



## C O L U M N I S T S

## *New Stories about Old Chess Players*

Jeremy P. Spinrad



## When Blindfold Chess Became Easy

Blindfold chess always seems to be a bit of a showstopper, and many blindfold exhibitions have been hailed as being among the world's great intellectual feats. My favorite account of this type comes from the *London Times*, March 27, 1843:

“The *Courier Français* states that a new chess-player has appeared, who bids fair to rival Philidor and de Labourdonnais. This person, named Laigle, the proprietor of the Café de la Paris, at Valenciennes, whilst sitting in a closet off the room in which the chess-board was placed, answered the moves of four antagonists with a degree of sagacity and promptitude which excited the admiration of the numerous visitors attracted by this singular contest. After 42 moves, the four players confessed they were mated, and the fortunate victor received the well merited eulogium of the numerous admirers of his talent.”

What makes this account special is both the modesty of the achievement (winning one blindfold game against anonymous opponents), and what I found when I tried to discover more about this potential rival to Philidor. There are two games of Laigle in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Chess Games*, both also played in 1843, in which Laigle and Kieseritzky both played *sans voir* against each other. I include the games below; read them over if you have a strong stomach. I will not pretend to understand the first. Laigle makes no effort to attack as white, and Kieseritzky makes a sacrifice on move 9 that is given an exclamation mark, but looks ridiculous to me. Laigle does not accept the sacrifice for some reason, reaches a dead lost position, and resigns on move 16. And that is the good game! In the second game, Laigle misses a fork that any child would see on move 5; the play is truly weak. Laigle can only be considered a rival to Philidor if we factor in the information that Philidor would be dead when the two played each other.

***Laigle-Kieseritzky***, both playing blindfold, Paris, 1843: **1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.c3 Nc6 4.e3 e6 5.Be2 Qb6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d3 Bd6 8.Nbd2**



**8...Bxf4?? 9.e4??** — Both moves are incomprehensible. 9.exf4 simply wins a piece, with no compensation for Black. **9...Be3+ 10.Kh1 Ng4 11.h3??** (better 11.Qe1) **11...h5?!** (11...Nf2+ wins) **12.Nh2??** (again, 12.Qe1!) **Nf2+ 13.Rxf2 Bxf2 14.b3 Bd7 15.Bb2 c4 16.Nhf3?** — White might still have a fighting chance after 16.exd5 exd5 17.dxc4 0-0-0 (not 17...dxc4? 18.Nxc4 Qc7 19.Nd6+) 18.cxd5. **16...cxd3 0-1**

**Kieseritzky-Laigle**, both playing blindfold, Paris, 1843: **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bf4 Be7 5.Nb5?! c6 6.Nc7+?**



**6...Kf8??** — Missing 6...Qxc7! 7.Bxc7 Bb4+ 8.Qd2 Bxd2+ 9.Kxd2, and after either 9...Ne4+, Na6, or dxc4, Black is slightly better. **7.Nxa8 Na6 8.e3 b6 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Bxa6 Bxa6 11.Nc7 g6?? 12.Nxa6 Bb4+??** — Getting the idea a bit too late. **13.Nxb4 1-0**

Let us pose a little research question before continuing. Could this be in the *Encyclopedia* because this was the first known example of people playing two

games against each other at the same time, with both playing blindfold? It is just a guess, but it might explain the poor quality of the games. Even with that excuse, Laigle's play is execrable.

The lavish praise heaped upon this unworthy recipient came despite the fact that stories of blindfold prowess date from long before Philidor's time, as we will review below. Some of the history is debatable, but there is at least some reason to believe that each of the following events took place. Many of these claims of blindfold feats come from an article entitled "Blindfold Chess" that appeared on pages 283-285 of *Living Age*, Feb 1, 1862.

In 1266, a player named Buzecca was said to have played two blindfold games while playing one over the board, scoring 2-0-1. Other early players known for their blindfold skill include players include Ruy López, Mangiolini, Zerone, Medrano, Leonardo da Cutro, Paolo Boi (said to have been able to play three games *sans voir*), Salvio, Saccheri (also able to play three games), and others. Philidor played multiple blindfold games on numerous occasions; perhaps his most impressive result was going 2-0-1 against three strong opponents including Count Brühl; apparently he would also impress spectators by keeping up lively conversations during these games.

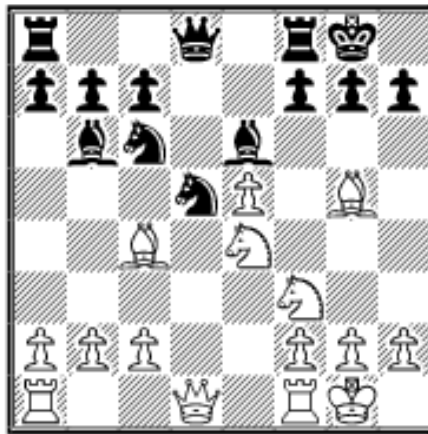
Most of the strongest players of the mid-19th century played at least some blindfold chess. Labourdonnais was known to be very strong, and played two games easily (an incident that occurred when he tried to play three games blindfold will be addressed later). Kieseritzky, Anderssen, McDonnell, Buckle, Löwenthal, and others were known to play strong blindfold chess. I give a reference in another article to a news story in which Bilguer played three games, two of them blindfold, in 1840; later editions of the *Handbuch des Schachspiels* seems to indicate that he played blindfold against two and three opponents on multiple occasions.

Daniel Harrwitz, however, was the player most known for his skill in blindfold chess in the early 1850s. He gave blindfold exhibitions regularly. I found an advertisement for a three-game blindfold simul by Harrwitz in the *London Times* of Dec. 19, 1850, and since there was no special news story on this, I presume that it was fairly standard for him. In an earlier article we saw a blindfold game of Harrwitz against the Duke of Brunswick.

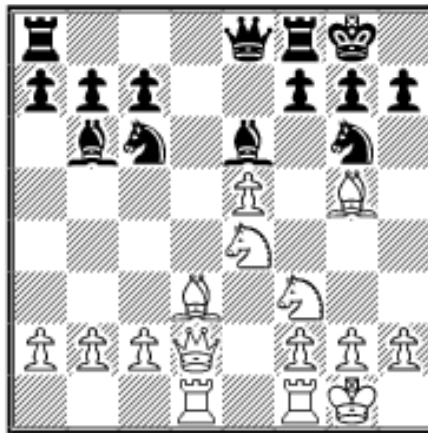
There are glowing descriptions of Harrwitz conducting two blindfold games at once as late as March 18, 1857 (though in this case at least the opponents were themselves strong players, including Lecrivain, and he won both games), and the news of it was widely reported in international papers such as the *London Times*.

This wonder at small blindfold demonstrations changed circa 1857-58, thanks to Morphy and Paulsen. Paulsen was playing large blindfold exhibitions in the United States that remained unknown in Europe; he is said to have played ten blindfold games at least three times in the years 1855-1857 (*London Times*, Aug. 26, 1891), even though some people call a later ten-game exhibition a record-breaking achievement. He also played multiple blindfold games on a very regular basis. According to the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* of Oct 10, 1875, the following game comes from a ten-game blindfold exhibition at the Chicago Chess Club, played in 1858, in which Paulsen won all his games (though a correspondent informs me that Paulsen may have actually drawn one of the 10 games in this exhibition).

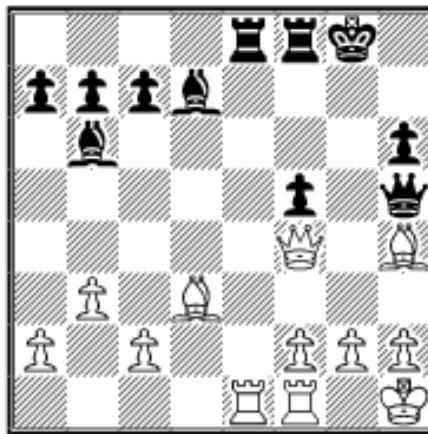
***Paulsen - Mr. K***, notes from *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, Oct 10, 1875 (notes in italics by Fritz 8): **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 d5** — Inferior to 4...exd4. **5.exd5 Nxd5 6.dxe5 Be6 7.0-0 Bc5 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Ne4 Bb6 10.Bg5**



**10...Qd7** — Lost time; 10...Qe8 at once was correct play. (*No: 10...Qe8??*)  
**11.Bxd5+-) 11.Qe2 Qe8 12.Rad1 Nde7 13.Bd3 Ng6 14.Qd2** — A trap into which Black unwarily falls.



**14...Ncxe5?? 15.Nxe5 f5** — Had 15...Nxe5, White would have soon after won by 16.Nf6+ gxf6 17.Bxf6 etc. (*Correct!*) **16.Nxg6 Qxg6 17.Ng3 Qf7 18.b3** — Inferior to c3. (*Not really, though best was 18.Rfe1*) **18...f4 19.Ne4 h6 20.Bh4 Rae8 21.Kh1 Qh5** — Black's play after losing the piece has been excellent. **22.Nf6+ gxf6 23. Qxf4 f5 24.Rde1 Bd7**



**25.Rxe8?! — Missing 25.Bd7! winning the exchange (25...Rf7 26.Bc4).** **25...Rxe8 26.Bf6 Kf7 27.Bb2 Be6 28.Re1 Bd5 29.Rf1 Rg8** — With careful play Black ought to have drawn the game from this stage. (*Fritz disagrees, has White about +2.5*) **30.f3 Be6 31.g4 Qh3 32.Qe5** (*Immediately crushing was 32.Bc4!*) **32...Rg6 33.c4 c5 34.Qh8 Ke7 35.Qh7+ Bf7 36.Re1+ Kf8 37.Qh8+ Bg8 38.Rf1 Bc7 39.Be5 Bd8 40.Rf2 Bh4??** — An oversight which loses the queen (*but*

*White was still winning*). **41.Bf1, 1-0**

Still, when Morphy came to England, the papers seemed more impressed by the fact that he had gone 6-0-1 in a blindfold simul in New Orleans than by his performance in the Chess Congress (New York 1857); they seemed to feel that his American opponents were not very strong. His eight blindfold games against reasonably strong opposition in Birmingham, Paris, and London dazzled everyone; single blindfold games would never be considered so impressive after these exhibitions.

It is amazing to see how quickly multiple-game blindfold simuls went from being considered marvelous to commonplace. Suddenly, around 1862, many people seem to be able to play at least six games *sans voir*. In addition to

Morphy and Paulsen's repeated performances in the late 1850s, Harrwitz also played an 8-board simul in late 1858 to attempt to regain some stature after being beaten by Morphy (Morphy expressed the opinion that he could have played twenty under Harrwitz's conditions). You may have heard of Paulsen and Blackburne playing ten games each blindfold during the great 1862 tournament. These are just the tip of the iceberg; however, note that they were all played by famous masters. In the years 1861 to 1863, at least four New Yorkers you most likely have not heard of before were giving simultaneous displays that would have been the sensation of the world just a few years earlier.

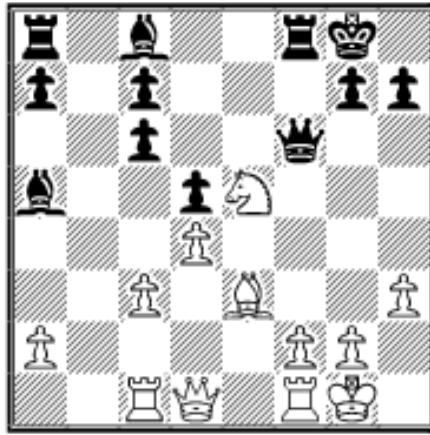
The first of these blindfold players was a young man named Fitz Gerald Tisdall. The *Spirit of the Times* chess column of September 10, 1859 notes "the recent appearance in Brooklyn circles of a young gentleman named Fitzgerald [sic] Tisdall, aged nineteen years, who learned the moves some ten or twelve months since; but who now with both facility and celerity can conduct four or five games simultaneously without sight of men or board: and that too with a force scarcely exceeded by our most skillful players." The column then gives the following game, which was part of a four-board simultaneous blindfold exhibition. Tisdall lost to Perrin, but won all the other games. Perrin was a strong local player, and would have been tough for anyone other than Morphy even in a single blindfold game. Although Tisdall loses, the game is very well played on both sides compared to most seen in these blindfold performances, until Tisdall's blunder on move 35. As someone who has never played multiple blindfold games, I find it a bit surprising that the blunder comes when there are only a few pieces left on the board, rather than in the sharp positions which appear earlier in the game.

***Tisdall-Perrin***, notes from *The Spirit of the Times* September 10, 1859 (notes in italics by Fritz 8): **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 d5 7.Bb5 Ne4 8.cxd4 Bb6 9.0-0 0-0 10.h3 f6 11.Nc3 fxe5 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Nxe5**

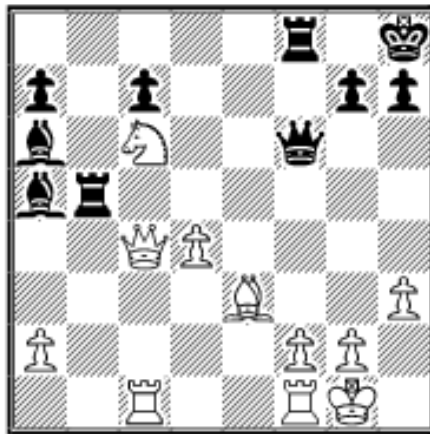


**13...Nxc3** — 13...Ba6 would also have been a good move: as should White take the pawn at c6 Black would win by 14...Qd6. Again 14.Re1 or Nxe4 would without doubt bring White to grief: so that 14.Ne2 would appear to be his only plausible move: when White would certainly remain with a very fine game. (After 13...Ba6 14.Ne2? c5! Black would have a strong initiative; better is 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Qb3+ Qd5 16.Rd1 when grief does not seem imminent. Perhaps best for

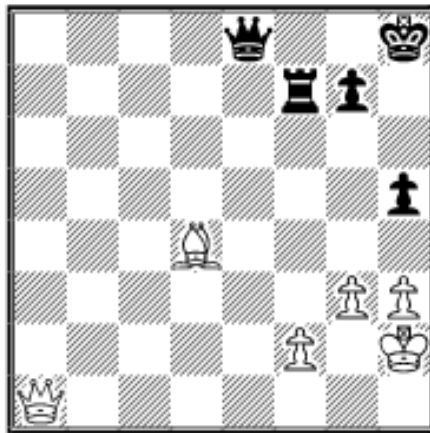
Black is 13...Nxf2!? 14.Rxf2 Rxf2 15.Kxf2 Qh4+ 16.Ke3 (not 16.Kf1?? Bxd4+) 16...Qg3+ 17.Kd2 Bxd4 18.Nd3 Qxg2+ 19.Qe2 Bxh3 20.Qxg2 Bxg2, when with four pawns and the bishop-pair Black has plenty of compensation for the piece.) **14..bxc3 Qf6 15.Be3 Ba5 16.Rc1**



16...Rb8? (better 16...c5) 17.Qa4 Rb5  
18.c4 dxc4 19.Qxc4+ Kh8 20.Nxc6 Ba6



21.Qc2?! (21.Rfd1!+-) 21...Rf5 22.Nxa5  
Bxf1 23.Rxf1 Rxa5 24.Qxc7 —Although  
he has lost the exchange, we do not  
consider White’s game one which is  
inferior to his opponent. 24...Rxa2 25.d5  
Ra1 26.Rxa1 Qa1+ 27.Kh2 a5 28.d6 —  
Bf4 would strike us rather more favorably,  
but anyhow the game looks like a dead  
draw. Qe5+ 29.g3 a4 30.Qa7 Qxd6  
31.Bd4 Qg6 32.Qxa4 Qe8 33.Qa7 Rf7  
34.Qa1 h5



35.Be5?? — This move is simply an  
oversight to which the best of us are all  
more or less liable. Its effect is, however,  
the inevitable loss of a game which  
otherwise from its very nature must have  
been drawn. Rxf2+ 36.Kg1 Rf7 37.Bf4  
Re7 38.Kf1 Qb5+ 39.Kg1 Kh7 40.Qf1  
Qc5+ 41.Qf2 Re1+ 42.Kg2 Qd5+ White  
resigns.

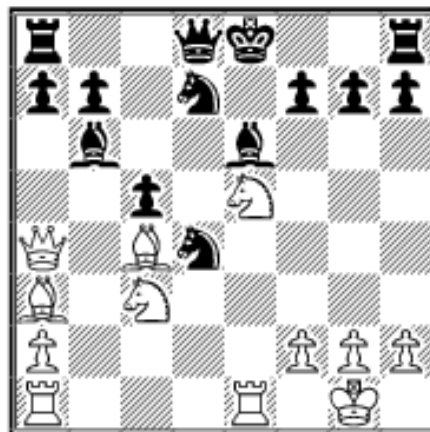
Tisdall is one of those “failures” who gives up serious chess after a very promising start. His obituary (*New York Times*, November 12, 1915) mentions his role fighting on the side of law and order during the draft riots of 1863. He became a Professor of Greek Language and Literature at the City College of New York, where he taught for many years; there was a celebration of his fifty years of service to the college on May 1, 1910. His name appears in the paper from time to time, both for his academic work and his activities on behalf of the Republican party. His name is not associated with chess in the newspaper until his obituary, which talks of his fondness for the game and a simultaneous exhibition he gave during “a great chess tournament held in the Academy of Music.”

The next multiple blindfold displays in New York were given by James Leonard. The *New York Times* reports the following performances by Leonard in blindfold chess:

- On August 17, 1861, he won 3 blindfold games easily.
- On October 27, they report on an 8-game simul, in which Leonard goes 5-2-1; opponents included reasonably strong local players Chadwick and Gilberg.
- On November 9, 1861, there is an announcement that Leonard will play ten games blindfold.

The *Brooklyn Eagle* has some other blindfold events of Leonard. On November 21, 1861, a story on the Brooklyn Chess Club announces that Leonard will play ten blindfold games there, and on January 17, 1862 that he will play a 6- or 8-game blindfold simul. He clearly was an extraordinary blindfold player, and could easily do things that would have been the talk of the world just a few years earlier. The game below comes from a 6 board blindfold exhibit given at the Brooklyn Chess Club, and is taken from *The Albion*, Dec 7, 1861. Leonard makes an interesting sacrifice in this game. It could be refuted if his opponent is willing to give up his queen at the appropriate time (his last chance is by moving ...Nf6 at move 17), but as with many weaker opponents he cannot part with material and marches his king into a checkmate in the center of the board.

*Leonard-M*, notes from *The Albion* Dec 7, 1861 (notes in italics by Fritz 8):  
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.0-0 d6 7.d4 exd4 8.cxd4 Bb6 9.Nc3** — This move is now frequently adopted and leads to a powerful attack. **9...Nf6 10.e5 dxe5 11.Ba3 Nxd4 12.Nxe5 Be6 13.Re1** — The commencement of an ingenious combination. **13...c5 14.Qa4+ Nd7?** — Had Black interposed bishop he would have lost a piece. (*True, therefore best was 14...Kf8=.*)



**15.Nxf7!** — A bold sacrifice but apparently quite sound. **15...Kxf7 16.Rxe6** — Well followed up. **16...Nxe6 17.Rd1 Kg6** — He had no good move at this juncture, if **17...Ke7** White checks with N at d5. (*No, if 17...Ke7 18.Bxe6! Kxe6 19.Qg4+ Ke7 20.Qxg7+ Ke6 21.Re1+ Kd6 22.Qg3+ Ne5 23.Qxe5+ etc. The least of evils for Black was 17...Ne5.*) **18.Bxe6 Qe7 19.Qg4+ Qg5 20.Bf5+** — Administering the *coup de grace*. **Kf6 21.Rd6+ Ke5 22.Re6#**

However, certain people well-versed in chess history might argue that Leonard was an exceptional case, and should be considered as one of the great masters instead of seeing this as supporting the contention that blindfold chess

had become easy. Why haven't you heard of him, if he was such a great master? Leonard died shortly after being released from a prisoner of war camp in Richmond later in 1862, at just 20 years of age. He may well have been on his way to an extraordinary chess career; Napier includes a number of his games and clearly viewed him as a top master in his book *Paul Morphy and the Golden Age of Chess*. Recently, John Hilbert has written a book on this forgotten American master.

I do not believe that the same objection can be made to the next examples. The *New York Times* has several articles that mention the blindfold achievements of F. Eugene Brenzinger. On February 12, 1863, it is announced that Brenzinger will play six or seven games without sight of the board at the Paulsen Club; the club in New York frequented primarily by German-Americans. It also reports on March 22, 1863, an "interesting contest between Brenzinger and members of the Brooklyn Club," unusually giving the names of the two players he beat (Thompson and von Wagner) but not the two players who beat Brenzinger. The *Brooklyn Eagle* adds more blindfold events. On October 19, 1863, they announce that Brenzinger will play ten blind games. On November 3, 1863, they report on an event in which Brenzinger wins four out of eight blind games, and announce a forthcoming exhibition in Brooklyn. He continued these blindfold exhibitions for a number of years. Incidentally, if you come across games of a player with the name Brenzinger in Germany at this time, it is likely to be his brother, rather than Eugene. A correspondence game between the two is given in the *Times* of December 17, 1869; because of the slowness of mail in those times, the game had taken ten years to play.

F. Eugene Brenzinger was a strong local player in standard chess. The *Times* of March 29, 1863, reports a partial score of a match between Brenzinger and the better known player Perrin; in a best-of-9 match, the score stood 2-2, with the comment added that Brenzinger was not playing blindfold in these games. Brenzinger had an excellent result in a strong Brooklyn tournament of 1870. With the tournament nearly over, the leaders were approximately (some records are hard to read) Brenzinger 27-1, J. Mason 20-1, Mackenzie 21-2, Delmar 29-5, Perrin 19-6, Gilberg 25-8, White 18-11. Key remaining games included Mackenzie vs. Delmar and Brenzinger, Delmar and Mason vs. Brenzinger, two games between Perrin and Brenzinger, and Perrin vs. Mackenzie and Mason. Final scores are not given, but Brenzinger took second to the leading player in the country, George Mackenzie. I note that the celebrated player Mason did not get a prize, although I cannot tell whether this is because he was beaten in too many games or because he did not complete the tournament. However, a game of the tournament in which Brenzinger defeats Mason is published in the *Times* (March 15, 1870), so he was certainly capable of wins over strong players.

Brenzinger also beat Mackenzie in their first individual game. I include this game of the tournament, taken from the *New York Times* of Feb 18, 1870, at the end of this column. I feel that Brenzinger plays quite well in this game, and makes Mackenzie seem like a much weaker player. There are a good

number of other Brenzinger games in the *Times*, and I note that the Chess Archaeology [web-site](#) has some games of a series between Mackenzie and Brenzinger. Brenzinger also won the somewhat weaker autumn 1869 Brooklyn club tournament. Final records (from the *Brooklyn Eagle*) were Brenzinger 27-5, Delmar 25-6, Perrin 27-8, Chadwick 22-9, Gilberg 23-11, Merrian 21-12, von Wagner 21-13 (I omit the rest of the scores, since I have not heard of the rest of the players). However, in a strong summer 1869 tournament held at the Café Europa, he lagged well behind the leaders at the last report I can find scores for; scores include Mason 42-6, Mackenzie 35-5, Wernick 26-12, Delmar 30-14, Perrin 29-14, Stanley 24-9, Brenzinger 15-9, von Frankenberg 12-2, Hellwitz 28-18. Mackenzie won two games over Mason to get 1st prize in this tournament. I believe, from a brief note in the *Brooklyn Eagle*, that Brenzinger rallied to finish 4th; they report that Brenzinger and Delmar won 4th and 5th prizes respectively at a tournament at the Café Europe which ended around this time.

Besides Brenzinger, another local player apparently could play a large number of blindfold games. The *New York Times* announces on October 14, 1863, that a Mr. Borch will play ten games blindfold. On October 10, 1863, the *Brooklyn Eagle* says that Borch will play ten games blindfold; a report on November 3, on what was probably the same event, has Borch winning three of eight games played. Borch seems to be quite obscure; he is not mentioned in Gaige's *Chess Personalia* and I know nothing else about him despite his blindfold feats, which once would have been considered quite astounding.

What made New York, hardly the center of world chess at the time, suddenly become the Mecca for blindfold chess? The answer is that it probably was not special in this regard; it is just much easier to access the key newspapers of the time in New York than in other cities. If players like Brenzinger and Borch could play this large number of blindfold games in New York and remain unknown, the same thing was probably going on in many other cities. However, unlike the earlier days when Laigle's small feat was published internationally, playing quite a few blindfold games had become merely local news.

At least, that is my guess. I have very little information to back it up; merely a few examples. Suhle gave an eight-board blindfold performance, winning six and drawing two, while he was a student at the University of Bonn in 1859. The *Wiener Zeitung* of Oct 27, 1861 mentions in a short note that J. Pinedo played six games blindfold in Amsterdam. Vienna itself had a six-game blindfold exhibition by Fleissig reported in the *Wiener Zeitung* of Jan 27, 1872. Blindfold chess became a common enough skill so that the *Albion* of May 14, 1870 describes an 8 person (two teams of four players each) "alternating blindfold" game. No discussion was allowed, so the eight players had to be able to not only play blindfold chess, but also follow each other's plans without looking at the board. The *New York Times* mentions in just one very brief note on October 29, 1863, which I quote in its entirety, another blindfold player I had never heard of:

“The Marseilles journals announce that M. Maczuski, the well-known blindfold chess player, has settled in that town, and issued notice of his intention to give lessons in the noble game.”

I don't know much about Maczuski, or how many blindfold games he could play at a time. I guarantee, however, that it was more than the two played by Harrwitz in 1857 which made the *London Times*, and his very obscurity is evidence that New York was not the only town in which big blindfold simulms were being played. Gaige's *Chess Personalia* says Ladislav Maczuski was probably born in Poland in 1838 and died in Nanterres, France in 1898, and that information about him appears in four historical journal articles (*BCM* 1913 325-326, *L'Echiquier de Paris* October 1948 88-89, *L'Italia Scacchista* 1937 109-110, and *Szachista* 1913 12-13). Unfortunately, I do not have access to these journals, so I do not know any more details of his life.

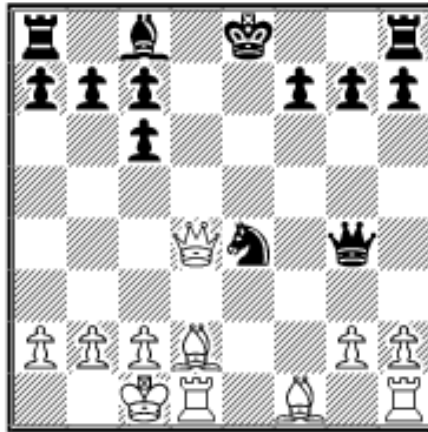
As opposed to Laigle, Maczuski could play some good chess. At the end of the section, there is a nice little miniature in which he beat the champion-class player Kolisch in just 15 moves, ending in a problem-like mate-in-3 combination. This is the only game of Maczuski's given in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Chess Games*; you can find a couple of losses on the net, one to the famous Russian writer Turgenev, and one to Swedish player Hans Lindehn.

Why did blindfold chess suddenly become so easy compared to earlier times? Was it just the realization that the human brain could handle it, or was there some other factor such as the growth of chess clubs or the explosion of newspapers to publicize such events? I cannot answer the question. And was this explosion of blindfold chess dangerous? There were some who thought it was, but that issue will be the subject of another article.

It would be interesting to see how blindfold chess spread in other areas, but the records are very hard to come by. For example, I cannot find any early records of blindfold chess in my home state of Tennessee, and I have no idea as to the state record for blindfold games played simultaneously. I know that multiple blindfold demonstrations have been given in Nashville during my time there (incidentally, with no publicity whatsoever, and by a player without a particularly high rating, which shows how strange it is that the feat was so highly regarded in the old days), but I have no idea what the records are here.

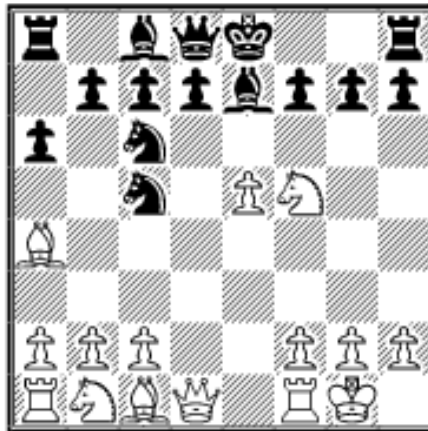
Finally, I add a little curiosity which indicates that after Paulsen and Morphy showed the world it could be done, even chess unknowns tried their hand at multiple blindfold exhibitions. The *New York Times* obituary of Sir Walter Parratt on August 4 1892 mentions that he once played three games of blindfold chess while playing a Bach fugue. No record is given of either the game scores or the musical performance. I might have some doubts on the quality of both of them, but if any of you readers wants to beat this record by playing four games blindfold while performing Ramones songs, I will look forward to attending the event.

**Maczuski-Kolisch**, Paris 1864: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qh4 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Qd3 Nf6 7.Nxc6 dxc6 8.Bd2 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 Nxe4 10.Qd4 Qe7 11.0-0 Qg5+? (11...Nxc3 12.Qxg7 Nxa2+ 13.Kb8 Rf8 14.Kxa2 Bd7=/+ 12.f4! Qxf4+ 13.Bd2 Qg4??

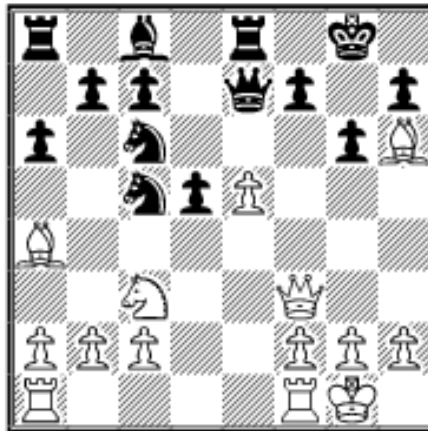


**14.Qd8+! Kxd8 15.Bg5+ Ke8 16.Rd8#**  
— A precursor to the famous miniature Réti-Tartakower, Vienna, 1910.

**Brenzinger-Mackenzie**, Brooklyn 1870 (from the *New York Times*, Mar 15, 1870): 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 Ne4 7.0-0 Be7 8.Nxd4 Nc5 9.Nf5



**9...0-0** — If 9...Nxa4 10.Nxg7+ Kf8 11.Bh6 Kg8 12.Qg4 Nxe5 13.Qxa4. **10.Qg4 g6 11.Bh6 Re8 12.Nc3 d5 13.Nxe7+ Qxe7 14.Qf3**



**14...Nxa4?** — The decisive mistake. Better 14...Be6, Bf5, or Qxe5. **15.Nxd5! Qxe5 16.Nf6+ Kh8 17.Nxe8 Qf5** — If 17...Qxe8?? 18.Qf6+. **18.Qa3 Nc5 19.Qc3+ f6 20.Qxf6+** — Perhaps stronger was 20.Nxc7 Rb8 21.Rfe1 Bd7 22.Nd5, but with this and subsequent moves Brenzinger aims at simplification that makes the win a matter of elementary technique. The remainder requires no commentary. **20...Qxf6 21.Nxf6 Bf5 22.Rfe1 Nd7 23.Re8+ Rxe8 24.Nxe8**

**Bxc2 25.Re1 Kg8 26.Nxc7 Kf7 27.Ne8 Nc5 28.Nd6+ Kf6 29.Be3 b6 30.Bxc5 bxc5 31.Ne4+ Bxe4 32.Rxe4 Nb4 33.a3 Nd3 34.Ra4 Nxb2 35.Rxa6+ Ke5 36.Ra7 c4 37.Kf1 Kd4 38.Ke2 Kc3 39.a4 Kb3 40.a5 c3 41.a6 c2 42.Rc7** and wins.



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