Nimzo is decent, but obviously a lot of details have had to be omitted to make the coverage fit into a two-hour tape. Nevertheless, Dzindzhi's explanations and strategic discussions definitely make up for the lack of theoretical coverage because with the knowledge that is provided to you by Dzindzi, you will be able to figure out many of the correct moves at the board yourself or alternatively you will be able look them up during your general opening preparation.

His coverage of the Bogo-Indian is also quite adequate, which however cannot be said about his very brief coverage of the English Opening, where so many variations and nuances are left out that Black is likely to get stuck very quickly. His recommendation of the Four Knights Variation will only work if White cooperates from the very beginning, but if White instead opts for 1 c4 e5 2 g3 or set-ups with e3 and Nge2, or any number of other lines, there may be plenty of pitfalls to face, either by accident or ignorance.

Towards the end of the tape he covers 1 Nf3 Nf6, where Dzindzi mentions that 2 d4 e6 3 c4 now leads to the Bogo-Indian, but the Torre Attack, which can be quite dangerous to meet if you are not prepared for it, isn't mentioned at all.

The coverage on the tape is in my opinion far from adequate in many respects, although regarding the Nimzo- and Bogo-Indians, his presentation is put together well. However, the many misses and ignored possibilities for White make it a bit dangerous for Black to employ this opening repertoire without further ado. Much more work is needed before you can start using the Dzindzhi repertoire as Black with confidence.

I have many more concerns with the material on this tape in comparison with what I found on the White repertoire tape. I know it isn't easy to put a repertoire of this kind together for Black, especially with so little time allotted, but when it means that you ignore many important options without making the slightest mention of them, then I have a problem. Therefore I rate this tape as worse than the White repertoire tape, where he really presented some original ideas that can be used with confidence even against strong players. With the exception of the Nimzo- and Bogo-Indian, I cannot say that about the openings on this tape.

My assessment of this video tape: 

Order *Rapid and Complete Opening Repertoire for the Tournament Player for Black*  
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*Der Linksspringer 1.Sc3* by Harald Keilhack, 2003  
Schachverlag Kania, Figurine Algebraic Notation,  
Hardcover, 399 pp., \$34.95

In the past we have looked at plenty of other material from Germany, e.g., the CD-ROMs from ChessBase, but this is the first chess book in German that has made it into the column. With this being a first, I'm happy to say that I probably couldn't have picked a much better representative for German chess books in general than this book.



I know the topic, 1 Nc3, may put a lot of people off right from the start, but this is a huge mistake, because if you have a liking for the unusual and daring, you

will probably not find many books this year that are better than this one! There are of course some initial objections that have to be overcome:

1) *The book is in German* - Granted, not knowing German certainly will be a major factor in how much you will get out of this book. The author goes to great lengths when describing typical ideas, strategically and tactically, positional evaluations, the importance of various move orders and much, much more. So while you will be able to study the theory, much of which is given with Informant-like code, you probably will have to invest in a German-English dictionary as well as a "Teach Yourself German" type of book. This may not be your cup of tea, but that's how I learned enough Russian, Serbo-Croat and Dutch to be able to understand what was written in chess books and magazines in these languages.

2) *Who is the author? I don't know him* - Another good point, but who knew me before I started writing this **ChessCafe** column and my books for Gambit? The answer is very few outside Denmark. The author of the present book has better credentials than most. He runs the Kania Publishing House that published this book along with several others. In addition, he edits all the books that Kania publishes, and has previously written a book on the Tarrasch Queen's Gambit (1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 c5) as well as a book on 1...Nc6 against all first moves by White. Keilhack also writes very competent book reviews in the excellent German chess magazine *Schach*. Finally, he also writes a weekly column in the newspaper *Stuttgarter Zeitung*. At the chess board, he is a FIDE master. In my opinion, he is more qualified than most authors these days.

3) *1 Nc3 is not for serious chess players* - Admittedly, it isn't the most popular first move, but when one of the world's best correspondence players, the Dane Ove Ekebjerg, can play it with good results in top notch correspondence

tournaments, at least 75% of regular chess players can also play it with good results at our level. The contents:

- Zeichenerklärung (Symbols - 1 page)
- Vorwort (Foreword - 4 pages)
- Kapitel I 1 Nc3 e5 (34 pages)
- Kapitel II Der van-Geet-Angriff 1 Nc3 d5 2 e4 d4 3 Nce2 (92 pages)
- Kapitel III 1 Nc3 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nxe4 (50 pages)
- Kapitel IV Die "Unechten Halboffenen" 1 Nc3 d5 2 e4 c6, 2...e6 und 2...Nf6 (73 pages)
- Kapitel V Gegen den Sizilianer - 1 Nc3 c5 2 Nf3 (56 pages)
- Kapitel VI Alternativsysteme nach 1...e5/...d5/...c5 (37 pages)
- Kapitel VII Verschiedene Antworten auf 1 Nc3 (45 pages)
- Variantenindex (Index of Variations - 3 pages)
- Quellenverzeichnis (Bibliography - 1 page)

Let me quickly translate the names in the above chapters: Chapter 2 is The van Geet Attack, Chapter 4 is The 'Quasi' Semi-Open Lines, Chapter 5 is Against The Sicilian, Chapter 6 is Alternative Systems after 1...e5/...d5/...c5, and finally Chapter 7 is Various Answers to 1 Nc3.

Many of the lines that Keilhack ends up covering can be reached from move orders from the Semi-open games, such as 1 Nc3 d5 2 e4 Nf6 can be reached from the 1 e4 d5 2 Nc3 Nf6 or 1 e4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5, and the same goes for the 'French' lines or the 'Caro-Kann' lines, and the lines which are generally considered part as other opening complexes are covered into detail, leaving me full of envy in regards to the space that he as author has been allotted (by himself!) as editor/publisher. That being said, he doesn't waste space but instead goes into detail with just about everything, offering plenty of analysis of his own in addition to numerous new ideas and improvements over the skimpy theory that existed

prior to this book.

He has set some limits for himself: he doesn't go into areas that are considered to belong to other openings unless it is absolutely necessary. For example, after 1 e4 d5 2 Nc3 c6, he considers moves like 3 f4 and 3 Qf3 along with several other lesser moves, but the main line move 3 Nf3 isn't covered as that is considered part of the Caro-Kann proper.

To give you an idea of this opening's viability, I will give you two games, the first by strong over-the-board players and the second by two of the strongest correspondence players in the world.

### ***A.Hoffmann- Wojtkiewicz***

#### **New York Open 1989**

1 Nc3 d5 2 e4 d4 3 Nce2 c5 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Ng3 g6 6 Bb5 Qb6 7 a4 Bg7 8 0-0 e5 9 c3 Nge7 10 cxd4 cxd4 11 d3 0-0 12 b3 a6 13 Bc4 Na5?! 14 Ba3 Nxc4 15 bxc4 Qc7 16 Qb3 a5?! 17 Rfb1 Ra6 18 Qb5 Rc6 19 Nd2! h5 20 Nb3 h4 21 Nf1 h3 22 Nxa5! hxg2 23 Ng3 Re6 24 Nxb7 f5 25 a5 f4 26 Ne2 f3 27 Ng3 Bd7 28 Qc5 Qb8 29 Nd6 Qa8 30 Rb6 Kh7 31 Qc7 Rd8 32 Nf7 Qxa5 33 Ng5+ Kh6 34 Nxe6 1-0

### ***Ekebjærg-Webb***

#### **14th Correspondence World Championship Final, 1994-2000**

1 Nc3 d5 2 e4 d4 3 Nce2 e5 4 Ng3 Be6 5 Nf3 Nd7 6 c3 c5 7 Bb5 Bd6 8 b4! b6 9 0-0 g6 10 bxc5 bxc5 11 d3 Qa5 12 c4 f6 13 Rb1 Ne7 14 Bh6 Rg8 15 h3 Qc7 16 Nh2 Nc6 17 Qf3 Bf8 18 Bd2 h5 19 Qe2 Bd6 20 Nf3 Nb6 21 Nh4 0-0-0 [already at this point, Black is in severe trouble, and subsequently loses the game slowly but surely. It is very instructive to study how White converts his advantage to a full point. Please keep in mind that White has been runner-up in the correspondence World Championship, while Black is the author of *Chess for Tigers* and at the time was one of the highest rated correspondence players in the World, so we are

talking about chess at very high level, where most basic mistakes have been eliminated.] 22 Rb3 Kb8 23 Rfb1 Ka8 24 a3 Bd7 25 a4 Nb4 26 a5 Nc8 27 Bxd7 Rxd7 28 Ra3 Ne7 29 a6 Nec6 30 Ra4 Qc8 31 Rba1 Rdd8 32 Nf3 Qd7 33 Ne1 Rb8 34 Bxb4 cxb4 35 R4a2 Rb6 36 Nf1 Nd8 37 Nd2 Ne6 38 Nb3 Rc6 39 Ra5 Rb8 40 Nf3 Bc7 41 R5a4 g5 42 g3 g4 43 Nh4 gxh3 44 Qxh5 Nc5 45 Nxc5 Rxc5 46 R4a2 Rc6 47 Kh2 Qe6 48 Qf5 Qd6 49 Qh7 Bd8 50 Qf7 b3 51 Nf5 Qe6 52 Qxe6 Rxe6 53 Rb2 Rbb6 54 Kxh3 Rxa6 55 Rxa6 Rxa6 56 Rxb3 Rb6 57 Ra3 Kb7 58 f4 Rb1 59 Kg4 Bc7 60 c5 a5 61 Ne7 Bd8 62 Nd5 Kc6 63 fxe5 fxe5 64 Kf5 Kxc5 65 Kxe5 Rd1 66 Ke6 Kc6 67 Nf4 Bc7 68 Ra4 Kb5 69 Rxd4 a4 70 Nd5 Rc1 71 Rb4+ Ka5 72 e5 a3 73 Rb7 Bb6 74 Nxb6 1–0

The games are given here with none of the annotations that Keilhack gives in the book. He goes into much more detail, particularly regarding the theoretical part in the opening, but also with some strategically considerations and explanations regarding typical plans and problems for either side.

Is there anything I don't like about this book? Yes, I have one problem with the book and that is the lack of index of complete games. There are so many games throughout the book that an index should have been mandatory, but it nonetheless has been omitted. Other than that, I think this book has set the benchmark for all future research and work on this interesting opening. Any player who would like to try an off-beat, but sound opening, that will have enough bite and potential to knock even strong players from their pedestals, you should seriously consider this opening.

I'm sure that there are a lot of players out there who would buy this book in a flash if it was only written in English, but if you are in this category, you should do yourself the favour of buying it anyway and then teaching yourself some German in the process; I promise you will not regret it. I know the opening has been included in my blitz repertoire on the internet, and I have already used it in one serious

tournament game and won, so why shouldn't you be able to do the same?

Go for it and reap the benefits soon!

**My assessment of this book:** 

[Order](#) *Der Linkspringer 1.Sc3*  
by Harald Keilhack

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*New in Chess Yearbook 67* by Genna Sosonko & Paul van der Sterren (ed), 2003 New In Chess, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Softcover, 235 pp., \$23.95

Is there anything such as too much of a good thing? I think so, but if the good thing we are talking about is the latest New in Chess Yearbook, then my answer is a resounding no, there certainly isn't too much of a good thing. Every three months the latest volume arrives in the mail, and these days I seem to get equally excited every time. I'm left wondering, how the NIC yearbook publishers are going to continue offering us the same high level of quality surveys volume after volume. The selection of contributors is always interesting, a combination of the strongest Dutch players, a good selection of Grandmasters, International Masters, theoretical experts and other people with worthwhile material to present.



Not all of the material is entirely original. By this I mean the annotations that have been transcribed from the annotations in the New In Chess Magazine to the wordless code annotations that we also are familiar with in the Chess Informants. I don't find this to be a major problem as these

games are not presented by themselves, but as a part of a theoretical presentation with other annotated games and a verbal introduction.

However, the majority of the material is original, making for highly interesting reading and the perfect forum for picking up new ideas to spice up your opening repertoire.

Let's have a look at what has made into the book this time:

- **Forum and Sosonko's Corner**

- Forum - 10 'letters' (9 pages)
- Sosonko's Corner (4 pages)

- **Surveys**

- Sicilian - 8 surveys (46 pages); French - 3 surveys (18 pages); Caro-Kann - 2 surveys (15 pages);
- Scandinavian - 1 survey (7 pages); Petroff - 1 survey (7 pages); Ruy Lopez - 3 surveys (15 pages); Two Knights - 2 surveys (11 pages); King's Gambit - 1 survey (7 pages); Slav - 2 surveys (10 pages); Queen's Indian - 2 surveys (10 pages); Grünfeld Indian - 2 surveys (8 pages); King's Indian - 1 survey (9 pages); Benoni - 1 survey (6 pages); Volga Gambit - 1 survey (5 pages); Old Indian - 2 surveys (10 pages); Queen's Pawn - 1 survey (5 pages); English - 3 surveys (19 pages)
- **Service**
- Book Review (4 pages)
- New In Chess Code System (1 page)
- Photo Gallery (1 page)

While there is always a lot of interest in the Forum, Sosonko's Corner (this time he looks at exchanging the fianchettoed kingside bishop in order to damage the opponents queenside structure), and book review sections, the real meat of the yearbooks is in the survey section.

As we can see from the list, the main focus is on the Sicilian,

but to think that it is only mainstream openings that are being covered would be a big mistake. Two examples are the continuing coverage of the King's Gambit by Michael Agermose Jensen and of the Traxler Gambit by Maarten de Zeeuw. Both of these authors are not widely known outside these yearbooks, but have they ever covered a lot of ground and uncovered a lot of new ideas and interesting discoveries. De Zeeuw has come to the conclusion that in the Traxler Gambit (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 Bc5) White's best move is 5 Nxf7!, which is contrary to what was considered the standard 'refutation' for many years, 5 Bxf7+ as played for example in Karpov-Beliavsky, Linares 1983. His coverage is based on the game *Pionerskaya Pravda-Tal*, correspondence 1968/69, and he manages to illustrate in frightening detail how neither side had any clue what was going on. I will give you the game and de Zeeuw's punctuation, but for the accompanying analysis, you will have to get the Yearbook:

***Pionerskaya Pravda-Tal***  
**Correspondence 1968/69**

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 Bc5?+- 5 Nxf7! Bxf2+ 6 Kxf2?= Nxe4+ 7 Kg1 Qh4 8 g3 Nxc3 9 hxg3?--+ Qxg3+ 10 Kf1 Rf8! 11 Qh5 d5! 12 Bxd5 Nd4?+- 13 Qh2?+= Qg4!?= 14 Qxe5+ Be6 15 Bxe6 Qf3+ 16 Kg1 Ne2+! 17 Kh2 Qf2+ 18 Kh3 Qf3+??+- 19 Kh4! Qf2+ 20 Kh5?= Rxf7 21 Bxf7+ Kxf7 22 Rh2??--+ Qf3+! 23 Kh4 g5+ 24 Qxg5 Rg8 25 Qh5+ Qxh5+ 26 Kxh5 Ng3+??= 27 Kh6??--+ Nf5+??= 28 Kxh7 Rg7+ 29 Kh8, and a draw was agreed upon. 1/2-1/2.

A fascinating struggle, but how about the many blunders?

As usual there are many really good surveys, but one of the very best is the one on the Symmetrical English by Junior Tay, a correspondence chess IM. He has annotated 12 games, including a couple of games that are not found elsewhere, but nonetheless of theoretical importance. Treats like this is what I enjoy the most in these yearbooks. Note

that those who also live for the latest developments in cutting-edge theory will have plenty of material to work with in this most recent yearbook.

In the present volume there is original material from names like Glek, Golubev, Greenfeld, Kapengut, Cebalo, Avrukh and Malakhov, as well as the usual Dutch crowd: Timman, van der Sterren, Sosonko, van der Wiel, Tiviakov and several others.

One of the many positive features I can mention is the variety in the subjects that are covered. In one volume you may find material on a handful of lines that you are playing yourself, but in the next volume, you may only find lines you have never considered, but now will.

If you are not sure whether the New in Chess Yearbook is something for you, try a volume with some openings that are currently in your repertoire, and see if you like what you see and if it helps you. If it does, I'm sure you will find use in some of the other surveys, the book reviews by Flear or Sosonko's enlightening articles on a variety of topics.

When it comes to asking me whether the New In Chess Yearbooks are useful for me, all you need to look at its rating...

**My assessment of this book:** 

[Order](#) *New in Chess Yearbook 67*

by Genna Sosonko & Paul van der Sterren (ed)

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<p style="text-align: center;"><i><b>The Ratings</b></i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> — <b>A poor book, not recommended.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> — <b>Not a particularly good book, but perhaps useful for some readers.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> — <b>A useful book.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> — <b>Good book, recommended.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> — <b>Excellent book, highly recommended.</b></p>

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