



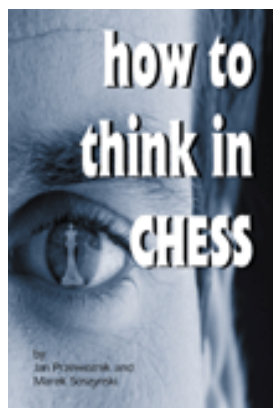
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COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane



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Opening Lanes is based in large part on readers' questions. Do you have a question about a particular opening line? Baffled by a branch of the Benoni or Budapest? Submit your questions (with you full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next **Chess Cafe** column...

Yes, I have a question for Gary!

Valentine's Day

How can a devoted chessplayer be romantic? Well, the obvious answer to me is to play chess from the romantic era, when gambits were played with a view to guarantee attacking chess. A pawn can be sacrificed for various reasons such as to open lines, gain time or force the opponent to take defensive action. A modern master might call it an investment but over 100 years ago it was excuse to go on the rampage by attacking at all costs.

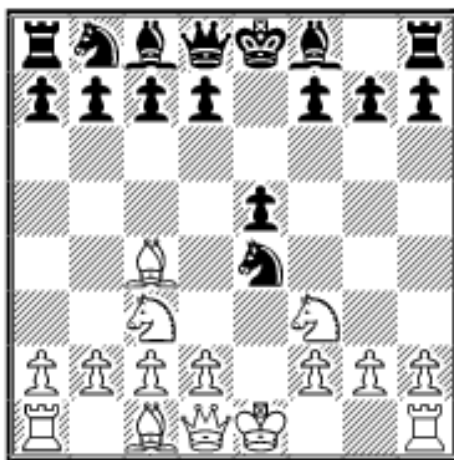
Dr. Frank Feldmann (USA) wants to know about an old opening that has largely gone out of fashion. He asks "For the Boden-Kieseritzky Gambit, what is the best line for White (his 6th move and beyond) if the following occurs: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4 4 Nc3 Nd6 5 Bb3 Nc6."

I have to admit a fondness for this opening as I used to play it as a teenager. It was certainly a great way to win, short, spectacular games. Of course, nowadays with computers sacrificing a pawn in correspondence chess can be risky but at the board this line can be a killer. I think the following encounter might be of some help:



Martin Crosa Coll-Maximillano Ginzburg Punta del Este 1999

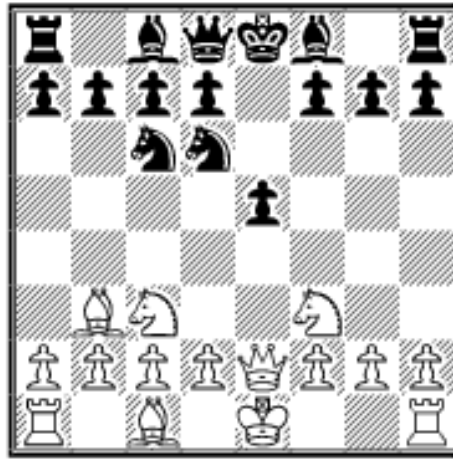
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4 4 Nc3



The name of the opening apparently came about because in 1851 Boden published a line about it in his book 'Popular Introduction'.

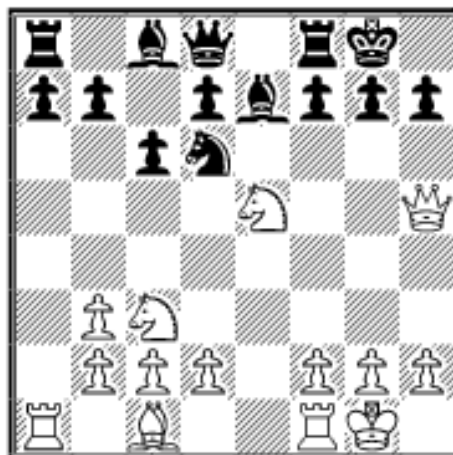
Kieseritzky's name was added because

he suggested the gambit in 1848. **4...Nd6** The main line is considered to be **4...Nxc3 5 dxc3 f6 6 Nh4 g6 7 f4** when the game R.Cervera Procas-Y. Hernandez Estevez, Zaragoza 1999, continued **7...Qe7 8 f5 Qg7 9 fxg6 hxg6 10 Qg4 Kd8** (it looks odd to give up the right to castle but this has often been played to make sure that Black remains with an extra pawn, with the hope that in the long-term it will be decisive) **11 Qg3** (11 Nxg6 runs into 11...d5! winning a piece due too the discovered attack on the queen) **11...g5 12 Nf5 Qh7** (perhaps 12...Qg6!? should be tested) **13 0-0 c6 14 Bd3 d5?** (Black needs to move the queen) **15 Nd6 e4 16 Rxf6! exd3 17 Bxg5 1-0 5 Bb3 Nc6 6 Qe2**



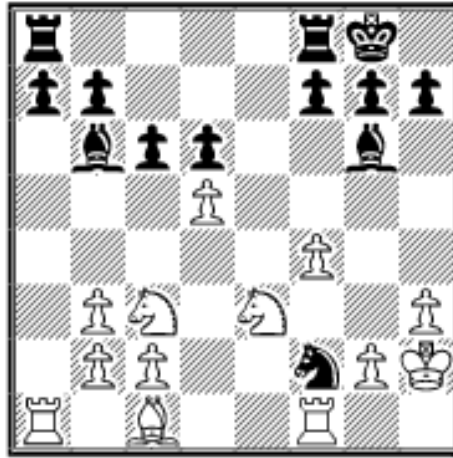
I think this is the most practical way to handle the gambit. White will quickly get his pawn back and Black still has to play carefully to develop his pieces. A decent alternative is 6 0-0 Be7 7 d4!? (the

most aggressive response although there is nothing wrong with 7 Re1 to win back the e-pawn) 7...Nxd4 8 Nxd4 exd4 9 Nd5 0-0 10 Qxd4 (White is still a pawn time but has active play as compensation) 10...Nb5 11 Qd3 c6 12 c4 Nc7 13 Nxe7+ Qxe7 14 Bf4 (the threat of Bd6 persuades Black to take evasive action) 14...Qd8 15 Bc2 f5 16 Bd6 Rf7 17 Rfe1 Ne6 18 Re5 g6 19 Qg3 Rg7 20 Rd1 b6 21 c5 bxc5 22 Bb3 Kh8 23 Ree1 Kg8 24 Be5 Rf7 25 Bxe6 gave White a winning advantage, D.Isonzo-F.Ferraro, Castellaneta 1999. **6...Be7** Black prepares to castle kingside because an attempt to defend e5 with 6...f6?! is well met by 7 d4. **7 Nxe5 0-0 8 0-0 Nd4** 8...Bf6 is also possible. **9 Qh5 Nxb3 10 axb3 c6**



Ginzburg has managed to exchange of the white-squared bishop, which is normally an important part of White's attacking strategy. However,

he still has to get his queenside pieces into the action. **11 d4 Ne8 12 d5 d6 13 Nc4 Nf6 14 Qf3 Bg4** Or 14...cxd5 15 Nxd5 Nxd5 16 Qxd5 gives White long-term pressure against the d6 pawn. **15 Qd3 Qd7 16 Ne3 Bh5 17 f4!** White has spotted that Black's bishop is running out of decent squares and starts a sneaky plan to trap it. **17...Ng4 18 Qf5 Qxf5 19 Nxf5 Bd8 20 h3 Bb6+ 21 Kh1 Nf2+ 22 Kh2 Bg6 23 Ne3**



1-0 Black resigned in view of 23...Ne4 24 f5 Nxc3 25 bxc3 Bh5 26 g4 winning.

Scott Snedecor (USA) wants to know what to do on move 3! He says, "I bought your book on the Vienna Game and am enjoying trying to learn it.

I'm trying the opening out and black often plays 2...Bb4 or 2...Bc5 against me, which is not covered explicitly in the book. I'm a decent beginner and trying to learn a couple openings in detail. How do I use your book to prepare for that response? Do I assume it's going to transpose into something in the book? Is there a reason why that's not covered? It seems like a reasonable move.

I think 2...Bc5 will probably transpose to well know lines, which is why it is not discussed in detail. Perhaps the following game is worth noting:

**Saheli Dhar-Christopher Njotea Ron Banwell
Masters London 2001**

1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 Qg4



This is one of the exceptions in the opening where the queen can move in the opening to good effect. Another move-order might be 1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Bc5 3 Bc4 Nc6 4 Qg4. It is worth noting that 1

e4 e5 2 Nc3 Bc5 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 d3 Bc5 5 f4 is a main line. **4...Qf6?** It seems this is a great way to defend by attacking. The only problem is that practice has proved that it is bad for Black. Also possible: 4...Kf8 5 Qg3 (White has prevented Black from castling so having done it's job the queen drops back to avoid a discovered attack with ...d7-d5) 5...Nf6 6 Nge2 d6 7 d3 h6 8 Na4 Bb6 9 Nxb6 axb6 10 f4 Qe7 11 0-0 gave White a fantastic attack in I.Rogers-G.Olarasu, Saint Vincent 2001. **5 Nd5!** The star move that throws down the gauntlet to Black. **5...Qxf2+ 6 Kd1 Kf8 7 Nh3 Qd4 8 d3**



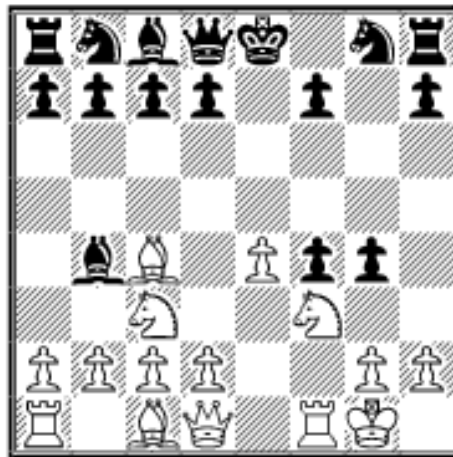
8...Nf6 It is difficult for Black to find anything decent to do. For instance: 8...d6 9 Qf3 Bxh3 10 Rf1! Be6 11 c3 Qg1 12 Rxcg1 Bxcg1 13 Nxc7 1-0 Lane-Lacklison, Brussels 2000. **9 Nxf6 gxf6**

10 Bh6+ Ke7 11 c3 Qd6 12 Qg7 Na5 13 Qxh8 1-0

There are a number of sensible alternatives after 2...Bb4 but I decided on something rather daring that is designed to for an instant attack and is a game from the era of gambits.

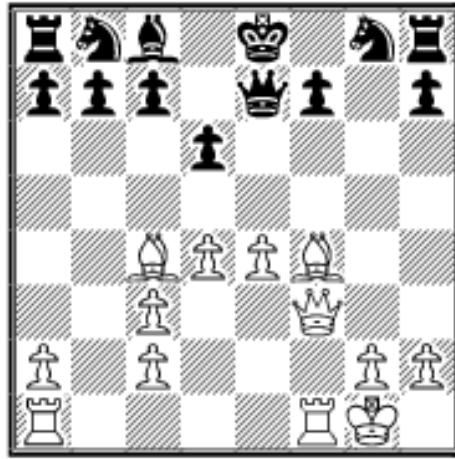
Earnest Falkbeer-Robert Brien London 1855

1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Bb4 3 f4 One has to be bold and somewhat brave to try this but it is fun! A keen observer will realise that a lot of games played over 100 years ago owed a lot to the King's Gambit. To be honest I would be tempted to place 3 Bc4 with similar play to the Vienna. An independent line is 3 Nd5 when 3...Be7 4 Qg4 Bf8 5 Qg3 was already good news for White, S.Nikolic-D. Taruffi, Reggio Emilia 1978.
3...exf4 4 Nf3 g5?! Perhaps 4...Nf6 should be considered. 5 Bc4 g4 6 0-0



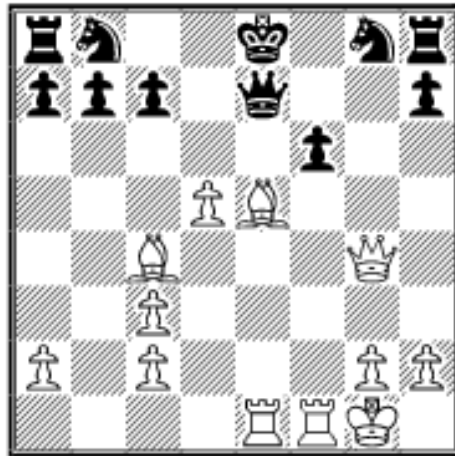
This position looks amazing but White is presented with a strong attack thanks to the lead in development. The idea is probably borrowed from the King's Gambit after 1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3

Nf3 g5 4 Bc4 g4 5 0-0 gxf3 6 Qxf3. 6...Bxc3 7 bxc3 gxf3 8 Qxf3 Qe7 9 d4 d6 10 Bxf4



White has excellent practical chances but I suspect a computer will just count the material. **10...Be6 11 d5 Bd7 12 Rae1 f6 13 e5!** A great way to smash through Black's flimsy defence.

13...dxe5 14 Bxe5 Bg4 Or **14...fxe5** allows a nice finish upon **15 Rxe5 Qxe5 16 Qf8 mate. 15 Qxg4**



15...Kd8 After **15...fxe5** White has a forced checkmate upon **16 Qc8+ Qd8 17 Rxe5+ Ne7 18 Rxe7+ Kxe7 19 Qe6. 16 d6 cxd6 17 Bxd6 Qd7 18 Qg3 Nc6 19 Be6 1-0**

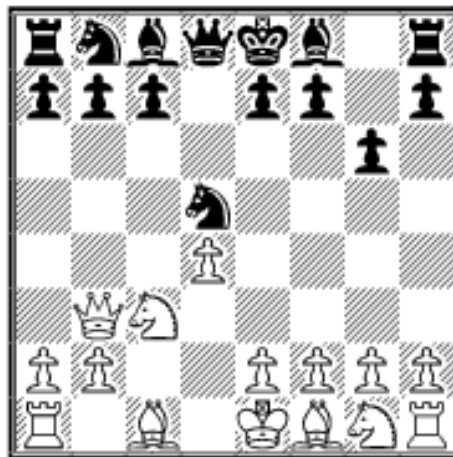
Peter Noble from the mysteriously named NIH Chess Club, situated in **Washington D.C, USA** says, "A buddy and I are independently learning the branches of the Gruenfeld. A couple of days ago he played a club game from the black side what I thought was an untheoretical Russian variation from white. The game started **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 Qb3**. My buddy then played **5...Nxc3** followed **6 bxc3** whereas I think I would have played **5.... Nb6** to get a firmer grip on e5 and to perhaps get a future tempo on the queen with **Be6**. We

glanced at 5 ... c6 to keep the knight central a move or so longer but that seems a complete waste to us. Do you have a good recommendation for us? Is white's play sound for an opening advantage?

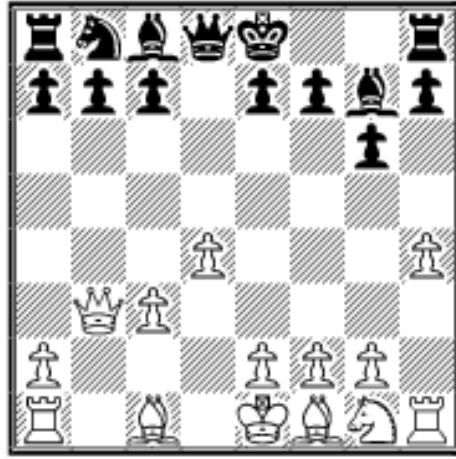
I think 5 Qb3 is regarded as a side-line because the main variation is 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Qb3. That might be true but the reality is that club players don't always follow the book recommendations and prefer less well known ideas. I think it is perfectly acceptable to take on c3 as long as you follow it up withc7-c5, which is mentioned in the note to the seventh move. I suspect that your idea of 5...c6 is not very good against 6 e4 while 5...Nb6 is examined in another main game. The following encounter is an entertaining way of handling the opening:

***Georgi Mitev-Slavisa Marinkovic* Belgrade 1990**

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 Qb3

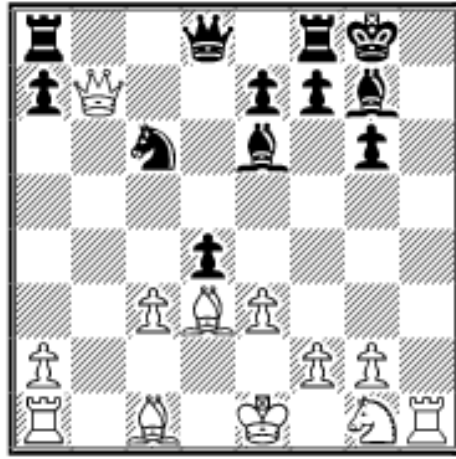


5...Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 h4!? White declares his intention to attack.



The main alternative is 7 Ba3 0-0 when play might continue: a) 8 Nf3 c5? (a misguided attempt to rapidly activate the black pieces by giving up a pawn) 9 Bxc5 Na6 10 Ba3 Be6 11 Qb2 Qa5 (if

11...Bd5 then 12 e3 is comfortable for White) 12 e3 Rfc8 13 Rc1 b5 14 Bxe7 Nc7 15 Bd3 Nd5 16 Qa3! Qxa3 17 Bxa3 a6 (Black wants to try and stir up complications because the obvious 17...Nxc3 walks into 18 Kd2 Nxa2 19 Rxc8 Rxc8 20 Bxb5 with a clear advantage for White) 18 Ng5 Bf5 19 Be4 Bxe4 20 Nxe4 Rc4 21 Bc5 b4 22 Kd2 f5 23 Kd3 1-0 D.Jacimovic-J.Rowson, Yerevan 1996. b) 8 Rd1 b6 (Black's set-up of a queenside fianchetto coupled with c7-c5 is recommended as a way to handle most of White's strategies in this line 9 Nf3 c5 10 e3 (10 dxc5 Qc7!) 10...Qc7 11 Be2 Nc6 12 0-0 Na5 13 Qb1 Bb7 14 e4 with equal chances, L. Popov-L.Ftacnik, Amsterdam 1977. **7...0-0** In view of White obvious desire to attack then it might be better to delay castling. For instance: 7...c5 looks a decent idea when 8 e3 can be met by 8...b6 with a queenside fianchetto. **8 h5 c5 9 hxg6 hxg6 10 e3 Nc6 11 Bd3 Be6** 11...cxd4 is well met by 12 Bxg6 giving White the advantage. **12 Qxb7 cxd4**



An imaginative sacrifice that attempts to take advantage of White's neglected development. **13 Qxc6?** An improvement is **13 Bxg6! fxg6** and now after **14 Qxc6** White

is threatening the bishop on e6, which is something that never happens in the actual game) **13...dxe3 14 Bxg6** Or **14 Bxe3 Qxd3** and Black is better. **14...exf2+ 15 Kxf2 fxg6+ 16 Nf3 Qb6+** A good way to make sure nothing goes wrong by exchanging into a winning ending. **17 Qxb6 axb6 18 Be3 Bxc3 19 Rab1 Rxa2+** Marinkovic is a couple of pawns up and cruising to victory. **20 Kg3 Bd5 21 Rh4 Bxf3 22 gxf3 Be5+ 23 f4 Ra3 24 Kf2 Bd6 25 Rg4 Rc8 26 Rb2 Kf7 0-1**

Luben Popov-Pierluigi Beggi Reggio Emilia 1973

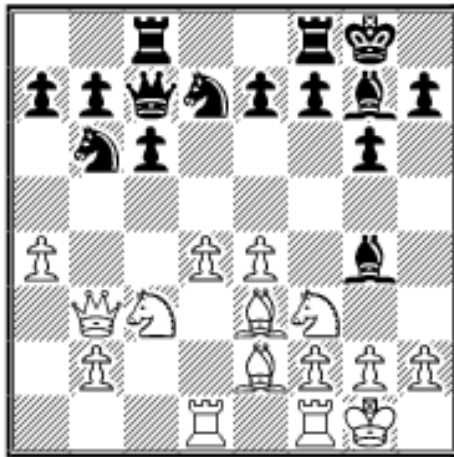
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 Qb3

The Bulgarian grandmaster is the strongest player who regularly played this line. **5...Nb6**



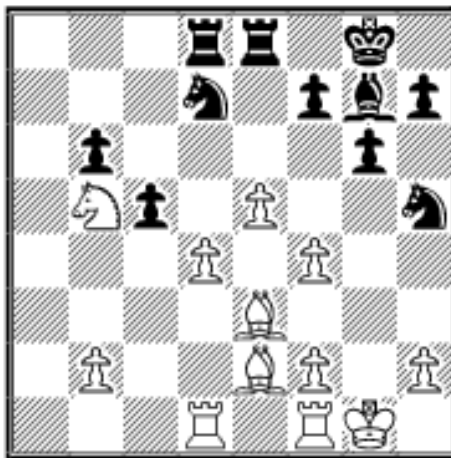
I think this is an acceptable move although the results indicates that it does not fare quite so well as 5...Nxc3. The bonus for Black is that at least he has a clear plan of playing ...Bc8-e6 to target

the white queen. **6 Nf3 Bg7** The direct attack against the queen with 6...Be6 was also fine upon 7 Qd1 Bg7 8 Bf4 0-0 9 e3 c5 which led to equal chances in L.Popov-K.Honfi, Kecskemet 1968. **7 Bf4** 10 years later White decided to change tactics by employing 7 Bg5 which proved to be a good decision after 7...0-0 8 Rd1 h6 9 Bh4 Be6 10 d5 Bg4 11 e4 N8d7 12 Be2 Qc8 13 0-0 when the position slightly favours White although the game was eventually drawn, L.Popov-Z.Zahariev, Pernik 1983. **7...0-0 8 Rd1** The rook is brought to the centre to deter ...c7-c5. Instead 8 e3 aiming to quietly developing the kingside is also possible. For example: a5 9 Be2 a4 10 Qc2 Nc6 11 0-0 Bf5 12 Qc1 e5 13 dxe5 Qe7 14 Nb5 Rac8 (14...Nxe5 15 Qxc7 is much better for White) 15 Nfd4 Nxe5 16 Nxf5 gxf5 17 Nd4 gave White the advantage in L.Popov-N.Radev, Bulgarian Championship 1973. **8...c6 9 e4 Bg4 10 Be3 N8d7 11 Be2 Qc7 12 0-0 Rac8 13 a4**



A theme in this variation is that White eventually chases the knight on b6 with this pawn advance intending a4-a5. **13...Nf6 14 a5 Nbd7 15 Qb4 b6?! 15...e6** should be considered. **16 axb6**

axb6 17 e5 Nh5 18 Qxe7 Bxf3 19 gxf3 Popov has won a pawn but the price is that the kingside has been exposed. However, unless Black can open the position it is not obvious how he can exploit the situation. **19...Rfe8 20 Qh4 c5** Beggi tries to undermine the pawn centre otherwise White will just play f3-f4 and then take the knight on h5. **21 Nb5 Qd8 22 Qxd8 Rxd8 23 f4**



The ending is miserable for Black who is a pawn down and cannot quickly activate his pieces. The game concluded:

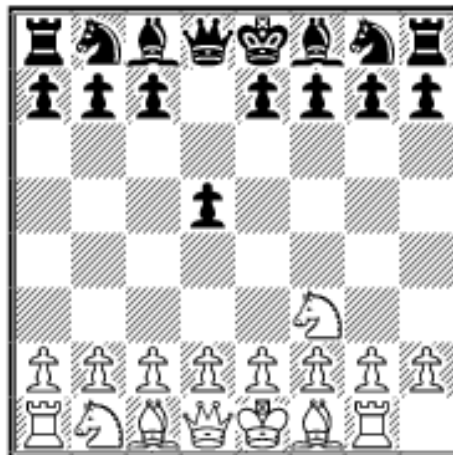
23...cxd4 24 Rxd4 Nc5 25 Nd6 Ne6 26 Nxe8 Nxd4 27 Bxh5 gxh5 28 Nxg7 Kxg7 29 Kg2 Ne6 30 f5 Nc5 31 Kf3 h6 32 Rg1+ Kh7 33 Bxc5 bxc5 34 f6 1-0

And finally **Flavio Patricio Doro, from São Paulo, Brazil**, responds to last month's weird and wonderful opening. He writes, "I have found

two examples of the 1 Nf3 d5 2 Rg1 opening, which is called the Ampel variation in the Reti. The game Alber-Hüber, Hessen 1983, ran 1 Nf3 d5 2 Rg1 c5 3 g4 Nc6 4 d3 e5 5 Nc3 Be6 6 Ng5 Qd7 7 e4 d4 8 Nxe6 Qxe6 9 Nd5 Bd6 10 c4 dxc3 11 bxc3 Nge7 12 Rb1 Rb8 13 Qf3 b5 when the reference stops with the words “with a strong initiative for Black”. Also Beotic-Boehme 1989 saw 1 Nf3 d5 2 Rg1 g6 3 g4 Nf6 4 g5 Nh5 5 d4 Bg7 6 Nc3 Nc6 7 e3 Bf5 8 Nh4 Qd7 9 Be2 Nb4 10 e4 Bxe4 11 Nxe4 dxe4 12 c3 Nd5 13 Bg4 e6 14 Bxh5 gxh5 15 Qxh5 0-0-0 16 Qe2 e5 17 Be3 exd4 18 cxd4 Nb4 19 0-0-0 Nxa2+ and used his material advantage to win after 34 moves.

It is good to think that readers are searching the world’s libraries/web sites for games featuring 1 Nf3 and 2 Rg1. However, different countries might have a new twist on what call it according to Lev D. Zilbermintz from USA. “I am responding to William B. Witherspoon of Mufreesboro, Tennessee, who asked about 1 Nf3 any move, 2 Rg1! Well, the fact of the matter is that this opening has a name! It is called Die Ampel, or the "Traffic Light", in Germany. I have played 3 games with it. Two were in OTB tournaments, and one on the Internet Chess Club. I won all the games. Admittedly, my opposition was not very strong.”

A reminder of the position that is causing all the fuss! **1 Nf3 d5 2 Rg1**



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