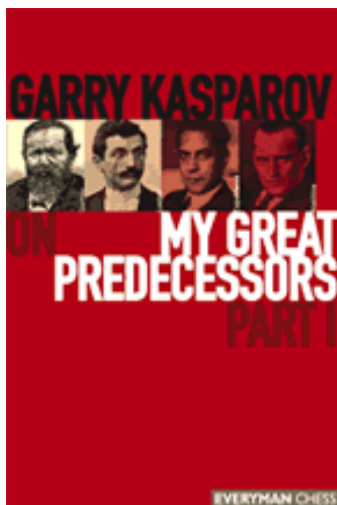




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ROOM



One of the most anticipated publishing events of the year is the release of the new book by Garry Kasparov. Published by Everyman Chess, it is the first of a planned three-volume series and it is entitled *Garry Kasparov on My Great Predecessors*.

On July 10, we had the opportunity to interview him in New York City. Accompanied by Burt Hochberg, Mark Donlan and Carsten Hansen, we arrived shortly before 3 p.m. We were greeted by Garry's agent, Owen Williams. A few minutes later, the man himself arrived.

During the interview, Garry was animated and focused, discussing his new book with vigor and intensity, pouring his energy into the discussion as if he were doing battle - and winning - against a rival over the board.

Audio files of this interview, parts 1 and 2, is also available for your enjoyment. They are in mp3 format and, because each one is so large (approximately 26 meg part 1, 23 meg part 2) it may take a few minutes initially to open. You may access it at:

<http://www.chesscafe.com/zip/kasparovinterviewpt1.mp3> (part 1)

<http://www.chesscafe.com/zip/kasparovinterviewpt2.mp3> (part 2)

The interview lasted about an hour. We are pleased to present - and hope you enjoy - the **ChessCafe.com**...

Interview with Garry Kasparov

Part 2

by Hanon W. Russell

Hanon Russell: Let me ask you a question, where it's sort of the reverse of



Rubinstein, where you develop an appreciation for Rubinstein, you say almost the opposite about Capablanca. On page 338 you say, “Despite his staggering talent (or more probably, because of it), his real contribution to the creation of modern chess was inferior to that of Steinitz and Lasker.”

Garry Kasparov: Absolutely. I think Capablanca has the least efficiency in the game of chess. Probably the purest talent that was never displayed in its... in big quantities. So maybe his potential was realized, I don't know, I don't want to talk about numbers (30-50%), but it was well below the mark. Sometimes you can think that it's, maybe it's tragic that he was so talented, so gifted he didn't have to work hard. So that's why he missed big some opportunities to enlarge his contribution to the game of chess.

And I'm showing in the book that Capablanca laziness or his inability to show his full strength, because he didn't have to, even when he beat Lasker in 1921 he could make some inaccurate moves. And I'm showing it. He already had developed sort of a habit of not being very precise. It worked against Lasker, it worked against everybody else; it didn't work against Alekhine. So that's what's really tragic and at the very end of the match Capablanca showed his great strength. Match 1927, heavily underestimated, so it was a true fight and I was showing, you know, that the tension that was growing and the world of chess I think suffered dramatically from not seeing the rematch.



HR: Let me ask you about that match, and this is something maybe you don't have an answer for, but in several different places in this book you refer to a 5-5 clause that you believe or Plisetsky believes that that would have been drawn. That's not in the London Rules, and I thought for a minute that maybe Linder, *Korolyi Shakhmatnovo Mira*, maybe it was there, I can find no source for the 5-5 Clause.

GK: It was all over the place, you know, I would not be surprised if I am wrong, but that's what we read. There were a number of books, I mean we can quote, I didn't in fact ask Linder, but it's something I always read in the books about this match when I was a child.

HR: I have not been able to find it.

GK: No, look that's what makes, you know, these comments very valuable because we're dealing... In Volume One we have been dealing with the facts that were outside of the Soviet Union and the Soviet chess school; that's why we had less opportunities to analyze them and to search for the documents. Also I was not part of that. So Volume One is sort of probably the weakest part historically and I would be delighted to see more documents, letters, personal exchanges between Alekhine and Capablanca, Steinitz and Lasker because I hope there will be another edition and then we can actually add it and make it more precise. Volume One we had to deal with sort of rumors or second hand information. While Volume Two and Three, we

already have a lot of fresh stories and first hand evidence.



HR: OK. If you were to select one game by each one of these four champions: Steinitz, Lasker, Capablanca, and Alekhine, which game for each one of them, if you had to pick just one, was their best game.

GK: That's definitely not an easy choice. As for Steinitz I would be choosing between his win against Zukertort with black, it's the concept to play against isolated pawn, and his win, I think it's game four, in a match against Chigorin. You know when he played c3, d3, this very quiet opening. So those games that lay down foundation for future findings. So today you can see the influence of these ideas even in modern chess.

Zukertort, J - Steinitz, W [D26] World Championship 1st USA (9), 10.02.1886 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.e3 c5 6.Bxc4 cxd4 7.exd4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.Bb3 Nb6 11.Bf4 Nbd5 12.Bg3 Qa5 13.Rac1 Bd7 14.Ne5 Rfd8 15.Qf3 Be8 16.Rfe1 Rac8 17.Bh4 Nxc3 18.bxc3 Qc7 19.Qd3 Nd5 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Bxd5 Rxd5 22.c4 Rdd8 23.Re3 Qd6 24.Rd1 f6 25.Rh3 h6 26.Ng4 Qf4 27.Ne3 Ba4 28.Rf3 Qd6 29.Rd2 Bc6 30.Rg3 f5 31.Rg6 Be4 32.Qb3 Kh7 33.c5 Rxc5 34.Rxe6 Rc1+ 35.Nd1 Qf4 36.Qb2 Rb1 37.Qc3 Rc8 38.Rxe4 Qxe4 0-1

Steinitz, W - Chigorin, M [C65] World Championship 4th Havana (4), 07.01.1892 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 d6 5.c3 g6 6.Nbd2 Bg7 7.Nf1 0-0 8.Ba4 Nd7 9.Ne3 Nc5 10.Bc2 Ne6 11.h4 Ne7 12.h5 d5 13.hxg6 fxg6 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Bb3 Qc6 17.Qe2 Bd7 18.Be3 Kh8 19.0-0-0 Rae8 20.Qf1 a5 21.d4 exd4 22.Nxd4 Bxd4



23.Rxd4 Nxd4 24.Rxh7+ Kxh7 25.Qh1+ Kg7 26.Bh6+ Kf6 27.Qh4+ Ke5 28.Qxd4+ 1-0

So Lasker I think that game 7, which I believe is my big discovery. Game 7 in match against Steinitz, it's a phenomenal game.

HR: First match?

GK: First match, you know, when he played two pawns down, then sacrificed a piece. It's amazing how little people understood about this game. Even Chigorin and Tarrasch, they considered that Steinitz was winning just before the final blunder, while analysis proves that Lasker's intuition was right. And that's more a game played by Tal or even I suppose Shirov because it's so unusual for a game played in 1894.

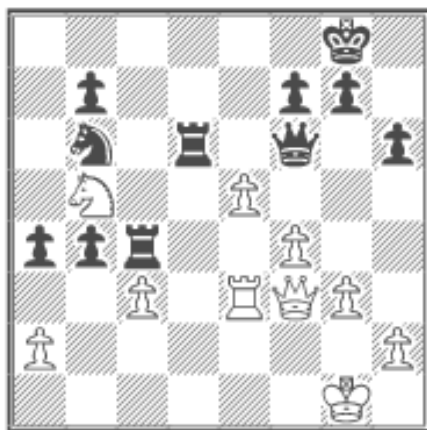
Lasker, E - Steinitz, W [C62] World Championship 5th USA/CAN (7), 03.04.1894 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.d4 Bd7 5.Nc3 Nge7 6.Be3 Ng6 7.Qd2 Be7 8.0-0-0 a6

9.Be2 exd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Bf6 12.Qd2 Bc6 13.Nd5 0-0 14.g4 Re8 15.g5 Bxd5 16.Qxd5 Re5 17.Qd2 Bxg5 18.f4 Rxe4 19.fxg5 Qe7 20.Rdf1 Rxe3 21.Bc4 Nh8 22.h4 c6 23.g6 d5 24.gxh7+ Kxh7 25.Bd3+ Kg8 26.h5 Re8 27.h6 g6 28.h7+ Kg7 29.Kb1 Qe5 30.a3 c5 31.Qf2 c4 32.Qh4 f6 33.Bf5 Kf7 34.Rhg1 gxf5 35.Qh5+ Ke7 36.Rg8 Kd6 37.Rxf5 Qe6 38.Rxe8 Qxe8 39.Rxf6+ Kc5 40.Qh6 Re7 41.Qh2 Qd7 42.Qg1+ d4 43.Qg5+ Qd5 44.Rf5 Qxf5 45.Qxf5+ Kd6 46.Qf6+ 1-0

And also of course Lasker's game, for luxury of choosing another one, against Tarrasch. It was maneuvering rook on the center. So that's Re5-c5. So those... I'm trying to find games that are typical for the player, there are many, many more, but something that is most typical for his contribution.

Tarrasch,S - Lasker,E [C66] World Championship 8th Germany (4), 24.08.1908

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 d6 5.d4 Bd7 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Re1 exd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Bxb5 10.Nxb5 0-0 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Re8 13.Rad1 Nd7 14.Bxe7 Rxe7 15.Qc3 Re5 16.Nd4 Rc5 17.Qb3 Nb6 18.f4 Qf6 19.Qf3 Re8 20.c3 a5 21.b3 a4 22.b4 Rc4 23.g3 Rd8 24.Re3 c5 25.Nb5 cxb4 26.Rxd6 Rxd6 27.e5

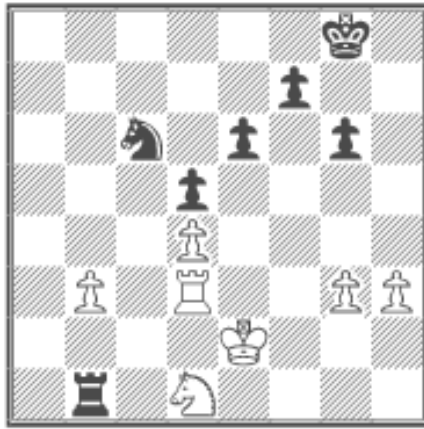


27...Rxf4 28.gxf4 Qg6+ 29.Kh1 Qb1+ 30.Kg2 Rd2+ 31.Re2 Qxa2 32.Rxd2 Qxd2+ 33.Kg3 a3 34.e6 Qe1+ 35.Kg4 Qxe6+ 36.f5 Qc4+ 37.Nd4 a2 38.Qd1 Nd5 39.Qa4 Nxc3 40.Qe8+ Kh7 41.Kh5 a1Q 0-1

With Capablanca it's probably more difficult. I would say that his style is best shown, the technique in game, I think it was game 10 when he beats Lasker with black.

Lasker,E - Capablanca,J [D61] World

Championship 12th Havana (10), 08.04.1921 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Qc2 c5 8.Rd1 Qa5 9.Bd3 h6 10.Bh4 cxd4 11.exd4 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Nb6 13.Bb3 Bd7 14.0-0 Rac8 15.Ne5 Bb5 16.Rfe1 Nbd5 17.Bxd5 Nxd5 18.Bxe7 Nxe7 19.Qb3 Bc6 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.Re5 Qb6 22.Qc2 Rfd8 23.Ne2 Rd5 24.Rxd5 cxd5 25.Qd2 Nf5 26.b3 h5 27.h3 h4 28.Qd3 Rc6 29.Kf1 g6 30.Qb1 Qb4 31.Kg1 a5 32.Qb2 a4 33.Qd2 Qxd2 34.Rxd2 axb3 35.axb3 Rb6 36.Rd3 Ra6 37.g4 hxg3 38.fxg3 Ra2 39.Nc3 Rc2 40.Nd1 Ne7 41.Nc3 Rc1+ 42.Kf2 Nc6 43.Nd1 Rb1 44.Ke2



44...Rxb3 45.Ke3 Rb4 46.Nc3 Ne7 47.Ne2 Nf5+
48.Kf2 g5 49.g4 Nd6 50.Ng1 Ne4+ 51.Kf1 Rb1+
52.Kg2 Rb2+ 53.Kf1 Rf2+ 54.Ke1 Ra2 55.Kf1
Kg7 56.Re3 Kg6 57.Rd3 f6 58.Re3 Kf7 59.Rd3
Ke7 60.Re3 Kd6 61.Rd3 Rf2+ 62.Ke1 Rg2
63.Kf1 Ra2 64.Re3 e5 65.Rd3 exd4 66.Rxd4
Kc5 67.Rd1 d4 68.Rc1+ Kd5 0-1

Burt Hochberg: Can I ask a question? I saw someplace that when he was preparing for his match against Capablanca, he discovered that he was not the great endgame player that everybody

said he was. Do you agree with that? Have you seen that comment?

GK: Yeah, I think Alekhine, I know this comment, and I think Alekhine was right to some degree. It's not... Capablanca was a great endgame player, but Alekhine found that Capablanca never had an appetite for precision. So that's why... it happened in the middlegame, it happened in the endgame, more often in the endgame, that he just, you know, sleeps. So he could win with second-rate moves, so why to bother, why to step up the pressure on your own brains. And Alekhine found it, he found a lot of inaccuracies. So that's why he came up with the right conclusion that under pressure Capablanca may collapse. And that happened in the match in game 27.

Capablanca,J - Alekhine,A [D65] World Championship 13th Buenos Aires (27), 09.11.1927 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3 Be7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Rc1 a6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3 c6 10.Qc2 h6 11.Bh4 Ne8 12.Bg3 Bd6 13.0-0 Bxg3 14.hxg3 Nd6 15.Na4 Re8 16.Rfe1 Nf6 17.Ne5 Nfe4 18.Qb3 Be6 19.Nc5 Nxc5 20.dxc5 Nb5 21.a4 Nc7 22.Bb1 Bc8 23.Nf3 Ne6 24.e4 dxe4 25.Rxe4 Re7 26.Rce1 Bd7 27.Qc2 g6 28.Ba2 Qf8 29.Ne5 Qg7 30.Nxd7 Rxd7 31.Bxe6 fxe6 32.Rg4 Kh7 33.Rxe6 Rg8 34.Qe4 Rf7 35.f4 Qf8 36.Rgxg6 Qxc5+ 37.Kf1 Qc1+ 38.Kf2 Qd2+ ½-½

Also, Alekhine's remarks could be proven by game 29. I think that the original endgame when they had this queen and knight and five pawns and queen and bishop and four pawns, I would say it's more likely it should be won. And eventually Capablanca won the game, but after Alekhine missed quite an easy draw.

Capablanca,J - Alekhine,A [D52] World Championship 13th Buenos Aires (29), 14.11.1927 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3 c6 6.Nf3 Qa5 7.Nd2 Bb4 8.Qc2 dxc4 9.Bxf6 Nxf6 10.Nxc4 Qc7 11.a3 Be7 12.g3 0-0 13.Bg2 Bd7 14.b4 b6 15.0-0 a5 16.Ne5 axb4 17.axb4 Rxa1 18.Rxa1 Rc8 19.Nxd7 Qxd7 20.Na4 Qd8 21.Qb3 Nd5 22.b5 cxb5 23.Qxb5 Ra8 24.Rc1 Ra5 25.Qc6 Ba3 26.Rb1 Bf8 27.Bxd5 Rxd5 28.Nxb6 Rd6 29.Qb7 h5 30.Nc4 Rd7 31.Qe4 Rc7 32.Ne5 Qc8 33.Kg2 Bd6 34.Ra1 Rb7 35.Nd3 g6 36.Ra6 Bf8 37.Rc6 Rc7 38.Rxc7 Qxc7 39.Ne5 Bg7 40.Qa8+



Kh7 41.Nf3 Bf6 42.Qa6 Kg7 43.Qd3 Qb7 44.e4 Qc6 45.h3 Qc7 46.d5 exd5 47.exd5 Qc3 48.Qxc3 Bxc3 49.Kf1 Kf6 50.Ke2 Bb4 51.Nd4 Bc5 52.Nc6 Kf5 53.Kf3 Kf6 54.g4 hxg4+ 55.hxg4 Kg5 56.Ne5 Bd4 57.Nxf7+ Kf6 58.Nd8 Bb6 59.Nc6 Bc5 60.Kf4 Bxf2 61.g5+ Kf7 62.Ne5+ Ke7 63.Nxg6+ Kd6 64.Ke4 Bg3 65.Nf4 Ke7 66.Ke5 Be1 67.d6+ Kd7 68.g6 Bb4 69.Kd5 Ke8 70.d7+ 1-0

So I think, you know, Alekhine found the correct weaknesses of Capablanca and those weaknesses were due to his unwillingness to concentrate too much. So as for Alekhine it's quite a big choice. With Alekhine there are many, many games that comes to my mind. I think we should definitely... one game from his match against Capablanca, it's either game... mistakes... but either game 11 or game 21. So it's... I'm not even looking for the precise quality, but it's about Alekhine beating Capablanca with black in the match, in a world championship match. Showing some new concepts and that's what makes game most valuable.

Capablanca,J - Alekhine,A [D52] World Championship 13th Buenos Aires (11), 08.10.1927 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3 c6 6.Nf3 Qa5 7.Nd2 Bb4 8.Qc2 dxc4 9.Bxf6 Nxf6 10.Nxc4 Qc7 11.a3 Be7 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0 Bd7 14.b4 b6 15.Bf3 Rac8 16.Rfd1 Rfd8 17.Rac1 Be8 18.g3 Nd5 19.Nb2 Qb8 20.Nd3 Bg5 21.Rb1 Qb7 22.e4 Nxc3 23.Qxc3 Qe7 24.h4 Bh6 25.Ne5 g6 26.Ng4 Bg7 27.e5 h5 28.Ne3 c5 29.bxc5 bxc5 30.d5 exd5 31.Nxd5 Qe6 32.Nf6+ Bxf6 33.exf6 Rxd1+ 34.Rxd1 Bc6 35.Re1 Qf5 36.Re3 c4 37.a4 a5 38.Bg2 Bxg2 39.Kxg2 Qd5+ 40.Kh2 Qf5 41.Rf3 Qc5 42.Rf4 Kh7 43.Rd4 Qc6 44.Qxa5 c3 45.Qa7 Kg8 46.Qe7 Qb6 47.Qd7 Qc5 48.Re4 Qxf2+ 49.Kh3 Qf1+ 50.Kh2 Qf2+ 51.Kh3 Rf8 52.Qc6 Qf1+ 53.Kh2 Qf2+ 54.Kh3 Qf1+ 55.Kh2 Kh7 56.Qc4 Qf2+ 57.Kh3 Qg1 58.Re2 Qf1+ 59.Kh2 Qxf6 60.a5 Rd8 61.a6 Qf1 62.Qe4 Rd2 63.Rxd2 cxd2 64.a7 d1Q 65.a8Q Qg1+ 66.Kh3 Qdf1+ 0-1

Capablanca,J - Alekhine,A [D63] World Championship 13th Buenos Aires (21), 26.10.1927 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3 Be7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Rc1 a6 8.a3 h6 9.Bh4 dxc4 10.Bxc4 b5 11.Be2 Bb7 12.0-0 c5 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.Nd4 Rc8 15.b4 Ncd7 16.Bg3 Nb6 17.Qb3 Nfd5 18.Bf3 Rc4 19.Ne4 Qc8 20.Rxc4 Nxc4 21.Rc1 Qa8 22.Nc3 Rc8 23.Nxd5 Bxd5 24.Bxd5 Qxd5 25.a4 Bf6 26.Nf3 Bb2 27.Re1 Rd8 28.axb5 axb5 29.h3 e5 30.Rb1



30...e4 31.Nd4 Bxd4 32.Rd1 Nxe3 0-1

And I would also pick out the game Alekhine played against Euwe, game four in the first match. Also highly underestimated, he played a piece down, just building up the initiative. And this game, like the game Lasker-Steinitz, you take the game, you show to the player, I bet you nobody in the audience will guess timing. So these games will be displayed as probably 1960s-1970s. And that also makes the game unique. If you could see a great player winning the game or

demonstrating new ideas that are so much ahead of his time, what else could you ask?

Euwe,M - Alekhine,A [D81] World Championship 16th NLD (4), 10.10.1935 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Qb3 dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bg7 6.Bf4 c6 7.Rd1 Qa5 8.Bd2 b5 9.Qb3 b4 10.Na4 Na6 11.e3 Be6 12.Qc2 0-0 13.b3 Rab8 14.Bd3 Rfc8 15.Ne2 c5 16.Bxa6 Qxa6 17.Nxc5 Qb5 18.Nf4 Bg4 19.f3 e5 20.Nfd3 exd4 21.fxg4 dxe3 22.Bxe3 Nxc4 23.Bf4 Bc3+ 24.Rd2 Rxc5 25.Nxc5 Qxc5 26.Bxb8 Qe7+ 27.Kd1 Ne3+ 28.Kc1 Nxc2 29.Rxc2 h5 30.Rd1 Bg7 31.h3 a5 32.Bf4 Qe4 33.Bc7 Qe3+ 34.Kb1 a4 35.bxa4 b3 36.axb3 Qxb3+ 37.Kc1 Bh6+ 38.Rdd2 Qxa4 39.Be5 Kh7 40.Bc3 Qb5 41.Bd4 Qe2 42.g4 Qe1+ 43.Kb2 Bxd2 44.Rc8 Bc1+ 0-1

HR: Well this leads me to my next question. You've made a comment before about how this generation of players was brought up and learned so much from your matches with Karpov, etc. There is a tendency for many, many young masters and improving players to look at anything that occurred before Fischer as being worthless or not worth studying. What would you say to that?



GK: I think it's a very stupid assessment. It's probably, you know... you could find this kind of arrogance in the modern settings of the game of chess. They play Internet, you know, bullet game: one minute, three minutes. So they don't have time even to concentrate on serious issues. And that's why one of the greatest weaknesses of all young players is the endgame. When you look at, for instance, Azmaiparashvili winning the European Championship, Zurab is older than I am. So he's a sort of dinosaur. Endgame... Counter attacks and endgames... And he was very stubborn so that's... by the way Zurab was my coach in some of these matches, so that's one of the players that came from that generation, learned from these matches. And even now not being, you know, most involved player, because he's also FIDE Vice President, he has other things to do. But there's a class; there is the solid foundation that you cannot disregard. And I think that I can hope that this book will show to the young masters that there is plenty they can learn, plenty they can learn. Because the game of chess doesn't live in a vacuum, and all this rapid chess, the blitz games, the Internet it can't repulse the classical heritage of the game. And the more you know about it the better your chess gets today, because eventually in every position you will use some of the tools, some of the ideas, some of the technical samples that already have been provided. In every game, in every element of modern chess I could bring you back hundred years, fifty years, and say that was introduced by Botvinnik, Rubinstein, Lasker and that's what... And knowing that, finding the origin, we can improve our game as well.

HR: We're almost through and I wanted to ask you about a couple of things that are not in here, and I wanted to know if you intend to do them for Volume 2 or 3, because a work like this will be used by so many people. Was there a reason there was no bibliography put in here that you know? It would be very helpful because you give quotes, but nobody knows where they're coming from.

GK: Exactly. Exactly, so we had, you know, sort of the least of the sources, but I'm hoping, you know, we'll have a much better updated second edition, because I'm not

comfortable with amount of information we could use, especially for Volume 1. As I said this is our weakest Volume in terms of bibliography because we had to deal with foreign sources and I had virtually no access to that. So that's why I will be inviting all these comments, because I'm sure, you know it's a great point. The more we can add, more human stories we can add, more we can benefit.

HR: Sure, this will be a reference... not only a chronicle but a reference manual, which also needs of course a general index.



GK: I agree. So in Volume 2 and 3 we're going to do it, because then we're dealing with the facts that we can verify. Volume 1, we had very little information. You know, even thinking about some real farfetched ideas of sort of eliminating most of the chess contents of the book and having it sort of the story. More stories we can add just to spread the game of chess to the general public. Because it has a lot of solid foundation to attract a non-chess playing public or very weak players that don't want to go through all these games. You know; I checked with some of my friend's relatives that don't play chess, but they liked very much reading these stories. So, one of my relatives, she's a teacher of music, she said, "Look I was amazed to read the story of Rubinstein."

So she picked up, without knowing how to move chess pieces, it was genius. Because in music they are not paying too much attention to the results, but on the creativity and art. And I feel that, moving ahead, we'll eventually improve on the presentation. And I'm keeping this idea just in the back of my head that one day if there is time, if time allows; we'll try to do this more of a story book. With some chess, but you know, to expand the boundaries of the game of chess to the non-chess playing public.

Burt Hochberg: You skipped over a point just now. Do you think that the fact that we desire a result from each game of chess makes it harder to consider the game as an art?

GK: You can't call it art because one stupid mistake could ruin the whole masterpiece.

BH: So it's a sport?

GK: Yeah, but that's chess. That makes chess unique. You know, you can't call it sport because then you disregard art and you can't disregard science as well. That makes chess unique. That's what we like about the game of chess. And going through this book you can see that there's still this difference, tiny difference, but there's difference between those who made it and who were very, very close but never made it. But the moment we look at the beauty of the game and its importance for the human race and for our civilization we recognize that, you know, the art

element is vitally important, because that's what survives. So the game will not survive without its universal creative contribution to civilization.

Well you can't actually have only results, so results are results, who cares about results? But this game has its history, its written records and from Philidor to Karpov you could see the development. You could see the games. You have enough scientific data to analyze it and also enjoy it.

BH: One more question. It's widely reported that Alekhine was drunk during his first match with Euwe, a lot of the time. Do you think that Euwe's play, objectively, earned him the right to be world champion?

GK: We have been struggling with this report and in the book we decided that we are not making, you know, final judgment. It's not up to us. Also because the match not played in the Soviet Union and, you know, Alekhine was a traitor and that's way, you know, it was treated. It was not objective, so we lacked enough hard evidence to make this claim. But we looked at the games, so I looked at the games and I know there was an accident in game 21, that Alekhine wasn't drunk but he was late and it was probably organizers' fault.

Alekhine,A - Euwe,M [D17] World Championship 16th NLD (21), 19.11.1935

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Qc7 8.g3 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bf4 Nfd7 11.Bg2 Rd8 12.Qc1 f6 13.0-0 Be6 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.a5 a6 16.Ne4 Bb4 17.Nc5 Bc8 18.Bxe5 fxe5 19.f4 Bd2 20.Qc4 Rd4 21.Qb3 exf4 22.gxf4 Qe7 23.Nd3 Be6 24.Qa3 Bc4 25.Kh1 Qxa3 26.Rxa3 0-0 27.Ra4 Rfd8 28.Ra3 Bxd3 29.exd3 Rb4 30.Rf2 Rxb2 31.Bf1 Rd4 32.f5 Rf4 33.Rxf4 Bxf4 34.h3 Bd6 35.Ra1 Kf7 36.d4 Kf6 37.Re1 Bb4 38.Ra1 Rd2 39.Bc4 Rxd4 40.Be6 Rd3 0-1

So there still some question marks that I didn't feel that qualified to resolve in this book. And also I didn't want to go too deep because my task was to look at the games and the games were telling me otherwise. Euwe won the match because he was the first one to start, or to open the deep studies of chess openings.

So he was superior to Alekhine in the first match in coming up with new ideas. So it was the first match with serious, real theoretical duels and when you look at game 21 we should not forget that game 20, Euwe won with White in Slav Defense. In game 21 he repeated the same line and Euwe came up with a new move and beat Alekhine again. And that had a profound, devastating effect on Alekhine. To lose the same position, first with Black, and then with White, he didn't recover. Whether he was drunk or not it's another story, but these two games are more important. There are some games, there was a crazy game he lost and probably he was drunk at that time, but he was two or three points ahead.

Euwe,M - Alekhine,A [D17] World Championship 16th NLD (20), 16.11.1935

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Qc7 8.g3 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bf4 Nfd7 11.Bg2 f6 12.0-0 Rd8 13.Qc1 Qb8 14.Ne4 Be7 15.Qc3 0-0 16.Rad1 Be6 17.Nxe5 Nxe5



18.Ng5 fxg5 19.Bxe5 Bf6 20.Bxb8 Bxc3 21.Bd6 Rf7 22.bxc3 Rfd7 23.Rb1 Rxd6 24.Rxb7 R8d7 25.Rxd7 Bxd7 26.Be4 c5 27.c4 Bxa4 28.Bd5+ Kf8 29.Ra1 Ra6 30.Ra2 Ke7 31.f4 gxf4 32.gxf4 Kf6 33.e4 g5 34.f5 h5 35.h4 gxh4 36.Kh2 Kg5 37.Kh3 Ra5 38.Bb7 Kf6 39.Bd5 Kg5 40.Bb7 Kf6 41.Bc8 1-0

So the Euwe victory was decided by his ability to come with big surprises and also his stamina. He was fighting through the whole match. And I pointed out in this book, and that's most

important, Alekhine played the match against Euwe better than he played match against Bogolyubov. And that was his strategy, as much as Capablanca suffered from not displaying his strength because he didn't have to. Alekhine beat Bogolyubov so easily in 1934, having so many bad positions, that he thought minor improvements would have worked against Euwe and he made a mistake. And just to make this story even more complete, Euwe won game 20 with White, game 21 with Black, and the first game of the rematch they had the same position! Now Alekhine was Black and Euwe was the first one to come up with a novelty that beat him again! So he had a 3-0 against Alekhine in the same position, changing colors. And again it's not just Euwe beating someone, beating Alekhine. The same position, just turning the board. Three times in a row.

Alekhine,A - Euwe,M [D19] World Championship 17th exh NED (1), 1937 1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 Ne4 10.g4 Bg6 11.Ne5 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bxc3 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.Rb1 Qe7 15.f4 c5 16.dxc5 Nc6 17.Ba3 a5 18.Rbc1 Bb4 19.Bxb4 axb4 20.Bb5 Rfd8 21.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 22.Qxd1 e5 23.Qd6 Qh4 24.Bxc6 bxc6 25.Qxc6 Rd8 26.Qg2 exf4 27.exf4 Qe7 28.Qf3 Qa7 29.Qe3 Qxa4 30.c6 Qa3 ½-½

BH: Alekhine must have been shocked at the beginning of the second match.

GK: Exactly. Euwe deserved to win, but he didn't deserve to keep it because he, you know, it was a limited contribution. So there were more players to come. Alekhine



was strong enough to make a comeback, but you could see that 1938, the AVRO tournament in Holland that Alekhine and Capablanca they were already trailing behind. So it's...

HR: A new era, yeah.

GK: A new era, and it's a great pity Reuben Fine never played serious chess because he played a great event, but definitely Keres, Botvinnik, they were ahead. Miles ahead.

BH: Would you put Fine in the same category as Keres and Bronstein... as near misses?

GK: Look I have to deal with science here, not enough data. Statistically we have one tournament, but the game he beat Botvinnik, it was one of the most brilliant games. I think one of the worst defeats Botvinnik suffered in his career. It's first round of AVRO tournament 1938. He was outplayed the way probably he was out played by Smyslov in some games, but Botvinnik never suffered this kind of defeat. But not enough information, so you need more tournaments, so with Keres and Bronstein we know it was not just one spark of genius. So you have the record. With Fine I think it was a big loss for chess, because the way played there, showed that he had a potential.

Fine,R - Botvinnik,M [C17] AVRO Holland, 1938 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.dxc5 Ne7 6.Nf3 Nbc6 7.Bd3 d4 8.a3 Ba5 9.b4 Nxb4 10.axb4 Bxb4 11.Bb5+ Nc6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Ra4 Bxc3+ 14.Bd2 f6 15.0-0 0-0 16.Bxc3 dxc3 17.Qe1 a5 18.Qxc3 Ba6 19.Rfa1 Bb5 20.Rd4 Qe7 21.Rd6 a4 22.Qe3 Ra7 23.Nd2 a3 24.c4 Ba4 25.exf6 Qxf6 26.Rxa3 Re8 27.h3 Raa8 28.Nf3 Qb2 29.Ne5 Qb1+ 30.Kh2 Qf5 31.Qg3 1-0

BH: If you could collapse time so to speak and that you and Bobby would meet on equal terms, he at his peak, you at your peak, what do you think the result might be?

GK: The problem is that, you know, if you're talking about collapsing time then you will have a player from the future with far more superior ammunition.

BH: Yes.

GK: You know, today every weak grandmaster, I don't want to be too insulting talking about club players, every weak grandmaster knows more about chess than Fischer thirty years ago. Clearly, not because their geniuses, they simply have access to computer database. Click, click, click, click and you have all the games and you can study. Maybe you are not studying but you have access to that. So Fischer could be miles ahead of his contemporaries because he was a genius and he could find new ways. But facing somebody from the future he will be really behind.

BH: At a disadvantage.

GK: Yeah, and the same would be Fischer playing Botvinnik, or Botvinnik playing Steinitz, because you could see that every generation has been bringing new ideas to the game of chess. And that's why the size of the commentaries has been increasing. I discovered even when I wrote my first articles for *Welt am Sonntag*, I couldn't deal with that. The same style, the same number of words, more lines. Games are more complicated. And I think the old champions couldn't cope with that. Yes, you could talk about giving them time to study, but then it would not be Fischer. It would be a player with the Fischer talent but named Karpov or Kasparov because that's... you would wind up comparing their talent. In Volume 3 I will come up with a highly controversial claim, that I'm sure will upset many people. I think that in 1975, if they played the match, Karpov would have beaten Fischer.

I analyzed Fischer's games and I analyzed Karpov's games, and I think one of the

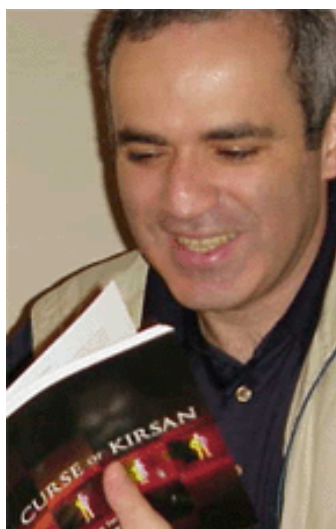
reasons Fischer didn't play, he didn't know how to beat Karpov. He was superior to the generation, two generations he dominated, but looking at the big picture I could see Fischer sort of ending era and Karpov starting a new era.

BH: That's very interesting.

GK: Karpov game was far more sophisticated and maybe Fischer could have beaten him, but after three years of being out of chess. I think Karpov in '75 he had an excellent shot. And the match Karpov played against Spassky in 1974, in quality, is superior than Fischer's win in 1972. Because Spassky played better in Leningrad than he played in Reykjavik and he was crushed by Karpov. That's one of the greatest moments in Karpov's life, '74 match against Spassky.

HR: So on behalf of ChessCafe.com and the readers around the world we thank you very much for your time and we wish you the best of success for your book and we thank you.

GK: OK. Thank you.



At the conclusion of the interview, we presented Garry with a couple of T-shirts (The Sicilian Dragon and The Long Diagonal) as well as four recently published books: *The Magic of Chess Tactics*, *Curse of Kirsan*, *A Chess Omnibus* and *Heroic Tales: The Best of ChessCafe.com 1996-2001*.

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