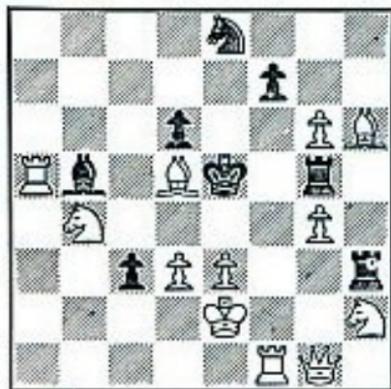


THE CHESS PLAYER

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

**TASK No. 54P—By K. Chambers,
Stanford, Calif.**

(Original to THE ARGONAUT)



WHITE MATES IN TWO MOVES
(Value 4 points)

Answer to Task No. 52: Q-Q1

We are pleased to award a prize to Mr. Kenton Chambers of Stanford for Task No. 54P. Answer should be postmarked not later than February 5. It is required only that White's first move be given.

Lasker or even looked in *Chess and Win* of Mr. Fine. 7. . . P-Q4; 8. P-K5 . . . "One Bishop more to mate the black King! Really coffee-house style, but good," then 8. . . Kt-K5; 9. BxB, QxB; 10. Kt-KB3, Q-B4! "Ooo" Mr. Gin was seized with fright. A mating attack on his KB2 while he was looking on Black's KR2 for another mate—rather cool of that madman! So: 11. BxKt, PxB; 12. Kt-Kt5, R-Q1. This hand desirous to capture the black pawn stopped like enchanted. Of course not KtxP at K4, RxQ with check, so: 13. Q-K2 . . . for he feared all kinds of check. 13. . . Kt-Q5. "Giveup, bad coffee-house player" it shouted in my heart. 14. QxP . . . "Never mind the Rook on QR1 but look out for mate, you!" Mr. Gin laughed. Now came the end. 14. . . KtxPch; 15. K-K2 . . . but how? 15. B-B4!



MR. S. AYAL of Djakarta, Indonesia, writes:

"Reading an advertisement of the *Dutch Chess Monthly*, I take the liberty to write you something originals about the Indonesian Chess World. It is a pity I don't be a master of your language, but if it is not correct will you be so kind to make it best. I mean the story and of course I cannot hope to get a prize for such a style but the story itself can make you hot. Perhaps you will grant me with a subscription for one year to one of the American chess magazines to help me for a better writing. And here comes my story:

CHESS FROM THE PUBLIC HOUSE

The capital of Indonesia, Djakarta, has quite a lot of public houses but only in two of them you can also spend your time on chess-playing. There you'll meet the singular figures—of course chess players and not chessmen for Indonesia is not so rich—and when you see them play, automatically think of the famous style from the coffee-houses, which are also to be found in this town.

One day there happened the following incident about the style. I name it Coffee-house-style. The white player Mr. Gin—called so, because he looks too much into gin glasses—invited me for a game of chess. With good manners he opened in strange silence—I say strange as he always makes rough music—*1. P-K4*. . . "If I don't meet that d—d coffee-house style!" it flashed through my brain, but . . . Morphy would curse me" and I answered *1. . . P-K4*. Mr. Gin continued with some hurry *2. P-Q4*. . . and was met at once with *2. . . PxP*. He took the pawn *3. QxP*. . . and after *3. . . Kt-QB3* the Queen retired as fast as she could *4. Q-Q1*. . . "Real coffee-house style! Yeah, that's it! But what about the gambit in that style? Is it bad?" No time to explain for Mr. Gin panted with impatience, so: *4. . . Kt-B3*. In a second *5. B-KKt5* and due to the second from me *5. . . B-K2*. Now Mr. Gin looked like a professor with a deeply lined face. But then came *6. B-Q3, Castles*. What now? The answer was *7. P-KB4*. . . done with so much power trembling the whole board. "Aha, coffee-house style, coffee-house mastery, trying to mate the black King by two pawns and a Bishop!" I thought unnaturally. Mr. Gin of course, like others of his kind, did not know about a theory of the famous Dr.

"Arabica coffee on Dutch milk!" was his commentary—very nice, but he talked much more: "Mister!" he said, "You have to get a free cup of coffee. Your play is the finest coffee-house play I ever saw. You are really the greatest coffee-house player with a very excellent coffee-house style!" and he laughed, thinking: "It does him good!"

(Note by the Editor: Mr. Ayal's play in this game is very sharp, indeed. Contrary to Mr. Gin's statement, Mr. Ayal is far beyond coffee-house players in his understanding of the game. We are happy to award Mr. Ayal a prize for this contribution.)

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Arthur Spiller and Louis Spinner tied for first and second in the Los Angeles County Championship Tournament, with scores of $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$. Irving Rivise, California State Co-Champion, finished third with 9-4, and Sven Almgren, California Open Champion, fourth with 8-5. Twenty-six players participated. Spiller and Spinner will play a four-game match to determine the winner.

Charles Bagby won the Mechanics' Institute Open, with the fine score of $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$. V. Pafnutieff was second with $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$, and C. Capps third with 6-2. Bagby allowed only one draw, to Capps, winning the rest of his games. Nine players participated.

Kenton Chambers, Stanford University biology teacher, won the 1952 championship of the Palo Alto Chess Club in a double round-robin tournament of 17 contestants. Chambers lost only one game, and draw seven. Richard Mathews, 1951 champion, tied with George Petriceks for second and third. Petriceks is a student at Palo Alto High School.

In the first round of the San Francisco Bay Area Chess League team matches, "A" division, the Golden Gate Chess Club defeated Mechanics' Institute 4-3, and the Russian Chess Club defeated the Castle Chess Club $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$.

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BOOKS RECEIVED—*Budapest International Tournament, 1952*, \$1.60. Published by the *British Chess Magazine*. All the games of this great tournament, won by Keres. The book is edited by H. Golombek, and A. H. Trott contributes a special section on main opening innovations. This is a *must* for all players who want to keep abreast of current chess ideas. Copies may be ordered through this column.

Chess Pieces, an anthology, compiled by Norman Knight. \$1.50. Published by Sampson Low, Marston and Co., 25 Gilbert St., London, W. 1. This book bears

the date 1949, but we had not seen a copy until one was kindly sent to us by Mr. B. H. Wood, editor of *Chess*, Sutton Coldfield, England. This is a truly fascinating collection of commentaries on chess, drawn from poetry, drama, proverbs, general literature, etc. All chess players will derive much pleasure from the book.

British Chess Federation Year Book, 1951-52. 35 cents. Published by the B. C. F. A comprehensive account of British chess for the period stated. The book contains much of general interest, including sections on "Telephone Chess," "Organizing a Chess Club," and "How to Run a Chess Tournament." It will be noted with interest that 32 British chess columns are listed. Copies may be ordered through this column.