



# White Knight Review

Chess E-Magazine

Interactive E-Magazine

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# RUSSIAN CHESS



*Other Occupations of Famous Chess Players*

**CHESS CLOCKS & TIMERS**

**Pal Benko**

**Simultaneous and Blindfold Displays**

Seraphim Press

# White Knight Review

Chess E-Magazine

## Table of Contents

<i>EDITORIAL-</i> “My Move”	3
<i>FEATURE-</i> Russian Chess	4
<i>BIOGRAPHY-</i> Pal Benko	12
<i>ARTICLE-</i> Chess Progam 4.	14
<i>ARTICLE-</i> Chess Clocks Time Honored Tradition	16
<i>FEATURE-</i> Occupations of Famous Players	18
<i>ARTICLE-</i> Math and Chess	22
<i>ARTICLE-</i> News Around the World	23
<i>FEATURE-</i> Simultaneous/Blindfold Displays	24
<i>ARTICLE -</i> Pandolfini’s Advice	27
<i>BOOK REVIEW-</i> Karpov’s Strategic Wins 1 1961-1985- The Making of a Champion by <b>Tibor Karolyi</b>	28
<i>ANNOTATED GAME -</i> Hampyuk - Anatoluy Karpov	29
<i>COMMENTARY-</i> “Ask Bill”	31



contents

**INTERACTIVE  
CONTENT**

- Click on title in Table of Contents to move directly to page.
- Click on “White Knight Review” on the top of each page to return to Table of Contents.
- Click on red type to continue to next page
- Click on ads to go to their websites
- Click on email to open up email program
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# My Move

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## editorial -Jerry Wall



Well it has been over a year now since we started this publication. It is not easy putting together a 32 page magazine on chess every couple of months but it certainly has been rewarding (maybe not so much financially but then

that really never was the goal).

We wanted to put together a different kind of chess publication that wasn't just diagrams, problems, analytical moves and such. We wanted to talk about Chess's rich history, human interest stories, current news and some of its colorful players and characters. We have had articles from chess apps for the iPhone and iPad to chess convicts, crooks, spies and the seedy side of life.

We have explored chess computers and chess game variations, street chess, tournament chess, and even prison chess.

This coming year we hope to develop even more exciting stories and articles about chess. Many of Bill Wall's articles can also be found at chess.com.

This month we look at the rich history of chess in the Soviet Union. Chess has always been a huge part of the Russian culture and some of the top Chess masters and grandmasters have come from Russia.

To me, one of my favorite articles is the Occupations and distinctions of famous Chess Players. It is interesting to see the wide background of many great players. So Enjoy and thank you for your support.

Jerry Wall  
Editor

*Let us know what you think of the magazine. Perhaps you have some suggestions for future articles or have other comments.*

*Let us know and drop me a line at:  
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## Feature



**C**hess was probably introduced in Russia in the 9th century AD through the Caspian-Volga trade route. At the time, there was a Volga trade route to Baghdad.

In the 10th century, chess reached Russia from Byzantium and from the Vikings.

Around 1262, the Russian word for chess, "*shakmatny*", was introduced.

**In 1551**, Ivan IV "the Terrible" (1530-1584) banned chess in Russia.

**In 1584**, Ivan was preparing to play a game of chess with Bogdan Belsky, when he fainted suddenly and died of a stroke.

**In 1791**, the first chess book was published in Russia. It was a translation of Benjamin Franklin's *Morals of Chess* and published in St. Petersburg. The title was *Pravila dlia Shashechnoi Igry* (Rules for the Game of Chess).

**In 1794**, Alexander Dmitrievich Petrov was born in Viserovo, Russia. He became the first strong Russian chess

player, chess composer, and chess writer. He was the author of the first chess handbook in Russian, *Shakmatnaya igra*, published in St.

Petersburg in 1824. He died in 1867.

**In 1813**, Carl Friedrich Andreyevich Jaenisch (YAY-nish) was born in Vyborg, Russia. He was an Major in the Russian army. In the 1840s, he was among the top chess players of the world. His work on chess openings is regarded as the birth of modern openings theory. He died in 1872.

**In 1819**, Ilya Shumov was born. He was one of the first serious Russian chess players. In 1867, he published the first book on chess compositions. He died in 1881.



Alexander Dmitrievich Petrov

**In 1821**, the first Russian chess book was published by Ivan Butrimov (1782-1851).

**In 1824**, Alexander Petrov wrote *A Systemized Game of Chess* together with the Games of Philidor and a Commentary on them. It was the first classical book about chess in Russian. The book was published in St. Petersburg.

**In 1827**, Prince Sergey Urusov was born in Russia.. He became a Major General in the Russian Army. The Urusov Gambit (1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4) is named after him. He died in 1897

**In 1838**, Jaenisch was a major in the Russian army. He started writing a book on chess openings.

**In 1840**, Jaenisch left the Russian army to concentrate full time in writing a book on chess openings.

**In 1842**, Jaenisch published *Analyse Nouvelle des ouvertures du jeu des Echecs* (A New Analysis of Chess



Openings). Volume one was published in Dresden in French. In 1843, volume two was published in St. Petersburg.



Carl Jaenisch

**In 1844**, the first chess match between two masters in Russia was held. Carl Jaenisch played Alexander Petrov. They each won one game each.

**In 1849**, Jaenisch defeated Ilya Shumov with two wins and one loss. The match was held in St. Petersburg.

**In 1850**, Shumov defeated Jaenisch in a match with two wins and a loss. The match was held in St. Petersburg.

**In 1850**, Emmanuel Stepanovich Schiffers was born in St. Petersburg, Russia. He was the Russian chess champion for 10 years. Schiffers was known as "Russia's Chess Teacher." He died in 1904.

**In 1850**, Mikhail Ivanovich Chigorin was born in Gatchina, Russia. He was the first public chess worker, organizer, and journalist in Russia.

**In 1851**, Shumov defeated Jaenisch in a match with two wins.

**In 1853**, Petrov defeated Sergey Urusov in a match with 3 wins and a draw. The match was held in St. Petersburg. Later that year, Urusov defeated Shumov in a match with 4 wins and 3 losses.

**In 1854**, the charter of the Petersburg Society of Chess Amateurs was created. Members included Shumov, Urusov, and Viktor Mikhailov.

**In 1859**, Russia's first Russian chess magazine, Shakhmatny Listok, (Chess Newsletter) was published. It lasted until 1863. The editor was Viktor Mikhailov.

**In 1862**, Ignatz Kolisch defeated Ilya Shumov in a match with 6 wins and 2 losses. The match was held in St. Petersburg. That same year, Kolisch drew with Sergey Urusov with 2 wins and 2 losses.

**In 1862**, the St. Petersburg Chess Club was disbanded by the Russian

police.

**In 1866**, the first chess match between masters in Moscow was played. Sergey Urusov defeated Philipp Hirschfeld (1840-1896) in a match with two wins, two draws, and one loss.

**In 1867**, Ilya Shumov published the first book in the world about chess compositions. It was published in St. Petersburg.

**In 1873**, Chigorin was hustling chess at the Cafe Dominika in St. Petersburg.

**In 1874**, Emmanuel Schiffers defeated Andrey Chardin in a match with 5 wins and 4 losses. The match was held in St. Petersburg. Schiffers was considered the Russian champion until his student, Mikhail Chigorin, defeated him in a match in 1879.

**In 1875**, Szymon Winawer defeated Ilya Shumov in a match with 5 wins and 2 losses, in St. Petersburg.

**In 1875**, Chigorin gave up his government post as a clerk in a state institution to be a full time chessplayer.

**In September, 1876**, Chigorin published a chess magazine called Shakhmatny Listok (Chess Newsletter). It had only 250 subscribers.

**In 1876**, Russia held its first master chess tournament, in St. Petersburg. The winner was Andrey Asharin, followed by Mikhail Chigorin, Emmanuel Schiffers, Hermann Clemenz, and Semyon Alapin.



Mikhail Chigorin

**In October-November 1877**, a chess tournament was held in St. Petersburg. The winner was Chigorin, followed by Schiffers, Asharin, Clemenz, and Alapin.

**In March 1878**, Chigorin defeated Schiffers in a match with 7 wins and 3 losses, held in St. Petersburg. Later that year, Schiffers defeated Chigorin with 7 wins, 1 draw, and 6 losses.

**In January 1879**, the Best Russian Players tournament was held in St. Petersburg. Semyon Alapin and Mikhail Chigorin tied for 1st place, with Chigorin winning the play-off.

Schiffers and Alexander Solovtsov tied for 3rd-4th. They were followed by Nikolai Petrovsky, Andrey Asharin, Vladimir Lizel, N. Nerling, and Evgeny Von Schmidt.

**In 1879**, Chigorin defeated Schiffers in a match for the Russian championship. Chigorin won with 7 wins, 4 losses, and 2 draws.

**In 1880**, Chigorin organized the first chess club in Russia. The club was in St. Petersburg.

**In 1881**, Chigorin defeated Alapin in a match with two wins and one loss, held in St. Petersburg.

**In 1885**, Nikolai Krylenko was born. He died in 1938. He was a Russian revolutionary and Soviet jurist.

**In 1886**, St. Petersburg defeated London in a telegraph match.

**In 1886**, Chigorin tried to establish a national chess organization in Russia, but the government barred even distributing leaflets about the proposed association.

**In 1889**, Schiffers was the first Russian to lecture on chess.

**In 1889**, Chigorin lost to Steinitz in a world championship match, held in Havana.

**In 1891**, Chigorin defeated William Steinitz with two wins in a telegraph match.

**In 1892**, Alexander Alekhine was born in Moscow.

**In October-November 1893**, Mikhail Chigorin and Siegbert Tarrasch tied in a match with 11 points each, held in St. Petersburg.

**In 1895**, there was only one chess periodical in Russia, Shakhmatny Bulletin.

**In 1895**, Chigorin defeated Schiffers in a match with 7 wins, 3 draws, and 3 losses, held in St. Petersburg.

**In 1895**, Chigorin finished second, behind Pillsbury, at Hastings.

**In December 1895-January 1896**, the first international tournament in Russia was held. The winner was Emanuel Lasker, followed

by William Steinitz, Harry Pillsbury, and Mikhail Chigorin. The event was held in St. Petersburg.

**In March-April 1896**, Steinitz defeated Schiffers in a match with 6 wins, 1 draw, and 4 losses. The event was held in Rostov on Don.

**Nov 1896 to January 1897**,



Emanuel Lasker

the 6th World Championship was held in Moscow. Emanuel Lasker defeated William Steinitz with 10 wins, 5 draws, and 2 losses.

**In April 1897**, Chigorin defeated Schiffers in a match with 7 wins, 6 draws, and 1 loss, held in St. Petersburg.

**In September-October**

**1899**, the first All-Russian chess championship was held in Moscow. There were 14 players. Chigorin was the winner, followed by Schiffers, Levitsky, Lebedev, Yankovitch, Gelbak, Nenarokov, Genika, Kulomzin, Abaza, Boairkov, Falk, Kalinsky, and Pervago. A minor section was held with 14 players. That section was won by Sergey Simson.

**In 1899**, Chigorin lost to Steinitz in a world championship match, in Havana.



chigorin-steinitz-poster

**In 1900**, a tournament was held in St. Petersburg with 10 players. Mikhail Chigorin and Alexander Levin tied for first place.

**In 1900**, the Kiev championship was won by Fyodor Duz-Khotimirsky.

**In 1900**, Vladimir Nenarokov (1880-1953) won the Moscow championship. He won it again in 1908 and 1924.

**In 1901**, Chigorin won the 2nd Russian championship.

**In 1902**, Shakhmatny Obozreni was the only chess magazine in Russia.

**In 1903**, Chigorin won the 3rd Russian championship, followed by Ossip Bernstein.

**In 1906**, Self Teacher by Emmanuel Schiffers was published.

**In 1908**, Alexander Alekhine won the Moscow Chess Club Spring Tournament.

**In January, 1909**, Alekhine won the Moscow Chess Club Autumn Tournament for first class players. This gained him the right to play in the St. Petersburg All Russian Amateur Tournament.



Alexander Alekhine

**In February, 1909**, Alekhine became a master after playing in the All Russian Amateur Tournament in St. Petersburg. He won the event. First prize was a vase valued at 650 rubles, donated by the Czar of Russia.

**In 1909**, the International Chess Congress in St. Petersburg has held.

**In 1911**, the first Moscow-Petrograd match was held, and won by Petrograd, with the score of 6-3. They won again in 1912.

**On August 17, 1911**, Mikhail Botvinnik was born in Kuokkala (now Repino), Russia.

**In 1912**, Alekhine was the strongest player in the St. Petersburg Chess Society. He was offered the position as games editor of the chess column in Novoe Vremya.

**In 1912**, Feodor Bogatirchuk took 2nd in the Russian championship.

**In August-September, 1912**, the All Russian Masters Tournament was held in Vilna. The event was won by Rubinstein, followed by Bernstein, Levitsky, Nimzovich, and Flamberg.

**In 1913**, Alexei Alekhine was editor of Shakhmatny Vyestnik chess magazine. He remained editor until 1916.

**In 1914**, Alekhine and Nimzovich tied for 1st at the All Russian Masters Tournament in St. Petersburg.

**In April, 1914**, the first Russian chess federation was formed. It had 865 members. It was called the All-Russia Chess Union (later All-Russia Chess Society), formed at the St. Petersburg Chess Assembly.

**In April-May, 1914**, an international tournament was held in St. Petersburg. It was won by Emanuel Lasker, followed by Capablanca, Alekhine, Tarrasch, and Marshall. Czar Nicholas II conferred the title "Grandmaster of Chess" to these top five players. Lasker was paid an appearance fee, the first time that had ever been done for a chessplayer.

**On August 1, 1914**, World War I broke out. The Russian players participating in the 19th German Chess Federation Congress in Mannheim were taken to Rastatt, Germany as prisoners of war.

**After World War I broke out in 1914**, it was decided to change the name of the Russian capital from St. Petersburg to Petrograd. The old name sounded too German for the contemporary Russians. It kept that name until 1924.

**In December, 1915**, Alekhine won the Championship of Moscow.

**In 1915 and 1916**, Alexander Alekhine served in the Russian Red Cross on the Austrian front as head of the mobile dressing station.

**In February, 1917**, a revolution broke out in Russia and Czar Nicholas II abdicated.

**In 1917**, Alekhine was an investigator in Moscow for Centrrosysk, a government agency that located relatives who had disappeared during the Russian Revolution and Civil War.

**In November, 1917**, Trotsky promoted Krylenko from ensign to commander in chief of the Russian forces.

**In November, 1917**, after the Bolshevik Revolution, chess was officially discouraged in Russia as a “decadent bourgeois pastime.” Virtually all organized chess activities and chess clubs ended in Russia.

**In 1918**, the Civil War broke out, which lasted until 1921.

**In 1918**, Ossip Bernstein was arrested in Odessa by the Cheka and ordered shot by a firing squad because he was a legal advisor to bankers. A superior officer recognized him as a chess master and released him.

**In June, 1919**, Alekhine was arrested by the Cheka and imprisoned in Odessa. He was charged with anti-Soviet activity and passing on secret information. He was ordered shot, but saved by Yakov Vilner, who sent a telegram to the chairman of the Ukrainian Council of People's Commissars. The chairman knew of Alekhine and ordered him freed.

**In July 1919**, Nikolai Grigoriev defeated Alexander Ilyin-Genevsky with 5 wins and no losses in a match held in Moscow.



Nikolai Grigoriev

**In January, 1920**,

Alekhine won the Moscow City Chess Championship with a perfect 11 out of 11 score. He was followed by N. Grekov, who had 8.5 out of 11. Grekov was declared the first Moscow Chess Champion because Alekhine was not a resident of Moscow.

**In early 1920**, Ilyin-Genevsky was appointed commissar of the General Reservists' Organization (VSEVOBUCH). Ilyin-Genevsky suggested that an All-Russian Chess Olympiad be held in Moscow. This turned out to be the first Soviet Chess Championship.

**In 1920**, Ilyin-Genevsky started the first Russian chess column, which was written in the VSEVOBUCH newspaper, To the New Army.

**In May 1920**, the first post-Revolution chess club was opened in Moscow.

**In 1920**, Alexander Alekhine won the first Soviet Chess Championship in Moscow. The event was called the All-Russian Chess Olympiad, and it began on October 1, 1920. Only 16 of the 30 players invited to the tournament showed up. After

*After the Bolshevik Revolution, chess was officially discouraged in Russia as a “decadent bourgeois pastime.”*

Alekhine, there followed Romanovsky, Levenfish, I. Rabinovich, Grigoriev, A. Kubbel, A. Rabinovich, Blumenfeld, Danuszewski, Ilyin-Genevsky, Zubarev, N. Pavlov, Tselikov, Mund, D. Pavlov, and Golubev.

**In 1920**, the All-Union Chess Congress (Syezhd) was formed.

**In 1920**, Alekhine served as interpreter for the Comintern (Communist International) and was appointed secretary to the Education Department.

**In 1920**, Ilya Rabinovich won the Petrograd chess championship.

**In 1921**, Iosif Tsukerman won the Moscow chess championship.

**In 1921**, the Petrograd Commune Chess Club published a chess-only publication, called Listok (Leaflet). It had a circulation of 200 to 500. It was later replaced by Shakhmatny Listok, the first sports publication in Soviet Russia.

**On March 15, 1921**, Alekhine married a foreign Communist delegate, Anneleise Ruegg (1879-1934) of Switzerland, and left Russia for good.

**In 1922**, Grigoriev won the Moscow championship.

**In 1922**, Nikolai Grekov started publishing the chess magazine Shakhmatny.

**In August 1922**, Moscow beat Petrograd in a match, held in Petrograd.

**On October 29, 1922**, Grigoriev began a chess column in Ivestia.

**In 1922**, the USSR was founded.

**In July, 1923**, the All-Russian Chess Union was recreated with 32 groups and 1,159 players. It organized the second Soviet Championship, held in Petrograd. The winner was Peter Romanovsky, followed by Levenfish, Bohatyrchuk, Duz-Khotimirsky, Nenarokov, A. Kubbel, Ilyin-Genevsky, I. Rabinovich, Grigoriev, Zubarev, Vilner, Vygodchikov, and Lebedev. Romanovsky became the nation's first Honored Master of Sport in chess.

**In 1923**, Vladimir and Mikhail Makogonov tied for 1st in the first Baku championship. They were brothers.

**In 1924**, Petrograd changed its name to Leningrad.

**In 1924**, Nikolai Krylenko (1885-1938), commander in chief of the Russian forces, was appointed chairman of the chess section of the All-Union Committee on Physical Culture.

**In 1924**, the first All-Union Workers chess competition was held. The winner was I. Friedberg of Kharkov.

**In 1924**, the first Red Army Chess championship took place.

**In 1924**, Yakov Vilner won the championship of the Ukraine.

**In 1924**, the Byelorussian Championship was won by Solomon Rozental.

**In August, 1924**, the third Soviet Championship was held in Moscow. The winner was Efim Bogoljubow, followed by Romanovksy.

**In 1924**, there were 24,000 registered chess players in Russia.

**In February, 1925**, a Central Chess Club was opened in Leningrad.

**In 1925**, Nikolai Krylenko used funds from the New Economic Policy (NEP) to hold the Moscow International tournament.



**In 1925**, the All-Union Chess Section was formed with Krylenko as its chairman. A new chess publication, 64, was created.



**In 1925**, the title of Soviet master (master of sport of the USSR) was created.

**In August-September, 1925**, the fourth Soviet Championship was held in Leningrad. The winner was Bogoljubov, followed by Levenfish, I. Rabinovich, Verlinksy, Duz-Khotimirsky, Gotthilf, Ilyin-Genevsky, Romanovsky, A. Rabonivich. There were 20 players. The tournament was held in the House of Scientists in Leningrad.

**In 1925**, Ilya Rabinovich became the first Soviet player to compete outside the USSR. He played at Baden-Baden, Germany and took 7th place. Baden-Baden was the first international tournament held in Germany since World War I. The event was won by Alekhine.

**In 1925**, Irina Tikhomirova won the Soviet women's championship.

**In 1925**, the Soviets were invited to join FIDE, but refused because they could not be part of a politically neutral organization.

**In November-December, 1925**, the world's first state-sponsored chess tournament was held in Moscow. Over 50,000 spectators visited the tournament. The event was won by Bogoljubov, followed by Lasker, Capablanca, Marshall, Torre, Tartakower, Reti, Romanovsky, Gruenfeld, Ilyin-Genevsky, Bohatyrchuk, Rubinstein, Spielmann, Verlinsky, Levenfish, I. Rabinovich, Yates, Gotthilf, Saemisch, Duz-Khotimirsky, and Zubarev.

**In 1925**, the movie Chess Fever was made during the Moscow International. It was the first film to deal exclusively with chess. It was a film comedy and it featured Capablanca and some of the other participants in the Moscow tournament.

**In 1925**, Alexander Sergeyev won the Moscow Championship.

**In 1926**, Bohatirchuk wrote the first chess book in Ukrainian.

**In 1926**, Leningrad sponsored a chess tournament that had 1,300 players in the event.

**In December, 1926**, Bogoljubov defected from the USSR.

**In October, 1927**, Feodor Bohatirchuk and Pyotr Romanovskiy tied for 1st in the 5th Soviet (first USSR championship) championship, held in Moscow. They were followed by Duz-Khotimirsky, Model, Botvinnik, V. Makogonov, Nenarokov, Grigoriev, and Ilyin-Genevsky. There were 21 players in the event.

**In October, 1927**, Olga Rubtsova won the first Soviet Women's Championship.

**In 1927**, Alexander Ilya-Genevsky won the All-Union Workers tournament.

**In 1927**, the title of "Soviet Grandmaster" was created.

**In 1927**, the first original book in the Russian language devoted to the endgame was published, by Rabinovich.

**In 1928**, there were 140,000 registered chess players in Russia.

**In 1928**, the Moscow Championship was won by Verlinksy, followed by Nenarokov, Bernstein, and Sergeyev.

**In 1928**, Pyotr Izmailov won the first Russian Federation championship.

**In 1929**, the Moscow Championship was won by Panov.

**In 1929**, Boris Verlinsky won the 6th Soviet Championship, held in Odessa, and became the first "Soviet Grandmaster."

**In 1929**, there were 150,000 registered chess players.

**In 1931**, Genrikh Kasparian won the Tblisi championship and became the first Armenian master.

**In 1931**, the title of "Soviet Grandmaster" was abolished.

**In November, 1931**, Botvinnik won the 7th Soviet Championship, held in Moscow. He was followed by Riumin, Alatorsev, Bohatyrchuk, Verlinsky, Udovich, and Kan. There were 18 players.

**In September, 1933**, Botvinnik won the 8th Soviet Championship, held in Leningrad. He was followed by Alatorsev, Levenfish, Lisityn, I. Rabinovich, Rauzer, Chekover, Bohatyrchuk, and Kan. There were 20 players.



Mikhail Botvinnik

**In December, 1933**, Botvinnik and Flohr drew a match that was held in Moscow and Leningrad.

**In 1934**, there were over 500,000 registered chess players in Russia.

**In 1934**, the title of "Master of Sports in Chess Composition" was created.

**In 1934**, Anfir Shlopak won the first Soviet Junior Championship.

**In January, 1935**, Levenfish and Ilya Rabinovich tied for the 9th Soviet Championship, held in Leningrad.

**In March, 1935**, Botvinnik and Flohr won the Second Moscow International. Following them were Lasker, Capablanca, Spielmann, Kan, Levenfish, Lilienthal, Ragozin, Romanovsky, Alatorsev, Goglidze, I. Rabinovich, Riumin, Lisitsyn, Bohatyrchuk, Stahlberg, Pirc, Checkover, and Menchik.

**In 1935**, the title of "Soviet Grandmaster" was re-created and given to Mikhail Botvinnik.

**In July, 1935**, 64 chess and checkers newspaper began its publication. Its circulation was 20,000.

**In 1935**, the trade union championship in Russia had 700,000 players participating.

**In 1935**, Riumin won the Moscow Championship.

**In June, 1936**, Capablanca won the Third Moscow International. He



was followed by Botvinnik, Flohr, Lilienthal, Ragozin, Lasker, Kan, Levenfish, Riumin, and Eliskases.

**In 1936**, Raul Renter won the second Soviet Junior Championship.

**In 1936**, over 10,000 women players took part in the eliminating sections of the Russian Women's chess championship.

**On January 30, 1937**, Boris Spassky was born. He was the youngest first category player at 10, the youngest candidate master at 13, the youngest master at 15, and then, the world's youngest grandmaster.

**In May, 1937**, Levenfish won the 10th Soviet Championship, held in Tbilisi. He was followed by Konstantinopolsky, Ragozin, V. Makogonov, Belavenets, Goglidze, Lisitsyn, and Rauzer. There were 20 players.

**In 1938**, Vasily Smyslov won the third Soviet Junior Championship.

**In 1938**, Smyslov and Sergei Belavenets tied for 1st in the Moscow championship. They were followed by Lilienthal, Vaksberg, Yeltsov, Panov, and Udovich. There were 18 players.

**In 1938**, Isaac Boleslasky won the Ukrainian Championship.

**In May, 1939**, Botvinnik won the 11th Soviet Championship, held in Leningrad. He was followed by Kotiv, Belavenets, V. Makogonov, Checkhiver, and Bondarevsky.

**In 1939**, the only Soviet grandmasters were Botvinnik, Levenfish, and Kotov.

**In 1940**, the USSR organized its first correspondence chess championship.

**In October, 1940**, Bondarevsky and Lilienthal tied for 1st place in the 12th Soviet Championship, held in Moscow. They were followed by Smyslov, Keres, Boleslavsky, Botvinik, Veresov, Dubinin, and V. Makogonov.

**In April, 1941**, Botvinnik won the Absolute Soviet Championship, held in Moscow and Leningrad. He was followed by Keres, Smyslov, Boleslavsky, Lilienthal, and Bondarevsky.

**In 1941**, there were just over 50 chess masters in the Soviet Union.

**In June, 1941**, Germany attacked the Soviet Union, ending the preliminaries of the 13th Soviet Championship.

**In January, 1942**, Isaak Maisel won the Moscow Championship, followed by Petrov, Panov, and Alatortsev. There were 8 players. Maisel died a year later fighting against the Germans.

**In 1943**, Botvinnik won the Moscow Championship. He was followed by Smyslov, Alatortsev, Lisitsyn, Udovich, Averbakh, Mikenas, Simagin, and Tolush. There were 17 players. Smyslov got the title of Moscow Champion because Botvinnik lived in Leningrad.

**In June, 1944**, Botvinnik won the 13th Soviet Championship, held in Moscow. He was followed by Smyslov, Boleslavsky, Flohr, V. Makogonov, and Mikenas. There were 17 players.

**In 1945**, Botvinnik won the 14th Soviet Championship.

**In September, 1945**, the U.S.-USSR Radio Match was held. The Soviets won 15.5 to 4.5. It was the first international sport of any kind after World War II.

**In 1946**, the USSR joined FIDE.



**In September, 1946**, Botvinnik won at Groningen. It was the first major international chess tournament after World War II.

**In September, 1946**, the USSR won its return match against the USA in Moscow.

**In March, 1947**, the 15th Soviet Championship was held, in Leningrad. It was won by Paul Keres. He was followed by Boleslavsky, Bondarevsky, Smyslov, Tolush, Bronstein, Lilienthal, and Flohr. There were 20 players.

**In December, 1947**, Botvinnik won the Chigorin Memorial, in Moscow. He was followed by Ragozin, Boleslavsky, Smyslov, Kotov, Keres, and Novotelnov. There were 16 players.

**In May, 1948**, Botvinnik won the World Championship Match-Tournament, held at The Hague and in Moscow. He was followed by Smyslov, Keres, Reshevsky, and Euwe.

**In 1948**, Elizabeth Bykova became the first Soviet woman to achieve a master's rating.

**In August, 1948**, David Bronstein won the first Interzonal, held in Saltjobaden. He survived an assassin's attack. First place was \$550.

**In November, 1948**, the Soviets issued its first chess stamp, which marked the world chess championship match.

**In 1948**, Bronstein and Kotov won the 16th Soviet Championship.



**In 1949**, Bronstein and Smyslov won the 17th Soviet Championship.

**In 1949**, the USSR began its first correspondence chess championship. It was won in 1951 by Konstantinopolsky.

**In January, 1950**, Liudmila Rudenko won the Women's World Championship, held in Moscow.

**In May, 1950**, David Bronstein and Boleslavsky won the first Candidates Tournament, held in Budapest. They won \$5,000. In August, 1950, Bronstein won the play-off.

**In 1950**, FIDE created the Grandmaster title. 11 of the 27 first grandmasters were Soviets.

**In December, 1950**, Keres won the 18th Soviet Championship, held in Moscow. He was followed by Aronin, Lipnitsky, Tolush, Konstantinopolsky, and Smyslov.

**In May, 1951**, Botvinnik tied with Bronstein in the World Championship Match, held in Moscow. Botvinnik retained the World Champion title. This was the first World Championship match under FIDE rules.

**In May, 1951**, Anatoly Karpov was born in Zlatoust, USSR.

**In December, 1951**, Keres

**Continue**

won the 19th Soviet Championship, held in Moscow. He was followed by Geller, Petrosian, Smyslov, Botvinnik, Averbakh, Bronstein, and Taimanov. There were 18 players.

**In August, 1952**, the USSR sent its first team to the chess olympiad at Helsinki. They won the gold medal.

**In 1952**, Botvinnik and Taimanov tied for 1st in the 20th Soviet Championship. Botvinnik won the play-off.

**In 1953**, Paul Keres became the first Soviet sportsman of the year in chess.

**In October, 1953**, Smyslov won the second Candidates tournament, held in Zurich.

**In 1954**, Averbakh won the 21st Soviet Championship.

**In March, 1955**, the 22nd Soviet Championship was won by Smyslov and Geller. The event was held in Moscow. Following them, were Botvinnik, Ilivitsky, Petrosian, Spassky, Keres, and Taimanov. There were 20 players. Geller won the play-off.

**In July, 1955**, the Soviets defeated the Americans 25 to 7 in a match held in Moscow.



Boris Spassky

**In July, 1955**, Boris Spassky won the World Junior Championship in Antwerp.



serious USSR.

**In 1955**, Shakhmatny Bulletin chess magazine began appearing.

**By 1955**, there were over two million chess players in the

**In 1955**, the Central Chess Club in Moscow had over 10,000 chess

books and over 100,000 index cards of opening theory.

**In 1955**, Leonid Stein won the Russian Armed Forces Championship.

**In 1955**, there were 104 masters and 16 grandmasters in the Soviet Union.

**In 1956**, Taimanov won the 23rd Soviet Championship.

**In 1956**, chess first appeared on Russian television. It was a report on the 23rd Soviet Championship that was broadcast from a Leningrad studio.

**In February, 1957**, Tal won the 24th Soviet Championship, held in Moscow. He was followed by Bronstein, Keres, Spassky, Tolush, Kholmov, Korchnoi, and Petrosian. There were 22 players.

**In April, 1957**, Smyslov defeated Botvinnik for the World Championship, held in Moscow.

**In 1957**, the USSR won the first European team championship.

**In 1957**, the first Women's Chess Olympiad was held, in the Netherlands. The USSR women's team won the gold.

**In February, 1958**, Tal won the 25th Soviet Championship, held in Riga. He was followed by Petrosian, Bronstein, Averbakh, Polugaevsky, Spassky, Geller, and Gurgennidze.

**In May, 1958**, Botvinnik defeated Smyslov for the World Championship, held in Moscow.

**In 1959**, the Soviet Chess Federation was formed. It took over the Chess Section of the Sports Committee.

**In 1959**, there were 19 grandmasters in the Soviet Union.

**In 1959**, Petrosian won the 26th Soviet Championship, held in Tbilisi.

**In 1960**, Korchnoi won the 27th Soviet Championship, held in Leningrad.

**In May, 1960**, Tal defeated Botvinnik for the World Championship, held in Moscow. Tal became the youngest world chess champion in history.

**In February, 1961**, Petrosian won

the 28th Soviet Championship. He was followed by Korchnoi, Geller, Stein, Smyslov, and Spassky. There were 20 players.

**May, 1961**, Botvinnik defeated Tal for the World Chess Championship.

**In December, 1961**, Boris Spassky won the 29th Soviet Championship, held in Baku.

**In 1962**, Korchnoi won the 30th Soviet Championship, held in Yerevan.

**In 1963**, Stein won the 31st Soviet Championship, held in Leningrad.

**In May, 1963**, Petrosian defeated Botvinnik for the World Chess Championship.

**In 1964**, there were 24 grandmasters in the Soviet Union.

**In 1964-65**, Korchnoi won the 32nd Soviet Championship, held in Kiev.

**In 1965**, Stein won the 33rd Soviet Championship, held in Tallinn.

**In June, 1966**, Petrosian defeated Spassky for the World Chess Championship.

**In 1966**, there were 3,540,000 registered chess players in the USSR.



Tigran Petrosian

**In 1966-67**, Stein won the 34th Soviet Championship, held in Tbilisi.

**In 1967**, Tal and Polugaevsky won the 35th Soviet Championship, held in Kharkov.

**In 1968-69**, Polugaevsky won the 36th Soviet Championship, held in Alma Alta.

**In 1969**, there were 32 grandmasters in the Soviet Union.

**In June, 1969**, Spassky defeated Petrosian in the World Chess Championship.

**In 1969**, Petrosian won the 37th Soviet Championship, held in Moscow.

**In April, 1970**, the USSR defeated the Rest of the World 20.5 to 19.5 in Belgrade.



## In December, 1970,

Korchnoi won the 38th Soviet Championship, held in Riga. He was followed by Tukmakov, Stein, Balashov, Gipslis, Karpov, and Savon.

There were 22 players in the event.

**In 1971,** Savon won the 39th Soviet Championship, held in Leningrad.

**In 1972,** Tal won the 40th Soviet Championship, held in Baku.

**In October, 1973,** Spassky won the 41st Soviet Championship, held in Moscow. He was followed by Karpov, Korchnoi, Kuzmin, Petrosian, Polugaevsky, Geller, and Grigorian. There were 18 players.

**In 1974,** Tal and Beliavsky won the 42nd Soviet Championship, held in Leningrad,

**In 1975,** Petrosian won the 43rd Soviet Championship, held in Yerevan.

**In December, 1976,** Karpov won the 44th Soviet Championship, held in Moscow. He was followed by Balashov, Petrosian, Polugaevsky, Dorfman, Smyslov, and Tal. There were 18 players.

**In 1977,** Dorfman and Gulko won the 45th Soviet Championship, held in Leningrad.

**In 1978,** Tal and Tseshkovsky won the 46th Soviet Championship, held in Tbilisi.

**In October, 1978,** Karpov defeated Korchnoi for the World Chess Championship, held in Baguio City.

**In 1979,** Geller won the 47th Soviet Championship, held in Minsk.

**In 1980-81,** Beliavsky and Psakhis won the 48th Soviet Championship, held in Vilnius.

**In 1981,** Kasparov and Psakhis won the 49th Soviet Championship, held in Frunze.

**In November, 1981,** Karpov defeated Korchnoi for the World Chess



Viktor Korchnoi

Championship, held in Merano.

**In 1982,** there were 3.6 million people in the USSR engaged in chess.

**In April, 1983,** Karpov won the 50th Soviet Championship, held in Moscow.

**In June, 1984,** the USSR defeated the Rest of the World in London, with a score of 21 to 19.

**In 1984,** Andrey Sokolov won the 51st Soviet Championship, held in Lvov.

**In September, 1984,** the World Championship Match between Karpov and Kasparov began in Moscow. It was halted in February, 1985 after 48 games. At the time, Karpov had won 5 games and lost 3 games.

**In 1985,** Mikhail Gurevich, Viktor Gavrikov, and Alexander Chernin tied for 1st at the 52nd Soviet Championship, held in Riga.

**In November, 1985,** Kasparov defeated Karpov in the World Championship Match, held in Moscow, to become the new world chess champion.

**In April, 1986,** Tseshkovsky won the 53rd Soviet Championship, held in Kiev. He was followed by Malanyuk, Eingorn, Lerner, Balashov, Gavrikov, and Bareev. There were 18 players.

## In October, 1986,

Kasparov defended his title against Karpov, held in London and Leningrad.



Garry Kasparov

**In 1987,** Beliavsky and Salov the 54th Soviet Championship, held in Minsk. Beliavsky won the play-off. There were 18 players.

**In December, 1987,** Kasparov and Karpov tied in their World Championship Match in Seville, Spain. Kasparov kept his title.

**In August, 1988,** Kasparov and Karpov tied for 1st in the 55th Soviet Championship, held in Moscow. They were followed by Yusupov, Salov, Eingorn, and Ivanchuk. There were 18

players.

**In 1989,** Vaganian won the 56th Soviet Championship, held in Odessa. There were 16 players.

**In November, 1990,** Beliavsky, Yudasin, Bareev, and Vyzhmanavin won the 57th Soviet Championship, held in Leningrad. There were 14 players.

**In December, 1990,** Kasparov defeated Karpov in the World Championship match, held in New York and Lyons.

**In November, 1991,** Elmar Magerramov and Artashes Minasian tied for 1st at the 58th Soviet Championship. The event was a Swiss System held in Moscow. Minasian won the event on tie-break. There were 64 players.

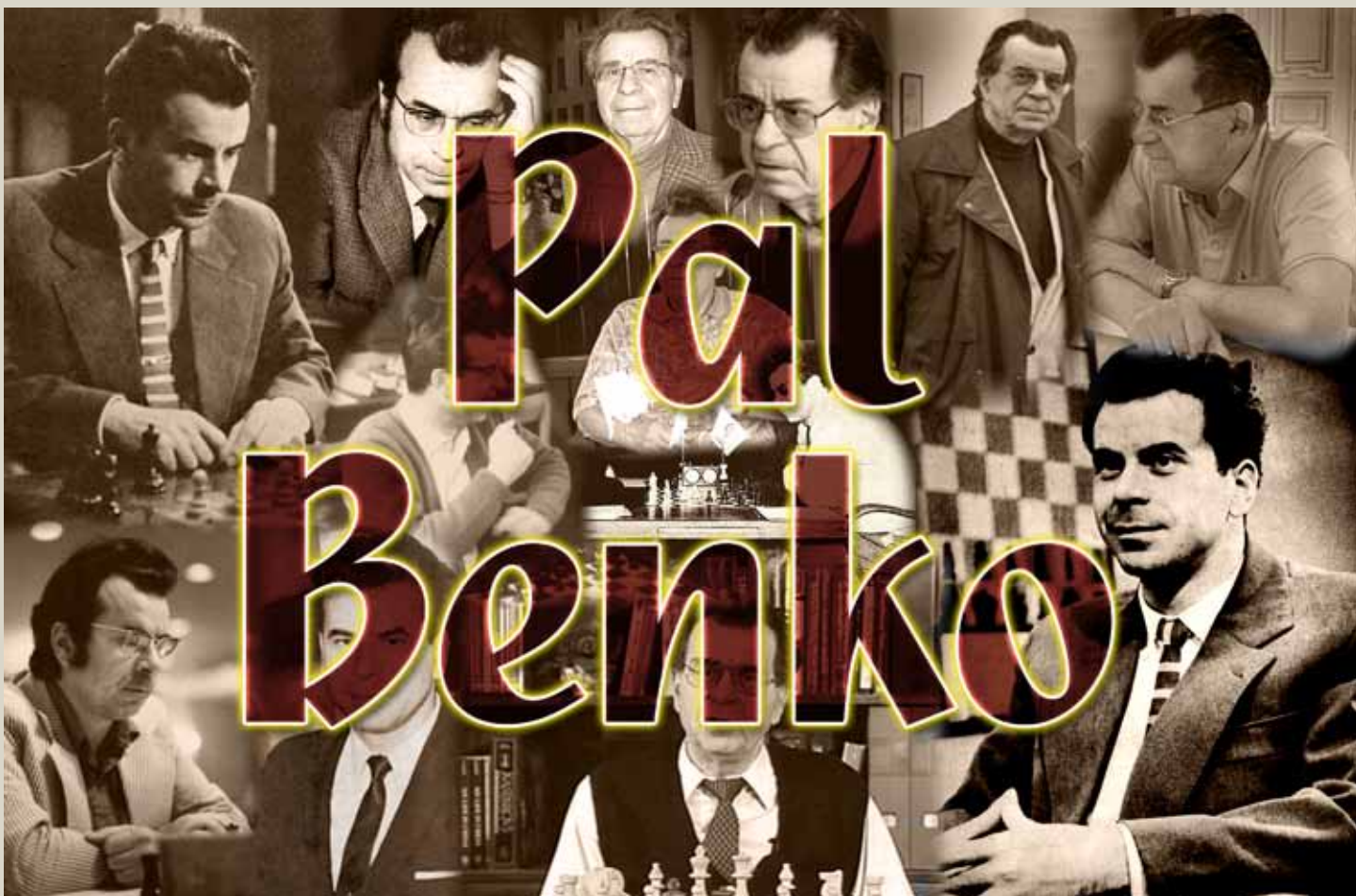
**On January 1, 1992,** the Soviet Union (USSR) officially ceased to exist.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian Championship was re-established as a national championship. In 1992, the 45th Russian Championship was won by Alexei Gavrikov.



## The following are the winners of the Russian chess championship:

1993 – Alexei Bezgodov  
 1994 – Peter Svidler  
 1995 – Peter Svidler  
 1996 – Alexander Khalifma  
 1997 – Peter Svidler  
 1998 – Alexander Morozevich  
 1999 – K. Sakaev  
 2000 – S. Volkov  
 2001 – A. Motylev  
 2002 – A. Lastin  
 2003 – Peter Svidler  
 2004 – Garry Kasparov  
 2005 – S. Rublevsky  
 2006 – E. Alekseev  
 2007 – A. Morozevich  
 2008 – P. Svidler;  
 2009 – Alexander Grischuk;  
 2010 – Ian Nepomniachtchi;  
 2011 – Peter Svidler



by Bill Wall

**P**al Benko was born in Amiens, France on July 15, 1928 but grew up in Budapest, Hungary.

Benko learned chess from his father in 1938, at the age of 10. His first book was a collection of Capablanca's chess games.

In June 1945, in his first chess tournament (played in Budapest) that had 10 masters and 7 candidate masters, Benko took first place and became a master himself at the age of 16. In his next tournament, a small Masters' tournament in Szeged, he took the first place prize, winning some flour and bacon. When he played in the Hungarian Championship in 1946, the prizes were also food rather than money.

After World War II, Benko went to a university in Hungary and majored in economics while working in a textile company.

His first international competition was a Vienna-Budapest team match, held in Vienna, Austria in the American Zone. He participated in his first international tournament in Budapest in the spring of 1948.

He won the Hungarian national championship in 1948 at the age of 20. In 1950, he took 3rd place. In 1951, he took 6th place. In 1954, he took 2nd place. In 1955, he took 3rd place.

In 1950, decided to make chess a career, left school and became a bookkeeper.

He was awarded the International Master title in 1950, the first year that FIDE created the title.

In 1952, he tried to defect to the West while in East Berlin, but got caught and was sent to a concentration camp for a year and a half. The Hungarian Secret Police once suspected he was a spy because of his coded letters. The coded letters were correspondence chess games and the code was chess notation.

He was permitted to play first board on Hungary's team in the 1957 World Student Team Championship (Student Olympiad) in Reykjavik, Iceland where he defected to the U.S. In July 1957, he walked into the American embassy in Reykjavik and asked for asylum. He came to New York on October 17, 1957. He worked on Wall Street for several years, then sold mutual funds and real estate as an independent agent. He didn't return to Hungary until 1964 on a visit.

He became a Grandmaster in 1958 after tying for 3rd-4th in the Portoroz, Yugoslavia Interzonal (defeating Bobby Fischer) and qualifying for the Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade Candidates tournament. At the Candidates tournament, he took last place, won by Mikhail Tal.

**Continue**



In 1959, he took 4th place in the U.S. chess championship. In 1960, he took 8th place. In 1961, he took 4th place. In 1962, he took 9th place. In 1963, he took 3rd place. In 1965, he took 7th place. In 1966/67, he took 3rd place. In 1968, he took 4th place. In 1969, he took 3rd place. In 1972, he took 5th place. In 1973, he took 5th place. In 1974, he took 2nd place. In 1975, he took 14th place. In 1978/9, he took 9th place.

In 1962, Benko shared 6th place at the Stockholm Interzonal and qualified for the Curacao Candidates, where he took 6th place.

It was in Curacao that Benko hit Fischer after Bobby insulted him and continued to goad him. The fight was over Benko asking for Bisguier to help him analyze an adjourned game when Fischer also needed Bisguier to act as Fischer's "second."

In 1963, Benko quit his job and became the only professional chessplayer (other than Fischer) in the United States.

In 1964, he won the Canadian Open Chess Championship.

In 1965 he was the first American Open Champion.

In 1966, Benko won the National Open. He won it again in 1968 and tied for 1st in 1975.

In 1967, Benko first played the Benko Gambit (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5) in international competition against Vukic in Sarajevo. He had played it earlier in some U.S. Swiss events.

In 1968, he married Gizella in Budapest, Hungary. His daughter Palma was born in 1969, and his son David was born in 1971.

In 1970 he yielded his Interzonal place at Palma de Mallorca to Bobby Fischer, who went on to become World Champion.

In 1973, his peak Elo (FIDE) rating was 2530.

He has won or tied for first place in eight U.S. Open tournaments, a record. He won or tied in 1961, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1974, and 1975.

He represented the USA in six chess Olympiads in a row.

In 1992, Benko played in his last chess tournament, the World Senior Championship in Bad Worishofen, Germany.

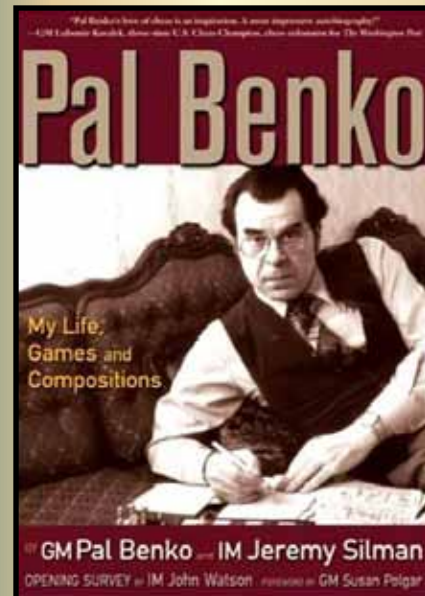
In 1993, he was inducted in the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame.

In 1995, he was awarded the Problem Composing International Master title.

In 2003, he revised and updated Reuben Fine's Basic Chess Endings.

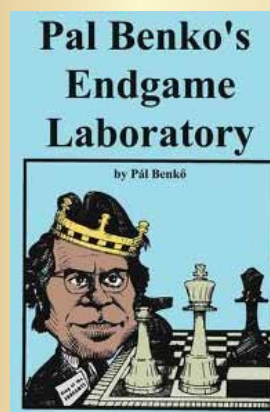


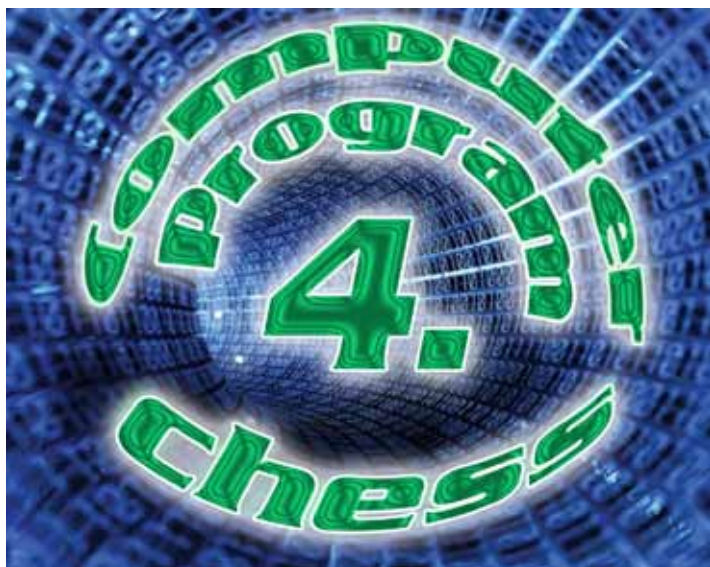
**His book, Pal Benko My Life, Games and Compositions won the 2004 British Chess Federation Book of the Year.**



### **Benko has authored the following:**

- The Benko Gambit (1973)
- Understanding the Queen's Indian Defense (1982)
- Chess Endgame Lessons (1990)
- Winning with Chess Psychology (1991)
- Basic Chess Endings (2003)
- Pal Benko: My Life, Games, and Compositions (2004)
- Pal Benko's Endgame Laboratory (2007)





Chess 4.x was the modified version of the chess program Chess, which was a computer program written at Northwestern University in Illinois by David Slate, Larry Atkin and Keith Gorlen. The program was first published in Byte magazine at Chess 0.5. The program received support from Dr. David Cahlander of Control Data Corporation (CDC) in Minneapolis.

In 1968, undergraduates Larry Atkin and Keith Gorlen decided to write a chess program to exercise Northwestern University's new CDC 6400 computer. Upon hearing of their work, graduate student David Slate decided to write a competing program. They combined their programs in 1969 and produced Chess 2.0.

Chess x.x was one of the most successful chess programs during the 1970s. Chess was the first published use of the bitboard data structure applied to the game of chess. Each bit represented a game position or state, designed for optimization of speed and/or memory or disk use in mass calculations. The first bit represents the a1 square and the 64th bit represents the h8 square.

In September 1970, Chess 3.0 won the first Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) North American Computer Chess Championship (NACCC) in New York. Chess 3.0 ran on a CDC 6400.

In 1971, Chess 3.0 won the 2nd annual ACM NACCC in Chicago.

In 1972, Chess 3.0 won the 3rd ACM NACCC tournament in Boston.

In 1973, Chess 3.5 won the 4th ACM NACCC tournament in Atlanta.

In 1974, Chess 4.0 participated in the first

world computer chess championship in Stockholm, scoring 3 wins and 1 loss (losing to Chaos). The event was won by the USSR program Kaissa.

In 1975, Chess 4.4 won the ACM NACCC event in Minneapolis, using a CDC CYBER 175 computer.

On July 24, 1976, Chess 4.5 (rated 1579) won the Class B section of the Paul Masson chess tournament in Sarasota, California with a perfect 5-0 score. It had a performance rating of 1950. This event was the first time any machine performed successfully in a tournament for humans and won a prize (\$700, but was turned down by the programmers).

In October 1976, Chess 4.5 won the 7th ACM NACCC tournament in Houston. Chess 4.5 was searching trees with 800,000 nodes per move using a CDC CYBER 176.

On February 20, 1977, Chess 4.5 won the 84th Minnesota Open Championship with 5 wins and 1 loss. It defeated one expert, Charles Fenner, rated 2016 and lost to Walter Morris, rated 2175. Its performance rating was 2271. Chess 4.5 then qualified for the Minnesota State Championship, but did not win it.

In March 1977, Chess 4.5 gave a simultaneous exhibition in New York, winning 8, drawing 1, and losing 1 (to Eric Bone – 2150). It then played 4 games of blitz chess against International Master David Levy, winning 2 and losing 2. Its blitz performance rating was 2300.

On August 9, 1977, Chess 4.6 won the second World Computer Chess Championship, held in Toronto. There were 16 participating programs from 8 countries, including defending champion Kaissa of the USSR. It won with a 4-0 score, defeating BCP, Master, Duchess, and Belle. 2nd place went to Duchess. In a special exhibition the next day, Chess 4.6 beat Kaissa.

In 1977, Chess 4.6 tied for 1st place at the 8th ACM North American Computer Chess Championship, held in Seattle. Both scored 3.5 points out of 4. The winning trophy was awarded to Chess 4.6 based on tie-breaking points.

In September 1977, Chess 4.6 achieved a 2000 rating in a tournament in London. On September 18, 1977 it was the first computer to beat a grandmaster when it defeated GM Michael Stean in London.

On April 30, 1978, Chess 4.6 won the Twin Cities Open in Minneapolis with



**Continue**



a perfect 5-0 score. Going into the event, the program had a USCF rating of 1936. After the event, its rating was 2040.

On May 6, 1978, Chess 4.6 defeated U.S. chess champion Walter Browne (2560) at a 44-board simultaneous exhibition in Minneapolis. Chess 4.6 was running on a Control Data Corporation (CDC) Cyber 176 supercomputer and examining 2.5 million positions in three minutes of think time.

In August 1978, Chess 4.7 played a 6-game challenge match with David Levy (2350) for his famous bet in Toronto that no chess computer could beat him in a match by 1984 (he later won his bet). Chess 4.7 did not defeat Levy in the match, but it did beat him in game 4. Levy became the first International Master to lose a game to a computer in a tournament environment.

On October 30, 1979, Chess 4.9 won the 10th ACM NACCC tournament in Detroit and was consistently playing at the expert level.

In 1979, Chess 4.9 played in the 3rd world chess championship in Linz. There were 18 participating programs. Chess 4.9 score 2.4 out of 4 games. The event was won by Belle.

The Slate/Atkin program remained the best chess-playing program throughout the 1970s.

It gained chess strength and rating with each new, faster generation of computer hardware. For every fivefold increase in computer speed, there was a 200 point increase in the program's rating as it approached the master rating level of 2200.



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**Mobile Chess?**

**MOVE  
In  
Motion**

Available on the iPhone  
**App Store**



Before the chess clock or any other timed device, chess matches were long and drawn out. There were deliberate attempts to fatigue and wear out the opponent. The average chess game lasted about nine hours and a single move could take as long as 20 minutes. The 21st match of the Staunton – St. Amant match took 66 moves and 14.5 hours to complete.

After the 1851 London International tournament, players were criticized by the slowness of play. After the tournament, an anonymous contributor to a chess magazine suggested that each player have a three-hour sandglass.



When it was the player's turn, the sandglass would be allowed to flow. When it was the other player's turn, the first player's sandglass would be set on its side, and the sandglass of the other player would be allowed to flow. Tassilo von Heydebrand und der Lasa (1818-1889) was one of the first persons to propose that each player's time should be limited by way of separate clocks.

**Sandglasses** were first used for time control at London in **1862** in a match between Adolf Anderssen and von Kolisch. The time control was 24 moves in two hours. Each player had a sandglass. When it was a player's move, his sand-glass was set running until a move was completed. After the move, the sandglass was set on its side and his opponent's sandglass was set running in the same manner.

It was soon discovered that temperature and humidity affected the sand flow, so there was little accuracy in the time. Also, an

opponent could accidentally turn up the wrong end of the sandglass or even mistakenly turn his opponent's sandglass.

Another idea was to use **two watches** and note the time consumed on each move by each

opponent. Watches were used in chess events from **1866 to 1873**.

In the Paris 1867 tournament, sandglasses were used. Each player was fined 5 francs for every 15 minutes infraction of the regulated time limit of 10 moves per hour.

**In 1870** in Baden-Baden, chess timers were first used. The time control was 20 moves per hour. The chess players had the option of using a sandglass or a chess clock.

**The first mechanical chess clock** (tumbling stop clock) was invented by Thomas Bright Wilson (1843-1915) of Manchester, England in 1883, with advice from Joseph Henry Blackburne. The first time that game clocks were used in a chess tournament was in the London 1883 tournament. Time control was 15 moves in two hours, and if you failed to make the

*The average chess game lasted about nine hours and a single move could take as long as 20 minutes.*



time limit, you forfeited the game. The time piece consisted of two balanced clocks on a seesaw beam so that when one was tilted, it stopped and the other started. The tumbling-clock was manufactured by Fattorini & Sons of Bradford, England.

### The first patent for a chess clock

was issued in **1884** to Amandus Schierwater of Liverpool. . These clocks were being used by 1886 in most tournaments.

**In 1886**, Schierwater and Frisch of Liverpool patented a chess clock that showed the ordinary time, but registered on separate dials the period occupied by the players. It also indicated the number of moves in a game and whose turn it was to play. The expiration of time was indicated by the ringing of a bell.

**In 1894**, tumbler chess clocks were used during the Steinitz-Lasker match for the world championship in New York.

**In 1894**, a German firm made a chess clock where the clocks were fixed upon a stand, not movable, where a lever was pushed down that stopped one clock and started the other. These clock were made by Gustav Herzog of Leipzig.

**In 1895**, Theodore Grosse patented a chess timing device using two pendulum clocks with magnets to restrain the inactive pendulum. The pendulum gave away to the balance when over the next 20 years.



The Jaques "Chess Timing Clock" was introduced in the 1890s and sold for 21 shillings.

**In 1899**, the "flag" mounted on the chess clock was invented by H.D.B.Meijer of Holland. The flag was suspended above the 3rd minute before 12 o'clock and was raised as the minute hand forced it

up as approached 12 o'clock. This made it easier to see your time run out when the flag fell. . It took about 20 years before the use of flags became common.

**In 1900**, the present day push-button clock was first perfected by Veenhoff in Groningen, the Netherlands.

**In 1950**, Borchardt GmbH or BHB, was established in Germany and became the leading manufacturer of chess clocks in the world. The company lasted until 1989.

**In 1964**, the first electronic chess clock was manufactured by a Russian firm, the Kiev Relay and Automatic Works..

**In 1973**, Bruce Chaney created the first digital chess clock for an undergraduate Electrical Engineering course at Cornell University.

**In 1975**, the first patent was granted to Joe Meshi on a fully operational, microprocessor-based, digital chess clock.

**In 1985**, the first DGT (Digital Games Technology) digital chess clock was built by Ben Bultsink

**In 1988**, Bobby Fischer filed for a patent on a new type of digital chess clock that gives each player a fixed period of time at the start of the game and then adds a small amount of time after each move. He used his Fischer clock in his 1993 match with Boris Spassky. Prior to the match, a working model had never been constructed. A Fischer chess clock was made for the event in five days.

## CHESS CLOCKS



1890 Fattorini Chess Clock



1920's English Clock



1930's German Clock



1960's Sutton Clock



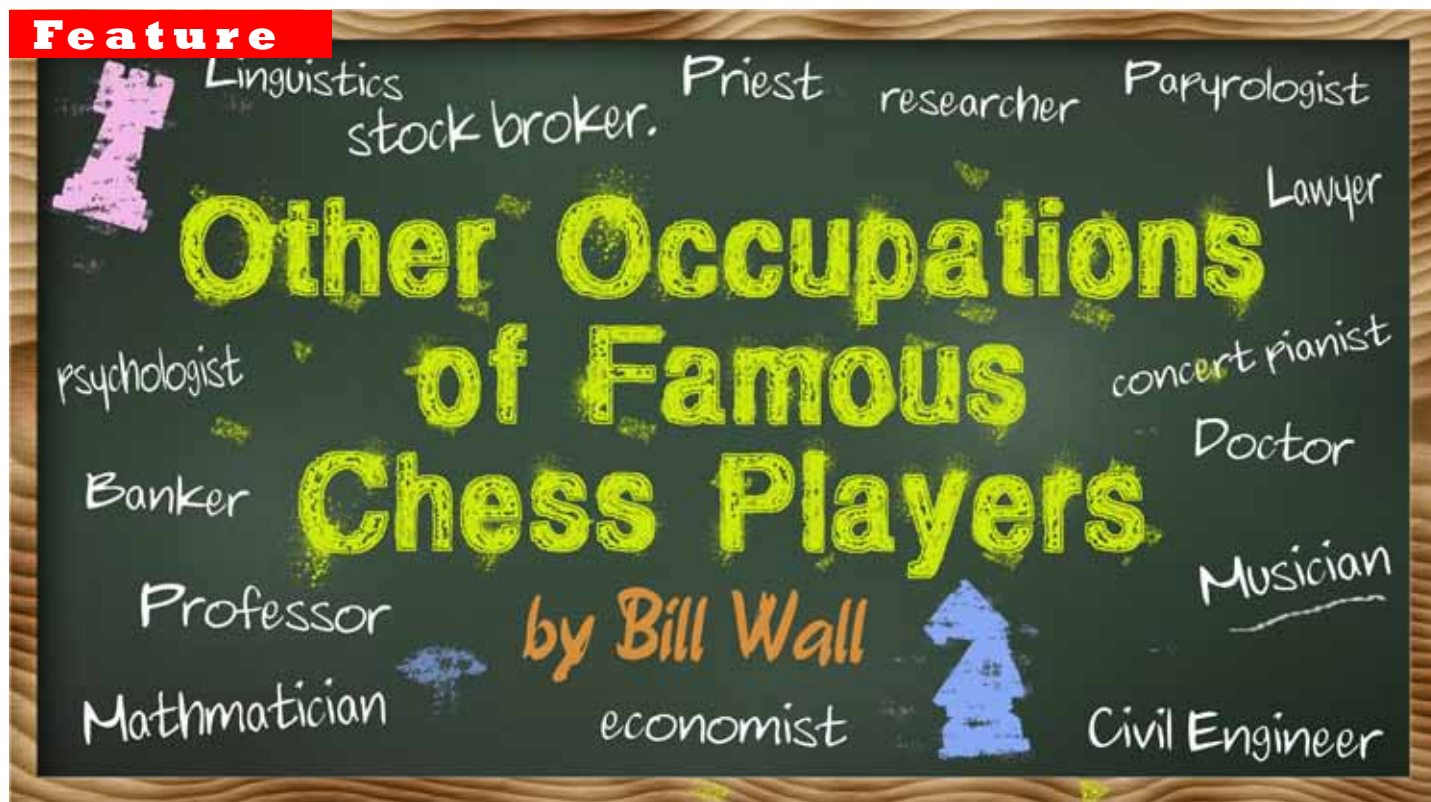
Early Electric Clock



Saitek Digital Chess Clock



## Feature



*Not all chess players are professionals. Many have other occupations and distinctions.*

**Simen Agdestein** (1967- ) was Norway's first chess grandmaster and won 7 Norwegian chess championships. He also represented Norway on their **PROFESSIONAL SOCCER** (football) team from 1984 through 1992. He had to give up soccer due to injuries on his knee. He currently teaches soccer and chess at the Norwegian Sports Gymnasium.

**James Aitken** (1908-1983) was 10-time Scottish chess champion. He had a Ph.D. in **HISTORY** with his dissertation on the Lisbon Inquisition. During World War II he worked at Bletchley Park on solving the German Enigma machines.

**C.H.O.D. Alexander** (1909-1974) was a British master, but he was also one of the lead code breakers during World War II and helped decipher the German Enigma code. He was a colonial in **BRITISH INTELLIGENCE** and was part of the British Government Code and Cipher Code at Bletchley Park. He

was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his war-time services.

**Henry Ernest Atkins** (1872-1955) won the British chess championship 9 times. He was a British schoolmaster. He **TAUGHT MATHEMATICS** and was appointed principal of what later became Huddersfield New College.

**Jana Malypetrova** Bellin (1947- ) is a Woman Grandmaster. She has won the British Women's championship 8 times. She is a **MEDICAL DOCTOR** specializing in anesthesiology and works in intensive care at Sandwell General Hospital in England.

**Hans Berliner** (1929- ) was world correspondence champion, but is now a leading **COMPUTER SCIENTIST** with a PhD. His dissertation was entitled, "Chess Computers as Problem Solving." He was a professor of computer science at Carnegie Mellon University. He specializes in Artificial Intelligence. In 1979, he developed a backgammon-playing computer program that defeated the reigning world backgammon champi-

on, Luigi Villa. He helped develop the chess machine program called Hitech, which was one of the strongest chess machines in the world. It was the first computer program to get a USCF Senior Master rating.

**Fedir Bohatyrchuk** (1892-1984) was of grandmaster strength. He played in six Russian championships. He was a **MEDICAL DOCTOR** and professor of radiological anatomy. During World War II, he was head of the Ukrainian Red Cross and the Institute of Experimental Medicine. He became a professor at the University of Ottawa.

**Former world** champion Mikhail Botvinnik (1911-1995) had a PhD in electrical engineering and worked as an **ELECTRICAL ENGINEER** and developed computer chess programs. He was awarded the Order of the Badge of Honor for his work on power stations in the Urals during World War II. He was the senior research scientist at the Research Institute for Electrical Energy. He was awarded an honorary degree in mathematics at the University of Ferrara for his work on computer chess.

**Continue**



**Henry Buckle** (1821-1862) won the first modern chess tournament in 1849. He spent his time writing *History of Civilization in England*, which he published in 1857. He was a **BRITISH HISTORIAN** who studied 19 languages (he could speak seven languages and read twelve languages). He had a library of over 22,000 books. He died of typhoid fever in Damascus at the age of 40.

**Amos Burn** (1848-1925) was a top British chess player at the end of the 19th century. He was a **COTTON AND SUGAR BROKER** from Liverpool.

**Donald Byrne** (1930-1976) was an American International Master. He had a Ph.D in English and was an **ENGLISH PROFESSOR** at Penn State University from 1961 to 1976.

**Arthur Dake** (1910-2000) was a strong master who played for the USA in three chess Olympiads. He became a **BRIDGE TOLL COLLECTOR**, then a **HIGHWAY AUTO CONTROLLER**, and finally an **AUTOMOBILE INSPECTOR** for the state of Oregon after serving in the merchant marines when he was 16.

**Arnold Denker** was one of the top American chess players in the 1940s. He became a businessman in the **MEAT PACKING INDUSTRY** and retired as a millionaire.

**Nathan Divinsky** (1925- ) was a Canadian chess master and played in several Canadian chess Olympiads. He received a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Chicago. He served as **MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR** and assistant dean of science at the University of British Columbia. His wife, Kim Campbell, was the 19th Prime Minister of Canada. She was 22 years younger than Divinsky.

**Noam Elkies** (1966- ) is a chess master and **MATHEMATICIAN**. He was the youngest professor

ever tenured at Harvard (age 26). In 1981 and 1982 he placed first in the USA Math Olympiad. He had a perfect score in 1981. At age 18, he graduated from Columbia University as class valedictorian, majoring in mathematics and music. He earned his Ph.D. from Harvard in mathematics at age 20. He was made a full, tenured **PROFESSOR AT HARVARD** at the age of 26, making him the youngest full professor in the history of Harvard. He won the world chess solving championship in 1996 and 2001. In 2001, he was awarded the title of Grandmaster for Chess Solving.

**Arpad Elo** (1902-1992) was an American master who devised the Elo rating system. He was a **PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY** at Marquette University in Milwaukee for 30 years (1935 to 1965) and president (1935-1937) of the American Chess Federation before it merged and came part of the U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) in 1939.

**Esther Epstein** (1954- ) was one of the top U.S. women chess players, winning the U.S. Women's Chess Championship twice. She is a **SYSTEMS MANAGER** for the Bio-Molecular Engineering Research Center at Boston University.

**Former world** champion Max Euwe (1901-1981) had a Ph.D in mathematics and was a math professor. From 1930 to 1940 he was a **SCHOOLMASTER** at a girls' school in Amsterdam.

**William Fairhurst** (1903-1982) was 11-time Scottish chess champion. He had a Ph.D in **CIVIL ENGINEERING** and designed several bridges in the United Kingdom and New Zealand. He designed the Tay Road Bridge. At the time, it was the longest river crossing in Europe, 1.4 miles long. He served as President of the Scottish Branch of the Institute of Structural Engineers and

was a member of the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland.

**Reuben Fine** (1914-1993) was one of the top chess players in the USA and the world. He was also a leading **PSYCHOLOGIST**. During World War II he was employed by the Navy to calculate where enemy submarines might surface based on positional probability. He was also a translator who could speak French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Yiddish, and German. He later did research on Japanese Kamikaze attacks. He gave up chess to become a psychoanalyst (PhD in psychology). In 1956 the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis published his work, *The Psychology of the Chess Player*. The book is a Freudian account of the game of chess. He was a university professor and author of many books on psychology.

**Robert Huebner** (1948- ) was one of the top 10 players in the world and is a **PAPYROLOGIST** with a PhD. He is a world leading expert on Egyptian hieroglyphics.

**Hans Johner** (1889-1975) was a Swiss International Master who won the Swiss championship 6 times. He was the director of the Zurich Philharmonic Orchestra and an accomplished **MUSICIAN**, playing the viola and violin.

**Paul Keres** (1916-1975) was a world class chess player. For a time, he was a **PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS** in Tallinn, Estonia. The five kroons Estonian banknote bears his portrait. *He is the only chess player whose portrait is on a banknote.*

**Ignatz Kolisch** (1837-1889) was one of the top players in the world before he quit chess and went into **BANKING**. In his early years he was the private secretary of the Russian Prince Urusov. He later became a wandering chess professional

and was one of the top four chess players in the world in the 1860s. In 1867, he won at Paris, ahead of Steinitz. He moved to Vienna and met Albert Rothschild in 1868. He became involved in banking and became a millionaire and chess patron, organizing and sponsoring many chess tournaments in the 1870s and 1880s. In 1881 he was made a baron of the Austrian Empire.

**Danny Kopec** (1954- ) is an American International Master. He is one of the world's foremost authorities on artificial intelligence and its application to chess. He holds a Ph.D. in Machine Intelligence and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer and Information Systems at Brooklyn College. He has published several articles on **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**, machine error reduction, intelligent tutoring systems, and computer education.

**Walter Korn** (1908-1997), editor of Modern Chess Openings, directed the U.N. Relief and Rehabilitation Administration after World War II, **HELPING RELOCATE CONCENTRATION CAMP SURVIVORS**. He worked as a business manager of a Jewish Community Center.

**Edward Lasker** (1885-1981) was a strong American master and a mechanical engineer. He had degrees in **MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**. He invented and patented a mechanical breast pump to secure mother's milk. He was a safety engineer for Sears Roebuck.

**Former world champion Emanuel Lasker** (1868-1941) had a Ph.D. in mathematics. His Ph.D. dissertation of 1902 on ideal numbers ("On Series at Convergence Boundaries") became a cornerstone of 20th century algebra. He was a **RESEARCH MATHEMATICIAN** who was known for his contributions to

commutative algebra. He studied mathematics and philosophy at the universities in Berlin, Gottingen, and Heidelberg. He wrote three books on philosophy. He was a friend of Albert Einstein.

**Bill Lombardy** (1937- ) was once world junior chess champion and became a **CATHOLIC PRIEST**. He was ordained a priest in 1967 by Cardinal Spellman. He is no longer a priest and is now married.

**Vladimir Malakhov** (1980- ) is a Russian grandmaster and professional chess player who used to work as **NUCLEAR PHYSICIST**.

**Edmar Mednis** (1937-2002) was an American grandmaster. He was trained as a **CHEMICAL ENGINEER**, then became a **stock broker**. He was the author of 26 chess books and hundreds of chess articles.

**Ariel Mengarini** (1919-1998) was an American chess master. He was a **MEDICAL DOCTOR** and a **PSYCHIATRIST** for the Veterans Administration.

**Sir Philip Stuart Milner-Barry** (1906-1995) was a top British chess master. He was a **CODE-BREAKER** during World War II and head of "Hut 6," a section responsible for deciphering the German Enigma machine. He became Under-Secretary of the Treasury in England.

**Miguel Najdorf** (1910-1997) was a grandmaster from Argentina. He also worked in the **INSURANCE** business and was a **PORCE-LAIN IMPORTER**.

**William Ewart Napier** (1881-1952) was an American master in the 19th century. He was **VICE-PRESIDENT OF SCRANTON LIFE INSURANCE**.

**John Nunn** (1955- ) was one of the top British chess players and was a **MATH PROFESSOR**. He went to Oxford at age 15, graduated at 18, and got his doctorate

in mathematics at 23 (dissertation on Algebraic Topology and finite H-spaces).

**Fridrik Olafsson** (1935- ) was Iceland's first grandmaster and former president of the World Chess Federation. He was the Secretary General of the Icelandic Parliament. He worked as a **LAWYER** at the Icelandic Ministry of Justice.

**Victor Palciuskas** (1941- ) is a former world correspondence chess champion. He has a Ph.D. in theoretical physics and a **PROFESSOR OF GEOPHYSICS**.

**Louis Paulsen** (1833-1891) was one of America's top players in the 19th century. He **ESTABLISHED A DISTILLERY** and was a **TOBACCO FARMER**.

**Tim Redman** is a former president of the U.S. Chess Federation. He has a Ph.D. in comparative studies in literature from the University of Chicago and is considered the world's leading expert on poet Ezra Pound. He is a **PROFESSOR OF LITERARY STUDIES** at the University of Texas at Dallas where he focuses on American and British Modernism.

**Bruce Rind** (1953- ) is an American International Master. He has a Ph.D. in psychology from Temple University and is an independent **RESEARCHER IN THE FIELD OF INTERGENERATIONAL SEXUALITIES**.

**Ken Rogoff** (1953- ) became a young American grandmaster, then got a PhD in economics. He gave up chess to become the chief **ECONOMIST** at the World Bank and was a professor at Princeton and Harvard. He has a PhD from MIT in Economics. He had gone to Yale and MIT, and dropped out of MIT to play chess. In 1978 he quit competitive chess and earned his Ph.D. in Economics in 1980. He served as an economist at the International Monetary Fund and at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve system. He is



currently the Thomas D. Cabot Professor of Public Policy and Professor of Economics at Harvard University.

**Nicholas Rossolimo** (1910-1975) was an American and French Grandmaster. He worked as a **WAITER, TAXI DRIVER, PLAYED THE ACCORDION, AND WORKED AS A SINGER** while running a chess studio in New York City. He also held a brown belt in judo.

**Anthony Saidy** (1937- ) is an American International Grandmaster. He was a **MEDICAL DOCTOR** in the Peace Corps and retired as a Los Angeles County doctor specializing in tuberculosis.

**Albert Sandrin** (1923-2004) was one of the world's best blind chess players. He was also a **PIANO TUNER**.

**Diane Savereide** was one of America's top woman chess players, winning the U.S. women's championship six times. She retired from chess to become a **COMPUTER PROGRAMMER FOR NASA**. She is now a software developer in Los Angeles.

**Eric Schiller** (1955- ) is a national master with a Ph.D. in **LINGUISTICS** for the University of Chicago. His dissertation was entitled, "An Auto lexical Account of Subordinating Serial Verb Constructions." He specialized in Khmer (Cambodian) languages.

**James Sherwin** (1933- ) is an International Master. He was Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard. He was an Executive Vice President of GAF Corporation who was the American Chess Foundation (ACF) President from 1979 to 1990. He was involved in some **WALL STREET** scandals in 1988 and was replaced as President of the ACF by Fan Adams, a retired Mobil Corporation executive. Sherwin was tried 3 times for stock manipulation charges. In 1986

he tried to lift the price of Union Carbide stock shortly before selling a large block of shares. Government prosecutors finally dropped the charges after the appeals court overturned the verdict in 1991. His arrest made the front page of the New York Times and all the financial publications. Sherwin lost his job and moved to Switzerland and England. The United States Attorney who prosecuted Sherwin was Rudi Giuliani. They spent over a million dollars in prosecuting the case. GAF and Sherwin spent over a million dollars defending the case.

**Louis Statham** (1907-1983) was a correspondence player and chess philanthropist. He had a Ph.D. in **MATHEMATICS** and pioneered the use of shock waves in oil exploration, which made him a millionaire.

**Howard Staunton** (1810-1874) was one of the top players in the world. He was a **SHAKESPEAREAN SCHOLAR** and wrote a 517-page book on the history of English public schools called *Great Schools of England* (1865).

**Mark Taimanov** (1926 - ) was one of the top chess players in the world and a **CONCERT PIANIST**. His recordings were included in the Philips and Steinway series *Great Pianists of the 20th Century*.

**Siegbert Tarrasch** (1862-1934) was one of the top chess players in the world and a **MEDICAL DOCTOR SPECIALIZING IN HYPNOSIS**.

**Sir George Alan Thomas** (1881-1972) won the British chess championship twice. He was also 7-time British **BADMINTON CHAMPION** (he won 21 British badminton titles between 1903 and 1928), and semi-finalist **TENNIS PLAYER** at Wimbledon (1911). He played at Wimbledon from 1919 to 1926. He was also an internationally ranked hockey, squash and table-tennis player. Badminton's world

men's team championships cup, equivalent to tennis's Davis Cup, is named Thomas Cup after him.

**Milan Vidmar** (1885-1962) was Yugoslavia's first grandmaster. He was an **ELECTRICAL ENGINEER** (Ph.D.). He was a specialist in power transformers and transmission of electrical current. He was also the Chancellor of the University of Ljubljana, a member of the Slovene Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the founder of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering.

**Milan Vukcevic** (1937-2003) was an American International Master. He was once nominated for the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. He was a **PROFESSOR OF METALLURGY** (Ph.D. from MIT) at Case Western Reserve University and Chief Scientist at General Electric. He authored two books on science.

**Daniel Yanofsky** (1925-2000) was Canada's first grandmaster and won the Canadian chess championship 8 times. He was a **LAWYER** and had been the mayor of West Kildonan, a suburb of Winnipeg. He argued several cases before the Supreme Court of Canada.

**Johannes Zukertort** (1842-1888) was one of the top chess players in the world. He was a chess master, **PHYSICIAN, PIANIST, MAGAZINE EDITOR, MUSIC CRITIC, LINGUIST, SOLDIER, SWORDSMAN, MARKSMAN AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST**. He was fluent in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Russian, Sanskrit, Arabic, Turkish, Danish, and Polish. He was decorated for gallantry 9 times in three Prussian wars with Denmark, Austria, and France and was once left for dead. He was one of the best dominoes and whist players in the world. He was a leading spokesman for prison reform. He studied chemistry, physiology, philology, and theology with distinction. 

# Math and Chess

by Bill Wall

There are 20 possible moves for **White's first move (1 ply)** in chess (16 pawn moves and 4 knight moves).

There are 400 possible moves for **the first two moves in chess (2 ply)**, with White moving first (20 possible moves), then Black moving.

There are 5,362 possible positions **after three moves (3 ply)**, two moves for White and one move for Black). Of the 5,362 positions, 1,862 are unique.

There are 72,078 total positions **after four moves (4 ply)**, two moves for White and two moves for Black), of which 9,825 positions are unique.

There are 822,518 possible positions **after 5 moves (5 ply)**, three moves for White and two moves for Black, of which 53,516 positions are unique.

There are 9,417,681 total positions **after six moves (6 ply)**, 3 moves for White and 3 moves for Black. Of these, there are 311,642 unique positions.

There are 96,400,068 possible positions **after 7 moves (7 ply)**, 4 moves for White and 3 moves for Black. Of these, there are 2,018,993 unique positions.

There are 988,187,354 total positions **after 8 moves (8 ply)**, 4 moves for White and 4 moves for Black. Of these, 12,150,635 positions are unique.

There are 9,183,421,888 total positions **after 9 moves (9 ply)**, 5 moves for White and 4 moves for Black. Of these, 69,284,509 positions are unique.

There are 85,375,278,064 total possible positions **after 10 moves (10 ply)** 5 moves for White and 5 moves for Black). Of these, 382,383,387 positions are unique.

The **total number of chess positions** possible is about  $2 \times 10$  to the 46th power.

There are 92 different ways to placing **8 queens** on a chess board so that no two queens attack each other. There are 12 different ways to placing 8 queens on a chess board that are unique (excluding rotations and mirror images).

There are 26,534,728,821,064 ways to conduct **a knight's tour** in which a knight is placed on an empty board, moves like a knight, and visits each square exactly once.

If you take a number and double it every time for every chess square (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 36, 64, 128, etc), by the time you get to the 64th square, the number will be 18,446,744,073,709,551,615.

There are 204 **squares on a chessboard** ( $64 \times 1 \times 1$  squares +  $49 \times 2 \times 2$  squares +  $36 \times 3 \times 3$  squares +  $25 \times 4 \times 4$  squares +  $16 \times 5 \times 5$  squares +  $9 \times 6 \times 6$  squares +  $4 \times 7 \times 7$  squares +  $1 \times 8 \times 8$  square).

There are 1,296 **rectangles on a chessboard**.

There are 638 ways to put **5 queens** on a chessboard so as to attack every square on a chess board.

The **longest chess game** theoretically possible is 5,949 moves.

There are 8 different ways to **checkmate in two moves**.

1.f3 e5 2.g4 Qh4 mate

1.f3 e6 2.g4 Qh4 mate

1.f4 e5 2.g4 Qh4 mate

1.f4 e6 2.g4 Qh4 mate

1.g4 e5 2.f3 Qh4 mate

1.g4 e5 2.f4 Qh4 mate

1.g4 e6 2.f3 Qh4 mate

1.g4 e6 2.f4 Qh4 mate



There are 960 ways to set up the first and last rank of a chess board. There are 4 possibilities for the first bishop (four light squares or four dark squares), 4 possibilities for the second bishop, 6 possibilities for the queen (after the bishops have been placed), 5 possibilities for the first knight (after the 2 bishops and queen are in place), 4 possibilities for the second knight (after the 2 bishops, queen, and first knight are in place), and since the knights are not distinct, divide by 2. The rook, king, and other rook occupy the remaining three squares with only 1 possibility. So  $(4 \times 4 \times 4 \times 6 \times 5 \times 1 \times 1 \times 1) / 2 = 960$ .

It takes a minimum of 5 queens and a maximum of 8 queens **to occupy or attack every square**.

It takes a minimum and maximum of 8 rooks to occupy or attack every square.

It takes a minimum of 8 bishops and a maximum of 14 bishops to occupy or attack every square.

It takes a minimum of 12 knights and a maximum of 32 knights to occupy or attack every square.

It takes a minimum of 9 kings and a maximum of 16 kings to occupy or attack every square.





**Arlington, Virginia** – Alejandro Ramirez and Tegshsuren Enkhbat tied for 1st at the Continental Class Championships, held Oct 6-10, 2011.

**Asbury Park, NJ** – Jole Benjamin, Nick DeFirmian and Thomas Bartell tied for 1st at the Board walk Open in October.

**Barcelona** – Ivan Salgado-Lopez won on tie-break over Yasser Seirawan in the Magistral Casino tournament, held on October 12-20, 2011.

**Belgium** – Garry Kasparov defeated Nigel short in an 8-game blitz match in Leuven, Belgium. It was a close contest, with Kasparov winning 4.5 to 3.5 (3 wins, 2 losses, and 3 draws).

**Bilbao** – Magnus Carlsen won on tie-break over Vassily Ivanchuk at the 4th Grand Slam Final Masters. The first half of the event was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The second half was held in Bilbao, Spain. 3rd-5th went to Hikaru Nakamura, Levon Aronian, and Vishy anand. 6th place went to Francisco Vallejo Pons.

**Clichy, France** – Garry Kasparov played a 2-game exhibition blitz match against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, winning the first game and drawing the 2nd game. The event was held on Sep 17, 2011.

**Corsica** – Iranian GM Ehsan Ghaem Maghami was expelled from a chess tournament after refusing to play chess with Ehud Sachar, an Israeli player. Mr. Maghami told organizers he would not play the Israeli for political reasons. More than 800 players from 30 countries gathered for the tournament.

**Dublin** – Veselin Topalov gave a simultaneous exhibition against the 4 top players from Ireland on October 3. He lost to the top board, beat the bottom board, and drew the other two boards.

**Hoogeveen, Netherlands** – GM Vladimir Kramnik of Russia won the 15th Unive Schaaktoernooi tournament in October ahead of Anish Giri, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, and Judit Polgar.

**Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia** – GM Peter Svidler won the 2011 World Cup and \$100,000. He defeated Caruana, Kamsky, Polgar, Ponomarev, and Grischuk.

2nd place went to Alexander Grischuk. 3rd place went to Vassily Ivanchuk. 4th place went to Ruslan Ponomarev.

**Krakow, Poland** – The 82nd FIDE Congress was held in October, headed by FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov.

**Livigno** – Sergey Volkov won the 2nd International Livigno Chess Open, one of the main Alpine resorts in the Alps. The event included 90 players from 24 nations.

**Lubbock** – Le Quang Liem took 1st place at the 5th SPICE Cup, held at the University of Texas.

**Moscow** – Vishy anand won the Botvinnik Memorial Rapid. The time control was 25 minutes plus 10 second increment. Kramnik and Aronian tied for 2nd-3rd. Magnus Carlsen took 4th place.

**Nalchik, China** – Zhao Xue of China won the Nalchik Women's Grand Prix in October, finishing 2.5 points ahead of the rest of the field. She score 9.5 out of 11.

**Oslo** – British GM Matthew Sadler won the 2011 Oslo Chess International, scoring 8 out of 9.

**Poikovsky, Russia** – Etienne Bacrot won over tie-break against Sergey Karjakin at the 12th Karpov International, held on 4-13 October.

**Reno** – Sergey Kudrin won the 28th Western States Open. There were 214 participants, including 3 GMs and 6 IMs.

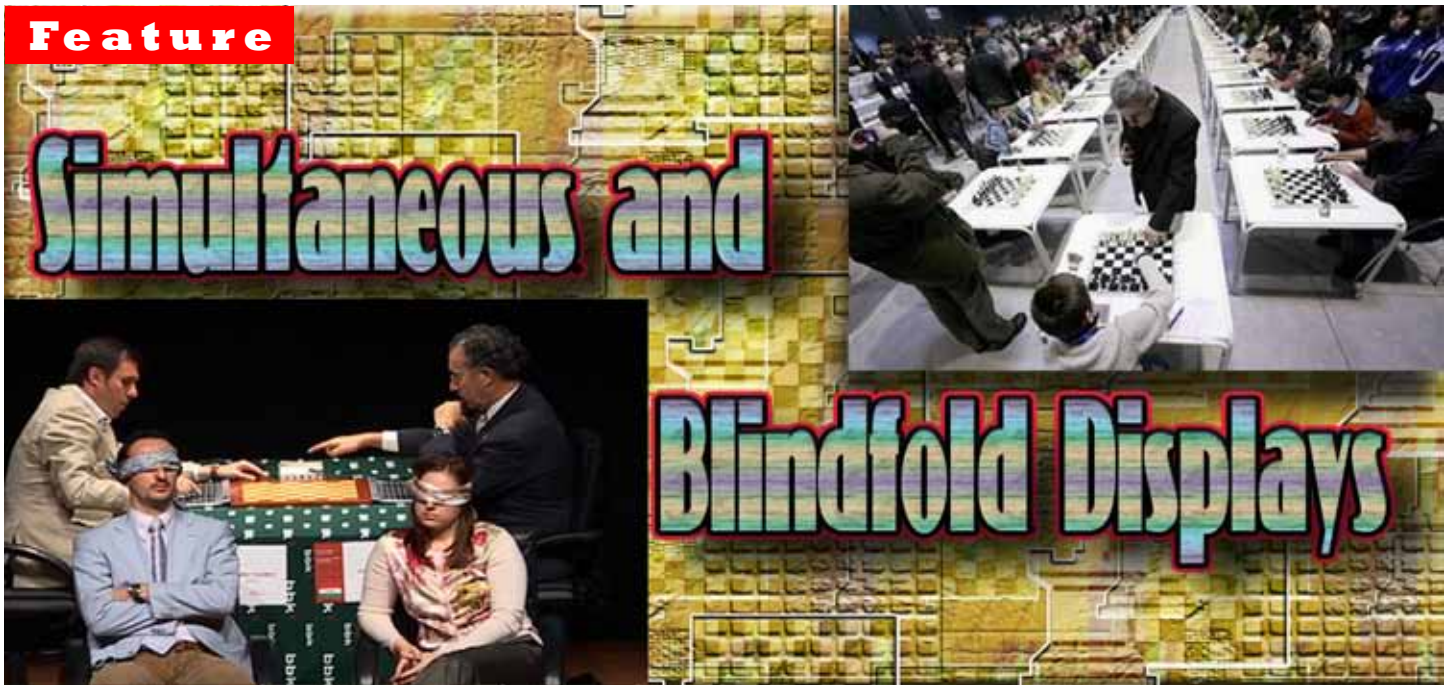
**Saint Petersburg** – Moscow defeated St. Petersburg in September. The two teams of 10 players faced each other over two rounds on September 17-18.

**Saratov, Russia** – Alexander Morozevich won the Saratov Governor's Cup in Russia with a score of 8.5 out of 11.

**Shenzhen, China** – Women's world chess champion Hou Yifan won the 2nd Women's Grand Prix, scoring 8 out of 11. The event was held in September.

**Slovenia** – The St. Petersburg team, headed by GM Peter Svidler, won the 2011 European Club Cup in October. There were 62 teams.





**BY BILL WALL**

In 1783, **Philidor**-played three blindfold games simultaneously.

In 1858, **Louis Paulsen**- (1833-1891) played 15 games blindfolded simultaneously in Dubuque, Iowa. The display was stopped after 9 hours of play. He may not have finished all the games. Reporters said Paulsen "would have won them."

In 1858, **Paul Morphy**-(1837-1884) played 8 games blindfolded simultaneously against the strongest players in Paris. He won 6 and drew 2.

In 1859, **Paul Morphy**- played 5 games simultaneously against 5 masters that were among the top 10 players in the world. He won 2, lost 1, and drew 2. The event took place at the St. James Chess Club in London.

In 1876, **Johannes Zukertort**- (1842-1888) played 16 games blindfolded simultaneously in London.

In 1885, **Johannes Zukertort**- played 60 games simultaneously, winning 53, losing 3, and drawing 4 (91.67%). Play lasted for 6 hours.

In October 1889, **Mary Rudge**-(1842-1919) became the first woman in the world to give simultaneous chess exhibitions. She played 6 games simultaneously, winning all six.

In December 1900, **Carl Walbrodt**-1871-1902) played 60 opponents in Berlin. He won 49, lost 3, and drew 8 (88.31%).

In 1900, **Harry Nelson Pillsbury**- (1872-1906) played 20 simultaneous blindfold games against the strongest chess players of the Franklin Chess Club

in Philadelphia. He won 14, lost 1, and drew 11 (97.5%).

In 1902, **Pillsbury**- played 21 simultaneous games against the chess masters in the Hannover Tournament, winning 3, losing 7, and drawing 11.

In 1902, **Pillsbury**- played 22 simultaneous blindfold games at Moscow.

In 1904, **Ossip Bernstein**- (1882-1962) played 80 opponents in Berlin. He won 71, lost 5, and drew 4 (91.25%).

In 1910, **Austrian master Josef Krejcik**- (1885-1957) gave a simul at Linz on 25 boards and lost every single game.

In June 1911, **Hans Fahrni**- (1874-1939) played 100 games simultaneously in Munich. He won 55, lost 6, and drew 39 (74.5%) in 7 hours and 30 minutes. He was the first master to play 100 opponents simultaneously.

In 1916, **Borislav Kostic**- (1887-1963) played 30 games blindfolded simultaneously.

In March 1916, **Frank Marshall**- (1877-1944) played 105 opponents at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. He won 82 games, lost 8, and drew 15 (85.22%). Some of his opponents were members of Congress.

In 1920, **Sammy Reshevsky**- (1911-1992), as a 9-year old, gave his first American simultaneous exhibition was with 20 officers and cadets at the Military Academy at West Point. He won 19 games and drew one (97.5%). He then toured the United



States and played over 1,500 games as a 9-year old in simultaneous exhibitions and only lost 8 games.

**In January 1922, Frank Marshall-** played 155 opponents on Montreal. He won 126, lost 8, and drew 21 (88%) after 7 hours of play. A week later, he was able to replay 153 of the games from memory. What bothered him was forgetting the other two games. He thought he was losing his memory.

**In 1922, Jose Capablanca-** (1888-1942) played 103 games simultaneously in Cleveland. He won 102 and drew one (99.5%). This is the best result ever in a simultaneous exhibition on over 75 boards.

**In 1924, Alexander Alekhine-** (1892-1946) played 26 games simultaneously, blindfolded, scoring 16 wins, 5 losses, and 5 draws (71%).

**In 1925, Richard Reti-** (1889-1929) went to South America and played 29 games simultaneously, blindfolded. It was a record at the time. He won 21, lost 2, and drew 6 (82.7%). Reti commented on his poor memory after forgetting and leaving his briefcase behind after the event.

*To compare chess with checkers, the greatest number of blindfold simultaneous checkers games is 28.*

**In January 1928, Istvan Abonyi-** (1886-1942) played 300 opponents on 105 boards in Budapest. He won 79 games, lost 6 games, and drew 20 games (84.7%).

**In 1929, Saviely Tartakower-** (1887-1956) gave the first simultaneous chess exhibition on an airplane in flight.

**In 1931, Jose Capablanca-** played 50 teams in a simultaneous exhibition at the 7th Regiment Armory in New York.

**In 1934, Andor Lilienthal-** (1911-2010) played 121 opponents in Bilbao.

**In 1934, Alekhine-** played 32 blindfold games. He won 22, lost 5, and drew 5 (76.56%).

**In 1935, Lilienthal-** played 155 boards in Gorky Park in Moscow.

**In September 1937, George Koltanowski-** (1903-2000) played 34 opponents blindfolded, winning 24 games and drawing 10 (85.2%). The display lasted 13 hours.

**In early 1941, Lilienthal-** played 201 opponents in Sverdlovsk.

**On May 1, 1941, Miguel Najdorf -** (1910-1997) gave a 222-board simultaneous display at the Club Atletico Olimpo in Bahia Blanca. He won 202

games, lost 8, and drew 12 (93.64%) in 13.5 hours. One of the games was a blindfold game. The display attracted 5,000 spectators.

**In August 1941, Gideon Stahlberg-** (1908-1967) played 400 chess games in Santos Lugares, a suburb of Buenos Aires, in 36 hours and 5 minutes. He won 364, lost 22, and drew 14 (92.75%). He played a group of 40 games simultaneously. When a game was over, a new opponent played at the same table. Stahlberg originally intended to achieve a time record of the most games in 48 hours. However, he was too exhausted and suspended his play after 36 hours.

**In 1943, Miguel Najdorf-** played 40 opponents simultaneously blindfolded. He won 36, lost 3, and drew 1 (91.25%).

**During World War II, Arnold Denker-** (1914-2005) gave simultaneous chess exhibitions at military bases and on board aircraft carriers and other ships.

**In January 1945, Miguel Najdorf-** played 45 opponents simultaneously blindfolded in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He won 39 games, lost 2 and drew 4 (91.1%) in 23 hours and 30 minutes. However, he had access to the scoresheets and there were multiple opponents per board. He put on this world record exhibition in hopes it would be reported in Europe and that some of his family might read about it and get in touch with him. None did so and most of his family died in the concentration camps.

**In May 1948, Baldur Hoenlinger-** (1905-1990) played 213 opponents in Velbert, winning 187 games, losing 13 games, and drawing 13 games (90.8%) in 12 hours and 28 minutes. The occasion was the 25th anniversary of the Velberter Schachgesellschaft.

**In 1949, George Koltanowski-** played 271 simultaneous games in an exhibition.

**In 1951, International master Robert Wade-** (1921-2008) gave a simultaneous exhibition against 30 Moscow schoolchildren (age 14 and under) and didn't win a single game. He lost 20 games and drew 10 after 7 hours of play.

**In 1960, George Koltanowski -** played 56 consecutive (not simultaneously) blindfold games in San Francisco. The rate of play was 10 seconds a move. He won 50 and drew 6 games (94.6%) after 9 hours of play.

**In 1960, Janos Flesch-** (1933-1983) played 52 games simultaneously blindfolded in Budapest. He won 31 games, lost 18 games, and drew 3 games (62.5%) in 12 hours of play.

**In 1960, Bobby Fischer-** (1943-2008) gave a simultaneous exhibition at Rikers Island prison.

**Continue**

He defeated all 20 prisoners while 2,400 inmates watched the exhibition and the prison band played.

**In 1966, Jude Acers-** (b. 1944) played 114 games in a simultaneous exhibition at the Louisiana State Fair. He won all 114 games.

**In 1966,-** at the end of the Havana Chess Olympiad, 380 of Cuba's strongest players played 18 opponents each, a total of 6,840 individual boards.

**In 1976, Jude Acers-** played 179 opponents simultaneously in Long Island.

**In 1977, Joe Hayden-** aged 17, invited 180 opponents to play in an exhibition at a shopping center in Cardiff, New Jersey. Only 20 players showed up. He won 2 games and lost 18. One of his wins was against his mother. The other win was against a player who got tired and left before the event was over, thus forfeiting his game. One of the games he lost was to 7-year-old Stowell Fulton, who beat Hayden under 13 moves.

**In April 1977, Vlastimil Hort-** (b. 1944) played 550 opponents, 201 simultaneously in Iceland. He lost only 10 games after 30 hours of play.

**In 1978, Karl Podzielný-** (b. 1954) played 575 opponents. He won 533, lost 15, and drew 27 (95%) in 30.5 hours.

**In 1979, Werner Hug-** (b. 1952) played 560 simultaneous games, winning 365, losing 49, and drawing 126 (76.4%).

**In 1984, Kasparov-** the first simultaneous satellite exhibition was played by Kasparov against players in New York and London.

**In 1984, Vlastimil Hort-** played 663 games in a simultaneous exhibition in 32.5 hours at Porz, West Germany.

**In 1988, Stan Vaughan-** played 1,124 simultaneous postal games.

**In 1988, Kasparov-** played 10 opponents in 10 countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, England, Italy, Japan, Senegal, Switzerland, USA, USSR). He won 8, lost 1 (to Michael Adams of England), and drew 1.

**In 1992, Garry Kasparov-** played against a West German team of 4 grandmasters (Hort, Lóbrón, Wahls, Hertneck). He won 2 and drew 2.

**In 1996, Swedish grandmaster-** Ulf Andersson played 310 opponents simultaneously. He won 268, lost 2, and drew 40 (92.9%) in 15 hours and 23 minutes.

**In June 1997, 1,194 players-** competed against

40 top players, including Women's World Champion Susan Polgar, in New York City.

**In 2001,** International Master and woman grandmaster **Anna-Maria Botsari** of Greece played 1,102 simultaneous games of chess against different opponents. She won 1,095 games and drew 7 (99.6%).

**In February 2004, International Master Andrew Martin-** played 321 opponents in Wellington. He won 294 games, lost 1 game, and drew 26 games (95.64%). It took him 16 hours and 51 minutes to play the exhibition.

**In 2005, 13,500 players-** participated in a simultaneous exhibition in Santa Maria, Cuba. 600 masters played 20 to 25 opponents each.

**In June, 2005, Pachuca, Mexico-** had a total of 12,388 chess competitors in a simultaneous exhibition.

**In August 2005, Susan Polgar-** played 326 simultaneous games (winning 309, losing 3, and drawing 14 for a 96.93% winning percentage) and 1,131 consecutive games, both a new world record. She played 1,131 consecutive games against 554 opponents, winning 1,112 games, drawing 16 games, and losing only 3 games. The event was held at Gardens Mall in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. She played chess for 16 and a half hours.

**On October 21, 2006,-** 13,446 players participated in a simultaneous exhibition in Mexico City. About 600 masters played against 20 to 25 opponents.

**In February 2009, Bulgarian grandmaster Kiril Georgiev-** played 360 simultaneous games in Sofia. He won 284 games, lost 6 games, and drew 70 games (88%). The display lasted 14 hours.

**In August 2009, Iranian grandmaster Morteza Mahjoob-** played 500 simultaneous games in Tehran. He won 397 games, lost 13 games, and drew 90 games (88.4%). The effort lasted over 18 hours. It is estimated that he walked 25 miles during the exhibition.

**In October 2010, Israeli grandmaster Alik Gershon-** played 523 chess players in Tel Aviv. He won 454, lost 11 and drew 58 games (86%) in 19 hours.

**In December 2010, 20,480 players-** participated in a simultaneous chess exhibition featuring 1,024 chess masters. The players also included 140 blind opponents. The event was played in Ahmedabad, India.

**In February 2011, Iranian grandmaster Ehsan Ghaem-Magami** played 604 opponents in 25 hours. He won 580 games, lost 8 games, and drew 16 games (97.35%).





## Pandolfini's Advice in Chess

*I recently read the Q&A Way in Chess by Bruce Pandolfini and found some interesting chess advice as he answered over 200 questions about chess from his readers. I thought I would pass some of that advice on.*

Pandolfini first starts out by saying that the right reason to play chess is not to get better at chess but to find stimulating leisure time that adds quality to your life. He wants more people to appreciate that chess can be great fun.

Pandolfini advises that the chess student who works harder for shorter stretches of time may, in some cases, have chances to learn chess better than someone who puts in more time at the game.

For those that get in time trouble, don't waste time on obvious moves, such as opening variations you are familiar with or forced moves. However, taking a little more time initially could save time later on. Keep your analysis centered on the most attractive possibilities. Experiment with different time controls to see which gives you the right blend of exercise and time to think. If you play enough games under faster conditions, the experience may carry over naturally, so that you cope better with the time allotted.

For over-the-board (OTB) play, Pandolfini recommends that you divide your score sheets into parts before starting play. Draw lines under key moves so that you can monitor early enough if you are on track not to overstep your time control. You might want to partition your score sheet for five-move intervals. If you are playing 40 moves in 2 hours, that's 5 moves in 15 minutes or 10 moves in 30 minutes. Try to play your first 10 moves in 20 minutes to build up some safety time. However, in any game, the demands of the position may cause you to break away from this plan. But if it helps you even slightly, it is worth it.

Pandolfini advises the player to improve his concentration. Every instant you let your mind wander, or get up from the board, you consume additional time just to get back to the game. Take your breaks from the board when they are most needed.

Pandolfini recommends that you look at chess books that grade or organize chess problems by degree of difficulty. Once you have found your comfort level, keep solving chess problems until you no longer have any trouble with them. This would improve a player's tactical ability and prepare him for the next level.

Pandolfini says that in chess, it is essential that you have confidence. If you distrust your own thinking, then you are as good as lost. Get in the habit of basing all decisions on your analysis of the position before you. If you lose, use the same critical powers you tried to tap during the game to understand afterward why you actually lost. Be positive, be determined, and be objective.

Pandolfini says don't get obsessed with chess. The more you enjoy the game, the better you will become. Genuine growth takes time. Be willing to settle for tiny but certain advances, and stay context based. If you lose a particular endgame, try to find out why. If you mishandle an opening, try to learn how you could have managed it better.

If you are starting out, Pandolfini recommends playing over games between 15 and 25 moves (chess miniatures). He also recommends that you do as many tactical, real-game

problems as you can. One technique is to spend 2 to 4 hours a week on playing over dozens, if not hundreds, of shorter games at high speed. You can do this better on a computer, but it can also be performed over the board.

Pandolfini suggests that you should try to solve a certain number of tactical chess problems daily. Pick a problem that might apply to real games. Take them from books that you have picked yourself, but don't set the problems up on a chess board. Do them in your head, no matter how hard it is. This should force you to learn how to analyze in your head. Then play over game collections with annotations. The annotations should clearly summarize in practical words the essence of what's happening. That way you have the option of skipping the note if it is needless or not particularly helpful.

If you can, Pandolfini recommends that you take a few sessions with a chess teacher or strong player aimed mainly at understanding how you might proceed. Two to four meetings should suffice. Ask your instructor to spell out a course of study you can pursue on your own. Have him recommend some chess books or software over the next 6 months. Go back to him when the time is fitting for follow-up.

If that is not feasible, try to obtain some chess software with tests that claim to assess your strengths and weaknesses, while judging the level of your overall play. Once you get some system feedback, you can supplement your efforts with chess literature designed to deal with the areas of your greatest apparent need.

If you get in a stagnation period and show no improvement, Pandolfini suggests that you just take a break. Even when you stop thinking about a situation consciously, your mind still pursues things unconsciously. So apply a little enforced relaxation to the problem.

Pandolfini recommends that you create your own chess course, relying chiefly on game collections. You could play over 100 games of every world chess champion. Start with Steinitz, but it wouldn't hurt to add Paul Morphy's or Adolf Anderssen's chess games. You can limit the games to 25 per player and concentrate on specific openings. If you are interested in the Ruy Lopez, for example, you could see how Morphy played it, how Steinitz differed or reinforced Morphy, what Lasker contributed to related lines, up to Fischer, Karpov, Kasparov, and anand.

Regularly write down your analysis of chess positions. You could also examine your own chess games, however they are played, no matter the circumstances.

Finally, when studying your own games, Pandolfini recommends that you put all your games in a notebook or an electronic file if you have access to a computer. After recording your game, play it over and write out your analysis. Play over your game at least twice, once from each side. Playing both sides of a game gives you another perspective, such as direct and potential threats. Wherever you have doubts, make notes. If possible, ask strong players about situations that stumped you. You can also send questions to various Web sites. Try to identify key moments when your games seemed to turn. The more diagrams and visual aids you can use, the better. If you find reasonable answers and make useful associations, over time you will add to your knowledge and gradually improve your play.

**Bruce Pandolfini** is a chess author, teacher and coach. He was famously portrayed by Ben Kingsley in the 1993 film "Searching for Bobby Fischer".

## Book Review

by Bill Wall

# Karpov's Strategic Wins 1961-1985-The Making of a Champion

by Tibor Karolyi -Published by Quality Chess UK, 2011. 360 pages.

**Anatoly Karpov** became the 12th World Chess Champion in 1975 after winning the Candidates finals and after Bobby Fischer refused to defend his title. He reigned for 10 years until losing to Garry Kasparov.

This book charts Karpov's chess career in detail from the years 1961 to 1985. This book is part of a two-volume work on Karpov's games, arranged in chronological order.

The book contains biographical information on Karpov, as well as background information on some of his opponents or his first trainer and an interview with that trainer. Each year of activity includes statistics of wins, losses, and draws. The book starts out in 1961, when Karpov was 9, in the city of Zlatoust, located in the Urals region of Russia. He learned to play chess at the age of four with his father. At the age of 9, he was a first category player, and his first recorded games are from 1961. Most of Karpov's chess games from 1961 were played in his home city, but he was getting exposure as he took chess seriously at that time.

In 1969, Karpov won the World Junior Championship. He almost didn't qualify. He held Eugenio Torre to a draw when Karpov was two pawns down. He Karpov lost, he would not have qualified for the finals and would not have become the world junior champion. Karpov called this game the most important game of his life. Karpov went to the finals with an 8 game winning streak, winning the event with a final score of 10 out of 11. The author includes a

game from round three of the finals, which was probably Karpov's best game of the 1960s.

The book includes a tournament record and tournament summary during the period he was world champion. Scores against individual opponents are given with win, draw,

loss record. For example, he played Kasparov 75 games during this period, with 8 wins, 59 draws, and 8 losses, for a 50% winning score.

The 76 selected games (mostly wins and a few draws) are well annotated with plenty of diagrams to go with each game. The explanation of moves and alternative moves are written with clarity and precision, with up-to-date analysis. Each game shows how Karpov outplays his opponents by strategic means, with a few tactical games thrown in. Some of the games are deeply annotated that run 10-15 pages.

The author selected the best of Karpov's games based on instructive and artistic value. He also gives credit to other analysts of Karpov's moves.

The book concludes with a classification of themes in Karpov's games such as attacking the king, bishop on the long diagonal, checkmating in the endgame, connected passed pawns, doubled pawns, etc. There is a games index by page number with the games appearing in chronological order and a games index by Karpov's opponents (8 games with Kasparov, for example).

I highly recommend this book and volume 2, from 1986 through 2010.





## Annotated Game

by Bill Wall

### Hampyuk – Anatoly Karpov Tula, 1965

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Ruy Lopez 3...a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.a4?!

[10.Bc2 was better. Black can now open the position for his two bishops.]

10...Nxb3 11.Qxb3 Be6 12.Qd1 c5 13.axb5?!

[Opening up the queenside does not help White. Better may be 13.d4 cxd4 14.cxd4 Qc7]

13...axb5 14.Rxa8 Qxa8 15.d3 c4

[Black wants to exchange pawns to clear some space for his bishops]

16.Bg5

[16.Na3]

16...Rd8

[Preparing to open the position further]

17.Bxf6?!

[Giving up the second bishop was a mistake. Better may be 17.d4 or 17.Na3]

17...Bxf6 18.d4 d5!? 19.Qc2?

[Better may be 19.Nbd2 exd4 20.Nxd4 Bxd4 21.cxd4 dxe4 22.Nxe4]

19...dxe4 20.Qxe4?!

[Perhaps 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.dxe5 Rd3 22.Nd2 Bd5]

20...Bd5 21.Qe3

[21.Qf5 exd4 22.Nxd4 Bxd4 23.cxd4 Bxg2 24.Qxb5 Bxh3]

21...Bxf3 22.dxe5

[22.gxf3 exd4 23.cxd4 Bxd4 24.Qe2 h6]

22...Rd3! 23.Qf4

[23.Qb6 Bxg2 24.exf6 Rxh3 25.f3 Rh1+ 26.Kxg2 Rxe1 27.Na3 Qe8]

23...Be7?!

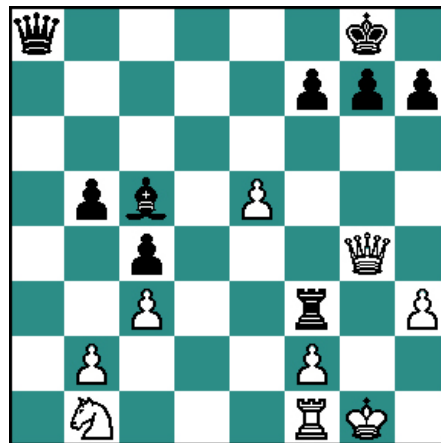
[Stronger is 23...Bxg2!]

24.exf6 Rxh3 25.f3 Bxf3 26.Kf2 Bh1 27.Re3 Qg2+ 28.Ke1 gxf6 29.Rxh3 Qxh3] 24.gxf3 Rxf3 25.Qg4 Bc5

[Better may be 25...Qd5!? 26.Qc8+ Bf8 27.Qg4 h5 28.Qe4 Qxe4 29.Rxe4 Rxh3]

26.Rf1?

[More resilient is 26.Re2 Rd3 (26...h5 27.Qg2 h4 28.Kf1) 27.Nd2 h5]



26...h5! 27.Qg2

[27.Qxh5?? Rg3+ 28.Kh2 Qg2#]

27...h4 28.Kh1

[28.Kh2 Qe4 29.Nd2 Qxe5+ 30.Kh1 Rd3 31.Ne4 Be7 wins for Black]

28...Rxh3+

[If 29.Kg1 Rg3 30.Qxg3 hxg3 wins for Black]

and White resigns 0-1



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# Ask Bill

Bill Wall

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*From Tess – I am from England rated around 100. What are the rating differences between the English Chess Federation (ECF – used to be the BCF), the US Chess Federation (USCF), and the World Chess Federation (FIDE)?*

Tess, the formula to calculate your English rating to the USCF rating system is  $ECF * 8 + 600$ . So if your ECF rating is 100, then your USCF rating is 1400. If your rating was 200, that would be equivalent to a rating to 2200, or master. The FIDE rating is about 50 points more, so your FIDE or Elo rating would be 1450.

*From Sean – I played in this year's U.S. Open in Orlando. Where will it be next year?*

Sean, the 2012 U.S. Open will be held at the Hilton in Vancouver, Washington (I have a few relatives there). It will be the 113th U.S. Open, which started in 1900. The last U.S. Open in Washington State was in Seattle in 1966. In 1987, the U.S. Open was held in Portland, Oregon, which is a little closer to Vancouver. The event is sponsored by the Washington Chess Federation. There will be about \$50,000 in prizes and the top player not otherwise qualified will be able to play in the 2010 U.S. chess championship.

*From David H. – What are the ways you can draw in chess?*

David, the easiest way is if both sides agree to a draw. If the same position occurs three times with the same player to move, then it is a threefold repetition and a draw. When a player to move has no legal move, but not in check, it is called a stalemate and considered a draw. If you make 50 moves

without either player making a pawn move or a capture, it is a draw. A draw also occurs if there is not sufficient material to checkmate the opponent, such as two knights and king vs. king or just king vs. king.

*From Channing – I am not very good at endgames. What should I do to improve and what endgame books would you recommend?*

Channing, try to practice endgames in friendly games by exchanging as much as possible and playing endgames. Rook and pawn endgames are the most likely type of endgames, followed by pawn endgames. You can try to practice with a computer or another partner that is stronger and knows the endgames. There are dozens of good endgame books. I would recommend Pal Benko's update of Reuben Fine's Basic Chess Endings. Lev Alburt has an endgame book called Winning Endgame Knowledge. Yuri Averbakh has written a series of endgame books. One good one is Chess Endings – Essential Knowledge. Irving Chernev has written several endgame books. I like his 200 Brilliant Endgames. Chess Informant has written several volumes of endgame books, part of the Encyclopedia of Chess Endings. You can try Max Euwe's A Guide to Chess Endings or Paul Keres's Practical Chess Endings. A classic is Levenfish and Smyslov's Rook Endings. Another good one is Lommer & Sutherland's 1234 Modern End-Game Studies. Edmar Mednis wrote several endgame books. John Nunn also has written several endgame books, such as Nunn's Chess Endings. You can try Pandolfini's Endgame Course or Seirawan's Winning Chess Endings. Jeremy Silman wrote Silman's Complete Endgame Course. There are dozens more endgame books available, so pick whichever you like. You can find endgame videos on YouTube as well.

*From Steve O – How do you become a chess grandmaster and how many grandmasters are there?*

Steve, the Grandmaster (GM or IGM) title is awarded by the World Chess Federation, FIDE. You must have a rating of at least 2500. You must then have two favorable results, called norms, from tournament play with other Grandmasters. You must play at least 27 games in these tournaments. FIDE first awarded 27 players the Grandmaster title in 1950. In 1972, there were 88 Grandmasters. The current FIDE ratings list now has over 1,190 grandmasters.

*From Tomas – Do you play blitz chess and is it good for you? Would you recommend it?*

Tomas, I play a lot of blitz chess. My favorite time control is 5 minutes per side per game. I do not like bullet chess, which is too fast at 1 to 3 minutes per side per game. I also like 10 minutes per side per game for slower games. Most top players play blitz chess. I play it for fun. I get more games in that way and it gives me more experience in openings and experimental ideas that I may later try in slower, over-the-board, chess. I play a lot of blitz chess at chess.com and FICS. When I have company over, and they want to watch me play, I tell them to suggest an opening for me to play or some idea or theme. The weirder the opening or theme, the better. In blitz chess, you can play anything. I am forced to think and react quicker. I just have to remember not to play so fast and careless when it comes to more serious, slower chess.

Do you have a question for Bill?  
You can email him at  
bill\_wall@bellsouth.net





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