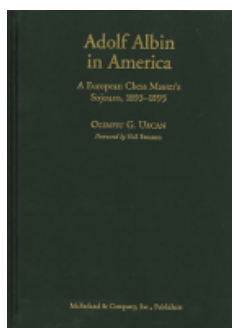




COLUMNISTS

Past Pieces

Olimpiu G. Urcan

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The Stolzenberg File

Early Findings, in Dialogue

While working last month on our Kashdan biography [review](#), our computer acoustically signaled a new email from John S. Hilbert, chess historian, with an intriguing research lead: the scores of three potentially unknown games played by Kashdan in the company of a now little-remembered player, Leon Stolzenberg. The material obtained by Hilbert travelled an unusual path: while he was attending an auction in Buffalo in April 2010, IM John Donaldson, another well-known chess historian, had the winning bid on one or more lots of papers from the Jack O'Keefe Chess Collection.

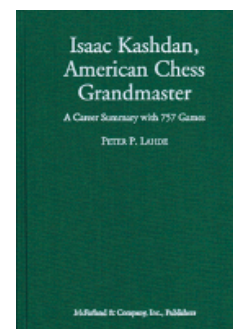
Jack O'Keefe (1930-2008) collected chess material for decades from his home in Michigan, following one twisting path after another to pursue information on tournaments, matches and otherwise forgotten games. One slender file buried in the O'Keefe papers was labeled "Leon Stolzenberg." A generous researcher and author, Donaldson shortly after the auction mailed that file to Hilbert, among many others he kindly sent him. Hilbert has, in turn, now shared some of the items from Jack O'Keefe's Leon Stolzenberg file with us.

We present below these forgotten Kashdan games, along with some of the twisting tale of research that unearthed some curious facts, and new questions, as a result of our dialogue with the American chess historian. Our email exchange has, for the convenience of reader's, been slightly altered and expanded. We hope in presenting the following article to capture something of the thrill of the hunt, as well as the refining of materials that goes on among laborers in our shared chess past. Direct comments to the readers of this column will be indicated as well, to make following the exchanges easier.

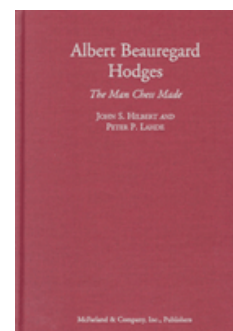
John S. Hilbert (JSH) Hi Olimpiu. Hope all is well. I'm sending, attached, two newly found games that appear to have been played by Kashdan, plus two parts of a third. Confusing, no? I couldn't find them in the new Kashdan book, where a huge number of Kashdan's games appear. All three are written out in Jack's handwriting on score sheets. You'll see the trouble I had with the third game. I could decipher the first thirty-two moves, but moves thirty-three through forty-nine, as recorded, make no sense. Jack had given notation for a diagram at move fifty, and that allowed me to set up the position and decipher moves fifty-one through seventy. But the middle of the game doesn't work.

Jack O'Keefe apparently took these games from a chess column in the *Grand Rapids Herald*, which not surprisingly, given where Jack lived, will probably turn out to be a Michigan newspaper. But for some reason he didn't make Xeroxes. He wrote out the games by hand on blank score sheets. He also didn't, for some reason, give the citations on the score sheets, but I did find (at least for the two 1934 games between Stolzenberg and Kashdan) specific dates of publication recorded on another sheet. The 1933 game, the draw, is identified only as coming from the same source, but from the list I have it was not published in 1934 or the part of 1935 he examined. Perhaps it was published in the *Herald* for 1933, but we don't know for sure. All I can say is he identifies it as coming from the *Herald*. As I mentioned to you before, Jack O'Keefe did the initial research but after his death this particular material was buried among his auctioned papers. Thanks to John Donaldson, who suggested some future work on Stolzenberg, I'm sending you these initial finds. This just scratches the surface of what is in the Stolzenberg file, but at least it's a start.

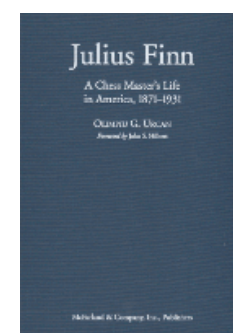
Purchases from our
[chess shop](#) help keep
[ChessCafe.com](#) freely
accessible:



[Isaac Kashdan,](#)
[American Chess Grandmaster](#)
by Peter P. Lahde



[Albert Beauregard Hodges](#)
by John S. Hilbert
& Peter P. Lahde



[Julius Finn](#)
by Olimpiu G. Urcan

Olimpiu G. Urcan (OGU) Thanks John. I'll take a look at them. If we can authenticate them, I'm sure Peter Lahde, author of the recent Kashdan volume, will be glad to learn of them.

To the Reader We knew the source for the first game score was most probably the *Grand Rapid Herald*. Ken Whyld's *Chess Columns: A List* (Moravian Chess: Olomouc 2002) at page 174 says about this column only "Grand Rapids (which?). USA," and suggests it appeared about 1932. But since Jack O'Keefe lived in Michigan, it's probable, at least as a first working assumption, that this is a reference to the *Grand Rapids Herald* of Grand Rapids, Michigan. We'll see where this leads.

The three games in question as received are given below with some basic annotations by us.

Leon Stolzenberg – Isaac I. Kashdan

Detroit, 7 May 1933

Queen's Indian Defense [E13]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.Nc3 Bb7 5.Qc2 Bb4 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3 Ne4 9.e3 f5 10.Bd3 0–0 11.h4 Nxg3 12.fxg3 g4 13.Ne5 Kg7 14.h5 Bd6 15.Qf2 Bxe5 16.dxe5 Qe7 17.0–0–0 Nc6 18.Qf4 Qc5 19.Bc2



[FEN"r4r2/pbpp2k1/1pn1p2p/2q1Pp1P/2P2Qp1/2N1P1P1/PPB3P1/2KR3R b - - 0 19"]

Interesting was too 19.Be4!? Rad8 (While 19...fxe4!? can be tried, after 20. Rxd7+ Ne7 21.Qxg4+ Kh8 22.Qxe6 Qxe3+ 23.Kb1 Bc8 24.Qxe7 Bxd7 25. Qxd7 Qd3+ 26.Qxd3 exd3 27.Nd5 leads to unclear play.) 20.Bxc6 Bxc6 21. Rhg1=/+ and White still has to pay a price of his damaged pawn structure.

19...Rf7 20.e4!? Qxe5

Not 20...fxe4?! 21.Qxe4 Kg8 22.Rhf1 Raf8 due to the powerful 23.Rf4!+/-.

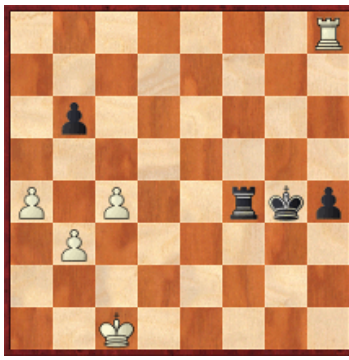
21.exf5 Qxf4+ 22.gxf4 exf5 23.Nd5 d6 24.Rhe1 Raf8 25.Re6 Bc8

25...Kh7 26.b4 Nd8 27.Re2 Ba6 28.b5 Bb7 29.Rde1 Bxd5 30.cxd5 Nb7 31. Re7 was leading to an equal game after 31...Kg7 32.Rxf7+ Rxf7 33.Re6 Rf6 34.Re7+ Rf7=.

26.Rg6+ Kh7 27.Rxg4 Rg8 28.Rg6

Stolzenberg could have tried 28.Rxg8!? Kxg8 29.Re1 Kf8 30.Ba4 Bb7 31.Kd2 +/-.

28...Rxg6 29.hxg6+ Kxg6 30.g4 Kg7 31.gxf5 Bxf5 32.Bxf5 Rxf5 33.Nxc7 Na5 34.b3 Nb7 35.Ne8+ Kh7 36.Nxd6 Nxd6 37.Rxd6 Rxf4 38.Rd7+ Kg6 39.Rxa7 h5!= 40.Ra8 h4 41.Rh8 Kg5 42.a4 Kg4



[FEN"7R/8/1p6/8/P1P2rkp/1P6/8/2K5 w - - 0 43"]

43.Kb2?!

The rook endgame is equal but White could have forced the draw with more ambitious play: 43.c5!? bxc5 44.Rg8+ Kf3 45.a5 Rf6 46.Rh8 Kg3 47.Rg8+ Kh2 48.Rg5 h3 49.Kb2=.

43...Rf5

43...h3 was not winning either: 44.c5 Rf2+ 45.Ka3 bxc5 46.a5 Rf5 47.Ka4 Rh5 48.Rg8+ Kf3 49.a6 Rh7 50.Rg1 h2 51.Rh1 Kg2 52.Rxh2+ Rxh2 53.Kb5 Kf3 54.Kxc5 Ra2 55.Kb6 Rb2=.

44.b4 Rh5 45.Rg8+

45.Rxh5!? Kxh5 46.c5 bxc5 47.bxc5 h3 48.c6 h2 49.c7 h1Q 50.c8Q=.

45...Rg5 46.Rh8 h3 47.a5 bxa5 48.b5 Rh5 49.Rxh5 Kxh5 50.b6 h2 51.b7 h1Q 52.b8Q 1/2-1/2

Source: *Grand Rapids Herald*; Stolzenberg File, Jack O'Keefe Chess Collection.

The source for the next game was given by Jack O'Keefe as "Detroit, 1934 (?) Grand Rapids Herald, March 25, 1934."

Leon Stolzenberg – Isaac I. Kashdan

Detroit, 1934

Queen's Indian Defense [E13]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.Nc3 Bb7 5.Qc2 Bb4 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3 Ne4 9.e3 h5

In the 1933 game, given above, Kashdan tried 9...f5.

10.Bd3 f5 11.0-0-0 Bxc3 12.bxc3 d6 13.h4 g4 14.Ng1 Qf6



[FEN"m2k2r/pbp5/1p1ppq2/5p1p/2PPn1pP/2BPB1B1/P1Q2PP1/2KR2NR w kq - 0 15"]

15.Rh2!?

Stronger seems to be 15.Bf4! Nd7 16.f3 e5 17.dxe5 dxe5 18.Bg5 Nxe5 19.

hxg5 Qxg5 20.Bxf5 with good chances on both sides.

15...Nd7

Kashdan should have grabbed the opportunity to create structural damage right away with 15...Nxc3! 16.fxg3 Nd7 17.Ne2 0-0-0 18.Nf4 Qf7=+.

16.Ne2 0-0-0 17.Nf4 Nxc3! 18.fxg3 Kb8 19.Rhh1 c5 20.d5 e5 21.Ne6 e4 22. Be2 Rde8 23.Rhf1 Ne5

The exchange sacrifice on e6 was certain to follow yet it was a matter of timing. Best was to be done now: 23...Rxe6! 24.dxe6 Qxe6 25.Qd2 Rh6 26.a4 Qe5=+/+ with great pressure upon White's many weaknesses.

24.Rf2



[FEN"1k2r2r/pb6/1p1pNq2/2pPnp1p/2P1p1pP/2P1P1P1/P1Q1BRP1/2KR4 b - - 0 24"]

Stolzenberg should have kept the knight with 24.Nf4! so to avoid the exchange sacrifice.

24...Rxe6 25.dxe6 Qxe6 26.Qa4 Bc6 27.Qb3 Kc7

27...Ng6!? 28.Rff1 Qe5.

28.Bf1 a5 29.Rfd2 a4 30.Qc2 Rd8



[FEN"3r4/2k5/1pbpq3/2p1np1p/p1P1p1pP/2P1P1P1/P1QR2P1/2KR1B2 w - - 0 31"]

31.Rd5!?

An attempt to deny Black further initiative. It proves not enough however. 31. Kb2 was not enough: 31...Nxc4+ 32.Bxc4 Qxc4 33.Ka1 b5—+.

31...Bxd5 32.cxd5 Qd7 33.c4 Rb8 34.Qc3 Kd8 35.Kc2 b5 36.cxb5 c4! 37. Qa5+ Qc7 38.Qxc7+ Kxc7 39.Rb1 Kb6 40.Kc3 Kc5 41.b6

There is no salvation: 41.a3 Rxb5 42.Rxb5+ Kxb5 43.Kd4 Nd3—+.

41...Rxb6 42.Rxb6 Kxb6 43.Bxc4 Kc5 44.Ba6 Ng6 45.Bc8 Ne7 46.Be6 Nxd5+ 47.Bxd5 Kxd5 48.Kb4 Ke5 49.Kxa4 d5 0-1

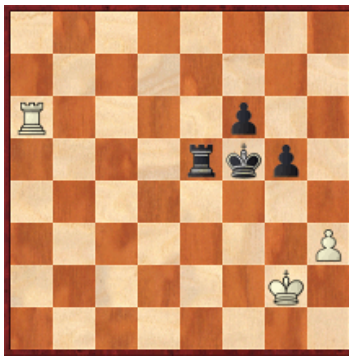
The score of the third game, copied by O'Keefe on a blank scoresheet (see image below) posed some problems that initially prevented a fully decipherable score. O'Keefe's notes say it came from the *Grand Rapids Herald* of April 22, 1934. If you reproduce the game based on O'Keefe's score sheet copy you get stuck at move thirty-two as the score doesn't make sense from there onwards.

Jack O'Keefe (not fully decipherable)
scoresheet
[\[Click here to enlarge image\]](#)

Jack O'Keefe (not fully decipherable)
scoresheet
[\[Click here to enlarge image\]](#)

Detroit, 1934
Sicilian Defense [B73]

In his notes, Jack O'Keefe gave the exact position (and the rest of the moves) after Black's 50...Re5. Here is the position converted into a chess diagram:



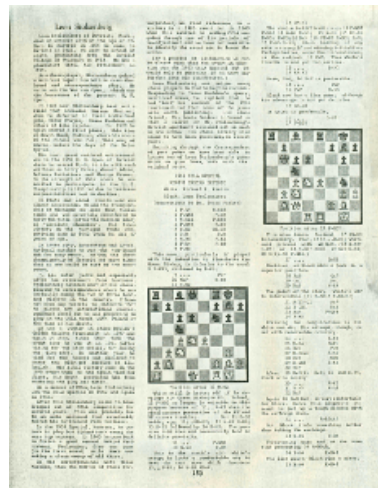
[FEN"8/8/R4p2/4rpk1/8/7P/6K1/8 w - - 0 51"]

**51.Kf3 Re6 52.Ra5+ Kg6 53.h4 gxf4 54.Kg4 Re4+ 55.Kh3 f5 56.Ra8 Kg5
57.Rg8+ Kf4 58.Kxf4 Kf3+ 59.Kh3 f4 60.Rf8 Kf2 61.Kh2 f3 62.Kh3 Re3
63.Ra8 Kf1 64.Ra1+ Re1 65.Ra2 f2 66.Kg3 Re3+ 67.Kh2 Re8 68.Ra1+
Ke2 69.Ra2+ Kf3 70.Ra3+ Re3 0-1**

And now, back to our emails:

OGU I tried to fix the full score of this last game based on the O'Keefe scoresheet and some move-by-move logic, but I failed repeatedly. It just doesn't make sense. My belief is that moves thirty to thirty-six are crucial to reconstructing the game. I will try to find the exact sources, the chess column from the *Grand Rapids Herald*. Meanwhile, who was Leon Stolzenberg? I must confess the name is unknown to me.

JSH According to page 409 of Jeremy Gaige's *Chess Personalia* (1987), Stolzenberg was born on October 18, 1896, in Tarnopol (then part of Austria) and died on October 25, 1974 in Detroit, Michigan. *Chess Life and Review* for January 1974 (page 8) wrote briefly of him at his death. Stolzenberg won the Western Open (the precursor to the United States Open) in 1926 and 1928, and was Michigan champion an astonishing twelve times. As a correspondence player he was a three-time winner of the Golden Knights (USCF US Open), as well as tying for first in 1970, but he was too ill for the playoff. He also twice won the Correspondence Chess League of America title. The O'Keefe file also contains a photocopied sheet about him, but without giving a source citation. While it is hard to pin down where and when exactly it was published, it contains further biographical information on Stolzenberg.



[\[Click here to enlarge image\]](#)

To the Reader So some biographical information was coming to light, even if we didn't have the full scores and citations for the games against Kashdan yet. Apparently (according to correspondence between Stolzenberg and bibliophile and chess dealer Dr. Albrecht Buschke, see *Chess Life*, October 5, 1951, page 5), Stolzenberg, while working in a Tarnopol hospital in 1916, witnessed a wounded Alexander Alekhine producing the Alekhine vs. Feldt/Dr.Martin Fischer blindfold miniature. According to Ancestry.com records, Stolzenberg arrived in America at the end of December 1920. The

biographical text above notes Stolzenberg moved to Detroit in 1921. He went to school at night and graduated from the Detroit College of Pharmacy in 1923. He was a pharmacist until his retirement in 1955. But he also was a very talented and accomplished chess player. For instance, as the source said regarding his Western (US) Open victories: "In 1926 Leon Stolzenberg beat out a field that included Herman Steiner, whom he defeated in their individual game, Oscar Chajes, Isaac Kashdan and others of like repute. In 1928 he again scored a first place, this time at South Bend, Indiana, where his score in the finals was 7-0. This was, of course, before the days of the Swiss System."

OGU John, some good news regarding the critical historical source. On October 29, I contacted the [Bentley Historical Library](#) of the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) requesting a copy of the chess column appearing in the *Grand Rapids Herald* for April 22, 1934. A few hours later Karen L. Jania, Head of the Access and Reference Services, replied to me with a brief note stating that their collection only had one issue of that newspaper for that year, the August 23 issue. Checking the World Cat database, however, Karen told me that the Grand Rapids Public Library had the newspaper on microfilm, including all issues for 1934. I wrote another email to the [Grand Rapids Public Library](#) and on November 3 I got the good news: Ruth Van Stee, a librarian in Grand Rapids, sent me an email with a PDF attachment, converted from the microfilm, of the April 22, 1934, chess column. Ah, the magic of the Internet! Based on the column, I managed to reconstruct the correct score of the third game, which has given us such a headache. As you will see, Jack O'Keefe copied an error from the original column in addition to making a clerical error himself: the critical move was **23.Qe1** (copied wrongly as 23.Q-B1 by Jack) and **29.Qg3** (copied as 29.Q-R3 by him, an error which was in fact in the original column, too). These things happen to every chess historian, especially when for one reason or another games have to be copied out by hand, game after game, over many hours, during a research trip.

Now, though, thanks to a very kind librarian, and some additional thought, the full game score makes sense:

Isaac I. Kashdan – Leon Stolzenberg

Detroit, 1934

Sicilian Dragon [B73]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be2 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.h3 a6 9.0-0 0-0 10.f4 Qb6 11.Na4 Qa5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Nc3 Rb8 14.Rb1 Nd7 15.Qd2?!



[FEN"1rb2rk1/3nppbp/p1pp2p1/q7/4PP2/2N1B2P/PPPB1P1/1R3RK1 b - - 0 15"]

Better was not to allow the b-file tactics at all with 15.Bd4!?

15...Rxb2! 16.Rxb2 Bxc3 17.Qc1 Bxb2

Stolzenberg could have delayed this capture with 17...Nc5!? 18.Bf3 (18.Rb1 Nxe4 19.Bd3 Nc5=+/+) 18...Be6-/+ with nice positional pressure in key points.

18.Qxb2 Nc5 19.Bf3 Qb5 20.Qa1 Qc4! 21.f5

Worth of serious consideration was also 21.e5!? Bf5 22.exd6 exd6 23.Bxc6 Be4 24.Bxe4 Nxe4 25.Qd4 with chances for an equal game.

21...f6 22.Bh6 Rd8 23.Qe1!

A nice multi-purpose move from Kashdan as the Queen has both Queenside options (Qa5) as well as Kingside play (Qg3/Qh4).

23...Kh8

Prophylactic and careful play. Grabbing the Queenside pawns could have been quite problematic for Black: [23...Qxc2?! 24.Qa5! Re8 25.e5 Ne4 a) 25...Bxf5 26.exf6 exf6 27.Qc7 Ne6 28.Qxd6 Kf7 29.Rc1 Rd8 30.Qxc6 Qxc6 31.Rxc6 Nd4 32.Rxa6 Nxf3+ 33.gxf3 Bxh3=; b) 25...dxe5? 26.Rc1 Qxf5 27.Qxc5+-; c) 25...fxe5 26.f6! Kf7 (26...exf6 27.Bxc6+/-) 27.fxe7 Bf5 28.Bxc6 Rxe7 29.g4 Ne6 30.Qd5 Kf6 31.gxf5 gxf5 32.Qxd6 Qc5+ 33.Qxc5 Nxc5 and White has good winning chances.; 26.exf6 Nxf6 27.fxg6 hxg6 28.Rc1=.

24.fxg6 hxg6 25.Be3 Kg7



[FEN"2br4/4p1k1/p1pp1pp1/2n5/2q1P3/4BB1P/P1P3P1/4QRK1 w - - 0 26"]

26.e5

Faced with the loss of the important e-pawn, Kashdan attempted to confuse Stolzenberg.

26...dxe5

26...fxe5? 27.Be2 Qa4 28.Qg3 and White has good kingside prospects.

27.Bxc6 Ne6 28.Bf3



[FEN"2br4/4p1k1/p3npp1/4p3/2q5/4BB1P/P1P3P1/4QRK1 b - - 0 28"]

The computer-suggested 28.Be4!? is tricky and Black has to be careful: 28...Bd7! (28...f5? 29.Bxf5 gxf5 30.Rxf5 Kg6 31.Rf1 Rf8 32.Qg3+ Kh7 33.Rxf8 Nxf8 34.Qxe5 with much work for Black to do still in order to win.) 29.Qh4 Kg8 30.Bb6 Rc8 31.Re1 f5—+.

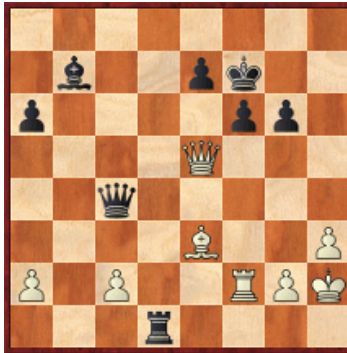
28...Nd4!→ 29.Qg3 Nxf3+ 30.Rxf3 Rd1+ 31.Kh2 Bb7

31...Qxc2! 32.Qh4 Qb1 33.Qc4 e4 34.Rf4 Bf5—+.

32.Rf2 Kf7?!

Almost giving away the upperhand. Instead, it was high time for Black to go after the doomed queenside pawns with [32...Ra1! 33.h4 Rxa2 34.h5 Be4 35. Qg4 Qc6 36.hxg6 Rxc2+.

33.Qxe5

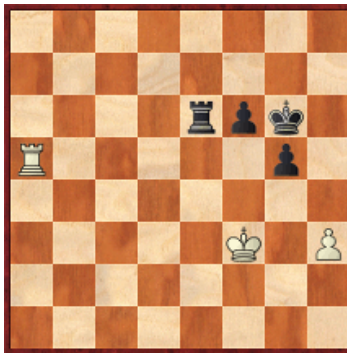


[FEN"8/1b2pk2/p4pp1/4Q3/2q5/4B2P/P1P2RPK/3r4 b - - 0 33"]

33...Bxg2!?

A tactical solution. Good alternatives were both 33...Re1!? and 33...Bd5!?.

34.Bc5 Qe4 35.Qxe7+ Qxe7 36.Bxe7 Kxe7 37.Rxg2 g5 38.Re2+ Kd6 39. Rf2 Ke5 40.Re2+ Kf5 41.Rf2+ Kg6 42.Re2 Ra1 43.c4 Rc1 44.Re4 Rc2+ 45. Kg3 Kf5 46.Rd4 Rxa2 47.c5 Ra3+ 48.Kg2 Rc3 49.Ra4 Rxc5 50.Rxa6 Re5 51.Kf3 Re6 52.Ra5+ Kg6



[FEN"8/8/4rpk1/R5p1/8/5K1P/8/8 w - - 0 53"]

53.h4?

Giving up any resistance. 53.Ra8 could have been tried, but after 53...Rb6 54. Rh8 Rb3+ 55.Kg2 f5, Black still has clear winning chances.

53...gxh4 54.Kg4 Re4+ 55.Kh3 f5 56.Ra8 Kg5 57.Rg8+ Kf4 58.Kxh4 Kf3+ 59.Kh3 f4 60.Rf8 Kf2 61.Kh2 f3 62.Kh3 Re3 63.Ra8 Kf1 64.Ra1+ Re1 65. Ra2 f2 66.Kg3 Re3+ 67.Kh2 Re8 68.Ra1+ Ke2 69.Ra2+ Kf3 70.Ra3+ Re3 0-1

Source: *Grand Rapids Herald*, 22 April 1934.

JSH That's great, Olimpiu. I double-checked the score myself against the original column you supplied and I agree with your conclusions. Jack made thousands of photocopies of other columns over his lifetime. I bet the library he was using to get the *Grand Rapid Herald* column didn't have a microfilm image copier, or else it was otherwise unavailable. Any word on why Stolzenberg and Kashdan played the games? A tournament? Just offhand games? Can the other issues of the column shed more light, and also confirm the scores for the other two games, as well as their proper citations?

OGU The game was prefaced by the following: "Played between Leon

Stolzenberg and Isaac Kashdan upon the occasion of the latter's recent visit to Detroit." Meanwhile, Ruth [the Grand Rapids librarian] was very kind to quickly fill my purchase order for most of the 1934 columns. The *Grand Rapids Herald* of Sunday, March 11, 1934, noted that "Isaac Kashdan, challenger for the United States championship, and now on a tour of the country, recently visited Detroit. Two games were played with Leon Stoclenberg [*sic*], the Auto City ace. The score was one win and one loss for each." Now we know that the first 1934 game versus Kashdan appeared in the March 25, 1934, issue.

Besides giving some interesting games from the Michigan State Championship for that year, when Stolzenberg tied for 1st-2nd with Marvin Palmer, which led to a playoff, I observed that the August 26 issue gives the full score of a Kashdan loss to George Eastman, another strong local player, from the 35th Western Chess Congress held in Chicago between July 2 and August 1, 1934. "[*It was*] Kashdan's first setback in the western championship," wrote Eastman at the end of his notes to the game, "possibly the most grueling tourney in the world, as a result of the recent adoption of the Holland qualifying system. I, for one, wasted my best chess on the qualifying rounds in the mad scramble to reach the finals. A poor system! Practically all the finalists looked like somnambulists instead when they were ready to enter the final masters' tourney. I believe I won the championship for producing the most yawns!" This is a great find, no?

JSH I certainly agree with you it's a great find, but in truth it adds another twist of mystery to our winding path. In [*Isaac Kashdan, American Chess Grandmaster*](#), Peter Lahde gives Eastman – Kashdan, Chicago, Finals, round eight, as a seventy move draw (Game 286; pages 164-165). His source is Kashdan's own score sheet, which I believe he saw in the original, or at least photocopies of it and many others. A drawn result between Kashdan and Eastman in the finals is consistent with the ten player, round-robin cross tables given at pages 319-320 in his Kashdan book. And Eastman did *not* play in that preliminary section! No games by Eastman are indexed in the 1934 *Chess Review* bound volume, so that doesn't help. The only player of note Eastman defeated at Chicago 1934, and so whose defeat might have been considered something of an upset, was Arnold Denker, although at the time Denker was only twenty and clearly not as strong as he later became. Is it possible the game as given by the chess editor in the *Grand Rapids Herald* mistakenly added Kashdan's name, instead of Denker's? Could it have been an offhand game against Kashdan? Was there clarification in any of the later *Grand Rapids Herald* columns?

OGU Wow! That does add to the confusion, doesn't it? The next *Grand Rapids Herald* column, the one for September 2, 1934, gives another George Eastman win, this time from the Western's preliminary section he played in. No correction, though, here or through the rest of the month, regarding his game allegedly with Kashdan. Eastman supplied another of his wins from the finals, over a Captain Araiza, said to be a Mexican, in the September 30, 1934, column. That's consistent with the crosstable for the finals, at least. But again, no correction.

To the Reader What we had, then, was a mystery game. Was it indeed a Kashdan game? Or was it possibly against someone else? As so often is the case, and not just with chess, research produces as many questions as answers. Can any reader of this column help out identifying, for sure, White in the following game?

Isaac I. Kashdan [??] - George Eastman
35th Western Chess Congress (Preliminaries)
Chicago, July 1934
Ruy Lopez Exchange [C68]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d4?!

Premature. 5.0–0 as the good old traditional theory is best.

5...f6 6.dxe5 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1

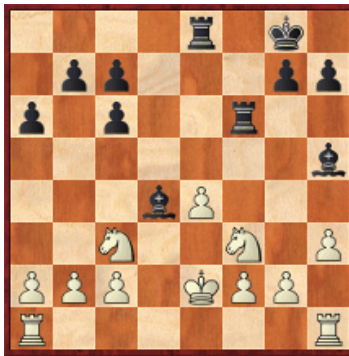


[FEN"r1b1kbnr/1pp3pp/p1p2p2/4P3/4P3/5N2/PPP2PPP/RNBK3R b kq - 0 7"]

7...Bg4! 8.exf6 Nxf6

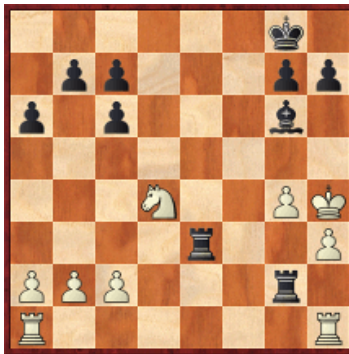
8...0-0-0+!? 9.Ke2 Nxf6 10.h3 Bh5 11.e5 Re8 12.Bf4 Nd7 13.g4 Bg6 was the alternative.] 9.Nc3 [9.Bg5! Bc5 (9...Nxe4?? 10.Re1) 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Ke2 0-0-0 12.Nc3=.

9...Bb4 10.Bg5 0-0 11.Bxf6 Rxf6 12.Ke2 Re8 13.h3 Bh5 14.Ke3 Bc5+ 15.Ke2 Bd4!-/+



[FEN"4r1k1/1pp3pp/p1p2r2/7b/3bP3/2N2N1P/PPP1KPP1/R6R w - - 0 16"]

16.Nd1 Rxe4+ 17.Ne3 Rfe6 18.g4 Bxe3 19.fxe3 Rxe3+ 20.Kf2 Re2+ 21.Kg3 Bg6 22.Nd4 R6e3+ 23.Kh4 Rg2



[FEN"6k1/1pp3pp/p1p3b1/8/3N2PK/4r2P/PPP3r1/R6R w - - 0 24"]

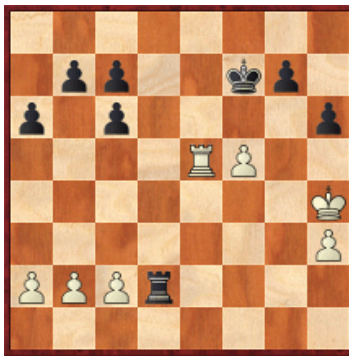
24.Rae1

White has to be careful not to allow a mating web: 24.Rhf1? h6! 25.Rae1 Rxe1 26.Rxe1 Bf7—+.

24...Rxe1 25.Rxe1 h6 26.Re5 Rd2 27.Nf5

27.c3 Bf7 28.b3 Rg2 29.g5 hxg5+ 30.Rxg5 Rxa2—+.

27...Bxf5 28.gxf5 Kf7—+



[FEN"8/1pp2kp1/p1p4p/4RP2/
7K/7P/PPPr4/8 w - - 0 29"]

29.Re3 Rxc2 30.Rb3 b6 31.Kg4 c5 32.Rd3 Rc4+ 33.Kg3 Rd4 34.Re3 c4 35.
Re6 Rd6 36.Re4 b5 37.Kf4 g6 38.fxg6+ Rxc6 39.Re2 Rf6+ 40.Kg4 Rc6 41.
Rc2 b4 42.a3 a5 43.axb4 axb4 44.Kf5 c3 45.Ke5 Re6+ 46.Kd4 Rd6+ 47.
Ke3 cxb2 48.Rxb2 c5 49.Ke4 Ke6 50.Rg2 Rd4+ 51.Ke3 Rh4 52.Rg3 Kd5
53.Kd3 Rc4 54.Kd2 Rc3 55.Rxc3 bxc3+ 56.Kxc3 h5 57.h4 Ke4 58.Kc4 Kf4
59.Kxc5 Kg4 60.Kd4 Kxh4 61.Ke3 Kg3 62.Ke2 Kg2 0-1

Source: *Grand Rapids Herald*, 26 August 1934.

JSH Looking at the columns you sent over, I noticed the column was edited by Otto B. Wurzburg, a figure well-documented in Jeremy Gaige's *Chess Personalia*. Wurzburg was a noted chess problemist, a nephew of the famous problemist W. A. Shinkman, and for a time handled *Chess Review's* problem department. A good photograph of him appears in the December 1918 issue of the *American Chess Bulletin*, at page 267. He's alongside his uncle, Shinkman, and Dr. Samuel Gold, two of the most prodigious problem composers in America.



W. A. Shinkman, Otto Wurzburg, and Dr. Samuel Gold

Source: *American Chess Bulletin*, December 1918, Vol. 15, No. 9, page 267

OGU Interestingly, the cover of the first issue of *Chess Review* (January 1933) featured a problem composed by Wurzburg.

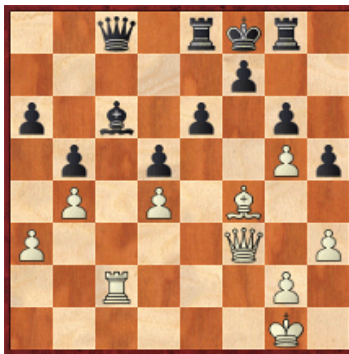
White mates in two moves



[FEN"8/Q7/2kp4/8/8/1K6/3R4/5B2 w - - 0 1"]

As Kashdan was a keen problem solver, it's likely he and Wurzburg kept a correspondence up. Perhaps this connection between master and problemist accounts for Kashdan's path through Michigan on his tour, including Detroit, where he met up with Stolzenberg and played the games Jack found. And as a columnist, Wurzburg would of course have been interested in even offhand meetings between players such as Kashdan and Michigan's Stolzenberg. Such diligent columnists proved instrumental in recovering games which otherwise would have been forgotten.

JSH Ah yes, the traveling master providing interesting material for the local chess columnist. This often was the case. And understandably so. I went through the *Boston Weekly Post's* chess column not long ago and found this attractive little endgame played by Philip Richardson. It didn't have a diagram. Just the position of the pieces, which is probably why I missed it while researching my book on Richardson, I'm afraid. Anyway, it's an attractive example of what a travelling master (Captain Mackenzie in this case, while visiting Boston) could offer one of the people he would want to stay on good terms with (the local chess column editor) if he wanted to be invited back for more exhibitions at the club.



[FEN"2q1rkr1/5p2/p1b1p1p1/1p1p2Pp/1P1P1B2/P4Q1P/2R3P1/6K1 w - - 0 1"]

Richardson – Amateur

Philidor Chess Club, QR Odds, 1888

We are indebted to Captain Mackenzie for this very pretty ending which occurred recently in a game played at the Philidor Chess Club of Brooklyn, Philip Richardson, Esq., playing White against an amateur to whom he had given the queen's rook.

1.Bd6+ Kg7

Now mate is forced. Black had 1...Re7, but 2.Qf6 Qd7 3.Rxc6 isn't much to look forward to.- JSH

2.Qxf7+ Kxf7 3.Rf2+ Kg7 4.Be5+ Kh7 5.Rf7+ Rg7 6.Rxg7+ Kh8 7.Rxg6+ Kh7 8.Rh6+ Kg8 9.g6 Kf8 10.Bf6 and mates next move. Source: *Boston Weekly Post*, April 13, 1888.

OGU That's a nice endgame, especially with the queen sac and a forced mate in over ten moves after! A pity you didn't have it in useful time for the book.

But back to our topic, meandering as it might be. Since Stolzenberg seems to have been notorious for not keeping records (see image above), the first man we should thank for the several forgotten Kashdan games must be Otto Wurzburg. Unfortunately, we must also "thank" him and George Eastman for the confusing "Kashdan" game, also above. As so often is the case, one mystery is solved while another rears its confounding head. And of course we have to thank Peter Lahde, too. If he hadn't put together so many Kashdan games, we'd have no idea whether what we've uncovered is readily accessible or not. Every published volume of collected games acts as a stepping stone for the recovery of more games, and so a player's known canon expands.

Stolzenberg appears in a group photograph on pages 180-181 of the November 1921 issue of the *American Chess Bulletin*, as one of the sixteen men around a table at the Western Chess Association banquet at the Hollenden, Cleveland. Unfortunately, he is located in the background of the photograph, and unless an excellent copy can be recovered, his features remain virtually indistinguishable.



Western Chess Association Dinner, Cleveland, October 11, 1921

From left to right (Francis T. Hayes, H. Helms, C. S. Shives, S. Factor, J. K. Schmidt, W. L. Moorman, H. Hoffman, Leon Stolzenberg, J. T. Beckner, N. T. Whitaker, H. Hahlbohm, B. A. Czaikowski, J. H. Norris, Dr. G. J. Furtos, E. E. Stearns, Edward Lasker (Source: *American Chess Bulletin*, November 1921, pages 180-181).

JSH And his "image" will remain murky in another sense, too, until more is published on him. The file John Donaldson so graciously sent me (which represents only a small portion of the material he sent along from Jack's hoard) must include another forty or fifty Stolzenberg games, many of them correspondence games sent to Jack by Stolzenberg's opponents. Perhaps in time more of these will be published. This is, after all, only the start of explorations.

OGU While we were tying up this month's column, Ruth Van Stee was still working with microfilm, attempting to recover the full run of Wurzburg's *Grand Rapids Herald* column. In addition to a local column being essential for highlighting the play of a strong player like Stolzenberg, and the diligent work of a problemist and columnist like Wurzburg, it may prove useful for recovering more of Michigan's chess past, especially for the period shortly after the Great Depression.

And a final thought for readers of this column. The one link uniting all the above is the search for the truth, whatever it may be. And all, in this case, thanks to a thin, dusty file labeled "Leon Stolzenberg" in the collection of a passionate researcher, a file portions of which have recently travelled, literally and electronically, thousands of miles, and through the hands of curious historians and helpful librarians. Sometimes chess history research is indeed a maze with unexpected twists. And sometimes it's even more complicated!

Key to the Wurzburg problem

1.Re2 Kd5 (1...d5 2.Re6 mate; 1...Kb5 2.Rc2 mate) **2.Bg2 mate**.

Acknowledgments

Thanks are owed by the columnist to the late Jack O'Keefe for his extraordinary liberality when approached with research inquiries by us in the past, IM John Donaldson, John S. Hilbert for agreeing to contribute significantly to this column, and to Karen L. Jania and Ruth Van Stee for their assistance.

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