

Book moves

AN INTRIGUING rivalry is shaping up between two of the top chess publishers in Britain. The reigning champions are the comparatively small firm of B. T. Batsford Ltd, who have dominated this specialist market for many years. The challengers are Pergamon Press, a multinational organisation with good contacts in the grand-master-studded territories of Eastern Europe.

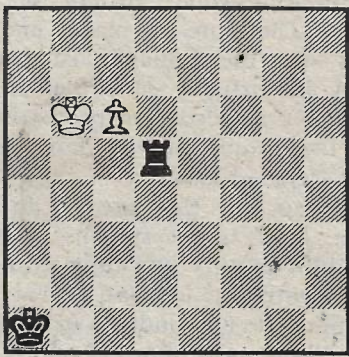
Much of the credit for Batsford's reputation and long list of titles (over 150 at present) must go to their chief adviser and former New Zealand champion, Bob Wade. He also acts as an invaluable guide to the authors, who are free to use his vast library for research. It is a liaison between writer and publisher that few can match, and makes possible such feats as Raymond Keene's recent book on the Karpov-Korchnoi match (*Massacre in Merano*: £3.95), which appeared within days of the contest ending.

Instead Pergamon have concentrated on its Eastern European translations over the past three or so years that they have seriously been trying to capture a larger share of an already captive readership. Already some of the Russian works have become classics. Karpov's *Chess Is My Life* and Polugayevsky's illuminating *Grandmaster Preparation* for example. But although Pergamon are not as yet challenging Batsford directly in the specialist openings field, the latter's forte, executive editor Martin Richardson has just launched the ambitious *Tournament Chess Series* aimed at cataloguing every major tournament played during the year.

This spirit of competition between Batsford and Pergamon is certainly beneficial to the enthusiast who purchases the books and now has an increasing variety in both price and content to choose from.

But it was a Pergamon book, *Chess Kaleidoscope*, that caught my attention. A collaboration between Russian mathematician and chess journalist Yevgeny Gik and world champion Anatoly Karpov, it is, as the title implies, a colourful selection of anecdotes, combinations, studies and games.

For example, here is one study which unquestionably has a place in the golden treasury of chess.



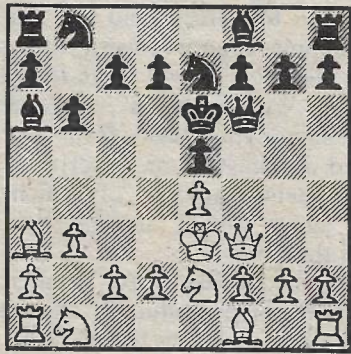
White to play and win (G. Barbier, F. Staavedra, 1895).

The solution goes: **1.c7 Rd6 ch 2.Kb5** (if **2.Kb7 Rd7** and the rook captures the pawn; or **2.Kc5 Rd1** planning **3...Rc1 ch 2...Rd5 ch 3.Kb4 Rd4 ch 4.Kb3 Rd3 ch 5.Kc2!** (now the rook cannot attack the White king from the rear and it would appear to be all over. However the most fascinating events are still to come) **5...Rd4!!** (an amazing resource for Black; on **6.c8=Q** he sacrifices his rook by **6...Rc4 ch! 7.Qxc4** to force stalemate. But his hopes are not destined to be realised) **6.c8=R!! Ra4** (the threat was **7.Ra8 mate**) **7.Kb3!** and after this neat finale Black loses his rook or is mated in one!

Of course many chess lovers will know this famous composition, but *Chess Kaleidoscope* goes further in explaining its gradual unfolding over a period of 25 years, with different analysts each contributing a small part.

The book is also educational about the royal game in a broad sense. It gives, for example, in the symmetry chapter some ideas of what happens when Black merely copies White's moves. Of course even in master chess certain openings may be symmetrical for many moves before Black is compelled to deviate. But symmetry can be dangerous for White as well!

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| 1. e4 | e5 |
| 2. Ke2 | Ke7 |
| 3. Ke3 | Ke6 |
| 4. Qf3 | Qf6 |
| 5. Ne2 | Ne7 |
| 6. b3 | b6 |
| 7. Ba3 | Ba6 |



8. Nd4 ch
Now black is forced to win.
8. ... exd4 mate!

The work is well rounded off by a personal selection of world champion Karpov's 15 favourite games. In his notes he is impressively concise and honest, as only a great master who genuinely understands chess can be. For these alone it is worth giving this kaleidoscope a shake.

Recent new titles from Batsford include: *Sicilian: Keres Attack* by Kinley, *Sicilian: Lines with ... e5* (updated) by Harding and Markland, and *Grinfeld Defence: Exchange Variation* by Malcolm Pein.

I'm amazed my postman hasn't penned his own version of *Anti-Chess* over the past few weeks.

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