

Masterpiece finesse

ONE OF the greatest players ever was Russian emigre and world champion Alexander Alekhine who, like Fischer a generation later, stood head and shoulders above his contemporaries.

Alekhine created many brilliant games, but he picked two, above all others, as his masterpieces. In one of them, his Dutch Defence against Bogolyubov in Hastings 1922, he sacrificed his queen, promoted a pawn to a queen, sacrificed the new queen and pro-

moted another pawn to a queen, sacrificed that one, and was preparing to queen yet another pawn when Bogolyubov resigned!

What could compete with that? This — Alekhine's incredible game against Reti, at Baden Baden, 1925.

KINGS FIANCHETTO

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| Reti | Alekhine |
| 1. g3 | e5 |
| 2. Nf3 | e4 |
| 3. Nd4 | d5 |
| 4. d3 | eXd3 |
| 5. QXd3 | Nf6 |
| 6. Bg2 | Bb4 ch |
| 7. Bd2 | BXd2 ch |
| 8. NXd2 | 0-0 |
| 9. c4 | Na6 |
| 10. cXd5 | Nb4 |
| 11. Qc4 | NbXd5 |
| 12. Nd2b3 | c6 |
| 13. 0-0 | Re8 |
| 14. Rfd1 | Bg4 |
| 15. Rd2 | Qc8 |
| 16. Nc5 | Bh3! |

The fireworks begin with this high class offer of a pawn: 17. Bxh3 Qxh3 18. Nxb7 Ng4 19. Nf3 Nde3 20. fxe3 Nxe3 21. Qxf7ch! Kh8! (Kxf7 Ng5 ch) 22. Nh4 Rf8 wins the queen because of the check on f1 if it moves.

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| 17. Bf3 | Bg4 |
| 18. Bg2 | Bh3 |
| 19. Bf3 | Bg4 |
| 20. Bh1 | |

Reti does not want a draw by repetition, so Alekhine shows his teeth.

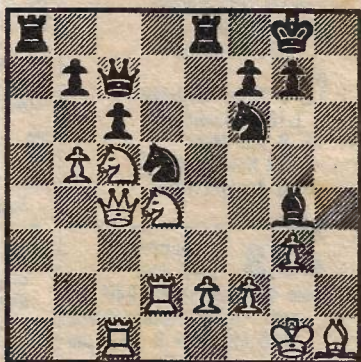
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| 20. . . . | h5! |
| 21. b4 | a6 |
| 22. Rcl | h4 |
| 23. a4 | hXg3 |
| 24. hXg3 | Qc7 |

The start of one of the greatest products of Alekhine's imagination.

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| 25. b5 | aXb5 |
| 26. aXb5 | |

Where is black's attack, you ask?

ALEKHINE



RETI

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| 26. . . . | Re3! |
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Beautiful. White must not touch, because after 27. fxe3 Qxg3 ch 28. Bg2 Nxe3

INTERNATIONAL MASTER

On August 21, Murray Chandler won the first Asian junior chess championship and an international master's title by beating Philip Goodings of Hong Kong.

threatens mate and the queen.

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| 27. Nf3 | cXb5 |
| 28. Qxb5 | Nc3! |
| 29. Qxb7 | Qxb7 |
| 30. Nxb7 | Nxe2 ch |
| 31. Kh2 | |

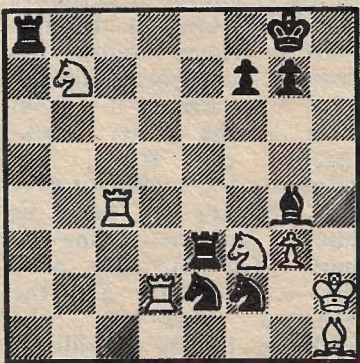
For if 31. Kf1 Nxg3 ch 32. fXg3 Bxj3 33. Bxj3 Rxf3 ch 34. Kg2 Rxf3 ch 35. Kxf3 Ne4 ch and wins.

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| 31. . . . | Ne4! |
| 32. Rc4 | |

Taking the Rook fails to NXd2.

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| 32. . . . | Nxf2 |
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ALEKHINE



RETI

32. . . . Bxf3 33. Rxe4 or 32. . . . NXd2 33. NXd2! and either the black rook or bishop must die.

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| 33. Bg2 | Be6! |
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But Alekhine just keeps the attack rolling.

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| 34. Rcc2 | Ng4 ch |
| 35. Kh3 | |

White must wander into a discovered check or Ral ch will hurt.

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| 35. . . . | Ne5 dis ch |
| 36. Kh2 | Rxf3! |
| 37. Rxe2 | Ng4 ch |
| 38. Kh3 | |

Again any other square fails to Ral ch.

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| 38. . . . | Ne3 dis ch |
| 39. Kh2 | Nxc2 |
| 40. Bxf3 | Nd4! |

The sting at the tail end of a combination, a characteristic of Alekhine's play. After Re3 then 41. . . . Nxf3 ch 42. Rxf3 Bd5 wins the lonely knight stranded at the other end of the board.

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| 41. Resigns | |
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After seeing such a game one can imagine the great loss the chess world felt when Alekhine died suddenly in 1946 on the eve of a match with Botvinnik for the World Championship.

MURRAY CHANDLER