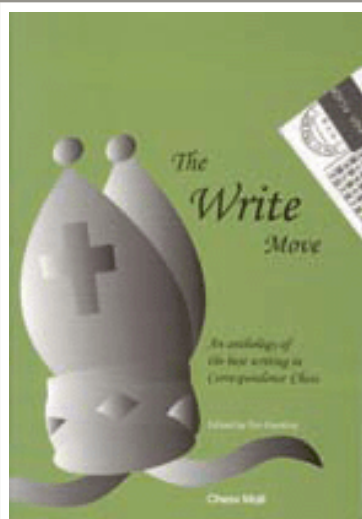




COLUMNISTS

The Kibitzer

Tim Harding



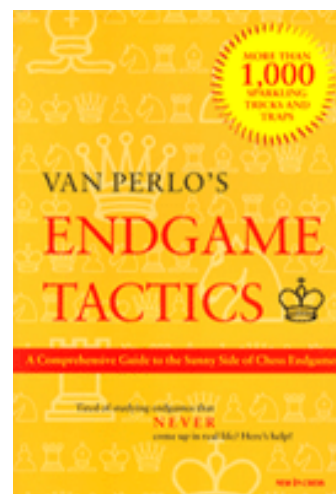
The Write Move
by Tim Harding

Chess Books for Christmas

It has been a long time since this column devoted itself to the topic of books, but a few came my way recently about which I wanted to have a say. These are books you might want to buy for yourself or a friend for Christmas, or maybe you have a birthday or other treat due soon.

As you can gather, I do not intend to write about bad or mediocre books that are not worth buying. Ordinary chess books appear every week, and every year there are some really bad ones; although it can be fun to demolish them with some well-chosen words or by pointing out the gross errors they contain, it is not the time of the year for that.

I shall begin by saying something of which my readers in Britain are probably already aware: the English Chess Federation's annual book of the year award (selected by a panel of judges from titles nominated by publishers) went in 2006 to *Van Perlo's Endgame Tactics: a Comprehensive Guide to the Sunny Side of Chess Endgames*. This book was written by Dutch correspondence chess grandmaster G. C. van Perlo and was published (in English) this year by New In Chess in Alkmaar, Holland. The ISBN is 90-5691-168-6 and there are over 470 pages and 1,105 endgame positions: an excellent value!



I never met Ger van Perlo, but we used to correspond occasionally, as he was a subscriber to my magazine [Chess Mail](#) and in the preliminaries of the 15th ICCF Olympiad (played by email) he was the captain of the Dutch team and I captained the Irish team. Interestingly, the notes to position 399 show that the Dutch players consulted and advised their player in a crucial endgame from an earlier team match against Canada, and one key move was a team decision. This is a practice considered ethically wrong in many countries and the Canadians might have protested had they known at the time.

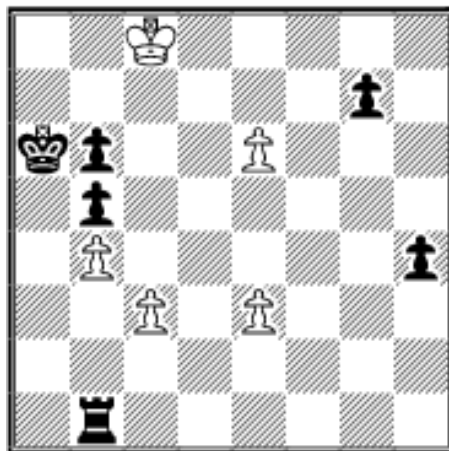
Sadly, Van Perlo had a very serious stroke last year, which meant that he was unable to do a final tidying up on this book during the editorial process, as

the preface by publisher Wim Andriessen acknowledges. Evidence of this is that the Preface itself refers to a Keres-Lengyel endgame as position 966 when actually it is 967. On page 140 (position 300) the unknown editor also failed to make a necessary correction as he leaves Van Perlo talking about the rook ending of “f- en h-pawn” instead of “f and h-pawn.” I have often noted that Dutch people with otherwise perfect English can fail to translate “en” to “and,” perhaps because the two words almost sound the same when spoken. There are other linguistic slips; for example, on page 18 where “White does not seem to have any perspectives left.” It is also a little confusing that the numbers in the player index refer to the pages and not to the examples.

Minor glitches apart, this is a very worthwhile book and it deserved the award. It is based on a collection of endgame positions that Van Perlo collected for about thirty years, and which he used as the basis of a long series of articles in the Dutch correspondence chess magazine *Schaakshakeringen*. This material is now available in English for the first time. It is divided into the different types of endgame depending on the material on the board: pawn endgames, queen endgames, rook endgames and minor piece endgames, but there the resemblance with a “normal” dry technical endgame book ends. This book has several tactical twists and turns on each page, which should convince you that the endgame is definitely more interesting than you probably imagined and it is a phase where many extra half points can be picked up – or thrown away!

Many of the examples in the book are from postal games, but that is because Van Perlo was a correspondence master and he found many examples in the mistakes made by amateurs, yet there are also some blunders from masters in the book.

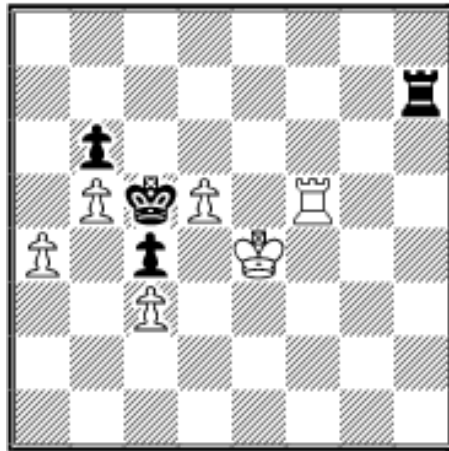
Almost at random, here are two examples from the book, chosen because they are briefly settled. Here is position #845: Babushkin-Postnikov, 1969/70.



Black has a very easy win here by 1...Re1 2 e7 Rxe3, etc. But he tried to be too clever and wanted to show he could win even if White queened first. So he played **1...h3? 2 e7 h2**, but now instead of 3 e8=Q h1=Q there followed **3 e8=N!! h1=Q 4 Nc7+ Ka7 5 Nxb5+** etc. with a draw by perpetual check.

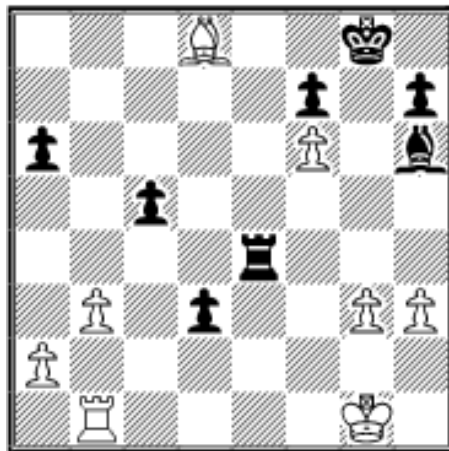
The following (#302) comes from Kluger-Vajda, Hungarian championship,

Budapest 1952



Black played **1...Re7+** and White, two pawns ahead, should have replied **2 Kf4**. However he played **2 Re5?** and after **2...Ra7**, he soon won. Instead, **2...Rxe5+** **3 Kxe5** would have been stalemate.

There are also many examples of surprisingly strong or ingeniously subtle moves. This one (#473) comes from a 1972 game between two Russian players, Seredenko-Belousov.

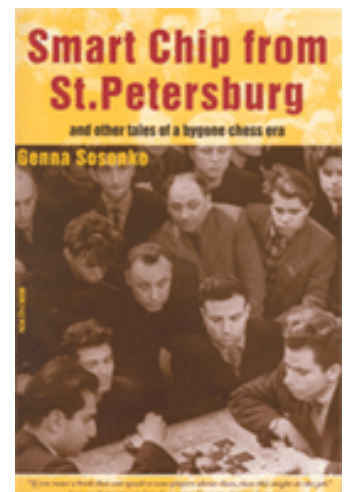


Obviously Black has the more active pieces, but if **1...d2**, **2 Ba5** and it is hard to make progress. Black found **1...Bc1!!**, which wins because of **2 Rxc1 d2** and **3...Re1+**.

Let us move on to two other books published by New In Chess. The first is by grandmaster Genna Sosonko, originally from St. Petersburg (Leningrad), but now living in the

Netherlands for over thirty years. He had previously produced two earlier books of pen portraits of mostly Soviet players: *Russian Silhouettes* (which won the BCF Book of the Year in 2001) and *The Reliable Past*.

His latest collection, *Smart Chip from St. Petersburg* (ISBN 90-5691-169-4) features articles that first appeared in *New In Chess*, as well as new articles reflecting on his own career, now that he is in his sixties and semi-retired. The title story is about Genrikh Chepukaitis (1935-2004), or “Chip,” who was about a 2400 player at normal time-limits, but grandmaster standard at blitz chess. He was a factory worker, a welder, who lived for the game, which he played every night and every weekend. Bronstein called him a “magnificent strategist and a brilliant tactician.” When Petrosian was world champion, his formidable wife Rhona would not let him play in the Moscow blitz championship: “what if you lose to



Chepkaitis?”

Other chess-players featured in the book include Yakov Neishtadt, the chess writer and editor who emigrated to Israel many years ago but never learned Hebrew; Ludek Pachman, who was imprisoned by the new regime in his country after the Prague Spring of 1968 was overthrown by Russian tanks; Irina Levitina, once the world’s number two female chess player but now in America and a world champion at bridge instead. Also in the book is Donner, about whom more in a moment.

Sosonko’s book, like its predecessors, paints pictures in words (and includes a few photographs); it does not include the moves of any games. You can get those elsewhere, mostly. It is a pity though that we don’t have any of the famous blitz victories by Chepkaitis against top players. In databases, he is mostly represented by games from very late in his life, and played at normal time limits. As Sosonko says, “Smart Chip” was playing the Trompowsky Attack long before it became fashionable; it led to the kind of highly original, non-standard positions in which he excelled. Here is an early example.

Genrikh Chepkaitis – Aleksandr Rutman
Soviet Team Championship, Leningrad 1964

1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 Ne4 3 Bh4 c5 4 f3 g5 5 fxe4

Chepkaitis is not worried about giving up the bishop-pair. Sosonko quotes him as saying: “I love knights, without knights chess would just be boring.”

5...gxh4 6 e3

To support the centre and let the king’s bishop out. This was certainly a most unusual position forty years ago.

6...Nc6 7 c3 Qb6 8 Qb3

Maybe the computer says Black stands better; don’t believe it. Chepkaitis may be a tactician, but he is not afraid to exchange queens, as we shall see.

8...Bh6 9 Kf2

Nor is he afraid to surrender castling rights!



9...cxd4 10 cxd4 d6

Both players seem to agree that exchanging queens would give the opponent a useful half-open a-file, more significant than a doubled b-pawn.

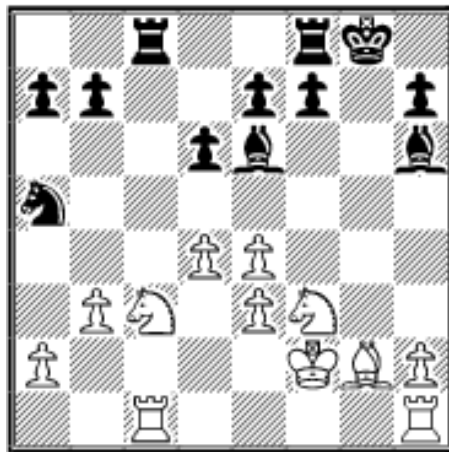
11 Nf3 h3 12 Nc3 hxg2

Black gets rid of his doubled h-pawn, but it has cost him time.

13 Bxg2 Qa5 14 Qd5

“Smart Chip” now insists on exchanging queens.

14...Be6 15 Qxa5 Nxa5 16 b3 Rc8 17 Rac1 0-0?!



All along Black has refused to post his king's rook on the half-open g-file; now this routine thinking will be punished.

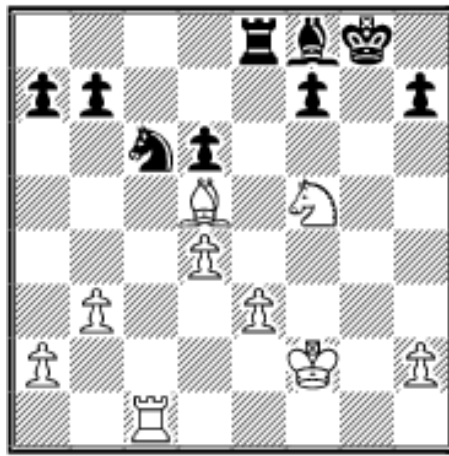
18 Nd5 Bxd5

Probably not good, as the a5-knight now requires some emergency measures to get back into the game.

19 exd5 e6 20 Bh3 Rxc1 21 Rxc1 exd5

Necessary to liberate the black knight, but providing the white knight with a perfect square at g5. Black's extra pawn cannot be held in the long run; the hole at f5 is much more permanent.

22 Nh4 Re8 23 Nf5 Bf8 24 Bg2 Nc6 25 Bxd5



25...Ne7?

In a bad position, there are no good moves. If 25...Rd8, 26 Rg1+ Kh8 27 Bxf7 will soon win, while upon 25...Nd8 26 Rc8 Black is horribly tied up, but the chosen move is just a blunder allowing Chip's cavalry to deliver the final blow.

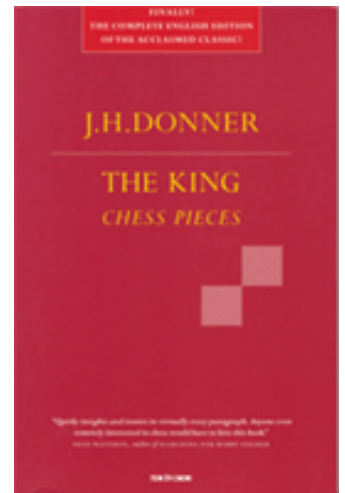
26 Bxf7+ 1-0

Black resigned in view of 26...Kxf7 27

Nxd6+ and 28 Nxe8.

To sum up, if you have been reading these articles as they appeared in *New In Chess*, then you probably don't need this book, but otherwise I can warmly recommend it.

The King is not a book about Elvis Presley, but a legendary anthology of several hundred articles by the late grandmaster J. H. Donner (1927-88), taken from the thousand or more pieces of journalism he wrote for Dutch papers and magazines from 1950 until he suffered a severe stroke in 1983. He didn't always write for the same papers; one big Dutch publisher, *Elsevier*, dropped him in the Sixties when he wrote in support of the Vietnamese and against the Americans. He found other publishers, naturally. This book first appeared in Dutch as *De Koning* in 1987, collected (with Donner's approval) by Tim Krabbé and Max Pam. Now for the first time it is available in English, translated by Richard de Weger and published by New In Chess (ISBN90-5691-171-6).



To be honest, it is a very strange book, but Donner (whom I many times saw in action but never spoke with) was not an everyday sort of chess player. He was a physically very large man, a chain-smoker, and he held definite strong opinions, mostly of the left-wing variety. But, as Sosonko tells us, "he didn't belong to any party, because the membership of a party implies first of all party discipline, and for him the freedom of the individual came before all."

So *The King* is bound to be an interesting book, but of course it shares the inevitable shortcomings of all books that have been compiled from occasional journalism, and one can sometimes wonder if it is all completely accurate. It is best suited as a bedside book, to dip into a few pages each night, or for airports and plane journeys when it can be hard to concentrate on

something for long periods. On page 180 of *Smart Chip* there is a very funny story (not to be repeated here in case children are reading this column) concerning a certain theory Donner had about Defoe's classic *Robinson Crusoe* (he was convinced it had been censored in the Dutch edition). Elsewhere, Sosonko tells how at one time Donner was fascinated by the endgame of two knights against one pawn, which Troitzky showed can be one under certain circumstances, but Donner kept talking about Trotsky...

Donner was in his day a formidably strong player, but he could also be naïve and unprofessional. Apparently he did not know about the *Informator* series until it had been going for about six years and it is well known that he lost the same miniature game on more than one occasion. He must have lost more miniatures than any other grandmaster, and Sosonko reckons this was because his mind ran in certain grooves, so that in certain situations he would end up making the same decisions, not remembering the previous occasion that led to disaster. I prefer however to show a game that I personally witnessed.

Jan Hein Donner - Ray Keene

England-Holland match, London 1971

1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nc6

If Keene thought he could surprise Donner with this move, he was sadly mistaken. The reply came very quickly. Donner knew immediately the weak point of this defence and Black had a terrible position within half an hour of the match starting. It is true that in later years some improvements were found for Black in the Chigorin Defence, thanks to such players as John Watson and Alexander Morozevich, but now it is out of favour again.

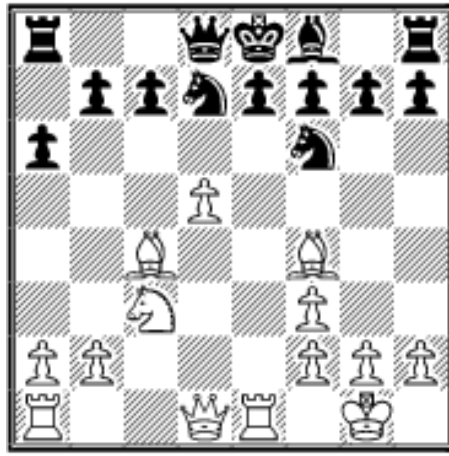
3 Nc3

The usual move was 3 Nf3, but this is stronger and Donner did not hesitate. Keene did not seem to know Black's best line now.

3...dxc4 4 Nf3 Bg4 5 d5 Bxf3 6 exf3 Ne5 7 Bf4 Nd7

7...Nd3+ would stop White keeping the bishop-pair, but after 8 Bxd3 cxd3 9 Nb5 Rc8 10 Nxa7 Ra8 11 Nb5 Rc8 12 Qxd3, Black is a half-pawn down without compensation.

8 Bxc4 a6 9 0-0 Ngf6 10 Re1



Positionally, Black is already defeated. It is hard for Black to find a satisfactory way of completing his development.

10...Nh5 11 Be3 g6 12 d6!?

Donner puts the boot in, opening up a strong diagonal for his light-squared bishop. The pawn sacrifice is only temporary.

12...cxd6 13 Qb3 e6 14 Bd4

This is much stronger than capturing the b-pawn.

14...Bg7 15 Bxe6!



15...0-0

He dare not take the bishop: 15...fxe6 16 Qxe6+ Kf8 17 Qxd6+ Kf7 18 Qe6+ Kf8 19 Rad1 and Black cannot hold the extra piece after 19...Bxd4 20 Rxd4 Nhf6 21 Nd5 Nc5, and now White could capture on f6, but maybe even stronger is 22 Qe5 Kg7 23 Nc7 Ncd7 24 Qd6.

16 Bxg7 Nc5!

Keene, only an IM at this time, defends in the best way.

17 Qa3 Kxg7 18 Bd5 Qg5 19 Rad1 Rae8 20 Rxe8 Rxe8

The smoke has cleared a bit; White no longer has the bishop-pair, he has not won material and he still has a doubled pawn. What really matters are his active pieces, especially the fact that the longer the game continues Donner's bishop will be more important than Keene's knight. To get rid of it, Black will have to give up a pawn.

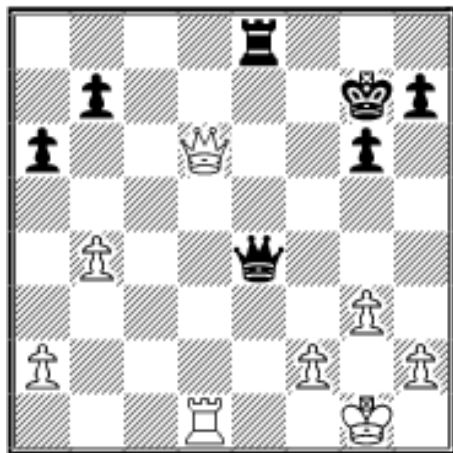
21 g3 Qe7 22 b4

The stronger of the two knights must be pushed back.

22...Ne6 23 Ne4 f5 24 Qc3+ Kh6 25 Bxe6 fxe4

25...Qxe6 would eliminate the bishop, but lose the d-pawn.

26 Bd5 Nf6 27 Bxe4 Nxe4 28 fxe4 Qxe4 29 Qd2+ Kg7 30 Qxd6



Black has found some relief, but the extra pawn tells in the end.

30...Re7 31 h4 Qe2 32 Qd4+ Kh6 33 Qf4+ Kg7 34 Rd2 Qe1+ 35 Kg2 Rf7 36 Qd4+ Kg8 37 Rc2 Qe6 38 a4 Qf5 39 Rc5 Qf3+ 40 Kg1 Rf8 41 Rc7 1-0

Black resigned at the time control, because in those days the endgame could be analysed during the adjournment for dinner. 41...Rf7 42 Rc8+ Rf8 43 Rxf8+

Qxf8 44 Qd5+ and Black either loses another pawn or must go into a hopeless king and pawn ending.

I should say something about *The King* itself. Although mostly text (over 380 pages) it includes some games, annotated as they were at the time by Donner, and also some photographs. Primarily, however, you must read it for the flavour of the man and of the times in which he was writing. Here is a small taste of it, from page 199, reprinted from his column in the Dutch daily newspaper *De Volkskrant* on 20 March 1975, at the time negotiations going between the Soviet Chess Federation, FIDE and Fischer were breaking down because of the World Champion's insistence that a match for the first to win ten games should be declared drawn if the score reached 9-9. I leave readers to judge for themselves whether Donner was right about the likely outcome of the match had it taken place.

Bobby used to be troublesome but not manifestly unreasonable and certainly not unfair. It should be possible to convince him that his insisting on maintaining the 9-9 rule is simply not gentlemanlike. He is only insisting on it because it is the way Steinitz used to play before 1886. It cannot be of any real importance since hardly anyone doubts he will beat Karpov with a huge difference if it actually comes to a match between the two. But this deep longing for a distant past is the hallmark of the insane. And he may be insane, meanwhile, just as Morphy a century ago. In that case, however, it is right that the world chess federation has done its utmost to preserve him for the game of chess.

Now I shall move on to discuss two books that came to me from different publishers. Russell Enterprises has just issued a new edition of volume 1 of John Donaldson and Nikolay Minev's book, *The Life & Games of Akiva Rubinstein: Uncrowned King* (ISBN 1-888690-29-1). Note that the spelling of grandmaster Rubinsatein's first name has been changed from the 1995 edition, to match how it appears in Jewish sources. This book, which includes a few games and other facts that have come to light through research in the past decade, deals with Rubinstein's career up to 1920; the authors are now preparing a new edition of the second volume, which covers the rest of his life and would like to hear from anyone who has found further games or other information. I was impressed with the original edition of the book about this important player of the early twentieth century, so its reappearance in enhanced form is most welcome.



Books on correspondence chess are few and far between, and readers interested in this form of the game are well-served by the most recent title, *The History of Correspondence Chess in Canada* by Leonard Zehr and J. Ken MacDonald, (Thinkers Press, Davenport, Iowa, 252 pp., hardback with dust jacket; ISBN 1-888710-31-4; price \$62.00 Canadian or \$55.00 US plus postage; see details at the end of the review). This book is expensive because it is lavishly produced in only a short run, but it may well interest people in the United States and elsewhere, not just Canadians.



This long-awaited and deeply-researched book tells the story of Canadian correspondence chess from its beginnings in 1841 to its finest achievement (so far) in the 1990s. That was when the national team shared (with Scotland) the bronze medal position in the Final of the 11th Correspondence Chess Olympiad, which was the end of a ten-year campaign. (The preliminaries began in 1987 and the Final in 1992.)

The groundwork for that success was in great measure laid by John F. Cleeve, who died in 1995, when the Final was about half-way through. His successor in Canadian CC organisation was J. Ken MacDonald, one of the co-authors of the book and the man who did most of the research, over a period of many years. The writing was done by Leonard Zehr, a correspondence player and journalist, who has had a long career as writer and manager with the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Toronto Globe and Mail*. So the book is very readable, if anything almost too racy in style. I would have preferred a slightly smaller typeface to make room for notes citing sources, but I am

aware that some readers might find these off-putting. The main fault is that the book lacks an adequate index. Although there is one listing all the games, it is only in alphabetical order of the player with white and there is no openings index either.

A few years ago, a book was published entitled [*Correspondence Chess in America*](#), but it can only be relied on for the twentieth century history of one of the three major correspondence clubs in the U.S.A., namely the Correspondence Chess League of America. So far as the early history of CC in the States is concerned, this Canadian book is actually much better! The early history of the postal game in the two countries cannot be satisfactorily considered in isolation; they must be studied together. Canadian and U.S. players met in several nineteenth century postal chess competitions and there has always been frequent contact between them. For a considerable period in the early twentieth century, Canadian players formed a significant section in the Correspondence Chess League of America.

Canadian correspondence chess began with a three-game match between Kingston, Ontario, and Quebec in 1841, won 2-1 by Quebec, but the origins of the thirty-five member strong Quebec chess club involved in this event should be researched further by somebody with access to that city's archives. Zehr and MacDonald imply it was founded in 1840, but according to the *Illustrated London News* of 26 January 1861, Quebec had then a chess club (amalgamated with and meeting at the Quebec Library Association) which was "founded by Dr. Priestly as far back as 1779." This information, presumably sent to Staunton by a Canadian reader, would make it one of the world's oldest chess clubs (the very oldest if the same club had remained in continuous existence) and trumps the – itself impressively early – information from David Cohen's Canadian Chess website that "Richard Bulkeley was president of a 'chess, pencil, and brush club' in Halifax, Nova Scotia from about 1787." Both Ken MacDonald and I would be interested to hear from anyone who can supply documentary evidence about either of these clubs.

The first postal chess match between teams representing the United States and Canada was played over 29 boards starting in December 1875, but petered out after a year or so, with the Americans leading 22-11 and "many players going silent in lost positions." A second match in 1888 was planned to be for a hundred players a side, but eventually was sixty a side; it ended in 1890 in another U. S. victory by 28-16 with another sixteen games adjudicated drawn, in some of which one of the players had a decisive advantage.

Those matches, dealt with in some detail by Zehr and MacDonald, were not mentioned by Avery. He also failed to mention several important postal chess tournaments involving players from the two countries, about which you can

find information in the new book. The first Canadian postal tournament, organised by the mathematics professor John Cherriman of Toronto (originally from England), began on 1 October 1873 and finished around the end of 1874; the pairings were rather informal and haphazard. Cherriman organised a second tournament in 1874-5 in which he dictated to the players what openings they should play, which seem to have been of the romantic gambit variety. Afterwards, Canadian tournaments on the all-play-all system were organised by the Huddersfield-born Montreal player Joseph William Shaw (1878-80) and then another, with nineteen players, run by Dr. Isaac Ryall (1830-1901), who was born at Fethard in County Wexford, Ireland.

Shaw's tournament can certainly claim to be the first all-play-all tournament to be completed in North America and perhaps anywhere. All 105 games started simultaneously (unusual in the nineteenth century), were played to a finish within two years and a complete crosstable was published. Then the first tournament, as opposed to match, in which Canadian and U.S. players competed together was that organised by William Ferris and sponsored by the *Cincinnati Commercial Gazette*. It began in 1882 with twenty-three players and took about four years to complete, which must mean that a player conducted only a few of his games simultaneously and then took on a new set of opponents. One of the Canadian contingent, Henry N. Kittson of Hamilton, was the ultimate winner.

The next international event in North America was the second correspondence tournament of the Saint John (New Brunswick) *Globe*, run by Charles Stubbs who was a cashier and chess columnist of the newspaper, with help from a strong Canadian player called Narraway. The first *Globe* tournament (1886-8) involved fourteen Canadian players, but Americans were invited to the second one (begun November 1891) in which thirteen of the twenty-nine entrants were from the U.S.A. They included Walter Penn Shipley, about whom John Hilbert has written a major [biography](#). As he stated, Shipley played in the guise of G. H. Vaux, actually the name of a non-chess-playing partner in his Philadelphia law firm. The tournament was too big; Zehr and MacDonald record that fifteen players eventually withdrew. The ultimate winners were Shipley and E. B. Holt of Ottawa.

The other major event (apart from the *Cincinnati Commercial*) to be omitted by Avery was the great Continental Tournament, which was chiefly run by Shipley and announced late in 1893. Shipley had asked Narraway if he would organise a new event, but the Canadian player declined and suggested he do it. In September 1893, Shipley broke a knee-cap because of a fall playing cricket, another favourite game of his, and the enforced rest gave him time to take on the task. Eight Canadians and sixty-two U.S. players were invited and divided into five preliminary all-play-all sections of fourteen players each, the first four finishers from each to play in the Final. This was the first time that the modern system of a two-stage all-play-all correspondence tournament was adopted, and Shipley made an attempt at seeding so that the

sections would be of approximately equal strength. The field of seventy included eight players from Canada, eighteen from Philadelphia, twelve from New York, six from Illinois, six from New England, four from Ohio and eleven other states were represented.

The second half of the Zehr/MacDonald book covers the period from 1918 onwards. Between the world wars, the Canadian Correspondence Chess Association was formed and took shape and the journal which became *CHECK!*, the world's longest-running CC publication, was launched. World War II was a hard time for CC in Canada, but from 1947-9 Canada played in preliminary section 5 of the first CC Olympiad, run by the International Correspondence Chess Association. Airmail being then its infancy, this section was composed of seven teams from the Americas. Peru and Argentina tied first and qualified for the final with 25 points out of a possible 36. Brazil scored 16½, USA II and Canada 15½, USA I 14½ and Uruguay 14 points. The individual scores of the Canadian players in board order were: F. Anderson 3½; Philip Cody 2; Gersho 2; R. Orlando 3; Lougheed 3½; Sanders 1½. Lougheed was presumably Annabelle Lougheed, who, the book says, played in the seventh Women's World Championship tournament, Buenos Aires 1939, and, in 1948, married an important Canadian CC organiser, Bernard Freedman. I could not find anything in the book about Canada's participation in this Olympiad.

Likewise, there was a Canadian team in the preliminaries of the Fourth Correspondence Olympiad (1958-61), which has only the briefest mention on page 185, but things began to look up with the fifth (1961-4), because now Cleeve was in charge of the organisation. With his involvement, Canada became one of the most important non-European federations in ICCF, organising memorial tournaments as well as domestic events. The North Atlantic Team Tournament series was another of Cleeve's ideas. He was also able to persuade some of Canada's strongest OTB players, such as FIDE GM Duncan Suttles, to try postal chess.

This beautifully-produced book includes over 170 games, most of which you have probably never seen before, and there are appendices listing Canada's ICCF title-holders and Canadian CC Champions. Apart from the reservations expressed above, this is certainly a landmark in the historiography of correspondence chess. Only the Czechs and Slovaks have produced a national correspondence chess history of comparable quality (in terms of research, content, and production values). The book ends on the eve of CC going Internet, but that is a story to be told in the future. If you are interested in buying it, please [contact](#) J. Ken MacDonald. I believe the price is \$55 US plus postage, which depends on where you live.

Here is a game from the book that I had not seen before.

Pekka Massinen (FIN) – Alex Siklos (CAN)

CC World Ch-5 sf6 corr ICCF, 1962-5

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 Nc3 c6 4 e4 e5 5 dxe5 dxe5 6 Qxd8+ Kxd8 7 Nf3 Nfd7!
8 a3 f6 9 g3 a5 10 h4**

A mysterious move; more to the point was 10 Bh3.

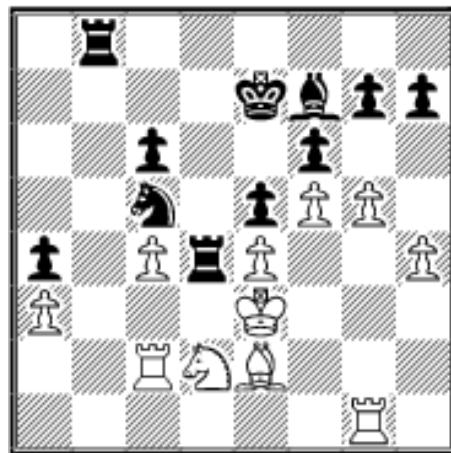
10...Na6 11 Be3 Bc5 12 Kd2 Ke7 13 Na4 Bxe3+ 14 Kxe3 Nac5 15 Nc3

15 Nxc5 was in order, although Black has the initiative.

15...Nb6 16 Nd2 Rd8 17 Be2 a4! 18 Rac1 Be6 19 Ncb1

White plays for a barricade, but Black gradually breaks down the resistance.

**19...Rd4 20 Rc3 Nbd7 21 f4 Rb8 22 f5 Bf7 23 g4 b5 24 Rhc1 b4 25 R3c2
bxa3 26 bxa3 Nb3 27 Rg1 Ndc5 28 g5 Nxd2 29 Nxd2**



29...Rb3+!

After much midnight oil, this exchange sacrifice for two pawns is the key to Black's victory.

**30 Nxb3 Rxe4+ 31 Kd2 axb3 32 Rc3
Rxb3 33 gxf6+ Kxf6! 34 Kc1 Rh2 35
Re3 e4**

This explains 33...Kxf6. The black king is ready for a journey via e5, d4 and

possibly c3 with mating threats!

**36 Kb1 Kxf5 37 Bf1 Kf4 38 Re2 Rxe2 39 Bxe2 Ke3 40 Rg5 Kxe2 41 Rxc5
e3 1-0**

To conclude, I wish all readers a Merry Christmas (if you celebrate it) and a happy and prosperous New Year. My next column is due to be posted on 10 January and, as is traditional, will look back one hundred years to the chess world of 1907.

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