Two attendees at the Chess Social on January 6 prepare to cross swords.

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Recent Tournaments at Mechanics’ Institute

The Felix German Memorial TNM wrapped up on December 20, with FM Richard Chen the clear winner of the 2000+ section with an undefeated 5.5 points from seven games. Tied for 2nd and 3rd were Luke Widjaja and Steve Sobel with 5 points each. Best under 2200 was Siddharth Arun with 4 points, and Kevin Sun was best under 2000 with 3.5 points.

The 1600-1999 section saw David Li take clear 1st with 5.5 points, and Stephen Parsons tied with Victor Briancon-Marjollet for 2nd and 3rd with 5 points each. The best under 1800 prize was split between Karl Stuart Kingma and Aung Tun Lin with 4.5 points each, while best under 1600 was Sivavishnu Srinivasan with 4.5 points.

The under 1600 section also saw a clear winner, with Fernando Toledo Guerrero scoring an impressive 6-1 score. Tied for 2nd and 3rd places were Chunhui Gu and Nicholas Ayala with 5.5 each. Pratyush Hule and Sam Calvert tied for best under 1400 with 5 points apiece, and Richard Ahrens rounded out the prize-winners by taking best under 1200 with 4 points.

Felix German (pictured above), a Mechanic’s Institute stalwart of tournaments and match play, passed away unexpectedly in 2020.

The final standings and list of prize-winners can be found here.

The tournament was co-directed by International Arbiter Judit Sztaray and FIDE Arbiters Abel Talamantez and Richard Koepcke.

On December 10, the Mechanics’ Institute hosted its monthly double-header of Scholastic Swiss in the morning, Quads in the afternoon.
The Scholastic Swiss had sixteen players in two sections, with James Moore and Jillian Stevens tying for 1st and 2nd in the 500+ section with 3-1 points apiece, while Jake Brody, Bradley Harger III, and Sebastian Ghoussaini all tied for 3rd through 5th with an even 2-2 each.

The under 500 section was won decisively by Juan Codino with a perfect 4-0. Tied for 2nd and 3rd were Thomas Moore and Neeraj Rao, each with 3-1 scores, and Oliver Wallace tied with Thomas Wasserman for 4th and 5th places with 2 points each.

Complete results for the December Scholastic Swiss can be found here.

The December Quads saw 50 participants competing in 13 sections, with Lucas Lesniewski the winner of the top Quad.

Complete results for the December Quads can be found here.

Both tournaments were directed by Local TD Arthur Liou, assisted by Michael Hsu.

The 4th FIDE-Rated Donaldson Championship was a 4-round event held on December 17 and 18, with 70 participants competing in 3 sections.

The hard-fought 2000+ section saw a tie for 1st and 2nd places between Andrew Yun Wong and Daniel Tuapen Videna, each scoring 3-1, while Ivan Zhou picked up clear 3rd with 2.5 points. There was a six-way split for best under 2200 and best under 2000, shared by Jashith Karthi, Kevin Sun, Theodore Biyiasis, Jayden Xu, Hanchi Yao, and Stewart Katz, each scoring 2 points.

Laurie Qiu was the clear winner of the 1600-1999 section with a perfect 4-0 score. A half a point behind in clear 2nd was Srikrishnan Madhavan. Tied for 3rd were George Sanguinetti and Zachary Filler, tied for best under 1800 were Christopher Powers and Greg Zhou, and best under 1600 was Adithya Chitta. All scored 3 points.

The under 1600 section also saw a clear winner, with Oleksii Shchashchenko scoring a perfect 4-0. Clear 2nd with 3.5 was Benchly Buccat, while tied for 3rd and best under 1400 with 3 points each were Sandesh Aher, Lee Cooper, and Roger Pan. Rounding out the prize-winners was Kenneth Geng who won the best under 1200 prize, also with 3 points.

IM John Donaldson was the Mechanics’ Institute Chess Room Director from 1998 to 2018. The author of numerous books, he captained the winning U.S. Olympic team in 2016.

Complete results for the 4th Donaldson can be found here.

The 4th Donaldson Championship was directed by FIDE Arbiter Abel Talamantez.

The 22nd Robert Burger Memorial held on January 7 saw a nice turnout of 49 participants in three sections.
IM Kyron Griffith posted a perfect 4-0 score to take clear 1st in the 2000+ section. A full point back in clear 2nd was Suyuan Gui. Tied for 3rd were Sebastian Suarez and Daniel Videna with 2.5 points apiece.

Kian Jamali was clear 1st in the 1600-1999 section with a perfect 4-0, with George Sanguinetti, Christopher Powers, and Arjun Muthukumaran all tying for 2nd-3rd places with 2.5 points apiece.

In the u1600 section Clarke VandenHoven also scored a perfect 4-0, taking clear 1st place. A half-point behind in clear 2nd was Liri “Gogo” Dancig-Perlman. Splitting 3rd place with 3 points each were Ansh Shrivastava, Sam Calvert, Pablo Abad, and Steven Hicks.

Complete results for the 22nd Robert Burger Memorial can be found here.

The 22nd Robert Burger Memorial was directed by Local TD Arthur Liou.

The New Year Tuesday Night Marathon kicked off January 10 with 80 players participating in three sections. The tournament runs until February 21.

Information, standings and results can be seen here.

The New Year TNM is being co-directed by International Arbiter Judit Sztaray and FIDE Arbiter Richard Koepcke.

IM Elliott Winslow: Annotated Games from the TNM
A selection of games from round one of the New Year Tuesday Night Marathon, and rounds 6 and 7 of the Felix German TNM.
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6
[ 2...Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5
8.Be3 Be6 9.Nd5 Nf6 10.f3 0-0
TP Gawel-Zielinski below ]
[ 5.f3
A) 5...e5!? 6.Nb3 ( 6.Bb5+ Nbd7
7.Nf5 d5 8.exd5 a6 );
B) 5...Nc6 6.Nc3 ( 6.c4!? ) 6...e5
7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Be6
TP Caruana-Topalov below ]
5...Nc6 6.Be3 e5 It seems like this is all
I've been playing lately, so-called
Boleslavsky systems.
[ 6...e6 is a Scheveningen, ]
[ 6...g6 a Dragon -- but one thing I've
seen about Sebby's play is he plays
Yugoslav Attack lines pretty well. ]
[ I know that the "Theo" move is
6...Ng4! but it's been years since I've
looked at it, and then it was only for
White; back then I gave up on White's
game and if I wanted an English
Attack, I'd play 6.f3. In fact, I did
quite well with this, even making it into
a book by Soltis on the English Attack
three times, including a curious win
against Josh Waitzkin. ]
7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Be7 9.Qd2 0-0
10.Nd5
[ 10.0-0-0 a5 ( 10...Na5 )]
10...Bxd5
[ 10...a5!?]
Qa7 13.Bb6 Qb8 ) 12...a4 13.Na5
d5=;
B) 11.c4 a4 12.Nc1
B1) 12...b5! 13.Nxe7+ ( 13.cxb5
Bxd5 14.exd5 Nd4 15.Bxd4
20.Bxc5?
[ 20.Nb5= ]
20...bxc5= 21.fxe5 dxe5 22.Rhf1 e4
[ 24. Qe3± ]  
24... Nxb5?!  
[ 24... a3! 25. b3  ( 25. Nxa3? Rxa3  
26. bxa3  Rb8+  27. Kc1  Qa4+- )  
25... Nxb5 ]  
25. cxb5  Bd6  
[ 25... a3?  26. d6 ]  
[ 25... Qd6! ]  
26. g3?!  
[ 26. a3 ]  
26... a3  27. b3  Kh8  
[ 27... g6! ]  
28. Bc4  Qe7  29. Rde1  Qe5  30. Re3  
Be7  31. Qc3  Qd6  32. Qc2  Bg5  33. Re2  
Qe5  34. g4  Bf6  35. Kc1  g6  36. h4  
Bxh4  37. Rh1  Bg5+  38. Kb1  Bf6  
39. Kc1  Rae8  40. Reh2  Re7  
[ 40... h5!?  41. gxh5  ( 41. gxf5  Bg5+  
42. Kb1  Rxf5 )  41... g5! ]  
41. gxf5  gxf5  ... Rg7  42. d6  Qxd6  
43. Rh6?  Bg5+  0-1

BLACK

B67

Sun, Kevin 1870  
Walder, Michael 2042

MI Felix German TNM: 2000+ (6.6)  
[Winslow,Elliott]

Nf6  5. Nc3  Nc6  6. Bg5  e6  7. Qd2  a6  
8. 0-0  Bd7  9. f4 Not a great choice if 
you don’t know it.  
[ 9. f3 is seeing a return to prominence, 
with Carlsen’t last-round victory in the 
World Rapid Championship against 
Magssoodloo an impressive 
demonstration: Nxd4  10. Qxd4  Be7  
11. Kb1  b5  12. h4  Rb8  13. g4  b4  
14. Ne2  a5  15. Ng3  Qc7  16. Be3  Rc8  
20. Bd3  Rfc8  21. Qf4  Ne8  22. g5  Bc5  
23. Bxc5  Qxc5  24. h5  Bb5  25. Bxh7+  
Kxh7  26. g6+  fxg6  27. Qf7  g5  28. h6  
1-0 Carlsen,M  (2834)-Magssoodloo,P  
(2656) Wch Rapid Almaty 2022 (13) ]  
9... b5  10. Nxc6  
[ 10. Bxf6  gxf6  ( 10... Qxf6  11. e5  dxe5  
Qe7!? ]  
10... Bxc6

11.e5?!  
[ 11. Qe1 is the modern continuation. ]  
[ 11. Qe3 ]  
11... dx e5 Black is already better.  
12. Qxd8+  Rxd8  13. Rxd8+  Kxd8  
14. fxe5  h6  15. Bxf6+  
[ 15. Bh4!?  g5  16. Bg3  Nd7  17. a4  b4  
18. Nd1 White drew this blitz game, 
but Stockfish makes Black won at this 
point. a5  ( 18... h5! )  19. Ne3  Bxa4  
Ke7  23. Bf2  Rc8  24. b3  Bd7  25. Rd1  
Ng6  26. g3  Bc3  27. Nb7  Ra8  
bxc3  31. Kb1  Bc6  32. Nc5  g4  33. Nd3  
Rd8  34. Rf1+  Nf3  35. h3  h5  36. Ne1  
Ke5  37. Nxf3+  gxf3  38. Bxf3  Bb5  
39. Re1+  ½-½ Bocharov,I (2563)- 
Alekseenko,K (2639) RUS-ch blitz  
Sochi 2018 (9.4) ]  
15... gxf6  16. exf6  Rg8  17. Bd3  Rg2  
18. Rd1  Kc7  19. Rd2
Walder shows endgame confidence, eventually bringing the point home.  


If Black can't enforce ...f4, then this is going to create headaches.  

[ 41...Kd6 is better, technically speaking. ]  

42.Kc3?  
[ 42.Ke3! Kc4 Black wins the c-pawn -- but then what? It looks like a blockade on the dark squares. ]  

42...Kd5  

(Diagram)
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Nf3?! A bit of a mishmash of systems! Without h4 and ...h5 this quiet move has been at the center of the Advanced Caro Kann theory. (EW)

5...e6 6.c4 c5

This is already a serious mistake. Black is either going to get an IQP position with zero activity or fall even further behind in development

5.c4 Using the pin

5...Bxd3 6.Qxd3 e6 7.Bg5!? is John Shaw's recommendation against the Caro Kann in his Grandmaster Repertoire books; I can't say I quite trust it (there's a poisoned pawn at the heart of it), and can't quite bring myself to see if anyone has refuted it. (EW)

5...Bg4 6.cxd5 exd5

7.cxd5 exd5 8.Nc3 Qd7

8...Qxd5 9.Nc3 cxd4

9.Qxd4

9...Be6 10.Bb5+ Nc6 11.Qa4

This variation illustrates why 9.Nd4 was better, I don't lose 2 tempis with the queen + Nd4 11...Qb6 12.Nd4

12...Rc8 13.Be3 Bc5

Already an important moment. Black has consolidated the entire queenside so I spent a lot of time on evaluation; 14. Rc1 (continuing to mass on the queenside), 14.Nxe6 with 15.Qc2 then Qg6 and start transferring my pieces to the kingside having served all purposes on the queenside. Or just 14.0-0 and continue playing against the IQP.

14.0-0?! Releasing the pressure on Black, the game still goes on.

14...Qb6 15.Nd4

15...bxc6

16.Bxc6+ bxc6

17.Bxc5 Qxc5 Black has solved their development problem

14...a6

15.Bxc6+ The most forcing line

15...Bxc6 16.Bxa6 Ra8 17.Bxc5 Qxc5 (17...Qxa6??) 18.Qxa6 Rxa6 Black is positionally
lost, a weak c6 pawn vs 2 strong a and b pawns)

18.b4 Qa7
19.Qxc6+ Bd7 20.Qxd5 Ne7
21.Qd2 Qxa6 Crazy variation where the game is well balanced, Black is ready to castle but must meet the threat of the connected passed pawns on the queenside;

B) 15...axb5! 16.Nxb5 Rxc6
17.Nd6+ Ke7 I estimated Black has enough compensation]

15...bxc6 16.Nxe6 fxe6
[16...Bxe3?? 17.Nxd5!]

17.Bxc5
[17.Ne4!! Beautiful tactic dxe4
(17...Bxe3? 18.Nd6+ Kd7 19.Nxc8)
18.Qc4! Kf7 (18...Bxe3 19.Qxe6+ Ne7 20.fx3 Qxe3+ Black is toasted with the open f file; (EW) Actually the best try is 18...Qb5! 19.Qxe6+! Ne7 20.Rad1! Rc7 21.a3!! (solidly the best) and despite his extra piece, Black can't put together a defence. )
19.Bxc5+-]

17...Qxc5 18.Qxa6?!
[18.Rac1 SF prefers keeping the a file close and start targeting the c6 pawn Qb6 19.Ne2 Ne7 20.Nd4]

18...Ne7 19.Qe2 3 ideas: if Black castle
then Qxh5, I defend both e5 and b2

19...Nf5
[19...0-0 20.Qxh5 Rf5 21.Qe2 Rcf8]

20.Rfc1 Qa7
[20...Qb4 21Nb5 0-0 22.Nd6 Nd4
The game is still balanced (22...Nxd6
23.exd6 Qxd6 Looks very scary for White with the 3 center pawns against the 2 connected pawns on the a and b file. )]

21.Kh2? My only real blunder of the game. The idea is that Nb5 should be played immediately to use the pin against the c6 pawn. If Black can get the c8 rook on the b file, there's plenty of counterplay in the center even if they lose more pawns on the kingside. My idea is that I want to play g3 and protect my h4 pawn. However, my opponent was down to <5 minutes so psychologically it's a good move because it sets up a decisive blunder. There's a free candy on h4. :)

21...Nxh4?? I knew he was going to grab it because his eyes were targeting this pawn for too long.
[21...Rb8! 22.f4 (22.g3?? Nd4!
22...Nxf4]

22.Nb5! Killer move played a tempo. My
opponent went down from 5 minutes to 1 second after that move. I had ~30 minutes left and the position is absolutely crushing now for White


My kingside is safe, Black can't mate or get a perpetual with just rook + knight 32.a5 Rc2 33.a6 Rxf2 34.a7 Ne3 35.a8Q Rxe2+ 36.Qxe2+ Black resigns.

A tactically very rich game that forced my opponent into time trouble very fast. I am still reviewing this game a lot as there are a lot of concepts/tactics/motifs that are very interesting IMO.

1-0
This position has been reached by an illustrious panel of superstars -- Carlsen even multiple times on both sides!
Black players who were hoping for an exciting Sveshnikov, Dragon, the Lowenthal even, are instead leaned on positionally. **7.d3 Ne7** Development for its own sake, maybe not good enough. Even if Kramnik played it (it was a speed game, his opponent was Anand, he did draw)...  

[7...Qe7! prepares 8...Nf6 and 9...Nd7, hoping it's more solid -- and it is.]

8.Be3 As per Anand  
[but mostly scoring *much* better is 8.Nbd2!? I have to mention that the one bright light has been h6!? -- 0-3! -- except that it's three decidedly non-world-class games...]

8...b6 **9.a4** As per Anand-Kramnik but nobody else noteworthy.

[9.a3!? doesn't have any GM games but has scored well (obviously the intention is b2-b4, busting it up! ("Letting" Black get rid of the doubled pawn is really besides the point.) If we ignore B-player 0-1 A-player, then it's 5.5-.5!]

[9.Qc1!?

A) **9...0-0** 10.Bh6 (10.a3!?;
10.a4) 10...f6 makes sense but doesn't solve anything;

B) 9...h6!? was Padevsky vs. the "Yugoslav Tal," Dragoljub Velimirovic. Look how the Bulgarian technician's careful play gives Velimirovic no angle for attack, as one pawn and another fall off.


10...0-0
[ 9...a5 was Kramnik (and others of course) keeping a lid on it. Anand and he drew in 67 moves. Oh, did I mention they were playing blindfolded? The famous Melody Amber tournaments in Monte Carlo.


Back to Sobel-Seitzer: 10.a5 Rb8

11.Nbd2 Qc7 12.Nc4 Bg4 13.h3 Be6

14.axb6 axb6 15.b3 Ra8 16.Qd2 f6

17.Qc3 White pushes here and there, Black keeps having to choose one minor negative or another (Trade on c4? Bad bishop remains. Guard e5? Bad bishop gets worse. See how wrong that knight on e7 is?) 17...g5

18.Rxa8 Rxa8 19.Ra1 Ra1+ 20.Qxa1 Qb7 21.Qa3 Nc8 22.b4 cxb4 23.Qxb4 Having first handled some preliminaries (exchanging "irrelevant" pieces)... 23...Bf8 24.Qb2 b5

(Diagram)
25.Ncxe5!? "Hard to resist" here has a double meaning: Sobel couldn't restrain himself and finally forces play, while Seitzer will find the ongoing defense hard to maintain.

[ 25.Ncd2± is the dry preferred computer play. ]

25...fxe5 26.Qxe5

Bf7?? Blocking defense of g7 by the queen is fatal.

[The only, or at least best defense is 26...Qe7! 27.Nxg5 (27.Bd4 Bg7=) 27...Bd7! 28.Qg3 (28.Qf4!? ) 28...Qg7! (28...Bg7 29.f4±) 29.Bd4! 29.Qg6! (29...Bd6!? ) 30.Qe5 Qg7! 31.Qf4 Qg6 32.h4!? h6 33.Nf3 Bd6 34.Be5 Bf8 35.Bb2 White can press with that lava flow of pawns. ]

27.Bd4+- Bg6 28.Qh8+ Kf7

29.Nxg5+

[ 29.Bc5! wins immediately: Be7 (29...Bxc5 30.Nxg5+ Ke7 31.Qg7+ ) 30.Bxe7 Qxe7 (30...Kxe7 31.Qg7+Bf7 32.Nxg5 Ke8 33.Qh8+ Kd7 34.Qxh7! ) 31.Qxc8+- ]

29...Ke8

White will win, but it requires some precision. Sobel fumbles a bit. 30.f4
30.h4

30...Qe7 31.Bf6 Qc5+

32.d4? Now it gets somewhat difficult.

32.Kh1 Qa3 33.Ne6 Bf7 34.Bb2! Qd6 35.Nxf8 Qxf8 36.Qxh7

32...Qa3!(and barely that!) 33.Ne6?

33.Kh2! Qd6! Now something to e5, White could win - but Black could draw; the days of "+" have slipped away.

33...Kf7?? They're back!

33...Bxe4! and -- yes, let the computer look long enough and it's "0.00" down the line. 34.Qg8 Bd5!

35.Nc7+ Kd7 36.Nxd5 cxd5= Still, Seitzer couldn't be comfortable even here.

34.f5! This is over though.

34...Qe3+ 35.Kh2 Bxf5 36.exf5 Bd6+ 37.Be5 Bxe5+ 38.dxe5 And with this win Sobel ties for 2nd-3rd with Luke Widjaja at 5-2, behind Richard Chen at 5.5. Both Chen and Widjaja had earlier requested last-round byes, so this was Board 1. Steve continues fine performances after the previous TNM, which he won with a round to spare.

1-0

Re8?±
[9...Ng4!? 10.Bxg4 Bxg4 11.f3 Be6!? (11...Bd7)]
10.f3 a6 11.g4 d5? 12.g5!+- Nxd4 13.Bxd4 e5 14.Be3?! d4 15.gxf6 Bxf6 16.Qe1
[16.f4]

(Diagram)
Qd4? 35.Rd1?
[ 35.Qh2!= ]
35...Bf6 36.Rd2 Rb7 37.Bb3 Re7
38.Qf1 Re3 39.Rf2? Kg7
[ 39...Rf3! ]
40.Bc4?

Rf3!
0-1

Gu,Thomas 1248
O'Farrell,Trevor 1474
MI Felix German TNM: under1600 (7.17)
[Winslow,Elliott]

Thomas shows he's becoming a dangerous attacker, not to mention a Theory Consumer... 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be3 Be7 7.f3 The English Attack, so-called for being molded into a dangerous line in the 1980s by Nunn, Short and others, bears a resemblance to the Yugoslav Attack in the Dragon, and has really been taken to heart by the youngsters, to the peril of all. 7...a6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.g4
[Twice as common is 9.0-0-0 ] 9...b5
[And here exactly twice as common in Mega 2022 is 9...Nc6 ] 10.0-0-0 Bb7 11.g5 Nfd7 12.h4 Nc6 13.Nxc6 Bxc6

(Diagram)
Most played, best stats.

14...g6?? Suicide, which Thomas sharply takes advantage of.

14.h5 Most played, best stats.


14...g6?? Suicide, which Thomas sharply takes advantage of.

[Walter Browne found himself here (via a transposition from the Najdorf Sicilian of course!), and was doing okay but eventually couldn't keep it together: 14...Ne5 15.f4! Ng4 16.Bh3 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 b4 18.h6! g6! 19.Ne2 e5 20.Kb1 Qa5 (20...Qc7) 21.f5! Qc5 (Diagram)]


Bd4? (28...c3!= A sort of symmetry!)

29.Bd7± 1-0 Barbulescu,D (2370)-Browne,W (2585) Olympiad-26 Thessaloniki 1984 (7)]

15.hxg6 fxg6 16.Bh3+- Rxf3

[16...Kf7 17.f4 (17.Nd5!?)]

17.Bxe6+ Kh8

(Diagram)
18.Rxh7+! Kxh7 19.Qh2+ 1-0

Hao,Max E03
IM Griffith, Kyron 2450
2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 10.1.23
[Griffith, Kyron/(Winslow, Elliott)]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Nf3?! 
[6.Qxc4 is more accurate a6 7.Qc2 and now black doesn't get b5 and Bb7 in so easily]
6...a6 7.Qxc4 b5 8.Qc2 Bb7 9.0-0 c5
Black has neutralized white's queenside pressure and is already slightly better.
10.e3 Rc8 11.Qe2 Qb6 12.b3 cxd4
[14...h5! is the computer suggestion 15.h4 Bb4 16.Bb2 0-0 ]
15.Bb2 0-0 16.Nd2 Nc5
I was struggling to find a plan at this point. 17.Rac1 Rfd8 18.N2f3 Qb7 
[21...a5!? with b4 and a4 coming is interesting]
22.Ne1 Rd7? Now white finds some accurate moves to put black's position under pressure.
The game peters out to a symmetrical endgame. 30.Nd5 Nb6 31.Ne3 Qc7 
32.Rxd7 Qxd7 33.Qd1 Qc6 34.Qc2 Qd7 35.Qd1 Kf7
[35...Nd4?! allows a forced draw 36.Bxd4 exd4 37.Nd5 Nxd5 38.Qxd4 Nb6 39.Qxb6 Qd2+ 40.Kg1 Qxa2 41.Qe6++]
36.Kg2 Nd4 Now the aforementioned line doesn't work due to a ...Nf4+ intermezzo. 37.Bxd4? The engine says that White is still holding but I think this is a bad practical decision since White needs to be very careful to survive now. 
[(EW) White can play carefully with 37.h4 ]
[(EW) Or even 37.Kf2!? since Qxh3?! 38.Bxd4 exd4 39.Qxd4 favors White if anyone Qe6 (39...Qh2+?? 40.Ng2++)]
37...exd4 
[37...Qxd4?? 38.Qxd4 exd4 39.Nf5 d3 40.Kf2+ ]
38.Nc2 d3 39.Nb4? 
[39.Ne3 was the only path to complete equality]
39...d2 40.Nc2! White must get the knight around to an effective route.
40...Qd3?? 41.Kf2□ Nd7 42.Ne3 Ne5

(Diagram)
43.Nf1??

[ 43.f4! is the last chance to hold Nc6 and now 44.Nf1 Qxe4 45.Qxd2 Nd4 Black is still dictating the play but white should hold without too much trouble ]

43...Nxf3! (better than taking with the queen) 44.Ne3 Ng5 White falls apart.

45.Qh5+ g6 46.Qe2 Nxe4+ 47.Kf3 Ng5+ 48.Kf2 Nxf3 49.Qxf3 d1Q+ 50.Kg2 Qg1+ 0-1

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D30

Windslow,Elliott 2223
Sobel,Steve 2012
2023 New Year TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 10.1.23
[Sobel,Steve / Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6
5.b3 SS: Recommended by Boris Avrukh in his Grandmaster Repertoire book.
5...Bb4+ SS: I aim for a setup proposed by Shankland in his Semi-Slav course, but I butcher the move order.
[ 5...c5 ]
[ 5...Nbd7 ]
[ 5...Ne4!? SS: Shankland states (in his Chessable Lifetime Repertoire course): "This is a very important idea, and a very important move order to execute it in. Black prepares to play a sort of stonewall, and often plays Bb4+ to provoke White into playing Bd2. Avrukh analyzes this idea well, but only does so with a 5... Bb4+ move order" ] 6.Bd3 (SS: 6.Nbd2 Nd7 7.Bb2 f5 8.Be2 Bd6 9.0-0 Qf6 is the correct way to enter this structure. (EW: Well, maybe!) )

6...Bb4+ EW: Did Shankland forget his own course? ( 6...Nd7 7.0-0 f5 8.Qc2 a5 9.Ba3!? EW: Before Black even moves the bishop! This was a decade ago, maybe Giri is more sophisticated now? No wait, he was 2714 then :) ) 6...Bxd2+ 7.Nxd2 Nf6 8.0-0 f5 9.b3 Bb4+ 10.Kf1 Qf6 11.bxc4 dxc4 12.Qc2

A) 7...f5 8.Ne5 Nd7 9.Qh5+ EW: Shirov of course! (EW: Just 9.Nxd7 is a moderate plus (±) )

9...g6 10.Nxg6 Nfxg6 11.Qh3 Rg8 12.Nf4 (EW: Stockfish 15.1 (new version, different concept of what "+1" means) is equal or even a touch more after 12.Nf4 Bc3 13.Rb1 ) 12...Bc3 13.Bxe4? dxe4!


B) 7...Nd7 8.0-0 f5 9.a3 Bc3 10.Ra2 Ba5 11.b4 Nc3 12.Qc2
13.Qxa2 Bc7 14.a4 0-0
15.b5 Nf6 16.Ba3 Bd6 17.Ne5 Qe7 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.c5 Qc7
20.Nd3 Bd7 21.Rc1 Be8 22.Qb3 Bh5 23.Ng5 Rae8 24.b6 axb6
25.cxb6 Qe7 26.a5 Ne4 27.Nh3 Ra8 28.a6 bxa6 29.Nxc6 Qd6
30.b7 Rae8 31.Nf4 Bf7 32.Bxa6 Nd2 33.Qb4 Qxb4 34.Nxb4 Nc4
35.Nfd3 1-0 Caruana,F (2781)-Shankland,S (2709) American Cup
Blitz Saint Louis 2022 (8) EW: Okay, so it's a blitz game. But some
explaining is needed on Sam's part!

6.Nbd2 Ne4
[ 6...Bc3 7.Rb1 Ne4 (7...Nbd7; 7...0-0; 7...Nbd7 ) 8.Bd3 Na6!? 9.0-0
 (+- sf15, ± sf15.1)
A) 9...Bxd2 10.Bxd2 Nxd2
11.Qxd2 Nc7 (11...Nb8!?);
B) 9...f5?! 10.Ne5 0-0 11.f3 dxc4
Nd5 15.Qe2 b5 16.Nc6 Qg5 17.f4
Qg4 18.N4e5 Qxe2 19.Bxe2 b4
Bxd5 23.Kh1 Bd2 24.Rcd1 Bxe3
25.Rd3 cxd4 26.Bc1 Nc5 27.Rd1
Be4 28.Bxe3 dxe3 29.Rde1 Rae8
30.N7c6 Nd3 31.Rxe3 Nxe5
32.Nxe5 Kg8 33.Rc1 Rd8
0-1 Vasileva,V (1680)-Galunova,T (1984) BUL-ch op (Women) 20th
Vratsa 2010 (5) ]

7.Qc2
[ 7.a3 Bd6 8.Bb2 f5 9.Be2
"This is the crux of Avrukh's plan. Rather than automatically putting the
Bishop on d3, he instead puts it on e2. As a result, White will be able to play
the typical stonewall regrouping with O-O and Ne1-d3..." - Shankland ]

7...Nd7 SS: 'Shankland stresses that black cannot allow Ne5 or they will suffer.
Hence why I opted for this developing move against the e5 square before f5.'

8.Bd3 f5 9.a3 Bd6 10.Bb2 Qf6
SS: 'Well, we resume our regularly scheduled programming after all...'
11.b4 0-0 12.Nb3
g5N SS: Believe it or not, this is apparently still theory.
[ 12...Qg6 13.0-0 Qh5 14.Qe5 Rf6
15.Qe2 Qh4 16.g3 Qh3 17.f3 Nxe3
18.Qxe3 Qg3+ 19.Qf2 Qh4 20.Qh1
Qg3+ 21.Qg2 Qh4 22.Qh1 Qg3+
23.Qg2 Qh4 24.Qh2 Rg6+ 25.Kh1
Rh6 26.Qxh4 Rxh4+ 27.Kg2 Bxe5
28.dxe5 dxc4 29.Kg3 g5 30.Nd4
Bxd3 31.Nxe6 Nxe5 32.Nxg5 Ng6
33.Rh1 f4+ 34.exf4 Rfxh1 35.Rxh1
Bf5 36.Bc3 Ne7 37.Ne4 Rd8 38.Kf2
Kf8 39.Rd1 h5 40.Bf6 Kf7 41.Be5
b6 42.Ke3 1/2-1/2 Nguyen,N (2632)-
Sengupta,D (2586) Asian Continental
op 16th Chengdu 2017 (9) ]

13.0-0-0 SS: I underestimated the possibility of white castling this way.
13...b6?! SS: '?'
[ 13...g4! 14.Ne1 Qh6! A useful move
- prophylaxis against both f3 and various tempi if the a1-h8 diagonal
ever opens.
A) 15.Qe2 g3!? 16.Bxe4 fxe4
17.f4 (17.fxg3 b6 18.Nc2 )
17...Rf7 18.Nc2 Nf6 19.Qxd4 Qg6
SF considers this slightly better for *black*. In the abstract I can see white's cramped queenside pieces but honestly it's over my head.;

**B) 15.g3 a5! 16.Nxa5 b6 17Nb3 Ba6 18.c5 bxc5 19.Nxc5 Bxd3 20.Nexd3 Nb6 Black claims compensation by heading for the c4 outpost.**

14.c5 Bc7 15.cxb6 Nxb6
[ 15...Bxb6 ]
[ 15...axb6 SS: ! 16.Qxc6 Ra7 17.Qc2 g4 18.Ne1 Qh6 is my last chance to trip white's knight up. ]

16.Ne5 Na4 SS: Aiming for tricks, but even the tricks don't work. 17.f3

17...Nxb2 18.Qxb2 Nd6 19.Nc5 SS: My position is ugly, but my defense even uglier and I quickly lose. EW: Somehow White has stumbled onto a dream position against the Stonewall!

19...Rd8 SS: ??
[ EW: But after 19...a5! White can win the Exchange with 20.Ncd7 ( 20.Kc2!? first could put White over the top! ) 20...Bxd7 21.Nxd7 Qe7 22.Nxf8 Qxf8± and advantage, but (finally!) Black is the one with play against the opponent's king, and that could be significant. (Of course the computers favor White, but not overwhelmingly) 23.Kc2 f4!? ]

[ EW: White could toss in 21.h4 ]

21...a5 22.b5! EW: Obviously White has no interest in seeing any files opening up -- and that passed pawn in fact decides the game. 22...a4?! 23.b6 EW: It's a Lava Pawn, pushing pieces away. (I may have to change my analogy to Surging Floodwater Pawn -- or is it too soon?)

23...Bb7 EW: Collapse 24.Nxb7 Nxb7 25.bxc7 Na5 26.Nxa5 Rxa5 27.Rc1 Qf8 28.Qb4 Raa8 29.Bb5 EW: A rough start for the star of the last couple TNMs, but (1) there are six more rounds ("Swiss Gambit!" Steve noted after the game), and (2) I'm not done yet either!

1-0

**Toledo Guerrero,Fernando 1597**

**Maliev,Anton 1783**

2023 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (1.10) [Winslow,Elliott]


8...Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Nc6?!
[ 9...Ne7 Black will be surprised how quickly his king will get stuck in the center. ]


* (Diagram)*
Qa5?
[ 11...Nge7! -- last chance! --
guaranteeing that ...0-0 happens. ]
12.Nb5! Not so much hanging onto the
pawn as pursuing the initiative (what
these Winawer French's are all about).
12...Ke7? Doing White's dirty work for
him!
[ 12...Nge7!? 13.Nd6+ Kf8
and both ways to play are pretty good
for White: 14.Rb1! (and 14.0-0!? )]
13.0-0 a6 14.Bg5+ f6 15.exf6+ gxf6
16.Rfe1
Nf6 19.Rab1 b5 20.f4 ]
16...e5 17.Nd4 Qxc5

(Diagram)

18.Bxf6+?
[ 18.Qg4! fxg5 19.Rab1 Qa7
20.Qe6+ Kf8 (20...Kd8 21.Qd6+
Ke8 22.Nxc6 ) 21.Qd7! exd4
22.Rxb7 Nge7 23.Rxe7 ]
18...Nxf6= 19.Nxc6+ Qxc6
[ 19...bxc6 20.Qxe5+ Kf7 21.Qc7+
Kg6 22.Qg3++]
20.Qxe5+ Kf7 21.Qe7+ Kg6 22.Re3

Ne4?
[ 22...Rhg8!= ]
23.Rf3?
23...Qe8
A game from the 2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (1.24) [Morris,Daniel]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 e6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 cxd4
I take us out of theory. The main move here is 4...Nc6. 5.exd4 Nf6 6.Bd3 Be7?! I was immediately regretful of this move. I had considered the correct 6...Qb6 here, but rejected it in favor of casting sooner — which is ironic, because I never do castle in this game.
7.Nd2 Nc6 8.Ngf3 Bd6 My dark-squared bishop moves for a second time, but I wanted to get rid of White's bishop. [ 8...Nh5 9.Be3 Qc7 I actually looked at this line, but it didn't seem to lead anywhere. ]
9.Bg5 White's move did not look right to me. 9...h6 10.Bh4 g5 My first candidate here was simply to castle. But I worried that I might be "casting into danger" from the classic London attack scheme, so I decided instead to throw Phillips out of his book with an aggressive g5 push. (In our post-mortem chat, he confirmed that he was on his own after this.) 11.Bg3 Nh5 I thought a bishop trade was all but forced here, but Phillips instead played the one other move I'd looked at — and I was ready for it. 12.Ne5?
[ 12.Bxd6 Qxd6± ]
12...Nxc6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 I had seen all of this before playing my 11th move. 14.fxg3† Now Black is slightly better, and my aggressive 10...g5 has been justified. 14...c5? This steps into a tactical minefield... 15.0-0?
...but fortunately Phillips misses the shot. Black is better once again.
[15.Qh5! Qe7 16.0-0!]

15...cxd4? 16.cxd4? Again we trade the same mistake, and Black is in fine shape. Now here I thought hard about castling, and if I had done so, I would have been in an excellent position—but I balked because of the weird array of kingside pawns. 16...Qb6?!

[16...0-0= It looks awkward, but Black's "inflatable castle" is actually quite sturdy.]

17.Nb3 This is my last chance to simply castle with an equal-ish position, but I feared 18.Rf6. 17...Ba6? Here I simply missed the tactics that follow after a bishop trade on the a6 square. Of course, all of these tactics are made possible by the fact that my king is still in the center.

[17...0-0 18.Rf6 This was the response I was worried about. Kg7! I completely missed this elegant defending move.]

18.Qf3? Yet again we trade mistakes. Now Black should take the enemy bishop, because White's Qxf7 doesn't win anything more than a pawn. But I failed to calculate very far, and instead I made the faulty assumption that Black cannot allow Qxf7.

[18.Bxa6 Qxa6 19.Qh5! Rh7 20.Rf6 Be7 21.Rf2 The a1-rook is coming to the party, and things are starting to unravel for Black.]

18...Rf8?? I didn't even consider 18...Bxd3 because I feared that 19.Qxf7+ was winning. But 19.Qxf7+ actually loses for White!

[18.Bxd3 19.Qxd3 (19.Qxf7+ What I feared, but... Kd8 20.Qg7 Re8 21.Rf7 Be7++ I just didn't bother to calculate beyond Qxf7++ — if I had, I might well have won this game.) 19...0-0!±]


[20...Ke7 21.Qxd5 Kf6 22.Qf3+ Kg7 Still bleak for me, but much more resilient than what I played in the game. Again, a failure to calculate, as I didn't bother looking beyond Qxd5.]

21.Qxd5 Ke7 22.Rac1 Qd7 23.Nc5 From here it's just going to be a mop-up operation for White. I'd seen enough, and resigned. The lesson: Just castle, folks.

1-0

□ Brown,Samuel 751
■ Horde,Nicolas 1356
2023 New Year TNM: u1600 (1.27) [Horde,Nicolas]

EW: Another well-annotated game by Nicolas Horde, who has been putting himself out there and sending them in now for a couple TNMs. 1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.Be5? Awkward 5...0-0 6.Bd3 c5 7.Bxd6 This highlights than 5.Be5 was just a loss of tempo 7...Qxd6 8.b3 Preventing c4 but creating big holes on the queenside 8...cxd4 9.exd4 Nc6 10.Nbd2? e5

[10...Qb4! 11.c4 Qc3 For some reasons I was calculating 12.Nd2 to f1 or back to b1 then 12.Qxd4 13.Bxh7 winning the queen and overlooked that the knight is just pinned.]

[10...Qf4]

11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.0-0 Bg4

[12...Nxd3 13.cxd3 Bf5 14.d4 Symmetrical position which I wasn't a big fan of (14.Qc2 Rac8 15.Qb2 Black has a slight edge but I was not a big fan of creating a symmetrical pawn chains for both players.)]

13.Be2 Ng6 14.Nc4 Qc7 15.Ne3 Be6 16.Nd4 Ne4 Black slight advantage is gone and we reach a normal IQP
position 17Nb5
[ 17.Nxe6 fxe6 SF gives it equal, I like Black better because of the open f file and the strong center ]
17...Qe5 18.Qd4 Qg5 Obviously not trading queens in this IQP 19.Nc3??
Nxc3??
20.Qxc3 Rfd8 21.Rfd1? I didn't see a way to continue the kingside attack so I switched to doubling on the d file and push d4 to force the knight away
21...Rd7
[ 21...f5 With the idea of pushing f4, dislodge the knight from e3 thus weakening g2 with a Nh4 coming in but I was a little hesitant to weakness my kingside that much ]
22.Qa5 a6 Preventing 23.Bb5 which is not a real problem because of 24.d4!
[ 22...Nf4! 23.Bf3 Nh3+ 24.Kf1 I did not see a continuation but the key idea is that Black can exchange a lot of pieces and completely destroy White's pawn chain d4! 25.Qxg5 Nhx5 26.Nc4 Nxf3 27.gxf3 Bxc4+ 28.bxc4 This is completely crushing for Black, White has too many weaknesses ]
23.Qb4 White continues moving the queen around instead of targeting the d5 pawn 23...Rad8 24.Rd4 Qe5
25.Rad1 Ne7 The plan is to reroute the knight to c6 and then forces d4 which will open the center of the board
26.g3?? Nc6 27.Qc3 Nxd4 28.Kf1??
Nc6 Black is up a clean full rook so White resigns.
[ 28...Nxe2 29.Qxe5 White is hoping for this tactic ]
0-1

EW: Even on the lowest boards, interesting games happen! Kris Aldenderfer sent in this game with his notes and thoughts, blemishes and blunders as well, instructive for him as well as us. The overlooked perpetual at the end is worth playing through to! 1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5 Nd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 a6 7.e5

h6 8.Bh4 Qa5 9.exd6 e6 10.Qd2
Ng6 11.0-0-0
11...0-0 12.Ne5?! This almost works, but it was important to take the pawn on c5 first. 12...cxd4 13.Qxd4 Ng4

(Diagram)
14.Qa4? Trading queens like this was the wrong idea. At the time, I thought the passer on d6 was enough to be better in an endgame.


14...Qxa4 15.Nxa4 Ngxe5 16.fxe5 b5
17.Nc3 Nxe5 18.Ne4

18...Nd7
[ 18...Bb7 19.Nc5 Bd5?? ]

22.Nxf3 e5 23.Be7 Rfe8 24.b3 e4
[27...Kxf6 28.g4 e3 29.Ne2 ]

(Diagram)

28.d7! Nxd7 29.Nxf5
[29.g4 Nf6 30.gxf5 g5 ]
29...gx5 30.Rxd7+ Ke6 31.Rh7 Rh8 32.Rc7
[32.Rb7 ]
32...Rad8 33.Rc6+ Rd6 34.Rxd6+ Kxd6 35.Rxf5

Ke6 36.g4 Rh7? Mysterious Rook Move
37.Kd2 Rc7 38.Rh5
[38.a4 bxa4 39.bxa4 e3+ 40.Kxe3 Rxc2 41.Rh5 ]
38...b4 39.Rxh6+ Ke5 40.Rxa6?
Greedy of me. Should have calculated g5 here. 40...Kf4 41.Re6
[41.Rf6+! Kxg4 (41...Ke5 42.g5 Rg7 43.h4) 42.Ke3 Rxc2 43.Rf2]

41...Rc3 42.a4 e3+ 43.Kd1 Rc5 44.h4 Rd5+ 45.Ke1 Rd2 46.g5 Rxc2 47.g6 Rc1+ 48.Ke2 Rc2+ 49.Kd1 Rg2 50.h5 Kf3 51.h6 Rg1+ 52.Kc2 e2 53.g7 Kf2 54.Rxe2+??

[54.h7 e1Q 55.Rxe1 Rxe1 56.g8Q]

54...Kxe2 55.h7

Rdxg7??

[55...Rd1! 56.g8Q Rd2+=]

56.h8Q

1-0
Three Studies

In late November the Uruguayan problemist Alexander Avedisian and his wife Flavia visited the club on a visit to the United States, and Alexander showed us several beautiful studies that he composed. In the short amount of time we had together they proved too difficult to solve, and we asked that he send us the solutions (given here). Alexander later wrote to us:

Dear Chess Program Manager Alex Robins and Chess Coordinator Paul Whitehead of Mechanics’ Institute Chess Room:

I attached my 3 chess studies with the solutions.
Alex and Paul you are good people and you treated me excellent.
Paul I couldn’t be on Friday to watch the Capablanca movie and eat the cookies.
My advice to you Paul is: always follow your intuition.

Thanks, Alexander.

1. A. Avedisian 2020, White wins.
Today is truly the gold age for chess players who want to improve. Not only are more books being published than ever before in a variety of formats, but the quality has improved markedly in recent years. This is due in part to the number of tools that help authors in their job. These include powerful computer engines for analysis, databases with millions of games, and special software like ChessBase. The result is a number of outstanding works and few lemons which makes would be buyers spoiled for choice.

One case in point are books on the endgame. Fifty years ago, there were few works on the subject in English and most, like Basic Chess Endings, were designed more for reference than teaching. Even two decades later the number of good endgame books was still relatively small. Not so any more. Today there are dozens of good ones covering the subject from a variety of angles for players of all strengths. The question now is how can the serious student find what they need.

One way is to check out trusted reviewers. Another way is to test drive a prospective title before making the purchase. This used to be possible by going to tournaments and checking out the book dealer’s stock, but for all but the biggest events those days are long gone. Online stores with discount prices have made it all but impossible for small local dealers to compete.

Fortunately, most publishers these days offer readers ways to check out their offerings by providing sample chapters from them. Such is the case with New in Chess - https://www.newinchess.com.

The Dragon Sicilian: A Take-No-Prisoners Repertoire Versus 1.e4 by Anish Giri (hardcover, 224 pages, $30)

Life at Play a Chess Memoir by Lubomir Kavalek (hardcover, 400 pages, $40)

The Ink War Romanticism versus Modernity in Chess by Willy Hendricks (hardcover and paperback, 480 pages, $43 and $35 respectively)

1001 Chess Endgame Exercises for Beginners: The Tactics Workbook that Also Improves Your Endgame Skills paperback by Thomas Willemze (paperback, 312 pages, $27)

Chess Endgames for Club Players: The Essential Skills for a Forceful Finale by Herman Grooten (paperback, 400 pages, $35)

The How to Study Chess on Your Own Workbook by Davorin Kuljasevic (paperback, 240 pages, $28)

The Hidden Laws of Chess: Mastering Pawn Structures by Nick Maatman (paperback, 256 pages, $27)

Keep it Simple for Black: A Solid and Straightforward Chess Opening Repertoire for Black by Christof Sielecki (hardcover, 416 pages, $38)
One of the bright spots for chess during the first stages of the pandemic, when over the board play was shut down, was the number of top-level players who, with plenty of time on their hands, started to write and lecture. One of them was the great Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri who did a Chessable course on the Dragon Sicilian which now appears in print form in a handsome hardcover edition.

Occasionally top ten players have essayed the Dragon (Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura are two who come readily to mind), but it has never enjoyed the popularity of the Najdorf or Sveshnikov among the world’s top ten. The same is not true of the lower ranks where the sharp and dynamic play found in the Dragon, especially in the Bc4 lines of the Yugoslav Attack, have always enjoyed a dedicated following.

This makes it somewhat ironic that the anti-Yugoslav Attack variation of the Dragon that Giri proposes for Black could hardly be considered daring. That said it is solid, easy to learn and in good theoretical shape.


Here White, with his two bishops and space advantage, was long thought to have an advantage, but Giri demonstrates Black’s position is quite defensible.

He then goes on to analyze not only all the relevant Dragon lines but also provides a complete Sicilian repertoire for Black starting at move 2 with coverage of the Alapin, Closed, Grand Prix, 3.Bb5+, 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 and even 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3.
This book, which is highly recommended, will interest a wide audience. Club players will find it provides all the detail they need while higher rated players are pushed the right direction for further investigation. Giri’s assessments are clear and to the point.

Anyone with an interest in the Dragon, including Sveshnikov players who meet 3.Nc3 with 3...g6, heading into the Accelerated Dragon, will want this material whether as a book or a Chessable course with or without video.

The Czech-American Grandmaster Lubomir Kavalek, who died in early 2021, is remembered both as a top player (he was rated in the top ten in the world on the January 1974 FIDE rating list) and as one of the finest writers on the game. He had a long running column in the Washington Post (and later the Huffington Post), wrote often for Chess Life & Review in the 1970s and did much good for RHM Press – his book on the 1975 Wijk aan Zee tournament is well remembered.

His last parting gift to the chess world is Life at Play a Chess Memoir which is the rare chess book that can be read cover to cover. Kavalek had a full and memorable life from his days as a junior player to playing for the US Olympiad team. He shares his memories of seconding both Bobby Fischer (games 13-21 in Reykjavik) and Nigel Short who he helped earn the right to play a World Championship match with Garry Kasparov. The biographical section of this book is nicely supplemented by a selection of his best games with his notes. This beautiful hardcover is a book to be treasured.

Dutch International Master Willy Hendriks, known for his original thoughts in books like Move First, Think Later: Sense and Nonsense in Improving Your Chess, and On the Origin of Good Moves: A Skeptic’s Guide at Getting Better at Chess is back again with more of his iconoclastic views in Romanticism versus Modernity in Chess. This time around he traces the rise of professional chess in the 19th Century as it butted heads with amateur players who held antiquated views about the game they didn't want challenged.

Hendriks devotes much of his book on the first World Championship match between William Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort which was held in New York, St. Louis, and New Orleans in 1886. This coverage not only ties in with the themes of his book, but fills a gap as previous works in English on this match like the 1952 work by the California Chess Reporter (Chigorin’s notes translated from Russian by Albrecht Buschke) are long outdated.

The title of this book (The Ink Wars) references the polemics waged in 19th Century chess magazines and newspaper columns. Steinitz was in the thick of these battles through his writings in the International Chess Magazine, a publication loved by Bobby Fischer who was a big fan of the first American World Champion.

New in Chess publishes books on all aspects of the game but its bread and butter has always been instructional works for the masses and the following four titles all fit in this category.
The title of Dutch IM Thomas Willemze’s latest book perfectly describes its contents: *1001 Chess Endgame Exercises for Beginners: The Tactics Workbook that Also Improves Your Endgame Skills*. This is the perfect book to give to someone who is just starting out and doesn’t know much beyond the rules of the game.

The noted trainer Herman Grooten, who worked with Grandmasters Loek Van Wely, Benjamin Bok, and Robin Swinkels in their formative years, has written a number of instructive works for amateur players and his latest, *Chess Endgames for Club Players: The Essential Skills for a Forceful Finale* will add to his reputation. This book, which is arranged by theme rather than material, is considerably more advanced than Willemze’s work and best suited to players rated in the top end of the club player range - roughly 1800-2300.

Croatian Grandmaster Davorin Kuljasevic, who hit the ball out of the park with his first two books (*Beyond Material* and *How to Study Chess on Your Own*) has narrowed his target audience with his latest - *The How to Study Chess on Your Own Workbook: Exercises and Training for Club Players (1800 - 2100 Elo)* which provides plenty of exercises for amateurs looking for a well thought out study plan.

Dutch International Master Nick Maatman offers advice on how to handle typical pawn structures (isolated pawn, hanging pawns, mobile pawns, doubled pawns, hanging pawns, etc.) in his first book, *The Hidden Laws of Chess: Mastering Pawn Structures*. Maatman writes clearly and uses fresh and well-chosen examples in this work aimed at players in the 1600 to 2200 range.

Christof Sielecki, following his well-received opening repertoire books based on 1.e4 and 1.d4, has now written a book from Black’s perspective. *Keep it Simple for Black: A Solid and Straightforward Chess Opening Repertoire for Black* provides answers to all White’s opening moves in a little over 400 pages. This includes the Caro Kann against 1.e4 (1...c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6) and the Queen’s Gambit Declined against 1.d4 (1...d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxc4 and 4.Nf3 a6). One unifying theme of the repertoire is the adoption of both sides of the Carlsbad pawn structure (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 and 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3). This book offers the basics for a repertoire that should last a longtime.

Last but not least, *The Chess Battles of Hastings* by Jürgen Brustkern and Norbert Wallet takes a look at one of the most famous and well-known tournaments in the world. The English coastal town of Hastings has hosted an annual tournament for over 100 years, interrupted only by World War II. German FM Jürgen Brustkern, who has made Hastings his second home having played in the event 40 (!) times, is the perfect guide to explain the mystique behind this event which at one time was one of the premier events in the world despite often offering winter weather reminiscent of Siberia. Stories of colorful incidents and of elite players who have made these events so memorable can be found throughout along with a selection of games.
Sarah Beth Cohen

Pierre Charles Fournier de Saint-Amant (1800-1872)

(Image from Wikipedia)

This item originally appeared in the MI Newsletter #395 of April 30, 2008 (https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/395#395_2):

"It's long been theorized, but with no concrete evidence, that he [Pierre Charles Fournier de Saint-Amant] must have played chess during his stay in San Francisco. Now NM John Blackstone has uncovered the proof and the beginning of what was quite possibly the first formal chess club in San Francisco."

Then it goes on to give the two interesting accounts from the "Daily Alta California" found by NM Blackstone outlining a proposed match of 15 games between Saint-Amant and 15 members of the newly formed San Francisco Chess Club and then followed up with the progress of the match three days later.

The introduction to presenting this discovery the Newsletter states, "Every year the Mechanics' holds a tournament to honor the great Pierre Saint-Amant who served as French consul for California during the Gold Rush." But no one thought to consult Saint-Amant's own account of his diplomatic visit.

Both Saint-Amant and his wife, Françoise, published accounts of their stay in North America and both mention chess.
In M. Saint-Amant’s "Voyages En Californie Et Dans L’orégon" (published 1854), he wrote (in French. My imprecise translation hopefully gets to the heart of the meaning) about chess in San Francisco:

"During the winter of 1851 to 1852 twenty to twenty-five chess enthusiasts had formed the habit of choosing my home for a chess club. We played every evening and, by means of a monthly dues, the rental of the place of our meetings, which was a bedroom, a living room and a cellar, was paid for. One could mention that at these meetings two players, one English and the other American were of second strength; another Englishman, a Frenchman and a Mexican were in the third class, and there were a few other distinguished players. There are certainly very few of our own provincial towns, and I don't even know of any, that can field such a contingent."

San Francisco isn't the only place chess comes into the narration. About his short stay with "l'ancien président du Mexique le célèbre Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna," in Mexico, Saint-Amant wrote:

"I tried to offer the general the less bloody arena of the chessboard, but although a former subscriber to the Palamède and just appreciator, he assured me, of the struggles that I had supported for a quarter of a century, he flatly and positively refused me to play a single bout of the noble game about which he nevertheless told me. he had taken part in Mexico in games covered with gold up to 100 ounces, more than 8,000 francs, stake on each side. I had, despite my entreaties, no chance of bringing this barbarian to substitute, even for a moment, chess for his cockfighting games. May the Ghost of Philidor forgive this impotency of my efforts."

Under the heading: GAMES AND HORSE RACES AMONG THE INDIANS, the Frenchman wrote (apparently taken by the comparison between American Indian and Indians from India):

"I have never studied their games but they have nothing approaching Chess. It is correct to recognize that they did not have the same motivation for indulging in these combinations as did the Hindus among whom this game arose. I always recall the stories of M. de Jouy [author of "Tippo-Saëb Tragédie En Cinq Actes"], repeated so many times, about watching from the top of his palanquin the chess games played by his porters at each stop during his crossing of the Indian peninsula. Did it not add to work of the witty author of Tippoo Saëb? I will not say that I was expecting something similar, for I would have been more than a little surprised to see there Philidors and Labourdonnais reincarnated and as skillfully able as my European contemporaries to dispute my superiority on improvised chessboards in the sands of the Columbia."

Saint-Amant gave the following description of San Francisco's chess-like geometry:

"The houses, as if perched on the high streets of the city, which have been hollowed out so as to approach the level of the lower city, seem to remain there as if to attest to the human works carried out in order to give San Francisco the shape and the horizontality of all the cities of America. We know that they are generally a compound of straight streets intersecting vertically, forming as many squares (quadrants) and presenting the appearance and arrangement of a chessboard. To complete the comparison, the streets are commonly given names which are in one sense only numbers, and in the other only the letters of the alphabet, from A1 to Z and an indefinite number. It is simply what we chess players call Philidor's notation. This style, rather sad and monotonous, is convenient for the foreigner, who is thus immediately oriented. In San
Francisco, it has been preferred so far to give its straight streets and square squares the names of the heroes of independence: Washington, LaFayette, Franklin, Montgomery, or we go down to the celebrities of the locality, more modest but no less estimable: Stockton, Kearney, Frémont, Vallejo, Sutter etc."

Saint-Amant had planned on leaving for America prior to the 1851 International Chess Tournament in London but couldn't leave as scheduled due to lack of funding for the consulate position he was awarded by Louis Napoleon in gratitude for his help during the 1848 riots. Although he had declined his invitation to participate in the tournament, he ended up attending as a spectator for a few days. However, he sent Madame de Saint-Amant on to America as scheduled, almost a year before he could leave, to pave the way and to get everything set up but also to light a fire under Louis Napoleon to release the funds. (Madame de Saint-Amant left in mid July 1850; her husband at the end of May, 1851).

Taking the quickest, though a most arduous route, Madame de Saint-Amant, traveling unaccompanied, sailed to Panama, crossed it by river boat, then caught the steamer Republic to San Francisco. Her husband would take the overland route.

Françoise de Saint-Amant wrote many letters to her husband, most full of wit and charm with comments such as, "The crocodiles with which the Chagres river is infested, are said to be more teeth than bite. But I wasn't prepared to test that reputation."

She even had something clever to say chess-wise:

"It's amazing how the sea is favorable to religious feelings, especially heavy seas! It must be as rare to meet an atheist sailor as to meet a chess player with no excess of self-esteem. What do you say?"

And:

"We have already arrived. I found a great chess fan here, Mr. Cairry. Your name has earned me a most gracious welcome from him and his wife, who is charming and highly educated; she speaks four languages. I had a lot of fun in their company. Chess, for which you steal so many hours from your wives, and which have so often made me curse, have therefore procured me, indirectly, some pleasant moments? It's the first time, and certainly this compensation was due to me... at least in the other world. Mânes de Palamède, réparation!"

These excerpts are from letters included in her book, "Voyage en Californie, 1850 et 1851" (published 1854) and some were published in the Parisian press as well.

On his departure trip in 1852, Saint-Amant stopped in New York and played Charles Stanley, the unofficial U.S. Champion. They played eight games, each winning four. But his chess adventures there don't seem to have been limited to this one match. In his chess column for "Porter's Spirit of the Times" March 7, 1857, replying to a correspondent, Charles H. Stanley wrote:

"A FRENCHMAN'---Your informant didn't deceive you: M. Saint Amant did favor the amateurs of New York with a specimen of his great attainments, on his way home from California. He was not,
however, beaten on any occasion in New York; that is to say, in the course of a whole setting, he never lost a majority of the games to any other player."

Saint-Amant seems to have had fairly fertile chess life in North America, at least far more so than normally considered, since documented accounts are usually just the iceberg's tip.

Vive la France! Vive les Échecs.

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**The Chess Scuttlebutt**

**Links to some of the news that make up our world.**

Chess Club, profiled here, is a group in Seattle that meets at different venues for over-the-board play.

Nigerian chess prodigy Tanitoluwa Adewumi and his family are granted asylum in the US.

GM Hikaru Nakamura takes down GM Magnus Carlsen in yet another online blitz championship.

A chatbot writes a chess program in one hour.

GM Sergey Karjakin fails to upend Andrey Filatov as president of the Russian Chess Federation.

Journalist IM Tania Sachdev is also well known as a style maven.

Chess boxing is a thing, and International Arbiter Judit Sztaray makes sure the players keep it honest.

FIDE announces that they are still in the process of investigating the Carlsen/Niemann scandal.

It’s official: chess.com now owns PlayMagnus, and membership soars to 100,000,000.

In Florida? Coral Springs has a chess meet-up on Mondays.

Or maybe you’re in Coconut Creek.

Chess Café habitue IM Sal Matera was in conversation with FM James Eade.

Stefan Zweig’s classic novel *The Royal Game* (1943) is now a film.

A new trend for the chess elite? GM Arjun Erigaisi signs a 1.5 million dollar deal with Quantbox.

At the World Rapid and Blitz Championships held in Kazakhstan, Iranian women compete without wearing the hijab.

Big-time betting on chess enters the distinct realm of possibility.

Refusing a body scan can lead to your getting kicked out of a tournament.

GM Raymond Keene sums up the year in chess 2022 in English-style fashion.

The Carlsen/Niemann brouhaha was not the only sports cheating scandal in 2022.
Magnus Carlsen and Tan Zhongyi are the winners in the World Rapid Championship. Carlsen also wins the World Blitz Championship in Kazakhstan, and Bibi Assaubayeva repeats as Women’s Champion on her home turf.

An old blog post about chess players getting in trouble with the law is oddly hilarious.

FIDE moves towards integration with cryptocurrency.

Chess hits the schools in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Play chess on the Isle of Wight.

Here’s a recipe for Lemon Chess Pie.

FIDE announces the 1st Chess Workshop for Women in Stockholm, Sweden.

GM Alexandra Kosteniuk will now play for Switzerland.

Chess is part of the scene in the trendiest bar in Los Angeles.

Iranian International Arbiter Shohreh Bayat receives the Women of Courage award from the US State Department.

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**Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches**

Are you interested in joining the team at Mechanics’ Institute? The Institute is currently seeking Scholastic Chess Instructors for the upcoming school year. Qualified candidates should have a foundational knowledge of chess and should be familiar with or willing to learn chess instructional techniques. Candidates should also have a basic foundation in classroom management and conflict resolution strategies, particularly working with children. This is an in-person position and candidates must be able to commute to schools in San Francisco. If you’re interested follow the link below or reach out to our Chess Program Manager, Alex Robins, at arobins@milibrary.org.

[Employment Opportunities | Mechanics’ Institute (milibrary.org)]

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**Recent Games**

A selection of games played around the world that have caught our attention.

Blacks commits the classic error of unnecessarily weakening his own king position. 1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6
A pretty and unusual combination nets white a pawn - and ultimately the game.


(Diagram)

13.Bxh7+! Kxh7 14.Ne6 Qxg3
15.hxg3+ Kg8 16.Nc7 Nf6 17.Nxa8
Ng4 21.Rf1 Re6 22.Nd7 Rh6 23.Nd1
a5 24.Nc5 b6 25.Nd7 b5 26.b3 a4
27.Rg1 axb3 28.axb3 Re6 29.Nc5
Re7 30.Nd3 Ra7 31.Nc3 g6 32.Re1
Ra3 33.Kc2 Kg7 34.Kb2 Ra8 35.Na2
Rh8 36.Nab4 Rh2 37.Rg1 Ne7 38.Kc2
Nf6 39.Ne5 Ne4 40.Nbd3 f6 41.Nf3
Rh8 42.Ra1 Nf5 43.Ra7+ Kh6 44.Rc7
Ra8 45.Kb2 Ra6 46.Nc5 Nxc5
47.Nxc5 g5 48.g4 Nh4 49.Nd4
1-0

10.Qd2 0-0 11.0-0-0 Bd7 12.Kb1 b5
16.Nxb5 Rb8 17.Nd6 Qc7 18.b3 Bxd6

(Diagram)
Rce8  29.Qc6  Qa7+  30.Kg2  Rc8  
31.Qd5  Qg7  32.Qe6  Rce8  33.Qc6  
Qb2  34.Bd3  Rc8  35.Qxc8  Rxc8  
36.Rxc8+  Kg7  37.Rc7+  Kf6  38.Bc4  g5  
39.fxg5+  Ke5  40.Bd3  Kd6  41.Rc4  Qe5  
42.Rf6+  Ke7  43.Re6  Kh7  44.R6c5  
Qe3  45.Rc3  Qd2  46.Kf3  Qe1  47.Bxc2  
Qf1+  48.Kf3  Qg1+  49.Kd2  bxc2  
50.Kxc2  Qxh2  51.Re5  Qh1  52.Rd3+  
Kc6  53.Kd2  Qa1  54.Re6+  Kc5  55.Ke3  
Qc1+  56.Ke4  Qf1  57.Re5+  Kc6  
58.Ke3  Kb6  59.Rd6+  Kc7  60.Rf6  
Qg1+  61.Kf3  Kd7  62.Rh6  Qb1  63.Kg4  
Qb4+  64.Qe1  65.Rxh7+  Kd6  66.Rd5+  
Ke6  67.Rh6+  Ke7  68.Re5+  Kd7  
69.Kf5  Qxg3  70.Rhe6  Qh4  71.Kg6  
Qh8  72.Re8  Qh2  73.Kg7  Qb2  
74.g6  Qh2  75.Kg8  Qa2+  76.R8e6  
1-0

Carlsen gets revenge against the 2022 
World Rapid Champion.  1.b3  e5  2.Bb2  
Nc6  3.e3  Nf6  4.Nf3  Bd6  5.c4  0-0

Van Foreest,Machteld

A fine attacking game from the winner of 
the Dutch Women's Champion.  1.d4  Nf6  
2.c4  c5  3.d5  e6  4.Nc3  exd5  5.cxd5  
d6  6.e4  g6  7.f4  Bg7  8.Nf3  0-0  9.Be2  
b5  10.e5  Nfd7  11.0-0  b4  12.Ne4  dxe5  
Bxe5  16.Bg5  Qb6  17.Bc4  Bb7  18.Qf3  
21.Rad1  Bd4+  22.Kh1  Qe5  

Diagram
A beautiful shot instantly ends the game.


1-0
A nice attack by the winner of the Womens World Rapid Championship.

1.d4  d5  2.c4  e6  3.Nc3  Nf6  4.cxd5 exd5  5.Bg5  Be7  6.e3  h6  7.Bh4  c6
14.Ne5  Nxe5  15.dxe5  Nf5  16.Bf4  g5  17.Bg3  Rd8  18.Qe2  Nxd5  19.hxg3  b5
26.exd5  Qxd5  27.Qd3  Kf8  28.e6  Qxe6  29.Rd1  Qxe4

30.Rxf7+!
1-0

21.Qf4  Ne8  22.g5  Bc5  23.Bxc5  Qxc5  24.h5  Bb5


(Diagram)

[37...g6!]

38.a6+ Ka8 39.f8Q?

[39.f3!+-]

39...Rxf8 40.Qd7

Rxf4+!-+ 41.gxf4 Qg2+ 42.Kh4 Qxf2+ 43.Kg4 Qg2+ 44.Kh4 g5+ 45.hxg6 Qh2+ 46.Kg4 h5+ 47.Kf3 Qh1+ 48.Kf2 Qh4+ 49.Kf3 Qg4+ 50.Qxg4

Qe8?+- 66.g8Q Qe2+ 67.Qg4 Rh8+ 68.Kg5 Qe3+ 69.Kf6 Qh6+ 70.Ke7 Qc6 71.Qg8+

1-0


Bxb2! 0-1
The San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship returns to over-the-board play in Spring 2023. “As many youth chess players know, Mechanics’ Institute had to pivot during the pandemic and move most of our classes and tournaments online. Over the past year and a half, the Institute’s staff have worked diligently to ensure that we have been able to return to more schools and in-person tournaments in our scholastic enrichment program,” said Kimberly Scrafano, CEO of Mechanics’ Institute. “While we have appreciated the opportunity to organize our annual chess championship online for the last three years, we are excited to announce that the Institute is planning to host the 2023 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship in-person and live in Golden Gate Park this spring.”

The Mechanics' Institute's San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship has brought together hundreds of young players of all levels annually since 2015. The intent of the event is to foster competition in a friendly environment, and therefore there are both non-rated and USCF-rated sections, engaging players of all skill levels. With past grant support from the Morris and Alma Shapiro Fund, the A.O. Dragge Foundation, the Mary A. Crocker Trust, and First Republic Bank, the Institute has been able to offer this event free to all players.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 4. The San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship will take place at 10am at the San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park.

For more information, and to register for the Scholastic Championship, go [here](#).
Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Café

(January 5, 2023–San Francisco and All Points)

I’ll never know how many wins have been lost to me by trying for too much. It’s a familiar idea – trying to be too perfect instead of being just enough.

In December during round 7 of the last TNM, a player nearby was one of two I saw whose 1. d4 2. c4 opening was met by black with a famous but rare and dangerous gambit. While both kings were still on their original squares, three of white’s minor pieces were actively cutting and hopping through the half-open middle four files. I watched long enough to believe white was going to exchange pawns at b5 and take the remaining one with his knight, which would then threaten c7, assisted by his bishop at f4, while the other bishop was nearly ready to maneuver onto the open diagonal leading from the center to the black rook at a8.

But it looked like something else was done; and several moves later those original chances had mutated enough not to be called back. It made me think of a player who used to be around decades ago, nicknamed Carefullert, a different kind of player, who often tried to drive one extra nail into the winning process which unwon it. He had a good sense of humor about that, and a philosophical attitude that didn’t curse or complain too much when such a disappointing result leveled his hard-won hopes. He always reminded himself that he’d won a lot of games, too, and he went on to win a lot more.

The Chess Café has been going strong for well over two years. It has gathered a core of habitués and a rolling panorama of visitors and guests. It has reinforced and developed our ties with the Marshall Chess Club in New York, players deep in the heart of Texas, and other associations of chess players. All levels of the chess world share the 90-minute space in the Zoom room.

At the last meeting on December 19 (which I noted was Al Kaline’s birthday), there was a lot of interesting discussion.

“Did anybody else watch Nakamura beat Magnus by one point? . . . Naka’s awfully good in quick games. He always wanted to beat Carlsen in blitz.”

“People seem to be taking a stand against OL chess.”

But, it was noted, Chess.com just passed 100m subscribers, and it has 20m daily users.

There was a comment on the top players at Chess.com who’ve been caught cheating. And a follow-up noting that a private company determines for them who’s cheating, but their algorithms are contested.
Terri sent in a game, Steinitz-Paulsen, 1870, a Vienna with 3. f4 exf; 4. d4 Qh4+. It was noted that Steinitz here would actually put his K on d3 and get good games. He was stubborn and would defend bad positions. In the game under consideration, 8. Ke3 was suggested to get out of the pin by black’s Bg4.

Further games were Salangsang vs. Hack from the December 16-17 John Donaldson Championship at Mechanics’ Institute (I blundered away my passed pawn on the 6th rank, but he didn’t take it, which allowed me to enter a winning queen and pawn endgame.)

Then Mike Anderson vs. David Blohm, 1995. The latter was a Mechanics’ Institute regular, too, who later became a professional bridge player. The variation of the Sicilian that was chosen led Sal Matera to recall, “The Wing Gambit and a prayer.”

Then Caruana-Liang, Rd. 9 of the U.S. Championship in St. Louis on October 11; Mike Walder vs. Joe Urquhart, and Kevin Sun vs. Walder, both from the Mechanics’ Institute.

Paul noted that Karjakin lost his stab at the presidency of the Russian Chess Federation, adding, “I think he was too awed by Carlsen. They all are except for Nakamura.”

Alexey noted that Aronian has the most classical wins against Carlsen since he became World Champion: 4. Then the names Vishy Anand, and Jan-Krzysztof Duda, the highest ranked Polish player of all time, were mentioned before adjournment.

The National K-12 Grades Championship occurred from December 9-11 in National Harbor, Maryland along the Potomac River near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge just south of Washington, D.C. 2,463 of the nation’s best scholastic players participated, breaking the old record of 1,827 in 2017. They came from 42 states, with 939 from New York and 388 from Florida. There were 13 sections with individual and team champions. Time control was G/90 d 10.

In the 7th grade section, Sebastian Suarez of the Mechanics’ Institute finished clear 3rd on tie-breaks after tying for 2nd through 7th out of 219 entrants. Rated 1860 before the tournament, he scored 6 out of 7, one-half point behind the winner, Eric Chang Liu of Texas, rated 2263, and tied with Isaac Wang (2210) of California, the 2nd place finisher. He came out ahead of Alexander Wang (2203), also of California. He won his first three games against lower-rated competition, then beat a 2115 player from Connecticut who finished 9th. In rounds 5 and 6 he drew against no. 14, rated 1937, from Florida, and no. 10, rated 2053, from New Jersey. In round 7 he played black for the second time in a row and beat no. 19, a New Jersey player rated 2074.

We hope to hear more in the future about the drama of winning four consecutive games from the start, his thoughts during some of his games and later, and his observations of the event and some of the other players.

(Information about joining the weekly Chess Café can be found [here.])
A Puzzle in the Library

Every week or so the Mechanics’ Institute’s Head of Technical Services, Steven Dunlap, puts up a chess puzzle in the library for our members to solve.

White to move. The position is from Aslan–Shley, Peter Grey Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon 2022. Annotating the game in Chess Room Newsletter #1022, IM Elliott Winslow pointed out the beautiful possibility of 1.Nxe6!! Qxe3 2.Rc8+ Kh7 3.Nf8+ Kg8 4.Ng6++ Kh7 5.Rh8# (Diagram)
Tony’s Teasers

White mates in 2 moves.

White mates in 2 moves.
Upcoming Events

Tournaments

2023 New Year Tuesday Night Marathon
Tuesdays, January 10-February 21, 2023. 6:30pm. USCF + FIDE Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5
Information and link to register.

Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person
Saturday, January 21, 2023, 10am. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5.
Information and link to register.

Monthly Championship Quads
Saturday, January 21, 2023, 3pm. 3 games of G/30;d5.
Information and link to register.

2023 San Francisco Scholastic Championship
Saturday, March 4, 2023, in Golden Gate Park
Information and link to register.

Classes

Free Women’s Online Class with FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams - Ongoing
Every Sunday from 10am-12pm. Information and link to register.

Introduction to Chess: Free Class for Mechanics’ Institute Members with FM Paul Whitehead
7 classes, in person. Wednesdays, January 11-February 22, 2023, 5-6pm.
Information and link to register.

Game Analysis Series with FM Paul Whitehead
8 classes, in person. Thursdays, January 26-March 16, 2023, 5-6pm.
Information and link to register.

Other Offerings

Chess Café, Mondays 4-5:30pm, ongoing.
Information and link to register.

Chess Social, First Fridays 5-6pm, See attached flyer.

Solutions

Three Studies

Kc3! = 5.Qd4+ Kc16.Kb4! +-


Tony’s Teasers

1. V.L.Eaton 1957. 1.Qg3! Intending 2.Kxe2#. 1…Nxg3 2.Rc3#.

2. I. Dumitru 1970. 1.Ng3! Zugzwang. 1…Kd6 (1…Kf6 2.Bb2#) 2.Bf4#.

Contact Us

The Mechanics’ Institute Chess Club is on the 4th floor at 57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA.
Our phone number is (415) 393-0110.

We welcome any feedback, articles, or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today at chessroom@milibrary.org

With over 3,000 books and periodicals, The Mechanics’ Institute boasts one of the largest chess book collections in the U.S.

You can now access our newsletter directly from the chess home page! https://www.milibrary.org/chess
Join the Chess Room for Chess Socials!

Free and encouraged for MI Members

5-6pm
First Fridays of the month:
January 6th
February 3rd
March 3rd
April 7th
May 5th

Unwind from the week with fellow chess players. We’ll have rousing game replays on the big screen, snacks, and lively conversation. Wine available for purchase in the Meeting Room provided before the CinemaLit program. Stick around for CinemaLit at 6pm!

Questions?
Contact chessroom@milibrary.org