



SKITTLES ROOM

From the Archives

Hosted by
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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 [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.

Watch for an item to be posted online periodically throughout each month. We will update the ChessCafe.com home page whenever there has been a “new” item posted here. We hope you enjoy *From the Archives*...

The first official World Championship match took place in 1886 between Wilhelm Steinitz and J.H. Zukertort. Split playing sites are not unique to the modern era. The rules for the 1886 match provided that the match would be played in New York, St. Louis and New Orleans. The match arrived in St. Louis with Zukertort holding an apparently commanding 4-1 lead. The two main newspapers, *The St. Louis Globe Democrat* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* both covered the St. Louis leg. Robert Sutter has been kind enough to go through the archives and dig up all thirteen articles which both papers published. Together they represent a fascinating chronicle of championship play a century ago. We have arranged the articles chronologically and, because of their length, divided the full presentation into six parts. We have also converted all game notation to English Algebraic and inserted diagrams where appropriate. We are pleased to present Part 6, the final installment, of...

Steinitz vs. Zukertort 1886

Match for the World Chess Championship

The St. Louis Games

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Wednesday, February 10, 1886, Page 1

DECIDING THE DRAW
ZUKERTORT AND STEINITZ MEET
FOR THE EIGHTH GAME OF THEIR SERIES
Progress of the Chess Party This Afternoon
Zukertort Opens with the Queen's Gambit
Which Steinitz Declines
Details of the Game

Mr. Steinitz, as usual, was early at the Harmonie club this afternoon, and seemed as eager to bring the chess match as his phlegmatic nature would allow. As he wandered through the corridors he was interrogated by a Post-Dispatch reporter as to his hope of success. Mr.

Steinitz's round, florid face was widened somewhat by the smile that at once followed as he said, with but a slight foreign accent: "I am feeling ever so much better now. My fit of nervousness and insomnia, which rendered me an unworthy opponent in New York, has left me now and I feel that I am myself again. Of course I cannot tell when this trouble will attack me again, but I do know that at present I have the strongest hopes of winning. Why, in New York I was so unfit for playing that I wouldn't back myself. Indeed, Dr. Zukertort's friends will tell you that he did not outplay me in New York at all, but that my blunders were so wonderfully erratic that an insignificant player could have defeated me. These attacks of nervousness have been my bane before. In the Vienna tournament I was thirteenth at the end of the first week but pulled up and tied for first and second places."



Wilhelm Steinitz

Mr. Steinitz had read, with great anxiety, the *Post-Dispatch* accounts of the London riot and said he was eager to get at the evening paper to read the latest details, as he lived for twenty years in London and was afraid that the outbreak was a general communistic movement.

When the players began play at 2 o'clock promptly, there were an even dozen spectators,

The Smallest Audience

They have yet begun before. Among those twelve were Isador Judd, E.C. Simmons, Adolph Judd, Lewis Haller, S.M. Joseph, J.E. Martin of Toledo, Judge Woerner, Max Judd, E. Helke of Leadville, and Col. George Rowley. This gathering was gradually increased as the game proceeded. Dr. C.D.N. Campbell acted as umpire for Steinitz, and Mr. Isador Judd for Zukertort.

This, the ninth game of the series and the fourth in St. Louis, was opened by Zukertort who chose white and opened with the Queen's Gambit which Steinitz at once declined. This is the same opening Zukertort has chosen in all the games he has played in this series so far, and there was a little disappointment as the local players had been expecting something better. Both players were deliberate, and took things less nervously than formerly. The arrangements of timing this game were all right and the game proceeded quickly.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Thursday, February 11, 1886, Page 5

STEINITZ WINS AGAIN
The Concluding Chess Game
in St. Louis a Very Brilliant One

The concluding game of the Steinitz-Zukertort series in St. Louis afforded an example of the most brilliant chess and also clearly demonstrated that the tournament is in no sense a hippodrome. If any doubt of the genuineness of the players' motives were engendered by the draw game of Monday it was dispelled by the magnificent display of yesterday. Some of the local players made the invidious remark at the beginning of the contest yesterday that it would be another hippodrome, but when about the twentieth move they saw the veins on Zukertort's forehead swell out and half an hour slip by while he was studying the move, the spectators realized that the battle was for blood. The chess club are jubilant over the fact that the local series closed with the best game of the tournament so far. Indeed, S.M. Joseph, an enthusiastic Steinitz man, said: "Yesterday's contest ought to be classed with the immortal games." The features of yesterday's play was that neither party made a single blunder, and that Steinitz won by outplaying his opponent at all points. In an exchange of pieces Zukertort's pawn was left isolated on the queen's fourth square, and this contributed one of his points of weakness. Steinitz played with unusual rapidity. The game was to be adjourned at 6 o'clock, but just two minutes before that time Zukertort resigned.



J.H. Zukertort

The players have two weeks to spend here before going to New Orleans and will probably occupy it in whist-playing, their only relaxation. They were paid today \$150 each, the amount raised by the Chess, Checker, and Whist club to bring them here. This sum the club does not begrudge, as they say their organization has received a decided boom, a number of applications for membership having been made. The general opinion in the club is that Steinitz has shown himself Zukertort's superior in the St. Louis games. Even Max Judd, the doctor's champion, admits that. The total score now stands at four games won for each, and one draw. This leaves one player to win six games in New Orleans, as the conditions require ten victories before either side can claim the stakes. The players, on their return from the South, will probably play some blindfolded and simultaneous games with local lights.

The game was erroneously recorded in both the morning papers, but the following is the corrected official score.

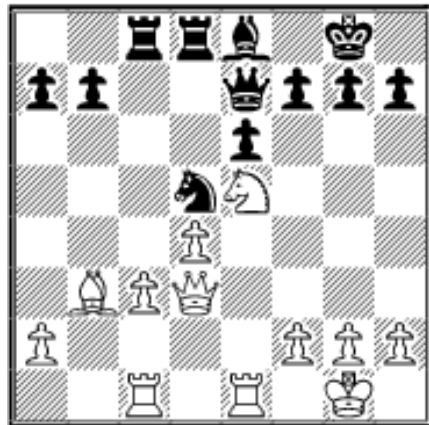
St. Louis Globe Democrat, Thursday, February 11, 1886, Page 8

STEINITZ WINS AGAIN
Close of the St. Louis Section
of the Famous Chess Tourney

Public interest in the progress of the chess games that are being played in this city seems to be on the wane. The attendance at the fourth contest yesterday afternoon at the Harmonie Club room was much smaller than any of the preceding ones. In some way the idea has gained ground that the match is a hippodrome, and that it has been influenced. As near as can be ascertained this idea had its inception at the game last Monday when, for reasons unstated to the audience present, the battle was declared a draw. This supposition is well known to chess players to be a baseless fabrication, the draw being legitimate in every respect and of frequent occurrence in such contests. Drawing the issue, while a disappointment to the large audience who had paid the price of admission, was in every sense legitimate and proper. It seems the next thing to impossibility that the mere pittance from spectators, or even the innuendos of stakeholders of interested parties, could have any influence upon two such honorable men as Herr Steinitz and Dr. Zukertort. That the struggle is proceeding entirely upon the merits of the contestants is, among chessmen, universally believed. Doubtless the aspirant for honors who wins will have played the best chess, and may be accounted the greatest master of his time. The game yesterday began promptly on time with the "Queen's Gambit Declined." The odds were slightly favoring Zukertort who had the opening. This was only an implied advantage, and before many moves had been made the chances were more evenly divided. Owing to the desire of Herr Steinitz the players changed places before the game began. When the black had made his tenth move a letter was handed to him. He drew the yellow envelope up to his face – he being near-sighted – and rose with some agitation. In doing so he inadvertently upset several chessmen. "J'Doube," said the German which means in American ordinary, "I adjust." This had a nerving effect upon Zukertort, who seemed annoyed. The progress of the entire game was unmarked by any incident worthy of note, both men playing chess and devoting their time to that alone. When the result was announced the usual congratulations were offered. The games played thus far have all been splendid ones, and this period of the championship struggle will become famous, as the most famous chess games played for years occurred during that time. As will be seen by the score, Steinitz was the victor.

Zukertort – Steinitz (9)

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 dxc4 5 e3 c5 6 Bxc4 cxd4 7 exd4 Be7 8 O-O O-O 9 Qe2 Nbd7 10 Bb3 Nb6 11 Bf4 Nbd5 12 Bg3 Qa5 13 Rac1 Bd7 14 Ne5 Rfd8 15 Qf3 Be8 16 Bh4 Nxc3 17 bxc3 Qc7 18 Rfe1 Rac8 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 Kf7 33 c5 Rxc5 34 Rxe6 Rc1+ 35 Nd1 Qf4 36 Qb2 Rb1 37 Qc3 Rc8 38 Rxe4 Qxe4 0-1 (1:45/2:10)

- (a) In the seventh game, Zukertort played 4.e3 and also lost the game.
- (b) Evidently the capture with the queen is stronger than that with the knight.
- (c) Premature; why not keep the rook behind the pawns as a protection?
- (d) The position is so very interesting: if 25...fxe5 26 Qxh7+ Kf8 27 Qh8+ Ke7 28 Qxg7+ Bf7 29 Rf3

Rf8, etc. This analysis shows that the sacrifice of the knight was unsound. The reason why Steinitz did not take the knight was because he had to make six moves in about fifteen minutes and did not have the time to analyze the position.

(e) Zukertort thought he should have played 31 d5 instead of the text move, then 31...exd5 32 cxd5 Bxc5 33 Nxd5 Qxd5 34 Qxd5+ Rxd5 and black wins, etc.

(f) The black side now has a winning position.

(g) This is beautiful playing along here.

(h) 35 Nf1 is the correct reply.

(i) The great master winds up the game in his happiest style.

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