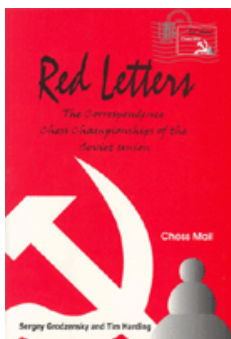




COLUMNISTS

The Kibitzer

Tim Harding



CHESTHEATRE

Play through and download
the games from
ChessCafe.com in the
[DGT Game Viewer](#).

[The Complete
DGT Product Line](#)

Chess in the Year 1909

As always, my January column looks back a century to see what the chess world was like. Unfortunately it cannot be said that 1909 itself was a vintage year for our game. There was no world championship match but Lasker won an exhibition match against Janowski with embarrassing ease.

On the other hand, there is much interest in seeing how his future rivals fared. The little-known Cuban, José Raúl Capablanca, demolished Marshall in a match played in New York, which was astonishing when you remember that in 1907 Marshall had been Lasker's challenger for the world title. The emergence of sixteen-year-old Alexander Alekhine at the head of the new generation in Russia was significant – but we only know that because of what he did later. At the time, Rubinstein's star seemed most in the ascendant. At twenty-six, he was close to his peak but many masters matured later in those days than is the case nowadays.



Emanuel Lasker

In Paris, early in 1909, Lasker and Janowski played a small match in which each player won two games. This apparently emboldened Janowski into raising backing for a world title match, which was played in 1910, but perhaps unwisely he played a second exhibition against Lasker, this time of ten games, in 1909. Here is the second game of the second match.

Dawid Janowski – Emanuel Lasker

Paris (2), 21.10.1909

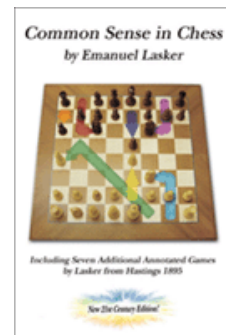
Four Knights Game [C49]

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bb5 Bb4 5 0-0 0-0 6 d3 d6 7 Bg5 Bxc3
8 bxc3 Ne7 9 Bc4 Ng6

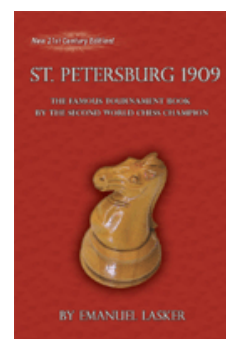
In their third Paris mini-match game, Lasker had played 9...Be6 and lost.

10 Nh4 Nf4

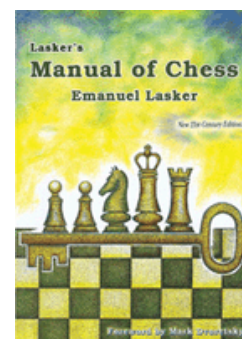
Check out these
bestselling titles from
USCFSales.com:



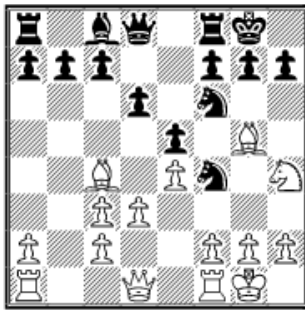
Common Sense in Chess
by Emanuel Lasker



St. Petersburg 1909
by Emanuel Lasker



Lasker's Manual of Chess
by Emanuel Lasker



An energetic move, rather than 10...c6 11 Nxg6 hxg6 12 d4 Qa5 13 Qf3 Nxe4 14 Qxe4 d5 15 Qxe5 f6 16 Qe2 dxc4 17 Qxc4+ Qd5 18 Qxd5+ cxd5 19 Bf4 Bf5 with an early draw in H. Wolf-Johner, Karlsbad 1907. Perhaps Janowski had found some improvement on that game.

11 Bxf4

Janowski plays a novelty. 11 Qd2? fails to the tactic 11...Nxe4, while 11 Qf3 h6 12 Bxf4 Bg4 13 Qe3 exf4 14 Qd2 g5 15 h3 Be6 16 Bxe6 fxe6 17 Nf3 was known from Maroczy-Pillsbury, London 1899. 11 Bb3 came into consideration, according to Zak in his book on Lasker, as it makes it difficult for Black to achieve the freeing ...d5 advance. Then if 11...h6 White wins a pawn by 12 Bxf4 exf4 13 Ng6 Re8 14 Nxf4 (Zak), but 11...Ne6 seems satisfactory.

11...exf4 12 Nf3 Bg4

12...Be6 13 Bb3 d5 14 Nd4 (Tarrasch).

13 h3

Afterwards Janowski tried 13 Qd2 Bxf3 14 gxf3 Nh5 15 Kh1 hoping to use the g-file, but 15...Kh8 16 Rg1 Qd7 17 Rg4 Rae8 18 Rag1 f5 19 Rg5 g6 20 Qc1 c6 21 Qf1 d5 led to 0–1 in 50 moves (Janowski-Lasker, 4th game 1909).

13...Bh5 14 Rb1 b6 15 Qd2

15 g4 fxg3 16 fxg3 d5! 17 exd5 Nxd5 18 Qd2 f6! and ...Bf7 (Zak).

15...Bxf3 16 gxf3 Nh5 17 Kh2 Qf6 18 Rg1 Rae8 19 d4 Kh8 20 Rb5 Qh6 21 Rbg5 f6 22 R5g4 g6!

Zak wrote that this is stronger than ...f5 because White would have more chances of counterplay if lines were opened.

23 Bd3 Re7 24 c4 Ng7 25 c3 Ne6 26 Bf1 f5 27 R4g2 Rf6 28 Bd3 g5

Threatening mate in two by 29...Qxh3+ 30 Kxh3 Rh6.

29 Rh1 g4 30 Be2 Ng5 31 fxg4 f3 32 Rg3 fxe2 0–1



Lasker – Rubinstein, St. Petersburg 1909

The main international event of the year was the St. Petersburg tournament, to which I made brief reference last month; the tournament

book has just been reissued in English. Lasker's contest with the Polish master was a warning to the champion, and in the sequel he made it difficult for his new rival to arrange a challenge. Their individual game is deservedly famous for a deep tactical conception by Rubinstein.

Akiva Rubinstein – Emanuel Lasker

St. Petersburg, 1909

Queen's Gambit [D30]

1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 Bg5 c5?!

A risky variation as Black will be left with a weak isolated d-pawn.

5 cxd5 exd5 6 Nc3 cxd4 7 Nxd4 Nc6

Lasker thought 7...Be7 was much better but modern annotators consider that White would stand clearly better then after 8 g3.

8 e3

It is rather strange that Donaldson and Minev in the 2006 edition of their [*The Life and Games of Akiva Rubinstein*](#) (volume 1. p. 178) only quote Tarrasch's opinion that 8 Bxf6 Qxf6 (TH: 8...gxf6 clearly is structurally undesirable) 9 Ndb5 (9 Nxd5? Qxd4) 9...Bb4 gives Black the advantage. Most sources then point out that while White cannot safely take the rook after 10 Nc7+, he can safely win a pawn by 10 Nc7xd5.

8...Be7

8...Bb4!? is somewhat better.

9 Bb5 Bd7 10 Bxf6?!

Lasker considered that 10 0–0 was superior as the d-pawn would eventually have fallen in any case. Black now obtains potentially dangerous threats on the kingside.

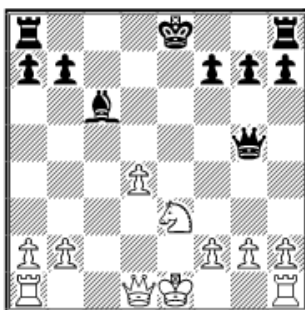
10...Bxf6 11 Nxd5 Bxd4 12 exd4 Qg5

Black was relying on this for counterplay.

13 Bxc6

White achieves only trouble for himself by 13 Nc7+ Kd8 14 Nxa8 Qxb5 and ...Re8+, while 13 Qe2+ Kf8 14 Bxc6 Bxc6 15 Ne3 Bxg2 would be similar to Lasker's variation at move 14.

13...Bxc6 14 Ne3



14...0–0-0?

Missing the key defence at moves 16–18. In his tournament book, Lasker wrote that this was “a careless move. Black should not have given up his intention to win the g-pawn, simply because White omitted the check at

e2. After 14...Bxg2 15 Rg1 Qa5+ 16 Qd2 Qxd2+ 17 Kxd2 Be4 as well as after 15 Nxg2 Qxg2 16 Qe2+ Kd8 17 0-0-0 Qg6 18 Qd3 Rc8+ 19 Kb1 Re8 Black would have quite a good game.” Donaldson and Minev quote Razuvaev’s opinion that Lasker’s assessment of the first (15 Rg1) variation was wrong and suggested the continuation 18 Rg4 Bg6 19 f4 with some advantage to White. Instead, they say, Razuvaev suggested 14...0-0!? 15 0-0 Rfe8 “with good counterplay for the pawn.”

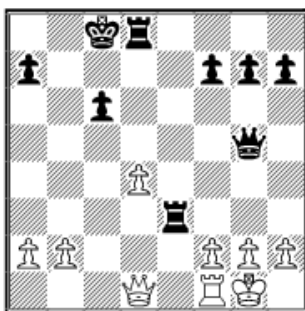
15 0-0 Rhe8 16 Rc1!

Lasker: “A move of extraordinary subtlety. White now retains his advantages. He threatens Rc1-c5 and d4-d5, and Black’s obvious threat of ...Rxe3 he meets as is shown by his seventeenth move.”

16...Rxe3?

This threatens mate on g2 but falls into Rubinstein’s ambush. Yet if 16... Kb8 17 Rc5.

17 Rxc6+! bxc6



18 Qc1!

As Gerald Abrahams pointed out in his book *The Chess Mind*, this move was echoed two years later by Rubinstein’s ambush move 17 Qd1-c1!!, under slightly different circumstances, against Capablanca at San Sebastian 1911. If instead 18 fxe3 Qxe3+ 19 Kh1 Rxd4 chances are roughly equal.

18...Rxd4

18...Re5 19 Qxc6+ Kb8 20 dxe5 Qxe5 was better according to Lasker, but White should win after 21 Rc1.

19 fxe3! Rd7

If 19...Rd6 20 Rxf7.

20 Qxc6+ Kd8 21 Rf4!

Threatening a mating attack by Qa8+, followed by Re4+, this is the killer move. Black’s next effectively accepts a lost endgame if Rubinstein’s technique is good enough, which it usually was.

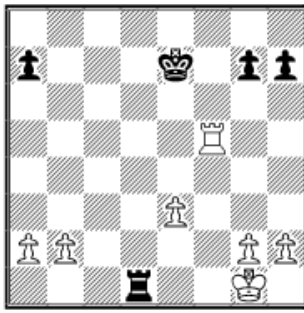
21...f5 22 Qc5

Threatening Qf8+ as well as the f-pawn.

22...Qe7

22...Rd1+ 23 Kf2 Rd2+ 24 Ke1 Qxg2 25 Qa5+ wins the rook.

23 Qxe7+ Kxe7 24 Rxf5 Rd1+



25 Kf2!

Instead of 25 Rf1 Rd2 with drawing chances, White rightly gives up one of the extra pawns to activate the king. The rest was technically instructive.

25...Rd2+ 26 Kf3 Rxb2 27 Ra5 Rb7 28 Ra6!

Confines Black's king to the last two ranks as preparation for advancing White's own king and pawns.

28...Kf8 29 e4 Rc7 30 h4 Kf7 31 g4 Kf8 32 Kf4 Ke7 33 h5

Increasing the tension. Black worries about a possible g5-g6. Not 33 Kf5 Rc5+ 34 e5 Rc7 with some resistance (Abrahams).

33...h6?!

The position is almost certainly lost anyway.

34 Kf5 Kf7 35 e5 Rb7 36 Rd6

Threatening to reach a won king and pawn ending by 37 e6+ Ke7 38 Rd7 +!, and thus highlighting the problem with Black's 33rd move.

36...Ke7 37 Ra6 Kf7 38 Rd6

To gain time on the clock apparently; there is no need to hurry in a won ending.

38...Kf8 39 Rc6 Kf7 40 a3! 1-0

Zugzwang. Now if the black king retreats, White has Kg6 because ...Rb4 has become impossible. So Black resigned.



Alexander Alekhine

Alekhine was the youngest of the new generation, having been born in October 1892. He had developed his strength through games with his

elder brother, Aleksey, an expert player, and by competing in correspondence tournaments – at first with Aleksey's assistance and later solo. The 17th tournament run by the chess magazine *Shakmatnoe Obozrenie* in 1909-10 was the last time he played a postal tournament, and he might have won it but the magazine ceased publication before it ended. For a full account of his postal career, see my chapter 'Alexander Alekhine's contribution to CC', in the anthology Tim Harding (ed.), *The Write Move* (Chess Mail, Dublin 2005), which reviews all the secondary sources that have appeared in English on Alekhine's postal career. For the fullest collection of his early games see Leonard M. Skinner and Robert G. P. Verhoeven (eds.), *Alexander Alekhine's Chess Games 1902-1946* (MacFarland 1998).

In this tournament, Alekhine won the game against Vygodchikov, which is game 34 in Alekhine's *My Best Games*, volume I. There he incorrectly gives year as 1908-9, and as Victor Charushin and Skinner/Verhoeven have shown, there are other inaccuracies in Alekhine's writings about his early career. It seems that when writing in the West, he did not have access to his early notebooks that had been left behind in Russia and which have been researched since his death. Alekhine was not the only competitor in this tournament who ended up in the West after the Russian Revolution. One of his defeated opponents (whom he had also played earlier by post) was the historian Pavel Gavrilovich Vinogradov, who became a professor at Oxford University and was knighted as Sir Paul Vinogradoff.

Here is a shorter game from the same event. It was published in *British Chess Magazine* 1910, pages 495-6 (game 3391), without the names of the players and Alekhine's notes abridged from *Shakmatnoe Obozrenie*.

N. Aleksandrov – Alexander Alekhine

17th *Shakmatnoe Obozrenie* correspondence tourney, 1909-10
Philidor Defence [C41]

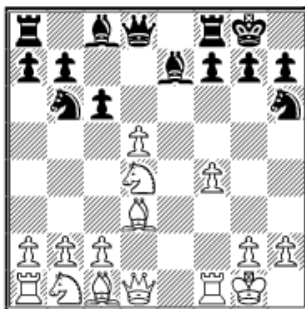
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6

Alekhine: This move, if the attack is correctly conducted, gives Black a somewhat cramped game. But if White depart from alert positional strategy, and ventures an assault on his opponent's king, he should get the worse game.

3 d4 Nd7 4 Bc4 c6 5 Ng5?! Nh6 6 f4 Be7 7 0–0 0–0 8 Nf3 exd4! 9 Nxd4 d5! 10 exd5

White must take the pawn, as on 10 Bd3 dxe4 11 Bxe4 Nf6 12 Bf3 his position would be still worse than in this game.

10...Nb6 11 Bd3



11 Bb3 loses a piece after 11...c5!.

Somewhat better is 11 Be2 but even then, White's position is poor. In Shulga-Alekhine, from the same event, there followed 11...Bc5 12 Kh1 Nxd5 13 Nc3 Re8 14 Nxd5 Qxd5 15 Nb3 (better 15 c3 Nf5 16 Nxf5 Qxd1 17 Nh6+) 15...Qxd1 16 Bxd1 Bb6 17 Bf3 Bf5 18 c3 Bd3 19 Rd1

Bc2 20 Rf1 Rad8 and Black stood much better.

11...Bc5 12 c3 Qxd5 13 Be3

13 Kh1 would not save the game either: 13...Bxd4 14 cxd4 Bf5 15 Be3 Bxd3 16 Qxd3 Nc4 and White loses a pawn, after which Black's win is only a question of time.

13...Ng4 14 Qf3 Re8!

This is at once decisive. White, to avoid further loss, must himself exchange queens and thus simplify the attack for Black.

15 Qxd5

Somewhat better is 15 Bf2 Nxf2 16 Qxf2 Rd8 or 16...Nc4.

15...Nxd5 16 Bc1 Nb4! 0-1

White resigned in view of 17 h3 Nxd3 18 hxg4 Bxg4 19 Kh2 Bxd4 20 cxd4 Rad8.

There were two reasons Alekhine stopped playing by post, except for some involvement in inter-city matches. Firstly, the magazine running the events had closed, but principally because he was now old enough and strong enough to play in major over-the-board competitions. Already in 1908 he had played abroad for the first time, in Düsseldorf, and now in 1909 he won the annual All-Russian tournament for amateurs, a significant step up. Here is one of his games from that event,

Alexander A. Alekhine – Bernhard Gregory

All Russian championship, St. Petersburg 1909
Vienna/Bishop's Opening [C28]

1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6

This is Game 1 in Alekhine's *My Best Games 1908-1923*. He wrote that 3...Nxe4 is better but most of the complications following that move were only examined after his day.

4 d3 Bb4 5 Bg5 Nd4

Disobeying the principle of not moving pieces twice in the early opening. Better 5...h6 6 Bxf6 Bxc3+ 7 bxc3 Qxf6=.

6 a3 Bxc3+ 7 bxc3 Ne6



8 h4!?

If 8 Bd2 d5!, whereas Black must now beware of complications, e.g. 8... Nxg5? 9 hxg5 Ng8 10 g6!.

8...h6 9 Bd2 d6 10 Qf3?!

Alekhine criticised this plan to advance the g-pawn as “perfunctory and devoid of real sting.” He said he should have played simply 10 Ne2 and Ng3 with advantage.

10...Bd7 11 g4 Qe7 12 g5 Ng8

12...hxg5 13 hxg5 Rxh1 would have given Black a satisfactory game after 14 Qxh1 (14 gxf6?! Rxg1+ 15 Ke2 Rxa1 16 fxe7 Rg1!) 14...Ng8 15 Qh7 0–0–0.

13 Rb1 Bc6 14 Nh3



14...Kd7

Now the king becomes exposed to attack. If 14...hxg5 15 hxg5 0–0–0 16 Qe3 Kb8 17 Rg1 “with a complicated position which held chances for Black.”

15 Qg4!

With the idea of 16 f4 exf4 17 Nxf4.

15...Rf8 16 f4 f5

16...h5 17 Qg3! exf4 18 Nxf4 Nxf4 19 Bxf4 Bxe4? 20 0–0! with a winning attack.

17 exf5!

This sacrifice lures away the black bishop and prepares the advance of the d-pawn.

17...Bxh1



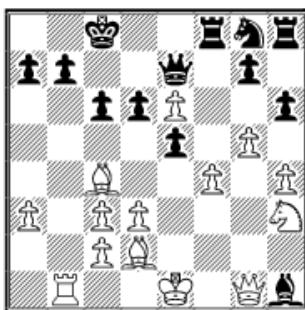
18 fxe6+

Computer analysis suggests Alekhine erred here, although he makes no comment on the capture. He could have played 18 Bxe6+ Ke8 19 fxe5 dxe5 20 gxh6 (20 Qa4+ Bc6 21 Qxa7 hxg5 is murky.) 20...gxh6 21 c4 with a strong attack for the exchange.

18...Kc8?

18...Kd8 “is evidently bad because of 19 Qg1 and Qxa7.” Nevertheless, the king would have been safer playing 18...Ke8 as 19 Qg1 Bc6! might limit White’s advantage, e.g. 20 Qxa7 (20 fxe5? d5) 20...Rf5 with great complications. Alekhine was wrong about this. His notes only mention 19...d5? 20 Bb5+ (20 Rxb7 also wins.) 20...Kd8 (20...c6 21 Bxc6+) 21 Bd7 winning.

19 Qg1! c6!



20 Qxa7!?

Threatening 21 Rxb7 Qxb7 22 Ba6 winning. It is typical of Alekhine to go for the attack, but objectively 20 Qxh1 was correct, and if 20...d5 (20...hxg5 21 Ba6; 20...Qc7 21 Qg1) there is 21 Bxd5 cxd5 22 Qxd5 Black’s rook on h8 and knight on g8 cannot assist the defence of their king. Alekhine missed this possibility, mentioning only 21 Bb3 Qxe6 when Black seizes the initiative.

20...c5!?

Alekhine called this the only way to prevent ‘Rxb7’, but his notes to this phase of the game do not mention 20...b5, when White still stands better but has no clear win after either 21 Qa6+ (or 21 Qa8+ Kc7 22 Qa5+ Kb7 23 fxe5 Ra8) 21...Qb7 22 Qxb7+ Kxb7 23 fxe5.

21 d4!?

This does win, but perhaps not in the most precise way. 21 fxe5 dxe5 22 Be3 was more direct (the threat of Bxc5 cannot be met).

21...Qc7

21...cxd4 22 cxd4 exd4 23 Qa8+ and Ba5+ forces mate. Computer analysis also gives the variation 21...exd4 22 cxd4 b5 23 Qa6+ Qb7 24 Bxb5.

22 d5

This shuts the bishop off from the defence and so threatens Rb7.

22...Ne7

If 22...Qb8, Alekhine gave 23 Qa4 hoping for 23...Rd8 24 Rxb7 Kxb7 25 Qa6+ Kc7 26 Qc6 mate. Also playable is 23 Rxb7!? Qxa7 24 Rxa7.

23 Rxb7

This wins the queen for assorted material, but Fritz prefers 23 fxe5.

23...Qxb7 24 Ba6 Bxd5 25 c4! Qxa6 26 Qxa6+ Bb7 27 Qxd6

“The rest is silence.”



27...Nc6 28 gxf6 gxf6 29 f5! Rxf5 30 Qd7+ Kb8 31 e7 Nxe7 32 Qxe7 Rhf8 33 Qd6+ Ka8 34 Bxf6 R8f6 35 Qd8+ Ka7 36 Be3 Rf3 37 Bxc5+ Ka6 38 Qb8 1-0



José Raúl Capablanca

Capablanca's match with Marshall was played in New York for the first to win eight games. Capablanca was twenty years old, but his style was already maturing and Marshall's aggressive optimism foundered again and yet again on cool defence which took advantage of inaccuracies that the Cuban exploited. The second game was the first decisive encounter in the match and it set the pattern. Only near the end of the match did Marshall discover that the Petroff Defence was the best way to hold the half point with Black.

J. R. Capablanca – Frank Marshall

USA match New York (2), 1909

Ruy Lopez, Jaenisch/Schliemann [C63]

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 f5

In several games Marshall preferred 3...d6 while he tried to repair 3...f5, which was his favourite defence to the Lopez early in his career. Only later did he come up with the gambit line for which he is best remembered.

4 Nc3

More active than 4 d3 Nf6 5 Nc3 Bb4 as in Roething-Marshall, Bath Beach 1909 (draw in 57 moves).

4...Nf6

This is a comparatively rare move and it usually obliges Black to play in gambit style. It is not mentioned in the Schliemann chapter in Glenn Flear's book [*Offbeat Spanish*](#).

4...fxe4 5 Nxe4 d5 6 Ng3 (6 Nxe5 is the main line nowadays.) Then 6... Bd6 7 d4 Bg4 8 dxe5 Bxe5 9 Bxc6+ bxc6 10 Qe2 Bxf3 11 Qxe5+ Ne7 12

gxf3 0–0 13 Bg5 Qd7 14 Bxe7 Rae8 15 0–0–0 Rxf3 16 Qh5 Rxf2 17 Bc5
 g6 18 Qg5 Rg2 19 Qf6 Qh3 20 Bd4 Qh6+ 21 Kb1 c5 22 Rhf1 cxd4 23
 Qf7+ Kh8 24 Qxe8+ 1–0 was Showalter-Marshall, USA ch match 1909.
 4...Nd4 is the other major variation.

5 Qe2



5 exf5! was played by Capablanca in the 12th game and, if correctly followed up, comes close to being a refutation of Marshall's fourth move. However, GM Mikhail Tseitlin gives several interesting lines in his book *Winning with the Schliemann* (essential reading for anyone intending to play 3...f5), and believes in Black's chances. After Marshall's inferior reply 5...e4? (Superior moves are 5...Bc5 and 5...Nd4!?) Capablanca played 6 Nh4 (Defending the gambit pawn as in the King's Gambit variation 1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 e5 Nh5.) and after 6...d5 he chose the rather unthreatening 7 d3 (Not 7 g4? Nd7! 8 Ng2 Nd4 Suechting-Chigorin, Vienna 1908. Lasker's 7 d4 is sometimes quoted in books; then Tseitlin gives 7...Be7 8 g4 0–0 9 Bxc6? [9 Rg1 is correct] 9...bxc6 10 Ng2 Ba6 11 Bg5 Rb8 12 Rb1 c5 Rosenfield-Marshall, New York 1910.) 7...Be7 8 dxe4 dxe4 9 Qxd8+ Bxd8 10 Bg5 0–0 and Tseitlin considers this position equal, although Black eventually lost in 55 moves.

After 5...e4, 6 Ng5! is critical too; then 6...d5 7 d3 Bxf5 8 dxe4 dxe4 9 Qe2 Qd7! which is "F. Marshall's forgotten recommendation", e.g. 10 Ngxe4 0–0–0 with satisfactory play, because if instead of castling White tries 11 Bg5 then Black has 11...Nxe4! 12 Nxe4 Bxe4 13 Bxd8 Bxg2 14 Rg1 Bb4+ with the edge to Black (Tseitlin).

5...Nd4

5...Bc5 is a modern alternative.

6 Nxd4 exd4 7 exf5+

7 e5!? Ng4 8 h3 Nh6 is a complicated alternative that had been seen in Teichmann-Marshall, Monte Carlo 1903.

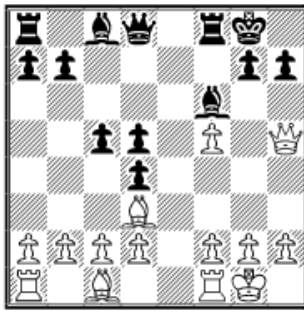
7...Be7

7...Kf7!? (Yudovich) seems too wild, especially against Capablanca!

8 Ne4 0–0 9 Nxf6+ Bxf6 10 0–0 d5 11 Bd3

11 Qh5 is better according to Tseitlin, but Black has nothing to fear: 11...c5 (11...Be5!? 12 Bd3 Rf6 Tseitlin) 12 Be2 Re8 (Also 12...Be5 and 12...Qe8 were promising, according to Tseitlin.) 13 Bg4 d3! 14 cxd3 b6= 15 Rb1 Ba6 16 Qh3 Bd4 with compensation for the two pawns sacrificed (draw in 49 moves in Game 10).

11...c5 12 Qh5



12 b3!? was suggested in the 'Chess Stars' collection of [Capablanca's Games 1901-1924](#).

12...Qc7?!

12...Qe8 is better according to Shamkovich and Schiller's 1983 book on the Schliemann/Jaenisch variation. 12...c4!? 13 Be2 Bh4 (sacrificing a tempo to provoke a weakness) 14 g3 Be7 is unclear according to 'Chess Stars'.

13 c4!

Black's pawn phalanx must be challenged.

13...dxc4 14 Bxc4+ Kh8 15 d3

With some advantage to White according to Shamkovich and Schiller', but is that so?

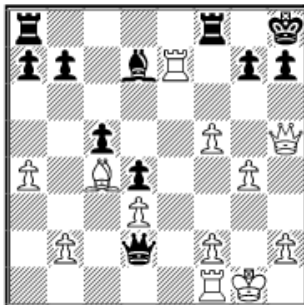
15...Qe5 16 g4 Bd7 17 a4 Be7?

GM Mikhail Tseitlin claimed in his 'Winning with the Schliemann' that Black could have obtained good play with either 17...Bc6 (but then 'Chess Stars' claims White has an edge with 18 f3) or 17...Qe2. These suggestions are perhaps better than the move played but it is not clear that Black achieves full equality.

18 Bd2!? Qe2 19 Rae1 Qxd2

19...Qf3?! fails to 20 Rxe7 Rxf5 21 Qh4 Bc6 22 Re4 Re5 23 Qg3 Bxe4 24 dxe4 +/- Chess Stars.

20 Rxe7



20...Be8?

20...Bc6 is better, but then 21 Bf7 (21 f6? Rxf6 22 Qxc5 Qf4 is good for Black) 21...Qf4 22 Bg6 h6 23 Qh3 with an edge (Chess Stars); and 20...Bxa4 21 Bd5 is also good for White.

21 f6!

Capablanca seizes the initiative.

21...Qh6 22 Qxh6

22 fxg7+ Qxg7 23 Qh4 was also possible (Chess Stars).

22...gxf6 23 Rfe1 Bxa4?!

23...Bc6 is better but not good enough.

24 Rxb7 Rae8 25 Rxe8 Rxe8 26 Rxa7 Bd1

If 26...Bc6 27 f4 Bf3 28 h3 and wins.

27 h3 h5 28 g5 h4 29 f4 Bh5 30 f5 Rf8 31 Rc7 Rb8 32 Rxc5 1-0

Postscript

Next month: the Kibitzer remembers IM Bob Wade, who died in November.

© 2009 Tim Harding. All Rights Reserved.

 [TOP OF PAGE](#)

 [HOME](#)

 [COLUMNS](#)

 [LINKS](#)

 [ARCHIVES](#)

 [ABOUT THE
CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[ChessCafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Review\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)
[\[Endgame Study\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)
[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About ChessCafe.com\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

© 2009 CyberCafes, LLC. All Rights Reserved.
"ChessCafe.com®" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.