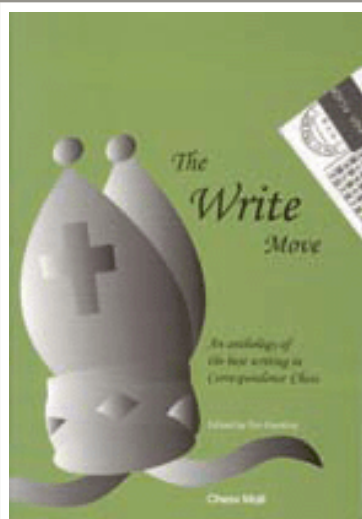




COLUMNISTS

The Kibitzer

Tim Harding



The Write Move
by Tim Harding

Chess Book Heaven at the Royal Dutch Library

In two earlier articles, I wrote about the chess book holdings at the [British Library](#) in London and the [Bodleian Library](#) in Oxford (especially the Harold Murray collection there). Although large, these chiefly consist of books published in Britain, and cannot compare in scale or international coverage with the John G. White collection in Cleveland, Ohio, or the special chess and draughts collection in The Hague. As yet I have not had the opportunity of visiting Cleveland, but I recently paid my second visit to The Hague and will now report on that.

The Royal Dutch Library (Koninklijke Bibliotheek) is located in a modern building only two minutes walk from a side entrance of the central railway station in The Hague; next door is the Dutch national archive. A direct express train from the main airport of the Netherlands (Schiphol, just outside Amsterdam) brings you to The Hague in less than half an hour, so the library is extremely accessible.



The collection was originally based on the personal donations of two Dutchmen: Antonius van der Linde (1833-97) and Meindert Niemeijer (1902-87), especially the latter, and also the draughts collection of G. L. Gortmans (1894-1956). The library began with a small but valuable collection of early chess works and, in 1876, they purchased Dr. van der Linde's collection. After Dr. Niemeijer's donation, following World War Two, the collection became much bigger and for many years after that Niemeijer was able to

keep an eye on the development of the collection. The original collection has since been supplemented by purchases and small gifts, as the library – despite a limited budget – recognises its special position as Europe's largest specialist public collection on chess and seeks to maintain that. They also have the world's largest collection of publications on the game of draughts (not just the 64-square version known as checkers in America).

The library welcomes chess and draughts playing visitors from anywhere in the world and there is a guest book in the chess section that you should sign if you visit. Like me, you probably do not speak Dutch, but with either English or German you will have no problems, as most Dutch people are completely fluent in both those languages.

On my first visit, in September 2005, the library was just beginning a major restructuring with the purpose of establishing a special Reading Room of the Netherlands, to make its holdings of Dutch culture, history and literature more conspicuous. Carpenters were everywhere and there was quite a lot of disruption. By the first week of October 2006, the work in the public areas of the library was nearly finished, but there was a temporary entrance for readers and much was still going on behind the scenes. If you postpone your visit to 2007, you should find everything is normal.

If you have visited the library before the autumn of 2005, however, you will notice one major change: there is no longer a special chess room. To read the rarer items from the collection, which are held in the library's stacks, you must go to the Special Collections area and order what you want from there; the librarians will help you. As there may be some restrictions on who may read the more delicate or valuable items, it might be a good idea to contact the library in advance, as I did the first time I was going. It is not necessary to order books for reading in advance (as is recommended for the British Library) because the time to fetch books is quick (less than an hour) and in the meantime you will find plenty to interest you on the open shelves.

On my latest visit, there was a special chess area on the first floor, with a few chess tables as well as some work desks (with computer power points) nearby. Most of the important current and historic chess periodicals are available on open shelves, for example, a complete run of the *British Chess Magazine* going back to volume 1 of 1881. (The British Library does not have the first three years.) The bindings of some older volumes are not in the best condition and you should always treat the books with care, especially if making photocopies.

Many major chess reference works are also on an open shelf. Other modern books that don't form part of the special collection can be ordered from the main issue book downstairs. Also downstairs is a large room for microfilms and microfiches; some chess books and periodicals (such as the *Wiener*

Schachzeitung and *La Stratégie*) are on film. There are a few gaps in the collection of periodicals, though not many. What is missing may be in the British Library (for example, the second series of *Le Palamède*, edited by Saint-Amant from 1841-7) or, as a last resort, in Cleveland. In the chess area of the library, you can find a small catalogue telling you in which cabinets and drawers the chess microfilms are to be found.

A problem with the chess collection is that the catalogue has been out of date for a long time, though this is compensated to a large extent by the search engine of the online catalogue. After Dr. Niemeijer donated his collection in 1948, a catalogue was produced in 1955 under the title *Bibliotheca Van der Linde-Niemeijeriana*. This is quite rare, but can be found in some libraries (e.g. at Oxford) and is quite useful for seeing what older books and periodicals are held, although in a few cases items may have gone missing. That seems to happen in all libraries, and one hopes that eventually they will be found again, misfiled on the wrong shelf. An attempt was made in the 1970s to make a new catalogue, but only the first volume was ever produced, dealing with bibliographical and historical texts. The title of this auxiliary catalogue is *Bibliotheca Van der Linde-Niemeijeriana aucta et de novo descripta*, compiled by K. W. Kruijswijk, who was one of the librarians then. Nowadays, there are still librarians with special knowledge of the chess holdings, especially Henk Chervet, who has been very helpful to me.

Accessions since 1955 are mostly not included in the printed catalogues – and of course the explosion in chess publications since the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match means that obtaining every chess title is quite difficult and expensive. Nevertheless, they do have an impressive range of chess publications in a huge range of languages and from just about every country where chess is played. Moreover, there is also a large quantity of books on the various forms of draughts: both the 64-square variety known in America as checkers and the 100-square variety, sometimes called Polish draughts or *jeux des dames* – which is popular in the Netherlands, where it is called *dammen*.

Both times I went to The Hague, I returned without seeing something I had intended to, because there is so much of interest that one can become distracted and spend time with different things that catch your attention. Nevertheless, it is a good idea to make a list in advance of the main things you want to see, with the call numbers needed to fetch items held in the stacks. The number you need is not the old L/N codes often found in bibliographies, but the AVN number shown in the online catalogue. Also, of course, you can look at the library's own copy of the 1955 catalogue, as this could jog your memory. If you have a few days to spend in the library, you can check what you have seen that day with what you intended to see and make a new list of priorities for the next day. Of course, that is one of the joys of chess research in a big library: one thing leads to another, and in The Hague a topic that begins with an old issue of *British Chess Magazine* can

lead you to look at books or periodicals in other languages.

On my recent visit, I mostly looked at periodicals – primarily from the nineteenth century, early twentieth century and the 1940s. I looked at English and American magazines, but also one in French, two in German and did my best with one in Danish. I needed to look in *Nordisk Skaktidende* to find the end of a correspondence game played in 1879-80 between the chess clubs of Glasgow and Copenhagen. Although Professor Carlo Pagni's collections of correspondence games between chess clubs only mention one game, I already knew that two had been played, because some of the moves were published in a Scottish newspaper chess column that I was reading a few months ago, but the end of the game was missing. In The Hague, I was able to discover what actually happened.

At the very end of the 1878 volume, on page 273, the Danish magazine says that Copenhagen just received a challenge from John Crum Esq. to play a match with Glasgow. Crum (1842-1922) was one of the strongest Scottish players and he had won a postal chess tournament organised by the Rev T. H. Archdall of Gateshead. The other players on the Glasgow committee were Sheriff Spens and J. Jenkin, who had briefly edited the *Chess Player's Chronicle* in 1876. The Copenhagen playing committee consisted of S. A. Sørensen (1840-96) and Govert Nielsen (1830-1913), both dangerous attacking players, who were associated with the *Nordisk Skaktidende*. A third player, Severin Hertzprung (1839-93), was also involved according to the *Chess Player's Chronicle* of 1879 (page 41).

The games continued throughout 1879 and the Scots were outplayed. Pages 276-7 of the Danish magazine for 1879 give the diagrams of the current positions in both games and the Danish text of three letters exchanged between the secretaries. On 29 November, Crum wrote suggesting that Glasgow resign one game and agree a draw in the other. The Danes rejected that offer, correctly judging that they were winning both games. Nielsen replied on 6 December that the letter of the 29th had come into his hand after three days. This means that they considered the Glasgow offer for three or four days, and then they made a move in each game. There was no reply until 17 December, when Crum wrote back that he had discussed it with his co-players and the club President, and they had decided to resign the match. So both games were won by Copenhagen.

The game in which Copenhagen played White appeared on page 2 of the January 1880 issue of *Nordisk Skaktidende*, followed by more than three pages of analysis by Nielsen and Sørensen. That is the game which appears in Pagni's book; it was a lively affair.

Copenhagen - Glasgow

Game 1, corr 1879

Bishop's Gambit [C33]

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4 d5 4 Bxd5 Qh4+ 5 Kf1 g5 6 Nf3 Qh5 7 h4 Bg7

There was quite a debate in the late nineteenth century about whether this or 7...h6 was correct. Later, Chigorin improved White's chances with 6 g3 and 4...Qh4+ became unpopular.

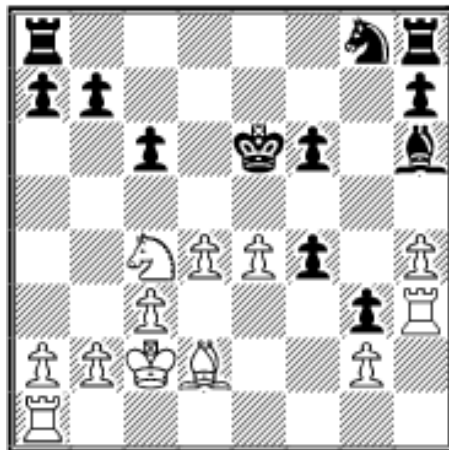
8 Kf2!?

The normal move was 8 Nc3; the king move seems to have been a Nielsen specialty.

8...g4 9 Ng5 g3+

This was a new move, attempting to improve on 9...Nh6, which had been unsuccessful for Black in Vilhelm Nielsen-Emil Schalopp, correspondence match 1876-7, which had been published in the Danish magazine in 1877. Govert and Vilhelm Nielsen were cousins.

10 Ke1 Qxd1+ 11 Kxd1 Nc6 12 c3 Bg4+ 13 Kc2 Nd8 14 d4 f6 15 Nh3 Bxh3 16 Rxh3 Bh6 17 Nd2 c6 18 Bb3 Nf7 19 Bxf7+ Kxf7 20 Nc4 Ke6 21 Bd2



21...f5

The Danish analysis suggests that 21...b5 22 Na5 f5 was a better try, but computers do not agree. Their main line went 23 exf5+ Kxf5 24 Nxc6 Re8 25 Rf1 (25 Ne5 seems better.) 25...Kg4 26 Ne5+ Rxe5 27 dxe5 Ne7, but this looks more obviously won for White than the line they said they intended, 23 d5+ cxd5 24 exd5+ Kxd5 25 c4+. It looks as if Glasgow should have tried this anyway, but they had gone

wrong earlier.

22 exf5+ Kxf5 23 Rf1 Nf6 24 Rxg3 Ne4 25 Rg3 Rhg8

This was the situation on 29 November, when Crum offered his deal.

26 g3 1-0

The other game, not republished until now, was duller. It appeared in the

Februarey-March 1880 issue of *Nordisk Skaktidende*. The opening was unusual for those days, but evidently the Scots had decided to avoid open games when they had first move.

Glasgow – Copenhagen

Game 2, corr 1879

English v Dutch [A84]

1 d4 e6 2 c4 f5 3 a3 Nf6 4 Nc3 Be7 5 Nf3 0–0 6 Bf4 d6 7 e3 Nh5 8 Bg3 Nd7 9 c5 Ndf6 10 Qb3 Ng4 11 Bc4 d5 12 Bd3 Nxc3 13 hxc3 c6 14 Nh2 Nxe2 15 Rxh2 b6 16 cxb6 axb6 17 Ne2 b5 18 Qc2 Qd6 19 b4 e5 20 Qb3 e4 21 Bc2 Be6 22 Kd2 Ra7 23 f4 Rfa8 24 Qb2 Qb8 25 Rhh1



This was the point where the Scots proposed a draw. They stand clearly worse, but Black could have some problems converting the bishop-pair and a-file pressure into victory, especially as the light-squared bishop is rather bad. However, the most they can hope for is a draw, so evidently they decided it was not worth continuing after the next move came from Copenhagen.

25...Qf8 0–1

Many of the older items in the library have the bookplate of Meindert Niemeijer. One rare item in the collection at The Hague is *The Recreationist, A Monthly Magazine of General Sports and Pastimes*, which was published monthly from January 1873 until November 1874, originally in Southampton and then in Leeds. In the first year it had chess, draughts and puzzles; in 1874 it was exclusively a draughts magazine. The *Waterloo Directory of English Newspapers and Periodicals* mentions *The Recreationist*, but is unable to tell readers where it may be found. The copy in The Hague has a bookplate from the Brooklyn Public Library, saying it was presented by W. T. Call (author of the early *Literature of Checkers* bibliography), but that library seems to have disposed of it and fortunately it came into Niemeijer's hands.

Here is a game taken from one of the correspondence chess tournaments run by *The Recreationist*. It appeared in the July 1873 number of that magazine (pages 75 and 77).

R.W. Johnson – Mark C. Heywood

Recreationist tourney–1 rd. 1 corr, 1873

Evans Gambit [C51]

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 b4 Bxb4 5 c3 Ba5 6 0-0 d6 7 d4 exd4 8 cxd4 Bb6 9 Nc3 Bg4 10 Qa4

The Fraser-Mortimer Attack: unsound but tricky.

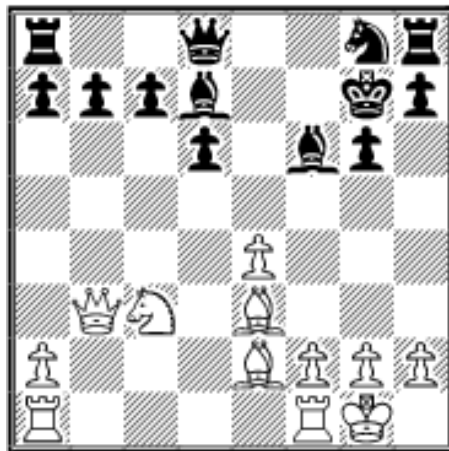
10...Bd7 11 Qb3 Nxd4?!

11...Na5 is critical, when White sacrifices a piece by 12 Bxf7+ Kf8 13 Qc2 (Mortimer's improvement upon G. B. Fraser's original idea 13 Qd5.)
13...Kxf7 14 e5, when theory recommends 14...Kf8 as the best defence.

12 Bxf7+ Kf8 13 Nxd4 Bxd4 14 Bh5

Black's next two moves are criticised in the paper, but maybe Black has nothing better.

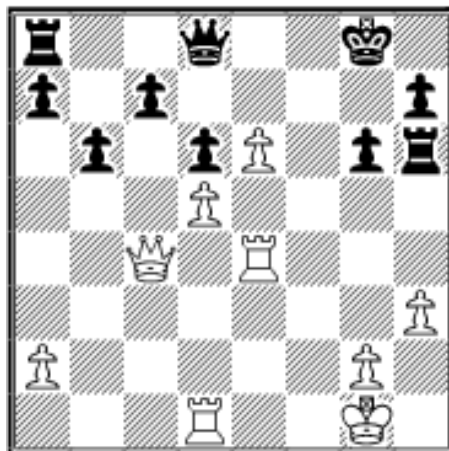
14...g6 15 Be3 Bf6 16 Be2 Kg7



17 Rad1

White clearly has compensation for the pawn, but doesn't have more than that for a long time. Maybe better here is 17 Rac1.

17...Ne7 18 Nd5 Nxd5 19 exd5 b6 20 Rfe1 Rf8 21 Bb5 Bxb5 22 Qxb5 Be5 23 Qc4 Kg8 24 Bh6 Rf5?! 25 f4 Qh4 26 Re4 Rh5 27 h3 Rxh6 28 fxe5 Qd8 29 e6



29...Qe7?

Black finally cracks. He had to try 29...Rh5.

30 Rf1 Rf8 31 Rxf8+ Kxf8 32 Rf4+ Kg8 33 Rf7 1-0

Finally, here are a few practical details for visitors to The Hague. As with most research libraries, outdoor coats and bags are not allowed in reading rooms. They must be left in lockers in the basement. You don't need money for the lockers; they operate on a modern

computerised system using a pin code. You will have to pay a nominal amount for a reader's pass, but it is very cheap. You can get a day pass or a pass valid either for one week, or five single days at different times over a twelve month period. You can also obtain an annual pass with extra rights if you live in the Netherlands or are going to be there often. Normally you cannot borrow books, as this is primarily a research library, but year pass holders may be able to take some volumes home. There are also electronic resources that can be accessed when you are in the library. Consult their website for further information.

Here is the home page for the The Hague library in [Dutch](#) and in [English](#). Here is the [start page](#) in English for the most important reader information about the library; the general searchable online [catalogue](#) in English; the [introduction](#) to the chess collection; and the searchable [1955 catalogue](#) online.

As with all big libraries, it is recommended to spend plenty of time exploring the catalogues when planning your visit, in order to maximise reading time and minimise difficulties when you are there.

One word of warning: there is a restaurant downstairs where you can buy breakfast (from 8.30am), take a coffee break or buy a very good value lunch, but this closes in the mid-afternoon, so check the time and don't leave it too late to take your break. There is also an exhibition gallery that is worth visiting, especially if you know some Dutch.

The library is open five and a half days a week (early closing on Saturdays). It opens each day at 9am, which is much more convenient than many libraries I have visited. On Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays the library closes at 6pm, but on Tuesdays it stays open to 8pm, so if you have a lot to read and only a day or two to spare, then make sure your visit includes a Tuesday.

Photocopying in the library is inexpensive: 5 cents a page for self-copying from hard copies or 10 cents for an A4 page from microfilms. You have to pay more for rare material that must be scanned by staff, but that still works out much cheaper than at the British Library, whose rates have become almost prohibitive for students not on generous grants. It should also be borne in mind that in some cases the material you seek may have been made available in reprints from Dr. Vlastimil Fiala's publishing house Moravian Chess.

I am sure that on future visits to The Hague I shall find many more items of interest, especially as I have only begun to look at the twentieth century and non-English language material there. The resources for a chess scholar at this library are almost inexhaustible, and all chess researchers should be very

grateful to the Royal Dutch Library for supporting our game. Any collector who has duplicates of items that are not yet in the library should consider donating them.

Finally, here are the URLs for some other libraries with special chess collections.

The John G. White chess and checkers collection is in Cleveland, Ohio. I hope to be able to visit there in 2007 and report on it afterwards. Here is the [search engine](#) for the Cleveland Public Libraries.

The description of the collection on their website begins:

“John G. White (1845-1928), eminent Cleveland lawyer and President of the Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees, was an avid chess player and enthusiastic collector. He was a vital force in shaping the research aspects of the Cleveland Public Library and donated his personal library of chess and checkers material. The collection documents the history, development, and technical aspects of the game and maintains records of competitions, tournaments and players. Early, limited and rare editions, association copies, annotated texts, unpublished translations, chess column collections, scrapbooks, manuscripts, bibliographies, union lists, letters of collectors, chess masters and scholars, tournament records and bulletins, rating records, problem collections, pictorial materials and letters of collectors, chess masters and scholars are represented...”

The other great public chess collection in a public library is in the [State Library](#) of Victoria, Australia. Their [catalogue](#) is also online.

I have never been there, but I believe their claim as one of the three largest public chess collections in the world is correct. They say:

“This collection, which is known as the Anderson Chess Collection, contains over 12,000 items including books, tournament reports, magazines and pamphlets.”

It was originally donated to them in 1956 by Magnus Victor Anderson, a Melbourne accountant and keen chess player, who personally looked after the collection for the next ten years. By the time he died in 1966, the collection had expanded from 1,500 books to over 6,000 volumes, but now it is double that size as they continue to acquire “a wide range of materials relating to chess. This includes any work that is published in Australia, a range of manuscripts and ephemera, all books in English and major works in other languages, a variety of chess magazines in many languages, and reports of tournaments from every country.”

They say that current journals and items published after 1960 are available for reading and browsing in the Chess room. All other material is in closed storage and can only be accessed by appointment. So clearly this library is a very useful resource for Australian chess players, or indeed for anyone in the southern hemisphere, who finds it more convenient to visit Melbourne than the USA or the Netherlands. I do not know if they have many items that are not in The Hague or Cleveland; maybe some reader knows?

Postscript: the first Oxford-Cambridge university match

The [August](#) column dealt with the first over-the-board chess match in 1873 between teams representing Oxford and Cambridge Universities. I now want to clear up a point of confusion about the colours in the top board games between Walter Parratt and John de Soyres. In that column, I published a short game won by Parratt as second player, and the finish of the other game, which was adjudicated by Steinitz. I wrote that “a misprint in *I.L.N.* says ‘and Black resigned’ but of course it was White who surrendered.” That does seem to be correct. At the head of the gamescore, the *Illustrated London News* (volume 52, 5 April 1873, p. 330), said “White (Mr de. S)” and “Black (Mr P).” When the game was later published in the *Chess Player’s Chronicle* for June 1873 (pp. 279-80), De Soyres was stated to be White and at the end it said “White resigned.” Staunton was not present at the 1873 match and must have been working from notes supplied to him by someone else, and got confused.

Some readers asked me why De Soyres had White in both the games, which is definitely what the primary sources say. Reconsidering this point, I remembered that a practice common in the early and middle nineteenth century must have been adopted on this occasion, namely that when two players played two or more games at a “sitting,” as they called it, they kept the same colours throughout. So that in some games White had the first move and in others Black started. This custom seems to have died out after the death of Staunton (in 1874) who was one of its firmest advocates, but maybe some reader can inform me about later cases.

We know that Parratt won both games as all sources agree on the results. De Soyres made the first move in the Two Knights Defence game; Parratt made the first move in the other one (but with Black) as *BCM* editor John Saunders pointed out when sending me the game (which he found in an article by R. N. Coles from *BCM* 1973). I have since been trying to find out where Coles found the complete score. Löwenthal, in *Land and Water* (26 April 1873), printed it only as far as Parratt’s 33rd move, saying “and White won.” The complete game may have been printed in his column in *The Era*, but I shall have to wait until my next visit to the British Newspaper Library to check that. Next time I go to Oxford, I will look for Falconer Madan’s article on the match in the *Oxford Undergraduates Journal*.

Here are the moves of the game, remembering that Parratt actually moved first with Black.

Walter Parratt – John De Soyres

Oxford-Cambridge First University Match London, 1873

Ponziani Opening [C44]

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 c3 d5 4 Bb5 dxe4 5 Nxe5 Qd5 6 Qa4 Bd7

Black's main choice here is 6...Nge7, which transposes to the Cozio Defence to the Ruy Lopez (3 Bb5 Nge7 4 c3 d5 5 Nxe5 dxe4 6 Qa4 Qd5).

7 Nxd7 Kxd7 8 0–0 Bd6 9 d4 Qh5 10 g3!?

From a monograph on the Ponziani that I wrote for Chess Digest in 1984, I note that Kabes-Grguric, Czechoslovakia 1957, went 10 h3! Ne7 11 Re1 with an edge to White, who won in 36 moves “after complicated middle game play.” 10 g3 may be playable, but it looks inferior.

10...Nf6 11 Kg2

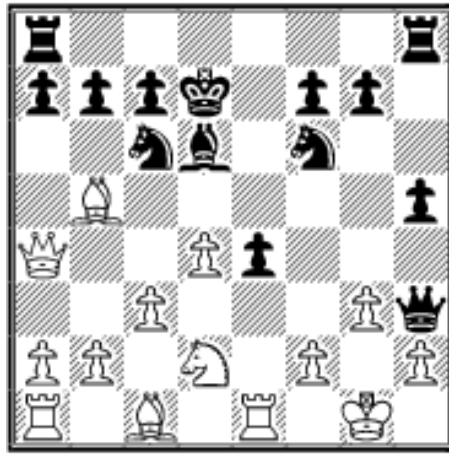
This provocative move looks like an obvious mistake, but maybe it is not. Parratt presumably wants to play h2-h3 and reckons that Black will not gain time by checking because Nd2 will then drive the queen back with tempo.

11...Qf3+ 12 Kg1 h5!?

De Soyres is evidently not satisfied to repeat the position by ...Qh5, especially with so many spectators, and team honour at stake, having lost the first game.

13 Nd2 Qg4 14 Re1 Qh3

“This is played a little too soon,” wrote Löwenthal, as White could reply Bf1. However, Black stands worse anyway, whereas after this move White makes a terrible reply, which immediately brings him into a critical situation.



15 c4??

There seem to be many superior moves, including 15 Nxe4 and 15 d5.

15...h4 16 Nf1 hxc3?!

JJL: "Here, we believe, Black missed an opportunity of winning the game. Had he simply played 16...Ng4 threatening to take RP with Kt, and afterwards Kt P with Pawn, White would have had no defence."

Löwenthal was right; opening the h-file was tempting, but it releases the tension too soon. White would have to meet 16...Ng4 by 17 Bxc6+ bxc6 18 d5, but, after 18...Kd8! (not 18...Nxb2?? 19 Qxc6+ Ke7 20 Rxe4+) 19 Qxc6 Rb8, White is busted. If instead 17 Re2 Nxb2, or 17 d5 hxc3 meeting 18 Bxc6+ by 18...Kd8 and 18 dxc6+ by 18...Ke6 19 Rxe4+ Kf6. White's "active" pieces cannot defend the king adequately.

17 fxg3 Bxg3 18 Re2 Bxh2+?

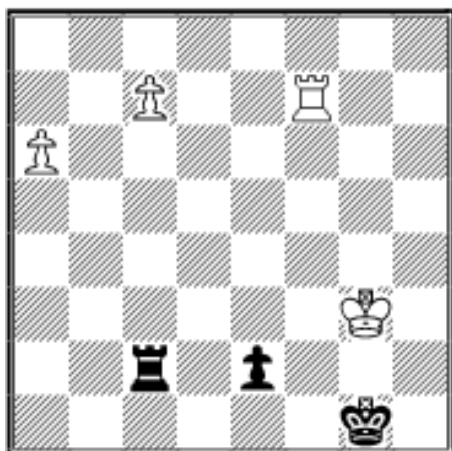
JJL: "This is immediately fatal, but in any case Black has a difficult game."

The combination De Soyres played was unsound, but Löwenthal's pessimism is not entirely justified. I think that Black's attack may be strong enough to draw if pursued by 18...Ng4!, e.g. 19 Bxc6+ (19 Ng3 Nxb2 and 19 d5 Nge5 both look dangerous for White.) 19...bxc6 20 d5 Ne5 21 dxc6+ Kc8 (not allowing a bishop check on g5 until the white queen is displaced) 22 Qa6+ Kd8 23 Bg5+ f6 24 Rd1+ Ke8 (The point of Black's 21st move is that White now does not have Qb3, defending the rook.) 25 Qa3 Bf2+! (Very hard to see far enough in advance, without computer assistance) 26 Kxf2 Qf5+ 27 Kg1 Qxg5+ with a messy position and maybe equal chances.

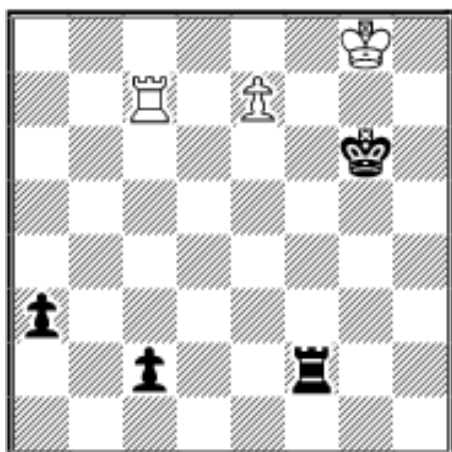
19 Rxh2 Qg4+ 20 Rg2 Qf3 21 Ng3 Ng4 22 d5 Nf2 23 Bxc6+ Kd8 24 Bg5+ f6 25 Rxf2 Qxg3+ 26 Rg2 Qh3 27 Re1 fxg5 28 Qa3 Qxa3 29 bxa3 bxc6 30 dxc6 Ke7 31 Rxc5 Kf6 32 Rd5 Rhe8 33 Rd7

Land and Water stopped here. The remaining moves, as sent to me by John Saunders, were: **33...Rac8 34 Rf1+ Kg6 35 Rff7 e3 36 Rxc7+ Kf5 37 Rgf7+ Ke4 38 Kf1 Rb8 39 Rfe7+ Kf3 40 Rf7+ Ke4 41 Rfe7+ Rxe7 42 Rxe7+ Kd3 43 Rd7+ Kxc4 44 Rxc7 Kd3 45 Rd7+ Ke4 46 Rb7 Rh8 47 Rxa7 Rh1+ 48 Ke2 Rh2+ 49 Ke1 Rh1+ 50 Ke2 Rh2+ 51 Kf1 Rxa2 52 Re7+ Kf3 53 Rf7+ Ke4 54 c7 Ra1+ 55 Kg2 Ra2+ 56 Kg3 Rc2 57 Re7+ Kd3 58 a4 Kd2 59 Rd7+ Ke1 60 a5 e2 61 a6 Kf1 62 Rf7+ Kg1 1-0**

Here the players ran out of time. The position that you will see if you have entered the game in a computer program, which doesn't allow you to have Black moving first, will look like this.



Actually this is just a mirror image (bearing in mind the reversal of colours) of the actual position that Steinitz adjudicated, as I reported in [The Kibitzer #123](#). Steinitz clearly stated that De Soyres was White, so it really looked like this:



Black's next move will be Re2 and Steinitz proved the win. Or if you look at the first diagram (the ChessBase version, where Parratt is White), he plays Re7 and soon wins. See my earlier article for the details.

Apology

The promised follow-up article on the Najdorf Poisoned Pawn will have to wait for next year because my game in the

variation is still ongoing.

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