

Excerpt from Who's Afraid of the King's Gambit, by Eric Schiller (Chess Enterprises, 1998)

Introduction

In many conversations with chessplayers, I have noted a reluctance to answer 1 e4 by 1...e5 based on an irrational fear of some deviations from the standard Spanish or Italian play. Often people will admit that the Ponziani, Scotch, various central gambits, and Vienna game are hardly frightening "...but what about the King's Gambit!" This venerable opening seems to scare the pants off of some tournament players, for reasons which are not particularly clear. If, in turn, one suggests that the pawn can simply be eaten with relish (mustard, ketchup, or what have you), a look of horror crosses the face of the interlocutor.

Why this fear? Probably because we all grow up seeing the brilliant games of the leading exponents of the King's Gambit, and do not wish to fall prey to a Morphy-like combination. Every effort is made to side-step the gambit, even though virtually all authorities agree that one must accept the gambit or concede a positional superiority for White.

This book is offered as a remedy to the problem. Here you will find that not only can the pawn be seized at the second turn, but that in many cases Black can

become the aggressor in the game. Not that the King's Gambit is unsound - not by any means! There is a bit of theory to be learned, and a mistake in the first ten moves or so can prove fatal. But in the end it is much easier to achieve a good game with Black in the King's Gambit than it is in most other open games.

This book shows you exactly what you need to accept the King's Gambit and live (very comfortably!). In the key main lines the analysis is fairly deep, even though in many cases the best moves for Black have never been played. All minor variations have been covered, even those which are silly at first sight but which sometimes contain more than a drop of venom. In addition, the reader will find many new ideas which will come as an unpleasant shock to the opponent.

In fact, the entire main line defense to 1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 g5 4 Bc4 is based on the little-known move order finesse 4...Nc6!, which avoids the Muzio (-Polerio) Gambit entirely and leads Black into comfortable variations of the Hanstein Defense. So the reader who has carefully studied the material in this book will be better prepared than his opponent, in many cases, and will have in his arsenal some new weapons which may cause a lot of trouble for White.

In so far as possible, complete games are presented, showing how the positional advantages obtained by Black can be turned into full points. There is often very little practical material on some of the obscure lines, and that is why many people like to choose those lines as White. To avoid the "Gee, I didn't look at that!"

syndrome, all minor lines have been given sufficient prominence that they will not be overlooked when studying the defenses required. True, one is unlikely to encounter 3 Qe2 in tournament play, but a well-prepared player should not be seeing the move for the first time!

One would think, then, that this volume is aimed at practical tournament players rated about 1600-2000. I think that the basic attacking and defending strategies will enhance the play of even lower rated players, while stronger players may find the new ideas to be of interest. In any case, whatever the rating, the reader will benefit from having chased the ghosts of the great King's Gambiteers out of the mansion of their opening repertoire, and will be able to answer 1 e4 with 1...e5, confident that 2 f4 will only improve their winning prospects.

The most complete source of material on the various King's Gambit lines is the series of books edited by Colin Leach. These books contain hundreds of complete games with annotations and other citations. Much of the material used in this book was derived from these works, and the reader is urged to acquire them for the sheer pleasure of playing through the games.

Unfortunately, there is a serious flaw in Mr. Leach's work - the failure to cite sources for most of his analysis. Therefore some of the material in this book will not bear the correct attribution, as I have made no effort to comb through the literature to secure this historical information. My apologies to any chessplayer, living or dead, whose

inspiration is not properly credited. In any event, the books are simply a treasure trove of fascinating chess, and I strongly recommend them to all lovers of the romantic style of chess represented by the King's Gambit.

I have also consulted standard reference works on the King's Gambit, Joe Gallagher's recent treatise, the book by Korchnoi & Zak and the two volume set by Estrin & Glazkov. These works do a better job of crediting analysis and I have tried to use them to remedy the defective scholarship of Leach's works.

In addition, articles by S. Bucker in M.O.B. and a number of older works on the King's Gambit have been checked to see if any interesting ideas have fallen through the cracks. The book by Christiansen et al. is written from White's point of view and in this book remedies are provided for all of their suggested lines.

It must be kept in mind that this is a volume intended for practical application, and not a historical survey of the King's Gambit Accepted. There will no doubt be readers whose zeal for correcting the historical record is sufficient to warrant pointing out the mistakes and oversights which appear in this volume, and I would be most grateful to anyone who can supply correct credits for the analysis quoted in this book.

For this new edition I have added many games not previously available to me. I compiled a database of about 10,000 King's Gambit games, allowing me to locate many interesting examples. I haven't had to change any of the

recommended lines, because all have held up well in the past seven years. I did revise a fair bit of the analysis, checking some highly tactical lines with computer programs Zarkov and King.

This book is more of a solo effort than most, and it remains only to thank Gabe Kahane, for entering the material from the first edition into ChessBase, Tom Magar for his customary excellent job of proofreading the manuscript, and Bob Dudley for giving me permission to write on such an esoteric topic.

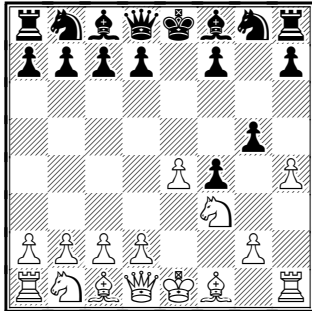
If the reader is fortunate enough to apply the material in this work with success, I will be very happy to receive copies of the games. Even if victory eludes the reader, I would still like to see the game. Please send all communication via email to author@chessworks.com or with snail mail to P.O. Box 1048, El Granada, CA 94018.

The excerpts below cover the entire defense to the King's Knight Gambit (1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3.)

Chapter 1: 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 (Introduction)

Chapter 1: 4.h4

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4



We start our journey with a very old continuation. There are examples dating back to the 17th century. Salvio (1723) contains discussion of it, as does Greco (1784), while Horny (1839) and Lewis (1844) added considerably to the analysis of the position. It was examined closely in the Bilguer and Staunton manuals of 1847. Although the attack with 4 h4 is less direct than that of 4 Bc4, which we examine in later chapters, it nevertheless is an aggressive line which can lead to wild sacrificial play. Moreover, it is the line recommended by most authorities, including Estrin & Glazkov, Christiansen et al., Korchnoi & Zak etc. and therefore is likely to be encountered in tournament practice.

4...g4

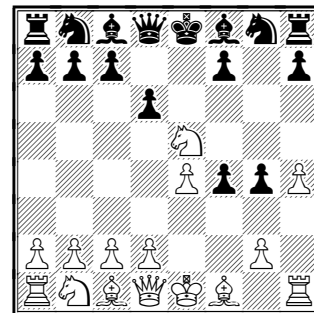
No other reply is worth considering here. Black makes another pawn move, leaving his pieces undeveloped, but he attacks the Nf3 which must move, since, unlike the case in the Muzio Gambit 4 Bc4

g4 5 0–0!? gxf3 White has wasted time with his h-pawn instead of developing the bishop. Staunton (1847) described 4 h4 as leading “to situations of remarkable interest”. Now White has two common replies, 5 Ne5, the subject of this chapter, and 5 Ng5, which will be discussed in the next chapter.

5.Ne5

This is the starting position of the Kieseritzky Gambit. Black has tried no less than eight methods of defense, but in this book only two will be discussed. The first, 5...d6 (Kolisch Defense), is considered one of the main lines these days, but in my opinion the second, 5...Nc6 (Neumann Defense) may be better than its reputation.

5...d6



This is a fairly simple route to a balanced position where White will have compensation for his pawn, but no more.

6.Nxg4

One might think that 6 Nxg4 Kxf7 7 Bc4+ Ke8 8 d4 is appropriate, as in the Allgaier, but here Black has moved his d-pawn, a strong developing move, instead

Chapter 1: 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 (Introduction)

of the h-pawn, with the added benefit that 8... Bh6 is now possible. 9.Nc3 Ne7 10.Qd3 c6 11.Bd2 b5 12.Bb3 a5 13.a4 b4 14.Ne2 Ba6 gave Black a strong attack in Schlechter-Maroczy, Vienna 1903.

6...Be7

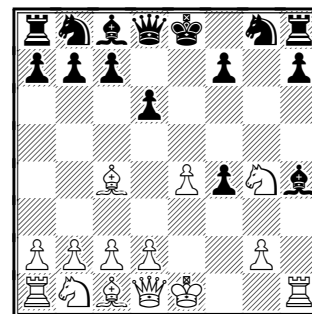
A critical move, since it is necessary to develop quickly and keep the pressure on the White position. 6...Nf6 seems to do the same thing, but after 7 Nxf6+ Qxf6 8 Nc3 c6 9 Be2 Rg8 10 Bf3 Bh6 11 d4 Na6 12 e5! (ECO) or 10...Bg7 11 d3 Be6 12 Qd2 Bh6 13 d4, Kashchutin - Laptev, Postal 1986/87. White has much better prospects.

7.d4

Obviously, it would be silly to waste time on 7 h5?! which would be met by 7...Bh4+ 8 Nf2 (8 Ke2?? Bg4+) 8... Qg5 with a stronger position than that of the game.

7.Nf2 was tried by Adolph Anderssen but without much success. 7...Bxh4 8.Qf3 Qg5 9.d3 Bg3 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.Ne2 Nb4 12.Nxf4 Nxc2+ 13.Kd1 Nd4! 14.Qe3 Bxf2 15.Qxf2 Bg4+ 16.Be2 Nxe2 17.Nxe2 Qb5 18.Qd4 0-0-0 and Black was clearly better in Anderssen-Lange, Breslau 1859.

7.Bc4 Bxh4+ is also good for Black:



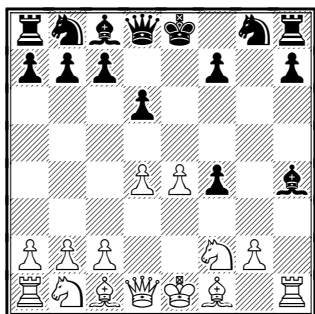
a) 8.Nf2 Qg5 9.Be2 (9.Qf3 Nc6 10.0-0 Ne5 11.Qb3 f3 12.Bxf7+ Ke7 13.g4 Qf4 14.Kh1 Qg3 15.Rg1 Qxf2 16.d4 Nxf4 17.Bf4 Qh2+ 18.Bxh2 Nf2# 0-1 Levin-Shipman, US Open 1995.) 9...Nf6 10.d3 Nc6 11.Qd2 Nd4 12.Nc3 Qxg2 13.Rf1 f3 0-1 Schlitter-Remling, Giessen 1993.

b) 8.Kf1 8...Qg5 9.Nh2 Qg3 10.Qe2 Nc6 11.Bb5 Nf6 12.d3 Rg8 13.Nf3 Bg4 14.Nbd2 Nh5 15.Kg1 0-0-0 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.d4 Kb8 18.Nf1 Qxf3 19.Qxf3 Bxf3 20.Nd2 Rxf3+ 21.Kf1 Ng3+ 0-1 Ozanne-Stern, Singapore 1990.

7.d3 Bxh4+ 8.Nf2 Qg5 (8...Bg3!? Is worth looking at too!) 9.Qd2 (This is a safer square than f3.) 9...Bg3 10.Nc3 Nf6 11.Ne2 Qe5! Is an improvement on 11...Bxf2+ 12.Kxf2 Ng4+ 13.Kg1 Ne3 14.Nxf4 Nxf1 15.Kxf1 as given by Gallagher. Now after 12.Nxg3 fxg3 and Black is better, Winants-Almasi, Wijk aan Zee 1995.

7...Bxh4+ 8.Nf2

Chapter 1: 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 (Introduction)



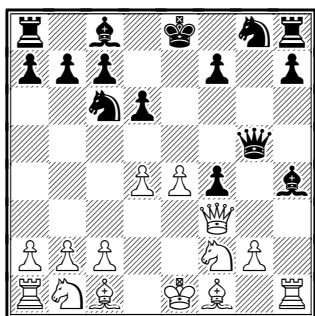
8...Qg5!

This is the best method of maintaining the pressure on the Black kingside.

8...Bxf2+ Black must not be tempted by 9.Kxf2 Nf6 since after 10.Nc3 Qe7 11.Bxf4 Nxe4+ 12.Nxe4 Qxe4 13.Bb5+ Kf8 14.Bh6+ White wins: 14...Kg8 15.Rh5 Bf5 16.Qd2 Bg6 17.Re1 Qg4 18.Re8# Morphy-Lyttelton, Birmingham 1858.

9.Nc3

9 Qf3 is a significant alternative, to which 9...Nc6 (Rosenthal) is the best reply.



White has tried many plans here.

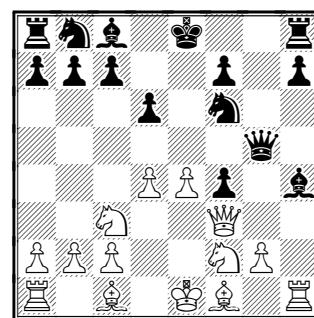
a) 10.Qxf4 Bxf2+ 11.Kxf2 Qxf4+ 12.Bxf4 Nxd4 13.Nc3 (13.Bd3 h5 14.Nc3 Be6 15.Nd5 Kd7 is better for Black, Uznanski-Jankowski, Postal 1992.) 13...Be6 14.Nb5 (14.e5 Ne7 15.exd6 Ng6 16.Bg3 cxd6 17.Bxd6 0-0-0 and Black is better.) 14...Nxb5 15.Bxb5+ Bd7 and here 16.Bc4 was agreed drawn in Shumilin-Voikov, Postal 1989, while 16.Be2 Nf6 17.e5 Ne4+ 18.Ke3 d5 19.c4 c6 20.Rad1 Be6 21.Bf3 f5! 22.exf6 Nxf6 23 Be5 was eventually drawn in Ressegner - Lentz, Postal 1912.

b) 10.Bxf4 Nxd4 11.Bxg5 Nxf3+ 12.gxf3 Bxg5 13.Nc3 Be6 14.Nd5 0-0-0 and White does not have enough compensation for the pawn. Hiewiadomy-Zarebski, Postal 1993.

c) 10.c3 Bg3 11.Bd3 Nf6 12.Kf1 h5 13.Bd2 h4 14.Nh3 Bxh3 15.gxh3 0-0-0 16.Na3 Rhe8 and Black is better, Yedidia-Shipman, New York 1993.

d) Finally, there is the terrible 10.Bb5?? 10...Bxf2+ 0-1 Gusev-Plotnikov, Postal 1989.

9...Nf6 10.Qf3

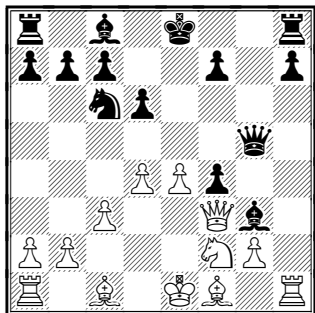


10...Ng4! 11.Nd1

Chapter 1: 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 (Introduction)

Now both sides must play with precision.

11...Nc6 12.c3 Nxf2 13.Nxf2 Bg3



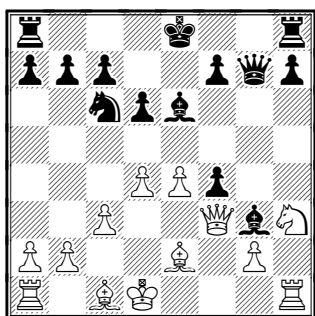
14.Kd1

14.Be2 Bd7 15.Bd2 0-0-0 16.0-0-0 f5 17.exf5 Qxf5 18.Rh5 Qf7 and again White had problems justifying the investment of a pawn, Mortimer-Rosenthal, London 1883.

14...Be6 15.Nh3

15 d5? Ne5! is good for Black.

15...Qg7 16.Be2!



This line, stemming from Keres, leads to the inevitable recapture of the pawn at

f4, with White enjoying a full center. Note that if 16 Bf4?? or 16 Nxf4?? had been played, 16...Bg4 would have been the devastating reply. Now the pawn advance d4-d5 is still not a threat, as it can always be met by Nc6-e5. Black can simply castle queenside and continue by placing pressure along the g-file, together with a possible d6-d5 advance in the center. White will be able to gain the bishop pair, perhaps, but his king remains unstable in the center. The chances should be about even, although I would prefer to be sitting on the Black side of the table after, say,

16...0-0-0 17 Nxf4 Bxf4 18 Bxf4 d5 19 e5 Bf5

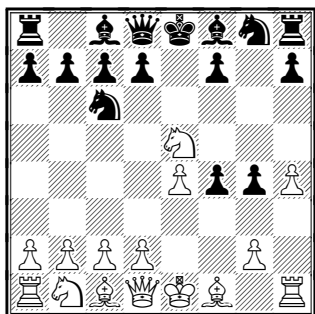
In the first edition I suggested that this would be followed by Bf5-g6, Rh8-e8, f7-f6 etc.

20.Kc1 is given in the 1995 edition of Maser and Raingruber, presumably reacting to the analysis in the first edition of my book. They give only 20...Bg6?! 21.Qh3+ Kb8 22.Bg5 intending Bd8 or Bf6. That is rather disingenuous, since Kc1 changes the position, and Black can choose instead 20...Rhg8 with a firm grip on g4. 21.Bh6 can be countered with 21...Qg6, followed by ...Bg4. The king does not seem well-placed at c1, and it will be hard to activate the rook at a1.

Now let's turn to the second line.

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 g4 5.Ne5 Nc6!?

Chapter 1: 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 (Introduction)



Although the system given in the previous section is fine, Neumann's move has a certain appeal and can be used as an alternative. After all, it develops a piece (finally!) and threatens to exchange off White's only developed piece. Why then has it languished in obscurity? The answer lies in what seems to be a forced variation with 6.d4. If Black can find a way to meet that line, he is doing quite well, since the other variations are known to be harmless.

6.d4

6.Nxc6 dxc6 Here too there are no pieces in play, and Black has an extra pawn to compensate for his structural weaknesses. Now White must act to control the center, as otherwise Black will play Bf8-g7 and c6-c5 after which White will be unable to play d2-d4. 7.d4 Nf6 8.e5 Nh5! Why worry about moving a piece twice in the opening when White has no pieces developed at all! Black has a secure extra pawn and no problems with his development. He will be able to castle on either side of the board.

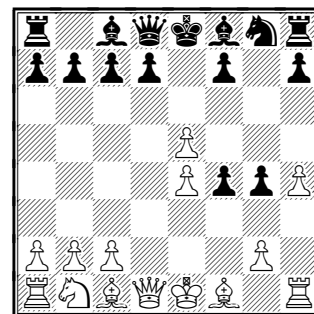
6.Nxg4 d5! White has his pawn back, but his knight sits on a ridiculous square,

and Black can take advantage of this by opening up the diagonal for his light-squared bishop. 7.exd5 7 Nf2 would be a cowardly retreat, after which 7...Bc5! is quite strong, preventing White from playing d2-d4 and threatening to capture the Nf2 at an opportune moment. 7...Qe7+! There is no need to recapture the pawn. After White interposes, the Ng4 is en prise. 8.Be2 Nd4 Stronger than 8... Bxg4?! 9 dxc6. 9.Nf2 Bf5 10.d3 0-0-0 Black is already holding a decisive advantage, Neumann - Bergell, 1872. Both of these defensive systems require further practical tests.

6...Nxe5

6...Nf6 7.Bc4 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Nxg4 Qe7+ 10.Kf2 Be6 11.Bxd5 Bxd5 12.Bxf4 0-0-0 gave Black good play against the vulnerable White king in Bangiev-Semyenov, Postal 1990.

7.dxe5



Now the known theory runs 7... d6 8 Bf4! which is difficult to defend: a) 8... Bg7 9 Nc3! dxe5 (9... Bxe5 10 Bxe5 dxe5 11 Qxd8+) 10 Qxd8+ Kxd8 11 0-0-0+ Bd7 12 Be3 and, according to Bilguer (1847) White has a strong game. b) 8... Qe7 9

Chapter 1: 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 (Introduction)

exd6 Qxe4+ 10 Qe2 Qxe2+ 11 Bxe2 Bxd6
12 Bxd6 cxd6 13 Nc3 - Collijn (1921) But
is it really necessary to play Blacks 7...
d6? I think not. Black can return the pawn
without allowing White to build such
strong central pressure.

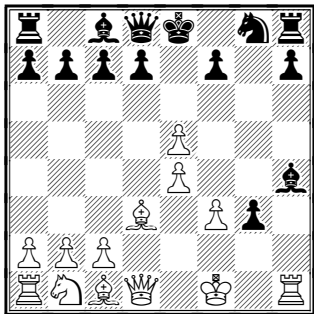
7...f3!?

This is my own idea, and it lead to a
win in its debut.

8.gxf3

It is hard to see how White, with no
lead in development, can comfortably
allow 8... f3 or even the dislocating 8...
f2+.

8...Be7 9.Bd3 Bxh4+ 10.Kf1 g3



11.f4 d5 12.Qh5 dxe4 13.Qxh4
Qxh4 14.Rxh4 exd3 15.cxd3 Bf5
16.d4 0–0–0 17.Be3 c5! 18.dxc5??

18.d5 Rxd5 19.Nc3 Rd3 is the lesser
evil.

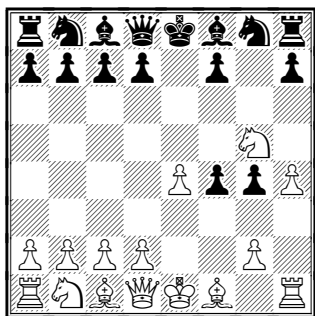
18...Rd1+ 19.Kg2 Bxb1

and White resigned in Powe-Schiller,
USA 1991.

Chapter 2: 4.h4 g4 5.Ng5

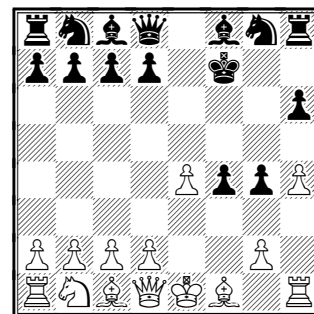
1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 g4 5.Ng5

The Allgaier Gambit is another ancient continuation. Allgaier was a player who was active in Vienna, and the romantic nature of the city seems to have influenced his chess. This variation involves the early sacrifice of a piece, and is therefore much riskier than the lines with 5 Ne5. Black has no choice but to accept the offer, as all cowardly continuations are severely punished.



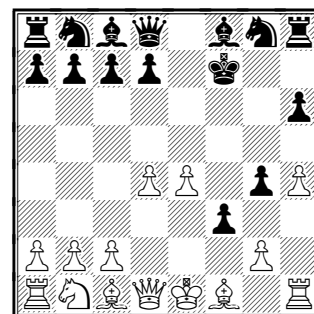
5...h6 6.Nxf7 Kxf7

In return for the sacrifice of the piece White has brought the Black monarch into an exposed position. Over the years, however, solid defensive resources have been found and the Allgaier is now rarely seen in tournament play. If Black is not prepared, however, he might fall prey to this rusty weapon.



7.Bc4+

7.d4 f3! This is hardly new, as it was discussed in Gunsberg (1895) who played the White side a few moves later. Now 8 Bc4+ transposes above.



8.gxf3 Estrin & Glazkov also suggest 8 Bf4, 8 Be3 and 8 Nc3 but these remain untested. 8...Be7 seems a useful reply in each case. 8...d5! 9.Bf4 Nf6 10.e5 Nh5 11.fxg4 Nxf4 12.Qf3 Kg7 Gunsberg - Bird, London 1889.

7.Qxg4? Nf6! This move provides sufficient protection to the Black king, and White will find it difficult to build an initiative. 8.Qxf4 The problem with this move is that it allows Black to develop

Chapter 2: 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 g4 5.Ng5

with tempo, creating threats against the White queen. (8.Bc4+ d5 9.Qxf4 This line is even worse than the above, in that although White picks up an extra pawn Black does not have to block his d-pawn. White's attack quickly runs out of steam and Black takes over the initiative. 9...Bd6 With the d-pawn at d5, there is no way in which the White bishop can participate in the attack unless it captures at d5, but then it will be removed from the board, leaving a useless pawn in its place. 10.Bxd5+ Kg7 11.Qf3 Nxd5 12.exd5 Qe8+ 13.Qe3 Bg3+ The position was reached in a correspondence game between the cities of Stuttgart and Nymwegen, in 1888. Black has a strong attack and White will be hard pressed to survive.) 8...Bd6 9.Qf3 Nc6 10.c3 Ne5 11.Qf2 Neg4 12.Qf3 Qe7 13.d3 Qe5 – Korchnoi & Zak. Black is clearly better here.

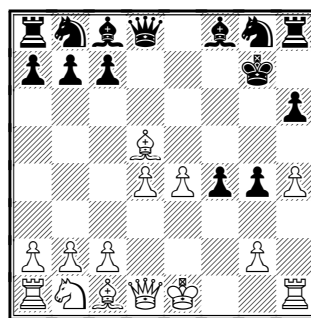
7.Nc3 Nc6 Keres suggested this seemingly slow move can lead to the Hampe-Allgaier Gambit, a variation of the King's Gambit Declined, or Black can follow Keres analysis. We note that this position can be reached from the 3 Nc3 line considered in Chapter 6. 8.d4 8 Bc4+! d5 9 Nxd5 Be6 10 d4 f3! 11 gxf3 Nf6 - Korchnoi & Zak. 9 Bxd5+ transposes above. 8...d5 9.Bxf4 Nf6 10.Bd3 or 10 Nxd5 Bd6! 10...dxe4 11.Bc4+ Ke8 12.d5 Bd6! A strong move, overprotecting the e5 square which will be a nice home for Black's knight. White can't allow that, so... 13.Bxd6 Qxd6 14.dxc6 Qg3+ 15.Kd2 15 Kf1 Rf8 is virtually winning for Black. 15...Qf4+ And, according to analysis by Constantinopolsky & Lepeshkin, Black is assured of at least a draw.

7...d5 8.Bxd5+ Kg7!

Until recently it was thought that 8...Ke8 was the safer move, but recent analysis confirms that the text is best. Which just goes to show that even though the variation has been around a long time, there are still discoveries to be made!

9.Bxb7?

9.d4 is a better try.



9...f3! is once again the correct reply. 10.gxf3 Nf6 Black is willing to give up a pawn to close the f-file for a moment and get a piece developed. 11.Nc3 (11.Bb3 Nc6 12.c3 Suggested by Keres. 12...Qd6 13.e5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Qxe5+ Black stands better - Korchnoi & Zak.) 11...Bb4 12.Bc4 (12.Bb3 Nc6 13.Be3 Na5 - Bilguer 1916. Or 12.Bf4 Nxd5 13.exd5 Nd7 Levenfish.) 12...gxf3 13.Rg1+ Ng4 14.Qxf3 Qxh4+ 15.Rg3 Rf8 16.Bf4 Be7! Marco - Schlechter, Vienna 1903 saw instead 16...Qf6 17 Rxf4+ Kh7 18 Bg8+ Kh8...1/2-1/2 17.Nd5 17 0-0-0 loses to 17...Rxf4 18 Qxf4 Bg5 17...Bg5! 18.Bxg5 Qxg5! 19.Qe2 b5 20.Ne3 Here Black should play 20...Rf4 or 20...h5 (Analysis.)

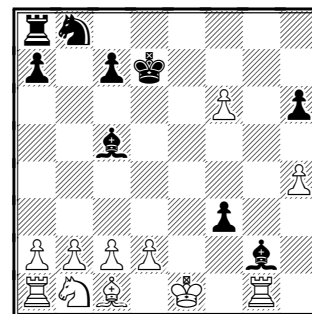
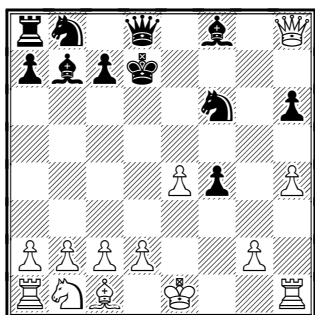
Chapter 2: 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 g4 5.Ng5

9...Bxb7 10.Qxg4+ Kf7 11.Qh5+
Ke7 12.Qe5+ Kd7

13 Qf5+ Kc6 14 Rh3 a5! gives Black
an escape hatch.

13.Qxh8 Nf6

This critical position is not fully
discussed in most manuals on the King's
Gambit.



Black wins.

14.e5

There are three alternatives:

a) 14 b3 Bxe4 15 Bb2 Be7 was given
by Gunsberg (1895).

b) 14 d3 Bb4+!

c) 14 Nc3 Qe7 and the White queen is
trapped - Gunsberg (1895).

14...Bxg2 15.Rg1

15 Rh2 f3 16 Qxf6 Qxf6 17 exf6 Bc5 -
Gunsberg (1895).

15...f3 16.Qxf6 Qxf6 17.exf6 Bc5

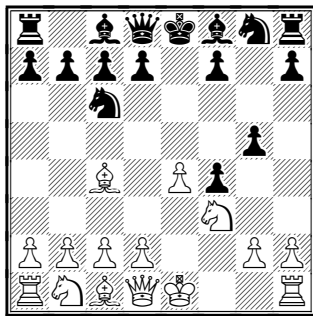
This is cited by Levenfish and
Freeborough & Ranken 1910.

Chapter 4: 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.0-0 d6 6.Nc3 h6 7.d4 Bg7

Chapter 3: 4.Bc4 Nc6!?

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6!?

This is the move order which can help to solve all of Black's opening problems. By playing the unusual 4...Nc6, first seen in L. Paulsen - Blachly, 1857, and brought to public attention in Mieses - Chigorin, Vienna, 1903, Black can achieve transpositions into favorable lines of the Philidor and Hanstein Gambits. There is no way for White to take advantage of this move order variation, as will be seen in the present chapter.



5.0-0

5.d4 Bg7 6.0-0 h6 7.c3 d6 or 7 Nc3 d6 leads to a Hanstein Gambit.

5.d3 was played in the correspondence game Grigoriev - Levitsky, corres 1912. The best reply to this timid move is 5...h6!
 6 h4 Bg7
 ορ 6 0 0!/? Bγ7 ανδ Ωηιτε ηασ λεσσ πλαψ την ι ν της λινεσ ωιτη δ2-δ4.

5.h4!/? This is the move played in the Chigorin game, which we examine here.

5...g4 6.Ng5 Ne5! With the knight occupying this strong post not only is f7 protected, but White must lose time with his bishop. 7.Bb3 h6 The knight is attacked, but it has no retreat squares. Thus White's reply is forced. 8.d4 hxg5 9.dxe5 Bg7 10.Nc3 c6! Black must not get too greedy. After 10...Bxe5? White can sacrifice at f7 with a strong attack. Black's extra pawn is secure, and it is time to develop. 11.Qxg4 Bxe5 The pin along the h-file helps protect the pawn at g5, while the pawn at c6 prevents any unpleasant incursions by the White knight. White now has an awkward problem. He must continue with his development, but as he takes time to do so his initiative evaporates, leaving Black with a clear advantage. 12.Bd2 d6 13.Qe2 Nf6 14.0-0 g4! An excellent move by Black, since 14...Bg4 is met by 15 hxg5!, where 15...Bxe2 16 Rxh8+ is obviously better for White and 15...Rhx1 16 Rxh1 Bxe2 17 Rh8+ Ke7 18 gxf6+ followed by 19 Rxd8 and 20 Nxe2 is also very strong. But Black is better after 17...Kd7 18 Rxd8+ Rxd8 19 gxf6 Bh5 or 19 Nxe2 Nxe4 20 Bxf7 Nxe5. Down the exchange and a pawn, White can resign. He has no counterplay. 15.Qf1 Bg4 16.Ne2 Qe7 17.Re1 Nh5 Black has complete control of the kingside and threatens 18...Bxe2 followed by 19...Ng3 18.Rg1 Qf6 Now his extra pawn is solidly defended. 19.Nc3 0-0-0 20.Qc4 Ng3 21.Nd5 21 Qxf7 Qxf7 Bxf7 fails to 22...Rf8 23 Bc4 Bd4! NNow Black's queenside attack comes alive and it is White who finds himself in a mating net! 21...Bxb2+ 22.Kb1 Qd4 23.Ne7+ Kb8 24.Ba5 Rd7 25.Qxf7 Ba3 26.c3 Qe5 27.Ng6 Qxa5 28.Qf6 Re8 Or 28 Qxd7 Qc3 and mates.

Chapter 4: 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.O-O d6 6.Nc3 h6 7.d4 Bg7

29.Nxf4 Qe5 0-1 Mises - Chigorin,
Vienna 1903.

5...d6 6.Nc3

6.d4 should transpose below.

6...h6 7.d4

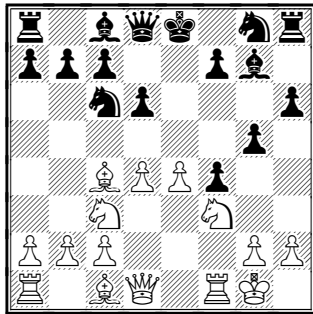
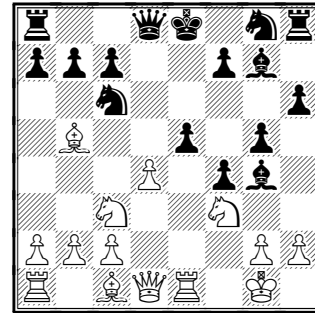
7 g3!? Bh3! is very good for Black, for example 8 Rf2 Bg7 9 Nd5 g4 10 Nh4 fxe3 11 hxe3 Bd4 12 Ne3 Ne5 13 d3 Qg5 14 Nhf5 Nf3+ 15 Kh1 Qh5 16 Nh4 Ne7 17 c3 Be5 18 Nxf3 gxf3 19 Kg1 0-1, Reinert - Siklosi, Kecskemet 1986.

After 7 d4 we have reached the Hanstein Gambit, discussed in the next chapter.

Chapter 4: 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.0-0 d6 6.Nc3

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4
Nc6 5.0-0 d6 6.Nc3 h6 7.d4 Bg7

By adopting the move order with 4...Nc6, Black has steered play into one of the harmless variations of the Hanstein, as White has played Nb1-c3 instead of c2-c3.



a) 8 g3 is met by 8...Nge7, e.g. 9 gxf4 g4! 10 d5, a position reached in Levin - Zamikhovsky, USSR 1959. Now ECO gives 10...gxf3 11 dxc6 Bg4 12 Kh1 Nxc6 and Black has the advantage.

b) 8 Ne2 Nge7 9 c3 Bg4 is clearly better for Black.

8.Nd5

8.e5 This sharp continuation comes from Frank Marshall. 8...dxe5 9.Re1 If White recaptures immediately Black gets a very good game: 9 dxe5 Qxd1 10 Rxd1 Bg4! and the pressure gives Black the initiative in addition to his pawn. If 11 Nb5 then 11...Rc8 is fine. 9...Bg4 10.Bb5

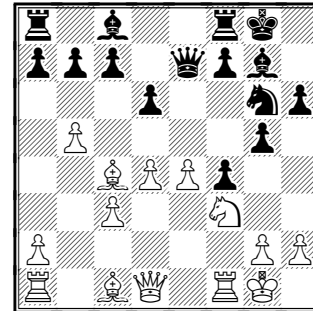
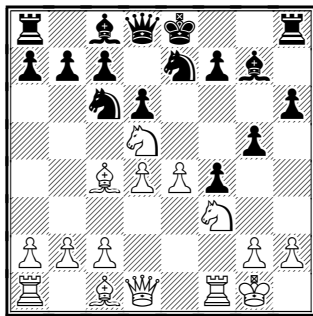
10...Kf8! A key defensive move! The king is perfectly safe here. 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.b3 Ne7 13.Ba3 Kg8 14.dxe5 Qxd1 15.Raxd1 Ng6 After a brief attempt at an attack by White the game has settled into a more positional mode. Black has an extra pawn, although his queenside pawn structure is crippled. But he also holds the bishop pair, and has strong pressure at e5. His king is about to complete the operation of manual castling, and will find a completely safe haven at h7. White's only hope is to try to create some pressure at e6, but this is difficult while the Nc3 remains unprotected, creating a powerful pin at e5. Unfortunately for him, the only way to resolve the situation involves giving up his prized possession at e5. 16.Ne4 Bxf3! 17.gxf3 Nxe5 18.Kf2 Kh7 19.Be7 Kg6! The active participation of the king leaves White completely without counterplay, despite the presence of his rooks on open files. 20.h4 Rhe8 21.h5+ Kf5! Not 21...Kxh5? 22 Bf6! 22.Bc5 Nxf3! A fairly elementary combination which brings the game quickly to a close. 23.Kxf3 Rxe4 24.Rxe4 g4+ 25.Kf2 Kxe4 26.Rd7 Bf6 27.Rxf7 Bh4+ 28.Kf1 Rd8 29.Bf2 Bxf2 30.Kxf2 Rd2+ 31.Ke1 Rxc2

Chapter 4: 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.O-O d6 6.Nc3 h6 7.d4 Bg7

Now it is the g-pawn, which began its journey at move three, which decides the game. 32.Rf6 g3 33.Rxh6 g2 34.Rg6 Ke3 0-1

8...Nge7

For some reason this old move was displaced by 8...Nf6 in later games.



13.Qc2 Kh8 14.Ba3 g4 15.Nd2 Qh4

Black is much better, Alpen - L. Paulsen, 1867.

9.c3 0-0! 10.b4

10.g3 is a new, but unimpressive try. 10...Bh3 11.Rf2

a) 11...Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Ne7 is interesting, for example 13.gxf4 Nxd5 14.exd5 g4 15.Ne1 Bf6 (15...f5!? leaves the Bc1 looking as ugly as the one at h3.) 16.Ng2 Bh4 with an attack.

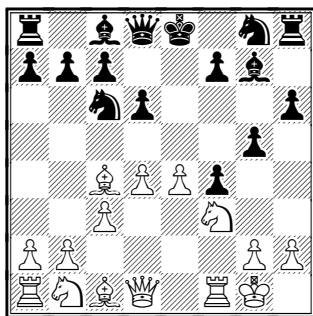
b) 11...fxg3 12.hxg3 Qd7 13.Ne3 was played in Rombauer-Smith, Postal 1995 and here instead of the awful 13...Be6?? 14.d5 1-0, Black can play 13...Rae8 with as decent game.

10...Ng6 11.b5 Nce7 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7

Chapter 5: 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.d4 Bg7 6.c3/7.0-0

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4
Nc6 5.d4 Bg7 6.c3 h6 7.0-0 d6

This is clearly the most principled continuation. White has continued to develop his pieces rapidly, and has supported his strong pawn center. White has made no attempt to recapture the pawn, counting on his initiative to provide sufficient compensation.



8.g3

This is the main line, though there is no shortage of alternatives.

8.Qa4 is best handled with 8...Kf8. By breaking the pin, Black reduces the pressure and plans to castle manually. The f-file is so congested that he is unlikely to face any threats there, and the d6 pawn buffers the a3-f8 diagonal.

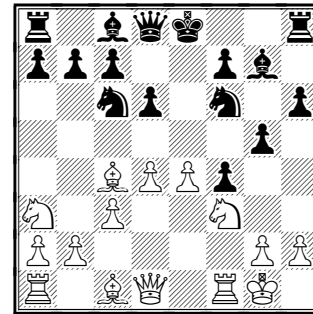
a) 9.b4! looks strongest, intending 10 Qb3, 11 g3 and 12 Bxf4. 9...Bd7 may be best, for example there is a trap: 10.Qb3 g4 11.Ne1 Nxd4! 12.cxd4 Bxd4+ 13.Kh1 Bxa1 14.Bb2 Bxb2 15.Qxb2 Qf6 .

b) 9.Bd3 Bd7 10.Qb3 Nge7 (10...g4 11.Ne1) 11.Qxb7 Rb8! (11...Ng6 12.Qa6 g4 13.Ne1 is less clear.) 12.Qa6 g4 13.Nh4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Bxd4+ 15.Kh1 Nc6! should be considerably better for Black, with pressure on both flanks.

c) 9.Na3 9...Nf6 and Black can be satisfied with the position. The knight can see action on the kingside, center, or even the queenside, via ...Nd7-b6.(9...f6?! is inferior: 10.Bd2 Bg4 11.g3 fxg3 12.hxg3

Bh5 13.Rae1 McDonnell - Worrell, London 1828.)

8.Na3 Nf6! White's development on the flank is artificial, and Black obtains a good game with straight forward development.



a) 9.g3 Nxe4 10.gxf4 d5 11.Bd3 g4 12.Ne5 f5 and White had very little to show for the pawn in Alapin-Englisch, Frankfurt 1887.

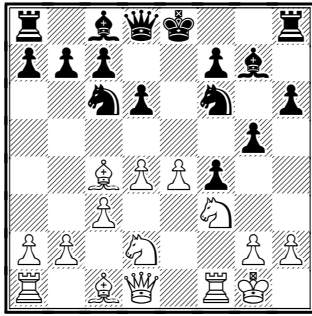
b) 9.Qc2 is solid, but the c2-square would be more useful for the knight. 9...0-0 10.Bd2 d5! This is a typical strategy in the King's Gambit Accepted. 11.Bd3 dxe4! 12.Bxe4 Nxe4 13.Qxe4 Qf6 14.Nc4 Bf5 and Black had the initiative in Colwill-De Coverly, England 1982.

c) 9.e5 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Re1 (11.dxe5 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Ng4 is clearly better for Black.) 11...Nfd7 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Qh5 Qe7 14.Qe2 0-0 and White had no compensation for the pawns in Arjona-Norgaard, Mexico 1993.

d) 9.Qd3 0-0 10.Bd2 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Bb3 Nde7 13.Rae1 Bf5 Black has a decisive advantage. Chigorin - Allies, St. Petersburg 1894.

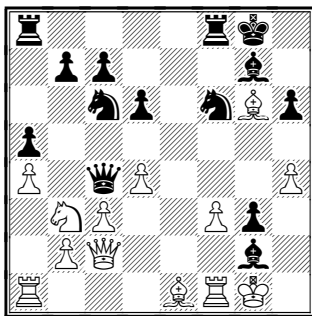
8.Nbd2 Nf6 This is a sensible approach, but Black still has nothing to fear.

Chapter 4: 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.d4 Bg7 6.c3 h6 7.0-0



a) 9.b4 0-0 10.Bd3 Re8 11.b5 Ne7 12.Re1 Bd7 13.a4 g4 14.Nh4 Nh5 15.Nf1 Nd5 16.Nf5 Bxf5 17.exf5 Qh4 18.Bd2 f3 19.gxf3 Nhf4 20.Bxf4 Nxf4 21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 22.Ng3 Re3 and Black went on to win in Eriksen-Jacobsen, Odense 1975.

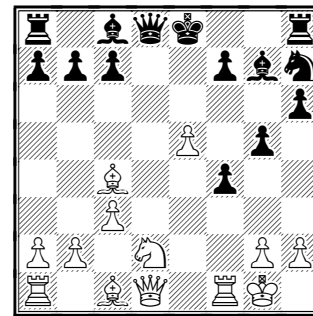
b) 9.Bd3 Ng4 10.Nb3 f5 11.exf5 0-0 12.h3 Nf6 13.Qc2 a5! 14.a4 Nd5 15.Bd2 Qf6 16.Be4 Qf7 gives Black a fine game. White tried to open up some lines in the following game, but this only led to wild complications which turned out favorably for Black. 17.f6!? Nxf6 18.Bg6 Qc4 19.h4 g4 20.Ne1 f3 21.gxf3 g3! 22.Ng2 Bh3 23.Be1 Bxg2!



24.Bd3 (24.Kxg2 Nd5 with major threats at e3, f4 and a vulnerable target square at e2.) 24...Bxf1! 25.Bxc4+ Bxc4 Black has a rook and two pieces for the queen, and the attack is far from over. 26.Nd2 Be6 27.Bxg3 Nh5! 28.Qg6 (28.Bf2 Nf4 29.Re1 Rae8 is also good for Black.) 28...Bf7 29.Qg4 Nxc3 30.Qxg3 Kh8! 31.Kh1 Ne7 32.Rg1 Nf5 33.Qf4 Bh5 34.Ne4 and Black finished with an elegant flourish. 34...Nxd4! 35.Qe3 Rxf3! 36.Qd2 Rh3+ 37.Kg2 Rh2+ and Black resigned, McMichael-Crombleholme, British Championship 1981.

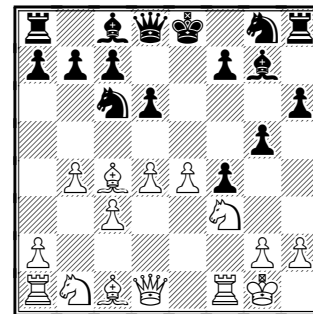
c) 9.Re1 0-0 10.Nf1 Nxe4 11.Rxe4 d5 12.Bxd5 Qxd5 13.Re1 Be6 14.b3 g4 15.Nh4 Qh5 16.g3 fxg3 17.hxg3 Rad8 18.Be3 Rfe8 19.Qd2 f5 20.Ng2 Ne5 21.Nh2 Qh3 22.Nf4 Qxg3+ 23.Qg2 Qxg2+ 24.Kxg2 Nf7 was played by a Novag computer against Taimanaov in a simul in 1991. The machine, playing Black, won easily.

d) 9.e5 is bold, but not dangerous: 9...dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Nh7



12.Qb3 0-0 13.Nf3 c6 14.Qc2 e6!? comes into consideration here. 14...Qb6+ 15.Kh1 Re8! 16.Bd3 Nf8 is analysed in Colin Leach's book.

8.b4 This space-gaining maneuver is too slow.



a) 8...Nf6 is common, and White has tried several plans:

a1) 9.b5 Ne7 10.Qb3 d5 11.exd5 Nfxd5 12.Ba3 Be6 13.Nbd2 Nf5 14.Rae1 Nfe3 15.Bxd5 Bxd5 16.c4 Bxf3 17.Nxf3 Qd7 18.d5 0-0-0 19.Qa4 Kb8 20.Bc5 b6 21.Bd4 f5 and Black is better, Bosboom-Van Gisbergen, Volmac 1991.

A2) 9.Qb3 Qe7 10.Nbd2 (10.Bd3 a6 11.Nbd2 Nh5 12.b5 axb5 13.Bxb5 0-0 14.Bb2 g4 15.Ne1 Qh4 16.Qd1 f3 17.g3

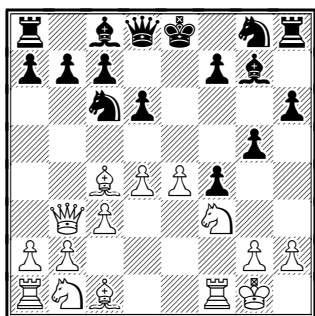
Chapter 4: 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.d4 Bg7 6.c3 h6 7.0-0

and the rest was simple: 17...Nxc3! 18.hxc3 Qxc3+ 19.Kh1 f2 20.Nef3 Qh3+ 21.Nh2 g3 22.Rxf2 gxf2 23.Qe2 Qg3 24.Qf3 Qg5! 25.Qd3 Rxa2! and White resigned in Bernath-Granicz, Portal Kupa 1993.) 10...g4 11.Ne1 Nh5 12.Nd3 Nxd4 13.Qd1 Qh4 14.Nxf4 Ne6 15.Nxe6 Bxe6 16.Qb3 Be5 and White had seen enough in Elburg-Haataja, Postal 1991.

A3) 9.Nbd2 9...0-0 10.Qc2 (10.Bb2 Ng4 11.Qe2 Ne3 12.Rfc1 Nxc4 13.Nxc4 Re8 14.Ncd2 Bg4 15.Qd3 a6 and White did not have enough compensation for the pawn in Keil-Schlitter, Giessen 1993.) 10...Ne7 11.a4 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 d5 13.Nexg5 hxg5 14.Nxg5 Ng6 15.Bxf4 dxc4 16.h4 Bg4 and White's attack is only illusory. 17.Be5 Bxe5 18.dxe5 Qd3! 19.Qf2 Qe2 20.Qg3 Bh5 21.Rae1 Qg4 22.Rf3 Rad8 23.Ne4 Qxg3 24.Nf6+ Kh8 25.Rxg3 Nf4 26.Nxh5 Nxh5 27.Rg4 Ng7 and Black won without difficulty in Van Aalzum-Devocelle, Postal 1988.

b) 8...Nge7 is also promising. 9.h4 Ng6 10.Nh2?! 10 h5 Nge7 11 g3 is probably a better plan. 10...Nxh4! 11.Qh5 Qf6 12.g3 Ng6 13.Be3 Bd7 14.Nd2 0-0-0 15.Ng4 Qe7! 16.gxf4? White ought to have tried 16 Bf2. 16...gxf4 17.Bxf4 Nxd4! Black is winning. Clerc - Prince Dadian, Paris 1882.

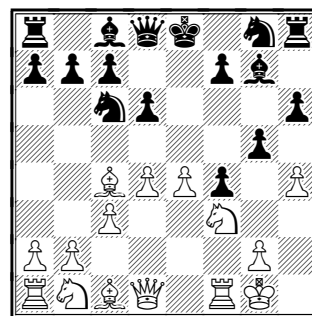
8.Qb3 is ineffective in this position, as is usually the case in the King's Gambit.



8...Na5!? Black can play 8...Qe7, and has scored well with that move, but the text is more forcing. 9.Bxf7+ Clearly White has no choice. 9 Qa4+ and 9 Qb5+ are each met by 9...c6. 9...Kf8 10.Qa4 (or Qa3) 10...Kxf7 10...c6 may be playable. 11.Qxa5 Ne7! Although the knight would

seem to be better placed at f6, where it attacks the pawn at e4, it seems better to keep strong support of the g5-square. Now Black will be able to gain a tempo by attacking the White queen. 12.h4 (12.Nbd2 might be met by 12...Kg8 since the rook is not badly placed on the h-file.) 12...Nc6 Material is level but Black has the bishop pair and a significant lead in development. He can continue with Qd8-e7, Bc8-f5 and Ra8-e8. Notice that by swinging the knight to c6, he has overprotected the e5 square.

8.h4 transposes to the Philidor Gambit.



Black has many good moves here, but developing the queen at e7 is the most logical. At the same time, the more aggressive 8...g4 is worth keeping around as an alternative.

a) 8...g4 with:

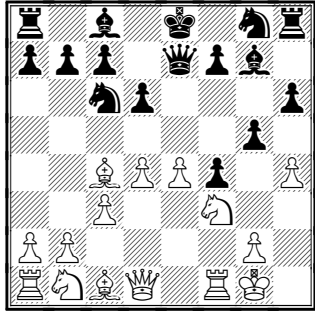
a1) 9.Ne1 Qxh4 10.Bxf4 f5 11.g3 Qh5 12.Ng2 fxe4 13.Be3 Nf6 14.Nf4 Qf5 15.Nd5 allows the queen sacrifice 15...Nxd5 16.Rxf5 Nxe3 and after 17.Qe2 Nxf5 18.Qxg4 Ncxd4 19.Qxe4+ Kd8 20.g4 (20.cxd4 Bxd4+ 21.Kg2 Bxb2) 20...Re8 21.Qd3 Re3 White resigned in Roos-Niemand, Postal 1991.

A2) 9.Bxf4 gxf3 10.Qxf3 Qe7 11.Qg3 Bf6 12.Nd2 Bxh4 13.Qh2 Rh7 14.Nf3 Bf6 15.Rae1 Bg4 16.e5 dxe5 17.Bd3 Rg7 18.Nxe5 Be6 19.Nxf7 Rxf7 20.Bf5 Bxd4+ 21.cxd4 Rxf5 22.g4 Rd5 23.Bxc7 Rxd4 and White gave up in Jonkman-Westerinen, Hamburg 1992.

A3) 9.Nh2 9...Qxh4 10.Rxf4 Nf6 11.e5? dxe5 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Qe2 Qh5 and White resigned, Jerabek-Hladik Postal 1988.

Chapter 4: 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.d4 Bg7 6.c3 h6 7.0-0

b) 8...Qe7!? is logical.



White has tried many plans here, but none of them are any good.

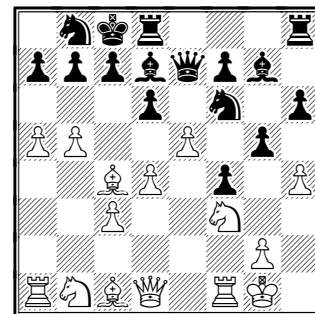
b1) 9.Qb3 Nf6 The simple 9...Bd7 also looks good, and an early ...g4 is yet another option. 10.hxg5 (10.Nbd2 Nh5 11.hxg5 hxg5 is playable, since 12.Nxg5? Qxg5 13.Bxf7+ fails to 13...Kd8 14.Nf3 Ng3 with a strong attack: 15.Re1 Rh1+ 16.Kf2 Rxe1 17.Kxe1 Qh6 18.Ng1 Nxe4 19.Qd5 Qh4+ and White resigned in Roos-Elburg, Postal 1988.) 10...hxg5 11.Nxg5 Nxd4 12.cxd4 Nxe4 13.Nh3 (13.Nxe4 Bxd4+ 14.Nf2 Qh4 forced White to give up in Ballan-Millican, Postal 1988.) 13...Bxd4+ 14.Kh2 Nf2 15.Be6 Qxe6 16.Qa4+ Bd7 17.Qxd4 0-0-0 18.Qxf2 and now an elegant sacrifice quickened the kill: 18...Rxh3+ 19.Kg1 Rdh8 20.Qd2 In Beth-Gevers, Postal 1985, White resigned without waiting for 20...Rh1+ 21.Kf2 Rxf1+ 22.Kxf1 Rh1+ 23.Kf2 Qe3+ 24.Qxe3 fxe3+ 25.Bxe3 Bf5 .

b2) 9.b4 Bg4 10.b5 (10.Qa4 0-0-0 11.b5 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nxd4 13.Qxa7 Nc2 .) 10...Na5 11.Bd3 Nf6 12.Qa4 was played in Roos-Marcotulli, Postal 1988, and now 12...b6 is simple and strong.

b3) 9.a4 is usually met by 9...Bd7 (9...Bg4 might be even stronger.) 10.a5 (10.Bd5 0-0-0 11.Na3 Nf6 12.Nb5 Kb8 13.Qd3 Rde8 14.Nd2 Nd8 15.b3 Nxd5 16.exd5 Qe2 and Black is clearly better, Angelov-Zinser, Postal 1980.) 10...0-0-0 (10...g4 11.Ne1 f3 12.gxf3 0-0-0 13.Ng2 Nf6 14.Bd3 Rde8 15.Nd2 gxf3 16.Qxf3 Rhg8 gives Black a good attacking position and deserves further tests, Jonkman-Danielsen, Leeuwarden 1993.) 11.b4 and now:

b31) 11...g4 is a topical line, for example 12.b5 (12.Nh2?! f3 13.gxf3? g3 14.Ng4 Qxh4 15.Ra2 Bxg4 16.fxg4 h5 17.Qf3? hxg4 18.Qg2 Nxd4 19.Rxf7 Nf3+ 0-1, Spearman - Fedorko, Postal 1984.) 12...gxf3 13.bxc6 Bxc6 14.d5!? The only sensible try. (14.Rxf3 Bxe4 15.Rxf4 f5) 14...fxg2 15.Rxf4 Bd7 16.Qb3 Be5 17.Na3 Bxf4 18.Bxf4 Qxh4 19.Bh2 Qxe4 20.Nc2 and now 20...Bf5 proved to be too greedy. (20...Re8! was correct, clearing an escape square for the king, after which White could resign with a clear conscience.) 21.Rb1 b6 22.axb6 axb6 23.Qb5 was played in Gibney-Lawson, Canada 1995. Black was unable to withstand the pressure on the queenside.

b32) 11...Nb8 is stronger, in my view. It is much harder to break down Black's position. 12.b5 Nf6 13.e5



An unclear position, in which Black's chances are no worse. Anderssen - Reimann, Breslau 1875. Black can play 13...Ne4 with good pressure in the center and on the kingside, or can play along the lines of the following: 13...Ne8 14.b6 cxb6 15.axb6 a6 16.Re1 g4 17.exd6 Qf6 18.Ne5 Nxd6 19.Nd2 Qxh4 20.Nxf7 Nxf7 21.Bxf7 f3 and because Black owns the c6-square, the White king is in the most danger, Berglund-Mueller, Postal 1988.

8.b3 is insipid. After 8...Qe7 9.Nbd2 Bd7 10.Bd5 Nf6 11.Ba3 Ng4 12.Qc1 Ne3 13.Re1 g4 White's game was falling apart in Hanneken-Lange, Dusseldorf 1862.

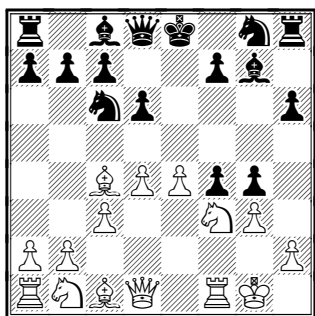
8.a4 is also irrelevant. 8...Qe7 9.Na3 Bd7 10.b4 , Sparrow-Jones, Postal 1986, Black should play 10...g4 with a great game.

Chapter 4: 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.d4 Bg7 6.c3 h6 7.0-0

8.e5 was seen in Demarche-Canovas, Meudon 1992. Black captured at e5 and got into trouble, but after 8...g4 9.Nfd2 the pawn could be safely taken, for example 9...dxe5 10.Qb3 Qe7 11.Re1 Nf6 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Bxf7+ Kf8 with the threat of ...Qc5+.

8.Re1 Nge7 9.Na3 Ng6 10.Bd2 g4 11.g3 fxg3 12.hxg3 gxf3 13.Qxf3 Qe7 14.Rf1 Rf8 15.Rae1 Bd7 16.b4 0-0-0 and Black stands well, for example 17.Nc2 Rde8 18.Qh5 Kb8 19.Bd3 Rg8 20.Kh1 Qe6 21.Rf5 Nge7 22.d5 Nxf5 and White resigned, Bartolomaeus-Engedal, German Junior Championship 1993.

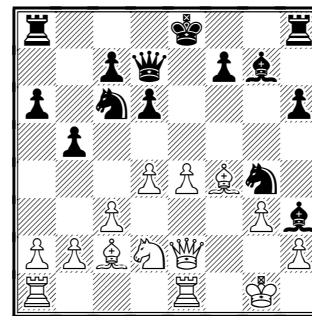
8...g4



The most powerful and consistent move.

9.Nh4

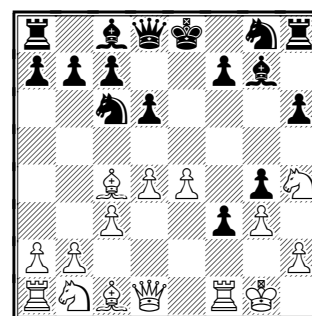
9.Bxf4 gxf3 10.Qxf3 is simply unsound. 10...Nf6 11.Nd2 (11.e5 Bg4 12.Qe3 dxe5 13.dxe5 Nd5 14.Qc5 Be6 15.Na3 Qe7 16.Qb5 0-0-0 17.Rae1 a6 18.Qb3 Qc5+ 19.Kh1 Na5 led to a quick win for Black. 20.Qa4 Nxc4 21.Qxc4 Qxc4 22.Nxc4 Nxf4 23.Rxf4 b5 24.Na5 Rd2 and White gave up, Friscoe-Huebner, Ohio 1984.) 11...Bg4 12.Qf2 Qd7 13.Bb5 a6 14.Ba4 b5 15.Bc2 Bh3 16.Rfe1 Ng4 17.Qe2



Black has a typical and powerful sacrifice here: 17...Nxd4! 18.cxd4 Bxd4+ 19.Kh1 Nf2+ 20.Kg1 Ng4+ 21.Kh1 Nf2+ 22.Kg1 Nd3+ 23.Kh1 Nxf4 24.gxf4 Rg8 25.Rg1 Rxc1+ 26.Rxc1 Bxc1 27.Kxc1 0-0-0 28.f5 Rg8+ White resigned, Bullock-Ree, 1983.

9.Ne1 f3 ties down the White position. 10.Na3 Nf6 11.Bd3 Qe7 12.Qc2 Bd7 13.Nc4 0-0-0 14.b4 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Kh1 Nxc3 17.b5 (17.Qxc3 Bxd4 18.Qd2 Bxa1 .) 17...Nxb5 18.Rb1 Ncxd4 19.Qa4 Bc6 20.Na5 Bd5 21.Rxb5 Nxb5 22.Qxb5 Kb8 23.h4 a6 24.Qa4 f2+ 25.Ng2 Bxc2+ 26.Kxc2 Rxd3 27.Bf4 Qd7 28.Qb4 Qb5 29.Qe4 Qd5 White resigned, Buchanan-Fabbri, Glasgow 1984.

9...f3



In these variations it is clear that White will, at some point, sacrifice a piece to clear the pawns at f3 and g4 out of the way, so that a proper attack can be launched. But timing is very important. A mistimed sacrifice can leave Black with an easily winning game, while even if the sacrifice is perfectly timed it is by no means clear that Black has anything serious to worry about. White has no less than seven continuations here.

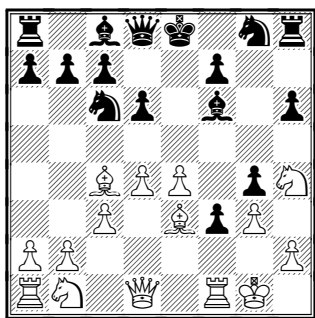
Chapter 4: 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.d4 Bg7 6.c3 h6 7.0-0

10.Nd2

10.b4!? is untested, intending to gain space on the queenside before playing 11 Qb3. 10...Nf6 seems an adequate reply, e.g. 11 Qb3 0-0 12 b5 Ne7 overprotecting the f5 square.

10.Na3 Bf6! As White sends his knights on their drunken journeys to the edge of the chess world, Black trains his sights on the weak knight at h4. 11.Nf5 (11.Qb3! is probably beset, intending 11...Qe7 12 Bf4 where Estrin & Glazkov claim a good game for White, but it still hasn't been played. 11...Rh7 comes into consideration, in my opinion, maintaining the pressure at h4. 11...Qd7! is a good reply, by analogy with the Göring Gambit. Although the queen temporarily blocks the bishop, the threat of ...Na5 is very strong, and if White retreats the bishop then Black takes over the initiative: 12.Bd3 Bxh4 13.gxh4 Nf6 14.Be3 Qe7 and I think Black has a significant advantage. On 11.Nxf3? gxf3 12.Qxf3 then 12...Qe7 is clearly better for Black. 11.Bf4 Bxh4 12.gxh4 Qxh4 13.e5 dxe5 14.dxe5 a6 -is much better better for Black, according to all authorities.) 11...Nce7! 12.Ne3 (12.Qb3 d5! Or 12.Nxe7 Qxe7 intending h5) 12...h5! 13.Qb3 Nh6 14.Nec2 (14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 c6 16.Bc4 a6!) 14...d5 15.exd5 Nhf5 16.Bf4 0-0 17.Rae1 a6 18.Be5 Bxe5 19.Rxe5 19 dxe5 is strongly met by 19...b5! 19...Ng6 20.Rfe1 h4 Black stands much better.

10.Be3 Bf6 A similar plan to that of the above line greets White's straight forward developing move.

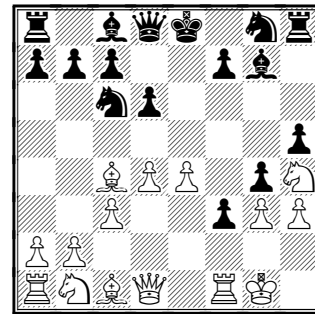


a) 11.Nd2 Bg5 12.Bxg5 Qxg5 (12...hxg5 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Nf6 is

unclear, but might also be playable.) 13.Re1 Nge7 and White has nothing to show for the pawn.

b) 11.Nf5 11...Bxf5 12.exf5 Nge7 13.Qb3 d5 14.Bd3 Qd7 15.Qc2 h5 16.Nd2 h4 17.Bf4 0-0-0 18.a4 hxg3 19.Bxg3 Rh5 20.b4 Nxf5 21.Bxf5 Qxf5 22.Qb2 Bh4 23.Bxh4 Rxh4 24.a5 Rxh2! 25.Kxh2 Qf4+ And White resigned in Zytogorski - Popert, London 1843.

10.h3 h5 This invites a critical piece sacrifice.



a) 11.Nd2 Qe7 (11...Nge7 makes more sense to me.) 12.e5 dxe5 13.Ne4 Bh6 14.d5 Nd8 15.d6 cxd6 16.Nxd6+ Kf8 17.Bxf7 Qd7 18.Ng6+ Kg7 19.Ne8+ Kxf7 20.Nxe5+ Kxe8 21.Nxd7 Bxd7 22.Re1+ Be6 and the three minor pieces were better than the queen in Di Paolo-Hresc, Genova 1987.

b) 11.Nxf3 11...gxf3 12.Qxf3 Qe7 13.Bxf7+ Kd8 White certainly has a degree of compensation here, but is it enough? With his next move, he threatens to lock on to the g5-square, which will be a useful outpost. Black has to move his light squared bishop quickly, to make room for the king to scurry to safety. This accomplished, he has nothing to worry about. 14.h4 Bg4 15.Qd3 Kc8 16.Bd5 Nd8 17.Bg5 Bf6 18.Bf4 Be6 19.Nd2 Nh6 20.Nf3 c6 Black has a substantial advantage. Muller - Jacobs.

10.Bf4 Bf6 and now:

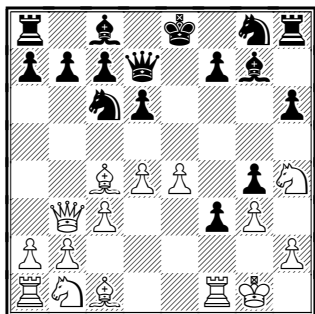
a) 11.Qb3 Rh7 (11...Qd7 is better, intending ...Na5.) 12.Nf5 Bxf5 13.exf5 Kf8 14.Qc2 (14.Qxb7 Na5 15.Qd5 Nxc4 16.Qxc4 Ne7 and Black is better. 14.Bd3! leaves Black fighting for equality.)

Chapter 4: 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.d4 Bg7 6.c3 h6 7.0-0

14...Bg5 15.Qd2 Bxf4 16.Qxf4 Qg5 17.Qxg5 hxg5 18.Nd2 Nf6 19.Rfe1 Na5 20.Bd3 f2+ 21.Kxf2 Rxh2+ 22.Ke3 Re8+ 0-1 Simon-Pajak, 1985.

b) 11.Nd2 gives up material to 11...Bxh4 (11...Nge7 12.Qb3 Rh7 is a passive but playable alternative.) 12.gxh4 Qxh4 13.e5! This position is considered to be unclear by Leach. I think that Black may be able to return a pawn for a useful tempo. 13...d5!? (13...dxe5 14.Bg3 Qe7 15.Re1 Be6 16.Bxe5 Nxe5 17.Rxe5 puts some pressure on the e-file.) 14.Bxd5 Nge7 Now Black can develop his light-squared bishop and castle queenside, followed by a kingside attack. This position requires practical tests.

10.Qb3 Qd7! With this plan, White has succeeded in introducing a little congestion into the Black position. Black's defense comes from one of the greatest defensive players of all time - Anatoly Karpov! Although only a single game has been played in the line, there are plenty of ideas floating around.



a) 11.Bd5!? is untested but 11...Nf6 seems an adequate reply.

b) 11.Nf5?! allows 11... Bf6, followed by d5 and Nge7, after which Black stands better.

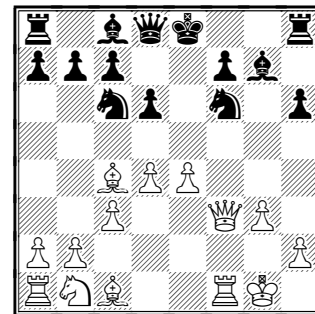
c) 11.Nd2 Na5 12.Qc2 Nxc4 13.Nxc4 Ne7 14.Ne3 Qc6 Black has achieved full equality. Kaplan - Karpov, Stockholm World Junior Championship 1969. (14...Qc6 15.d5 Qc5 16.Kh1 Bd7 17.Bd2 a5 18.Qd3 h5 19.Rae1 Be5 20.Nc4 ½-½ Kaplan-Karpov, Stockholm 1969)

d) 11.Bd3!? This is the move recommended by Estrin & Glazkov. The point is that it preserves the light-squared

bishop which is an important weapon for White. 11...Nge7 Having taken the pressure off of f7, Black can afford to play this move and then castle kingside, if he wishes. 12.Nd2 0-0 White's development is arrested and it is unlikely that any serious kingside attack can be mounted.

e) 11.Qc2 11...Nge7 12.Nd2 Bf6 13.Ng2 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Bxd4+ 15.Kh1 fxg2+ 16.Kxg2 f5 17.Bf7+ Kxf7 18.Qc4+ Qe6 19.Qxd4 is Lasbleis-Epinoux, Postal 1987, and here 19...Qe5 would have secured a serious advantage.

10.Nxf3 gxf3 11.Qxf3 has been tried, over a century ago and as recently as 1995. But it presents no real threats and can be handled easily. 11...Nf6

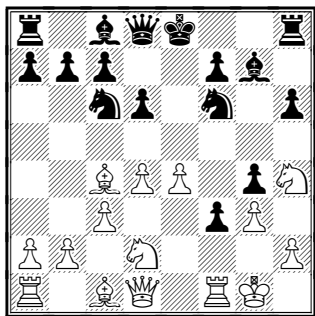


12.Nd2 (12.b4 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.b5 Nxd4 15.cxd4 Qe7 16.Bb2 0-0 17.Nd2 a6 was a little better for Black in Stanitz-Kvotidian, Postal 1988. But why give back the piece? 12...Bh3! 13.Rf2 Bg4 is the most convincing line for Black. 12.e5 dxe5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Qe2 Qe7 15.Bf4 Nxc4 16.Qxc4 Be6 is simply winning for Black, Bielby-Stephenson, Redcar Open 1995.) 12...Qe7 (12...Bg4!) 13.e5? dxe5 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Bxf7+ Kd8 16.Qxe4 Bh3 and Black won without difficulty in Gohle-Neumann, Berlin 1866.

10...Nf6

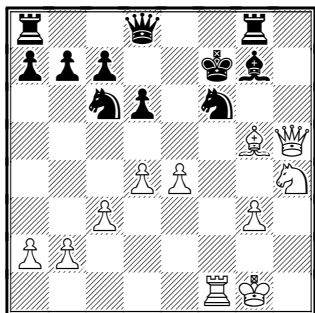
10...Bf6 is an oft-quoted alternative, but the text seems stronger to me, since it develops a piece in a line where White is actually bringing a useful piece into play. Elsewhere, the thematic 10...Bf6 is to be preferred, but here one must beware the sacrifice of the queen's knight for the pawn chain, leaving the useful knight at h4.

Chapter 4: 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.d4 Bg7 6.c3 h6 7.0-0



11.Nf5

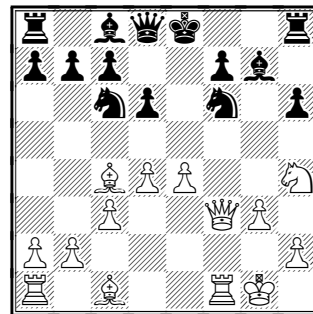
11.h3 h5 After provoking a further weakness in the Black kingside, White is ready for the big sacrifice. And I do mean big! He starts off by giving up a knight, and then lets the exchange go as well. It doesn't stop there, however, as White then proceeds to sacrifice a bishop at f7! This is not only White's best plan, but it is perhaps the most critical position in the entire book. The idea is mentioned by Buckner in one of his M.O.B. articles. 12.Ndx3 gxf3 13.Bg5 Bxh3 14.Qxf3 Bxf1 15.Rxf1 Rg8 16.Bxf7+ Kxf7 17.Qxh5+ The variation cited by Buckner. This is a highly unclear and yet critical position. What follows is all my own analysis, so check it carefully before using it in tournament praxis.



17...Ke7 None of the alternatives seems adequate: (17...Ke6 18.d5+ and now: 18...Ke7 19.Nf5+ Kd7 20.Qf7+ Kc8 21.Nxg7!? or 17...Kf8 18.Ng6+ Ke8 19.Rxf6 Qxf6 20.Ne5+ Kd8 21.Bxf6+ Bxf6 22.Nxc6+) 18.Nf5+ Kd7 19.Qf7+ (19.Nxg7 Nxh5! 20.Bxd8 Rxc7 21.Bh4 Nxg3 wins for Black. 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.Qf7+ Be7 also wins for Black.) 19...Kc8 20.Nxg7 Qd7 21.Qxd7+ (21.Qxf6 Qxg7

22.Qe6+ Kb8) 21...Nxd7 and Black wins. 11.Qb3 0-0! Untested, but having taken away the possibility of Ng6, Black should have a comfortable game. 12.Ng6 Na5 13.Qb4 Nxc4 14.Qxc4 Re8 and Black is better.

11.Ndx3 gxf3 12.Qxf3



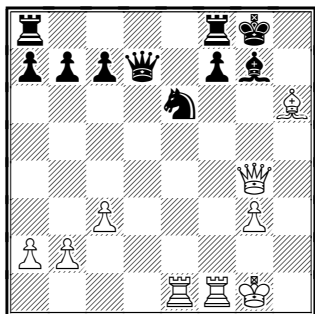
Black has nothing to worry about here. 12...Qe7 13.Bd2 Bh3 (13...Bg4 14.Qf4 Bh3 15.Rfe1 0-0-0 is a reasonable alternative.) 14.Rfe1 0-0-0 15.b4 Qd7 16.b5 Ne7 and White only gets into trouble by forcing matters: 17.e5 dxe5 18.Rxe5 Ng6 19.Nxg6 fxc6 20.b6 axb6 21.Ba6 Nd5 22.Re4 bxa6 23.g4 Rhe8 24.Rxe8 Rxe8 White resigned, Karlsson-Pokojowczyk, Stockholm 1980.

11...Bxf5 12.exf5 0-0

White's attack is already losing its steam, as he has chosen to give up a developed piece for an underdeveloped one, and has planted another obstacle along the f-file.

13.Bd3 Re8

13...d5 14.h3 h5 15.hxc4 hxc4 16.Nxf3 gxf3 17.Qxf3 Ne4! 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.Qxe4 Re8 (19...Nxd4 20.f6 Bxf6 21.Qg4+ Bg7 22.Bh6 Ne6 23.Rae1 Qd7

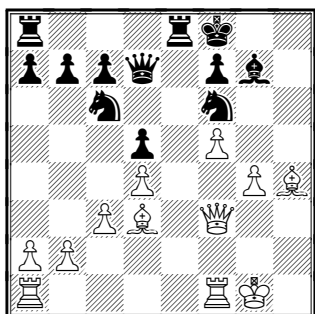


24.Bxg7 f5 25.Qc4 Qxg7 26.Qxe6+ Qf7 27.Rxf5 Qxe6 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8 29.Rxe6 and White went on to win the endgame in Niemand-Roebuck, Postal 1988.) 20.Qg4 f6 is a bit ugly, Roebuck-Keith, Postal 1988.

14.h3 h5 15.hxg4 hxg4

This was seen in Heuer - Villard, Tallinn 1964, where after

16.Nxf3!? gxf3 17.Qxf3 d5 18.Bg5 Kf8 19.g4 Qd7 20.Bh4 Black should have played **20...Ne4!**



with a clear advantage.

The entire manuscript of the draft of the book is at [Chessworks Unlimited](#) in the Analysis section.