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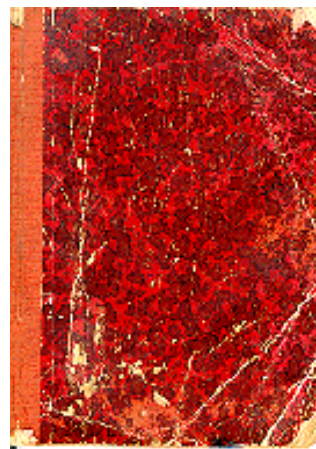
Since it came online over eight years ago, [ChessCafe.com](#) has presented literally thousands of articles, reviews, columns and the like for the enjoyment of its worldwide readership. The good news is that almost all of this high quality material remains available in the [Archives](#). The bad news 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.

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The Unknown Misha: Unpublished Games of Mikhail Tal

by Hanon W. Russell

One of the most popular chessplayers ever was Soviet/Latvian World Champion Mikhail Tal. His captivating wit and romantic style of play made him a favorite worldwide. The Russell Collection acquired a small notebook (shown at right) that contained approximately three dozen game scores. The notebook had belonged to Mikhail Tal and contained, in his handwriting, games played by him when he was a boy.



It is always difficult to prove a negative, in this case, demonstrating that the games had not been published before. Research in the known game collections revealed that 19 games were apparently unknown. It also indicated that there should be some corrections to the known games. In the excellent collection of Tal games by Khalifman, several corrections can be made based upon Tal's notebook: Game 4 in volume one of the Khalifman series should indicate that

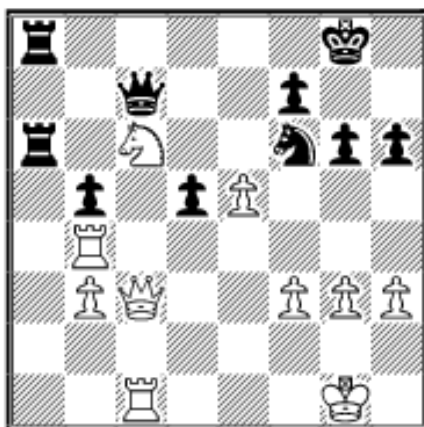
Tal's opponent was Veldrou (Estonia). It was played in the Under-15 Baltic States Team Tournament. Game 6: It was a qualifying tournament, (western zone) not the finals; and in Game 8, the correct opponent is Sodeliv.

The games are presented below. Whenever dates were given in the game score, they have been included. Otherwise, as best that can be determined, they were all played between 1949-1951. The games are also appeared in the August, 1998 issue of *Chess Life*. There interested readers may also find a brief overview of the Russell Collection itself and annotations by GM Lev Alburt.

(1) Nevitsky-Tal, March 30, 1949

Riga Youth Championship, Semi-finals

1 e4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e5 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 Bb5 Bb4 5 O-O d6 6 d3 O-O 7 Bg5 Bxc3 8 bxc3 h6 9 Bh4 Qe7 10 Qd2 Nd8 11 Rfe1 c6 12 Bc4 Be6 13 Bb3 Bxb3 14 axb3 Ne6 15 d4 Nf4 16 g3 Ng6 17 c4 Rfd8 18 Ra4 a6 19 c3 b5 20 cxb5 axb5 21 Rb4 Ra5 22 c4 Rda8 23 cxb5 cxb5 24 Qc3 Nxb4 25 Nxb4 g6 26 Nf3 Ng4 27 h3 exd4 28 Nxd4 Nf6 29 Nc6 Qc7 30 Rc1 R5a6 31 f3 d5 32 e5



32...Ra2 33 Rxb5 Nh5 34 Rxd5 Nxb3 35 Rd2 Ne2+ 36 Rxe2 Rxe2 37 Qc5 Kh7 38 Kf1 Raa2 39 Nd4 Qxc5 40 Rxc5 Red2 41 Rc1 Rxd4 42 Ke1 Rdd2 43 b4 Rh2 0-1
(The signatures of both players appear at the end of the game score)

(2) Butvit-Tal, March 27, 1949

Riga Youth Championship, Semi-finals

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 exd5 4 Nf3 Bg4 5 Bd3 Nf6 6 O-O Be7 7 Bg5 Nbd7 8 Nbd2 h6 9 Bh4 O-O 10 c3 Re8 11 h3 Bh5 12 Qc2 Ne4 13 Bxe4 Bxh4 14 Bxd5 c6 15 Be4 Nf6 16 Bd3 Nd5 17 Ne5 Nf4 18 Bh7+ Kh8 19 Qf5 Qd5 20 Qxf4 Bg5 21 Qf5 Bxd2 22 Qxh5 Kxh7 23 Qxf7 Rxe5 24 Qxb7 Ree8 25 Rfd1 Bf4 26 Re1 Reb8 27 Qa6 Rxb2 28 Qd3+ Kh8 29 c4 Qg5 30 g3 Rf8 31 Qa3 Rfb8 32 Qf3 Bc7 33 Re2 Rxe2 34 Qxe2 Rf8 35 Kg2 Bb6 36 Qe4 Qd2 37 Rf1 Bxd4 0-1

(3) Gornev-Tal, Undated (1949?)

Simultaneous Exhibition (It is assumed, though not completely clear, that Gornev was giving the simul.)

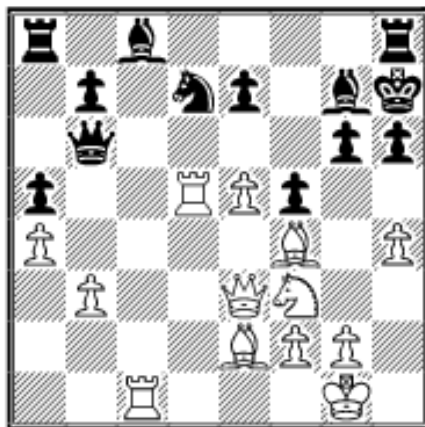
1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 dxc4 4 Nf3 e6 5 Bg5 Nf6 6 e3 b5 7 a4 Bb4 8 Be2 Bb7 9 O-O Bxc3 10 bxc3 a6 11 Rb1 h6 12 Bh4 g5 13 Bg3 Ne4 14 Qc2 Qd5 15 Nd2 Nxd2 16 Qxd2 f5 17 Bf3 Qd7 18 Bh5+ Ke7 19 Be5 Rg8 20 Qb2 g4 21 Qb4+ Kd8 22 a5 c5 23 dxc5 Nc6 24 Qa3 Nxe5 25 Rbd1 Nd3 26 c6 Qxc6 27 f3 Kc8 0-1

(4) Pasma-Tal, April 23, 1949

Riga Youth Championship, Finals

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Qb3 dxc4 6 Qxc4 O-O 7 e4 Bg4 8 Be3 Nfd7 9 Be2 Nb6 10 Qd3 Nc6 11 Rd1 a6 12 O-O h6 13 h3 Bc8 14 d5 Nb8

15 Qd2 Kh7 16 e5 N6d7 17 Bf4 f5 18 h4 Nb6 19 Qe3 N8d7 20 a4 a5 21 b3 Rh8 22 Rc1 c6 23 Rfd1 cxd5 24 Nxd5 Nxd5 25 Rxd5 Qb6



26 Rxc8 Raxc8 27 Rxd7 Qe6 28 Rxb7 Rhd8 29 Bc4 Rxc4 30 bxc4 Rd1+ 31 Kh2 Qxc4 32 Rxe7 Rd3 33 Qa7 1-0

(5) Zilber-Tal, 1949

Riga Youth Championship, Finals

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 c6 5 e3 Nbd7 6 Bd3 dxc4 7 Bxc4 b5 8 Bb3 b4 9 Ne2 Ba6 10 Nf4 Bd6 11 Nd3 Qc7 12 O-O h6 13 Re1 c5 14 dxc5 Bxc5 15 Nxc5 Nxc5 16 Ba4+ Ncd7 17 Nd4 O-O 18 Bd2 Rab8 19 Nc6 Rb6 20 Nxb4 Bb7 21 Rc1 Qe5 22

Bc3 Qg5 23 f3 Ne5 24 Kh1 Nh5 25 Qe2 Ng3+ 26 hxg3 Qh5+ 27 Kg1 Bxf3 28 gxf3 Nxf3+ 29 Kf2 Qh2+ 30 Kxf3 Qh5+ 31 Kg2 1-0

(6) Khomov-Tal, 1949

Simultaneous Exhibition (Possibly already published?)

1 c4 e6 2 Nc3 d5 3 d4 c6 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 Bg5 dxc4 6 e4 b5 7 e5 h6 8 Bxf6 gxf6 9 exf6 Bb4 10 Be2 Qxf6 11 O-O Bxc3 12 bxc3 Nd7 13 a4 Bb7 14 Ne5 Nxe5 15 dxe5 Qxe5 16 Bf3 Rd8 17 Qc2 Rd3 18 axb5 Rxf3 19 Rxa7 Qxb5 20 gxf3 Qg5+ 21 Kh1 Rg8 0-1

(7) Trenko-Tal, 1949

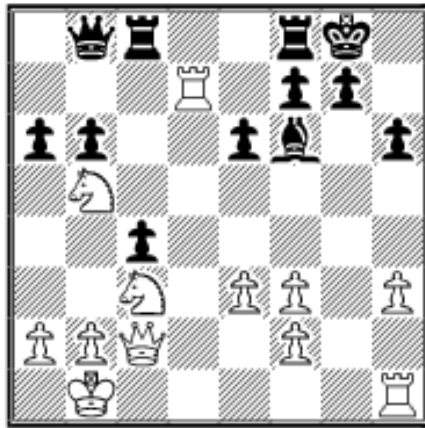
Riga Youth Championship, Finals

1 d4 e6 2 e4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 cxd4 6 axb4 dxc3 7 Nf3 cxb2 8 Bxb2 Ne7 9 Bd3 Ng6 10 O-O Bd7 11 b5 Nf4 12 Ba3 Nxd3 13 Qxd3 f5 14 Nd4 Kf7 15 f4 Re8 16 Kh1 Kg8 17 Qh3 Kh8 18 Qh5 Rg8 19 Nf3 Qe8 20 Qh4 Qg6 21 Nd4 Qg4 22 Qe7 Re8 23 Qd6 Qg6 24 Rf3 Qf7 25 Rb3 Bc8 26 Bc5 a6 27 b6 Nc6 28 Nxc6 bxc6 29 Qxc6 Bb7 30 Qc7 Kg8 31 Bd6 Rec8 32 Qxf7+ Kxf7 33 Bc7 g6 34 Kg1 h5 35 Kf2 Ke8 36 Ke3 Kf7 37 Kd4 Ke8 38 h4 Kd7 39 g3 Ke8 40 c4 dxc4 41 Kxc4 Bd5+ 42 Kb4 Bxb3 43 Kxb3 Rxc7 44 bxc7 Kd7 45 Rc1 Rc8 Drawn in several moves.

(8) Tal-Krapivner, June 30, 1949

Latvian Team Training Tournament

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bg5 Be7 5 e3 Nbd7 6 Nf3 O-O 7 Qc2 h6 8 Bh4 b6 9 O-O-O c5 10 h3 cxd4 11 Nxd4 Bb7 12 Kb1 Rc8 13 Be2 dxc4 14 Bxf6 Bxf6 15 Bf3 Qc7 16 Ndb5 Qb8 17 Rxd7 Bxf3 18 gxf3 a6



19 Ne4 axb5 20 Nxf6+ gxf6 21 Rg1+ Kh8
22 Rg6 f5 23 Rxh6+ Kg7 24 Rxe6 Qh2 25
Rxb6 Qxh3 26 Qc3+ Kh7 27 Qf6 Qf1+ 28
Kc2 Qxf2+ 29 Rd2 Qxe3 30 Rh2+ 1-0

(9) Nevitsky-Tal

Latvian Youth Team Training Tournament

1 e4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e5 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 Bb5 Bb4 5
O-O O-O 6 d3 d6 7 Bg5 Bxc3 8 bxc3 Qe7
9 Re1 Nd8 10 h3 Ne6 11 Bh4 Nf4 12 d4
Rd8 13 Qc1 c6 14 Bc4 h6 15 Qa3 Qc7 16
Rad1 Re8 17 dxe5 dxe5 18 Qd6 Qxd6 19

Rxd6 Nd7 20 Red1 Nc5 21 Rd8 Be6 22 Rxa8 Rxa8 23 Bxe6 Nfxe6 24 Nxe5
Nxe4 25 Rd7 Nxc3 26 Rxb7 Nxa2 27 Nxc6 a5 28 Ne7+ Kh8 29 Nd5 a4 30
Be7 Nd4 31 c4 a3 32 Nb6 Ra6 33 Rb8+ Kh7 34 Nd7 Nc6 1/2-1/2

(10) Pasman-Tal

Latvian Team Training Tournament

1 d4 e6 2 c4 d5 3 Nf3 c6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Bg5 dxc4 6 e4 b5 7 e5 h6 8 Bh4 g5 9
Nxc4 hxc4 10 Bxc4 Nbd7 11 exf6 Bb7 12 g3 Qb6 13 Bg2 O-O-O 14 O-O
Bh6 15 Ne4 Bxc4 16 Nxc4 Rdf8 17 Ne4 Qc7 18 Qe2 Rh6 19 a4 a6 20 Rfd1
Rfh8 21 h4 Nxf6 22 Nc5 Nd5 23 axb5 Rxh4 24 Nxb7 Nf4 25 gxf4 Qxf4 26
Qf3 1-0

(11) Sergeyev-Tal, 1950

Latvian Youth Championship (2nd Round)

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 b6 4 g3 Bb7 5 Bg2 Be7 6 O-O O-O 7 b3 Ne4 8 Bb2 f5
9 Nfd2 Bg5 10 Nxe4 fxe4 11 d5 exd5 12 cxd5 Bf6 13 Nc3 Qe7 14 Rb1 Bxc3
15 Bxc3 Qc5 16 Qc2 Qxd5 17 Rfd1 Qf5 18 e3 d5 19 b4 c6 20 Rd2 Ba6 21
Bf1 Bxf1 22 Rxf1 Qh3 23 Bb2 Qh5 24 Qc3 Rf6 25 f3 exf3 26 Rdf2 Nd7 27
Rxf3 Raf8 28 Rxf6 Rxf6 29 Rxf6 Nxf6 30 Kg2 Qe2+ 31 Kg1 Qg4 32 Qe5
Qxb4 33 Qe6+ Kf8 34 Bxf6 Qe1+ 35 Kg2 Qe2+ 36 Kg1 Qd1+ 37 Kg2 Qc2+
38 Kh3 gxf6 39 Qxf6+ Ke8 40 Qe6+ Kd8 41 Qd6+ Kc8 42 Qe6+ Kb7 43
Qe7+ Ka6 44 Qa3+ Kb5 45 Qxa7 Qf5+ 46 Kg2 Qe4+ 47 Kf2 Qc2+ 48 Kg1
Qc1+ 49 Kg2 Qxe3 50 a4+ Kb4 51 a5 Qe2+ 52 Kg1 Qd1+ 53 Kg2 and 0-1

(12) Tal-Klavans, 1950

Latvian Youth Championship (5th Round)

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 c6 5 e3 Be7 6 Bd3 Nbd7 7 O-O O-O 8 e4
dxc4 9 Bxc4 Qc7 10 Ng5 e5?



11 Bxf7+ Kh8 12 Ne6 and Black soon resigned.

(13) Tal-Zilber, 1950

Latvian Youth Championship (10th Round)
 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 O-O b5 6 Bb3 d6 7 c3 Be7 8 Re1 O-O 9 h3 g6 10 d4 Nd7 11 Bh6 Na5 12 Bxf8 Qxf8 13 Nbd2 and Black soon resigned.

(14) Tal-Strelkov, 1950

Latvian Youth Championship (12th Round)
 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 Ne4 5 Bd3 Bf5 6 Nce2 e6 7 f3 Qh4+ 8 g3 Nxc3 9 Nxc3 Qxd4 10 Nxf5 Qxe5+ 11 Ne3 d4 12 f4 Qxf4 13 Ng2 Bb4+ 14 Bd2 Bxd2+ 15 Qxd2 Qxd2+ 16 Kxd2 Nd7 17 Nf3 e5 18 Rae1 f6 19 Nxd4 and Black soon resigned.

(15) Tal-Pasvolsky, 1950

Latvian Youth Championship (13th Round)
 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nd7 5 Nf3 Ngf6 6 Nxf6+ Nxf6 7 Bc4 Bg4



8 Bxf7+ Kxf7 9 Ne5+ Ke8 10 Nxc4 Qd7 11 Ne5 Qd5 12 O-O e6 13 c4 Qe4 14 Re1 Qh4 15 d5 cxd5 16 Qa4+ Ke7 17 g3 Qh3 18 Bg5 Rd8 19 Qb4+ 1-0

(16) Tal-Liepin

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 O-O b5 6 Bb3 d6 7 c3 Be7 8 Re1 O-O 9 h3 Na5 10 Bc2 c5 11 d4 Qc7 12 Nbd2 Nc6 (12...Rfd8) 13 dxc5 dxc5 14 Nf1 Be6 15 Ne3 Rad8 16 Qe2 Rfe8 17 Ng5 Bc8 18 Nd5! Qb7 19 Be3 h6 20 Nf3 c4 21 Rad1 Be6 22 Nxe7+ Qxe7 23 a4 Qc7 24 Nd2 Ne7 25 axb5 axb5 26 Nb1 Qc6 27 Qf3 Bc8 28 Rxd8 Rxd8 29 Rd1 Rxd1+ 30 Qxd1 Qd7 31 Qxd7 Bxd7 32 Nd2 Bc6 33 f3 Ne8 34 b4 Nd6 35 Bc5 Nec8 The score ends at this point, incomplete.

(17) Shenreder-Tal

Riga Championship, Quarter-finals
 1 c4 e6 2 Nc3 d5 3 d4 f5 4 cxd5 exd5 5 Nf3 Nf6 6 Bf4 c6 7 e3 Bd6 8 Bxd6 Qxd6 9 Ne5 O-O 10 Bd3 Nbd7 11 Nxd7 Bxd7 12 O-O Ng4 13 g3 Qh6 14 h4 g5 15 Kg2 gxh4 16 Rh1 h3+ 17 Rxh3 Qxh3+ 0-1

(18) Gipslis-Tal

Riga Championship, Quarter-finals
 1 d4 f5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 d5 4 g3 Nf6 5 Bg2 c6 6 Nf3 Bd6 7 O-O Nbd7 8 Bg5 O-O 9 Nd2 h6 10 Bf4 Bxf4 11 gxf4 Qc7 12 e3 g5 13 fxe5 hxg5 14 f4 g4 15 Ne2 Rf7 16 Ng3 Rh7 17 Rc1 Qd8 18 Rf2 Nf8 The score ends at this point,

incomplete.

(19) *Literman-Tal*

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 d3 d6 6 O-O Be7 7 Re1 b5 8 Bb3 O-O 9 c3 Na5 10 Bc2 c5 11 Nbd2 Nc6 12 Nf1 Qc7 13 Bg5 Be6 14 Ne3 Rad8 15 Qe2 Rfe8 16 Bb3 h6 17 Bxf6 Bxf6 18 Nd5 Bxd5 19 Bxd5 Ne7 20 c4 Qd7 21 b3 Ng6 22 g3 Ne7 23 Rab1 Rb8 24 Nd2 Bg5 25 Nf3 ^{1/2-1/2}



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