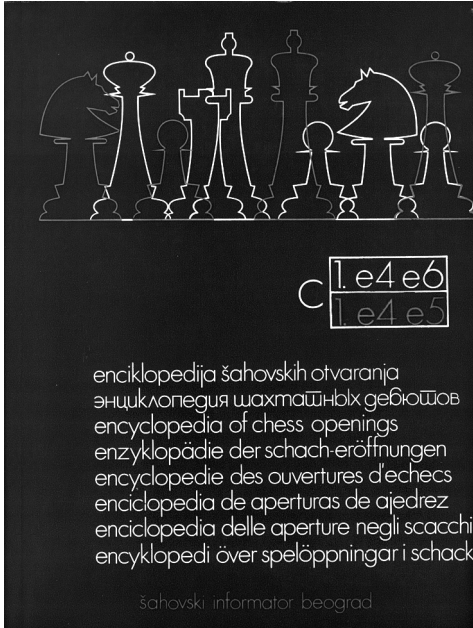
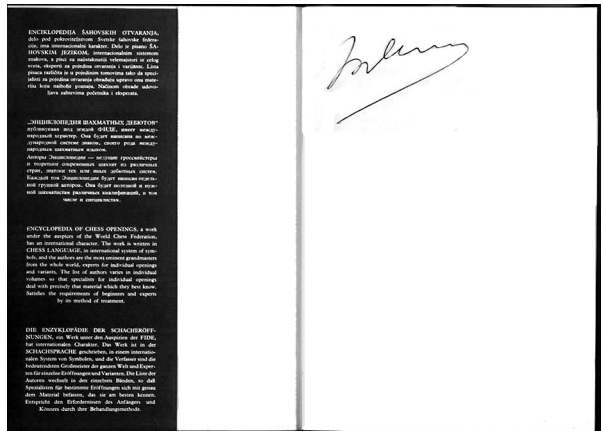


# EDITORIAL PREFACE



Half a century ago the first edition of the Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings was released, as a truly unique, ground-breaking tome completely dedicated to one particular portion of the vast universe of chess openings. Such monumental work was a logical continuation to the Informant series which came to life a few years earlier. *Chess Informant* introduced a completely revolutionary system of chess signs, and also created the classification of chess openings, according to codes (ECO codes). Both of these were quickly recognized for their clarity, simplicity and precision thus becoming universally accepted among chess players, aficionados, and publishers alike. Today Chess Informant's ECO Codes and System of Signs are integral parts of the universal chess culture and heritage.

Also, it should be noted that the International Chess Federation (FIDE) supported and promoted the Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings from the very beginning understanding the importance of systematic approach to the study of chess openings. Max Euwe, the former World Champion and acting FIDE President, attended the launch of the first volume praising the endeavours of the Chess Informant editorial board and all the contributors.



Signature of Dr. Max Euwe on the first page of the first encyclopaedia in 1974

Over the years, and subsequent editions of five ECO tomes (A, B, C, D and E) all the greatest chess players and analysts contributed to the Encyclopaedias, each focusing on the sections which they were most acquainted with, producing astounding analyses and recommendations.

As a result five ECO tomes were considered to be the fountains of truth in the realms of chess openings study, and even more so in the pre-computer era. The amount of working hours and energy invested in producing such meticulously crafted books was staggering, almost impossible to grasp from our modern-day perspective.

Eighteen years passed since the previous edition of the Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings – Volume B was released. These days, the opening theory develops with lightning speed, so it was a really complicated task to produce a tome which would be both instructive and informative for the modern-day chess players and enthusiasts. We tried to keep all the major qualities of the previous ECO Volumes intact, but to make the book easier to read and browse through, especially when used as a source of reference. Of course, powerful engines made significant impact to the analysis, allowing the contributors to check and evaluate all the sharpest Sicilian lines e.g. with superb precision. The material we gathered was so rich in details and nuances, so ultimately we decided to publish the ECO B Volume in two parts. We are positive that omitting any of the lines would be a terrible shame, so you will have the pleasure of reading and digesting the material in its completeness. Therefore, at this point we present you the first part of the B complex of openings, with the second part following very shortly.

Finally, we are sure that the human touch should remain crucial, so all the members of the editorial crew gave their absolute best in researching, analysing, evaluating and suggesting lines of the greatest value and strength, thus allowing you to read the book and apply the lines in your own games with complete confidence.

Dear friends, we hope that the results of our effort will bring you countless enterprising games and improve your play overall.

Editorial board  
Beograd, November 2020.