



COLUMNISTS

Checkpoint

Carsten Hansen

**Reviewed this month:*****Play the Sicilian Dragon***

by Edward Dearing

Experts vs. the Sicilian

by Jacob Aagaard & John Shaw (ed.)

Sizilianisch für Müsiggänger

by Valeri Bronznik

Sizilianisch im Geiste des Igels

by Frank Zeller

Secrets of Opening Surprises Vol. 2

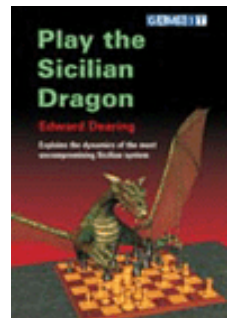
by Jeroen Bosch (ed.)

A Fistful of Sicilians

Before we move on to this month's reviews I would like to pay my last respects to Simon Webb. He was an international master in over-the-board chess, and one of the highest rated correspondence chess grandmasters in the world. I have never met him, but from repeatedly reading his book *Chess for Tigers* I felt as if I got to know him like a friend. His book provided me with endless amounts of entertainment and inspiration, and I'm sure that it has had a similar effect on many others as well. I was stunned and saddened to read the news about his untimely demise and my thoughts are with his wife, family, and close friends.

Play the Sicilian Dragon by Edward Dearing, 2004 Gambit Publications, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 256 pp., \$27.50

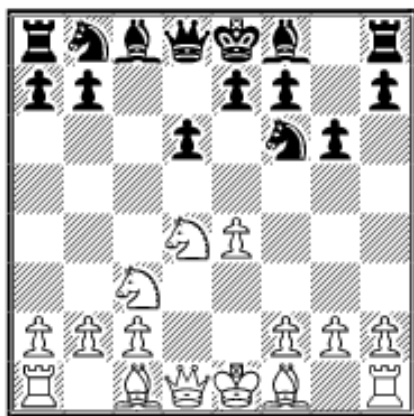
I have a strong affection for the Sicilian Dragon and many books have been written about it; some of them have been good, such as those written by Golubev and Ward, while others have bordered on awful, such as those co-authored by Gufeld. This one, however, is fantastic. It is such a beautifully written book that I wish I had authored it myself. I also must compliment the front cover artist: the image is of a dragon at the chess board about to execute the thirteenth move from a variation found in chapter six.



Let's see how Dearing has divided the material:

- Acknowledgements (2 pages)
- Bibliography (1 page)
- Introduction (15 pages)
- 1 Yugoslav Attack: 12th Move Alternatives for White (11 pages)
- 2 12 Bg5 (6 pages)
- 3 Soltis Variation: 13th Move Alternatives (8 pages)
- 4 13 Kb1 (13 pages)
- 5 13 Bh6 (16 pages)
- 6 13 Bg5 Rc5: Unusual 14th Moves for White (8 pages)
- 7 The Main-Line Soltis Variation: 14 f4!? (8 pages)
- 8 14 g4 with 15 Bxf6 or 15 h5 (5 pages)
- 9 15 f4!?: The Ultimate Main Line (15 pages)
- 10 The Karpov Variation: 14 Kb1 (10 pages)
- 11 12 Kb1: A Modern Emphasis on Prophylaxis (10 pages)
- 12 Alternative Approaches to the to 9 Bc4 Yugoslav for Black (16 pages)
- 13 9 0-0-0 d5: White takes the Pawn (10 pages)
- 14 White Plays 9 0-0-0 and 12 Bd4! (16 pages)
- 15 9 0-0-0 d5: White Maintains the Central Tension (18 pages)
- 16 Black's Alternatives after 9 0-0-0: 9...Nxd4 and 9...Bd7!? (10 pages)
- 17 9 g4!?: A Positional Approach (6 pages)
- 18 The Classical Dragon (19 pages)
- 19 6 Bc4: An Improved Classical? (10 pages)
- 20 6 f4: The Levenfish Variation (7 pages)
- 21 The Fianchetto Variation (9 pages)
- Index of Variations (3 pages)

The Dragon Variation arises after the moves 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6,



and we can see from the contents that not all variations are covered, for instance the lines after 12 h4 Nc4 13 Bxc4 Rxc4 are not included. However, if the author did cover all the conceivable lines of the Dragon as thoroughly as the ones that are included, then we could have had two volumes of this size. The book begins with an all too long list of acknowledgements that is divided into four sections: Friends and Family, Cambridge Friends, Oxford Friends and Chess Friends. Scores of names are mentioned with all sorts of comments attached to them. It resembles

the rambling of a Hollywood actor upon winning an award, except there's no music to cue to stop the poor lad before it gets embarrassing; he just carries on interminably. For example, under Oxford Friends, we find the following: "I would like to thank the members of B3 and, in particular, Chris 'mainstream' Briely (likes Britney Spears, Hollywood blockbusters, Irish women and online gambling; dislikes 'arty things'), Iain 'blind Japanese tourists think I look like Hugh Grant' Shaw (handsome enough, but looks nothing like Hugh Grant), Laura Cushnie (once met Bill Clinton; quite tall, very pretty), Tracey Neuman (makes good pancakes, likes Boots), Adam Hannah (Irish, but very intelligent; still owes Chris money for the dog racing)..." and on it

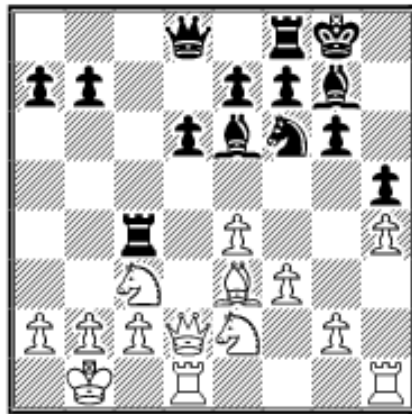
goes.

The bibliography is fairly extensive, but I'm surprised to see Kosanovic's book isn't listed because Dearing seems to have quoted analysis from it on several occasions. It would also have been natural to use Silman and Donaldson's book on the Classical lines, as it is one of the finest books written on the subject, especially when Dearing does include the terribly flawed works by Gufeld & Stetsko and Gufeld & Schiller.

The introduction tells us how he came to play and write about the dragon, along with some history about the variation. It finishes with a thorough 'Understanding The Dragon, The Basics' walk-through of move order tricks, typical pawn structure features, sacrifices, prophylaxis, the use of the long diagonal and much, much more. This is far better coverage than anything I have ever seen before in a book about the Dragon.

Dearing briskly moves on to the Yugoslav Attack and begins chapter one by discussing the 12th move alternatives for White. This may seem odd at first glance, but Dearing makes a good case for his choice.

Here are a couple of examples from chapter four that illustrate what makes this book better than almost any other opening book. The position in question arises after: **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 Ne5 11 Bb3 Rc8 12 h4 h5 13 Kb1 Nc4 14 Bxc4 Rxc4 15 Nde2 Be6**



This is only his side line; the main line is 15...b5!. Now there are two alternatives for White:

"16 Nf4, and now 16...Qc8 17 g4 Kh8 18 gxh5 Nxh5 19 Nxh5 gxh5 20 Rhg1 Bxc3 21 Bd4+ 1-0 was Armino-Glaser, Germany 1995, but Black's play was terrible. A superior course of development would be 16...Qd7, followed by 17...Rfc8, with plenty of counterplay on the queenside. It should be noted at this point that, as a general rule, where White adopts a strategy of infiltrating the d5-square with a knight, the black queen is rarely well-placed in the Dragon on c7, b6 or c8. On c7 or b6 the queen risks being harassed by the c3/f4-knight via the manoeuvre Bxf6 followed by Nd5, and on c8 the queen fails to protect the e7-point, meaning that White can occasionally add momentum to his attack via a timely Nd5, which consequently forces Black to take time out from his counter-attacking or defensive manoeuvres to defend the e7-point."


"16 e5 Ne8 17 exd6 [CH: he also covers 17 Bh6 Bxe5! in a separate note] 17...Nxd6 18 Bh6 Qa5 was comfortable for Black in Petschar-Schneider, Vienna 1982, which continued 19 Bxg7 Kxg7 20 Nf4 Rfc8 21 Nxe6+ fxe6 22 Ne2 Qf5 23 Nd4 Qf6 24 c3 e5 25 Nc2 Rxh4. Sapi & Schneider assess this position as unclear, whereas Mayer believes it to be better for Black. I first prepared this line when I was 15 years old and, looking back at my notes, I concluded that I preferred Black in this position. Now I am rather undecided - yes Black is a pawn up, but he suffers from severe structural weaknesses, and

following 26 Rhe1 White appears to have good compensation in the form of a weak pawn on e5 (which ties down the black queen), the slightly misplaced rook on h4, and the weakness of the d5-square, which may soon provide and outpost for the white queen or troublesome white knight, via the manoeuvre Ne3/b4-d5, after which the e7-pawn may also prove to be a weakness.”

The majority of the potential readers of this book will learn much about chess from comments such as this, which can be found throughout the book. For those that are concerned that the book is filled with more prose than variations, don't worry it isn't. Devoted Dragon fans such as I will find tons of new material, particular because the author includes so much of his own analysis, improvements over existing theory, and other suggestions – as well as examples from his own games, which are not all widely known.

As mentioned earlier, not all lines are covered, but this isn't exactly a repertoire book; many sidelines are included that wouldn't naturally be part of his suggested repertoire. For example, the line with 10...Qa5 that was recently popularized by Ward in *Winning with the Sicilian Dragon 2* or the Chinese Variation (with 10...Rb8!?), against which Dearing only covers the lines he thinks are most dangerous for Black

I could happily dissect this book chapter by chapter, but the conclusion would be the same. This is an awesome book that is a must-buy for anybody playing these lines with either Black or White. Also, if you are hungry for an intensive course on how to play positions with opposite-side castled kings, and how to conduct attacks and counterattacks, this book will satisfy your appetite for interesting and intelligently-chosen material, supported by liberal amounts of analysis and prose. This is a supreme first outing and clearly a labor of love for this young author. I am looking forward to what the future will bring from his hands. This book is a tough one to follow.

My assessment of this book: 

[Order](#) *Play the Sicilian Dragon*

by Edward Dearing

Experts vs. the Sicilian by Jacob Aagaard & John Shaw (ed.), 2004 Quality Chess Europe AB, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 288 pp., \$24.95

Both of the editors of this book should be familiar to regular readers of this column and together they have started a new chess publishing company called Quality Chess Europe AB. This book is their first publication and they seem to have a stable of interesting writers for future books. I wish them the best of luck in their efforts.



In this book each line of the Sicilian is covered by a specialist on that particular line, and the team of writers assembled for this book is absolutely amazing. Each specialist then recommends a line against their favorite system and covers it as they see fit. Their approaches differ considerably and one chapter can be extremely heavy on variations with almost no prose, while another chapter may give fewer variations with a deeper discussion about general ideas. Such differing approaches can be interesting to see, but perhaps hard to follow for the average player.

The material is divided as follows, along with the author of each chapter:

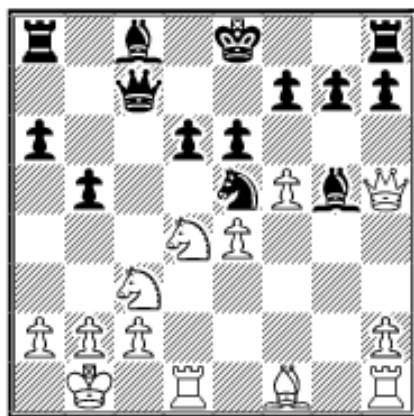
- The writers (3 pages)
- The Najdorf (33 pages - GM Thomas Luther, Germany)
- The Dragon (48 pages - GM Mikhail Golubev, Ukraine)
- The Sveshnikov (21 pages - IM Jacob Aagaard, Denmark/Scotland)
- The Classical Sicilian (37 pages - GM Peter Wells, England)
- The Kan and Taimanov (40 pages - GM Sune Berg Hansen, Denmark)
- The Accelerated Dragon (11 pages - GM Peter Heine Nielsen, Denmark)
- The Scheveningen (20 pages - GM Viktor Gavrikov, Switzerland)
- The Kalashnikov (9 pages - IM Jan Pinski, Poland)
- The Four Knights (8 pages - IM Alexander Raetsky, Russia)
- The Pin Variation (12 pages - IM Jacob Aagaard)
- The Nimzowitsch Variation (16 pages - IM Jacob Aagaard)
- Minor Lines (16 pages - IM John Shaw, Scotland)
- 5th move alternatives (6 pages - IM Jacob Aagaard)
- List of variations (2 pages)
- List of games (1 page)

The page allocation does occasionally seem odd. It may take 48 pages to cover the Dragon, but it seems like a lot given that White opts for the line with 9 0-0-0 and thus avoids the massive amounts of theory surrounding 9 Bc4. Moreover, the Dragon fills as many pages as the Sveshnikov, the Scheveningen and the Four Knights combined, which means that either the Dragon is taking up too many pages or the other chapters are taking up too few. Also, that the Nimzowitsch Variation fills 16 pages seems somewhat excessive, while the 11 pages Peter Heine Nielsen wrote to cover the Accelerated Dragon seems awfully short in comparison with many of the other chapters. However, the page allocation may not be that important; after all, the value of the material isn't determined by page count, but by the quality of what has been written on them. To cover everything in detail is next to impossible, but I will give you my impression of each chapter:

The Najdorf: I found this chapter to be decent, but there are a few holes here and there, and one thing in particular struck me as being inconsiderate towards the reader:

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9

0-0-0 Nbd7 10 g4 b5 11 Bxf6 Nxf6 12 g5 Nd7 13 f5 Bxg5+ 14 Kb1 Ne5 15 Qh5,



and now there are three continuations that I want to look at:

a) **15...Qd8** is dismissed with “**16 h4 Bf6 17 fxe6 0-0 18 Bh3**. White is better in Luther-Vink, Wijk aan Zee 2001.” This is true, but it is cutting it very short. Even the ECO, which is known for brevity in covering certain lines, gives more: **18...fxe6 19 Bxe6+ Kh8 20 Nd5 Nc4** (20...Bb7 21 Rdf1! Qe8 22 Qd1 Bxd5 23 Bxd5 Rc8 24 Ne6 Rf7 25 b3! is clearly better for White as in Pavlovic-Ki.Georgiev, Yugoslav Team ch 1998) **21 Nc6!**

Qe8 22 Qxe8 Rxe8 23 Nxf6 Rxe6 24 Nd5 intending Nc7 with a clear advantage for White according to Pavlovic. I doubt the average reader would figure this out on his or her own.

b) **15...Bf6! 16 Nxe6 Bxe6 17 fxe6** is rounded off with the following comment by Luther: “and the position needs further investigation.” This is not very user-friendly, despite the fact that I also think White is clearly better in this line.

c) **15...Qe7** is ECO’s main line, following the game Ernst-van Wely, Reykjavik 1994, which leads to an unclear position according to ECO. Luther only comments that it is weaker than 15...Bf6. Hmmm...

The Dragon: Golubev is universally considered one of the greatest experts on the Dragon, and in this very long chapter he proves it once again. For a moment you actually become quite concerned for the health of this variation. His coverage is concentrated on the Yugoslav Attack with 9 0-0-0, and it appears that he more or less has put 9...Nxd4 and 9...Bd7 away for good, while he has managed to dig out a slight plus for White in the lines after 9...d5!. Outstanding work.

The Sveshnikov: This chapter is okay, though without making much of a positive impression. One of my favorite comments from this chapter is when Aagaard mentions a move suggested by Golubev, who gave it as unclear. Aagaard then continues by writing: “However, this seems to be a bit superficial,” and then offers no further analysis himself! Excuse me; is that being lazy or perhaps a bit superficial...?

The Classical: I very much enjoyed this chapter. It has a good balance between variations and prose. Wells comments are instructive and you come away with a solid understanding of the variation, pawn structures, and much more. However, I don’t think Black should have too much difficulty defending against Wells’ recommendations with best play for both sides.

The Kan and Taimanov: The coverage in this chapter is the best in the entire book. The lines that Sune Berg Hansen suggests are very sharp and interesting, additionally he has littered his coverage with improvements over existing theory and original pieces of analysis. Great job.

The Accelerated Dragon: Initially I was quite surprised by the brevity of this chapter.

But Peter Heine Nielsen makes an excellent point, which originally was explained to him by Boris Gulko: in the Accelerated Dragon Black is generally quite happy to exchange his c6-knight for White's d4-knight, so why should White allow it? Therefore, the choice of 6 Nc2 in the Maroczy Bind is a logical choice. Nielsen's coverage is markedly short, but rather than drowning the reader in variations, he explains the main ideas for both sides supported by just enough theory to satisfy the reader. In fact, Nielsen followed his own recommendations to win an effortless game against a strong Norwegian IM in the Drammen tournament earlier this year.

The Scheveningen: Grandmaster Gavrikov's coverage of the Keres Attack against the Scheveningen is to the point and quite convincing, although this chapter almost exclusively consists of variations with very little prose.

The Kalashnikov: A couple of years ago Pinski and Aagaard co-authored a monograph on this line where Pinski enthusiastically, and fairly objectively, endorsed a variation he used to play himself. However, now he writes that he cannot believe that he got away with playing the line for as long as he did, and Pinski does a good job of causing Black serious problems.

The Four Knights: This is a relatively rare line. It is quite solid, but it can bite back if White gets too optimistic or too careless. Raetsky shows how to get an edge against his pet line, but I wouldn't be surprised if it isn't as easy as he makes it sound.

The Pin Variation and *The Nimzowitsch Variation* are both covered by Aagaard, who clearly has put thought and energy into his coverage. Although White doesn't get a convincing advantage, I was left with the impression that it really is all one can count on, unless you are ready to take big risks and possibly end up getting punished yourself. An excellent job by Aagaard.

Minor Lines: These lines are covered by Shaw. He starts out with **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 b6** against which he recommends **3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Bb7 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3**. I don't think this is particularly critical, nor does Zeller in the book that I'm reviewing below, who calls 6 Be3 "not without poison, but the most dangerous either." However, there are many other lines covered in which he does an excellent job of finding problematic lines for Black. In fact, he manages to question the validity of a variation that is covered in a book by Bronznik, which is reviewed below. There may be one or two very minor lines that are not covered, but frankly I think you will survive.

Overall, I like the book, despite the un-streamlined presentation, and the authors manage to offer a repertoire for White that leads to some sort of advantage against all of Black's alternatives. I'm less impressed with the editing, as there are all sorts of problems: incorrect spellings, odd punctuation, questionable arrangement of variations, noun/verb problems, typos, and a host of other small issues. Good editing is particularly important when most of the authors don't use English as their first language and therefore tend to repeatedly use the same phrases and words.

This book is ideal for players on the White side of the open Sicilian because the ideas provided by the authors can be used as inspirational alternatives when playing your own games. Those playing the Sicilian as Black should probably also consider buying this book as you may want to know what lines you are likely to meet in the near future.

My assessment of this book:

Experts vs. the Sicilian

by Jacob Aagaard & John Shaw (ed.)

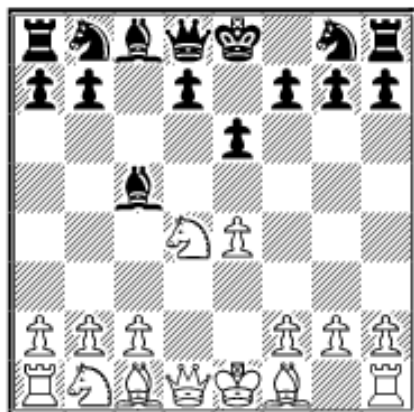
Sizilianisch für Müßiggänger by Valeri Bronznik, 2004 Schachverlag Kania, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Hardback, 174 pp., \$24.95

This is the first of two books in German that I will briefly look at this month; both deal with minor lines in the Sicilian that are normally ignored by mainstream publishers in English. The bigger publishing houses more or less exclusively focus on main systems and lines that are generally sound.



These neatly produced German books are heavy, handsomely produced volumes: hardback, great paper quality, neat print, clear diagrams, etc. It is clear that the publisher takes pride in publishing quality books that will last for years to come. Obviously, there is a language barrier to deal with, but the majority of the book consists of game moves, variations and relatively short evaluations and description of plans. So the book can easily be read with the help of a small dictionary, although it occasionally has good chunks of prose as well.

The title of the book loosely translates as Sicilian for the lazy (or the idler), which sounds like an oxymoron as few variations in the Sicilian allow either side to be lazy. The line which we are dealing with is dubbed the Basman-Sale Variation and arises after **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Bc5!?**



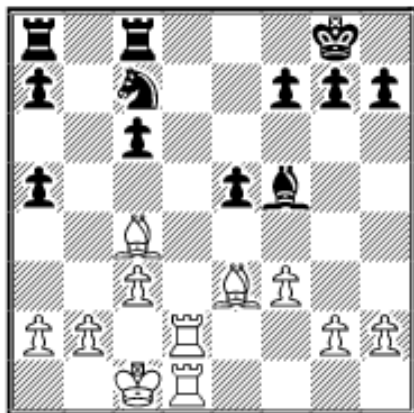
One of the main lines is: **5 Nb3 Bb6 6 Nc3 Ne7 7 Bd3 0-0 8 0-0 f5!** And who wouldn't want to play a line like this? It is very easy to feel compelled to give it a try.

The material is divided as follows:

- Einführung / Introduction (3 pages)
- Etwas über die Geschichte unserer Variante / History of the Variation (4 pages)
- Typische Pläne und ideen / Typical Plans and Ideas (11 pages)
- Part One - Systems without 5 Nb3 (3 chapters - 35 pages)
- Part Two (a) - Systems with 5 Nb3 (7 chapters - 63 pages)

- Part Two (b) - White plays 5 Nb3 Bb6 6 c4 (5 chapters - 22 pages)
- Part Three - 3 Nc3 (1 chapter - 25 pages)
- Indexes (6 pages)

The author has put a tremendous amount of work into this book to develop the theory and to improve the little theory that does exist. However, it still has a lot of developing to do before it becomes established as there are many gray areas that require some polishing. For instance, I think John Shaw has found a weak spot in this line: **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Bc5 5 Nc3 Qb6 6 Na4 Qa5+ 7 c3 Bxd4 8 Qxd4 Nf6 9 Nc5 Nc6 10 Qd6 b6 11 Nb3 Nxe4 12 Qxc6 dxc6 13 Nxa5 bxa5 14 Be3 0-0 15 0-0-0 e5 16 Bc4 Bf5 17 f3 Nf6 18 Rd6 Rfc8 19 Rhd1 Ne8 20 R6d2 Nc7,**



and now the game Hamdani-Zaw Win Lay, Vietnam 2003, continued with the unambitious 21 Rd6 (inviting a draw by repetition after 21...Ne8), but Shaw indicates that White retains the advantage after 21 a4 Be6 22 Bxe6 Nxe6 23 Rd7, and White will soon win the pawn back with a continued initiative. The resulting position is quite uncomfortable for Black, who doesn't have much counterplay and the onus is now on Black to find an improvement in this line.

Aside from this line, I'm pleasantly surprised with the present book; there are plenty of pieces of original analysis, improvements, new ideas and other kinds of suggestions. The material is well-presented and neatly organized and there is a good balance between prose and variations. If you intend to buy this book, knowledge of German is an advantage, but not a requirement.

My assessment of this book: 

Sizilianisch für Müssiggänger
by Valeri Bronznik

Sizilianisch im Geiste des Igels by Frank Zeller, 2004 Schachverlag Kania, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Hardback, 303 pp., \$24.95

The title of this book translates to The Sicilian in the Spirit of the Hedgehog, and the underlying theme is how to reach Hedgehog-like positions in the different variations of the mainline Sicilian. The material is divided as follows:

- Vorwort / Foreword (2 pages)
- Einführung / Introduction (2 pages)
- 1 Der "Königsweg" zum Igel / The highway to the Hedgehog (21 pages)
- 2 Die Klassische Variante mit Be2 / The Classical Variation with Be2 (62 pages)




- 3 Die Fianchettospielweise 6 g3 (nach 5 Nc3) / The Fianchetto set-up 6 g3 (24 pages)
- 4 Weiss spielt Bd3 und f4 (nach Nc3) / White plays Bd3 and f4 (after Nc3) (57 pages)
- 5 Die Spezialdisziplin: Der Paulsen-Igel! / The Special Discipline: The Paulsen Hedgehog (40 pages)
- 6 Besonderheiten: 5 c4 und 2...b6 / Peculiarities: 5 c4 and 2...b6 (25 pages)
- Variantenindex / Index of Variation (5 pages)
- Quellenverzeichnis / Bibliography (1 page)

I cannot recall having seen another work like this. It is in an inspirational study of Hedgehog-structures and transpositions, as well as a theoretical work on Hedgehog variations that arise from the Paulsen Sicilian.

It is necessary to be able to read some German to get the full benefit from this book. However, you will soon reap significant benefits from studying it. It is very detailed and the discussions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the various set-ups and pawn structures are very enlightening. Similarly, the theoretical coverage of the various lines is good and thorough with plenty of original material, independent analysis, theoretical improvements and suggestions.

If you have any interest in these lines with either side, it is well worth the effort to understand the German text. This is an excellent work that I hope will find its way to a broader audience.

My assessment of this book: 

Order *Sizilianisch im Geiste des Igels*

by Frank Zeller

Secrets of Opening Surprises Vol. 2 by Jeroen Bosch (ed.), 2004 New In Chess, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 141 pp., \$21.95

The first volume of *Secrets of Opening Surprises* was a compilation of Jeroen Bosch's columns from *New in Chess* magazine. Now, apparently, it is to become a series of books published twice a year in both English and German. Both volumes have been on the *New in Chess* bestseller list since they were published, which isn't all that surprising because we are all trying to outsmart our opponents in the opening, and this can be achieved with very little effort using the numerous curveballs that are included in these titles. Your opponents are nearly always bound to know less about these lines than you, and the variations can be exceedingly difficult to deal with if you are not prepared.




This second volume has a quite a number of contributors, who are all familiar names, including grandmasters, international master and well-known theoreticians. The

material is divided as follows:

- Contents (4 pages)
- 1 Jeroen Bosch - The SOS Files (8 pages)
- 2 Ian Rogers - Refining Fischer's Plan (6 pages)
- 3 Alexander Beliavsky - Destroying the Benoni Wall (5 pages)
- 4 Maxim Notkin - When I was Young (10 pages)
- 5 Jeroen Bosch - Morozevich's Pet Line in the Albin (7 pages)
- 6 Michal Krasenkow - The Dutch in the English (7 pages)
- 7 Dorian Rogozenko - Follow the Experts (11 pages)
- 8 Jeroen Bosch - Let's wait and see: 3...h6 in the French (9 pages)
- 9 Sergei Movsesian - Play like a Beginner (6 pages)
- 10 Dimitri Reinderman - The Haberditz Variation (5 pages)
- 11 Jeroen Bosch - Get the Edge on the Budapest (8 pages)
- 12 Igor Glek - Gambit Lines in the Glek Variation (11 pages)
- 13 Jeroen Bosch - Beating the Van Geet (6 pages)
- 14 Dorian Rogozenko - A Latvian Speciality vs the Dragon (8 pages)
- 15 Mihai Grünberg - It is Better Playing White (5 pages)
- 16 Glenn Flear - The Solid but Tricky Fianchetto Spanish (12 pages)
- 17 Jonathan Rowson - The Improved Nadanian (8 pages)

This is an impressive list of contributors, many of whom are rated over 2600. All of the surveys cover off-beat or minor lines. Rowson writes about a little-known line in the Grünfeld, Glek about his own line in the Four Knights, Krasenkow, who peaked at 2700 a few years ago, writes about the English: 1 Nf3 c5 2 c4 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 f5!?, which was actually used by former World Championship challenger Nigel Short against Krasenkow himself at last year's FIDE World Championship KO tournament in Libya.

In all cases the lines are interesting and in most cases positively surprising. Not all are suited to everybody's style, but we are not dealing with a repertoire book. This is more an off-beat catalogue of ideas, which can be mixed with the more conventional lines covered in the *New in Chess Yearbooks*. I love the idea behind this series and I hope for its continued success. However, please change the cover; it isn't exactly easy on the eye.

My assessment of this book: 

Order *Secrets of Opening Surprises Vol. 2*
by Jeroen Bosch (ed.)

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