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From the Archives...

Since it came online many years ago, [ChessCafe.com](#) has presented literally thousands of articles, reviews, columns and the like for the enjoyment of its worldwide readership. The good news is that almost all of this high quality material remains available in the [ChessCafe.com Archives](#). The bad news is that this great collection of chess literature is now so large and extensive – and growing each week – that it is becoming increasingly difficult to navigate it effectively. We decided that the occasional selection from the archives posted publicly online might be a welcomed addition to the regular fare.

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A Welcome Account

Nuremberg, 1896 International Chess Tournament, by Siegbert Tarrasch, 1999 Caissa Editions, English Algebraic Notation, Hardcover, 403pp., \$45.00 (ChessCafe.com Price: \$39.95)

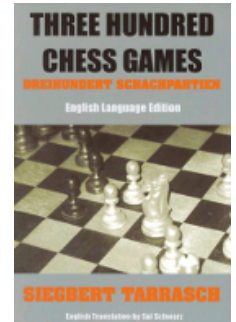
One of the most interesting eras in chess was surely the last decade of the nineteenth century. A pride of young lions headed by Emanuel Lasker was establishing its own territory, slowly but surely pushing aside the old guard. And there were great tournaments, particularly in the last half of that decade. The legendary competitions at Hastings, Vienna, London, St. Petersburg, and Nuremberg produced some great chess that is still enjoyed a hundred years later.

Shortly after the end of the 1896 Nuremberg International Tournament, Siegbert Tarrasch produced a fine tournament book, *Das Internationale Schachmeisterturnier des Schachklubs Nuremberg*. Published in 1897, it has long been regarded a classic, although not readily available to the chess-playing public. An expanded version of the tournament book has now taken its place in the line of first-rate books produced by Dale Brandreth's Caissa Editions.

Translated and edited by John Owen, the book presents all 171 games with Tarrasch's notes, which notes are, however, supplemented with additional commentary by the great masters of the day culled by Owen from other sources. He has also added a short introduction ("What makes an international chess tournament great?") to the book as well as a brief preface to each game. The book is rounded out nicely by a tournament crosstable, games index, opening index, bibliography and two appendices. The first is an off-hand game played between Pillsbury and Tarrasch about two months after the tournament ended. The second is an interesting, albeit confusing presentation of the "lifetime tournament records of the eight contestants who did not participate at Budapest in the fall." The career records of thirteen (?) of the participants are then given.

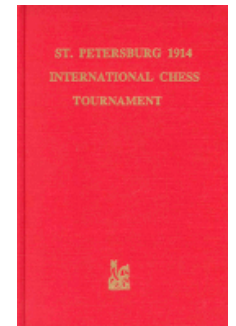
World Champion Emanuel Lasker finished clear first in the nineteen-player field, a full point of the young Geza Maroczy, who was playing in his first masters competition. Despite three losses, to Pillsbury, Janowsky and Charousek, Lasker finished with 13½ out of 18 (+12 –3 =3). Maroczy finished clear second, followed a half-point behind by Tarrasch and Pillsbury who tied for third and fourth places with 12 points. The rest of the field was comprised of (in order of finish) Janowski, Steinitz, Walbrodt, Schlechter,

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Three Hundred Chess Games

by Siegbert Tarrasch



St. Petersburg 1914

by Siegbert Tarrasch



Budapest 1896

by John C. Owen

Schiffers, Tschigorin, Blackburne, Charousek, Marco, Albin, Winawer, Showalter, Porges, Schallopp, and Teichmann.

All of the 171 games are annotated, though very few are what would be called annotated in depth.

Game Thirty-three from the book...

Schalopp – Tschigorin, Ruy Lopez

Tschigorin accepts a rather cramped game early on. Then Schalopp releases the tension in the center and his opponent plays sharply for a Queen-side initiative. On move 17 Schalopp compromises his King-side; but when Tschigorin fails to take advantage of the mistake immediately, Schalopp, instead of charging ahead with his own attack, wastes time with a feckless Queen move. That's all Tschigorin needs; he mounts a very strong King-side attack in which all of his pieces cooperate in fine style. After four rounds Tschigorin is in a good position with three points, ½-point behind the leaders.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 In connection with the next move, Tschigorin's own defense, which he first used in his match with Dr. Tarrasch. **6.d4 Nd7 7.d5** It seems stronger to me to postpone this move. **7... Ncb8 8.Be3 Be7** With 8...g6 followed by Bg7 he allows himself to carry out the attack f5 more easily. **9.Ne2 O-O 10.Ng3 Nf6** Since Black can't free himself now by f5, he retains a cramped game. **11.c4 e5!** With this Black prevents further attacks on the Queen's wing. **12.O-O 12.dc e.p.**, bc would not be especially profitable for White. **12...Nbd7 13.Bc2 b5! 14.b3 Re8 15.Nd2 Nf8 16.h3 Ng6 17.f4** This appears to me to be a more serious mistake, for Black now with 17...ef; 18.Bxf4, Nd7 followed by Nde5 makes the e-pawn backward and can obtain the e5 square for his pieces, cramped up until now. In a remarkable way Tschigorin turns this mistake to account in the next moves. **17...Nd7 18.Qh5** And now White could push the f-pawn and then after a few preparatory moves follow the g-pawn to a strong attack. **18...ef** Now with a few forcing moves Black turns the game to his advantage. **19. Bxf4 Bf6 20.Rad1 Nxf4 21.Rxf4 g6 22.Qe2 Be5 23.Rf3 Bd4+ 24.Kh2 24. Kh1** wasn't any better, for then Knight at g3 is unprotected.



[FEN "r1bqr1k1/3n1p1p/p2p2p1/1ppP4/2PbP3/1P3RNP/P1BNQ1PK/3R4 b - - 0 24"]

24...Ne5 25.Rdf1 White has no more satisfactory moves; on 25.Rf4 25...Qg5 Rdf1, Ng4+; 27.Rxg4, Bxg4 Qxg4, Qxd2 follows, and on 25.Rff1 there follows Ng4+ and Ne3. The Knight on g4 may naturally not be taken by the pawn because of Qh4 mate. **25...Bg4 26.Qe1 Bxf3 27.gxf3 bc 28.Nxc4 Nxc4 29.bxc4 Rb8 30.Bb3 a5 31.Ne2 Bf6 32.Nc1 a4! 33.Bxa4 Rb2+ 34.Kh1 Qc8 35.Qg3 Re5 36.Qg4 Qd8 37.Qd7 Rg5 38.Nd3 Qa5!** Black conducts the game powerfully and elegantly to the end. On 39.Nxb2, Qd2; 40.Rg1, Rxg1+; 41.Kxg1, Bd4+; 42.Kh1, Qe1+ leads to mate. **39.Rd1 Rxa2 40.Bb3 Rd2 41. Qa4 Be5!** Resigns A pretty conclusion. On 42.Qxa5, Rh2 mate follows; on 42. Nxe5 mate follows by 42.Rxd1+ and Qe1+.

This hardcover edition is nicely bound with the same high standard of work that we have seen in other Caissa productions, with an easy-to-read layout and large clear diagrams. Anyone interested in the great masters and tournaments of the past will welcome this account of *Nuremberg 1896* into their chess library. It is another quality release by Caissa Editions and can be

recommended without reservation.

Order [Nuremberg 1896](#)
by Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch

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