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Chess Mazes
by Bruce Alberston

From the Archives...

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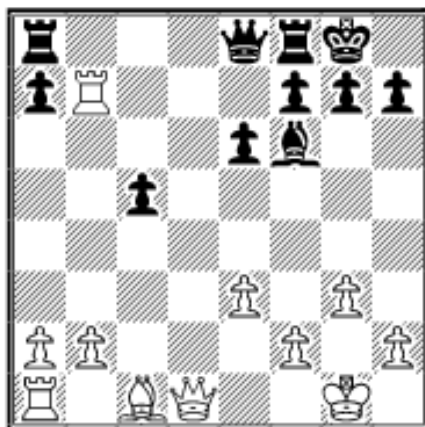
Old Wine in New Bottles - Part 2

Gabriel Velasco

3) The modern grandmaster copies a concrete idea. The category 18 tournament at Belgrade 1997 was won by Indian superstar Vishy Anand, whose style of play is in a way quite similar to that of Capablanca. During the sixth round, Anand played Black against GM Ljubojevic. The Indian GM uncorked a strategic gem, in which he managed to prevent White from developing his queen’s bishop. Naturally, that meant that White’s queen’s rook could not be developed either, so Black was in fact playing with two extra pieces during most of the game. Let’s look at this masterpiece:

L. Ljubojevic -V. Anand, Belgrade 1997

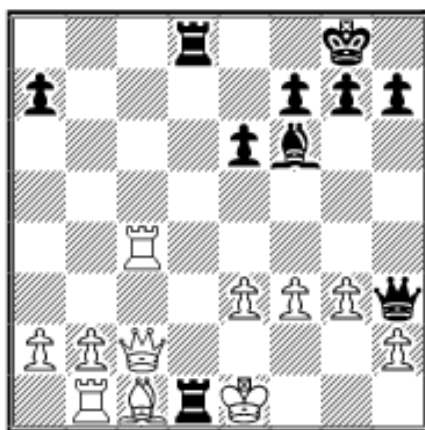
1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 dxc4 4.Qa4+ c6 5.Qxc4 Bf5 6.g3 e6 7.Bg2 Nbd7 8.0-0 Be7 9.Rd1 0-0 10.Nh4 Be4 11.Bxe4 Nxe4 12.Qc2 Nef6 13.Nc3 c5 14.d5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Bxh4 16.Nc3 Bf6 17.Qa4 Bd4 18.e3 Bxc3 19.Rxd7 Qe8 20.Qd1 Bf6! 21.Rxb7



Black will now play with idea of preventing White from being able to develop his c1-bishop.

21...Qc6 22.Rb3 c4 23.Ra3 Rfd8 24.Qe2 Qe4 25.f3 Qd5 26.Kf2 Qb5 27.Rb1 Rd3! 28.Qc2 Rad8 29.Ra4 Qf5 30.Rxc4 Qh3 31.Ke1 Rd1+ 0-1

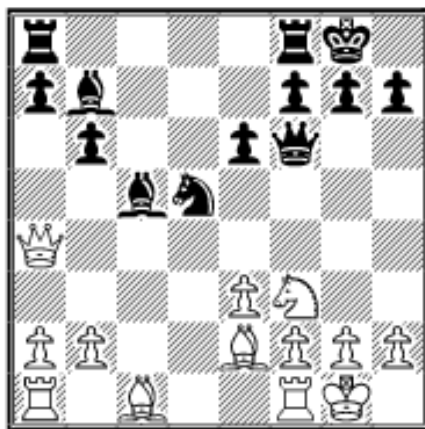
It is amazing that he was not permitted to develop his queen's bishop, nor his queen's rook during the whole game. Take a look at the final position. A beautiful idea, but isn't that theme familiar to us?



Of course it is a familiar theme. A neat example was provided by Capablanca during the second cycle of the 1927 New York tournament, i.e., seventy years before Anand's beautiful victory. There is a striking resemblance in the idea used by Black in both games. Capablanca's game is also well-known, and very instructive comments about it can be found in Znosko Borovsky's classical *How Not to Play Chess*.

A. Nimzovitch - J. R. Capablanca, New York 1927

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.e3 Be7 5.Nbd2 0-0 6.Bd3 c5 7.dxc5 Na6 8.0-0 Nxc5 9.Be2 b6 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nb3 Bb7 12.Nxc5 Bxc5 13.Qa4 Qf6!



Just like in the previous game Black is playing with virtually an extra piece, owing to the fact that White's c1-bishop is deprived from the possibility of being developed.

14.Ba6 Bxa6 15.Qxa6 Nb4 16.Qe2 Rfd8 17.a3 Nd3 18.Ne1 Nxe1 19.Rxe1 Rac8 20.Rb1 Qe5! 21.g3 Qd5 22.b4 Bf8 23.Bb2

At last White could develop this piece, but it is now too late!

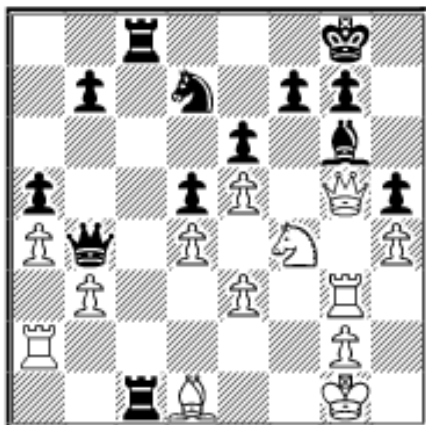
23...Qa2 24.Ra1 Qb3 25.Bd4 Rc2 26.Qa6 e5 27.Bxe5 Rdd2 28.Qb7 Rxf2 29.g4 Qe6 30.Bg3 Rxh2 31.Qf3 Rhg2+ 32.Qxg2 Rxg2+ 33.Kxg2 Qxg4 34.Rad1 h5 35.Rd4 Qg5 36.Kh2 a5 37.Re2 axb4 38.axb4 Be7 39.Re4 Bf6 40.Rf2 Qd5 41.Re8+ Kh7 0-1

4) The modern grandmaster copies an abstract idea. We come up with the

following typical example:

A. Shirov - An. Karpov, Las Palmas 1994

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.c3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nge7
9.a3 Nc8 10.Nbd2 Be7 11.b3 a5 12.Bb2 N8a7 13.Re1 0-0 14.Nf1 Rc8 15.Ng3
Bg6 16.Qd2 Qb6 17.Bd1 Rc7 18.h4 h6 19.Re2 Rfc8 20.Qf4 Nb8 21.Re3 Nb5
22.Ne2 Nd7 23.Nh2 Rc6 24.Ng4 Qd8 25.Rh3 Qf8 26.a4 Na3! 27.Bxa3 Bxa3
28.Rg3 h5 29.Ne3 Bb2 30.Ra2 Bc1 31.Qg5 Qb4 32.Nf4 Bxe3 33.fxe3 Rc1**



There was something exceedingly amazing in this game: White undertook a kingside attack, while Black directed his attack to the queenside. Somehow it looked like a matter of who got there first. Surprisingly enough though, Black suddenly switched his attack from the queen's flank to the king's flank, and it was Black (not White) who ended up with a mating attack against the enemy king. This is a rather abstract idea, but an amazing one! The game ended as follows:

34.Nxg6 Rxd1+ 35.Kh2 fxc6 36.Qxg6 Qe7 37.Rf2 Qxh4+ 38.Rh3 Qxf2 0-1

Now compare with the following old game won by the great Emanuel Lasker: he used exactly the same abstract idea: a queen's side demonstration that is suddenly switched to the opposite flank! It is very likely that Karpov might have been familiar with this game:

G. Maroczy - Em. Lasker, New York 1924

**1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 Nfd7 4.d4 e6 5.Nce2 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.f4 Be7 8.Nf3 0-0
9.g3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nb6 11.Bh3 Bd7 12.0-0 Rc8 13.g4 f6 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.g5
Be7 16.Kh1 Nc4 17.Nc3 Bb4 18.Qe2 Re8 19.Qd3 Nd6 20.f5 Nxf5 21.Nxd5
Bd6 22.Bxf5 exf5 23.Nf4 Re4 24.Qb3+ Kh8 25.Nh4 Nxd4 26.Qh3**



**26...Rc2 27.g6 Bc6 28.Nf3 h6 29.Ne6 Nxe6
30.Bxh6 Rh4 0-1**

If you don't seem to grasp the resemblance between both games, maybe the idea is too abstract, but there is a resemblance!

5) The modern grandmaster copies the general style of an old master. The word "style" or "general style" is too difficult to define. We could argue, for example, that the style of Mozart was at times similar to

that of Haydn, though many musicians would not agree. Once Botvinnik remarked that the style of Anand seemed to be similar to that of the young Flohr, but what did he mean by that? When Anatoly Karpov was once queried:

“what is your style of play?” He thought for a while and replied: “Style? I have no style!” Regardless of what the word might mean, one of the greatest masters whose style everyone would like to emulate was Emanuel Lasker. While we do not contend that Dr. John Nunn has taken up Dr. Lasker’s style (also a mathematician), we cannot help but conclude that Nunn’s treatment of the white side of the Sicilian Defense in the following game was definitely in the same style of Dr. Lasker’s classical victory against Pirc at Moscow 1935. We give both games, and let the reader judge:

J. Nunn - A. Sokolov, Dubai 1986

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 d6 7.Be3 Qc7 8.f4 Na5 9.0-0 Nc4 10.Bxc4 Qxc4 11.f5 Be7 12.Qg4 h5 13.Qf3 Bf6 14.fxe6 fxe6 15.e5 dxe5 16.Ne4 Qc7



17.Qg3! Ne7 18.Rad1 h4 19.Nxf6+ gxf6 20.Qg7 Rf8 21.Rxf6 Rxf6 22.Qxf6 Qd6 23.Bg5 exd4 24.Rxd4 Nd5 25.Rxd5 1-0

Em. Lasker - V. Pirc, Moscow 1935

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 a6 8.Be3 Qc7 9.f4 Na5 10.f5 Nc4 11.Bxc4 Qxc4 12.fxe6 fxe6



13.Rxf6! gxf6 14.Qh5+ Kd8 15.Qf7 Bd7 16.Qxf6+ Kc7 17.Qxh8 Bh6 18.Nxe6+ Qxe6 19.Qxa8 Bxe3+ 20.Kh1 Bc6 21.Rf1 1-0

Finally, your author wishes to acknowledge the fact that out of the five pairs of examples given in this article only two were of his own detection. The first two pairs were pointed out by Mr. Arturo López, and the last pair by IM Roberto Martin del Campo.

The reader is encouraged to seek out further examples.

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