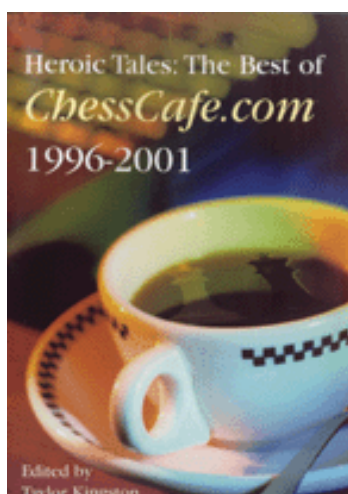




C O L U M N I S T S

Checkpoint

Carsten Hansen

**Reviewed this month:**

Sicilian Dragon 1: B70-B74 (CD-ROM)
by Dorian Rogozenko

Sicilian Dragon 2: B75-B79 (CD-ROM)
by Dorian Rogozenko

The Catalan
by Alex Raetsky and Maxim Chetverik

Catalan E00-E09 (CD-ROM)
by Mihail Marin

New In Chess Yearbook - Volume 71
by Genna Sosonko (ed.)

Crazy about Fianchettoes

Through the years I've been obsessed with playing opening systems that feature a fianchetto. It gave me a degree of comfort and familiarity to have my bishop on g2 or g7 pointing harassingly towards the opponent's queenside. This month and next we will look at some recent publications that involve fianchetto opening systems.

I found it interesting that the authors who wrote about the Catalan Opening featured in this month's column have also recently published books on the English with 1 c4 e5. There must be some close connection between the two openings. In general it appears to be the more solid GMs that combine these two systems. Yet even a highly dynamic player such as Garry Kasparov has had both openings in his repertoire.

In my previous column I mentioned that the Kaufmann Attack in the Petroff Defense was named after Larry Kaufman. He and others have indicated this was an error (in fact they are not even spelled the same). Kaufman makes note of this in the introduction to that chapter in *The Chess Advantage in Black and White*, but I missed it entirely for which I, of course, apologize. Last, but

certainly not least, *New In Chess Yearbook #71* is also featured in this month's column.

Sicilian Dragon 1: B70-B74 (CD-ROM) by Dorian Rogozenko, 2004
ChessBase GmbH, Figurine Algebraic Notation, CD-ROM, \$24.95

Rogozenko is responsible for the B70-B79 section of *Chessbase Magazine*, which constitutes the Sicilian Dragon, and is the author of two other ChessBase CDs, one on the Sicilian Sveshnikov and one on the Slav Defence.



The Dragon has a very special place in my heart and I still follow the development of this opening, half-expecting to play it again some day. There must be many other 'closet' Dragon fans with a never-ending appetite for theory, which is why new works continue to be published.

The Classical Dragon has never been particularly dangerous for Black, although some care is necessary to avoid trouble early on. Rogozenko also stresses this and tells the tale of when he started playing the Dragon in 1992, including how he prepared with another strong player and had invested two weeks of hard work on the Rauzer/Yugoslav Attack, while spending only a few hours on the Classical lines. Here's how he tells it:

(75) Nevednichy,V (2495) - Rogozenko,D (2480) [B73]

Bucharest Bucharest, 1993

[Rogozenko]

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 In the summer of 1992 I was fascinated by the Dragon Sicilian and decided to include it in my Black opening repertoire. I checked more or less carefully the major lines involving White's 0-0-0 (this took me about two weeks of hard work; sometimes the training was done together with another player, stronger than me) and decided that I was ready to play these lines. Things went much quicker in preparing against the Classical Dragon. Since everywhere my conclusion was "I can manage to play it directly over the board", the "preparation" for Classical Dragon took me about 1-2 hours (I'll remind the reader that all this happened when the word "computer" was only ever heard on the news. Nowadays an equivalent "preparation" would hardly take more than 10-15 minutes). All this was done in a general training camp, not for a specific tournament, but rather for the next playing season. The present game from the beginning of 1993 was my first experience with Dragon. **6 Be3 Bg7 7 Be2** Big disappointment here. **7...Nc6 8 0-0 0-0 9 Qd2** In my preparation half an year previous to this game, during those 1-2 hours that I got myself accustomed to Classical Dragon, I must have seen this position as well. However, during the game I was sure that this careless queen move is a strategical mistake. **9...Ng4** "Punishing"

my opponent. [better is 9...d5] **10 Bxg4 Bxg4 11 f4 Bd7?! I was (still) happy - Black has traded off a knight for the bishop and has no weaknesses. [better is 11...Nxd4 12 Bxd4 e5 This secures a perfectly reasonable play, but of course, during the game it didn't even cross my mind.] 12 Rad1 Rc8 13 h3 I remember that around this point I started to lose my enthusiasm. This was the first round of a long GM closed tournament, possibly the strongest tournament that I had ever played in up to that moment (it was cat. 10, which meant something else then) and I had set myself the ambitious task of achieving my second GM norm. This was backed by a long period of preparation and I was hoping to show good form. The Sicilian Dragon was my "secret weapon" and besides surprising my opponent in the first round, it was also thought to lead to the very sharp play which I desired. As usual, when starting a serious long tournament, the first game plays an important role. The Dragon Sicilian suited perfectly - I expected a sharp battle, where I would calculate a lot and thus quickly "get my eye in". But things went differently in that first game of the tournament. Here in the search for active play I started to realize that there is simply no active play for Black. Somehow I went to another extreme and started slowly to hate my position...The next part of the game is an example of good strategical play from White and pretty dumb play from Black. 13...b6? I can't remember the purpose of this move and nowadays I fail to find an explanation for it. [13...a6 14 Rf2 f5?! 14...b5 is the logical follow up to the previous move. 15 exf5 gxf5 16 Nd5 Rf7 17 Nf3 h6 18 Nb6 Rb8 19 c4+/- 1-0 Radulov,I-Bobotsov,M/Varna 1968 (39); 13...Na5 14 b3 b6 15 Nce2 Nc6 16 c4 Nxd4 17 Bxd4 Rc7 18 Bxg7 Kxg7 19 f5+= 1-0 Farooqui,Z-Milton,J/Columbus 1977 (53)] 14 f5! White has a space advantage and he starts active actions. One should notice that ALL White's pieces are placed very well and each of them has some task or other. 14...Ne5 15 b3 Bc6 16 Bg5 Bb7 This manoeuvre must have been a sort of justification for 13...b6. 17 Nd5!+/- Bxd5 18 exd5 a6 19 a4 Qd7 20 c4 A dream position for White. The game is instructive until the end. I can't really blame myself for what happened next. I can blame myself for what happened in the first 20 moves, or better for what happened half an year before during that thorough "preparation". 20...Rc7 21 Kh1 Rb7 Unrealistic dream of counterplay. It's not very difficult to notice that White controls square b5 slightly better than Black. 22 Bh6 Black's lack of space and files for communication between wings make White's direct attack the most effective weapon in such positions. 22...Rc8 23 Bxg7 Kxg7 24 Rde1 Qe8 25 Re4 Qh8 A sad necessity to avoid mate on h7. 26 Rh4 Kg8 27 fxe6 Nxe6 28 Rh5 f6 I suggest Rbb8 and Nf8 instead. But even without it the Black's position looks like a (un)successful attempt to combine chess and checkers in one single game. 29 Qe2 Kf8 30 Qg4 Kg7 31 Ne6+ 1-0 I can't remember whether I lost on time or had the guts to resign before my flag fell. In fact my opponent played very precisely and this is a very illustrative game to see White's ideas in the Classical Dragon. It turned out that Nevednichy had prepared this system against Dragon before**

the tournament, with the help of a very strong player. While they realized that Black can equalize, they also came to the conclusion that without proper preparation Black can easily end up in trouble. They were right, unfortunately...Another thing worth mentioning is that Nevednichy showed a great form in that tournament and shared 1st-3rd places, scoring a GM norm. On the other hand I wasn't in bad form either, occupying a lone the fourth place in the end (which, however was not enough for a GM norm). This confirms that the Classical Dragon has indeed some venom, if a person aspiring to become a GM can be crushed in such a way with it. In more than 30 Black games with the Dragon from different international tournaments, I have never had such a humiliating defeat, even against all those Rauser Attacks...

The above passage should teach everybody a lesson. Even though your opponent plays a harmless variation it doesn't mean that you're not at risk of losing. I have always scored well with the 'harmless' lines in my repertoire, because my opponents took it for granted that no danger was imminent until it was too late.

The CD has 29 texts and 113 annotated model games, in addition to over 24,000 games. And along with Rogozenko's good reputation as an analyst, player, and author; this made my expectations high. Unfortunately, they were very far from met.

I found that the number of database texts is fairly low when compared with Rogozenko's other Dragon CD reviewed below. This has 29 compared to 95 on the other one, while the number of games is nearly the same: 24,000 compared to 26,000. And while there may not be as many lines that need to be discussed in the Classical variation, they should be given due attention and quite frankly I don't think they get it.


Here are a few examples:

- 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be2 Bg7 7 0-0 0-0 8 Be3 Nc6 9 Nb3, and now 9...b6 is given the following comment: "... is playable, although by choosing it Black agrees to play a slightly inferior middlegame after 10.f4 Bb7 11.Bf3," but this is not enough when you consider that several GMs such as Yusupov, Andersson, Shchekachev, Kotsur and Ghaem Maghami have all had decent results in this line. By the way, even 10...Na5!? was tried in a game where an IM won as Black against a fellow IM.
- 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Bg5 is given minimal coverage with a short text including only nine game references. Whereas Golubev in his short, but brilliant *Easy Guide to the Dragon* gave three pages of coverage that included an astounding 39 game references and numerous bits of analysis, as well as improvements of various kinds. Rogozenko does present some of his own analysis, but nearly half of the games linked to the text are

without any kind of comment, and a few are analyzed by other annotators.

- 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be2 Bg7 7 0-0 0-0 8 Be3 Nc6 9 Nb3 Rc8, is generally accepted as Black's best way to keep things exciting while still maintaining equality. This is covered very briefly, with only three game references, and hardly any text to describe the typical ideas. Needless to say, Golubev gives substantially more material.

I could list another twenty or so examples where Rogozenko has taken shortcuts and not covered the material very well. Whenever Rogozenko does take the time to annotate a key game and explain the ideas behind a particular line, the material is really good, but those instances are too few and far between. This CD is said to be aimed at advanced players, yet there was very little material of interest to me. Older books like the abovementioned Golubev title and an even older one by Silman/Donaldson will serve most advanced and less experienced players far better.

My assessment of this CD: 

Order *Sicilian Dragon 1: B70-B74* (CD-ROM)

by Dorian Rogozenko

Sicilian Dragon 2: B75-B79 (CD-ROM) by Dorian Rogozenko, 2004
ChessBase GmbH, Figurine Algebraic Notation, CD-ROM, \$34.95

After my disappointment with the above CD, I was unsure what to expect on this one, but with more than three times as many database texts and nearly five times as many annotated games, I felt quite confident that it could only be better.

Things get down to business in the introduction, with several video clips of Khalifman giving his opinion on various aspects of the Dragon Variation. Video has been fairly rare on these ChessBase opening CDs, but it may be how this media is going to develop. This is an excellent utilization of the CD format, provided you remember that the person who is being recorded can actually be understood, unless of course you are ready to supply subtitles too.



With so many database texts, let's see how he has divided the material:

- B75 (2 texts)

- B76 (28 texts)
- B77 (7 texts)
- B78 (48 texts)
- B79 (9 texts)

While I understand the amount of texts devoted to B76 (which includes both 9 g4 and 9 0-0-0) and B78, which includes the majority of the main lines in the Yugoslav Attack (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 0-0 8 Qd2 Nc6 9 Bc4 Bd7 10 0-0-0), I am somewhat surprised by the relatively few texts allotted for B79, which includes 10...Qa5, a move that has seen more action in recent years partly due to Chris Ward's recommendation of it in *Winning with the Dragon 2*.

The texts are quite long and usually very detailed, with clear guidelines as to which lines are better and/or critical for the evaluation of a particular continuation. Interestingly, Rogozenko offers two texts for the relatively new line, 10...Rb8, which is called the Chinese Variation. Under his tutelage it is possible to achieve the type of position that you are most comfortable with and this applies to 10...Qb8 and 10...Qc7 as well.

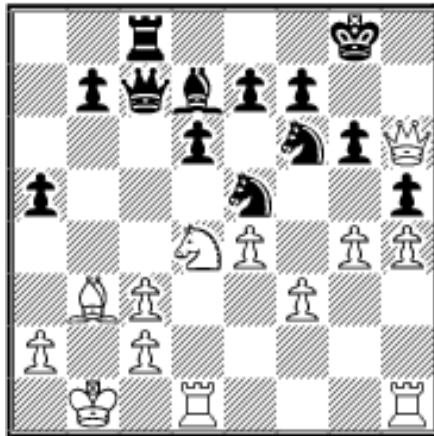
Rogozenko repeatedly takes issue with established opinions and takes the theory to the next level. One such example is the following game, which is highlighted as the correct way for White to punish Black's opening play:

(216) Pyhala,A (2375) - Yndesdal,K (2300) [B78]

Arnold Cup Gausdal (2), 1990

[Rogozenko]

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 Nc6 8 Qd2 0-0 9 Bc4 Bd7 10 0-0-0 Rc8 11 Bb3 Ne5 12 h4 h5 13 Bh6 Bxh6 14 Qxh6 Rxc3 15 bxc3 Qc7 16 Kb1 [16 g4 Qxc3 with counterplay] **16...Rc8** [16...Qxc3 17 Ne2+/-; 16...a5 17 f4+/-] **17 g4 a5?!**



[CH: this is the starting position for the database text in question. In the previous text he has pointed to the fact that Black should opt for 17...Qxc3 transposing to lines that normally arise after 15...Qa5 and which are considered slightly better for White]

[17...hxg4? 18 h5 gxh5 (18...Nxh5 19 Nf5! Bxf5 20 exf5+-) 19 fxg4+- Bxg4 20 Rdg1+-; 17...Qxc3+=] **18**

g5 Ne8 19 f4 a4 20 Bd5 e6 [20...Qb6+ A tricky check, but it changes little if White reacts correctly. 21 Kc1! (21 Ka1 recommended by A.Schneider as best for White, since it enables White to play later Rb1.

But Black can create counterplay now by attacking pawn c3 immediately. 21...Qa5! (21...a3? 22 Rb1 Qc5 23 Rb3 is correctly evaluated by Attila Schneider as winning for White. However, there is no point in bringing White's rook into play by playing the apparently active 21...a3.) 22 Ne2 (22 fxe5 Qxc3+ 23 Kb1 Qb4+ 24 Kc1 Qa3+ 25 Kd2 e6 is in Black's favour - he wins a piece, thus remaining just an exchange down, while the queen is still locked on h6. 26 Bxb7 (26 Bxe6 Bxe6 27 Nxe6 Qc3+) 26...Qb4+ 27 Kc1 Qxb7-/+) 22...Bg4 23 fxe5 e6 24 Bxe6 (24 exd6 Bxe2 25 Rh3 Ng7-+) 24...fxe6 (24...Bxe6 is also interesting. 25 exd6 Rxc3! with counterplay. Now the following draw looks like the best for White: 26 d7 Bxd7 27 Rxd7 Rxc2 28 Re7 Ng7 29 Rf1 Qb4 30 Qxg7+! Kxg7 31 Rfxf7+ Kg8 32 Rg7+ Kf8 33 Rgf7+=) 25 exd6 (25 Qxg6+ is worse - the knight escapes from the fork d6-d7 25...Ng7 Black is better 26 exd6? Bxe2-+) 25...Bxe2 26 Rh3 Bxd1 27 d7 Qd8 28 dxc8Q Qxc8 29 Qxg6+ Ng7 unclear) 21...e6 (21...a3 22 Bb3 Rxc3 23 fxe5 Rxb3 is an amazing line, mentioned by Sanches Almeyra as unclear. But after 24 cxb3 it is difficult to believe that Black has sufficient compensation. He has few attacking resources left and White's material advantage will play its role, since there are sufficient ideas to release the queen (such as Nf5, or Rhf1xf7). (24 Nxb3 Qe3+ 25 Rd2 dxe5; 24 axb3? dxe5 with compensation)) 22 fxe5 dxe5 (22...exd5 23 e6+-) 23 Rhf1 The most convincing way. 23...exd4 24 Rxf7 Kxf7 25 Qh7+ Ng7 26 Rf1+ Ke7 27 Qxg7+ Kd6 28 Rf7 White wins, for instance: 28...Rd8 29 Bxe6 Bxe6 30 Rxb7 Qa5 31 Ra7 Qb6 32 cxd4+-] **21 fxe5 exd5** Now White escapes with the queen, but the position was lost anyway. [21...Qxc3 22 Rd3 Qb4+ 23 Ka1 exd5 Sanchez Almeyra,J-Palkovi,J/Budapest 1989. Now White is winning with the simple 24 e6 Bxe6 25 Rb1! For instance: 25...Qc4 26 Nxe6 fxe6 27 Qxg6+ Ng7 28 Rxb7 Rc7 29 Rb8+ Rc8 30 Rxc8+ Qxc8 31 Qf6 Qxc2 32 Rc3 Qd1+ 33 Kb2+-; 21...dxe5 22 Rhf1! White's priority is to bring his queen into play. With this precise move he prepares Rxf7, followed by a deadly hunt of black king. **a)** 22 Nxe6 does not reach the goal: 22...Bxe6 23 Bxe6 Qb6+ 24 Bb3 axb3 25 cxb3 Nd6 with compensation; **b)** 22 Nf5 This nice-looking move, threatening mate on e7 also wins: 22...Qc5 (**b)** 22...exf5 23 Qxg6+-; **b)** 22...gxf5 23 g6+-) 23 Bc4! keeping the bishop on the important diagonal. (**b)** 23 Bxb7? Rb8 24 Rxd7 Qb5+ 25 Kc1 Qxd7 26 Bc6 Qa7-/+) 23...Rc7 24 Rd6! gxf5 25 g6 fxg6 (**b)** 25...Nf6 26 Rhd1 Qxc4 27 Rg1 with mate 27...a3 28 gxf7+ Kxf7 29 Rg7+ Ke8 30 Qh8+) 26 Rxe6+-; 22...exd4 (22...exd5 23 Rxf7 Kxf7 24 Qh7+ Ng7 25 Rf1+-) 23 Rxf7 Kxf7 24 Qh7+ Ng7 25 Rf1+ Ke7 26 Qxg7+ Kd6 27 Rf7 exd5 28 Qf6+ Kc5 29 Qxd4+ Kb5 30 Qxd5+-; 21...a3 22 Nf5 gxf5 23 g6+-] **22 e6! Bxe6 23 Nxe6 fxe6 24 Qxg6+ Ng7 25 exd5 a3** [25...Qxc3 26 Qd3 Qb4+ 27 Ka1 Rc3 28 Qd4 Rc4 29 c3!+-] **26 Qd3 Qb6+ 27 Kc1 e5 28 Rhf1+- e4 29 Qd4 Qb2+ 30 Kd2 Re8 31 Rde1 Qxa2 32 Rxe4 Rxe4 33 Qxe4 Qb2 34 g6 Qb5 35 Qf3 Qe8 36 Qf7+ Qxf7 37 gxf7+ Kf8 38 Kc1 1-0**

One criticism is that he sometimes cuts the coverage a bit short and the reader

is left to connect the dots. This is mainly because he does not include comments to all of the games linked from the database texts. I maintain that it takes fairly little effort to place an evaluation and a few comments for the reader to understand why things favor one side and how and where the players went wrong.

The author has also included two training databases, one from White's point of view and another from Black's; and taking into account both sides is a rare occurrence in such cases. It is clear that Rogozenko has invested a considerable amount of time on this CD. The quality of the work shows everywhere. Therefore, if you play the Dragon as Black or meet the Dragon with the Yugoslav Attack, this CD is a must buy.

My assessment of this CD: 

[Order](#) *Sicilian Dragon 2: B75-B79* (CD-ROM)
by Dorian Rogozenko

The Catalan by Alex Raetsky and Maxim Chetverik, 2004 Everyman Chess, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 192 pp., \$19.95

The authors of this book recently published one about the English Opening with 1...e5, which was reasonably well-written. This time it is the Catalan Opening (1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 g3 or 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3) which is occasionally played by many of the strongest players in the world, while few include it in their main repertoires. This may be why hardly any lower rated players employ this opening. They simply don't see it played often enough to get the impression that it is worth trying.



Hence, the Catalan is one of those opening that many lower rated players don't know how to handle, and this makes it very suitable to play for a win with White. It is mainly a positional opening, but it carries a punch that can materialize in a kingside attack if Black is not careful.

Let's see how the authors have divided the material:


- Bibliography (1 page)
- Introduction (2 pages)
- **1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 g3**
- 1 Closed Catalan: 4...Be7 5 Bg2 0-0 (31 pages)
- 2 4...c6 5 Bg2 Bd6 (6 pages)

- 3 4...dxc4 5 Qa4+ (14 pages)
- 4 4...dxc4 5 Bg2 Be7 6 0-0 0-0 (38 pages)
- 5 4...dxc4 5 Bg2 a6 (28 pages)
- 6 4...dxc4 5 Bg2 Nc6 (27 pages)
- 7 4...dxc4 5 Bg2 c5 (14 pages)
- 8 4...dxc4 5 Bg2 b5 (7 pages)
- 9 4...dxc4 5 Bg2 c6 (4 pages)
- 10 4...dxc4 5 Bg2 Bb4+ (5 pages)
- 11 4...dxc4 5 Bg2 Nbd7 (4 pages)
- 12 4...dxc4 5 Bg2 Bd7 (5 pages)
- Index of Complete Games (3 pages)

The authors have taken considerable liberties by only dealing with the Catalan proper, thus ignoring lines such as 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 Bb4+ which, for example, is covered in detail on the CD by Marin. Moreover, the Closed Catalan is only given 1/6 of the entire coverage. By comparison, the standard two-volume work by Neishtadt on the Catalan had a separate volume for the closed lines and this obviously indicates that something is wrong. And indeed there is! Lines such as 4...c5 5 Bg2 cxd4 6 Nxd4 e5 and 4...Bb4+ 5 Bd2 a5 are not covered, nor are many other minor lines and sub-variations. Such lapses obviously deduct from the overall impression of the work.

On the plus side, what they have included is fairly decent with a balanced sense of what is and is not important. The authors heavily annotate the games in the opening phase, while spending considerably less space after move 20, although without ignoring it either. But I do have another complaint, which is that several of the main annotated games are almost identical, line for line, as Ribli's in *ChessBase Magazine* and *Mega Database*. One example is Cu. Hansen-van Wely, Istanbul OL 2000.

Overall, there are some good things about this book, but on the negative side, some lines are ignored and using somebody else's material without giving them proper credit isn't the way things should be done.

My assessment of this book: 

[Order](#) *The Catalan*

by Alex Raetsky and Maxim Chetverik

Catalan E00-E09 (CD-ROM) by Mihail Marin, 2004 ChessBase GmbH,
Figurine Algebraic Notation, CD-ROM, \$35.95

I was completely flabbergasted by the amazing quality of the material on this CD. It is immediately obvious that the author has put a tremendous amount of work into it. Illustrating the author's thoroughness, there are 62 database texts and more than 500 games annotated by Marin. Although not all of the games are annotated in equal depth, but every game is there for a reason, even if it's a 15 move draw there is something noteworthy about it.



The material is divided by ECO codes from E00 through E09 as well as part of E11, which starts out as the Bogo-Indian (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Bb4+), but once White plays g2-g3 and Black opts for ...d7-d5, then there are a number of transpositions to consider:

- Introduction
- E00 (1 text)
- E01 (4 texts)
- E02 (6 texts)
- E03 (1 text)
- E04 (16 texts)
- E05 (15 texts)
- E06 (5 texts)
- E07 (5 texts)
- E08 (4 texts)
- E09 (3 texts)
- E11 (1 text)

The introduction first looks at the history of the Catalan opening, including some of those games that preceded the Barcelona 1929 tournament where the opening derived its name. Next comes something called *Tactical and strategic considerations*, but this section doesn't cover what is normally regarded as either a tactical or a strategic consideration. In the *About this CD* section, he discusses how he imported games that transpose from other openings and merged them with the lines that arise from the Catalan move order. This allowed for some slips in the traditional Chess Informant and ChessBase opening key systems, but you will only be familiar with them if you know the opening in detail, and Marin definitely does.

In the introduction he also discusses the general contents of the CD and gives an annotated bibliography. Marin tells us that all the variations in this book are either taken from Neishtadt or Chess Informants, usually without crediting the source. That's a pretty standard way of making your own work look original without actually doing any labor.

The database texts are very well-written in good, understandable English. He not only tells us the current state of theory, with plenty of links to the most relevant games, he also explains the development of certain lines and which

games should be studied to improve your general understanding of the position. In one of the E02 database texts he suggest studying Andersson's games, emphasizing that both wins and draws should be examined to deepen your understanding.

In addition to this excellent presentation, the annotated games are littered with suggestions, new ideas, possible improvements and general analysis to support the understanding of the games. As usual not all of games that are linked in from the database texts contain annotations.

Let's look at the author in action with the white pieces. The annotations are those by Marin on the CD:

(428) Marin,M (2545) - Kiselev,S (2485) [E11]

Ciocaltea mem Bucharest (4), 1997

[Mihail Marin]

1 Nf3 Tisdall **1...Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 d5 4 d4** This was the third game where I was given by fate the white pieces against Sergey. Each time, our theoretical discussion was held in the Catalan Defence. **4...Bb4+** In Andorra 1996, Sergey preferred 4...Be7. [4...Be7 but failed to equalize completely: 5 Bg2 0-0 6 0-0 c6 7 Qc2 Nbd7 8 Rd1 b6 9 b3 Bb7 10 Nc3 Rc8 11 e4 dxe4 12 Nxe4 c5 13 Nxf6+ Bxf6 14 Ng5 Bxg5 15 Bxb7 However, the game eventually ended in a draw. In the present game, he decides to repeat the variation that led him to defeat in 1993, although this was not directly connected to the opening.] **5 Bd2 Be7 6 Bg2 0-0 7 0-0 c6 8 Qc2 b6 9 Rd1!? Ba6 10 b3 Nbd7 11 a4 Rc8** [11...c5!? Tisdall: This looks to be the most reliable option, not removing the black rook from the potentially useful a-file. White has made very little impression on Black when facing this plan. 12 Na3 Bb7 13 cxd5 (13 Qb2 dxc4 14 Nxc4 cxd4 15 Nxd4 Bxg2 16 Kxg2 Nc5 17 f3 Qc8 18 a5 ½-½ Novikov,I-Tiviakov,S/URS-ch58 Moscow 1991) 13...Bxd5 14 Nb5 a6 15 Nc3 Bxf3 16 Bxf3 cxd4 17 Bg5 dxc3 18 Bxf6 Rc8 19 Bxe7 Qxe7 20 Rd3 Ne5 21 Rxc3 Nxf3+ 22 exf3 ½-½ Beliaevsky,A-Jussupow,A/URS-ch55 Moscow 1988] **12 a5 c5** [12...b5 13 c5² (13 c5 Tisdall 13...Ne4 14 b4 f5 15 Bc1 Bf6 16 Bb2 Qc7 17 Nbd2 Rce8 18 Nb3 Bc8 19 Nc1+= 1-0 Neverov,V-Kharitonov,A/Berliner Sommer 1996 (38))] **13 axb6 Qxb6 14 Qa2 Nb8** [14...Bb7!? Tisdall 15 b4 cxb4 16 c5 Nxc5 17 dxc5 Bxc5 18 e3 Qd6 Tisdall: gave Black interesting compensation, though White made trouble for himself by neglecting development. 19 Nd4 (19 Bc1!?) 19...a5 20 Be1 a4 21 Qb2 Ra8 22 Bf1 Rfb8 with an initiative 0-1 Danielsen,H-Galdunts,S/Erean olm 1996 (34)] **15 Ba5 Qd6 16 Nbd2** Tisdall: A very sensible novelty. Maintaining the central tension obviously creates more problems for Black, who has several less than ideally posted pieces. [16 cxd5 Tisdall 16...Qxd5 17 Ne5?! ½-½ Bogdanovski,V-Kurajica,B/Star Dojran 1991 Tisdall: completely dissipated the potential in white's position] **16...cxd4** [16...Nc6 Tisdall 17 dxc5 Qxc5 18 b4!+/-; 16...dxc4 Tisdall 17 Nxc4 Bxc4 18 bxc4 Nc6

19 d5!? exd5 20 cxd5 Nxa5 21 Qxa5 Rc7 Tisdall: and the only question is how great White's advantage is; Black's queenside pawns are weak and the c4 or f5 squares beckon to the white knight. Black must hope to transform the c-pawn into a source of counterplay.] **17 Nxd4 Bd8** Tisdall: A very awkward looking move, but if Black can regain the d8 square for use then it will pay off. [17...Qc5!? Tisdall: is the critical variation. The pressure on c4 and d4 can only be met by one move: 18 Qb2! **a)** 18 Nc2 dxc4 (*a*) 18...Ng4!? 19 Bb4 Qc7; **b)** 18 e3 dxc4; **c)** 18 Bc3 dxc4 19 Nxc4 Bxc4 20 bxc4 Qxc4 =+; **d)** 18 cxd5 Qxd4 Tisdall: and the d-pawn plus the discovered attack with the ♖d2 do not appear to provide White with real compensation.; 18...dxc4 (18...Nc6 19 Bc3 +/-) 19 bxc4 Qh5!? with counterplay Tisdall: and by clearing the queen from the c-file, he prepares Bc5 and increases the pressure on the ♗c4.] **18 cxd5 Nxd5** [18...Bxa5 Tisdall 19 Qxa5 Nxd5 20 Nc4 (20 Ne4+=) ...20...Bxc4? (20...Qc5²) 21 bxc4 Rxc4 22 Nxe6! fxe6 23 Rxd5+/-] **19 Nc4 Qc5** The position is almost symmetrical, but the better development ensures White the initiative. **20 Nf5!** [20 Bxd5!? Tisdall 20...exd5 (20...Qxd5 21 Bb4) 21 Ne3 Tisdall: gives white strong pressure against the weaknesses on a7 and d5. Marin's choice is more ambitious and more interesting, but this continuation may be objectively stronger.] **20...Nb4** [20...exf5 21 Rxd5+/-; 20...Bxc4 21 bxc4 Bxa5 22 Qxa5 Qxa5 23 Rxa5 Rxc4 24 Bxd5+/-; 20...Bxa5 Tisdall 21 Qxa5 Qxa5 22 Rxa5 exf5 23 Bxd5+/-; 20...Bf6!? Tisdall 21 Ncd6! (21 Rac1 Nb4 22 Bxb4 **a)** 22 Qa4 N4c6 23 Nfd6 Nxa5; **b)** 22 Qa3 Nd3!? 23 exd3 (**b**) 23 Qxc5 Nxc5! 24 Nfd6 Nxb3-+) 23...Qxf5=+; 22...Qxb4 23 Nfd6 Rc7=) 21...Bxa1 (21...Bxe2 22 Qxe2 Bxa1 23 Nxc8 exf5 24 Bxd5 Qxa5 25 Bxf7+! Kh8 (25...Rxf7 26 Qe8+ Rf8 27 Ne7+; 25...Kxf7 26 Qc4+ Kg6 27 Ne7+ Kf6 28 Rd6+ Kxe7 29 Qe6#) 26 Nd6+/-) 22 Qxa1 exf5 23 Bxd5!+/- (23 Nxc8 Rxc8 unclear) ...23...Rc6 24 Bxc6 Nxc6 25 b4+-] **21 Qd2 N4c6 22 Bxc6 Nxc6 23 Bc3!! Bxc4??** Sergey played this move with a shaky hand. He was sure that I had just blundered a piece! [23...exf5 24 Rxa6 Be7 25 Qe3+/- (25 Qb2+= Tisdall) ; Better is 23...Qxf5 24 Nd6 (24 Rxa6 Qb5) 24...Qg5 (24...Qc5 25 b4 Qb6 26 b5!+/-; 24...Qh5!?) 25 Rxa6 Qxd2 26 Rxd2 Rc7+=] **24 Qh6! 1-0**

This is an outstanding piece of work, and despite a few minor flaws, it is easily one of the best opening CDs from ChessBase. An excellent job by Marin; I hope we will see more work from him in the future.

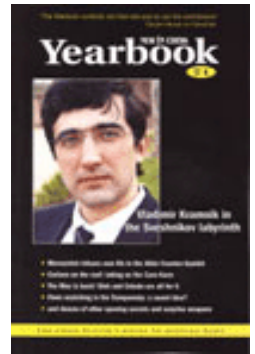
My assessment of this CD: 

[Order](#) *Catalan E00-E09* (CD-ROM)

by Mihail Marin

New In Chess Yearbook - Volume 71 by Genna Sosonko (ed.), 2004 Interchess BV, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 243 pp., \$27.95

The *New in Chess Yearbooks* are a favorite of mine mainly due to the good selection of material and excellent contributors. In this volume there are a few noticeable differences in the presentation. First, the pictures of some of the contributors have been relocated to the front, which I find to be a good change. The next improvement made me very happy because I suggested it; namely that the table of contents should list the author and page number next to the survey. So finding your favorite contributor can now be done without having to browse the entire volume. Also the contents page now lists which books are in the review section.



The material follows its traditional format. First is the "Forum" section where readers send in their ideas, interesting games or improvements. There are 12 letters, including three from the Dutch theoretician A.C. van der Tak, two by the Brazilian correspondence GM Da Costa Junior, and two famed authors each contribute one letter: American IM John Watson and Danish IM Jacob Aagaard. Needless to say, they make some interesting points, as does the vast majority of these letters.

In the regular feature, "Sosonko's Corner," Sosonko discusses Evgeny Sveshnikov's ideas regarding which moves are correct in the opening, and then examines Sveshnikov's most recent contribution to the world of opening theory: The Sveshnikov Gambit. This arises after 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 (this move order is usually chosen by those who are not interested in discussing the latest developments in the Sveshnikov Variation of the Sicilian: 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6) 3...e5 4 Bc4, and now instead of the usual 4...d6 5 d3 Be7, as for example Leko played against Anand in Dortmund 2004, Sveshnikov prefers 4...Be7 5 d3 Nf6 6 Ng5 0-0 7 0-0 d5!?, the move that is made possible by Black refraining to move the d-pawn on move 4. The jury is still out on this line, but according to Sosonko Black has obtained fairly good positions.

Next follows the opening survey section, which is the primary reason to purchase this series of books. As with previous volumes, 33 surveys are included. They are divided as follows:

- Sicilian Defence (7 surveys)
- Pirc Defence (1)
- French Defence (4)
- Caro-Kann Defence (2)
- Petroff Defence (1)
- Ruy Lopez (1)
- Italian Game (1)
- Philidor Defence (1)
- Albin-Counter-Gambit (1)
- Queen's Gambit Declined (1)

- Slav Defence (2)
- Tarrasch Defence (1)
- Nimzo-Indian Defence (1)
- Queen's Indian Defence (1)
- Grünfeld Indian Defence (1)
- King's Indian Defence (2)
- Volga [Benko] Gambit (1)
- Queen's Pawn Opening (1)
- English Opening (2)
- Reti Opening (1)


Even if the above selection doesn't include any opening that is currently in your repertoire, there are always good ideas to become familiar with. There may be openings that you want to test or you may just enjoy the many fascinating games. Some of the games have extensive analysis accompanying the survey, while some are not nearly as impressive, but still quite good. The best surveys are written by some of the usual suspects such as Fogarasi, Lukacs/Hazai, and Bosch, all of whom contribute to nearly every volume. But some of the less frequent contributors also contribute some really impressive work. Here I'm thinking of Nikitin, Golubev/Aagaard (on the Dragon), Tzermiadianos, and Cebalo. The present volume is so jam-packed with new opening ideas and original analysis that it makes you wonder how they can improve on it.

I have found these Yearbooks to be an excellent inspiration that not only shows which direction theory is heading, but also contains worthwhile ideas in minor variations that can be used as surprise weapons, as well as source material for my future repertoire.

The games are generally annotated with only symbols for evaluation purposes, much like *Chess Informant*. But the introduction often serves as an explanatory guide to the trends, typical ideas, and plans, which makes the yearbooks more useful for lower rated players.

Lastly, we find English GM Glenn Flear's reviews of four recent opening books. These are the first two volumes by Khalifman on Anand's opening repertoire, Müller/Voigt's *Danish Dynamite* and Sakaev's recent book on the Grünfeld. Characteristically, his reviews are insightful and he raises some good points, both when praising and when finding possible improvements.

All in all, I will not hesitate to recommend the *New in Chess Yearbook* to anyone who will listen.

My assessment of this book: 

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by Genna Sosonko (ed.)



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