

A black and white photograph of Emanuel Lasker, a prominent chess player, sitting at a table and playing chess. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He has a mustache and is looking down at the chessboard with a focused expression. The chessboard is in the foreground, showing several pieces in play. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Emanuel Lasker

A Reader

Edited by Taylor Kingston

Emanuel Lasker

A Reader

**A Compendium of Writings on Chess, Philosophy, Science,
Sociology, Mathematics and Other Subjects by the
Great World Chess Champion, Scholar and Polymath
Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941)**

**Edited by
Taylor Kingston**

Foreword by Andy Soltis

**Additional contributions by
Dr. Karsten Müller and Dr. Ingo Althöfer**

**Game Annotations by Lasker, Steinitz, Capablanca, Tarrasch,
Marco, Marshall, Showalter, Janowski, J.F. Barry, Napier,
Hoffer, Zinkl, Stockfish 8 and Komodo 11.2.2**



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Analytical Symbols

!	a strong move
!!	a brilliant move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	a move worth considering
?!	a dubious move
±	White stands slightly better
±	White has a clear advantage
+−	White has a winning position
∓	Black stands slightly better
∓	Black has a clear advantage
−+	Black has a winning position
=	an even or drawn position
≈	an approximately even position
∞	an unclear position
1-0	Black resigns
0-1	White resigns
½-½	draw
+	check
#	checkmate
↑	with the initiative
→	with an attack
↔	with counterplay
∞	with compensation for material
△	a better move is
□	the only move
△	with the intention or idea of
(D)	See next diagram

Frequently Used Abbreviations

CC: Chess Club

Ch: Championship

WCh: World Championship

ELDWS: Emanuel Lasker: Denker,

Weltenbürger, Schachweltmeister

LCF: London Chess Fortnightly

LCM: Lasker's Chess Magazine

WS: Wiener Schachzeitung

Editor's Preface

The genesis of this project goes back about ten years. David Kaufman, professor of English literature at Tulane University and admirer of Emanuel Lasker, had long been collecting material written by and about the legendary chess world champion. His friend Hanon Russell suggested that he organize this into a book that would provide a broad survey of Lasker's works. Kaufman worked on this intermittently until, alas, his untimely death in 2017.

In early 2018, I was asked if I would like to take over the project. As it was not possible to obtain whatever Kaufman had collected, it would mean starting over nearly from scratch. The prospect was more than a little daunting, but after some days of intense (and ambivalent!) deliberation, I accepted.

What made the project so challenging was the broad scope of Lasker's intellectual output. Most chess champions have – at least during their active careers, some throughout their lives – been single-mindedly chess-obsessed, with few outside interests, examples being Steinitz, Alekhine, Tal, Fischer, Karpov, Kasparov and Carlsen. Lasker, however, was very much a polymath, with major contributions to mathematics and philosophy, plus writings in many other areas: science, politics, economics, sociology, drama, card games, and board games other than chess. Compounding the difficulty was the fact that some of these are quite rare, and some are available only in German.

As an experienced chess player and writer, I had no qualms about handling Lasker's chess works. And I was reasonably confident that the philosophy, science, sociology and German I had studied in my youth would be useful. But some subjects, especially math, were beyond my competence, and so outside assistance had to be called in, as detailed further on.

More than a few books have been written on Lasker, ranging from bare-bones game collections to adoring hagiography, and ranging in quality from forgettable to formidable. However, in all of them you get mostly *others'* writings *about* Lasker. Instead, here, you get a unique look at Lasker *himself* – both intellectually and emotionally – in a broad representative sample of his works, with an emphasis on chess but also including much from his other interests. The main sections:

- Much of what Lasker wrote for his magazine *London Chess Fortnightly* (1892-93), including the early stages of his long-running feud with Tarrasch, many annotated games, and full coverage of his 1893 match with Jackson Showalter, with notes by both players.
- Lasker's and Steinitz's annotations of their 1894 world championship match.
- Lasker's annotations for the Hastings 1895 tournament book.
- An extensive excerpt from Lasker's book *Common Sense in Chess* (1896).
- A great many of Lasker's contributions to *Lasker's Chess Magazine* (1904-1909), including editorials, commentary on current events, annotated games, instructive and historical articles, coverage of title match negotiations with Maróczy and Schlechter, obituary tributes, aphorisms, and even humor.

- Lasker's memorial tribute to Pillsbury, from his short-lived magazine *The Chess Player's Scrapbook*.
- Full coverage of the 1907 Lasker-Marshall World Championship match, with annotations by both players.
- Full coverage of the 1908 Lasker-Tarrasch title match, including the lengthy lead-up, negotiations and final terms, Lasker's day-by-day accounts, and game annotations by Lasker, Tarrasch, Georg Marco (then considered the world's best analyst), Leopold Hoffer and Adolf Zinkl, along with many computer-assisted corrections and additions.
- An excerpt from Lasker's book of the St. Petersburg 1909 tournament.
- Extensive excerpts from both Lasker's and Capablanca's books on their 1921 title match, including their annotations to the four decisive games, and Capablanca's irate rebuttal to Lasker's account.
- Lasker's discussion of the theory of Steinitz from *Lasker's Manual of Chess*, and a fascinating critique of it by C.J.S. Purdy.
- An examination of Lasker's endgame instruction and studies by GM Karsten Müller.
- A sampling of Lasker's chess problem and study compositions.
- Summaries of and extensive excerpts from two of Lasker's philosophical works, *Struggle* (1907) and *Die Philosophie des Unvollendbar* (*The Philosophy of the Unattainable*, 1919), and his forgotten sociological rarity, *The Community of the Future* (1940). The *Unvollendbar* excerpts include Lasker's critique of Einstein's theory of relativity, with which he disagreed strongly.
- A discussion of Lasker's mathematical works by Dr. Ingo Althöfer of Jena University.
- A look at Lasca, a checkers-like game invented by Lasker.

This book is not a biography, nor a "Lasker's Greatest Games" collection. Many of his great and important games are included, but also many of lesser stature, and some not involving him directly. The main criterion was that a game be annotated by Lasker, whether he played it or not.

Inevitably there were things we would have liked to include but could not. It seems no copies still exist of Lasker's pro-German WWI apologia *Die Selbsttäuschungen unserer Feinde* (*The Self-Deceptions of our Enemies*, 1915). His philosophical work *Das Begreifen der Welt* (*The Comprehension of the World*, 1913) was available only at prohibitive cost. We could not obtain any of Lasker's works on bridge or other card games. Of his writings on non-chess board games, we included only Lasca due to space limitations, which also forced some other omissions, e.g., his book on the 1934 Alekhine-Bogolyubow match, and his verse-drama *Vom Menschen die Geschichte* (*The History of Mankind*).

Still, what we present here is, to my knowledge, the broadest and most in-depth look into the mind of Lasker available in English.

Acknowledgements: In addition to Dr. Althöfer and GM Müller, whose contributions are mentioned above, I am grateful to Jared Becker, who translated most (and the more difficult!) Of the *Unvollendbar* excerpts, and to my friend Marilyn Piper, who helped with some complicated German idioms and phrases. Special thanks to Robert Jamieson and Ian Rogers for permission to use C.J.S. Purdy's article "The Great Steinitz Hoax." I should also mention Tiffany May of the UCLA Library, who helped me obtain a copy of *The Community of the Future*. And I would be remiss to omit my analysis partners Stockfish 8 and Komodo 11.2.2, which uncovered many improvements and corrections to game notes.

In closing, I should add that it was by turns stimulating, surprising, instructive, challenging, enlightening and fascinating to enter the mind of such a wide-ranging, insightful and outspoken intellect as Dr. Lasker. He was not always right, but he was always interesting. I hope the reader finds as much enjoyment and edification as I did.

Taylor Kingston
San Diego
February 2019

Foreword

Whenever I read Emanuel Lasker's words I feel like I'm conversing with a contemporary. That's a strange feeling because his era seems so far away.

It was a time when chess information traveled agonizingly slowly. As this book shows, Lasker didn't get around to analyzing the games of his 1894 world championship match until 12(!) years later. That reminds me of Edward Lasker's recollection, 50 years after the New York tournament of 1924: During one of their chats during that immortal round robin, Emanuel revealed that he was unaware of the Marshall Gambit in the Ruy Lopez. How could he? It became known after a Capablanca-Marshall game. Yes, that game has been celebrated around the world. But it was played a mere six years before 1924, during World War I when chess news circulated at a snail's pace.

Many years ago I found copies of Lasker's Chess Magazine in the archives of the Marshall Chess Club. I was deeply impressed by the quality. Was there another world champion -- whose first language was not English -- who wrote as well as Lasker? That magazine managed to take the dryness and stuffiness out of chess journalism. Lasker claimed a circulation of 15,000 for his magazine. That's a remarkable figure. In the century since then there has been a long series of American chess magazines. Only one, *Chess Life*, has topped that number of readers.

Some of Lasker's comments, found in this book, seem quaint today. For example, from his annotations of his match with Frank Marshall:

"I believe the value of 'pawn formations' has come to be greatly exaggerated. In my opinion, the pawn formation is the best that interferes the least with the play of the pieces."

Surely, he changed his view on this matter when complex pawn structures became more common in the 1920s and 1930s.

In many other ways, Lasker's opinions are the ones that resonate today. On the eve of his match with Siegbert Tarrasch he skewered the Tarrasch view that the world championship title can be claimed on the basis of reputation. "This is a German view, or rather error," he wrote. In contrast, he said, an American or Englishman believes the champion is the one who wins a match in which the title is at stake.

Lasker's personal reflections are revealing. The hardest thing for him to learn when he was an aspiring amateur was how to play simply, when neither side has an advantage. "My last acquisition of chess knowledge was the handling of balanced positions," he wrote. They "did not excite my fantasy." It took years to learn how to play them. I had exactly the same experience.

Much nonsense has been written about Lasker's use of psychology at the board. He is reputed to have deliberately played questionable moves in order to throw his opponents off-balance. Thanks to computers we can now see that many of his allegedly dubious moves are, in fact, the best ones available. True, he also sought to play the move that would be most difficult for his opponent to answer. Today, every grandmaster seeks the same.

What you will find in these pages is a different use of psychology. Lasker was perhaps the first great player to think about how others think. David Janowski, he tells us, had an unjustified fear of having his king attacked, and this led to bad outcomes when he faced Marshall. Tarrasch made major mistakes but rarely minor ones. Marshall's intuitive strength was revealed in the tempting combinations he *did not* make. "His chess instinct shows nowhere to greater advantage" than when he passes up flawed tactical chances, Lasker wrote.

If Lasker were alive today he would find that chess is a very different game. Tournaments and matches don't have time limits of 12, 16 or 18 moves per hour. Games are instantly analyzed and new opening ideas fly around the globe in seconds. No one can claim a special advantage in understanding, the way Wilhelm Steinitz or Tarrasch could.

But in another way, Lasker would fit in beautifully with 21st century chess. No world champion is closer to the Lasker playing style than Magnus Carlsen. The emphasis on calculation – on finding the flaws in moves based on intuition or principle – is the Lasker quality that all elite players rely on today. When I look at games of the Carlsen-Fabiano Caruana match I can imagine that most of the moves of both players are Lasker moves.

Of course, that makes sense. Emanuel Lasker is still our contemporary.

Andy Soltis
New York
January 2019

Part I

Chess Writings

The London Chess Fortnightly

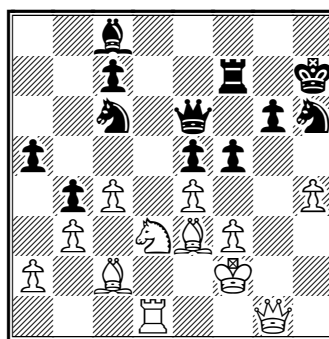
By mid-1892 Lasker was already well known in British chess circles, having won matches with Henry Bird and Nicholas Miniati in 1890, winning two London tournaments ahead of such greats as Mason, Blackburne and Gunsberg in March-April 1892, and decisively defeating the British champion Blackburne in a match May-June 1892. Prompted by "the request of many amateurs," he began publishing the Fortnightly in August 1892, and despite Lasker relocating to the USA in October, issues of eight to thirty-two pages continued to appear on the first and fifteenth (or thereabouts) of each month through July 30, 1893.

Publication then suddenly ceased, perhaps because of Lasker's need to prepare for his upcoming world title match with Steinitz. In retrospect, from late 1892 on, the LCF became practically a biweekly chronicle of how Lasker established himself in the USA as a worthy title challenger. We give here a representative sample of games and articles from the LCF, with an emphasis on matters relevant to the eventual title match. Any further text, unless italicized or in a game heading, is from its pages. All game notes, unless stated otherwise, are by Lasker.

The following are some games of the match played recently at the British Chess Club, between Messrs. Blackburne and Lasker.

Blackburne-Lasker, Match, London (1), 27.05.1892, Ruy Lopez [C65]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.d3 d6
5.♗bd2 g6 6.♘f1 h6 7.c3 ♗g7 8.♗e3 8.h3 a6
9.♗a4 b5 10.♗c2 d5 11.♖e2 ♗e6 12.♘e3 seems
preferable. 8...a6 9.♗a4 0-0 10.h3 b5 11.♗c2
d5 12.g4 ♖e7 13.♘g3 The right move. 13.g5
h×g5 14.♗×g5 ♗e6 15.♘e3 ♗ad8 16.♖e2 ♖c5!
gives Black the preferable game. 13...d×e4
14.d×e4 ♗d8 15.♖c1 Played in attacking style.
15.♖e2 ♗e6 16.♘d2 ♘e8 would equalize matters.
15...♖h7 16.g5 ♘g8 17.g×h6 ♗×h6 18.♘g5+
♗×g5 19.♗×g5 f6 20.♗e3 ♘a5 Preparatory for
move 25. 21.b3 ♘c6 22.♘e2 ♗e6 23.f3 ♗d7
24.h4 ♗f8 25.♖f2 b4 26.c4 a5 27.♖g1 ♖e8
28.♖g2 ♘h6 29.♗ad1 29.♗ag1 would initiate an
attack which could not successfully be carried out.
29...♗×d1 30.♗×d1 ♗f7 31.♖g1 ♗c8 32.♘c1
♖e6 33.♘d3 f5



Threatening 34...f×e4 or ...f4, followed by ...♖h3.
34.♘c5? A bad move which loses the game.
White's only chance here is: 34.♗×h6 ♖×h6
35.♖g5+ ♖g7 36.h5 ♗f6 37.♗h1 whereupon a draw
is the probable result. 34...♖e7 35.♖g5?? f4
36.♖×e7 f×e3+ 37.♖×e3 ♗×e7 38.♗d5 ♘f7
39.♘d3 ♖g7 40.f4 ♗b7 41.♘c5 ♘d4

✻ The London Chess Fortnightly ✻

Conducted by EMANUEL LASKER.

No. 1.—VOL. I.

AUGUST 15, 1892.

PRICE 6d.

TO OUR READERS.

In introducing the LONDON CHESS FORTNIGHTLY to the public, we beg leave to state that we have been induced to commence the publication of this Magazine at the request of many amateurs, who have kindly promised their support to the undertaking. Chess events of more or less import have of late years been so numerous in various parts of the world as to make a fortnightly journal devoted to the interest of the game almost a necessity to English amateurs.

In fact, we are strongly of the opinion that even a weekly chess paper, if properly conducted, could be made sufficiently interesting to Chess players, and ought, if encouraged, to have a fair amount of success. It will lay altogether with those having the future popularity of our noble game at heart, to say whether this journal shall at an early date be published every week. All that will be required is a fair amount of support to enable us to defray the expenses of publication.

Although the title pertains to the English Metropolis, we nevertheless intend to chronicle, from time to time, all interesting Chess matter from all parts of the world where Chess is played.

We shall at all times, however, use discrimination in the selection of our games and problems, and shall discard all games which do not contain some special feature, or points of merit, to entitle them to publication. Many games are published now-a-days with meaningless notes, which are neither instructive nor interesting; such unprofitable literature will find no place on our pages.

The problems will be for the most part by well-known authors. We hope in the near future to commence a problem competition both for authors and solvers, and suitable prizes will be offered to successful competitors.

We also propose to inaugurate a Correspondence Tourney for Subscribers, and we shall be glad to receive suggestions from our readers, as well as entries, with a view to holding such a contest.

Ladies are every year displaying a greater interest in Chess, and we will therefore devote some portion of our space to a Correspondence Tourney for Ladies only. We shall be pleased to enter the names of any members of the fair sex desirous of taking part in such a competition.

Clubs subscribing to the LONDON CHESS FORTNIGHTLY can have games adjudicated by the Editor, free of charge.

With this preliminary program, we respectfully submit our first number, hoping that it will meet with such favour and encouragement, as to enable us to establish the undertaking upon a footing of permanent success.



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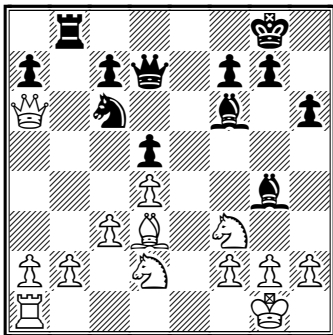
Cheques crossed "London and South-Western Bank."

The London Chess Fortnightly

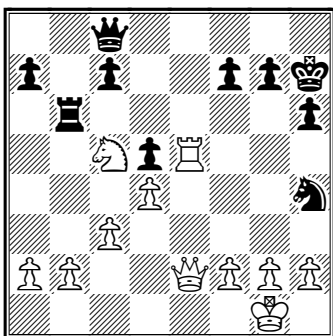
42.♖xb7 ♖xc2+ 43.♗d3 c6 44.♞xa5 ♞xb7
45.♗xc2 exf4 46.♗d3 ♗f6 47.e5+ ♖xe5+
48.♗e4 f3 0-1 Resigns, for if 49.♞xe5 f2.

Lasker-Blackburne, Match, London (2),
28.05.1892, French Defense [C01]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.♖d3 ♖f6
5.♗g5 ♗e7 6.♖f3 0-0 7.0-0 ♖c6 8.♞e1 ♗g4
9.c3 ♞e8 10.♖bd2 h6 11.♗xf6 ♗xf6
12.♞xe8+ ♗xe8 13.♗b3 ♗d7 14.♗xb7 ♞b8
15.♗a6

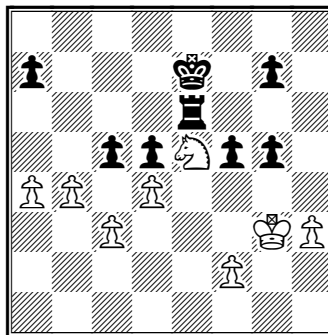


15...♞b6 An error, perhaps overlooking that after
15...♗xf3 16.♖xf3 ♞xb2 17.♗b5 ♖b8 18.♗xd7
♖xa6 19.♗c6 ♞c2 20.♗b5 ♖b8 21.♞e1 ♞b2! saves
the game. 16.♗a3 Not 16.♗a4, because of
16...♖xd4! 16...♗e7 17.♗a4 ♗c8 18.♞e1 ♗d7
19.♗c2 ♗f6 20.♖b3 ♖e7 21.♖c5 ♗f5
22.♗xf5 ♖xf5 23.♖e5 ♗xe5 24.♞xe5 ♖h4
25.♗e2 ♗h7



26.g3? An extremely bad move. After 26.♞xd5 ♞g6
27.g3 ♗h3 28.f3, the manoeuvre ♖c5-d3-f4 could
speedily win. The move in the text is intended to
bring about this variation with the additional
advantage of a move gained. 26...♗h3 27.gxh4?
But now after 27.f3, Black could safely take the
b-pawn, viz., 27...♞xb2 28.♗xb2 ♖xf3+ 29.♗f2
♗xh2+, winning the queen. Yet, 27.f4 ♞xb2
28.♗d3+ g6 29.♞e2, is the only continuation which

can save the game. 27...♞g6+ 28.♞g5 hxg5 29.h5
♞f6 30.♗d3+ ♗xd3 31.♖xd3 ♗h6 32.♗g2
♗xh5 33.♖b4 ♞d6 34.♗g3 ♗g6 Decisive
would have been 34...g4 followed by 35...g5 and
...f5. 35.♗g4 f5+ 36.♗g3 ♗f6 37.a4 c6 38.h3
♗e7 39.♖d3 ♞e6 40.♖e5 c5 41.b4 Forced;
Black threatens 41...c4.



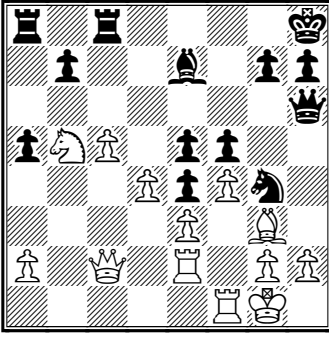
41...cxd4? 41...♞xe5 42.dxe5 d4! leave White
without resource. 42.cxd4 ♞h6 43.b5 a6
44.♖c6+ ♗d6 45.♖e5 ♗c7 46.♖f7 ♞g6? And
won. [sic] 46...axb5 47.axb5 ♞g6 is much better
play for Black. 47.bxa6 ♗b6 48.♖e5 ♞h6
49.♖f7 ♞h4 50.♖d6 This move is very
important; the knight attacks the f-pawn, at the same
time threatening to take an excellent position at b5.
50...f4+ 51.♗g2 ♗xa6 52.♖f5 f3+ 53.♗g3
♞f4 54.♖xg7 ♞xd4 55.♖e6 ♞d1 56.♗xf3
♞g1 57.♖c7+ ♗a5 58.♖xd5 ♗xa4 ½-½
Drawn game.

The following game was played in the National
Masters' Tournament, March 1892.

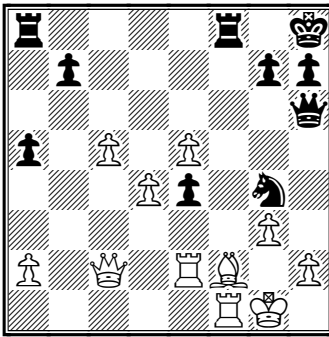
Van Vliet-Lasker, 7th British CA Congress,
London (5), 11.03.1892, Queen Pawn Opening [D45]

1.d4 d5 2.♖f3 ♖f6 3.e3 e6 4.c4 c6 5.♖c3 ♗d6
6.♗d2 ♖bd7 7.♗e2 Both players follow well
approved lines of development; but here 7.♗d3 is
the stronger move. 7...♖e4 8.♗c2 f5 9.0-0 0-0
10.♗e1 ♗f6 11.♖d2 ♗h6 12.f4 ♖df6
13.♖dxe4 dxe4 14.♗g3 ♗d7 15.♞ad1 ♗h8
In preparation for ...♞g8 and ...g7-g5; but White
prevents this intention. 16.♞d2 ♞fc8 If 16...♞g8
17.♗d1 g5? 18.fxg5. 17.c5 ♗e7 18.b4 a5 19.b5
cxb5 20.♗xb5 ♗xb5 21.♖xb5 ♖g4 The
initiation of Black's main attack and much stronger
than 21...♖d5, which safely could be answered by
22.♗f2. 22.♞e2 e5 The winning move.

Emanuel Lasker: A Reader



23.h3 If 23.fxe5 ♖g5 24.♗d6 ♜f8 25.♗xf5 ♗xe3+ 26.♗xe3 (Or 26.♖h1 g6 and wins) 26...♗xe3+ 27.♗f2 (If 27.♞xe3 ♞xf1+ 28.♖xf1 ♗xe3+ and wins) 27...♗f4 28.g3 ♗h6

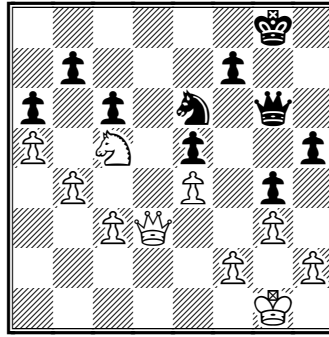


29.h4 (Or 29.♗e1 ♞xf1+ 30.♖xf1 ♗h3+ 31.♖g1 ♜f8 32.♞g2 ♗xh2 and wins) 29...e3 30.♗e1 ♗c6 31.♞xf8+ ♞xf8 32.♞g2 ♗f3 33.♗e2 ♗e4 34.♗b2 (If 34.♗c3 ♜f2 and wins) 34...♗d3 35.♗e2 ♗xd4 36.e6 h5 and Black has a winning advantage. **23...♗xe3 24.♞xe3 exd4 25.♗xd4 ♗xc5** Black must now regain the piece. **26.♗b2 ♗f6 27.♞d1 ♞d8 28.♗f2 ♗xd4 29.♞xd4 ♗xd4 30.♗xb7 ♞ab8 31.♗a6 ♗d6 32.♗xa5 ♗xf4 33.g3 ♗g5 34.♞xe4 ♗f6 35.♞f4 ♞d1+ 36.♖h2 ♗c6 37.g4 ♗h1+ 0-1**

Henry Edward Bird (1830-1908), who had played in the first international tournament, London 1851, and played Morphy in 1858, was by 1892 England's "grand old man" of chess. Despite losing to Lasker +2 -7 =3 in Liverpool in 1890, Bird was always eager to play and agreed to a five-game set in 1892. The result was even more lopsided, a 5-0 Lasker sweep, yet even so the games were hard fought, and are interesting for featuring two openings named for Bird.

Lasker-Bird, Match, Newcastle on Tyne (1), 29.08.1892, Ruy Lopez (Bird's Defense) [C61]

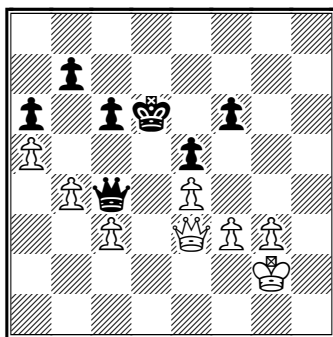
1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♗b5 ♗d4 This is Bird's own defence against the Ruy Lopez, and we consider it quite as good as any other. **4.♗c4 4.♗xd4 exd4 5.0-0 ♗c5 6.d3 c6 7.♗c4 d6 8.f4 ♗f6** gives Black the pull. **4...♗xf3+ 5.♗xf3 ♗f6 6.d4 d6 6...exd4** would be answered by **7.e5 d5 8.exf6 dxc4 9.♗g5 g6 10.0-0** with a strong attack for White. **7.♗b3 ♗e7 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.0-0 c6 10.♗f3** Forced. If **10.♗c3 b5 11.♗d3 ♗e6** and wins. **10...h6 11.♗c3 g5 12.a4 ♗e6 13.♗e2 ♗d7 14.♞d1 ♗f6 15.♗e3 ♗b4 16.♗a2 ♗e7 17.b4 ♗b6 18.♗b3 0-0 19.a5 ♗c8 20.♞ab1 ♗d6 21.♗c3 a6** White wants to play **22.b5**, followed by **23.a6**. Black eager to counteract this plan, overlooks that his defence creates a hole at b6. He ought instead to have pursued his attack on the kingside with **21...♗g6** and **22...f5**. **22.♗b6 ♗e8 23.♗a4 ♗g7 24.c3 ♗xb3 25.♞xb3 ♗e6 26.g3 ♗d8 27.♞b2 ♗g6 28.♞bd2 h5** Threatening **29...g4**, and after the exchange of the bishops **...♗e6-g5**. **29.♗xd8 ♞axd8 30.♞xd8 ♞xd8 31.♞xd8+ ♗xd8 32.♗c5 g4 33.♗d3 ♗e6**



34.♗xe6 The intended sacrifice of the b-pawn is quite correct. **34.♗xb7** is met by **34...♗g5 35.♗c5 ♗f3+ 36.♖f1 ♗g5 37.♗d1 h4** threatening **...h3** a.s.o. **34...♗xe6 35.♗d8+ ♖h7 36.♗g5 f6** He must lose the h-pawn or the e-pawn whatever he does. **37.♗xh5+ ♖g7 38.♖g2 ♗d7 39.h3 gxh3+ 40.♗xh3 ♗d3 41.♗g4+ ♖f7 42.♗f3 ♗c4 43.♗e3 ♖e6 44.f3 ♗d6 (D)**

45.♖f2 Of course, **45.♗c5+** would not do, because of **45...♗xc5 46.bxc5+ ♖xc5 47.f4 exf4 48.gxf4 b5!** **45...♗a2+ 46.♗e2 ♗e6 47.♗d2+ ♖c7 48.g4 ♗c4 49.♗e3 ♗a2+ 50.♖g3 ♗a1 51.g5** This temporary sacrifice carries the day. **51...fxg5 52.♖g4 ♗a2 53.♖xg5 ♗d7 54.♖g4 ♗g2+ 55.♖f5 ♗g3 56.♖f6 c5 57.♗g5** The decisive stroke. **57...♗h2** If **57...♗xf3+ 58.♗f5+ ♗xf5+ 59.♖xf5 cxb4 60.cxb4 ♗d6 61.♖f6** and wins. **58.♗f5+** If **58.♗xe5** at once Black draws by

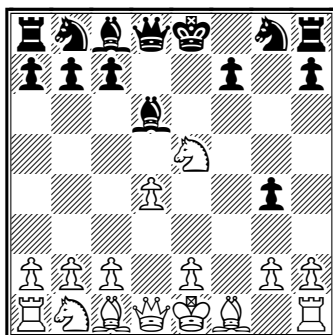
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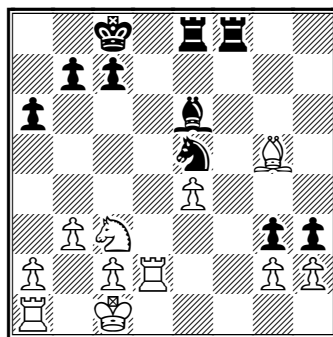
perpetual check, e.g., 58...♖h8+ 59.♜f5 ♖h5+ 60.♜f4 ♖h2+ a.s.o. **58...♜c6 59.♜c8+ ♜b5 60.♜xc5+ ♜a4 61.♜xe5 ♖h8+ 62.♜e6 ♜c8+ 63.♜e7 ♜c4 64.f4 1-0**

Bird-Lasker, Match, Newcastle on Tyne (2), 30.08.1892, From's Gambit [A02]

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 ♖xd6 4.♟f3 g5 5.d4 g4 6.♟e5



6...♖xe5 If instead 6...♟c6, White may safely reply 7.♟xc6 bxc6 8.e3 ♖h4+ 9.♜d2 c5 10.c3. The attack of Black does not amount to much. **7.dxe5 ♜xd1+ 8.♜xd1 ♟c6 9.♖f4 ♖e6 10.e3 ♟ge7 11.♖b5 0-0-0+ 12.♜c1 ♖d5 13.♞g1 a6 14.♖e2** If 14.♖xc6 ♖xc6 15.♟d2 ♞he8 16.♟c4 ♟g6 and regains the pawn in a few moves. **14...♖e6 15.♟c3 h6** A necessary precaution, as after 15...♟g6 16.♖g5 ♞d7 (or ...♞de8) 17.♟e4 ♟gxе5 18.♖f6 ♞f8 White obtains the superior position. **16.♖d3 ♟g6 17.♖xg6 fxg6 18.♞d1 ♞de8 19.e4 g5 20.♖g3 ♞hf8** The e5-pawn is lost anyhow. Black can wait. **21.b3 h5 22.♞d2** In order to play his bishop to f2 and e3. But 22.♜b2 was sounder. **22...h4 23.♖f2 ♟xe5 24.♖e3 h3 25.♖xg5 g3**

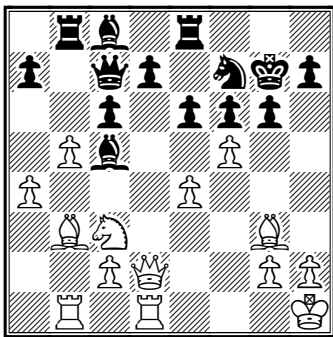


26.hxg3 If 26.gxh3 ♟f3 27.♖h6 gxh2 and wins. **26...♞f1+ 27.♜b2 27.♞d1** is followed by 27...hxc2 28.♖e3 ♖g4. **27...♞xa1 28.♜xa1 h2 29.♞d1 ♟g4 30.♞h1** The only move, as Black threatened 30...♟f2. **30...♖f7 31.♜b2 c6** Not 31...♖g6 at once, because 32.♟d5 ♖xe4 33.♟f6 would free White's game. **32.♜c1 ♖g6 33.♜d2 ♞xe4 34.♟d1** Of course, after 34.♟xe4 ♖xe4 Black forces the game by ...♖xg2 a.s.o. **34...♞d4+ 35.♜e2 ♞xd1 36.♞xd1 ♖e4 37.♞d8+ White** has no defence against the threatening ...♖xg2. **37...♜c7 38.♞d1 ♖xg2 39.♖d8+ ♜c8 40.♖b6 ♖d5 41.c4 h1♜** White resigned the hopeless struggle on the 63rd move. **0-1**

Lasker-Bird, Match, Newcastle on Tyne (3), 31.08.1892, Sicilian Defense, Accelerated Dragon [B34]

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxд4 4.♟xd4 g6 This line of development is very much favored by the veteran player, who very often used it in tournament and match play against the strongest opponents, and with much success. **5.♟xc6 bxc6 6.♜d4 f6 6...♟f6** would be answered by 7.e5 ♟h5 8.♖e2 ♟g7 9.f4. **7.♟c3 ♖g7 8.♖c4 ♟h6 9.0-0 ♟f7 10.♖e3 0-0 11.♜d2 e6 12.♞fd1 ♜a5** If 12...d5 at once, White could reply 13.exd5 cxд5 14.♟xd5 exд5 15.♖xd5 ♖a6 16.♖xa8 a.s.o., remaining with rook and two pawns against the adverse two minor pieces. **13.♞ab1 ♞e8 13...♜b4**, in order to stop the advance of the b-pawn, would have been better. **14.b4 ♜c7 15.♖f4 ♟e5** The point of the game hereabout is to enable the advance of the d-pawn, whereas White is trying to prevent the same. Therefore Black does not reply with 15...e5. **16.♖b3 ♖f8 17.b5 ♞b8 18.a4 ♖e7 19.♖g3 ♜g7 20.f4 ♖c5+ 21.♜h1 ♟f7** If 21...♟g4 22.f5 e5 23.h3 ♟h6 24.♖h4 ♞f8 25.g4 with a strong attack. **22.f5**

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22...e5 This move proves disastrous. Of course, if 22...d6 23.bxc6 ♖xc6 24.fxe6 ♗xe6 25.♠d5 would give White by far the better position. We fail to see anything better than 22...♗e5. 3.♗xf7 ♖xf7 24.♞h6 g5 Black has not a sufficient reply. If 24...♞h8 25.fxg6+ ♖g8? 26.g7. 25.♞xh7+ ♖f8 26.♞h6+ ♖e7 27.♞g7+ ♖d8 28.♞xf6+ ♗e7 29.♞xe5 d6 Or 29...♞xe5 30.♗xe5 ♞b6 31.a5 ♞b7 32.bxc6 ♞xb1? 33.c7#. 30.f6 ♗f8 31.♞xg5 ♖f7 32.♗xd6 ♗xd6 33.♞xd6+ 1-0

Lasker and Tarrasch: The Seeds of Enmity

The antipathy between Lasker and Siegbert Tarrasch – which would eventually come to a head in their 1908 World Championship match – seems to have gotten off to a running start in 1892. In evidence, this verbatim excerpt from the October 15th issue of the LCF:

In the following we give two short games of Dr. Tarrasch's, played in the Dresden tournament, which we think do not deserve any comment.

Blackburne-Tarrasch, Dresden 1892, Ruy Lopez [C66]

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♗b5 ♗f6 4.d3 d6 5.0-0 g6 6.♗c3 h6 7.h3 ♗g7 8.♗e3 0-0 9.♞e2 ♗e6 10.♞ad1 ♞e7 11.♗h2 ½-½

Dr. Tarrasch proposed a draw at this stage of the game, which Blackburne accepted. Blackburne was not well on the day of play, and Tarrasch, it is said, proposed the draw, not willing to take advantage of that. Some papers say this was very generous upon Tarrasch's part. We are not of this opinion, especially as a draw was wholly in Tarrasch's favour and could not do Blackburne any good.

Walbrodt-Tarrasch, Dresden 1892, French Defense [C01]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.♗f3 ♗d6 5.♗d3 ♗f6 6.0-0 0-0 7.c3 c6 8.♗g5 ♗g4 9.♗bd2 ♗bd7 10.♞c2 ♞c7 ½-½

Here the players agreed upon a draw. Such a miserable game we scarcely ever have seen played by masters.

Tarrasch won the Dresden tournament impressively, scoring 12-4 (+9 -1 =6) to finish 1½ points ahead of 16 others, his third major first prize in row (Breslau 1889 and Manchester 1890 were the others). Around that time Lasker challenged him to a match, but he declined, saying "The young man should first prove his worth by attempting to win one or two major international events; he is not yet entitled to play a match against someone like me!" (Hannak, p. 31) Thus it is not surprising that Tarrasch should receive special (and uncomplimentary) scrutiny in Lasker's magazine. He was targeted again in the issue of January 14 1893:

Mr. Lasker made an attempt to lay the foundation for a match with Dr. Tarrasch some days before the conclusion of the Dresden Tournament. Mr. Lasker wrote a letter to the Chess Editor of the *Standard*, asking him to communicate privately with the first-prize winner (already likely to be Dr. Tarrasch) relative to a match, to be played in England, in 1893, for a stake of £500. As was expected, Dr. Tarrasch did come in first, and therefore to him the communication was made. To this communication Dr. Tarrasch gave no direct reply to Lasker, neither did the Chess Editor of the *Standard*. Both, however, made public statements on the matter, and the singular thing is that these statements do not agree; Mr. Lasker is, therefore, still in doubt why the *pour parlors* for the match terminated so abruptly. Pressure of other avocations and want of time may be the Doctor's reasons for declining the idea of a match, or he may yet be waiting for Lasker to win first prize in an International Master Tournament before he counts him worthy of engaging in a match. We may point out that had Lasker taken part in the Dresden Tournament, a match between him and Tarrasch would still have been a remote contingency, according to Dr. Tarrasch's idea. Thus, if Lasker had played and come in anywhere below first, the Doctor, on his own showing, would not have entertained a challenge, for Lasker would remain

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without a first prize. On the other hand, if Lasker had won the first prize, clearly in that case it would have been the Doctor, and not Lasker, who would have had to issue a challenge.

Earlier, in the October 1 1892 issue, Lasker had floated another idea:

Some people are beginning to wonder whether an International Master Tournament will form part of this season's programme. The last one [in England] was held at Manchester in 1890 ... and many people are of opinion that a similar tournament should be played in 1893. No international tournament has taken place in London since 1886. Many changes have taken place since then; players like Capt. Mackenzie and Dr. Zukertort have, alas! passed over to the majority, whilst younger players like Dr. Tarrasch and Herr Lasker have come to the front, and surely the great Metropolis ought to have its 1893 International Master Tournament.*

However, even before any of these statements appeared in the LCF, Lasker had already decided his greenest pastures lay elsewhere, as evinced by this report in the October 15th issue:

Mr. Lasker arrived at New York by the steamer *Spree* on the 6th October, in good health, after a somewhat rough passage. In the evening he had a very cordial reception at the Manhattan Chess Club where speeches were made by Dr. Fred. Mintz, Prof. Isaac Rice, and others. The following is an extract from the New York *Tribune*:

“Herr Lasker ... will play short matches with the experts of New York and Brooklyn. These contests will be three games with each player, and the club will furnish a prize for each match. It is expected that the contestants will include A.B. Hodges, champion of the state ... Major J.W. [sic] Hanham, Eugene Delmar, D.G. Baird, and other members of the club.

“Mr. Lasker has issued a challenge to all chess players in the United States, offering to play matches with any chessist who wishes to meet him, naming the stakes at \$75 a side, first winner of five games, draws not to count, to be the victor.”

*Historian Ken Whyld records that “Lasker was engaged by the Manhattan CC to play a series of three serious games against each of eight leading members. The 24 games were crucial in establishing his standing in the USA.” Whyld’s term “series” is carefully chosen. Rather than three games in a row against a given player, Lasker played one game against each of the eight opponents – J.M. Hanham (historical Elo rating 2360), G. Simonson, D.G. Baird (2350), C.B. Isaacson, A.B. Hodges (2450), E. Delmar (2420), J.W. Baird, and J.S. Ryan** – and then the same cycle was repeated twice more. This campaign by Lasker, to prove himself against America’s best, would be so successful that it would lead to a title match with World Champion Wilhelm Steinitz, then living in New Jersey. We present the games with Lasker’s LCF annotations:*

Hanham-Lasker, exhibition series, Manhattan CC, New York, 10.10.1892, Anderssen’s Opening [A00]: 1.a3 e6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 This is, apart from the difference of colour and the almost inessential move a2-a3, a French Defence. [It is remarkable how little Lasker comments on this and other unorthodox openings he encountered in this series.] 4...♟f6 5.♟f3 ♙d6 6.♙d3 0-0 7.0-0 ♙g4 Perhaps 7...♙e6 is the stronger move here. 8.♙e3 ♟bd7 9.♟bd2 ♞e8 10.c3 c6 11.♞c2 ♞c7 12.♞ae1 h6 The only way to prevent an exchange of the active forces, which White could inaugurate with ♙e3-g5. 13.h3 ♙e6 Now the position is about even, but Black has a slight advantage that his King’s side has more liberty of motion. 14.♙f5 b6 As a preparation for ...c6-c5, which never followed nor ever had a chance, quite superfluous. 14...♞e7 and doubling rooks was better play. 15.♞e2 ♙xg5 16.♞xg5 g6 17.♞d3 ♞g7 18.♞fe1 ♞e6 19.♟h4 Threatening 20.♙xh6+ followed by 21.♞xe6. 19...♟e4 20.♟f1 ♟f8 White threatened 21.f3 and 22.♙xh6+, &c. 21.g3 ♞ae8 22.♟g2 ♞6e7 23.♙f4 ♟e6 24.♙xd6 ♞xd6 25.h4 This move is forced, to prevent the black knights from entering at g5. A lively skirmish follows now, where White sacrifices a pawn to ensure the attack. 25...f5 26.h5 The only reply, as Black threatens 26...f4, and should equalize matters. 26...g×h5 27.♟h4 ♞f6

*There was eventually a London tournament, but one much smaller than Lasker envisaged, held 27 February-3 March 1893 and won by Blackburne ahead of Mason, Teichmann, Tinsley, Van Vliet and Bird.

**References to historical Elos are from *The Rating of Chessplayers Past and Present* by Dr. Arpad Elo (1978).