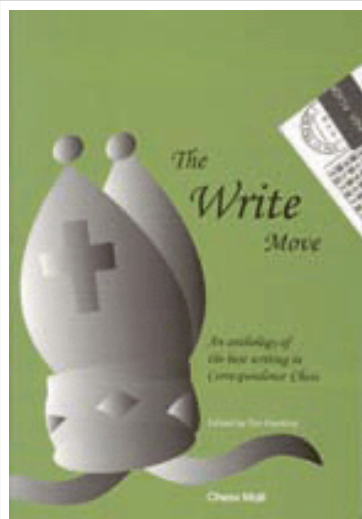




## COLUMNISTS

*The Kibitzer*

Tim Harding

*The Write Move*  
by Tim Harding

## Chess in the Year 1906

A year of relatively little chess activity was overshadowed by the death of Harry Nelson Pillsbury, who might have been world champion had he not succumbed to syphilis. (You won't find the s-word mentioned in contemporary accounts of his illness in the chess press.)

World champion Emanuel Lasker concentrated on producing his magazine. A mystery is that *British Chess Magazine* on page 68 records that Edinburgh has "entered upon" two correspondence games with Dr. Em. Lasker in the Queen's Gambit Declined and Guiooco Piano. I don't think these games are in the late Ken Whyld's collection of Lasker games, of which I don't unfortunately possess a copy, but maybe somebody knows where they can be found?

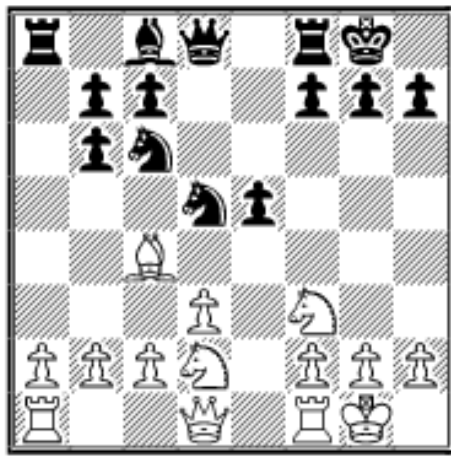
Apart from simultaneous displays, Lasker only seems to have played a small New York State tournament in Trenton Falls in July. This was a 4-player, double-round, against three American amateurs and he won it with 5/6. His win against Fox with White was the only one of these games to be included in the *Weltgeschichte des Schachs* volume on Lasker, edited by Rellstab. Here is a different game.

***Rudolf Raubitschek – Dr. Emanuel Lasker***

Trenton Falls, 1906

Italian Game [C55]

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 d3 Bc5 5 Be3 Bb6 6 Nbd2 d5 7 exd5 Nxd5  
8 Bxb6 axb6 9 0–0 0–0



After White's unambitious opening, the position is about equal. The pawn structures you might expect from an open game are reversed: Black is the one who has a centre pawn on the fourth rank. Nevertheless White decides his actively-posted bishop gives him the right to play for an attack.

**10 Qe2 Nf4!?**

Lasker wants to play for a win, naturally, so he seeks to complicate rather than neutralise White's slight pressure. This was his normal way of playing for a win with Black.

**11 Qe3 Re8 12 Ne4 Bg4 13 Neg5!?**

Lasker's provocation pays off. White plans a combination, but the world champion has perhaps seen deeper.

**13...Bh5**

13...Bxf3 14 Nxf7 Qe7 15 Ng5+ Bd5 Otherwise Black has just lost a pawn. 16 Qxf4 exf4 17 Bxd5+ Kh8 18 Nf7+ and if Black wishes to continue the game, he must give back the queen with an inferior endgame. 18...Kg8 19 Ng5+ with a draw by repetition, since 19...Kf8 20 Nxh7# is checkmate.

**14 Qe4 Bg6**



**15 Bxf7+!**

This is the point of White's play, to which he is now committed, for better or worse.

**15...Bxf7 16 Qxh7+ Kf8 17 Qh8+ Bg8 18 Nh7+ Kf7 19 Nhg5+ Kf8**

Lasker allows moves to be repeated once, presumably to gain time on the clock, or maybe to tantalise his opponent. Or maybe he had seen the variations at move

22 and now was having doubts about whether it was safe to play for a win in this position?

**20 Nh7+ Kf7 21 Nhg5+ Kg6!**



No draw, of course, when you are the world champion playing an unknown amateur! What can White find here to justify his piece sacrifice?

**22 g4??**

White throws all his chances away with one move and Lasker is safe. 22 Nh4+! had to be tried. Either Raubitschek didn't see that he has a draw if Black accepts the new sacrifice, or else he overestimated his

chances with this move.

a) 22...Kxg5 23 Qxg7+ Kh5 24 Qh8+ Kg5 25 Qg7+ with perpetual check. Otherwise White has forced mate: 23...Kxh4?? 24 Qh6+ Nh5 (24...Kg4 25 f3+ Kf5 26 g4#) 25 g3+ Kg4 26 f3+ Kh3 27 Qxh5+ etc.; or 23...Ng6?? 24 Qxg6+ Kxh4 25 g3+ Kh3 26 Qf5#.

b) 22...Kf6! 23 Ne4+ Ke6 and the black king escapes, but there is a lot of play ahead. 24 g3 Ne2+ 25 Kh1 unclear.

**22...Qd7 23 Qh4 Bd5 24 Ne4 Qe7 25 g5 Qe6 26 Kh1 Rh8 27 Qg3 Rh3 28 Nh4+ Kf7 29 g6+ Ke8 30 Qg5**



**30...Rhx2+! 31 Kxh2 Qh3+ and White resigned in view of 32 Kg1 Ne2 mate.**

The 15<sup>th</sup> German (DSB Congress) in Nuremberg had 17 players, and was won by Frank Marshall with 12/16 over Oldrich Duras 11, Schlechter and Forgács 10½ with the veteran Chigorin 10. Tarrasch scored only 7½ and Janowsky was close to the bottom of the table. In this tournament, Tarrasch's proposal that overstepping the time limit should be

punished by a monetary fine (instead of loss of the game) was given a trial and abandoned.

**Frank Marshall – Heinrich Wolf**

Nuremberg 1906

Queen's Gambit Accepted [D26]

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 a6 5 e3 e6 6 Bxc4 c5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 a3 Qc7 9 Qe2 b5 10 Ba2 Bb7 11 dxc5 Bxc5 12 b4 Bd6 13 Bb2 0-0 14 Rac1**

White's build-up in this symmetrical position lulls Wolf into a state of false security. He should have been making plans to defend his king against White's bishop pair.

**14...Rad8 15 Bb1 Ba8**

Far too slow. Perhaps he could have tried 15...Ng4 (Maybe even better at move 14?) 16 h3 Nge5.

**16 Ne4**

White starts to strip the defenders.

**16...Nd5**

Exchanging knights was the lesser evil.

**17 Neg5 g6**



**18 Nxh7! Kxh7 19 Ng5+ Kg8 20 Qh5!**

The queen is immune, for if 20...gxh5 21 Bh7 is mate.

**20...f6 21 Bxg6 Rd7**

He could have resigned already. 21...fxg5 loses instantly because now the long dark diagonal is opened, allowing 22 Qh8# mate.

**22 Nxe6 Rh7 23 Bxh7+**

White opts for the simple liquidation rather than taking any risks. 23 Qg4 Bxh2+ 24 Kh1 does, however, win, despite the alarming situation of the white king, because of White's various discovered checks: 24...Rh6 (24...Bd6+ 25 Bxh7+) 25 Nxc7 Bxc7+ 26 Bh5+.

**23...Qxh7 24 Qxh7+ Kxh7 25 Nxf8+**

White has two rooks and three pawns for three minor pieces, more than enough for a decisive material advantage.

**25...Bxf8 26 Rfd1 Nce7 27 e4 Nb6 28 Rc7 Kg8 29 Bxf6 Ng6 30 Rd8 1-0.**

Chigorin's career was nearly over, although he lived to 1908, but he had a reasonably good year, considering he was now in his mid-fifties and having to meet mostly a new generation of young masters. At Nuremberg he began poorly, but six straight wins at the end meant that his final result was perfectly respectable, yet this was his last GM-level performance. He had also retained his Russian title earlier in the year.

The Russian National Tournament was held from 2-23 January, at St. Petersburg. Salwe won with 13/16 ahead of Blumenfeld and Rubinstein and so earned the right to play Chigorin in a title match, for the first to win seven games. This was played later in the year in Lodz. Chigorin won by  $+7 -5 =3$ .

Shortly afterwards in Lodz, he also played a 4-handed tournament in which each player met the others three times, which seems unusual. Rubinstein was the winner with  $6\frac{1}{2}/9$ . Chigorin did win one game against him, but lost the other two, and he also lost one to A. D. Flamberg. Although Chigorin scored 3-0 against Georg Salwe (the only clean sweep in the event), he could only manage  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , with Flamberg finishing on  $3\frac{1}{2}$  and Salwe  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . Another All-Russian quadrangular tournament was held in October at St. Petersburg, won by Alapin, with Chigorin second once more.

Other leading events of 1906, according to E. A. Michell's *The Year-Book of Chess* for 1907, included:

- Stockholm (12-24 February), which Michell said was the first international tournament in Sweden. Schlechter & Bernstein scored 9/11; Mieses & Marco  $7\frac{1}{2}$ .
- The Scottish Chess Association Congress in Glasgow at Easter, won by Dr. MacDonald and A. J. Mackenzie 6/7. Mackenzie beat MacDonald, but conceded two draws.
- The BCF Congress in Shrewsbury, 6-18 August. (Atkins won the British Championship with Mrs. Herring as Ladies Champion.)

### **Ostend Congress**

However, the biggest event of the year was the second Congress in Ostend, Belgium.

The original plan for the Ostend tournament was to feature 6-8 of the foremost players, but this was found impossible. Michell's book doesn't say why, but presumably the idea was to lure Lasker back from America, yet that was a non-runner because of his magazine.

So the formula was changed to 36 players in a complicated three-stage section system with eliminations on the way. (4 groups of 9), then 24 (4 groups of 6) and third stage (4 of 4). The ultimate winner was Schlechter.

Fuller details of the arrangements and events are to be found in Richard Forster's book on Amos Burn, which quotes extensively from Gunsberg's report for Michell.

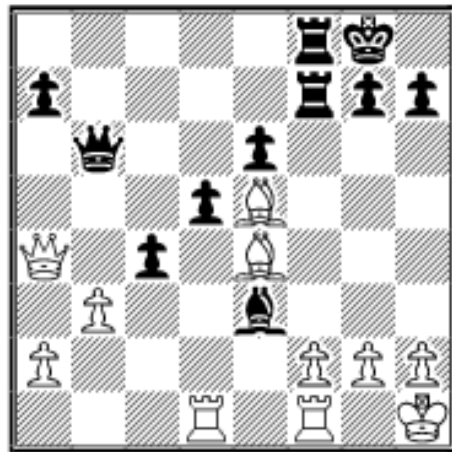
A curious passage of play occurred from the diagram in the following game by the tournament winner.

***Carl Schlechter – Eugene Znosko-Borovsky***

Ostend, 1906

Queen's Gambit, Tarrasch Defence [D32]

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 c5 4 cxd5 exd5 5 Nf3 Nc6 6 Bf4 Nf6 7 e3 Be7 8 dxc5 Bxc5 9 Be2 0-0 10 0-0 Be6 11 Rc1 Be7 12 Nb5 Rc8 13 Nfd4 Qb6 14 Nxc6 bxc6 15 Nd4 c5 16 Nxe6 fxe6 17 Qa4 c4 18 Be5 Bc5 19 Kh1 Rf7 20 Bf3 Rcf8 21 b3 Ne4 22 Bxe4 Bxe3 23 Rcd1**



**23...Bxf2?!**

23...dxe4 is about equal, but Black thinks he has a winning attack and overlooks the refutation.

**24 Bf3?**

24 Bc2 is simple and leaves Black with no clear compensation. Perhaps Black intended 24...Qe3 but then 25 Bd6 (not 25 Bd4? Qe2) and what does Black do?

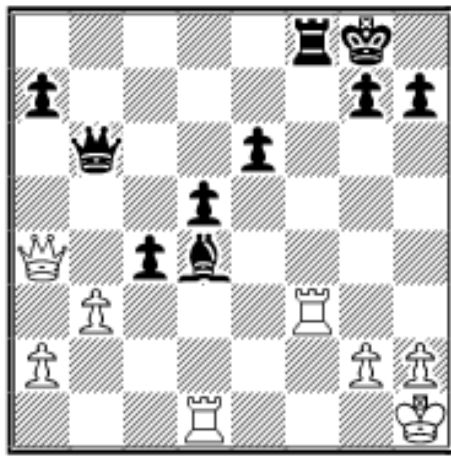
**24...Rxf3!**

The point of Black's 23rd move: if the rook is taken, Black's queen enters with devastating effect.

**25 Bd4!**

The saving move. Not 25 gxf3?? Qe3.

**25...Bxd4 26 Rxf3**



### 26...Bf6?

This doesn't give sufficient compensation. 26...Qc5!? was one possibility, but why not 26...Rxf3! 27 gxf3 h6 (To give the king a bolt-hole) 28 bxc4 Be5 (Threatening ...Qf2!) 29 c5 Qb2! and White has only a draw, e.g. 30 f4 Qe2 31 fxe5 Qf3+ 32 Kg1 Qe3+ and although White's king can wander a lot, it always seems to be perpetual check. 33 Kg2 (33 Kf1 Qf3+) 33...Qe2+ 34 Kg3

Qe3+ 35 Kg4 (35 Kh4 Qg5+) 35...Qe2+.

**27 bxc4 d4 28 Qc2 Rb8 29 Qe4 e5 30 Rb3 Qc7 31 Rxb8+ Qxb8 32 Qd5+ Kf8 33 c5 Qb5 34 Qd6+ Be7 35 Qxe5 Qxc5 36 Qxd4 Qxd4 37 Rxd4 Bc5 38 Rd7 a5 39 a4 Bb4 40 g4 1-0.**

Ostende also staged various supporting tournaments, including a ladies event won by Irishwoman Miss Kate Finn, whom I mentioned a few months ago in connection with the 1897 London Ladies' international.

To find out more about this fascinating chess tournament, you might like to buy [Ostende 1906](#), edited by Tony Gillam and published by Dale Brandreth's Caissa Editions. (I only heard about this new publication just before completing the column and have not yet seen a copy.)

### Other Events of 1906

At the Esperanto Congress, at Geneva in September, the Esperanto Chess Club was formed and pairings were made for international correspondence play among the enthusiasts for this synthetic international language. I believe the club still exists; who can supply details?

Capablanca (who celebrated his eighteenth birthday on 19 November of 1906) was at Columbia University in New York and some of his games there are preserved.

### *José Raúl Capablanca - Q.A. Brackett*

Inter-Collegiate New York, 20.12.1906

French Defence [C11]

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 f4 c5 6 dxc5**

The old Steinitz line; nowadays White normally maintains the tension by 6 Nf3.

**6...Bxc5**

Inaccurate as White's reply gains a tempo; 6...Nc6 is correct.

**7 Qg4 0-0 8 Nf3 f5**

8...Nc6 9 Bd3 f5 10 Qh3 Nd4 (10...Qe8? transposes to the game.) 11 Bd2 a6  
Tarrasch-Marshall, match 1905.

**9 Qh3 Qe8 10 Bd3 Nc6 11 Nb5 Qg6 12 c3 Nb6? 13 b4!**

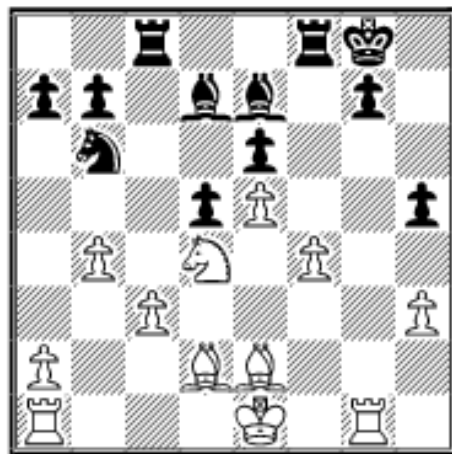
Now White obtains a strong initiative on both wings.

**13...Be7 14 Rg1 Qg4?!**

White was threatening g2-g4, after some preparation, but not yet. So this move was not necessary and now Black is left with several weaknesses. 14...h5 is obviously undesirable. 14...Bd7 is best because 15 g4? fails to 15...fxg4 16 Bxg6 gxh3 17 Bd3 Bxb4 or 17...a6.

**15 Qxg4 fxg4 16 Nfd4 Nxd4 17 Nxd4**

An undisputed grip on d4 for White usually means bad news for Black in this variation, but with his development backward and king in the centre, Capablanca still faces some tactical problems.

**17...Bd7 18 Be2 h5 19 h3 gxh3 20 gxh3 Rac8 21 Bd2**

The game has reached the crisis point.

**21...Na4**

21...Bh4+ may be better.

**22 Rc1 a5 23 bxa5!?**

23 f5! might be chosen by a more tactically-minded player, but Capablanca just deals with the queenside counterplay.

**23...Ba3**

Black's last two moves were apparently based on some miscalculation or misjudgment, because his threats are not effective and White ends up with two outside passed pawns.



**24 Rb1 Nxc3 25 Bxc3 Rxc3 26 Rxb7**

The breakthrough to the seventh rank is decisive.

**26...Rc1+ 27 Bd1 Rxf4 28 Nb3 Re4+ 29 Kf2 Rf4+ 30 Kg3 Rxd1 31 Rxd1 Rf7 32 a6 Bc6 33 Rxf7 Kxf7 34 Nd4 Ba8 35 Nb5 Bc5 36 Rc1 Bb6 37 Rc8 d4 38 Rxa8 d3 39 Kf3 1–0**

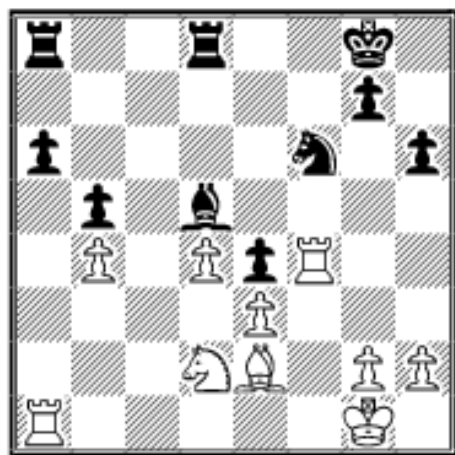
***E. B. Burgess – José Raúl Capablanca***

Inter-Collegiate New York, 21.12.1906

Queen's Gambit Declined [D55]

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Be7 5 e3 0–0 6 Nf3 b6 7 cxd5 exd5 8 Qc2 Bb7 9 Bd3 h6 10 Bh4 c5 11 0–0 c4 12 Be2 a6 13 a3 Ne4 14 Bxe7 Qxe7 15 Nxe4 dxe4 16 Nd2 b5 17 b3 cxb3 18 Qxb3 Rd8 19 f3 Bd5 20 Qc3 f5 21 fxe4 fxe4 22 Rf4 Nd7 23 Qb4 Qxb4 24 axb4 Nf6**

Having created two weaknesses in White's position, at b4 and e3, Capablanca proceeds to exploit them.



**25 Rf5 Rac8 26 Bd1 Rc3 27 Nf1 Bc4 28 Rc5 Nd5 29 Bg4 Nxb4 30 Be6+ Kh8 31 Nd2 Rxe3 32 Nxc4 bxc4 33 Rxc4 Nd3 34 h3**

Of course not 34 Rxa6?? Re1 mate, but 34 g3 offered much better drawing chances.

**34...Nf4 35 d5 Rf8 36 Rxa6 Re1+ 37 Kh2 Re2 38 Rc8**

A blunder that costs a piece, but otherwise White loses his g-pawn, after which the black e-pawn rolls.

**38...Nxe6 0–1.**

The young Alexander Alekhine (just 14 at the end of the year) played only a little postal chess in Russia this year. (For the full details of his CC career, see my recent book *The Write Move*.) In 1905 the future world champion had won his first real tournament (in which he wasn't assisted by his elder brother Aleksey), the 16<sup>th</sup> CC tournament of Shakhmatnoe Obozrenie. In 1906 he started play in Prince Shakhovskoi's tournament, but in 1907 he withdrew without completing it. Here is his best win from the event.

**Alexander Alekhine– V. M. Manko**

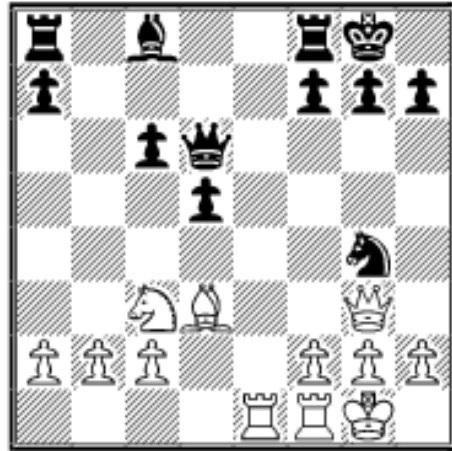
F. Shakhovskoi Corr. Tourney, Russia, 1906-7

Scotch Game [C45]

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nxc6 bxc6 6 Bd3 d5 7 exd5  
cxd5 8 0–0 Be7 9 Nc3 0–0 10 Bg5 c6 11 Qf3 Ng4?!**

11...Bg4 was seen later in Alekhine-Rozanov, Moscow 1907.

**12 Bxe7 Qxe7 13 Rae1 Qd6 14 Qg3!**



**14...Qf6?**

Better 14...Qd8.

**15 h3 Nh6 16 Re5! g6 17 Ne2 Bf5**

17...Nf5 18 Qf4 Qg7 19 Bxf5 Bxf5 20 Nd4 Bd7 21 Re7 Rad8 22 b4+-.

**18 f4 Rfe8 19 Qe3 Rxe5 20 fxe5 Qh4 21 Nd4 Bxd3 22 Rf4! Qe7 23 cxd3 Rc8 24 Rf6 c5**

If 24...Kg7 25 Qxh6+! Kxh6 26 Nf5+.

**25 Nc6 Qe8 26 e6! Nf5**

Sometimes given a ? but Black, in a lost position, wanted to set a trap: 27 Rxf5? fxe6! 28 Re5 Rxc6 29 Rxd5 Qe7. If instead 26...fxe6 27 Rxe6 Qf8 28 Ne7+ or 26...Kg7 27 Qe5 Kg8 28 exf7+ Nxf7 29 Qxd5 Qe3+ 30 Kh2 Rc7 31 Nd8 Qd4 32 Qxd4 cxd4 33 Nxf7 Rxf7 34 Rxf7 and White wins anyway.

**27 exf7+! Qxf7 28 Rxf5! 1–0**

**Arrivals and Departures**

The book by Graham Burgess, *Chess Highlights of the 20th Century* notes that two future world champions were born in 1906: Vera Menchik and Cecil Purdy (first correspondence champion). The former was born in Moscow on 16 February and Purdy (who is of course known as one of Australia's greatest ever players) was actually born in Port Said, Egypt on 27 March.

Another new arrival in 1906 was a magazine. In October 1906, *Chess Amateur* began publication. It was a bit late because originally it had been announced for January. Described as “a popular chess magazine,” it catered

to the ordinary player in Britain and Ireland, with less coverage of international events and problems than in *British Chess Magazine*. Apparently this was the right formula and the magazine proved to have staying power; it provided competition for *BCM* for almost a quarter of a century. (Many of the early volumes of *Chess Amateur* are available as photographic reprints from the publishing house Moravian Chess.)

One death to be noted in 1906 is that of the veteran problemist Frank Healey (born 1828), whose name and work frequently appeared in Victorian chess columns and magazines. *BCM* also noted the passing of Sir Wyke Bayliss (born 1835) who was a significant figure in the London art world as well as a writer on art and a keen chess player.

Also deceased that year was Lieutenant Alnod Ernest Studd (born 1857) whose name had appeared as a contributor (to the problem section, I think) in the earliest volumes of the magazine in the 1880s. Studd had the distinction of being the sole British entrant to the second (first international) correspondence tournament of the French chess magazine *La Stratégie* (1884), a distinction that he marred when he withdrew after losing a few early games.

So, to conclude, 1906 was not a vintage year. As with so many years in this decade, the relative inactivity of the world champion made for less drama, but also (with the exception of Marshall's visit to Germany and Maróczy's to America), there was virtually no contact between the chess worlds of America and Europe.

### **Problemists at War**

Away from the light of competitive play, a curious dispute erupted during the middle of 1906. The May issue of *British Chess Magazine* (page 181) carried the heading: "Lasker's Chess Magazine and English Problem Tourneys: an unwarrantable calumny." The article began:

"Lasker's Chess Magazine for January publishes a most insulting diatribe, veiled with a flimsy gauze of romance, in connection with English Problem Tourney Ethics." The very experienced and much-respected problem expert B. G. Laws was apparently the target of the libel, or at least some people thought he was and his reputation had to be defended.

The offending article was written by Harold H. Cudmore and was entitled "A Method (possibly an English one) of Conducting a Problem Tourney" and Cudmore assigned the name "The English Chess Journal" to the villain of his story.

*BCM* expressed surprise (calling it "vastly strange") that an Englishman should go to America to vent his grievance: "In acting thus he has neither

national pride nor rational sense of justice.” Cudmore didn’t actually name *BCM*, but from his circumlocutions they guessed they were the target. The “general purport of the article is that the problem editor of the narrative conspires with the judges to secure prizes to certain special and friendly entrants, and effects his purpose by unscrupulous manipulation of the scaling,” they continued.

“The article is a libel upon the honesty of English chess editors (and especially ourselves)...” said *BCM*. They pointed out that judges in problem tournaments get no remuneration, but work for pleasure. “There is no profession connected with problem composing. A man composes for the love of the art.” When he proves himself able and is sought for as a judge, he gets “meagre thanks.”

An apology was therefore demanded and *BCM* threatened to sue the writer in England if *Lasker’s Magazine* didn’t give satisfaction. Various readers had written in with support, but the magazine refrained from comment as matter was *sub judice*. (They didn’t actually use that term.)

Reading on to the August issue, one finds the outcome of this quarrel. On page 317, an “Apology and Withdrawal” by Cudmore is prominently published in *BCM* to the effect that:

“I desire to state that I exceedingly regret through the indiscreet selection I made of the fictitious or fancy names in my narrative, I rendered it open to the interpretation that, not only were you guilty of systematic fraud, but, that others were inferentially implicated in aiding the carrying out of dishonest schemes.”

Presumably *BCM* did not find this apology entirely satisfactory, but it was the best their lawyers could get them, virtually on the steps of the court.

“It should be explained,” the editor wrote, “that Mr. Harold H. Cudmore was asked for a reasonable retraction; as he refused there was no option but to invoke the aid of the law. Writ and Statement of Claim did not melt the defendant’s determination to resist, and it appears that only when his Statement of Defence had to be delivered (after grace had been accorded him) he yielded probably under wise counsels.”

As a result, Cudmore signed the proposed memorandum, quoted above, and paid the plaintiff’s costs. *BCM* still wondered what Lasker himself thought about all this. Finally, in its October issue (page 389), they were satisfied that the matter was closed after the world champion printed his own apology admitting “we have been hasty in printing Mr. Cudmore’s story without first thoroughly investigating its implications, and for this reason wish to express our regret for the unjust charges brought against Mr. Laws.”

### Postscript – I

An article by me about the problemist, journalist and chess organiser Mrs. Frideswide Rowland and her place in women's chess of the nineteenth century has just been published in a history journal. "Ireland's queen of chess: Frideswide Rowland and her world" can be found in the volume *History Studies 6* (University of Limerick, 2005) pp.48-63. This is an annual refereed journal from that university; the ISSN reference is 1393-7782. The volume includes six other history papers (nothing to do with chess) and a review of Irish history books. The price for a copy is 10 Euro plus postage; contact [john.ocallaghan@ul.ie](mailto:john.ocallaghan@ul.ie) for details.

Readers who have influence with library purchasing departments might try to see if they can get it? It certainly should be a must for any major chess collection as I think there are very few articles about chess history in academic journals. This article includes, by the way, a major correction to information about Mrs. Rowland in Gaige's *Chess Personalia* and Weenink's *The Chess Problem*, both of which have her birth year wrong. Warning: there are no actual chess games in this article!

### Postscript – II

Concerning last month's article about the 4 d4 lines in the Two Knights Defence, I received some queries from **Mark Nieuweboer** in **Surinam**.

He says he has met 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 quite often and writes:

"In my opinion and experience 5 e5 d5 6 Bb5 Ne4 7 Nxd4 Bc5 is very attractive for Black. 8 0-0 0-0 9 Bxc6 bxc6 10.Nxc6 Qd7 11.Nd4 Qe7 12.Bf4 Ba6 (might even be more attractive than 12...f6) 13.Re1 Rab8 14.f3 Nf2! Fages-Fedorko, email IECG 2000."

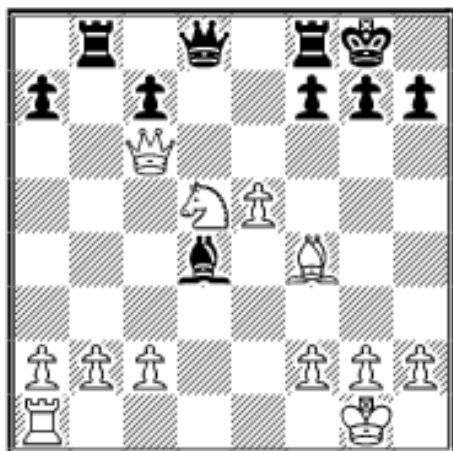
I don't have any strong opinion on that; obviously in that variation, 14 f3 is a blunder, but 9 Bxc6 is not a good move anyway.

Then Mr. Nieuweboer says: "8 0-0 0-0 9 Nxc6 bxc6 10 Bxc6 (10.Bd3 Qe7 might be equal though) 10...Ba6! ...and Pitschka-Braeuning, BL2 1990 already saw 15...Rb8!. White continued 16 Nd5 and won, but not because of the opening. The game was not very good anyway; both missed 25 Qxf7! 1-0. Still I am curious what you think of 16 Nd5!?"

Firstly, as to 10 Bd3, who would want to enter this variation as White just to play that miserable move? Instead of 10...Qe7 Black can answer 10...Qh4 and he's probably better.

After 9 Nxc6 bxc6 10 Bxc6 Ba6! 11 Qxd5! Bxf1 12 Qxe4 Bb5! 13 Nc3 Bxc6

14 Qxc6 Bd4 15 Bf4 Rb8 (so it's not Palkövi's invention after all), 16 Nd5 is not mentioned in the books.



It seems fairly obvious to me that Black should have replied by capturing on b2 with the rook, not with the bishop. Then 16 Nxc7?? loses to ...Rb6, 17 Qxc7?? allows 17...Qxd5 and random moves like 17 h3 are met by 17...Rxc2 18 Qxc2 Bxa1. If White moves his rook at move 17 then Black has ...Rxa2. So I think Palkövi is right to prefer Black in this line.

“Finally you think 8 Be3 0-0 almost certainly unsound. But what about 9 Nxc6 bxc6 10 Bxc5 Nxc5 11 Bxc6 Rb8 (no one less than Svidler played this once, against Ye Jiangchuan, CHI-RUS 2001) 12 0-0 (Ye played 12 Qd5 Qe7 13 0-0 Rxb2 and I think Black has enough for the pawn) 12...Rxb2 13 Bxd5 and Ippolito-Daillet, Paris 1994 ended in a draw. But again this is not a game to trust; Black was lucky to escape. So what do you think of 13...Ba6!?”

It's true I didn't mention 11...Rb8 last time. It's impossible to discuss everything in these articles. A columnist has to be selective. Pinski's book doesn't even mention 8...0-0 at all in reply to 8 Be3. Palkövi ends your variation at 13 Bxd5 saying White has a clear advantage, and he doesn't cite any game. The next diagram shows that position.



This was being played and analysed over thirty years ago in England, but I don't have many notes dating back to that time. At a tournament in Wolverhampton in 1972, I note that the young Tony Miles played 13...Bf5 (the same move Daillet chose) against John Carleton (later a world correspondence championship finalist) and it wasn't good enough, but I don't have the continuation. Another game with 13...Bf5 was played in China in 2001, which went 14 Na3 Bd3 (Daillet

played 14...Qe7.) 15 Bxf7+?! and although White won it was unconvincing. Why not simply 15 Nc4 with an edge?

And Otto Hardy, the expert from Leicester, analysed 13...Qe7 14 Re1 Rd8 15 Nc3 c6 16 Qc1! Rb6 17 Bf3 claiming White has an extra pawn with a sound position.

So you are right; probably 13...Ba6! is best, but I found only one (bad) game with it. S.Bondarchuk-V. Varavin, Ukraine 2001, continued 14 c4 (14 Re1 Nd3 should be OK for Black.) 14...c6 15 Bxc6? Bxc4 16 Qxd8 Rxd8; Black was already better and won. But White should have preferred 15 Qd4! Nd3! (15...Bxc4 16 Bxf7+! Kxf7 17 Qxc4+ Qd5 18 Na3) 16 Rd1 cxd5 17 Rxd3 Bxc4 18 Qxb2 Bxd3 19 Qd4 which may be officially equal, but I would rather have White's pawn structure and his minor piece.

It does look, therefore, as if White would like something more convincing against 8...0-0 and 11...Rb8, but maybe this is the best he can do.

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Readers may be interested that there is a 6-game exhibition correspondence match in progress between two former ICCF world champions, Mikhail Umansky and Gert Jan Timmerman.

All the games are in sharp 1 e4 e5 lines. The games may be seen [online](#) by selecting the Tables link from the left-hand navigation panel. You don't need a server password to kibitz the games.

Here are the moves so far in *Timmerman-Umansky*, WebChess Gambit Match, game 4 (at 5 January, 2006).

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 d5 6 Bb5 Ne4 7 Nxd4 Bc5 8 Be3 Bxd4**

This move is usually said to be somewhat inferior, e.g. Pinski writes: "There is no sense in exchanging the bishop for only one tempo." I was dismissive of it in my last column too. No doubt Umansky has his own views on that. From the very fact that he plays the move we can safely assume there are some errors in the books!

**9 Qxd4**

9 Bxd4 is also playable, but the queen recapture is usually recommended.

**9...0-0 10 Bxc6 bxc6 11 Nc3 Ng5**



## 12 Bxg5

12 Qa4 or 12 0–0–0 first 12...Bd7 13 0–0–0 Ne6 has been seen quite often; now Estrin's move 14 Qa3 was thought best, but J. Palkövi-J. Petrinic, Atom Cup 1996, went 14...a5 (Palkövi queries this and says 14...f6 is better, but with a continuation 15 exf6 Qxf6 16 Ne2 which he says is somewhat preferable to White.) 15 f4 f5 16 Na4 Qb8 17 Bc5 Rf7 18 Qe3 Bc8 19 b3 Ba6 20 a3 Bb5 21 Nb2 a4 22

b4 (In his book, Palkövi claims White has a clear advantage here.) 22...Qb7 23 Rhg1 Qa6. Neither bishop is much good, but Black clearly has the better knight. Black won in 60 moves though this position may be about equal.

## 12...Qxg5 13 h4

The fact that Timmerman avoids the line recommended by Pinski and Palkövi is probably a confirmation that they are mistaken. 13 f4 was perhaps going to be answered by 13...Qxg2, instead of 13...Qh4+ (the only move mentioned by Pinski) as in some games such as Sveshnikov-Balashov, Elista 1997. 14 0–0–0?? Bf5 A. Krol-B. Socko, Poland ch sf, Nadole 1994. Instead White should play 14 Rg1 with the initiative says Palkövi. Probably Umansky was ready to bust this? After 14...Qxc2, what is White's next move?

## 13...Qh5

13...Qxg2 14 0–0–0 Qg4 15 Qe3 Qe6 16 Rhg1 f6 17 f4 Qf7 18 Rd2 Bf5 19 Rdg2 g6 20 h5 (Hector-Salo, Finland 1994) led to a win for White.

## 14 0–0 Qg6 15 Ne2

This is the position so far. Later in the year I may return to this game. White varies from L. Arnold-I.H. Donev, Goetzis 1997, which continued: 15 Qd2 Bf5 16 Rac1 f6 17 Rfe1 Rad8 18 exf6 Qxf6 19 Qg5 Qxg5 20 hxg5 Rfe8 21 Rxe8+ Rxe8 22 Kf1 Kf7 23 Ne2 Kg6 24 Nd4 c5 25 Nxf5 Kxf5 26 Rd1 c6 27 Rd3 Kxg5 28 Ra3 Re7 29 b3 Kf4 30 Ra5 Ke4 31 Rxc5 Rc7 32 Rc3 Ke5 33 Ke2 c5 34 Re3+ Kd6 35 Rh3 h6 36 Rg3 c4 37 Kd2 Kc5 38 bxc4 dxc4 39 Kc3 Rf7 draw.

Thanks also to the correspondent who has sent me a game he played in the Traxler Two Knights. I aim to look at that variation later in the year.



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