

# **Richard Shorman**

# Chess

## **CHESS ADVICE FOR THE ENLIGHTENED FEW**

**By James Schroeder**

(From "The Chess Correspondent", Jan. 1975, pg. 8)

Ninety per cent of the chess books in print are worthless and most of them are harmful. There are not any good Opening books.

**The best moves are not in the books.**

Do **not** read Opening books until you are an Expert. And, of course, that means do **not** read articles on Openings.

"Not all refutations are published the minute they are discovered. A Master prefers to spring them over-the-board, in the form of prepared variations." (Larry Evans)

**Don't** ever waste time on those things called "Modern Chess Openings" or "Encyclopedia of Openings", etc. They are compilations of selective data and contain thousands of mistakes in analysis and position evaluations.

So-called monographs of specific openings have no value. If written by a Master (For the purpose of this article, **Master** and **Grandmaster** are the same.), they are not truthful, and if written by a non-master, they are not knowledgeable.

**Big** books, which survey one opening, as in the "Chess Digest" series, are only useful to Masters, who are only interested in seeing what is currently popular and who can make their own positional evaluations.

Concerning the mis-named "Encyclopedia of Chess Openings", this book is neither complete nor accurate. I am not qualified to give opinions on analysis of **every** openings, but Masters who are (including some of the finest opening theoreticians in the world) inform me that this book is worthless.

In "Chess Life & Review" Lubosh Kavalek wrote, "...When I checked the variation in Encyclopedia of Chess Openings...I could not believe my eyes when I discovered that Black was judged better! However, I should not really be surprised, since I have found dozens of similar mistakes and misjudgments in that book."

I **do** know about the **King's Gambit** (having seen the unpublished analysis of Anthony Santasiere), and the section in this book is terrible.

I **must** correct the statement, "When a Grandmaster states that one side has a slight advantage...their judgments are more refined." Grandmasters do **not** give their truthful opinion, and, although their "judgments" are superior, they keep such judgments to themselves. And it is **not** true that, "The Masters have not only selected the best of the current lines, but have gone back into history to record the lines popular fifty years ago or more, but now no longer played." They have **not** selected the "best of the current lines", and whether or not they have recorded "lines popular fifty years ago" is of no value. Why not go back to a hundred and fifty years ago?

**Articles** on Openings written by amateurs but published by professional magazines are worthless (unless you want to amuse yourself refuting the drivel). "Chess" specializes in wasting enormous amounts of space on this type of article, usually giving pages and pages of analysis about an absurd "innovation" which can be completely refuted on move five. (They never publish the refutation, of course.)

Many editors pander to the desire of some of their readers who are looking for the "easy" way to win, i.e., by springing a sensational opening innovation. The reason why "weak" players are that way is that they are not willing to expend the hard work and time necessary to be good players. Another reason is that they study Openings long before they can comprehend them. That is not entirely their fault, but it is a fault I would like to correct. : **After** you become completely knowledgeable of how to **checkmate**, and thoroughly understand the **endgame**, and know all the possible types of **combinations** and have played through at least a thousand master games, **then** you are ready to study the Openings. (By that time you will be a Master.)

When you see an Opening article based on a "cheap shot" that is tactically appealing, you may believe you are gaining useful information but you are really wasting your time if you read it. If you cannot refute a bad move over-the-board, you will never be a good player: "I want to teach my pupil how to become primarily a natural player who burdens his memory very little, who applies logic only when deduction is called for, and who has a ready judgment to back him up in novel situations, for the natural player is a better type of man than the book player." (Emanuel Lasker)

**Playing** chess is based on "input", and you should consider the "problem" the same as if you were programming a computer. Books and pamphlets called "Opening Systems" or "Complete Opening Systems" are worse than useless.

**Read** "The Game of Chess" by Siegbert Tarrasch. (Out of print. Please write the publisher and ask that they reprint it: David McKay Co., 750 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. Say Schroeder sends you!) **Read** "Manual of Chess" by Emanuel Lasker (Dover publication). The first book on the endgame that every player should read is "Practical Chess Endgames" by Hooper and Clarke.

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For a **free** sample copy of "The Chess Correspondent", now edited by redoubtable chess crusader **James Schroeder**, please write to him at P. O. Box 5268, Cleveland, Ohio 44101. If you found the above excerpt from his first issue a refreshing change from the usual bland chess fare, then make up your mind to subscribe to this rejuvenated publication and participate in its vigorous growth. (Schroeder also administers a national Prisoner Rehabilitation Fund to provide chess sets and books to inmates of penal institutions. Tax free donations in any amount may be sent to the same address, marked Dept. P. This good work merits your wholehearted support. Gifts of \$7 or more will be rewarded with a complimentary copy of Schroeder's ELITE Chess Bulletin.)

### **CHESS TOURNAMENT AT CHABOT COLLEGE**

The George Washington People's Chess Tourney will be held at the Chabot College Student Center, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., in Hayward, Feb. 15-17. The six-round, USCF-rated Swiss system event in three sections offers trophies and cash awards to all first through fourth place winners in each of seven playing categories. Time control is 40 moves in two hours, two games per day, for all rounds. Entry fee, if mailed by Feb. 9 or received by the Tournament Director by Feb. 13, is \$25 (less \$5 if entering as junior under 19, senior over 60, woman or member of U.S. armed forces; ten per cent reduction if playing in first USCF competition). Make checks payable to The California State Chess Federation and mail to **Alan Benson**, 2420 Atherton St., Apt. 1, Berkeley, Calif. 94704 (Phone: 843-0661). USCF and CSCF membership required; late entry, \$5 additional. Round one begins at noon, Saturday, Feb. 15. Please bring sets and clocks.

### **WHERE TO PLAY CHESS**

The Hayward Chess Club, Palma Ceia Park (corner of Miami Ave. and Decatur Way), Monday and Friday, 8-12 p.m.

Cherryland Cafe, 22472 Meekland Ave., Hayward (corner of A St. and Meekland Ave.), Evenings, except Monday and Tuesday, 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The San Leandro Chess Club, 205 Dutton Ave. (Washington School cafeteria, between East 14th St. and Bancroft Way), Monday, 7-11 p.m.

The Fremont Chess Club, 40204 Paseo Padre Parkway (near City Hall at Lake Elizabeth), Wednesday, 7-11 p.m.

The Livermore Chess Club, Fourth and J Streets, Friday, 8-12 p.m.