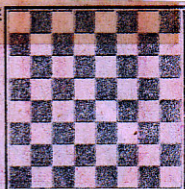


chess

by richard shorman



Shakhmatny Byulleten

Soviet chess players today are universally acknowledged as the world's strongest. Apart from their more serious approach to chess in general, government (Communist Party) control and professional organization, the Soviets publish excellent literature on the game that remains largely inaccessible outside the USSR because of a built-in Russian language barrier.

Shakhmatny byulleten, without a doubt the world's best chess periodical for the serious player, contains extensive openings analysis by outstanding grandmasters, significant contributions to chess theory from foreign sources, and about 200 unannotated games every month.

A working knowledge of Russian is therefore a valuable, practical expedient in the makeup of the modern chess player. It is no accident, for example, that American champion Bobby Fischer has become an avid student of Russian in spite of his running feud with Soviet chess players.

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TO ILLUSTRATE further the chess benefits to be derived from a Russian language capability I have translated a segment of an article in **Shakhmatny byulleten** (No. 7, 1967, pg. 134) that examines new developments in opening theory by Danish grandmaster Bent Larsen, winner of this year's world championship candidate's tournament in Tunis.

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Analysis By Larsen

In the summer of 1966 a small mimeographed work by Bent Larsen dealing with the open defense to the Ruy Lopez was published in Copenhagen. It contains a number of interesting evaluations and suggestions, which we now present in digest form.

Ruy Lopez, Open Defense, Keres Variation.

1 P-K4 P-K4 2 N-KB3 N-QB3 3 B-N5 P-QR3 4 B-R4
N-B3 5 0-0 NxP 6 P-Q4 P-QN4 7 B-N3 P-Q4 8 PxP B-K3 9
Q-K2 B-K2 10 R-Q1 0-0.

I. 11 P-B4 NPxP 12 BxP Q-Q2 (Larsen has added this move of the Swedish player Ekstrem to his arsenal and has subjected it to exhaustive analysis.) 13 N-B3 (Other continuations yield nothing for White, e.g., 13 B-Q3 N-B4 14 B-B2 B-N5.) NxN 14 PxN P-B3 (An interesting try is 14. . . N-R4 15 BxRP KR-N1!?) 15 PxP BxP 16 N-N5 (Black has a draw in hand after 16 QxBch QxQ 17 BxQP QxB 18 RxQ N-N5 19 R-QB5 N-B7 20 R-N1 QR-N1 21 RxR RxR 22 N-Q2 R-K1 23 N-B3 R-N1.) BxN 17 BxB P-R3! (An improvement for Black over the sixth match game Geller—Larsen, 1966, in which White gained the advantage after 17 . . . QR-K1 18 Q-Q2 N-K4 19 BxQP BxB 20 QxBch QxQ 21 RxQ R-B4 22 R-Q8! Larsen's new move develops enough initiative on the K-side to counteract White's two Bishops.) 18 B-K3 N-K4 19 B-N3 (If 19 BxRP, then 19. . . B-KN5.) Q-Q3 20 P-KR3 QR-K1.

II. 11 QN-Q2 N-B4 12 N-B1 Q-Q2 13 P-B3 P-B3, with a good game for Black.

III. 11 P-B3 Q-Q2 12 BxP? BxB 13 QxN BxQ 14 RxQ QR-Q1.

IV. 11 B-K3 N-R4, or 11 . . . P-B4.

In conclusion, a few words concerning the game Bronstein—Pachman (Portoroz, 1958), in which White played 8 NxP instead of 8 PxP. Pachman obtained a difficult position after 8 . . . NxN 9 PxN P-QB3 10 P-QB3 B-KB4 11 B-B2 Q-Q2 12 P-QR4 R-B1. According to Larsen, however, 12 . . . P-N5 13 P-QB4 PxP 14 QxQch (Or 14 Q-K2 Q-Q5!) KxQ 15 N-Q2 N-Q3 leads to approximate equality. Also good is 11 . . . B-B4 12 Q-B3 B-KN3 13 B-K3 Q-K2, or even 13 . . . Q-R5.