



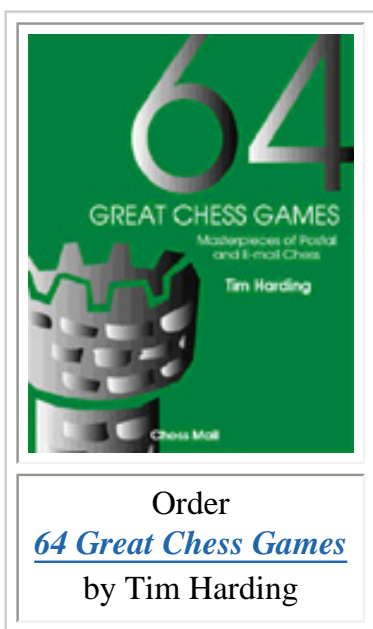
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by Tim Harding

One Hundred Years Ago: Chess in 1903

My January column always looks back to the chess scene of 100 years ago.

The year 1903 was historic in that Wilbur and Orville Wright made Man's first flight in a powered plane. For chess it was less momentous. Nevertheless, there was more activity than in 1902.

You would think from Hannak's miserable biography of the World Champion, Emanuel Lasker, that the year 1903 did not exist for him. Indeed it was yet another year in which the now Dr Lasker (who had come to the New World after gaining his doctorate) did not participate in any major chess events. However, he was far from inactive, as he planned the launch of his chess magazine and toured some US cities for exhibitions to make money. It was to be the next year when he (and the USA) returned to top-level tournament play with the famous Cambridge Springs event.

As we shall see below, Lasker began to warm up for his comeback by playing a 6-game thematic match with his old rival Chigorin, who traveled from Russia for the purpose.

Apart from this, the focus of activity lay in the Old World where the pretenders to Lasker's crown (all of them destined to be disappointed), together with some members of the old guard and up-and-coming newcomers could put on a show.

Kiev is the capital of the Ukraine now, but in September 1903

it was the venue for the 3rd All-Russian championship and Chigorin (now in his 53rd year) returned home in time to win the title for the third occasion. His 15/18 put him a point clear of Osip Bernstein and the less-known Yurevich was third with 13½ points. Salwe followed on 13 while Rubinstein, yet to make his mark at the top level, scored 11½.

3rd All-Russian Championship, Kiev 1903

| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | Pts. |
|----|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 1 | Chigorin | ✱ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 15 |
| 2 | Bernstein | 1 | ✱ | 1 | ½ | 1 | ½ | 0 | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 |
| 3 | Yurevich | 1 | 0 | ✱ | ½ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13½ |
| 4 | Salwe | 0 | ½ | ½ | ✱ | ½ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| 5 | Rubinstein | 0 | 0 | 1 | ½ | ✱ | 0 | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11½ |
| 6 | Lowcki | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | 1 | ✱ | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1 | ½ | 1 | 0 | 1 | ½ | 1 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| 7 | Znosko-Borovsky | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | ½ | ½ | ✱ | 1 | 0 | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| 8 | Levitsky | 0 | ½ | 0 | 1 | ½ | ½ | 0 | ✱ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10½ |
| 9 | Izbinsky | ½ | ½ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | ✱ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 9½ |
| 10 | Lebedev | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ½ | 1 | 1 | ✱ | 1 | 1 | ½ | 0 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9½ |
| 11 | Schiffers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | ½ | ½ | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✱ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | ½ | 1 | 8½ |
| 12 | Rabinovich | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✱ | 1 | 1 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8½ |
| 13 | Kulomzin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ½ | 0 | 0 | ✱ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ½ | 1 | 8 |
| 14 | Kalinsky | 0 | 1 | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✱ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7½ |
| 15 | Dus Chotimirsky | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ½ | 0 | 0 | 1 | ½ | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | ✱ | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| 16 | Benko | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ½ | ✱ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6½ |
| 17 | Nikolaev | ½ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | ½ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✱ | 1 | 1 | 4½ |
| 18 | Von Stamm | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✱ | 1 | 2 |
| 19 | Breev | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✱ | 0 |

Rubinstein, still only 20, had moved to Lodz to get practice against the local master Salwe against whom he played two matches, drawing the first and winning the second 5½-4½. Clearly the future grandmaster improved rapidly during 1903 but was still capable of bad lapses, as the following encounter from his first major tournament shows.

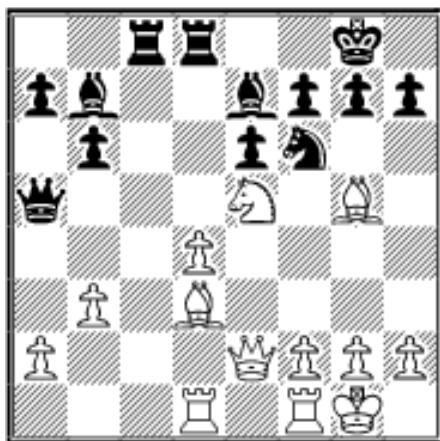
Emmanuel Schiffers – Akiba Rubinstein 3rd All-Russian

Championship, Kiev (round 14), 1903 French Defence (C10)

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 dxe4

Donaldson and Minev, in the first volume of their *Akiba Rubinstein: Uncrowned King* remark that this may be the first game in which Rubinstein played this trademark pawn exchange which has become such a major variation in recent years.

5 Nxe4 Nbd7 6 Nf3 Be7 7 Nxf6+ Nxf6 8 Bd3 0–0 9 0–0 b6 10 Ne5 Bb7 11 c3 Rc8 12 Qe2 c5 13 Rad1 cxd4 14 cxd4 Qd5 15 Nf3 Rfd8 16 b3?! Qa5 17 Ne5!?



So far it has been typically methodical play by Rubinstein, who has play against the weak White queenside pawns and on the long white diagonal. So the wily Schiffers (who long had been Russia's number two player) switches to tactics. Rubinstein immediately takes a big risk — but White fails to take advantage.

17...Rxd4?!

I don't know why Donaldson and Minev give this move an exclamation mark. 17...Rc7 or 17...h6 would preserve Black's edge. The text move doesn't actually lose with best play, but I doubt if the young Rubinstein foresaw all the possibilities.

18 Bxh7+??

Instead 18 Bxf6 Bxf6 19 Bxh7+ would force Black to defend very accurately. Since 19...Kxh7?? 20 Qh5+ is hopeless and 19...Kh8 20 Rxd4 Qxe5 21 Qxe5 Bxe5 22 Rh4 leaves White the exchange ahead, Black must play 19...Kf8!. Then the main

line goes 20 Rxd4 Qxe5 21 Qxe5 Bxe5 22 Rd7 Bc6 23 Rxa7 g6 and the h7-Bishop is trapped. Black emerges with the bishop pair against rook and two pawns, but it is hard to believe that this is as favourable for him as the diagram position was.

Moreover, White can avoid this trap; 20 Nd7+ may give White a small edge. Although Black can steer for a fairly certain draw by 20...Rxd7 21 Rxd7 Bc6 22 Rd6 (Fighting on by 22 Rdd1!? g6 23 Bxg6 is also an option.) 22...Bb5 23 Bd3 Qb4 24 Bxb5 Qxd6 25 Rd1 in view of the opposite colored bishops.

Evidently there is a lot of play after 18 Bxf6 but objectively Black should have preferred a different 17th move,

18...Nxb7! 19 Bxe7

White loses a piece because if 19 Rxd4 Nxb7 20 Rd7 (forking two bishops) 19...Ba6 skewers White's queen and f1-Rook.

19...Re4! 20 Nc4 Rxe2 21 Nxa5 bxa5 and Black won in 44 moves.

The greatest event of the year was the double-round Monte Carlo marathon, the classic of that series. This time the Monegasques used the normal scoring system we have today, with no replaying of drawn games. The whole field, except for the hopelessly outclassed Moreau, were recognized masters.

The main French representative was Jean Taubenhaus, who had a mediocre result, befitting his limited talents. In Paris during the year, he lost a match to Dawid Janowski by 2-6, winning only one game. I don't know why Janowski did not play in Monte Carlo, where he had done well the two previous years. Maybe he was ill.

Also absent was Chigorin, visiting the USA. Most of the other

top European masters did journey to the little principality between Nice and the Italian Riviera, and were joined there by the two top Americans, Harry Nelson Pillsbury and Frank Marshall, who made the transatlantic voyage once more in search of top competition.

Marshall won the American mini-match 1½-½ and this, together with losses to Tarrasch and to Mieses thrust Pillsbury down into third place, although he did gain clean-sweeps against Schlechter and Teichmann who followed him in the prize list. See the crosstable for the detailed results.

Dr Siegbert Tarrasch – Jacques Mieses Monte Carlo (round 23), 1903 Scandinavian Defence [B01]

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qa5 4 d4 Nf6 5 Bd3

Tarrasch decides to avoid any pin on his king's Knight.

5...Bg4

5...Nc6 would be logical, to counter-attack against the d-pawn. 5...c6 is also known; Mason had played it against Tarrasch in 1892.

6 Nge2

Shiffers played 6 f3 against him in 1894 but here Tarrasch intends to keep his kingside pawns intact.

6...e6 7 Bf4

Threatening Qd2 and Ng3 followed by harassing the g4-Bishop with pawns.

7...Nd5

This leads to White gaining a strong centre and a lead in development.

7...c6 may be better.

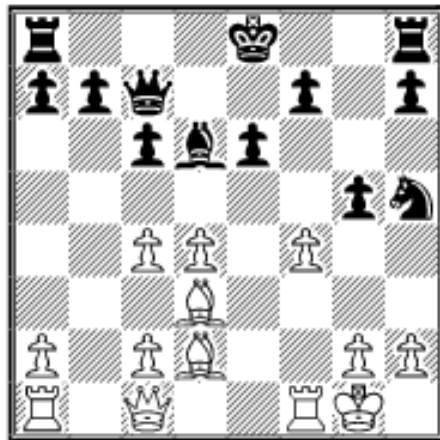
8 Bd2 Nxc3 9 bxc3 Nd7 10 0-0 c6 11 Qb1

Threatening both Qxb7 and Ng3, so Tarrasch gains the Bishop pair.

11...Bxe2 12 Bxe2 Qc7 13 f4 Bd6 14 Bd3 g5!?

Mieses plays sharply, hoping for kingside play (15 fxg5 Bxh2+). Had Black castled kingside, Tarrasch intended 15 Qe1 and 16 Qh4.

15 Qc1 Nf6 16 c4 Nh5



Black intensifies the pressure but his Knight is loose.

17 g3 gxf4 18 Qd1!

This refutes Black's plan.

18...Ng7

Black does not get compensation if he sacrifices the Knight: 18...fxg3 19 Qxh5 gxh2+ 20 Kh1 followed by Rael, or 18...Nxc3 19 hxc3 fxc3 20 Qh5 g2 21 Rf6 threatening Rxe6+.

19 c5 Be7 20 Bxf4 Qd7 21 c3

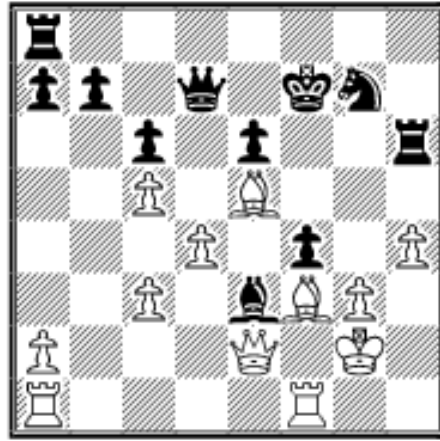
White consolidates his position. If Black castles queenside, then Qa4 is awkward while a threat is 22 Qc2 h5 23 Rael, completing development with all pieces powerfully posted.

21...h5 22 Be5 Kf8 23 Bg6 f5 24 Bxh5 Bg5 25 Bf3 Rh6 26 Kg2 Kf7 27 h4 Be3

Black tries to create complications because after 27...Bf6 he is

simply a pawn down.

28 Qe2 f4



29 Qxe3! Nf5

Black could resign already.

29...fxe3 fails to 30 Bxc6+ and 31 Bxd7.

30 Qxf4 Rg8 31 Qxh6 1–0.

For Tarrasch, victory in this mighty event was a reminder that

he was the player with the greatest claim to a title match against Lasker, should the champion re-emerge to take up the gauntlet. However, this match was not to take place until 1908.

Curiously, it was Schlechter and Teichmann alone who won their mini-matches against Tarrasch. The “Praeceptor Germaniae” lost only these two games in the tournament; everybody else lost at least three out of the gruelling 26 rounds.

Monte Carlo 1903

| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | Pts. |
|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 1 | Tarrasch | ★ | ½½ | ½1 | 0½ | 0½ | 01 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 1½ | 11 | 11 | 11 | 20 |
| 2 | Maroczy | ½½ | ★ | ½½ | ½½ | ½½ | 11 | 01 | 11 | 01 | 01 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 19 |
| 3 | Pillsbury | ½0 | ½½ | ★ | 11 | 11 | 1½ | 1½ | 01 | 0½ | ½1 | 1½ | 1½ | 11 | 11 | 18½ |
| 4 | Schlechter | 1½ | ½½ | 00 | ★ | ½½ | ½1 | 1½ | ½1 | 01 | ½0 | 1½ | 11 | 11 | 11 | 17 |
| 5 | Teichmann | 1½ | ½½ | 00 | ½½ | ★ | 10 | ½½ | 1½ | ½1 | 10 | 01 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 16½ |
| 6 | Marco | 10 | 00 | 0½ | ½0 | 01 | ★ | 1½ | 11 | 1½ | 1½ | ½1 | ½0 | 11 | 11 | 15½ |
| 7 | Wolf | 00 | 10 | 0½ | 0½ | ½½ | 0½ | ★ | 01 | 1½ | 11 | 11 | 01 | 01 | 11 | 14 |
| 8 | Mieses | 00 | 00 | 10 | ½0 | 0½ | 00 | 10 | ★ | 11 | 11 | 1½ | 01 | ½1 | 11 | 13 |
| 9 | Marshall | 00 | 10 | 1½ | 10 | ½0 | 0½ | 0½ | 00 | ★ | 11 | 01 | 01 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 10 | Taubenhaus | 00 | 10 | ½0 | ½1 | 01 | 0½ | 00 | 00 | 00 | ★ | ½½ | 11 | 10 | 11 | 10½ |
| 11 | Mason | 0½ | 00 | 0½ | 0½ | 10 | ½0 | 00 | 0½ | 10 | ½½ | ★ | ½1 | 1½ | 11 | 10½ |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 12 | Albin | 00 | 00 | 0½ | 00 | 00 | ½1 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 00 | ½0 | ✱ | 0½ | 11 | 8 |
| 13 | Reggio | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 10 | ½0 | 01 | 01 | 0½ | 1½ | ✱ | 11 | 7½ |
| 14 | Moreau | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | ✱ | 0 |

The Hungarian champion Maroczy achieved a remarkable feat in second place. Although he scored overall a point less than Tarrasch, and just half a point more than Pillsbury, he did not lose any of his mini-matches! The crosstable shows that he drew all eight games against his nearest rivals, and if somebody beat him then he won the reverse-colours game. Next best on this way of looking at things was Teichmann, who only went down to Pillsbury.

***Frank Marshall – Geza Maroczy* Monte Carlo (round 25), 1903 Queen's Gambit [D55]**

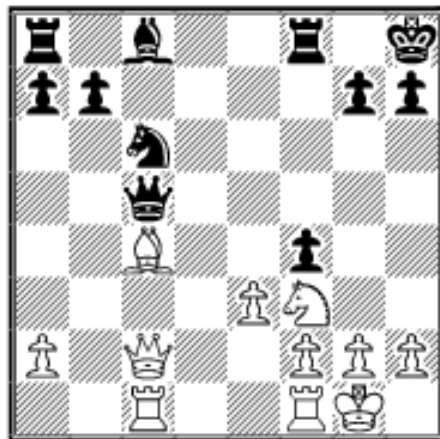
1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Be7 5 e3 0–0 6 Nf3 Ne4

In 1907, Lasker played this way against Marshall, but his defence was later improved by the interpolation of the moves 6...h6 7 Bh4 and only now 7...Ne4.

7 Bxe7 Qxe7 8 Bd3

Innocuous.

8...f5 9 cxd5 Nxc3 10 bxc3 exd5 11 Qc2 c5 12 dxc5 Qxc5 13 c4 Kh8 14 cxd5 Qxd5 15 0–0 Nc6 16 Bc4 Qc5 17 Rac1 f4



18 Qe4

18 exf4 Rxf4 19 Rfd1 (If 19 Qd3, threatening Bg8!, Black has 19...Bf5.) 19...Bg4 20 Rd5 Qxc4 21 Qxc4 Rxc4 22 Rxc4 Be6 23 Rcc5 Bxd5 24 Rxd5 probably looked too drawish to Marshall.

18...fxe3 19 Bd5?

Maroczy shows this naive attack is incorrect. 19 Qxe3 is better but Marshall did not avoid 18 exf4 in order to incur an isolated e-pawn in an endgame.

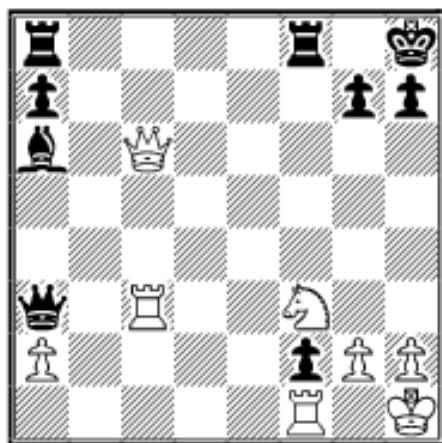
19...exf2+ 20 Kh1 Qa3 21 Bxc6

21 Qe2 is better but White is not playing for a draw.

21...bxc6 22 Qxc6?

22 Rxc6 Bd7 is complicated but should also be good for Black.

22...Ba6 23 Rc3



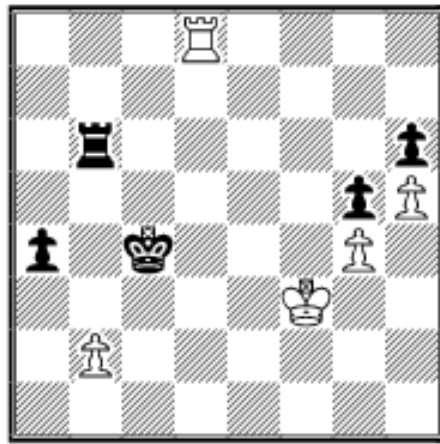
23...Bxf1 24 Nd2

If 24 Rxa3 Be2 vacates the queening square.

24...Qa6 25 Qe4 Bd3

White resigned for if 26 Qxd3 (26 Qxa8 Rxa8) then 26...f1Q+ mates.

Paul Leonhardt won a minor 16-player master tournament at Hilversum in The Netherlands, with 13 points from his 15 games. He and Oldrich Duras (12½ points) were well clear of the rest of the field. However, the game between them (which decided the destination of first prize) had a curious finish in the endgame.

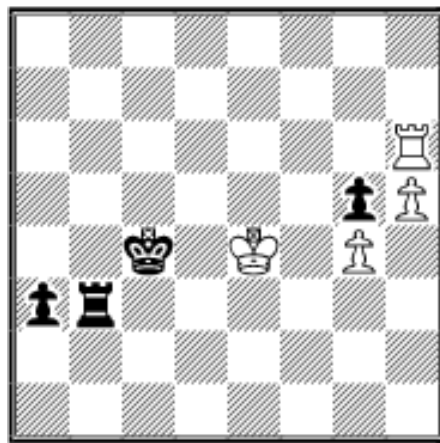


The rook endgame looked drawish when it first arose but now Duras was playing for a win. Black should get his King nearer to the passed pawn, and have White's pieces on the defensive before letting his h-pawn go. 58...Kb3 59 Rd2 Rb4 60 Rd6 Kxb2 61 Rxh6 a3 looks winning to me but this is not an endgame article and I don't

claim to have analysed the ending deeply.

From the diagram, Duras preferred 58...Rxb2, which lets both the white rook and king get amongst his pawns. The continuation was quite instructive.

58...Rxb2? 59 Rd6 Rb3+ 60 Ke4 a3 61 Rxh6



Maybe Duras had intended 61...Rb4 62 Kf5 Rb5+ 63 Ke4 a2 but it seems this may be a case where, thanks to the distant black King, White can draw with one pawn against rook. So play might go 64 Ra6 Kb3 65 Rxa2 Kxa2 66 h6 Rb6 67 Kf5 Rxh6 68 Kxg5 Rh1 69 Kg6 Kb3 70 g5 Kc4 71 Kf6 Rf1+ 72 Ke6 Rg1 73 Kf6 Kd4 74

g6 and the black king is not close enough to win the pawn.

Instead the game continued from the diagram: 61...Kb5. Duras decided to prevent Ra6 and run his a-pawn but now White can get connected passed pawns if he is not careful.

62 Rh8 a2?

This seems to be the losing move. Instead 62 ..Rb4+ 63 Kf5 Ra4 (not 63...a2 64 Rb8+ Kc4 65 Ra8 Kb3 66 h6) 64 h6 a2

was safe. Black will queen first although it is not winning: 65 h7 a1Q 66 Rb8+ Kc6 67 h8Q Qf1+ 68 Kg6 Qd3+ 69 Kh5 Qh3+ 70 Kg6 Qxh8 (or 70 ..Qd3+ with perpetual check) 71 Rxh8 Rxg4 72 Rh5=.

63 Rb8+ Kc4 64 Ra8 Rb2?

The final and fatal dithering move. 64...Rb4 was the best try as 65 h6 Kb3+ 66 Kf5 Ra4 67 Rb8+ Kc2 would still draw. Instead White can fall into the “trap” by 65 Rxa2?! Kb3+ 66 Kf5 Kxa2 67 Kxg5 and have two pawns supported by the king against Black’s rook, but Black possibly can draw this. After the move actually played, which has no threat, Leonhardt gathered in the spoils for a full one-point swing and first prize.

65 Kf5 Rb5+ 66 Kg6 Kb3 67 h6 Rb6+ 68 Kxg5 Rb5+ 69 Kg6 Rb6+ 70 Kh5 Rb7 71 g5 Rd7 72 Kg6 Rd8 73 Rxa2 Kxa2 74 h7 Kb3 75 Kh6 1–0.

Gambit year

1903 was a year when gambits were very much on the agenda. In the Vienna Gambit event (see crosstable), all games had to begin with the King’s Gambit. With 10 masters playing a double round-robin, this meant 90 high-level games with the KG and some innovations were to be expected.

White won 32 games but Black won 38 and there were 20 draws. This clear plus score for Black seemed to signal that the era of gambit play was drawing to a close — especially when the statistics of the tournament winner, Chigorin, were taken into account. With White he scored 5½/9, but with Black he scored 7½! Tournament runner-up Marshall also managed 5½ with White; he mostly played 3 Nf3 g5 4 Bc4.

The variation seen most often in the Vienna tournament was the Bishop’s Gambit (1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4) which occurred in 33 games, White scoring exactly 50%, +13 =7 –13.

Teichmann made 5/7 with it but Swiderski’s 3½/9 spoiled the

percentages. The most frequent reply was 3...d5 4 Bxd5 Qh4+ 5 Kf1 g5 (see the game below), which is not considered good today. Teichmann had five wins with White from that position, plus a win and a loss with Black. The defence 3...Nf6 4 Nc3 Nc6 was seen in 8 games, making a slight plus score for Black, but 4...c6 (considered best by many experts nowadays) was not tried although it had been suggested by Jaenisch 50 years previously.

The majority of games featured 2...exf4 3 Nf3 with the classical defence 3...g5 occurring in 31 games. Black won 17 of them with 6 draws. Even today, this is still considered one of the best defences to the King's Gambit for those who have the nerve and have learned the critical lines. White's poor result undoubtedly had a lot to do with the fact that inferior lines like the Allgaier (see my two previous columns!) were often preferred to the Kieseritsky Gambit.

Vienna Gambit Tournament 1903

| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Pts. |
|----|-----------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 1 | Chigorin | RUS | ✱ | 01 | 1½ | ½1 | 01 | 10 | 11 | 01 | 11 | 11 | 13 |
| 2 | Marco | AUT | 10 | ✱ | 00 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 00 | 1½ | ½½ | 11 | 11½ |
| 3 | Marshall | USA | 0½ | 11 | ✱ | 0½ | 01 | 01 | ½1 | ½1 | 01 | 11 | 11 |
| 4 | Pillsbury | USA | ½0 | 00 | 1½ | ✱ | ½1 | ½½ | ½0 | 1½ | ½1 | 11 | 10 |
| 5 | Maroczy | HUN | 10 | 00 | 10 | ½0 | ✱ | ½0 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 01 | 9 |
| 6 | Mieses | GER | 01 | 00 | 10 | ½½ | ½1 | ✱ | 10 | ½½ | ½1 | ½½ | 9 |
| 7 | Teichmann | GER | 00 | 11 | ½0 | ½1 | 00 | 01 | ✱ | 10 | 01 | 11 | 9 |
| 8 | Swiderski | GER | 10 | 0½ | ½0 | 0½ | 00 | ½½ | 01 | ✱ | 11 | 11 | 8½ |
| 9 | Schlechte | AUT | 00 | ½½ | 10 | ½0 | 01 | ½0 | 10 | 00 | ✱ | 11 | 7 |
| 10 | Gunsberg | ENG | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 10 | ½½ | 00 | 00 | 00 | ✱ | 2 |

Mieses played the defence 2...exf4 3 Nf3 Nf6 in seven games, producing 2½ points for Black. Two other games with that line, which has sometimes been highly recommended, brought Black's score to 3/9. Several defences popular today (3...d6, 3...Be7 and 2...d5) were not seen on the board in Vienna — but probably 2...exf4 was a compulsory move. The line 3 Nf3 d5 occurred in four games, bringing Black two wins and two draws: a hint of future developments!

Such was the intensive examination of the King's Gambit in further thematic tournaments up to World War One that few games of the Vienna tournament would be considered theoretically significant today. Perhaps the most interesting is

the idea that was introduced by Chigorin at move 6 in the following game.

Mikhail Chigorin – Geza Maroczy Vienna Gambit tournament, 1903 Bishop's Gambit [C33]

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4 d5

3...Qh4+ 4 Kf1 d5 5 Bxd5 is another route to the same position seen after White's 5th move in the game.

4 Bxd5 Qh4+ 5 Kf1 g5

5...Bd6 was investigated later in the decade and considered superior.

In 1903, this plan with ...g5 was considered quite promising for Black who gets freedom for his pieces by returning the pawn on d5 and hopes to get a counter-attack against the white King which has lost the right to castle. Nowadays, however, Black is usually advised to avoid the check on h4, which exposes the queen.

6 g3!?

Chigorin liked this move which can lead to an early queen exchange after Maroczy's choice, or to typical King's Gambit complications if the queen retreats.

6 Nc3 was considered the main line, e.g. 6...Bg7 7 Nf3 Qh5 8 h4 h6 9 d4 Ne7 (9...c6 10 Bc4 Bg4 11 Qd3 Nd7 12 Ne2 0–0–0 13 Qb3 favoured White in Maroczy-Gunsberg from the gambit tournament.) 10 Qd3 Nbc6 (10...c6 11 Bc4 was good for White in Teichmann-Schlechter.) 11 Bxc6+! Improving on 11 Nb5 0–0 of Charousek-Chigorin, Budapest 1896 11...bxc6 (11...Nxc6 allows 12 Nb5) 12 Na4 with an edge to White in Teichmann-Pillsbury from the gambit tournament.

6...fxg3

6...Qh6 was preferred in four other games from the Vienna tournament. White's correct plan against that was not found until later. 7 d4! Nf6 8 Qf3! (Duras-Spielmann, Abbazia gambit 1912).

7 Qf3!

White threatens mate and also protects the h1-Rook in preparation for hxg3.

7...g2+

Black must keep the h-file closed.

8 Kxg2 Nh6 9 Qg3!

A surprising idea for its time, but Chigorin saw that the queen exchange favors White.

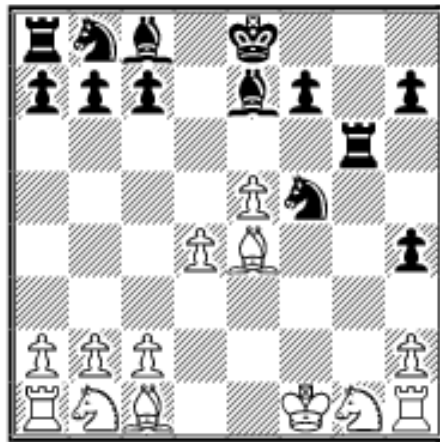
9...Bd6

This way Black gets some counterplay on the g-file. Not 9...Bc5 10 d4! Bxd4 11 Nf3 Qxg3+ 12 hxg3 Bg7 13 Nxg5 with level material and pressure for White.

10 Qxh4! gxh4 11 d4 Rg8+ 12 Kf1 Rg6 13 e5 Be7 14 Be4!?

Chigorin did not want to exchange this Bishop, but Vasiukov and Nikitin thought that the alternative 14 Nc3 c6 15 Be4 Bf5 16 Bxh6! Bxe4 17 Nxe4 Rxh6 18 Nf3 might be preferable for White, who has the superior pawn structure and menacing Knights.

14...Nf5



If 14...f5 15 Bf3 White's e-pawn becomes passed and Black has lost the use of f5 for his pieces.

15 Nc3?!

15 c3 would have consolidated White's advantage, according to Estrin & Glazkov. The reason for this move will be seen at move 17.

15...Rg4 16 Nge2 Nc6 17 Bf3 Rg8

Black loses the initiative when he misses the chance for an exchange sacrifice to destroy the white centre. 17...Nfxd4!? was later suggested as Black's correct course, e.g. 18 Bxg4 Bxg4 19 Nxd4 Nxd4 and if 20 Rg1 Nf3! as analysed by Vasiukov and Nikitin (not 20...Bh3+ 21 Kf2 0-0-0 22 Bg5 nor 20...h5 21 Nd5).

18 Nb5!

White starts to get on top again.

18...Bd8 19 c3 a6

19...Bd7 was better since the Knight was going to a3 soon anyway.

20 Na3 f6 21 Bh5+ Ke7 22 exf6+ Kxf6 23 Nf4!



Chigorin's calm conduct of the attack without queens excited the admiration of his peers.

23...Nfe7 24 Bd2 Bf5 25 Re1 Ng6 26 Kf2! h3

Black hopes for ...Nxf4 followed by ...Rg2+ but Chigorin snuffs this out.

27 Rhg1! Kf7

Now Black threatens ...Bh4+ but Chigorin has a simple answer.

28 Ref1

This is not just a defensive move; danger now lurks for the black King on the f-file.

28...Kg7 29 Bg4 Rf8 30 Ke2 Bxg4+ 31 Rxg4

Now after the correct 31...Rf7 Black will lose the h3-pawn and ultimately the endgame. Maroczy tries to complicate but overlooks the immediate loss of a piece.

31...Rf5? 32 Nxg6 1-0.

Too late, Black sees that his g-pawn is pinned after 32...hxg6 33 Rxf5 while if 32...Rxf1 33 Ne5+. So Maroczy resigned.

The Rice Gambit

One of the curiosities of the chess world around this time was the generosity of Bavarian-born American lawyer Isaac L. Rice, who spent tens of thousands of dollars in this decade on chess patronage, much of which went into the pockets of needy masters.

His main hobby-horse was the Rice Gambit which he claimed to have invented in the 1890s. During 1903 there were thematic matches and tournaments, even a correspondence tournament, and more Rice Gambit events were financed by him through 1904-6.

The Rice Gambit is an offshoot of the Kieseritsky Gambit. It arises as follows.

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 g5 4 h4 g4 5 Ne5 Nf6

This is one of Black's two best moves in this position, and maybe best, but it only occurred once in the Vienna tournament; 5...Bg7 tended to be preferred at the turn of the 20th century.

6 Bc4!?

Instead the main line goes 6 d4, and 6 Nxg4 is also possible, but the Bishop move is also of interest.

6...d5 7 exd5 Bd6

Here 7...Bg7 is also a main line but 7...Bd6 received a lot of attention in 1903.



8 0-0!?

Rice proposed this temporary piece sacrifice as an alternative to the obvious 8 d4, which was already known for decades, but considered probably good for Black. Pillsbury-Chigorin had continued 8 d4 0-0 9 Bxf4 Nh5 in Vienna and Black won.

Less well known than the Lasker-Chigorin match is the 9-

player all-play-all international correspondence tournament organised by Le Monde Illustré. This was won by A.Barbier, a player from the Marseille Regence club consulting with the celebrated Russian master Alapin who visited the French city in 1903. Probably Alapin contributed most of the strong moves. Players from England, Belgium, France, Russia and Czechoslovakia also participated. Other similar events followed.

8...Bxe5 9 Re1 Qe7 10 c3

In 1903, test games generally began after 8 0-0, with Black sometimes trying alternative 8th moves, but this main line gradually became refined and all games of the 1905/6 St Petersburg thematic tournament began after White's 10th move in this line.

The move 10...Qc5+?! illustrates one of the main motives of the Rice Gambit. The black Queen gets driven to a poor square where she cannot assist the defence after 11 d4 Qxc4 12 Na3! Qa6 (12...Qxd5?? 13 Rxe5+) 13 Rxe5+ followed by Bxf4 with a strong attack.

10...g3 was played in some of the early games but was considered unable to refute the Rice Gambit, e.g. 11 d4 Ng4 12 Bxf4! (12 Nd2 Ne3) 12...Bxf4 13 Rxe7+ Kxe7 14 Qf3 Be3+ 15 Kh1 Nf2+ 16 Kg1 Ng4+ draws by perpetual check (Estrin & Glazkov). However, instead of 15...Nf2+, the line 15...f5 16 Na3 Kd8 17 Nc2 Bf2 18 b4 Bd7 is a winning try for Black, suggested by the computer program Deep Fritz7.

Black's best continuation now may be 10...Nh5 11 d4 Nd7 (Napier) with great complications. One possibility is 12 dxe5 Nxe5 13 b3 0-0! (calls White's bluff) 14 Ba3 Nf3+! 15 gxf3 Qxh4 16 Re5 which is an unclear line that was later analysed in New York by Edward Lasker, Capablanca and others. Instead of 12...Nxe5, a possible improvement for Black is 12...Nb6 13 Na3 Qxh4 14 Bb5+ c6 15 dxc6 0-0 (threatening

...Ng3) — a refutation found for me by Deep Fritz7.

White has several other possibilities, e.g. 12 Qxg4 was investigated by Janowski and Alapin but the best White can hope for is a draw and he is possibly losing.

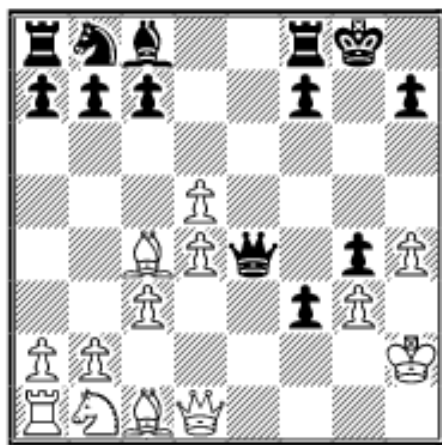
However, when Chigorin and Lasker met to play their 6-game thematic match in August 1903, investigation of that line was in the future and the correspondence games may not have been far advanced or known to them. It is hard to be sure because Chigorin and Alapin were usually in contact and exchanged ideas for analysis.

Emanuel Lasker – Mikhail Chigorin Rice Gambit thematic match (game 5), Brighton USA, 1903 Rice Gambit (C39)

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 g5 4 h4 g4 5 Ne5 Nf6 6 Bc4 d5 7 exd5 Bd6 8 0-0 Bxe5 9 Re1 Qe7 10 c3 f3 11 d4 Ne4 12 Rxe4 Bh2+ 13 Kxh2 Qxe4 14 g3

This is stronger than 14 gxf3 as played by Pervago against Dr Neustadtl in the correspondence tournament. 14 Bg5 was suggested by Alapin but Deep Fritz finds 14...g3+ 15 Kh1 f6 16 Nd2 Qf5 17 Nxf3 fxg5 18 Qe1+ Kd8, which the computer considers good for Black, although it's very messy.

14...0-0!



All games of the Lasker-Chigorin analytical match began from here. Chigorin won two games, Lasker won the first and there were three draws.

15 Bf4

15 Bd3 was investigated further after the match. Then 15...Qxd5 16

Qd2 Re8 17 Qh6 Re2+ 18 Bxe2 fxe2 19 Qe3 Nc6 20 Qe8+ Kg7 21 Qxe2 Bd7 22 Be3 Re8 23 Nd2 Qe6 24 Re1 Qxa2 25

b3 Qc2 26 Qf2 Qd3 27 Nc4 b5 28 Ne5 Nxe5 29 dxe5= was analysis in the *American Chess Bulletin* 1905 p.96. Instead of 16...Re8, the superior 16...Qh5 17 Qf4 Re8 18 Nd2 Kg7, favoring Black, is Deep Fritz's take on this.

15...Qg6!?

This is considered best by Deep Fritz in overnight analysis on my computer.

15...c6 featured in Games 1-3 with a win apiece and one draw.

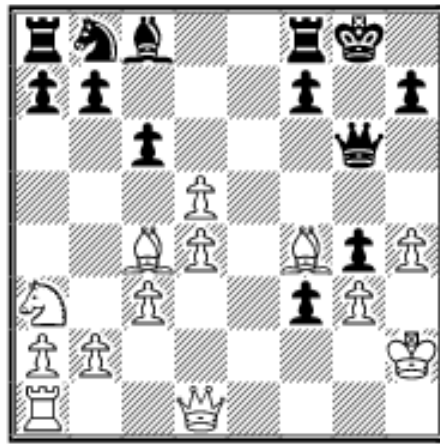
15...Re8 was Chigorin's improvement. 16 Na3 (16 Nd2 Qg6 17 Bf1 Bf5 18 Nc4 Nd7 19 Bxc7 Nf6 20 Ne5 Qh6 21 c4 Qe3 led to a 34-move Black win in the 4th game Lasker-Chigorin.) 16...Bf5 17 Qd2 Nd7 18 Bf1 Bg6 19 Nb5 c6 20 dxc6 Qxc6 21 Nc7 Rac8 ½–½ was the 6th and final game of the Lasker-Chigorin thematic match, 1903.

15...b5!? was considered stronger by Alapin, and tested in the postal tournament, but Chigorin did not try it. Deep Fritz7 is not so impressed either, suggesting 16 Nd2! Qf5 17 Bxb5 Qxd5 18 Qb3 keeps Black's advantage to a minimum according to the computer

16 Na3

Later White unsuccessfully tried 16 Nd2 c6 17 dxc6 Nxc6 and now if 18 Nf1 (18 Qa4 a6 Deep Fritz7) 18...Ne7 (18...Na5 Deep Fritz7) 19 Ne3 Nf5—+ Gelbak-Chigorin, St Petersburg 1905. Here 16 Bxc7 may be slightly better but 16...Bf5 17 Na3 a6 18 Qd2 Nd7 is also preferable for Black says Deep Fritz7.

16...c6



Black evidently stands better although Chigorin failed to win this.

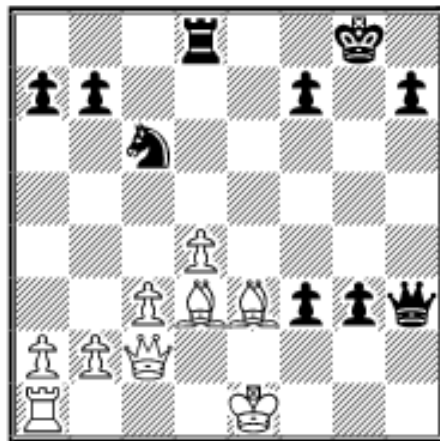
17 Nc2 cxd5 18 Bxd5 Nc6 19 Bc4 Bf5 20 Ne3 Rfe8 21 Kg1 Rad8 22 Qb3 Bd3 23 h5 Qxh5!?

23...Bxc4 looks obvious as after 24 hxc4 Bxb3 25 gxh7+ Kxh7 26

axb3 White should not have enough compensation for the exchange, but it is understandable that Chigorin preferred to sacrifice the Bishop to get a pawn breakthrough.

24 Bxd3 Rxe3 25 Bxe3 Qh3 26 Qc2 Qxg3+ 27 Kf1 Qh3+ 28 Ke1 g3

The situation looks desperate for White.



29 Bf1 g2?!

This did not turn out as good as it first appeared. 29...Qh2 may be a better winning try, e.g. 30 Qf5 Qxb2 31 Qg5+ (31 Rc1 g2) 31...Kf8 32 Qxg3 f2+ 33 Qxf2 Qxa1+.

30 Qf2 Kh8

A strange move but it is a tacit draw offer. 30...gxf1Q+ 31 Qxf1 is not winning for Black and could be worse in the long run as his pawns are all broken. Maybe 30...Rd6 keeps some advantage.

31 Bxg2 fxg2 32 Qf6+ Kg8 33 Qg5+ Kf8 34 Kf2 Rd6 35 Qc5 Qh2 36 Rg1 b6 37 Qg5 Rg6 38 Rxg2 Qh1 39 Rg1 Qe4 40 Qf4 1/2-1/2.

A PGN file of selected games from 1903 is available for download from my website at

<http://www.chessmail.com/games/freegames.html> .

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