



COLUMNISTS

The Kibitzer

Tim Harding



Order
[*Mega Corr 3*](#)
 Edited by Tim Harding

One Hundred Years Ago:

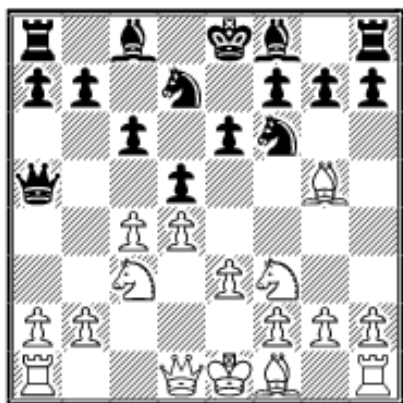
Chess in the Year 1904

1904 was an eventful year in the chess world. The *American Chess Bulletin* first appeared early in that year; under the editorship of Hermann Helms, it ran for nearly 60 years. In November Dr Emanuel Lasker's long-planned chess magazine (less long-lived but of historical significance) also began publication.

Most importantly, this was the year of the Cambridge Springs tournament in the United States, where Lasker returned to competitive play after a long break. This was the most important tournament of the year.

The Origins of a Variation

This event is partly remembered for the variation in the Queen's Gambit that is named after the small Pennsylvania spa town where the tournament was played. This variation, which may be a little risky but gives Black more dynamic chances than many lines of the orthodox Queen's Gambit Declined, arises via 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Nbd7 5 Nf3 c6 6 e3 Qa5 and can also be reached by transposition from the Semi-Slav.



Thus after 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 e6 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 Bg5 instead of the Botvinnik Variation (5...dxc4) or Moscow Variation (5...h6), Black can also play 5...Nbd7 when White must either play a form of Exchange Variation (6 cxd5) or else 6 e3, allowing the Cambridge Springs.

Like many opening variation names, however, this is rather a misnomer. The variation was not first played at Cambridge Springs.

In the book *The Cambridge Springs* by Polish masters Krzysztof Panczyk and Jacek Ilczuk (Gambit Publications, 2002) a brief historical introduction states (correctly so far as I know) that the position after 6...Qa5 first arose in a New York simultaneous display game of 1892 where Emanuel Lasker was Black and Albert Hodges (who, by coincidence, played at Cambridge Springs) played White. They mention correctly but the line was "played sporadically in later tournament practice" but then comes the statement that "The tournament held in Cambridge Springs 1904 was a turning-point for the system since several games were played between top-level players of the day".

This is stretching the truth rather far. “Several” is an exaggeration since there were only three of them, and only two of those were between top-level players either (Marshall-Teichmann and Schlechter-Teichmann). The other was between two American amateurs who finished 14th and 15th in the table. The games in the event were not of great importance theoretically and Black only scored one draw from the three games. Yet in a way the Polish writers are correct since somehow the name stuck.

The line began to be played at other major tournaments later in the year, although not very successfully. For example, of eight games with the ‘Cambridge Springs’ at the London international (see below), Black lost four times and only Napier managed to score a win.

At present I am reading the new biography, by John Hilbert, of Walter Penn Shipley (published by McFarland, 2003). Shipley was one of the leading US amateurs and chess organisers of this period and was at least as strong a player as the players who occupied the bottom quarter of the tournament table. Looking at his games in that book, it is clear that the ‘Cambridge Springs Variation’ was already quite current in American practice before the 1904 tournament.

Hilbert’s book has some early examples of the variation. In the Continental Correspondence Tournament preliminaries (1896-98) Julius A. Kaiser played the variation against Shipley. In 1900 he tried it himself with Black in a game from the ‘Twentieth Century’ tournament organised by the Pillsbury National Correspondence Chess Association. He tried to play it against Lasker himself in a 1901 simul in Philadelphia but after 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Nbd7 Lasker inverted the moves and played 5 e3 c6 6 c5?!; Shipley won in 24 moves.

The telegraph match between the Chicago Chess Club and the Franklin Chess Club of Philadelphia was played only 10 days before the tournament started. This was one of the games played on that occasion; since Philadelphia is close to Cambridge Springs it is quite possible that the tournament participants knew of it.

F.F. Wilcox - Aaron Goldberg
QG Cambridge Springs (D52)
Chicago CC-Franklin CC Cable Match, 1904

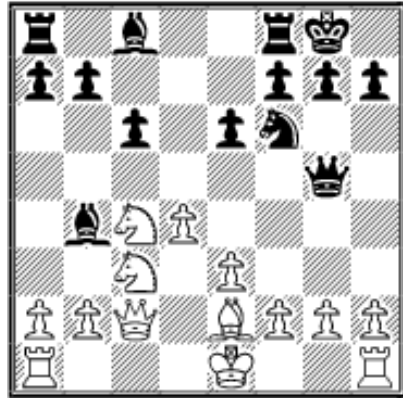
1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Nbd7 5 e3 c6 6 Nf3 Qa5 7 Nd2 Bb4

The innovation at the tournament soon afterwards was that Teichmann preferred 7...Ne4 to the usual (and preferable) 7...Bb4. A third possibility is 7...dxc4.

8 Qc2 0-0 9 Be2

This game follows a course that is more in accord with modern recommendations than the games played at Cambridge Springs. According to Panczyk and Ilczuk, this move is better than 9 Bd3, which was seen at the end of May in W.M. de Visser-J.W. Young from the match played at New York between the Franklin Club and Manhattan Chess Club.

9...dxc4 10 Bxf6 Nxf6 11 Nxc4 Qg5!?



The queen is exposed to attack here. 11...Qc7 is more in accord with modern theory, but nevertheless the chosen move may be playable (see the next note).

12 Bf3 Nd5 13 0-0 Kh8

13...Qd8 14 Rad1 Ne7 15 e4 Ng6 16 a3 Be7 17 g3 b5 18 Ne3 Qb6 19 Rd2 Bb7 20 Rfd1 Rac8 21 b4 a5 ½-½ was K.Ribic-M.Knaus, Zürich open-2 1989.

14 Ne4 Qf5 15 Ne5 h5 16 Qb3 g6??

Black has drifted in the last few moves and this is an outright blunder, costing a piece.

17 Ng3 Qg5 18 Bxd5 exd5 19 Qxb4 Kg7 20 f4 Qd8 21 f5 Qg5 22 f6+ Kg8 23 Rf4 Bh3 24 Raf1 Rfe8 25 Nf3 Qh6 26 Qd6 1-0.

The Cambridge Springs Tournament

For the details of what happened in the tournament, see the crosstable. Marshall, the only unbeaten player, had a big surprise win, finishing two points clear of both Lasker and Janowski; the latter lost to both of them. Marshall also won the 7th USA Congress, played in St Louis, conceding just one draw in nine games.

The question of who was the new American number one was essentially settled at Cambridge Springs by the following game, between Pillsbury's predecessor as U.S. Champion, and the "young gun".

Frank Marshall - Jackson Whipps Showalter

Albin Counter-Gambit (D08)

Cambridge Springs, 1904

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5

Playing gambits against Marshall was just leading into his strong suit. Schlechter squandered his White against Marshall with a tactical open game whereas a strategic struggle would have been more testing for Black.

3 dxe5 d4 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 a3

Marshall had played 5 Bf4 against Lawrence in an earlier round. Nowadays lines involving 5 g3 or 5 Nbd2 are usually preferred.

5...a5

Black tries to stop the plan of b2-b4 in conjunction with Bb2 and Nb1–d2-b3 to encircle the d-pawn.

6 h3?!

A slow move which prevents ...Bg4 but should give Black sufficient compensation. Showalter himself had played the superior 6 Nbd2 with White against Cohn (Munich 1900).

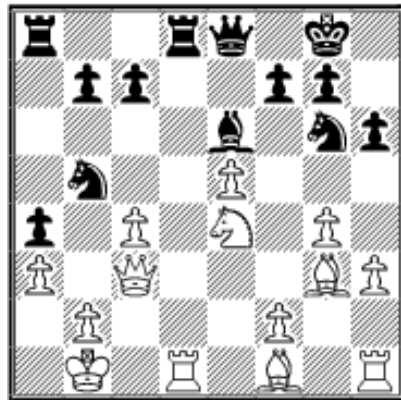
6...Bc5 7 Bg5 Nge7 8 Nbd2 h6 9 Bh4 a4

9...Be6 10 Rc1?! (10 Ne4 looks better, or perhaps the immediate 10 g4) 10...a4 11 g4 Qd7 12 Bg2 Ng6 13 Bg3 h5! 14 gxh5 Rxh5 15 h4 Nxe5 16 Nxe5 Nxe5 17 Ne4 had occurred in Janowski-Tarrasch, Monte Carlo 1902. Now Tarrasch thought that 17...Be7!? was better for Black and Chigorin suggested 17...Nc4 18 Bf3 Rf5 19 Bg4 Nb2 but Showalter either forgot this or thought he would get his "improvement" in before Marshall.

10 g4 Be6 11 Qc2

Marshall reveals his new idea in this line: to castle queenside.

11...Qd7 12 Ne4 Bb6 13 0–0–0 Ng6 14 Bg3 0–0 15 e3 Rfd8 16 Kb1 Qe8 17 exd4 Bxd4 18 Nxd4 Nxd4 19 Qc3 Nb5



This flashy move actually achieves nothing. Black already has nothing for the sacrificed pawn and soon will give up second one to try to make something happen.

20 Qc1 Rxd1 21 Qxd1 Rd8 22 Qxa4 Rd4?

Marshall brushes off this attempt to confuse matters; he just calculated more accurately than Showalter throughout.

22...Qc6 had to be tried although White should be winning after 23 Bg2 Nc3+ 24 Nxc3 Qxg2 25 Rd1 Rxd1+ 26 Qxd1.

23 Qxb5 Bd7 24 Qc5 Rxe4 25 f3 b6

Now Black loses the exchange because his rook is trapped. 26 Qb4 Re3 or 26 Qxc7 Re3 was presumably the "point" of Showalter's play, expecting to win the e-pawn.

32...Qxh3 33 Rd8+ Kh7 34 Qd3+ g6 35 Qd4 f6 36 Rc8.

33 Qe5 g6 34 Qxc7 Qe1+ 35 Ka2 Qe6 36 Qf4 b5 37 Rd6 Qe8 38 Qd4 1-0

For the famous Pillsbury-Lasker game, see later in this article. A postscript to the tournament is that in the meeting between the Franklin and Manhattan Clubs, Pillsbury defeated Marshall. Hilbert says that there is no significance to the fact that the game was on board two because teams for matches were often not listed in descending order of strength as would normally be the case nowadays.

Cambridge Springs 1904

1	Marshall	□	½	1	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	13.0	
2	Lasker	½	□	1	½	½	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	11.0	76.75
3	Janowski	0	0	□	½	½	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	11.0	69.75
4	Marco	½	½	½	□	½	½	1	½	0	1	0	½	1	½	1	1	9.0	
5	Showalter	0	½	½	½	□	½	1	1	1	½	0	½	½	½	½	1	8.5	
6	Schlechter	0	1	0	½	½	□	0	½	½	0	½	1	1	½	1	½	7.5	50.75
7	Chigorin	½	0	0	0	0	1	□	½	1	0	1	1	½	1	0	1	7.5	48.75

8	Pillsbury	0	1	0	½	0	½	½	½	0	1	½	½	0	1	½	1	7.0	47.50
9	Mieses	0	0	0	1	0	½	0	1	½	1	1	1	0	½	1	0	7.0	45.75
10	Fox	0	0	1	0	½	1	1	0	0	½	1	0	1	1	0	0	6.5	47.25
11	Teichmann	0	0	0	1	1	½	0	½	0	0	½	1	½	0	1	1	6.5	42.50
12	Napier	½	0	0	½	½	0	0	½	0	1	0	½	0	1	1	½	5.5	37.50
13	Lawrence	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	1	1	0	½	1	½	½	0	½	5.5	35.50
14	Barry	0	½	0	½	½	½	0	0	½	0	1	0	½	½	0	1	5.0	35.25
15	Hodges	0	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	0	1	0	0	1	1	½	0	5.0	32.25
16	Delmar	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	1	1	0	½	½	0	1	½	4.5	

When the last round dawned at Cambridge Springs, Marshall (12/14) had Black against Fox. Victory could not be taken for granted; Janowski had been sharing the lead the event with 8/9 until downed by Fox, but Marshall only needed a draw to clinch outright first and in the event he won.

Lasker was a point behind Janowski and needed to beat him with Black for a share of second place. Here is how he did it.

Dawid Janowski - Emanuel Lasker

Four Knights Game (C48)

Cambridge Springs 1904

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bb5 Bc5?! 5 Nxe5

Jan Pinski's recent book 'The Four Knights' favors 5 Bxc6, with an Exchange Spanish where Black has developed his minor pieces on unsuitable squares.

5...Nxe5

Later Rubinstein introduced the gambit line 5...Nd4 and then improved on that with 4...Nd4.

6 d4 Bd6 7 f4 Ng6

7...Ng6 is more precise.

8 e5 c6!?



8...Bb4 is a more normal move but this is not a very normal game.

9 Bc4?

Better is 9 exd6! cxb5 10 Qe2+ Kf8 11 f5 according to Zak's book on Lasker.

9...Bc7 10 exf6 Qxf6 11 0-0 d5 12 Bxd5 cxd5 13 Nxd5 Qd6 14 Qe2+ Ne7

14...Kf8 was possible too, to avoid pins on the e-file.

15 Re1 Bd8 16 c4 f6

16...Be6 17 Nxe7 Bxe7 18 d5 Bd7 19 Bd2 Kf8! is suggested in Zak's book.

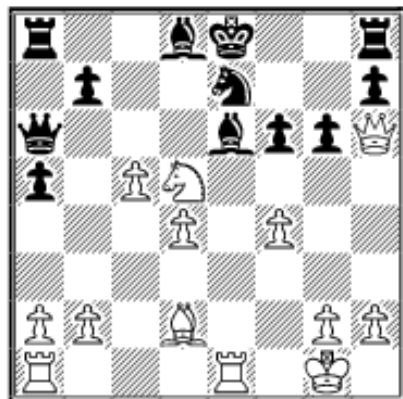
17 Bd2 a5 18 Qh5+ g6 19 c5 Qa6

19...Qc6 is suggested in Zak's book, but Varnusz then gives 20 Nxe7 Bxe7 21 Qe2 Qc7 22 f5 e.g. 22...Kd8 23 Bf4 Qd7 24 Qe3 Re8 25 d5 claiming that White wins.

20 Qh6

White threatens to break through by 21 Nxe7 bxe7 22 Rxe7+ Kxe7 23 Qg7+.

20...Be6

**21 Nxf6+?**

Janowski misses the tide in the affairs of men, which Shakespeare said should be taken at the flood. The alternatives to this simplistic check were:

a) 21 Qg7 Bxd5! 22 Qxh8+ Kd7 23 Qxh7 (Tarrasch) 23...Qd3! 24 Rad1 Qf5 (Zak);

b) 21 Nxe7 Bxe7 22 d5 Bxd5! (Maybe better than castling queenside, which is the only move considered in the Varnusz book) 23 Rxe7+ (23 Qg7 0–0–0=) 23...Kxe7 24 Qg7+ Bf7 25 Re1+ Kd7 26 Qxf7+ Kc8 27 Bc3 Kb8 28 Bxf6 Rc8 29 Be5+ Ka7 30 Qxh7 Qc6 unclear (Zak);

c) 21 Nb6! (Chigorin) cuts the black queen off from the defence and creates a critical situation for Black:

c1) 21...Bxb6 22 Rxe6 0–0–0 23 Rxb6 Qd3! is given as unclear by Varnusz but Fritz8 is sceptical. White may be winning after 24 Qg7 Qxd4+ 25 Kh1, although there is a lot to analyse, or he can try to get queens off by 24 Bc3 Nf5 25 Qh3 Qxh3 26 gxh3 Nxd4.

c2) 21...Kf7 22 Rxe6 Nf5! 23 Qh3 Kxe6 24 Qb3+ Ke7 25 Re1+ Kf8 26 Nxa8 Qxa8 27 Qe6 h5! Black has chances to defend (Zak).

21...Kf7 22 Ne4 Nf5 23 Qh3 Be7 24 Bc3 Bd5

Black is starting to construct a robust defence.

25 g4 Nh4 26 Nd6+ Kf8 27 Rxe7

This combination is incorrect but Janowski would lose anyway with quiet play.

27...Nf3+ 28 Qxf3 Bxf3 29 Rf7+ Kg8 30 d5 Bxd5 31 Rg7+ Kf8 32 Re1 Qc6 33 b4 Rd8 34 Bd4 Rxd6! 35 cxd6 Bh1! 0–1**European Events of 1904**

Other significant tournaments of the year took place in Europe. These included the 17-player London tournament (mostly IM-standard and won by Napier and Teichmann ahead of Gunsberg and Blackburne) and the annual German Congress in Coburg (won by Swiderski and Schlechter, without the participation of Dr Tarrasch). There was also a large Vienna gambit tournament (won by Schlechter from Maroczy) and Rice Gambit tournaments in London (9-player double round, won by Teichmann) and Monte Carlo (won by Swiderski and Marshall). Monte Carlo was less important in 1904. The main event was a 6-player double-rounder won by Maroczy ahead of Schlechter.

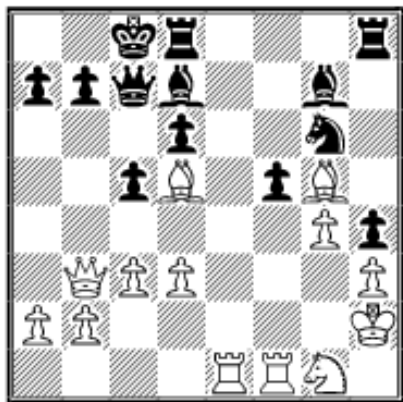
This was also the year when the first official British Championship tournament was played – in Hastings, naturally. Napier

So this was a good year for Napier (1881-1952) despite his mediocre result at Cambridge Springs (5½-15 for 12th place). He had spent much of his youth in America and soon returned there, becoming a US citizen and reducing his chess activities. Here is one of his games from 1904.

Closed Sicilian (B25)

London international 1904

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Nge2 g6 4 g3 Bg7 5 Bg2 Nf6 6 0–0 d6 7 d3 Bd7 8 h3 Qc8 9 Kh2 h5 10 Nd5 Ng8 11 c3 e6 12 Ne3 Qc7 13 f4 Nge7 14 Bd2 f5 15 Ng1 h4 16 g4 e5 17 exf5 exf4 18 Nd5 Nxd5 19 Bxd5 Ne7 20 Qb3 0–0–0 21 Bxf4 gxf5 22 Rae1 Ng6 23 Bg5



23...fxg4!

From an unclear, possibly slightly disadvantageous position, Napier takes the correct (Petrosian-like!) decision to sacrifice the exchange. This sets the opponent problems and creates winning chances (as well as losing ones), whereas 23...Rdf8 24 gxf5 Rh5 25 fxg6 Rxf5 26 Rxf8+ Bxf8 27 Rf1 gives White pressure without risk.

24 Bxd8 g3+ 25 Kg2?

This costs a vital tempo later. 25 Kh1 was correct.

25...Rxd8 26 Rf7

$^{26}\text{Be}_4$ and $^{26}\text{Re}_4$ also came into consideration.

26...Bh6 27 Re4 Ne5 28 Rf6?

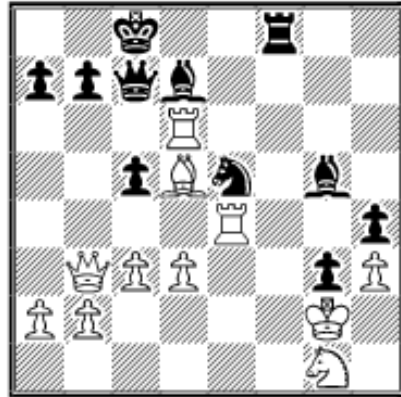
White plans a little combination but underestimates the counterplay. 28 Rf1! is sounder, looking to defence of the king, although Black has some compensation for his small material disadvantage.

28...Bg5

Napier defends his h-pawn with tempo so that if the rook retreats now he has ...Rxd3.

29 Rxd6

White had planned this trick, with the point that 29...Qxd6?? is refuted by 30 Qxb7 mate, but after the next move he had no good follow-up.

29...Rf8!**30 Qxb7+?**

A defeatist move; White could have kept the game going on a bit longer. Not by 30 Rxe5?? which allows mate in two, but 30 Nf3! gives the king a flight square.

a) 30...Nxf3 may eventually win, but after 31 Bxb7+ (on 31 Rxd7? Qxd7 32 Be6 Nd2 33 Bxd7+ Kc7 White cannot only prevent mate by giving up his queen) 31...Qxb7 32 Qxb7+ Kxb7 33 Rxd7+ White has some drawing chances (rook and pawn against two pieces).

b) A long variation is possible after 30...Rxf3! 31 Rxe5 (if 31 Bxb7+ Qxb7 32 Qxb7+ Kxb7 33 Rxd7+ Nxd7 34 Kxf3 Kc6 Black should win in the end) 31...Rf2+ 32 Kg1

Qxd6 33 Qxb7+ Kd8 34 Qa8+ Bc8 35 Rxc5 Qh6 36 Rg8+ Rf8 37 Rxf8+ Qxf8 38 Bf3 Qf4 39 Qd5+ Bd7 40 Qa8+ Ke7. Finally the black king escapes and White's only option is the endgame after 41 Qe4+ Qxe4 42 Bxe4 Bxh3, which Black should eventually win because of his connected passed pawns.

30...Qxb7 31 Bxb7+ Kxb7 32 d4 Rf2+ 33 Kh1 Rh2# 0-1

Outside in the wider world, distances were shrinking. At the end of 1903 Wilbur and Orville Wright had achieved the first powered flight in a fixed-wing aircraft; now the technology would develop rapidly. Meanwhile on land, the New York subway and the Trans-Siberian railways both opened for business during 2004. Thus Moscow was linked with China and the Pacific. Apparently this facilitated a war between Russia and Japan, which was won by Japan.

Pillsbury's Last Days of Glory

Back in Cambridge Springs, the brief but brilliant career of Harry Nelson Pillsbury was drawing to a close. This would be the last tournament for the man who had taken the chess world by storm just 9 years earlier in Hastings. Serious illness claimed the young superstar — America's greatest home-grown player in the century between Morphy and Fischer — and he died in 1906.

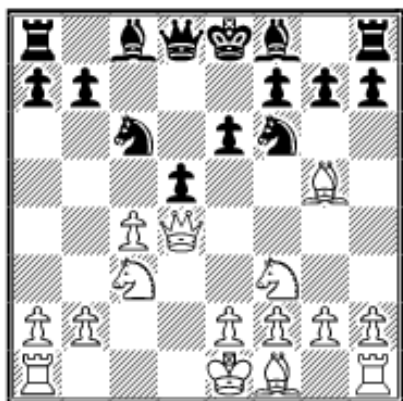
Finishing only in the middle of the table must have been a big disappointment to Pillsbury, but he did have the satisfaction of springing a prepared improvement upon Lasker, avenging a defeat incurred at St Petersburg, and Hannak's biography of the world champion paints a tear-jerking picture (worthy of a Hollywood weepie) over the story, whether it's entirely true or not.

More interestingly, there seems to be two versions of the game score in circulation — and it is not certain which is the correct one. Probably on the discovery of the players' original score-sheets could settle the matter beyond doubt. However, the weight of evidence seems to be in favour of the move order given in most old sources.

Kasparov's volume 1 of 'My Great Predecessors' follows the move order in Fred Reinfeld's tournament book, and so do I.

Harry Nelson Pillsbury – Dr Emanuel Lasker
Queen's Gambit, Semi-Tarrasch Defence (D50)
Cambridge Springs 1904

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 c5 5 Bg5 cxd4 6 Qxd4 Nc6



At St Petersburg 1895-6, Pillsbury had played 7 Qh4 and after 7...Be7 8 0-0-0 Qa5 9 e3 Bd7 10 Kb1 h6 11 cxd5 exd5 12 Nd4 0-0 13 Bxf6 Bxf6 14 Qh5 Nxd4 15 exd4 Be6 16 f4 Rac8 17 f5, White was rocked by the famous manoeuvre 17...Rxc3!! 18 fxe6? Ra3!!, and Lasker went on to win a famous game.

Now came the move that Pillsbury had been saving up for years to get revenge on Lasker.

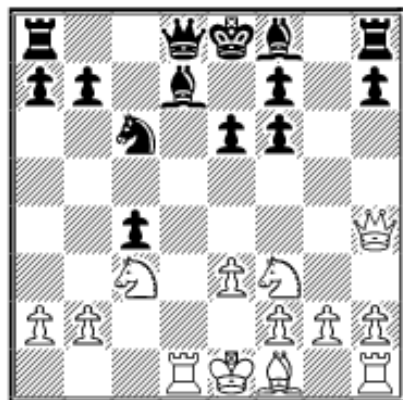
7 Bxf6! gxf6

It's obvious that 7...Qxf6 simply loses a pawn for nothing 8 Qxf6 gxf6 9 cxd5 but what Pillsbury had missed years before was that; 7...Nxd4 8 Bxd8 turns out to White's advantage after 8...Nc2+ (8...Nxf3+ 9 gxf3 Kxd8 10 cxd5) 9 Kd2 Nxa1 10 Bc7 or even 10 Bh4 10...dxc4 11 e4 because the a1-N is doomed.

8 Qh4 dxc4

8...d4 9 0-0-0! e.g. 9...e5 10 e3 Bc5 11 exd4 exd4 12 Nd5! Varnusz.

9 Rd1 Bd7 10 e3



10...Ne5?!

This is too provocative. Later both 10...f5 and 10...Be7 were shown to be playable.

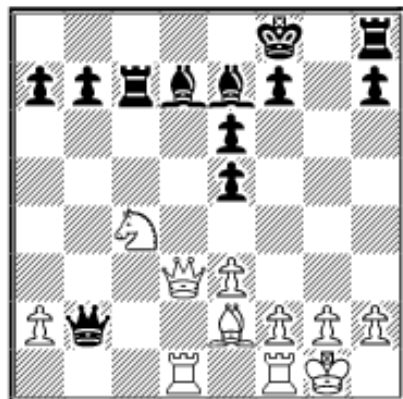
11 Nxe5 fxe5 12 Qxc4 Qb6 13 Be2! Qxb2

Lasker takes up the gauntlet rather than admit he stands worse with the more solid 13...Bc6.

14 0-0! Rc8 15 Qd3 Rc7 16 Ne4 Be7 17 Nd6+ Kf8

If 17...Bxd6 18 Qxd6 Qc3 19 Bb5.

18 Nc4



18...Qb5!

18...Qb4 is given in some sources. See the discussion of this issue below.

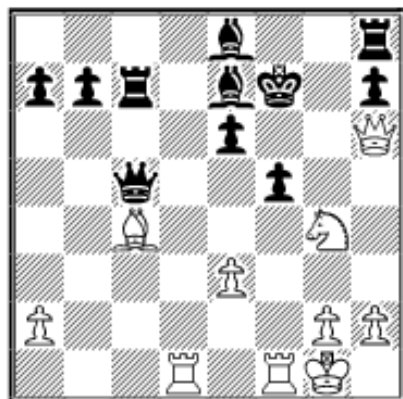
19 f4! exf4?

This was the last chance for Black to put up a good fight. There are two possible improvements.

a) 19...e4 was recommended in the Varnusz book on Lasker (but not mentioned by Kasparov): 20 Qd4 (20 Qxe4?! Bc6 21 Qd4 Rg8 22 Rf2 Qa4 is unclear) 20...Rg8 and now instead of Varnusz's 21 Qxa7, probably 21 Ne5 gives White some winning chances.

b) 19...Bc6 is mentioned as an improvement by Kasparov, with White only having a "minimal advantage" at the end of the variation he gives: 20 fxe5 (20 Nxe5 Qxd3) 20...Qd5 21 Qxd5 Bxd5 22 Nd6 Bxd6 23 exd6 Rc2 24 Bf3.

20 Qd4! f6 21 Qxf4 Qc5 22 Ne5 Be8 23 Ng4 f5 24 Qh6+ Kf7 25 Bc4!

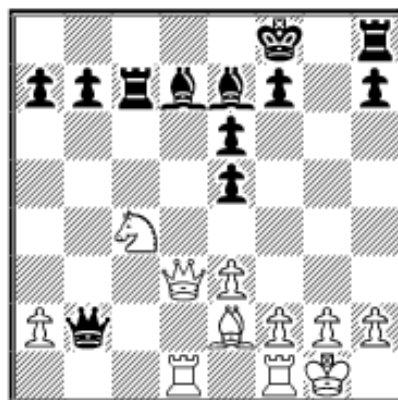


The bishop is protected indirectly by a knight fork on e5.

25...Rc6 26 Rxf5+ Qxf5 27 Rf1 Qxf1+ 28 Kxf1 Bd7 29 Qh5+ Kg8 30 Ne5 1-0

Which sources are right?

When I looked at this game for the first time in many years, for the purpose of this article, I found that the database I was using did not match the Kasparov book at the critical move 18-19 stage. Let's go back to the position after White's 18 Nc4.



Soon I realised that Kasparov had given Black's 18th as ...Qb5 instead of ...Qb4, which makes a big difference. The two versions merge at move 21 when the black queen goes to c5 but by then Lasker had a lost position. I looked at other books and found that some had Black's 18th move as 18...Qb4 and others (as above) gave 18...Qb5.

The principal books that give 18...Qb5 are the Wildhagen Weltgeschichte des Schachs series book on Lasker (compiled by Ludwig Rellstab, I think) which ChessBase have apparently used as their

source. Also FM Graham Burgess (usually a thorough writer and editor) follows them in his *Chess Highlights of the 20th Century*.

With the black queen on b4, however, the move 19 f4?! would now be met by 19...Bb5 which is good for Black, as analysed by Burgess. However, in the Reinfeld/Kasparov version this defence was unavailable because Lasker's queen was already on that square.

Surely against 18...Qb4?! Pillsbury would not, however, have played 19 f4 but rather 19 Nxe5 with a good game. The move 18...Qb5 protects the e-pawn and makes 19 Nxe5 a blunder; in the end, this is the best "internal evidence" for supposing that Lasker did in fact play 19...Qb5.

The sequence with 18...Qb5 is given in numerous printed sources, such as Hannak's biography of Lasker (Andre Deutsch 1959 edition on page 115) and Varnusz's English-language collection on Lasker (printed in Hungary) have the same move order as Kasparov.

Hannak says his notes are from *Deutsche Wochenschach* 1904, but I don't have access to that. I looked in *Handbuch des Schachspiels* (ed. Schlechter, 8th ed. The opening is given on pages 840-841 with a reference to *Deutsche Schachzeitung* 1904 (page 176) and the continuation is on pages 848-9 of the Handbuch (note 13) and there is "18...Db5" again.

I consulted American chess historian John Hilbert about this. He summed up as follows:

“The additional sources I have almost invariably point to 18...Qb5. The *American Chess Bulletin*, June 1904, p.10, gives 18...QKt4, which is consistent with 18...Qb5. The same is true for the chess column in the *Philadelphia North American*, May 8, 1904, which gives 18...Q to Kt4. Nick Pope, in his biography and game collection on Pillsbury, *Harry Nelson Pillsbury: American Chess Champion*, Game No. 317, gives 18...Qb5, citing to Reinfeld’s *The Book of the Cambridge Springs International Tournament 1904* (Black Knight Press: New York 1935). The Reinfeld tournament book, which I happen to have a xerox copy of, does give 18...Q-Kt4 at p.33. The recent ChessBase Monograph on Lasker gives 18...Qb5.”

“In fact, the only source I could find that suggests 18...Qb4 was *Pillsbury’s Chess Career*, by Sergeant and Watts (1922; reprinted by Dover, 1966), at p.162, which gives 18...Q-Kt5 (i.e., 18...Qb4). I have found some minor errors in this volume, as I recall, when working some years ago on the Buffalo 1894 and 1901 tournaments that Pillsbury played in. Chernev wrote an Afterword to the Sergeant and Watts volume in July 1965, and mentioned in passing additional annotations for a couple dozen of the games, including this one. He cites to the Reinfeld tournament book (which had 18...Q-Kt4, as noted above). He also cites to Tartakower and Du Mont’s *500 Master Games of Chess*, which also gives 18...Q-Kt4, at p.491. Thus Chernev didn’t pick up on the inconsistency between the move in Sergeant and Watts’ text and the sources he quoted for additional annotations.”

“Given all the above, along with what you have learned, my bet is that the move was 18...Qb5.”

Fix Your Database Now!

Assuming therefore that 18...Qb5 was indeed the move Lasker played, ChessLab has the correct score in its database at <http://www.chesslab.com/PositionSearch.html>.

ChessBase please note: your Mega Database — which is widely regarded as the most authoritative in the world — has (at the time I am writing this column) the wrong move. It is wrong in the 2003 version, in the new 2004 edition, which I just received for review, and in ChessBase’s online database.

It was also wrong last time I looked in the New In Chess “NicBase Online” at <http://www.newinchess.com/NICBase/>. I expect a lot of other places on the Internet have the wrong move too.

(Readers, please don’t contact me to inform me that they have fixed this. It will be more surprising if they do **not** once this column has been published for a few days...)

So if you have this game in your database (which you probably do if you have a database at all), check it now. If it says that 19...Qb4 was played, change it to 19...Qb5.

This is how to do it in ChessBase 8. Open the game Pillsbury-Lasker and go to the position after White’s 18th move. Then use your mouse to make the move 19...Qb2-b5. A dialogue box will appear asking you whether to make this a new

variation, new main line, overwrite or insert. Select “insert” and 19...Qb5 will replace Qb4. (This only works because the rest of the game makes sense with the change.)

With other database programs, this procedure may not work, and all the rest of the game may be overwritten, leaving a short game ending at 19...Qb5. In that case you should exit the game without saving the changes and do the following.

You can export the game to PGN and open the PGN file in a text editor program like Notepad or Wordpad. Just change 19...Qb4 to 19...Qb5, save and exit. Then import the corrected PGN version into your database. Kill the version with 19...Qb4 and keep the one with 19...Qb5.

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