

**The  
Life & Games  
of  
Akiva Rubinstein**

**Volume 2: The Later Years**

**Second Edition**

**by  
John Donaldson  
&  
Nikolay Minev**



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The Life & Games of Akiva Rubinstein

Volume 2: The Later Years

Second Edition

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John Donaldson and Nikolay Minev

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The Life & Games of Akiva Rubinstein: The Later Years



*Akiva Rubinstein*  
*1882-1961*

## Introduction to the Second Edition

Akiva Rubinstein's last tournament game was almost seventy years ago, so does it make sense for present-day players to study his games for anything more than nostalgia? Certainly Rubinstein was a modern player for his time, but seventy years is seventy years. Today few study the games of his contemporaries with avid interest, but Rubinstein endures. Why?

One could point to his profound influence on modern opening theory where the Ruy Lopez, Four Knights Game, French, Queen's Gambit Accepted, Queen's Gambit Declined and Nimzo-Indian all felt his special touch. Richard Réti in his *Modern Ideas in Chess* wrote that Morphy developed the principles of play in open positions and that it was Rubinstein who did the same for closed ones. Certainly Rubinstein was one of the first chess scientists, developing opening systems that sometimes carried through to the endgame. His influence on Botvinnik in this approach to the game was great. Rubinstein played many beautiful games and enjoyed numerous competitive successes, but in concrete terms what can he offer?

Rubinstein remains especially relevant to present-day players in two areas. The first is in providing model games that clearly illustrate how to plan ahead. Games between modern grandmasters are typically messy affairs and one seldom sees a player obtain a strategically winning position early on. Unlike many of Rubinstein's opponents, who did not know what was coming, today's grandmasters know exactly what their opponent is trying to do and will muddy the waters early rather than willingly submit to a passive position with no hope of counterplay.

Look at the famous game between Rubinstein and Salwe played at Łódź 1908. Akiva's play against the Tarrasch variation of the Queen's Gambit, in which he gives Black hanging pawns and blockades the d4- and c5-squares, is a part of the technical knowledge of every master today. Knowing what happened to Salwe, modern players will take radical action rather than acquiesce to a static disadvantage. Rubinstein's games, in which the great master was often given carte blanche to implement long-term plans, are still models for students wishing to learn positional chess.

The other arena where Rubinstein continues to reign supreme is in the art of strategic planning in the ending, particularly those involving rooks and pawns. Computers may have brought many benefits to society but the improvement of endgame play is not one of them. Playing games to a finish is obligatory in a time of Rybka and Fritz but the lack of adjournments has definitely had an impact on present-day players in the final phase of the game. The introduction of accelerated time controls also has had a negative effect. Often one reaches the endgame with only a few minutes on the clock with the thirty-second increment providing time to do little more than react.

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This was not the case when Rubinstein played and some of the examples from his practice (for example the famous rook ending against Matisons from Carlsbad 1929) continue to offer valuable study material for even world class players. The decision by Mihai Marin to include Rubinstein's rook endings in his book *Learn from the Legends* should come as no surprise. Rubinstein's games are still relevant.

This new edition of *Akiva Rubinstein: The Later Years*, which covers the second half of his career, owes much to the generosity of Simon Constam of Hamilton, Ontario, and Tony Gillam of Nottingham, England.

Simon made available a notebook of Akiva's younger son, Sammy, which included training games between the two and opening analysis they did, possibly with the assistance of future grandmaster Albéric O'Kelly de Galway. These all-Rubinstein battles vary dramatically in quality but provide a fascinating glimpse into how Akiva systematically set out to learn the truth about certain opening variations in the years immediately after World War II. He may have retired from tournament play in 1932, but these games and analysis show Akiva had lost none of his love for chess.

Besides making the contents of this notebook available, Simon provided many photographs from the Rubinstein family archives, few of which have been previously published.

Tony Gillam, who like Simon is one of the world's greatest experts on Rubinstein, recently unearthed many unknown games between Akiva and his early rival Georg Salwe, including several from their matches, in the *Neue Éódÿer Zeitung*. Tony was unable to examine all the issues of this publication so there is an excellent chance that more games may be found. His discoveries can be found in the annex at the back of the book.

Since the publication of the first edition of *Akiva Rubinstein: The Later Years* fifteen years ago, the number of new tournament game discoveries after World War I has been slim. Grandmaster Luc Winants, who also contributed many photographs, was able to find the first part of Rubinstein's victory over Colle from Meran 1924 in a Belgian newspaper. Tony Gillam discovered the opening and early middlegame of Selezniev-Rubinstein from the same event in Professor Becker's opening archive at the Max Euwe Center in Amsterdam but comprehensive attempts by Luca D'Ambrosio to finding the remaining moves of the two games have proven unsuccessful. Toni Preziuso supplied Rubinstein-Selezniev, from round one of Triberg 1921 (game 20a) and a game from the Rubinstein-Teichmann match of 1908, not included in the second edition of *Uncrowned King*, will be found in the annex at the back of this book.

These may have been the only new tournament efforts of Akiva's to surface from the time period 1921-1932 but many exhibition games have been found. Such



## Introduction

games are often of poor quality – typically only the exhibitor’s losses are preserved – but that is not entirely the case here, where the reader gets the added bonus of seeing Akiva test new opening and middlegame plans. Alan Smith of Manchester, England, found many games from Akiva’s simul tour of England in 1925 and Toni Prezioso discovered close to two dozen from all periods of Rubinstein’s career. These later games will be found in the annex at the end of this book.

*Rubinstein: 100 de sus mejores partidas recopiladas y una nota biografica*, authored by Jaime Baca-Arus and Jose Ricardo Lopez, and published in Havana in 1922, has long been thought to be the first book to be published on Rubinstein but that is not in fact the case. John DeArman’s *Rubinstein’s Games of Chess: A very incomplete collection of the match and tourney games of a great master* was printed ten years earlier in Pasadena, California.

This has to be one of the rarest chess books in the world and it is quite possible the Los Angeles Public Library holds the only copy. The catalogue lists the book as 236 pages long, but actually this is only the number devoted to games; another 36 pages of flowery prose precede it. The book is a little smaller than the fourth edition of *Modern Chess Openings*, about 6½ by 4 inches (16.5cm x 10.2cm), but is packed with information. While DeArman has nothing original to offer he did do a first rate job of gathering information from many sources including the *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, the *American Chess Bulletin* and tournament books for many of the events Rubinstein played in ending in 1911.

This is not the only book that DeArman published. The Los Angeles Public Library also has his works on Nuremberg 1906, Hamburg 1910, San Sebastian 1911 and *The Kings of Chess*. The latter is an updated translation of a work by J. Rademacher (1905), published by DeArman in 1910, listing the tournament and match records of every master who has gained a prize in any international tournament. This is the only work of DeArman listed in the Cleveland Public Library catalogue for the John G. White collection.

The authors would be very interested in hearing from readers who have any information on DeArman, who is quite a mystery. His name does not produce any hits on Google nor did he play in any of the Northern California-Southern California chess matches between 1912 and 1926.

Garry Kasparov’s *My Great Predecessors: Part 1* and Mihai Marin’s *Learn from the Legends*, are outstanding books that have appeared since the first editions of our two volumes on Rubinstein were published. Neither deals primarily with Akiva but both contain much valuable material on him. Kasparov’s section on Rubinstein focuses almost exclusively on the period before World War I while Marin’s covers rook endings throughout his career. These are must reading for fans of Rubinstein. We can also strongly recommend the chapter “My Rubinstein” by Boris Gelfand in *Akiba Rubinstein’s Chess Academy*, Krzysztof Pytel’s pioneering effort on

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Rubinstein as well as the games collection by Yuri Razuvaev and V.I. Murakhveri. Unfortunately the last two books are only available in Polish and Russian, respectively.

Improved technology has made our job much easier the second time around. Fifteen years ago there was little in the way of historical chess material online – now there is a flood. We found Edward Winter’s *Chess Notes* ([chesshistory.com/winter/index.html](http://chesshistory.com/winter/index.html)), Anita Sikora’s Rubinstein site ([rubina.yfw24.de/](http://rubina.yfw24.de/)) and Wojciech Bartelski’s Olimpbase ([www.olimpbase.org](http://www.olimpbase.org)) to be extremely useful as well as the Wikipedia entries for individual Polish players. These resources proved to be quite reliable but others on the Internet less so. One account described the Dutch master Jan Willem te Kolsté as “one of the most imposing players in chess history – nearly 7 foot tall, weighing near 250 pounds and with hands the size of a chessboard.” This would be quite fascinating if it was true but we found no evidence to support these claims.

Fifteen years is a lifetime for chess computer engines considering the progress that has been made. We did not use them at all for the first edition and have tried to be selective in using Fritz 12 and Rybka 3.0 for this book, turning on the silicon oracles only when the occasion demanded. Rubinstein’s games are admired but more for his broad strategic palette and not his exacting tactical analysis. This approach is particularly true for analysis by Rubinstein and his contemporaries whose comments we have tried to attribute as carefully as possible. When a game has multiple annotators we have endeavored to make clear exactly who has analyzed what but often there has been overlap. Games without attribution are annotated by the authors who are also responsible for short observations in brackets.

Jeremy Gaige’s *Chess Personalia* was used for player’s names. Common English usage was followed for well-known foreign cities (Vienna, Moscow and Warsaw) but for lesser-known ones we have used their native name (Göteborg, Łódź and Rogaška Slatina).

This series on Rubinstein has been a large undertaking and we would like to take the opportunity to thank those that have helped us the past two decades. These books would certainly have been poorer without their assistance.

Sadly, the list of those we would like to thank include several helpers who have passed away, including both of Akiva’s sons – Jonas and Sammy, the great chess historian Ken Whyld, Alice Loranth, who headed the John G. White Collection of the Cleveland Public Library for many years, Ton Sibbing of the Max Euwe Center, the Swedish chess researcher Arne Berggren, former *Inside Chess* Editor Michael Franett, the American chess historian Jack O’Keefe, and one of Akiva’s opponents, J.H.O. graaf van den Bosch (Hilversum, Netherlands).

## Introduction

Besides Simon Constam, Tony Gillam, Alan Smith and grandmaster Luc Winants, we would like to thank Lissa Waite, Pamela Eyerdam and Oksana Kraus of the John G. White Collection of the Cleveland Public Library for their assistance (and for permission to use the photograph of Lasker on page 168) and the following individuals:

Andy Ansel (Laurel Hollow, New York), Hans Baruch (Berkeley), Christiaan M. Bijl (the Hague), Jonathan Berry (Nanaimo, Canada), Christopher Carter (Fairborn, Ohio), Maurice Carter (Fairborn, Ohio), Luca D'Ambrosio (Bolzano, Italy), Angelo DePalma (Newton, New Jersey) Karl De Smet (Brussels), Nathan Divinsky (Vancouver), Mark Donlan (Marblehead, Massachusetts), Calle Erlandsson (Lund, Sweden), Andrzej Filipowicz (Warsaw) John Gillam (Cincinnati), Lars Grahn (Malmö), Eli Hiltch (Ramat Gan, Israel), Peter Holmgren (Tyresö, Sweden), Holly Lee (Berkeley), Paul Liebhaber (San Francisco), Jason Luchan (New York), Robert Moore (San Francisco), Michael Negele (Wuppertal, Germany), René Olthof ('s-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands), Jack Peters (Los Angeles), Motoko Reece (Cleveland), Anna Rubinstein (Charleroi, Belgium), Yvette Seirawan (Amsterdam), Per Skjoldager (Fredericia, Denmark), Eric Tangborn (Issaquah, Washington), Herman van Engen (Hilversum, Netherlands), Marius C. van Vliet (Eindhoven, Netherlands), Rob Verhoeven (the Hague) Edward Winter (Satigny, Switzerland), Tadeusz Wolsza (Warsaw) and Val Zemitis (Davis, California).

Last and certainly not least, we like to give a big thanks to our past and present publishers, Yasser Seirawan and Hanon Russell, whose support was crucial to producing two editions of this series which has grown to over eight hundred pages.

We apologize if we have inadvertently left anyone out. It goes without saying that any errors or omissions are the sole responsibility of the authors.

We have endeavored to make this work on Rubinstein as complete and accurate as possible. Should any readers have new information and/or corrections we would be very eager to hear from them. The authors can be contacted by writing to John Donaldson at either [imwjd@aol.com](mailto:imwjd@aol.com) or Mechanics' Institute Chess Director, 57 Post Street, Room 408, San Francisco, CA, 94104.

This book is dedicated to Holly Lee and Elena Minev.

John Donaldson  
Nikolay Minev  
February 15, 2010

or finally 17...♖fc8 18.♙xh7+ ♖f8 19.♗b1 g6 20.♙xg6 fxg6 21.♗xg6, with a decisive attack. If Black plays 16...h6 or 16...g6 there would follow 17.♗d3 ♖fd8 18.♗c3, with a decisive advantage for White. The following move, which weakens the black king position, is therefore practically forced.

**16...f5 17.♙b1 e5 18.e4! ♗d4**

(W) 18...f4 was better.

(K) White would have obtained an equally overwhelming position after 18...f4 by 19.♙a2+ and 20.♙d5.

**19.♗x♗d4 e×d4 20.♙x♗d4 f×e4?**

(K) Black had to play 20...♙×e4, meeting 21.f3 with ♗c6!, and 21.♙×e4 with f×e4! 22.♗g4 ♖ad8. In each case Black would have a very difficult, but perhaps a playable, game. After the text, a pawn goes.

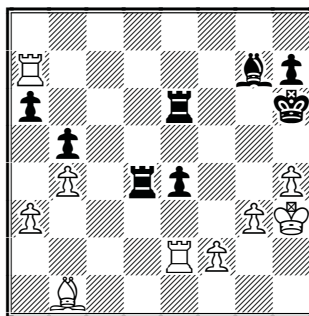
**21.♖fe1 ♖ae8 22.♗g4! ♙b8 23.♙a2+**

(W) This check was also decisive after 22...♙a8 or 22...♖f4.

**23...♗h8 24.♙xg7+ ♗xg7 25.♗xg7+ ♗xg7 26.♖d7+ ♗h8 27.♖x♗7 ♙e5 28.♙f7! ♖d8 29.g3 ♖d4 30.♗g2 ♖c8 31.♖e2 ♖c7 32.♖b8+ ♗g7 33.♙a2 ♙f6 34.♖g8+ ♗h6 35.♙b1 ♖e7 36.h4 ♙g7 37.♗h3 ♖e6 38.♖a8 ♙f6 39.♖a7!**

(K) Now White threatens 40.f3!

**39...♙g7**



**40.♙×e4!!**

(K) A beautiful and astonishing finale.

**40...♖d×e4 41.♖×e4 ♖×e4 42.♖×a6+ ♗h5 43.f3! 1-0**

### Dresden, April 4-14, 1926

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	T
<b>1 Nimzowitsch</b>	x	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8½
<b>2 Alekhine</b>	½	x	1	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	7
<b>3 Rubinstein</b>	0	0	x	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	6½
<b>4 Tartakower</b>	0	0	½	x	½	1	½	½	1	1	5
<b>5 von Holzhausen</b>	0	½	0	½	x	0	1	1	0	1	4
<b>6 Johner</b>	0	½	0	0	1	x	0	1	0	1	3½
<b>7 Yates</b>	0	½	0	½	0	1	x	0	1	0	3
<b>8 Sämisch</b>	0	0	0	½	0	0	1	x	½	1	3
<b>9 Blümich</b>	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	½	x	0	2½
<b>10 Steiner</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	x	2

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This ten-player round-robin, held to commemorate the 50th year jubilee of the Dresden Chess Club, saw Rubinstein lose to his two chief rivals, Nimzowitsch and Alekhine, and decimate the rest of the field. This was one of Nimzowitsch's greatest triumphs.

(238) *Yates – Rubinstein*

Dresden (1) 1926  
Alekhine [B02]

1.e4 ♖f6 2.e5 ♗d5 3.♗c4 ♗b6  
4.♗b3 c5 5.♞e2 ♗c6 6.♗f3 d5  
7.e×d6 e6 8.♗c3 ♗×d6 9.♗e4  
♗e7 10.d3 ♗d5 11.0-0 0-0  
12.♗d2 b6 13.♞ad1 ♗b7 14.♞fe1  
♞d7 15.♗c1 ♞ad8 16.♗g3 ♞fe8  
17.♞e4?! ♗f6 18.♞h4 ♗d4  
19.♗e5 ♞c7 20.♗h5 ♗×h5  
21.♞×h5 ♗d6 22.♗g4 ♗×b3  
23.a×b3 f5! 24.♗e3 ♞c6 25.♞h3  
b5! 26.♗f1 e5 27.♗g5 ♞d7 28.f4  
♞f7 29.♞g3 ♞e6 30.♞f2 ♞g6  
31.♗d2 e×f4 32.♗f3 h6 33.h4  
h×g5 34.h×g5 ♞d7 35.♞d2 ♗×f3  
36.♞×f3 ♞×g5 37.♞de2 ♞b7  
38.♞e8+ ♗f8 39.♞h3 ♞g3  
40.♞h2 g6 41.♞f2 ♞h7 42.♞g1  
♞d5 0-1

(239) *Rubinstein – von Holzhausen*

Dresden (2) 1926  
Queen's Gambit Declined [D06]

1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 c5 3.c4 c×d4 4.c×d5  
♞×d5 5.♗c3 ♞a5 6.♗×d4 a6 7.g3  
e5 8.♗b3 ♞b4 9.♗g2 ♗f6 10.a3  
♞b6 11.♗e3 ♞c7 12.♗a4 ♗c6  
13.♗b6 ♞b8 14.♞c1 ♗g4 15.♗d5  
♞d7 16.♗b6 ♗d6 17.0-0 0-0  
18.♞d2 ♞e6 19.♞fd1 e4 20.♗c5  
♗×c5 21.♗×c5 ♞f5

On the alternative 21...♞d8 22. ♗e7+  
♞×c7 23.♗×e7 ♞×d2 24. ♞×d2, White  
also wins an exchange.

22.f3 e3 23.♗×e3 ♗×e3 24.♞×e3  
♗e6 25.♗×f8 ♞×f8 26.♞b6 ♞e5  
27.e4 f5 28.f4 ♞b8 29.e5 1-0

(240) *Sämisch – Rubinstein*

Dresden (3) 1926  
Queen's Pawn [D02]

Notes by Wiarda from *Der Jubiläumsschachkongress zu Dresden*.

1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 e6 3.♗f4 c5 4.e3  
♗c6 5.c3 ♗f6 6.♗d3 ♞b6 7.♞c1  
♗d7 8.♗bd2 ♞c8 9.♞b1 ♗e7  
10.h3 0-0 11.♗e5 ♞fd8 12.♗h2  
♗e8 13.0-0 g6 14.♞h1 ♗d7  
15.♗×d7?!

Better is 15.♗ef3.

15...♞×d7 16.♗f3 ♞dd8 17.♞e1  
a6 18.♞c1 ♞g7 19.♞d2 ♞a7  
20.♞e2 c×d4 21.e×d4 ♞b6  
22.♗f4 ♞d7 23. ♗e5 ♞dd8  
24.♗×c6 ♞×c6 25.♞d2 f6 26.♞e2  
♗f7 27.♞ae1 ♞d7 28.g4?! ♞d8  
28.♗g3 ♗f8 29.f3 ♗e7 31.♞h2 b5  
32.a3 ♞b7 33.h4 ♗d6 34.♗×d6  
♞×d6 35.f4 ♞c8!

A very good move, which will serve  
well for both attack and defense.

36.h5 g×h5 37.♞g1 ♞h8 38.f5  
♞g8 39. ♞h6 e×f5 40.♗×f5?

Here 40.g×f5 was better, because after  
the text move Black obtains strong  
pressure on the g-file. After 40.g×f5  
♞×g1+ 41.♞×g1, Black cannot play



*Dresden 1926: seated L-R, Nimzowitsch, Alekhine, Otto Krüger, v. Holzhausen, Johner; standing L-R: Rubinstein, Sämisch, Tartakower, Dr. Christof Jobst (tournament director), Blümich, Steiner and Yates.*

41...♗g3+ because of 42.♖g2, and White wins.

40...♙g6 41.♙×g6 ♖×g6 42.♗×h5 ♖bg7 43.♗f5 ♖g5 44.♗d3 ♗d7 45.♖e1 ♖×g4 45.♗f1 ♗f7 46.♖h6 ♖7g5! 48.♗h3 ♗g8

49.♗f1, but after 49...♗g6! 50.♖h2 ♖h5 51.♗f2 ♗g5 (threatening 52...♖×h2+ and 53...♖h4), Black has a decisive advantage.

49...♖g3 50.♗h2 ♖g2 51.♗h3 ♖5g3 52.♗×g2

Otherwise mate follows in a few moves.

52...♖×g2 53.♖f8 ♗×f8 54.♗×g2 ♗f4 55.♖e2 h5 0-1

(241) *Rubinstein – Blümich*

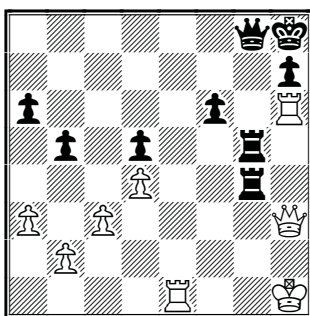
Dresden (4) 1926

King's Indian [E62]

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.c4 ♙g7 4.g3 0-0 5.♙g2 d6 6.♘c3 ♘c6 7.d5 ♘b8 8.♘d4 e5 9.d×e6 f×e6 10.0-0 e5 11. ♘c2 ♘c6 12.h3 ♙e6 13.♘d5 ♗d7 14. ♗h2 h6 15.♙e3 ♗h7 16.b3 ♖f7 17. ♗d2 ♙f5

49.♖×f6

This loses immediately. The best defense against the threat of 49...♗g1+ 50.♖×g1 ♖×g1+ 51.♗h2 ♖e1! was



18. ♖xf6+ ♜xf6 19. ♖b4! ♜f7  
 20. ♖xc6 bxc6 21. ♗a5 a6 22. ♜ad1  
 ♙e6 23. ♜d2 ♗e8 24. ♜fd1 ♙c8  
 25. ♗a4 ♙b7 26. ♙e4 ♗d7 27. ♙g2  
 ♜af8 28. ♗g1 ♗e8 29. ♗b4 ♗a8 30.  
 ♗a4c5 31. ♙d5 ♙xd5 32. cxd5 ♜b8  
 33. ♗e4 a5 34. ♜c2 ♜ff8 35. ♜c4  
 ♜b6 36. g4 ♙f6 37. ♗g2 ♙g5  
 38. ♙xg5 hxg5 39. e3 ♗d8 40. ♗g3  
 ♗g7 41. ♜h1 ♜b4 42. ♜b1 ♗f6  
 43. ♜f1 ♜h8 44. ♗g2 ♜hb8 45. ♗g3  
 ♜h8 46. f3 ♜hb8 47. ♜f2 ♗e7  
 48. ♗g2 ♗e8 49. ♗c2 ♗f7 50. ♜xb4  
 axb4 51. ♗c4 ♜a8 52. ♗g3 ♜e8  
 53. ♗e4 ♗d7 54. ♜h2 ♗b5 55. ♜f2  
 ♗a6 56. h4! gxh4+ 57. ♗xh4 ♜h8+  
 58. ♗g3 ♗c8 59. f4 ♗d8 60. g5 ♜h5  
 61. ♗f3

This was the sealed move. Rubinstein suggested 61. ♜h2 as an improvement. However, in the tournament book Blümich gave 61... ♜xh2 62. ♗xh2 ♗a8 63. fx e5 ♗xa2+ 64. ♗h3 ♗f2, drawing.

61... ♗c8 62. ♜h2 ♜xh2 63. ♗xh2 ♗a8?

This loses. Correct was 63... ♗f5, with equality – Blümich.

64. fx e5 ♗xa2+ 65. ♗h3! dx e5 66.  
 ♗f6+ ♗h7 67. ♗e7+ ♗g8  
 68. ♗d8+ ♗g7 69. ♗xc7+ ♗g8  
 70. ♗d8+ ♗h7 71. ♗e7+ ♗g8  
 72. ♗e6+ ♗h7 73. ♗f7+ ♗h8  
 74. ♗f8+ ♗h7 75. ♗h6+ ♗g8  
 70. ♗xg6+ ♗f8 77. ♗f6+ ♗g8 78.  
 g6 ♗a7 79. d6 c4 80. ♗d8+ 1-0

The following game is number 67 in *The 100 Best Chess Games of the 20th Century, Ranked*, by Andrew Soltis.

(242) *Nimzowitsch – Rubinstein*  
 Dresden (5) 1926  
 English [A34]

This won the prize for the best-played game of the tournament. Notes by Nimzowitsch from the tournament book.

1. c4 c5 2. ♖f3 ♖f6 3. ♖c3 d5

Rubinstein plays this variation frequently, compare the games Réti-Rubinstein, Baden-Baden 1925, and Zubarev-Rubinstein, Moscow 1925. [See games 174 and 201.]

4. cxd5 ♖xd5 5. e4

One of my novelties.

5... ♖b4

5... ♖xc3 6. bxc3 g6 looks more solid.

6. ♙c4 e6

In case of 6... ♖d3+, White planned 7. ♗e2!. [Today this variation is one of the main theoretical lines.]

7. 0-0 ♖8c6

Perhaps 7... ♖4c6! is preferable.

8. d3 ♖d4 9. ♖xd4 cxd4 10. ♖e2 a6

Forced. White keeps the extra pawn after 10... ♙e7? 11. ♙b5+ ♙d7 (11... ♖c6 12. ♗a4) 12. ♖xd4 ♙f6 13. ♗a4.

11. ♖g3 ♙d6

If 11... ♙e7, then 12. ♗g4 0-0 13. ♙h6 ♙f6 14. ♙xg7! ♙xg7 15. ♖h5.

12. f4 0-0 13. ♗f3

The consequences of 13.e5 ♘c7! are not favorable for White, e.g., 14. ♖g4 ♖h8 15. ♗h5 ♖g8 16. ♖f3 f5! 17. exf6 gxf6 18. ♖h4 ♖g6 19. ♖h3 ♖e7, followed by ...♗d7 and ...♖ag8, while the plan initiated by the text builds more pressure.

**13...♖h8 14.♗d2 f5 15.♖ae1 ♗c6 16.♖e2 ♖c7**

Better was 16...♗d7.

**17.exf5 exf5 18.♗h1!**

The beginning of an interesting knight maneuver. The knight will be transferred via f2 to h3. It should be noticed that this time consuming maneuver does not give up the e-file and therefore it was important, at this very moment, to foresee 22.♖d5 (see next note).

**18...♗d7 19.♗f2 ♖ae8 20.♖fe1 ♖xe2 21.♖xe2 ♗d8**

If 21...♖e8, then 22.♖d5!, for example, 22...♗e7 23.♖f7, and White keeps the situation well in hand.

**22.♗h3 ♗c6**

Here, against 22...♖e8, White has the piquant reply 23.♖h5! ♖xe2 24. ♗g5! h6 25.♖g6 hxg5 26.♖h5mate.

**23.♖h5 g6 24.♖h4 ♖g7 25.♖f2! ♗c5**

White meets 25...♖b6 with 26.b4!, threatening 27. ♗c3.

**26.b4 ♗b6 27.♖h4!**

Weaker was 27.♖e1?! ♗e4 28.♖h1 ♖c6! 29.♗b3 ♗d5, after which Black consolidates his position.

**27...♖e8**

White wins immediately after 27...♖f6? 28.♗g5 h6 29.♗h7!

**28.♖e5 ♗f7**

If 28...h6 29.g4!, with a decisive attack, e.g., 29...fxg4 30.f5! ♖xe5 31. f6+ ♖xf6 32.♖h6 mate.

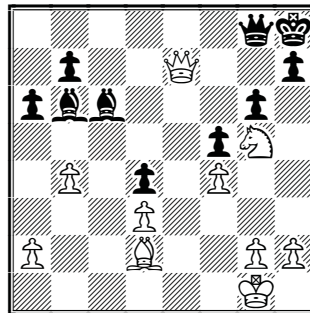
**29.♗xf7 ♖xf7 30.♗g5 ♖g8 31.♖xe8 ♗xe8 32.♖e1**

Black is lost because he cannot put up resistance against the mating attack.

**32...♗c6**

White wins after 32...♖h6 33.♗e6!, or 32...♖f8 33.♖e5 ♗d8 34.♗e6+ ♖e7 35.♖c5+!! ♗d7 36.♗f8+.

**33.♖e7+ ♖h8**



**34.b5! ♖g7**

Black gives up a piece, which is equivalent to resignation. In case of 34...axb5, White planned the following elegant win: 35.♗e6! h5 36.♖f6+ ♖h7 37.♗g5+ ♖h6 38.♗b4, and mate in a few moves (38...h4 39.♗f8+ ♖h5 40.♗f7 g5 41.h3, etc.).

**35.♖xg7+ ♖xg7 36.bxc6 bxc6 37.♗f3 c5 38.♗e5 ♗c7 39.♗c4**



♖f7 40.g3 ♙d8 41.♙a5 ♙e7  
42.♙c7 ♖e6 43.♗b6 h6 44.h4 g5  
45.h5 g4 46.♙e5 1-0

(243) *Rubinstein – Alekhine*

Dresden (6) 1926

Queen's Pawn [A47]

Notes by Alekhine from the *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, 1926.

1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.♙f4 b6 4.h3  
♙b7 5.♗bd2 ♙d6! 6.♙×d6 c×d6  
7.e3 0-0 8.♙e2 d5 9.0-0 ♗c6  
10.c3 ♗e4 11.♗×e4 d×e4 12.♗d2  
f5 13.f4 g5 14.♗c4 d5 15.♗e5  
♗×e5 16.d×e5 ♖h8 17.a4?

The decisive mistake! Correct is 17.g3  
♙g8 18.♖h2.

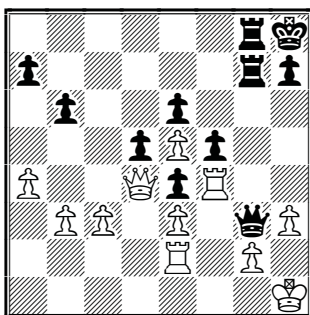
17...♙g8 18.♖d2 g×f4 19.♙×f4

If 19.e×f4 ♖h4!, threatening 20... ♖×h3  
and 20...♙×g2+!

19...♖g5 20.♙f1 ♖g3 21.♖h1  
♖g7 22.♖d4 ♙a6 23.♙f2 ♖g3!  
24.♙c2 ♙×f1 25.♙×f1 ♙ac8 26.b3  
♙c7 27.♙e2 ♙cg7 28.♙f4 ♙c7  
29.♙c2 ♙cg7 30.♙e2 (D)

30...♙g6! 31.♖b4 ♙h6 32.h4  
♖g7!

Stronger than 32...♙×h4+ 33.♙×h4  
♖×h4+ 34.♖g1.



33.c4

Black wins after 33.♖d6, 33...♙g6  
34.♙4f2 f4! 35.e×f4 e3.

33...♙g6 34.♖d2 ♙g3!

Threatening 35...♙h3+ 36.♖g1 ♖g3, etc.

35.♖e1 ♙×g2 0-1

(244) *Tartakover – Rubinstein*

Dresden (7) 1926

Queen's Pawn [A47]

1.♗f3 ♗f6 2.b3 e6 3.♙b2 ♙e7  
4.e3 b6 5.d4 ♙b7 6.♙d3 d6  
7.♗bd2 ♗bd7 8.e4 0-0 9.c4 c5  
10.d5 e5 11.0-0 ♙e8 12.♗e1 ♗f8  
13.f4 e×f4 14.♙×f4 ♗g6 15.♙f2  
♗d7 16.♗c2 ♗de5 17.♗f3 ♙f6  
18.♗e3 ♙c8 19.♗×e5 ♗×e5  
20.♖e2 ♙h4 21.g3 ♙g5 22.♙×e5  
♙×e3 23.♖×e3 ♙×e5 24.♖f4 ♖e7  
25.♙af1 ♙×h3 26.♙b1 ♙d7 27.h4  
♙e8 28.♙e1 f6 29.g4 h6 30.h5  
♙d7 31.♙g2 ♙e8 32.♙f1 ♙g5  
33.♖h2 ♙e5 34.♖d2 ♙b8 35.a4  
a6 36.♖g1 ♖d8 37.♙a1 ♖c7  
38.♖h2 ♙be8 39.♖f4 ♖b7  
40.♖h1 ♙e7 41.♙b2 a5 42.♙f1  
♙c8 43.♙g2 ♙e8 44.♖h2 ♖e7  
45.♙ff2 ♙g5 46.♙g3 ♙d7 47.♖g1  
♙e5 48.♖h2 ♙f8 49. ♙gg2 ♙e8  
50.♖d2 ♙f7 51.♖g1 ♖h8 52.♙f5  
♙g8 53.♙gf2 ♙e8 54.♖f4 ♖d8  
55.♙×e5 ♙×e5 56.♖g2 ♙h7  
57.♖f3 ♖e7 58.♙e2 ♖g8 59.♙h2  
♖f7 60.♙e2 ♙g5 61.♙h2 ♖e5  
62.♖×e5 ♙×e5 63.♖f4 g6  
64.h×g6+ ♖×g6 65.♙e2 ♖g7  
66.♙f3 ♙g6 67.♙h1 ½-½

(245) *P. Johner – Rubinstein*

Dresden (8) 1926

Queen's Gambit Accepted [D21]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♟f3 dxc4 4.e4 c5  
 5.♞xc4 cxd4 6.♞xd4 a6 7.♞e3 ♟f6  
 8.♞d2 b5 9.♞b3 ♞b7 10.f3 ♞d6  
 11.a4 ♞e5 12.♞f1 ♟c6 13.♞xc6  
 ♟xd1+ 14.♞xd1 ♞xc6 15.♞c1 ♞d7  
 16.b3 0-0 17.♞g3 bxa4 18.bxa4 ♞fb8  
 19.0-0 a5 20.♞f2 ♞b4 21.♞d2 ♞e8  
 22.♞e2 ♞xa4 23.f4 ♞xd1 24.fxe5  
 ♞xe2 25. exf6 ♞b5 26.♞cd1 h6!  
 27.♞d4gxf6 28.♞xf6 ♞xe4 29.h4h5  
 30.♞c1 ♞f4 31.♞e5 ♞f5 32.♞c5  
 ♞c6?

Correct is 32...♞c4!, and Black wins  
 after 33.♞xa5 ♞f1+ 34.♟h2 ♞xa5.

### 33.♞d3?

According to Palitsch in the tournament  
 book, White missed drawing with  
 33.♞xa5. In our opinion, even in this case  
 after 33...♞f1+! (not 33... ♞xa5? 34.♞d8+  
 ♟h7 35.♞h8+ ♟g6 36.♞g8+ and per-  
 petual check) 34. ♟xf1 ♞xa5 35.♞d8+  
 ♟h7 36.♞h8+ ♟g6 37.♞g8+ ♟f5  
 38.♞g5+ ♟e4 39.♞f6 ♞b5+, Black re-  
 tains some winning chances, for example,  
 40.♟f2 ♞a2+ 41.♟g3 ♞e2.

33...♞e4! 34.♞xa5?

Now this is the decisive mistake.

34...♞f1+! 35.♟h2 ♞xa5  
 36.♞d8+ ♟h7 37.♞h8+ ♟g6  
 38.♞g8+ ♟h6! 0-1

(246) *Rubinstein – L. Steiner*

Dresden (9) 1926

King's Indian [E91]

1.♟f3 g6 2.e4 ♞g7 3.d4 c5 4.d5  
 d6 5.c4 ♞d7 6.♟c3 ♟g6 7.♞e2  
 0-0 8.0-0 a6 9.a4 ♞b8 10.h3 ♟e8  
 11.♞f4 ♟e5 12.♟d2 ♟xf3+  
 13.♞xf3 ♟a5 14.♞g5 ♞f6  
 15.♞e3 ♞d7 16.♞e2 e5 17.dxe6  
 fxe6 18.♞fd1 ♞bd8 19.f3 ♞c6  
 20.♞d5! ♟xd2 21.♞xf6+ ♟xf6  
 22.♞xd2 ♞d7 23.a5! e5 24.b4!  
 cxb4 25.♞ab1 ♟g7 26.♞xb4 h6  
 27.♞b3 g5 28.♞bd3 ♟e8 29.♞d1  
 ♞df7 30.♞b3 ♞f6 31.c5 ♞b5  
 32.♞c3 ♟g6 33.♞c1 h5 34.♞cd1  
 g4 35.cxd6 gxh3 36.d7 ♞xd7  
 37.♞xd7 hxg2 38.♞1d2 1-0



*The last round at Dresden 1926.*