



COLUMNISTS

Checkpoint

Carsten Hansen

**Reviewed this month:*****Alekhine's Defence***

by Nigel Davies

Unusual Queen's Gambit Declined

by Chris Ward

The Total Marshallby Tim Harding, Janis Vitomskis
and Martin Bannedik***The Complete Queen's Gambit***

by Franco Pezzi

Feelings Grow Fonder

This month's Checkpoint takes a look at two recent publications from Everyman Chess in its opening monographs series. No book in this series has surpassed the 200-page mark, but with the current pace in publications, we will soon have reached book number 200. This is a bit of an exaggeration, but the output surely is impressive, although the quality sometimes has suffered, and the editorial work (or rather lack thereof) has occasionally had a negative effect on the books. Particularly the obscure idea regarding indexing variations at the end of each chapter instead at the end of the book is annoying, but it seems insistent on this approach, despite my complaints, as well as those of others, who find this confusing and counterproductive. This month I will also have a look at two new CD-ROM products, one of which is



edited by my fellow ChessCafe.com columnist Tim D. Harding. Enjoy!

Alekhine's Defence by Nigel Davies, 2001 Everyman Chess, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 158 pp., \$19.95

Some years back my compatriot and former Danish champion IM Jens Kristiansen wrote in his excellent book on opening play that he would start playing the Alekhine if there was an adequate answer to the Classical Variation, 4 Nf3. I had then found it a bit peculiar that he would play the Alekhine, which I at the time found somewhat odd. Now, however, it's a different story. I know where he is coming from. This is the third book on the Alekhine I'm reviewing since I took over the Checkpoint here at ChessCafe.com, and the Alekhine Defence is getting its hooks in me. Low and behold, I have even started playing it in blitz games...



Before moving on with the contents of the book, the reader may have me excused for quoting Davies from the Introduction. He takes us back to 1972 and the Spassky-Fischer match: "What could Fischer do? He totally wrong-footed Spassky by playing 1...Nf6, the so-called Alekhine Defence. By the 12th move White was already in a critical position and after a tremendous struggle Fischer won.

"The Fischer-Spassky match was the event that fanned the flames of my interest in chess. I was 12 years old and wanted to play like Bobby Fischer, but when I asked more experienced players about this funny knight move, they invariably advised me against playing it. Their wisdom was confirmed when most of the books seemed to agree. This Alekhine Defence was a dubious opening against which White could easily secure a large advantage.

"Whilst the Alekhine continued to enjoy its dubious

reputation, strong Grandmasters such as Larsen, Korchnoi, Bagirov, Timman, Jansa and Alburt kept winning with it. But how could they keep winning with this dodgy defence? And why were they even playing it in the first place?

“Some yeas later, not much has changed. The Alekhine's reputation is probably even worse, and now it's the likes of Miles, Morozevich, De Firmian, Shabalov, Agdestein, Kengis and Baburin who are playing this defence and winning. Don't they know any better?

“Eventually there came a point at which I realised that the wisdom of the frog pond was at odds with reality. It was nothing but talk, which people repeated without ever looking at the positions for themselves. When I finally started to check things out I discovered that the Alekhine is a tough, fighting defence which creates unbalanced positions from the outset. And if anything its dodgy reputation was actually quite helpful; a lot of people were overconfident and sloppy when playing against it.”

A great way of tempting people to take a look for themselves, a look which I can highly recommend, even if you don't feel tempted to play it; you will certainly enhance your understanding of chess in general. And I have to agree with Kristiansen that only 4 Nf3 is a problem for Black, although I think it is less of challenge for Black than it used to be.

Davies has divided his material up as follows:

1. Classical with 4...Bg4 (18 pages)
2. Classical Kengis System: 4...dxe5 5 Nxe5 g6 (17 pages)
3. Classical with 4...dxe5 5 Nxe5: 5...Nd7 and 5...c6 (16 pages)
4. Classical Divergences: 4...c6, 4...Nc6 and 4...g6 (19 pages)

5. Exchange Variation with 5...cxd6 (16 pages)
6. Exchange Variation with 5...exd6 (12 pages)
7. Four Pawns Attack: Main Line (12 pages)
8. Four Pawns Attack: Divergences (15 pages)
9. The Chase Variation (10 pages)
10. Other Lines (15 pages)

I also have to make a comment about the Bibliography, which has some notable absences, in particular, the recent books by Krizsany & Videki and Tim Sawyer, both of which have been reviewed in this column. Furthermore, there were 3 or 4 monster volumes written by Siebenhaar and a couple others. They date back to when my mother ran a chess shop, at the time Denmark's biggest, and as far as I remember, they contained everything you needed to know about the Alekhine, as well as a lot of things you didn't need to know, but who cares as long as you are enjoying yourself.

The material in the book is built up in what has become customary in the books from Everyman Chess: theory presented around some main games (62 overall), with a short summary and variation index at the end of each chapter. I have said it many times before, and I will continue to say it until they change their policy. Again, the index of variations has to be at the end of the book.

When looking at the division of the material, you will notice, if you know little about the Alekhine and which lines are played the most, that page-wise, the above distribution is not particularly equitable, particularly the lines covered in chapter 1 and 4. Davies does tell us why: "In writing the book I have not tried to produce either a complete or a scholarly work. The emphasis has been on getting someone up and running if they want to play the Alekhine as either Black or White, and I have therefore concentrated on what I regard the most promising lines for players of either colour. Accordingly I have devoted relatively little space to the traditional 4 Nf3 Bg4 or even Albur's 4 Nf3 g6,

concentrating instead on modern treatments with 4...dxe5. I have also taken the position that most Whites should probably want to play either the Exchange Variation [CH: which everybody seems to be recommending against the Alekhine in repertoire books] or 4 Nf3; all the other variations are covered mainly for Black's point of view."

Fair enough, but for the very critical readers, it may look like a cop-out: I have included what I considered important, and if you see it differently, well guess we don't see things eye to eye.


When looking at the book, I took the liberty to check to see if Davies himself plays the lines that he recommends in the book, and I'm pleased to report that he does. In a game as recent as March 2002 against Emms, he played: 1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 Nb6 5 exd6 exd6 6 Nc3 Be7 7 Bd3 0-0 8 Nge2 Nc6 9 0-0 Re8!?, about which he states in the book "...is a good, flexible move, that has only been seen in one game that I know of." He quotes the game Atkinson-Fogarasi, Groningen 1989, although the game was played in Arnhem, and the move was played as far back as in Klovans-Popov, Leningrad tt 1960. The Emms-Davies game ends, by the way, peacefully relatively early on.

The main games are annotated reasonably well, with a good balance of instruction and theoretical coverage. The annotations usually stop or are quite limited from move 20 and onwards, which is completely acceptable as this is an opening book more than anything else.

Throughout the book Davies comes up with scores of original suggestions in addition to offering opinions regarding which lines are more practical than others, etc.

Overall, this book is one that I can clearly recommend to those who have interest in the Alekhine, needs a defence against 1 e4 or those who have to face it. It will be of particular benefit to those rated up to 2200. It has certainly

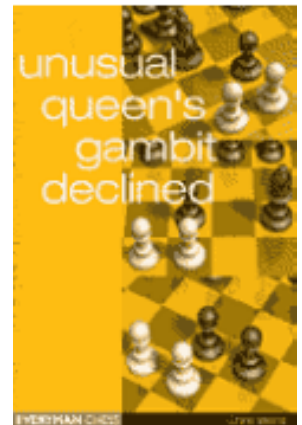
helped me make a decision regarding my future with the Alekhine...

My assessment of this book: 

[Order](#) *Alekhine's Defence*
by Nigel Davies

Unusual Queen's Gambit Declined by Chris Ward, 2002
Everyman Chess, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback,
160 pp., \$19.95

In today's chess literature I think it's difficult to find many lines that have been ignored as much as the the Albin Counter Gambit, the Baltic Defence and the Chigorin Defence, all of which are featured in the present book.



The author, English GM Chris Ward, who recently has had his *Winning with the Dragon 2* published (a book which I thoroughly enjoyed), has now taken a look at these lines, which at some levels are reasonably popular and even at GM level have some following.

I have to admit that despite playing 1 d4 on and off for several years I have only faced the Albin Counter once, while I still have not had a chance to try my weapons against the other two lines out.

Ward has divided the material up as follows:

- **Albin Counter Gambit**
 - 1 The Albin Counter Gambit: Introduction (20 pages)
 - 2 Spassky's 4 e4 and Tartakower's 4...c5 (12 pages)
 - 3 Main Line 5 g3 (23 pages)

- **Baltic Defence**
 - 4 Main Line 3 cxd5 (19 pages)
 - 5 3 Qb3 and 3 Nc3 e6 4 Qb3 (16 pages)
 - 6 3 Nf3 (13 pages)
- **The Chigorin Defence**
 - 7 3 cxd5 (19 pages)
 - 8 3 Nc3 (19 pages)
 - 9 3 Nf3 and 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nc6 (9 pages)

The division of the material looks very reasonable, and the selection of main games is similarly reasonable, but this is where it ends. The book looks like an overall fairly uninspired effort on the part of the author, who was so inspired in his Dragon book, with plenty of suggestions and analysis by himself, but this time around neither are found other than in the most obvious places.

A typical main game contains some light annotations, mainly narrative, added with some blank game snippets, a bit of light analysis and that's about it. There are a total of 67 main games in the book, and by far the best annotated ones are the ones in which Ward takes part himself.

As mentioned above, Ward doesn't present us many of his own ideas, but I managed to find one:

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5 (the Albin Counter Gambit) 3 dxe5 d4 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Nbd2 Bf5 6 a3 Qd7 7 g3, and now the main game move is 7...f6, but as an alternative he gives the following: "Also possible is 7...Nge7 8 Nb3 0-0-0 as 9 Nc5?! Qe8 10 Qa4 looks tempting, but 10...Ng6 11 Qb5 Bxc5 12 Qxc5 Ncxe5 13 Nxe5 Nxe5 14 Qxa7 Nd3+ 15 Kd2 Nxf2 16 Qa8+ Kd7 17 Qxb7 Qe6! is in fact better for Black." Long variation, wrong variation. His 10 Qa4 is a thoroughly lame move that serves no higher purpose other than to help Black obtain a better position. If he wanted to attack the b7-pawn with the queen, he should have played 10 Qb3, which Black can meet with 10...Na5, which also at least equalizes for Black after 11 Qb5 Qxb5 12 cxb5 Ng6 13 b4 Bxc5 14 bxa5 Rhe8. Better, however, is 10 Nh4!? which attacks the f5-bishop and furthermore clears the h1-a8 diagonal for future operations. A possible continuation could be 10...Nxe5 11 Bg2 b6 12 Nb7!? Rd7 14 Nxf5 Nxf5 15 Qa4 Kb8 16 Bf4 with a strong initiative for White.

I will show you one of the games from the Albin part of the

book. The annotations are those by Ward in the book, while mine are in brackets.

Van der Wiel-Tiviakov Groningen 2001

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.g3 Bg4 6.Bg2 Qd7
7.0-0 0-0-0 8.Nbd2 h5**

A quick queenside expansion by White is the theme of this game and so the 8...Nge7 9.b4 d3 10.b5 dxe2 11.Qxe2 Nd4 12.Qe4 Bf5 13.Qxd4 Qxd4 14.Nxd4 Rxd4 15.Nb3 Rxc4 16.Bxb7+ Kxb7 17.Na5+ Kc8 18.Nxc4 Bd3 19.Ne3 Ng6 20.Bb2 [CH: 20 Rd1!?] 20...Bxb5 [CH: 20...Bxf1 looks like a more obvious move to me] 21.Rfc1 Kb7 22.Bd4 Bd3 23.Rc3 Be4 24.Rac1 c5 25.Rb3+ Ka8 26.f4 Be7 27.Bxc5 1-0 of Van der Marel-Scheffer, Groningen 2001 is of interest. [CH: Strangely neither side made a mistake, even when White left the exchange for grabs and Black failed to take it back, they apparently played the best moves...?!] If White is happy to bash out b2-b4 without a2-a3 when the bishop is not obscured, it follows that it will be a more serious consideration with a knight on e7.

9.b4!?

To me this sort of move is much more to the point than the slower a2-a3 and b2-b4. It is, of course, a sacrifice but Black knows that in accepting it he is creating a half open b-file towards his own king. Along similar lines is 9.h4 Nge7 10.b4! Ng6 11.b5 Ncxe5 12.Qa4 Kb8 13.Nb3 Nxf3+ [CH: ? - 13...Bxf3 14 exf3 Qe6 is a better choice although White should also be better here] 14.exf3 Bh3 15.Nxd4 Bc5 (mate is forced after 15...Bxg2 16 Nc6+ bxc6 17 bxc6 Qc8 18 Be3) 16.Nb3 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Be7 18.Be3 b6 19.Nd4 Ne5 20.f4 Bc5 21.fxe5 Bxd4 22.Rad1 Qf5 23.Bxd4 Qe4+ 24.f3 Qe2+ 25.Rf2 1-0 Van der Marel-Clemens, Groningen 2001. I guess Black should investigate the likes of 9...Qf5 or 9...f6 instead. It still feels better for White, though.

9...Nxb4

[CH: This is almost certainly a mistake. The position after 9 b4!? has occurred on at least six occasions, and in five Black played 9...Bxb4, which Ward doesn't even mention]

10.a3 Na6

It's only natural for Black to want to relocate the knight on c5 rather than return it to c6, where he will be hit by the dangerous moves Rb1 and Qa4.

11.Nb3

Attacking Black's d-pawn while simultaneously covering the c5-square and freeing the c1-bishop.

11...d3 12.Be3 Ne7 13.Na5!?

Pinpointing b7 as a target.

13...b6 14.e6 Qd6

14...Qxe6 might put up a sterner defence but after 15.Ng5 the same ideas as in the game are in evidence.

15.Ng5!!



Showing tremendous vision.

15...dxe2 16.Qa4 exf1Q+ 17.Rxf1

Black is a rook up with the white knight hanging on a5 too. Nevertheless, he has some serious problems to deal with and no solution in sight.

17...fxe6


17...bxa5 18.Qb5 fxe6 19.Bb7+ Kb8 20.Bc6+ Kc8 21.Qb7
mate is another was that the game might have ended.

18.Nb7 Qd3 19.Qxa6 1-0

No longer up on pieces, massive material loss (or mate) is imminent. A very impressive game.

I find it very strange that not a single question mark is awarded Black for any of his moves in the main game despite losing in only 19 moves or for that matter in the two supplemental games. The same pattern is seen throughout the book. I'm not sure why Ward is so hesitant to award an obviously bad move a '?!', '?' or '??'.

While this book has relevance because there is so little written about the three lines elsewhere, it is a shame that Ward could not muster a more inspired effort. As it is we are still left wondering when these lines will be properly covered.

My assessment of this book: 

[Order](#) *Unusual Queen's Gambit Declined*
by Chris Ward

The Total Marshall by Tim Harding, Janis Vitomskis and
Martin Bennedik, 2002 Chess Mail Ltd., Figurine Algebraic
Notation, CD-ROM, \$29.00

Wow! That's the first word that came to mind when browsing through this CD-ROM. There is so-o-o much material, and so much of it so excellent it blows your mind, so excuse me for my initial shortage of words and breath.

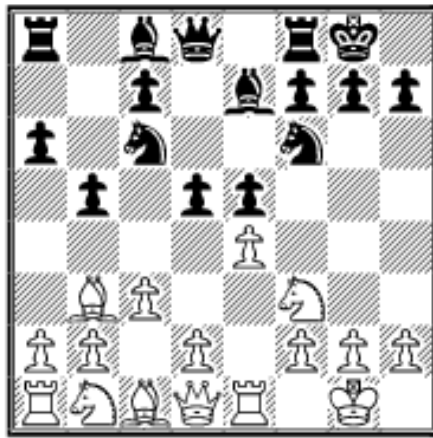


Like with the MegaCorr2 CD-ROM that came out last year (and the original MegaCorr, for that matter, and MegaCorr3 is due out in Easter 2003, mark it in your calendar, you will want it, I already know that), the abundance of material on this CD-ROM from Chess Mail is absolutely astounding, and an example of how to make the best of a medium like the CD-ROM.

While there are no video clips, sound bits or other unessential things for a work like this, there is just about everything else. The center piece(s) of this work is the 37 surveys, conducted by Latvian Correspondence Chess GM Janis Vitomskis, who is a renowned expert on the Marshall Attack; German Martin Bennedik, who has participated in the IECG e-mail World Championship; and finally Tim Harding, with whom everybody should be familiar by now as the author of many books, mostly on openings, a columnist here at **ChessCafe.com** and editor of the excellent *Chess Mail* magazine, which is highly recommended, particularly to those of you who are interested in correspondence chess.

According to the e-book the surveys are done by Vitomskis and Harding, both of whom like Black's chances more, while Bennedik, who checked them for objectivity etc, looks at White's chances with more friendly eyes.

The surveys cover every speck of material worth mentioning on the Marshall Attack, which for those who are not sure what we are talking about arises after the moves: **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 0-0 8 c3 d5!?**.



In addition to surveys there is some material in PDF-format (free reader provided on the CD), including a copy of the 2001/01 issue, which is an good example of the material you will typically find in the *Chess Mail* magazines.

More importantly there is a 58-page e-book on the Marshall with the following Table of Contents:

- 2 About the authors
- 3 About this work & how to use it
- 4 Acknowledgements
- 5 About the Marshall Attack
- 5 How to use this book
- 6 How to play the Marshall
- 8 Our recommendations
- 9 Theoretical Overview
- 18 Why The 'Total' Marshall?
- 19 Evolution of the Marshall Attack
- 22 Fifty Illustrative games
- 57 Index to annotated games

This numbers indicate the page numbers in the book. The only thing I have found missing is a bibliography. Throughout the surveys and book, there are numerous references to analysis by others, so it would have been appropriate to see where it came from, but unfortunately not so.

In addition to the surveys, there is a database that includes 7,663 games that run up to January 27, 2002. By contrast, my database has a little over 3,900 games; that's about half, so at any rate the team has dug up a lot of games that are not widely available elsewhere. Impressive.

The games are available in several formats, the old and new ChessBase formats, Chess Assistant format and in PGN. There is a tree database included as well.

A lot of the games in the database are annotated, exactly how many are unclear to me. So instead of guessing, I will give you an example: a game of co-author Vitomskis, who has made to the World Championship Final in Correspondence Chess on at least one occasion.

Granski,M - Vitomskis,J [C89] CCOL12 prel corr ICCF, 1992 [Vitomskis]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Rxe5 c6 12.d3 Bd6 13.Re1 Qh4

[13...Bf5 14.Qf3 Re8?! (14...Qh4!? 15.h3 Rae8 16.Rxe8 Rxe8 17.Bd2 Nf4!? 18.Qxc6 Qe7! with compensation Rodriguez) 15.Rxe8+ Qxe8 16.Nd2 Qe1+ 17.Nf1 Bg6 18.g3! Re8 19.Bd1 Qe6 (19...Nxc3? 20.Bd2! Ne2+ 21.Kg2 Nd4 22.Bxe1 Nxf3 23.Bxf3+-) 20.Bd2 Qh3 21.a4 b4 22.Rc1 h6 23.c4 Ne7 24.d4± Dolmatov-Kamsky, Dortmund 1993]

14.g3 Qh3 15.Re4 # 15...Bb7

[15...Qf5?! 16.Nd2 Qg6 17.Re1 f5 18.f4 Kh8 (18...Bxf4 19.Qf3 Bxd2 20.Bxd5+ cxd5 21.Qxd5+ Kh8 22.Bxd2 Ra7 23.Qc5± Koch-Blatny, Haifa 1989) 19.Bxd5 cxd5 20.Qf3 Bd7 21.Nb3± Popovic-Pavlovic, Belgrade 1992; 15...Bd7?! 16.Nd2 g5 17.Re2 f5 18.c4! f4 19.Qf1! fxg3 20.hxg3 Qh5 21.cxd5 Bg4 22.dxc6+ Kg7 23.Re4 Bxg3 24.fxg3 Rxf1+ 25.Nxf1+- Ivanchuk-Kamsky, Tilburg 1992; 15...Qd7 16.Nd2 f5? '!' (16...Bb7!) 17.Re1 Kh8 18.f4 (18.Qh5 Nf6 19.Qh4 c5 20.Nf3 Bb7 21.Ng5 h6 22.Bd2 Qc6 23.f3 c4 24.Bd1 cxd3 25.Ne6 Rf7 with compensation Benjamin-Kamsky, USA 1991) 18...Qa7+ 19.d4 Nf6 20.Nf3 (20.a4!? Bb7 21.Nf3 c5 22.axb5 Qb6 23.Re6 unclear Liang Jirong) 20...c5 21.Be3 c4 22.Bc2 g6 23.Ne5 Bb7 24.Qd2 (Liang

Jirong-Peng Hiaomin, China 1992) 24...Bd5 with compensation Liang Jirong]

16.Nd2

[16.Rh4 Qf5 17.Bc2 (17.Nd2 Nf6 18.Ne4 Nxe4 19.dxe4 Qf6 20.Qh5 h6 21.Bf4 Bxf4 22.Rxf4 Qe7 23.Rd1+- (Bruned, Y. - Savanovic,V., Oropesa del Mar 1999)) 17...Qe6 **A**) 18.c4 Nb4 19.c5 Nxc2 20.Qxc2 f5 **A1**) 21.cxd6 Qe1+ 22.Kg2 c5+ 23.f3 Rae8 (-+ Nunn) 24.Nc3+- g5 (24...b4 25.Ne4 fxe4 26.dxe4) 25.Bxg5 Qxa1 26.d7 Bxf3+ 27.Kxf3 Qf1+ 28.Qf2 Qxd3+ 29.Kg2 Qxd7 30.Qxc5; **A2**) 21.Nd2 21...Be7 22.Rd4 Qe5 23.Nf3 Qxc5 =+ (Tukmakov - Jansa, Student Olympiad 1967); **B**) 18.Nd2 18...f5 19.Nf3 (19.c4 bxc4 20.dxc4 Nb4 21.c5 Nxc2 22.Qxc2 Be7 23.Rd4 Qe1+ 24.Kg2± (Wikner,A. - Jonsson,M. Hallsberg op.1991)) 19...h6± 20.Bxh6!? (20.c4!?) 20...gxh6 21.Qd2 f4 22.Re1 Qf6 23.Rg4+ Kh8 24.d4 Rg8 25.Qd3 Rg7 26.Rxg7 Qxg7 27.Ne5 unclear (Konstantinopolsky- Keglevic, corr. 1978)]

16...Qd7

[16...Qf5 17.Re1 c5 18.Ne4 Be7 19.a4 (19.d4!?) 19...b4 20.Bd2 Rad8 21.Qe2 Nf6 22.f3 Qd7 23.Bc4 Nd5 24.Be3 bxc3 25.Bxc5 Rfe8 26.Bxe7± (Liang Jinrong - Barcenilla,R Beijing 1992); 16...c5 17.Rh4 Qe6 18.c4 bxc4 19.Nxc4 Bc7 20.Bd2 Rad8 21.Qh5+- (Krakops,M. - Ferguson,M. Eu - ch JM 1995); 16...Rae8 **A**) 17.Qf1 **A1**) 17...Qd7 18.Rxe8 Rxe8 19.Ne4 c5 20.Bd2 Bf8 21.Re1 Nb6 22.Ng5 Rxe1 23.Bxe1 c4 24.dxc4 Nxc4 25.Bxc4 bxc4 26.f3 Qa4 27.Qe2 h6 28.Ne4 Qxa2 29.Bf2 Bd5 (29...Ba3!?) 30.Kg2 Ba3 31.Qd1 Bxe4 32.bxa3 Bd3 33.Qc1 h5 34.h4 a5 35.Kg1 Qe2= (Leko,P - Adams,M. Belgrade1995); **A2**) 17...Qh5 18.Bd1 Qg6 19.Rxe8 Rxe8 20.Ne4 f5 21.Nxd6 Qxd6 22.Bd2 c5 23.Bf3 Qd7 24.Re1 Nf6 25.Bxb7 Qxb7 26.Rxe8+ Nxe8 27.Qe2± (Kodric,M. - Roskar,R. SLO - ch 1991); **B**) 17.Nf1 17...c5 18.f3 Nf6 19.Rh4 Qf5 20.Ne3 (20.Bf4!?) 20...Qc8 21.Ng2 c4 22.Bc2 (22.dxc4? Bc5+ 23.Kh1 Qa8μ) 22...cxd3 23.Qxd3

Bc5+ 24.Be3 (Howell,J. - Hebden,M. M/BCF 1990)
 24...Bxf3!? 25.Qxh7+ Nxh7 26.Bxh7+ Kh8 27.Bf5+ Kg8
 28.Bh7+= (28.Bxc8 Rxe3 =+)]

17.Re1

[17.Qf1 c5 18.Re1 Kh8 **A**) 19.Bd1 f5 20.Bf3 f4 21.g4 Rae8
 22.Ne4 Nf6 23.h3 Nxe4 24.dxe4 Bb8 25.b3 (25.a4!?)
 25...Be5 26.Bb2 Qe7 27.Rac1 Rf6 28.Qe2 Rh6 29.Kg2
 (29.Bg2!?) 29...Qh4 30.Rh1 Rhe6 31.Rhe1 Rh6 32.Rh1
 Rhe6 33.Rhe1 Rh6 1/2:1/2(Leko,P. - Adams,M. Fontys
 1997); **B**) 19.a4 **B1**) 19...Nf4 20.Ne4 Nh3+ 21.Kh1 c4
 22.dxc4 Nxf2+ 23.Qxf2 f5 24.Qd4 fxe4 (24...Bxe4+ 25.Rxe4
 fxe4 26.Bf4=) 25.Be3 Qh3! 26.Qxd6 Rf2 27.Bxf2 e3+
 28.Qd5 Bxd5+ 29.cxd5 exf2 30.Rf1 Rf8 31.axb5 Qg4
 32.Kg2 Qf3+ 33.Kh3 Rf5 34.Ra4 Rh5+ 35.Rh4 Rxh4+
 36.Kxh4 Qe2 0:1 (Almasi,Z. - Khalifman,A. Ubeda 1997);
B2) 19...f5 20.axb5 axb5 21.Rxa8 Bxa8 22.Bd1 g5 23.Nf3
 g4 24.Ne5 Qb7 25.f3 Kg7 26.Qf2 Qc7 27.Qd2 Bxe5
 28.Qh6+ Kf7 29.Qxh7+ Bg7 (29...Kf6!=) 30.Bh6 Rg8
 31.Bxg7 Rxg7 32.Qxf5+ Nf6 33.Bb3+- (Ivanchuk,V. -
 Sokolov,I. Donner mem. 1996)]

17...c5 18.Ne4 Be7 19.Bg5

[19.d4 c4 20.Bc2 h6 21.f3 f5 22.Nf2 (22.Nc5!? Bxc5 23.dxc5
Qc6 with compensation) 22...Bd6 23.Bd2 Rae8 24.Rxe8
 Rxe8 25.Qf1 Ne3 26.Bxe3 Rxe3 27.Qh3 (Kveinys,A. -
 Wegner,H. Kuopio op.1992) 27...Bc8=; 19.Qh5 Kh8 20.Ng5
 Nf6 (20...Bxg5!? 21.Bxg5 Qf5 *with compensation*) 21.Qh3
 Qc6 22.f3 c4 23.dxc4 (23.Rxe7 Qc5+ 24.Re3 cxb3 25.Ne4
 Nxe4 26.fxe4 +=) 23...bxc4 24.Bc2 Bc5+ 25.Kf1 h6 26.Ne4
 Ba7 27.g4 Rae8 28.g5 Nd5 29.gxh6 g6 (Anand,V. -
 Ivanchuk,V. London PCA rapid 1994) 30.Qh4! f5 31.Ng5
 Rxe1+ 32.Qxe1+-; 19.f3 Kh8 **A**) 20.d4 c4 21.Bc2 Rae8
 22.Ng5 (22.Bd2!?) 22...h6 23.Ne4 f5 24.Nf2 (24.Nc5 Bxc5
 25.dxc5 Qc6 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Bxf5 Nxc3 28.bxc3 Qxc5+
 29.Qd4 Qxf5 30.Bxh6 Qg6 31.Be3 Qh5 *with counterplay*)

24...f4! (Simmelink - Bennedik, corr. 1998) 25.Bxf4 (25.Ne4 fxc3 26.hxc3 Qh3 27.Qe2 Nxc3 28.bxc3 Bxe4 29.Qxe4 Qxc3+=) 25...Nxf4 26.gxf4 Rxf4 27.Re3 Bg5 28.Rxe8+ Qxe8 29.Be4 Bxe4 30.Nxe4 Rxe4 31.fxe4 Qxe4= (Bennedik); **B**) 20.Bd2 20...f5 21.Nf2 f4! 22.Ne4 fxc3 23.hxc3 Qh3 24.Qe2 c4 25.Bc2 (25.dxc4!?) 25...cxd3 26.Bxd3 Rad8 27.Qf1 Qh5 28.g4 Qh4 29.Rad1 (29.Re2!?) 29...Nf4 30.Bxf4 Rxf4 31.Qf2= (Leko,P. - Sokolov,I. Groningen 1995); 19.a4 b4 **A**) 20.a5 h6 21.Qh5 f5 22.Nd2 bxc3 23.bxc3 Bf6 24.Nc4 (24.Bb2!?) 24...Bxc3 25.Nb6 Qd8 26.Ba3 Kh8 27.Nxa8 Nf6 28.Qd1 Qxa8 29.Re3 (Loskutov,O. - Lykov,V. Krasnojarsk 1998) 29...Bh1-+; **B**) 20.d4!? Nf6!? 21.f3÷ (Nogueiras); **C**) 20.Bg5 20...Bxc3 21.Nxc3 bxc3 22.bxc3 **C1**) 22...Rad8 23.Ne4 Qc6 24.Qh5 Nxc3 25.Qxc5 Rxd3 (25...Nxe4!?) 26.Bc4 Qxc5 27.Nxc5 Rd4 28.Bf1 Bc8 29.Ra3 Nd5 (Polgar,J. - Adams,M. Tilburg 1997) 30.Bxa6±; **C2**) 22...Nxc3 23.Qh5 h6 24.Ne6 Qc6 25.f3 (Almasi); **C3**) 22...Qc6 23.Qf3 Rad8 24.d4 cxd4 25.cxd4 h6 26.Ne4 Ba8 27.Rad1 (27.Rac1!?) 27...Qb6 28.Nc5 Nf6 29.Qf5 Rd6 30.Re7 Nd5 31.Re5 Nf6 32.Rd3± (Leko - Slobodjan, Groningen 1997); **C4**) 22...h6! 23.Ne4 Qc6 24.Qh5 (24.Qf3!?) 24...Rad8 **C4a**) 25.Qf5 Nxc3 (25...Kh8 26.Rac1 g6 27.Qf3 += (Almasi)) 26.Qxc5 Rxd3 27.Bc4 Qxc5 28.Nxc5 Rd4 29.Bf1± (Almasi,Z. - Tseskovsky,V. JUG - ch TM 1997); **C4b**) 25.a5 25...f5 (Almasi,Z. - Adams,M. EU - ch TM 1997) 26.Ba4 (26.f3!?) 26...Qc7 27.Nd2 Nxc3 =+ (Adams)]

19...f6 20.c4

[20.Bd2 Kh8 **A**) 21.c4 Nb4 22.Bxb4 cxb4 23.cxb5 f5 24.Nd2 axb5 25.Re6 Bf6 26.Nf3 (26.Qe2!?) 26...f4 -/+ (Svidler,P. - Sokolov,I. Groningen 1996); **B**) 21.d4 c4 22.Bc2 Rae8 23.f3 f5 24.Nc5 Bxc5 25.dxc5 Qc6 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Qf1 Nf6 28.Re1 Qxc5+ 29.Qf2 Rxe1+ 30.Bxe1 Qd5 (30...Nd7 31.Qxc5 Nxc5 32.Kf2=) 31.Qe2= (ACS,P. - Pinter,J. HUN - chT 1998); **C**) 21.Qh5 21...f5 22.Ng5 Bxc3 23.Bxc3 Qc6 (23...b4!? 24.Rac1 bxc3 25.bxc3 Rae8 with compensation)

24.f3 (24.Qf3!?) 24...c4 25.Bc2 b4!÷ (Ernst - Sokolov,I. Debrecen 1992); 20.Be3 Rac8 21.Qh5 Kh8 22.Rad1 g6 (22...Qc6!?) 23.Qh6 Qc6 24.f3 Nxe3 25.Rxe3 c4 26.dxc4 bxc4 (Agnos,D. - Hulak,S. Komerčni Banka op.1996) 27.Rd4!+-]

20...Nb4!

[20...fxg5 21.cxd5 Bxd5 22.a4 Kh8 (22...b4 23.Nxg5 Bxg5 24.Re5±) 23.Bxd5 Qxd5 24.axb5 axb5 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Nc3 Qd7 27.Nxb5 += (Smagin)]

21.Bf4

[21.cxb5+ Kh8 22.Bf4 (22.Be3 Nxd3! -/+ (Leko,P)) 22...axb5 +=]

21...Kh8 22.Qh5?!

[22.cxb5 axb5 23.Rc1 Rfc8 with compensation]

22...f5 23.Ng5 Bxg5 24.Bxg5 bxc4

[24...Nxd3! 25.Re3 Rfe8 26.Rd1 Qc6 27.f3 Rxe3 28.Bxe3 bxc4 29.Bxc4 Nxb2 30.Bd5 Qd6 31.Bf4 Qd7 32.Rd2 Bxd5 33.Rxb2 Bf7 34.Qh3 Qd3—+]

25.dxc4

[25.Bxc4?! Nc2 26.Re7 Qc6 27.Rxb7 Qxb7 28.Rd1 Rae8—+]

25...Qc6 26.f3 g6 27.Qh3 Qxf3 28.Re7 Qh1+

[28...Qh1+ 0:1 29.Kf2 Nd3+ 30.Ke2 Qf3+ 31.Kd2 Qf2+ 32.Re2 Qd4—+] **0–1**

Not many words, but the material speaks for itself in many ways.

Many of us believe that the Marshall Attack was first played in Capablanca-Marshall, New York 1918. But according to

this work, it wasn't! It isn't even the first time Marshall played it! The earliest game with the Marshall Attack was, according to this work, a consultation game played in 1893 between Walbrodt as White and an anonymous group as Black. The line played was the so-called Herman Steiner Variation, a line that supposedly was introduced by Steiner in 1929. I have an idea (and this is of course pure speculation), that this Walbrodt game in some way came to Marshall's attention, since he in 1917, the year before the famous Capablanca game, tried this line out himself in game against Frere. Well, we learn something new every day.

For anybody who plays the Ruy Lopez (Spanish Opening) or the Marshall Attack as Black, this is an essential work, one you cannot be without. Not only have the authors done an amazing job at covering everything on the Marshall, they have also located numerous games previously unknown to most of the public, they have added to the theory with numerous new ideas and independent analysis and have presented everything here to a larger audience for the first time.

The Total Marshall is the way opening CD-ROMs should be done. Go get it!

My assessment of this CD-ROM: 

[Order](#) *The Total Marshall*
by **Tim Harding, Janis Vitomskis**
and **Martin Bennedik**

The Complete Queen's Gambit by Franco Pezzi, 2001
Gambitingly, Figurine Algebraic Notation, CD-ROM,
\$29.95

With my enthusiasm still bubbling from the Total Marshall above, I have to say that this a bit of a non-starter and therefore quite disappointing.



According to the cover of the CD, there are "76.000 Selected Games - 46 Opening Books, Hundred Annotated and Analyzed Games, 3 CDs in 1"

I'm not going to cast too much doubt on any of these statements, but in regards to the "Hundred Annotated and Analyzed Games", I have to add that there probably are more than a hundred games that are annotated. That being said, many of the game annotations are done in Italian, which I, and I think many others, do not understand particularly well.

In regards to the 46 opening books, it is true there are 'books' - numbered from 1 thru 46, but each 'book' contains a database tree and survey done by the ChessBase software, informative in a way, but not really worth spending any amount of time on unless the subject covered is clearly identified and only refers to games played by relatively strong players. Needless to say, this is not the case in these 'books'.

I took a look in the Albin Countergambit survey, and found something odd. According to the survey the solid GM Loginov had played the Albin as Black. Then I found the game, in which White had played the uncommon 3 Nc3, again very odd. The game was the following:

**(2449) *Lugovoi, A* (2510) - *Loginov, V* (2532) [D08]
St.Petersburg (3), 28.06.1999**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Rc1 c6 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Ne4 ½-½

It looks a bit strange, and yes of course I noticed it too. It's a data entry error: Black didn't play 2...e5, but 2...e6, hence no

Albin!

Under 3 Nc3, I also found the following game, which, according to the survey done by the computer, is the correct way for Black to play:

(2448) Weglarz,L (2400) - Bielinski,L (2208) [D08] POL (6), 23.09.1999

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.e3 0–0 8.Qb3 c6 9.Rd1 Nd7 10.Bd3 a6 11.0–0 b5 12.cxb5 cxb5 13.a4 bxa4 14.Qxa4 a5, and here I will stop, but White eventually won. Again it's quite obvious that this is no Albin, but the same data entry error, 2...e6 should be substituted for 2...e5.

I don't know how many such mistakes can be found in this CD, which contains a total of 76,503 games, but I found two in less than five minutes. The survey done by the computer is therefore even more useless than it already was.

To his credit, Mr. Pezzi, about whom I know absolutely nothing, has enhanced the surveys with various illustrations, photographs to make them more interesting and pleasing to the eye, but the contents are nonetheless quite boring.

The games and surveys are, according to the back cover of the CD, split up in four:

1. Queen's Gambit Accepted (15,882 games)
2. Slav and Semi-Slav Defense (32,762 games)
3. Queen's Gambit Declined (27,862 games)
4. Tarrasch & Semi-Tarrasch Defense

You will now notice that I haven't mentioned how many games can be found in the Tarrasch & Semi-Tarrasch section, and the simple reason is that this section cannot be found on this CD-ROM! A very strange omission I have to say, but the number of games add up to the total mentioned on the cover, and it will sort of fit with the description 3 CDs

in 1 if we consider each section enough material for one CD. However, the Queen's Gambit is certainly not complete if you ignore the Tarrasch and Semi-Tarrasch Defenses.

There isn't really a lot more I can say about this product other than it is not what it claims to be, "complete". Furthermore the material is found wanting, with many games annotated in Italian and there otherwise being a lack of interesting material on this CD.

My assessment of this CD-ROM: 

<i>The Ratings</i>	
	— A poor book, not recommended.
	— Not a particularly good book, but perhaps useful for some readers.
	— A useful book.
	— Good book, recommended.
	— Excellent book, highly recommended.

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