CHESS

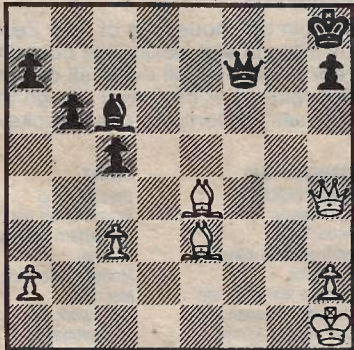# Salute to the great Nepoznati

by Murray Chandler

WE ALL deserve some light relief after those mindrackingly-complicated world championship games, and happily it turned up in the post this morning. Unhappily it is in Serbo-Croat. Still, this doesn't matter especially as the book, entitled *Checkmate Blow*, comprises 500 beautiful mating combinations collected by one Dragoslav Andric. These classic finishes span the years 1840 to 1980 and I am hoping a Western publisher might take an interest.

Meanwhile, anyone here who obtains a copy will notice some stunning examples from a hitherto quite unknown genius, the great Nepoznati. His career begins with example nine, in 1857 against Paul Morphy, and he is still going strong at the end of the book 123 years later. I will recommend this unsung hero of unknown origins for a retrospective grandmaster title at the Dubai Olympiad. On past performance of the FIDE (World Chess Federation) qualifications committee, I have high hopes that this amazing talent will receive his long overdue award.

The following checkmates, from years past, rank as some of the most beautiful pieces of chess ever created. This first one even features GM-elect Nepoznati himself, albeit on the wrong side of America's Harry Nelson Pillsbury in 1899.
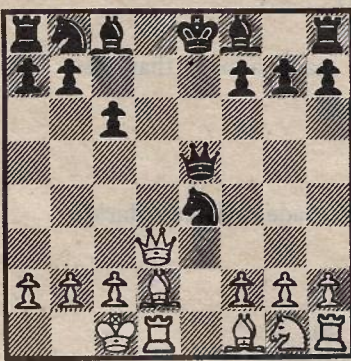
NEPOZNATI
(translates as not known)

PILLSBURY

1. . . .	Qf1 ch
2. Bg1	Qf3 ch!
3. B×f3	B×f3 checkmate

Now a familiar example from 1910. Note how the killer double check quashes any possible Black defences.
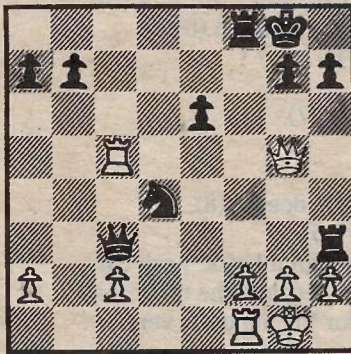
RETI

TARTAKOWER

1. Qd8 ch!	K×d8
2. Bg5 dble ch	Kc7
3. Bd8 checkmate	

This next sacrifice from Breslau, 1912, is the most famous of all. Marshall wins with such an incredible move, thrusting his queen into the nest of White pawns, that the spectators showered his board with gold coins.
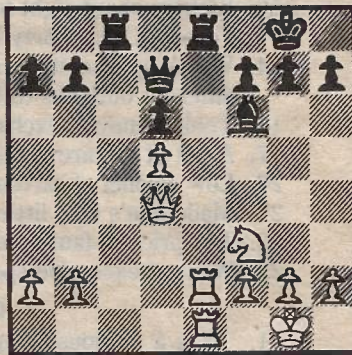
MARSHALL

LEVICKI

| 1. . . . | Qg3!! |

White resigns

If 2. h×g3 Ne2 mate; if 2. f×g3 Ne2 ch 3. Kh1 R×f1 mate; if 2. Q×g3 Ne2 ch 3. Kh1 N×g3 ch 4. Kg1 N×f1; if 2. Qe5 Ne2 ch 3. Q×e2 Q×h2 mate.

Play through this last classic, from New Orleans 1920, on a board. White repeatedly offers his queen to both Black's queen and rook — but it can never be taken because of checkmate. At the finale of this immortal back-rank combination Black is forced to capture or resign.

TORRE

ADAMS

| 1. Qg4! | Qb5 |
| 2. Qc4!! | Qd7 |

The fearless Queen is immune (2. . . . Q×c4 or 2. . . . R×c4 lose to 3. R×e8 mating) — but it gets even better . . .

| 3. Qc7!! | Qb5 |
| 4. a4! | |

A subtle finesse; not 4. Q×b7? Q×e2! 5. R×e2 Rc1 and Black mates.

4. . . .	Q×a4
5. Re4	Qb5
6. Q×b7!	**Resigns**

Even Nepoznati would have to appreciate that . . . ∎