

MURRAY CHANDLER

Read this

PLAYING IN a tournament with an enormous variety of chess literature on display has reminded me how confusing this wealth of choice must be for many players. Buying a specialist book on a particular opening variation may be straightforward, but what if one wishes to subscribe to a magazine? Or buy a really excellently annotated games collection? With the hope of being of assistance to anyone thinking of building up their library, here are my own personal recommendations.

Magazines

Unfortunately there are no good chess magazines written with the home player in mind at all, but the monthly *British Chess Magazine* (founded 1881) is a good rounded source of international news, games and studies. A newcomer worth investigating is *New in Chess*, published by the large Dutch corporation Elsevier. The bi-weekly *Players Chess News* from California suffers from erratic despatch, and occasional bouts of fiction — such as the recent (totally untrue) allegation that Kasparov had vomited over the board while playing Karpov.

Opening books

Here it really is difficult to differentiate among the plethora of good, bad and ugly. *Batsford Chess Openings*, though, is vastly superior to its outdated counterpart *Modern Chess Openings* as a one-volume chess player's bible. Only serious tournament players need invest in the excellent but expensive five-volume Encyclopedias from the Yugoslav Informator firm.

Middlegame books

Many of the Pergamon Russian translations — *Grandmaster Preparation* by Polugayevsky or *The Application of Chess Theory* by Geller — are worth studying here. But do not miss the two classics, Nimzowitsch's *My System* (Bell) or Bronstein's *The Chess Struggle in Practice* (Batsford).

Endgame books

I never go to a tournament without Reuben Fine's comprehensive *Basic Chess Endings* (McKay) or *Rook and Pawn Endings* by Smyslov and Levenfish (Batsford). These two pioneering works contain a lifetime's instruction in themselves.

General

The new *Oxford Companion to Chess* (OUP) would make a superb gift to a chess-stricken mate, being a topical and accurate reference work on all aspects of the royal game.

Games collections

For the senior student, the two-yearly *Chess Informator* is still unbeatable value, containing numerous annotated top master games from the preceding six months. For sheer enjoyment, though, Bobby Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games* (Faber) remains, for me, the most superb collection ever. Fischer's crystal clarity of analysis and striking honesty have created a worthy tribute to the American ex-world champion who devastated the Soviets at their own game. In contrast, the game comments in Anatoly Karpov's latest production, *Learn from Your Defeats* (Batsford), are much more general. Karpov relates how and when he avenged most of the 31 losses he suffered from 537 games played as world champion since 1975.

"How do I relate to these losses?" Karpov asks himself in the foreword. "Calmly," he answers. "I try to understand all the subtle causes of the defeat and strive for revenge!"

If the book is ever updated, it would be fascinating to hear Karpov's conclusions regarding the 47th game of his unfinished world championship struggle with Garri Kasparov. Karpov's uncharacteristically insipid play with White cost him the game in just 32 moves. Did the champ have an off day, or was he cracking up after over four months of pressure?

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

A. KARPOV	G. KASPAROV
1. Nf3	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. d4	d5
4. Nc3	c6
5. Bg5	Nbd7
6. e3	Qa5
7. cxd5	Nxd5
8. Qd2	N(7)b6

Smyslov chose 8... Bb4 against Kasparov last year, but theory has yet to demonstrate that this move is inferior. Certainly the endgame Karpov now liquidates to promises nothing for White.

9. Nxd5	Qxd2 ch
10. Nxd2	exd5
11. Bd3	a5
12. a4?	

A very weakening, un-Karpovian move. Black's bishop immediately entrenches itself on the b4 square.

12. ...	Bb4
13. Ke2	Bg4 ch
14. f3	Bh5
15. h4	O-O
16. g4	Bg6
17. b3	Bxd3 ch
18. Kxd3	Rfe8
19. Rac1	c5!

Even though queens have been exchanged, the White king will find life hot in the centre. After 20. dxc5 Black replies 20... Nd7.

20. Bf4	Rac8
21. dxc5	Nd7
22. c6	bxc6
23. Rhd1	Nc5 ch
24. Kc2	f6
25. Nf1	Ne6
26. Bg3	Red8
27. Bf2	c5
28. Nd2	c4
29. bxc4	Nc5!



Intending 30. Ra1 dxc4 31. Nxc4 Rxd1 32. Rxd1 (32. Kxd1 Nd3) Nxa4 with a clear endgame advantage. Karpov's response is desperate, but it is still astonishing that the game lasts only three more moves.

30. e4	d4!
31. Nb1	d3 ch
32. Kb2	d2
33. Resigns	

After 32. Rc2 Nd3 ch wins the bishop on f2. ■