

Bora Ivkov

**CHESS
PARALLELS**
STRATEGY & TACTICS



Chess Informant

SINCE 1966

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SYSTEM OF SIGNS

±	white stands slightly better	↗	diagonal
∓	black stands slightly better	⊕	centre
±	white has the upper hand	»	king's side
∓	black has the upper hand	«	queen's side
+-	white has a decisive advantage	×	weak point
-+	black has a decisive advantage	⊥	ending
=	even	♖♗	pair of bishops
∞	unclear	♖♜	bishops of opposite color
∞	with compensation for the material	♜♜	bishops of the same color
⊙	development advantage	oo	united pawns
○	greater board room	o-o	separated pawns
→	with attack	♚	double pawns
↑	with initiative	♚	passed pawn
↔	with counter-play	>	advantage in number of pawns
⊙	zugzwang	⊕	time
♯	mate	75/199	Chess Informant
!	a very good move	E	12 Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings
!!	an excellent move	♚	3/b Encyclopaedia of Chess Endings
?	a mistake	N	a novelty
??	a blunder	(ch)	championship
!?	a move deserving attention	(izt)	interzonal tournament
?!	a dubious move	(ct)	candidates' tournament
△	with the idea	(m)	match
□	only move	(ol)	olympiad
⌒	better is	corr.	correspondence game
↔	file	RR	editorial comment
		R	various moves
		└	with
		┘	without
			etc
		—	see

Remembering Borislav Bora Ivkov (1933–2022)

On 14th February of this year Borislav Ivkov – the former World Championship Candidate and a giant of Yugoslav and Serbian chess – passed away in his native city of Belgrade at the age of 88.

Borislav Ivkov was born in Belgrade on 12th November 1933. Before he was 12 years old, Ivkov gained an exceptional result for 'Pančevo Dinamo' at the team championship of the Vojvodina region, and it was clear that a very bright future lay ahead of him. By 1947 he was the youth champion of his native city, and then he won the first-ever junior championship of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. He gained the Master title at the age of sixteen by finishing in 4th–7th place in the Yugoslav championship in Zagreb. On his international debut in the tournament at Bled the following year, he took 5th–6th place, with wins against the likes of Milan Vidmar, Vasja Pirc and Herman Pilnik. In 1951 he came to the attention of the chess world with his victory in the inaugural FIDE World Junior (Under-20) Championship, which was held in Birmingham in England.

Ivkov would go on to have many more successes in a career that lasted into the second decade of the 21st century. Among them one may mention his three Yugoslav championship titles (Sarajevo 1958; Zenica 1963 & 1972), his six silver and three bronze Olympiad medals as part of the Yugoslav national team, and his numerous victories in international tournaments such as Mar del Plata 1955, Buenos Aires 1955 (these victories gaining him the title of Grandmaster), Beverwijk 1961, Zagreb 1965, Sarajevo 1967, Málaga 1968 & 1969, Beograd 1969 and Stockholm 1971. Looking at his tournament record, one is struck by his remarkable consistency and the near absence of tournament 'failures'. He won individual tournament games against World Champions Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, Fischer and Karpov, many of them in very fine style, and his status as a player of the highest class was confirmed by his inclusion in the 'Rest of the World' team that faced the U.S.S.R. in the 'Match of the Century' in Beograd in 1970. As late as 2006 Ivkov was part of the Serbian team that won the gold medal in the European Seniors team championship in Davos. He was a long-time member of the famous Red Star club, although he also represented the clubs Partizan and Radnički for a time. His outgoing personality and elegant appearance made him a popular figure wherever he went in his long career, which lasted from the 1940s until the 2010s.

Bora Ivkov passed away on 14th February 2022 and was buried in the Belgrade's Alley of Distinguished Citizens – a location reserved for the country's most significant political, social, cultural and sporting figures.

Dear readers, it is both our solemn duty and exceptional honour to present you a collection of Ivkov's instructive explorations on various chess themes. In this book you will find a great number of intriguing anecdotes casting a new light on some of the greatest chess players of all time, and some lesser known heroes of our bellowed

game. Also, this book can serve you as an inspiration to investigate a bit deeper in the areas of strategy, planning and tactics learning chess in the “good, old way” unpolluted by the excessive engine usage. Finally, you can simply browse through the material and enjoy solving numerous riddles, studies and puzzles, picking up bits of chess wisdom along the way.

We hope that you will find as much enjoyment reading this book as we experienced ourselves editing it for your pleasure. If so, be prepared for the next installment – Ivkov’s endgame masterclass!

Douglas Griffin

Igor Žvegljić

Beograd, August 2022.



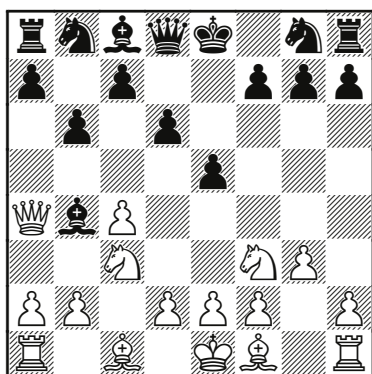
UNUSUAL POSITIONS

Ivkov - Pavle Radić

Jugoslavija 1948

SERBIAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP 1948

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘b4 3.♗f3 d6 4.g3
b6?? 5.♚a4+



Black resigns.

1 : 0

E24

Friedrich Sämisch - José Raúl Capablanca

Karlsbad 1929

Curiously, the great Capablanca was able to resist only a few moves more:

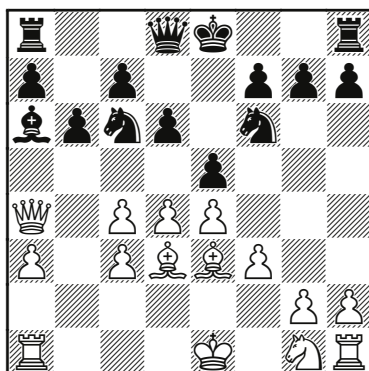
1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.a3
♘xc3+ 5.bxc3 d6 6.f3 e5 7.e4 ♗c6 8.
♘e3 b6 9.♘d3 ♘a6

Larry Evans: "The chess machine" blundered at move 9 right out of the box. The story goes (and it is well documented) that both his wife

A21

and his mistress had arrived at the playing hall, a double attack that unnerved him.

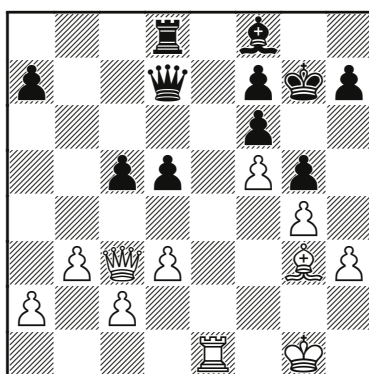
10.♚a4+-



+-

Ivkov - Vasja Pirc

Zagreb 1949



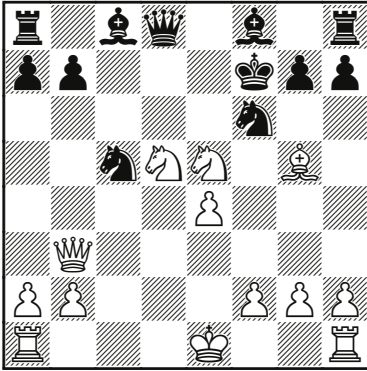
1.♚xf6+ [♞1.♘f2]

1...♗xf6 2.♘e5+ ♗e7 3.♘c7+ Draw.

1/2 : 1/2

Ivkov - Lorenzo Bauza

Mar del Plata 1955

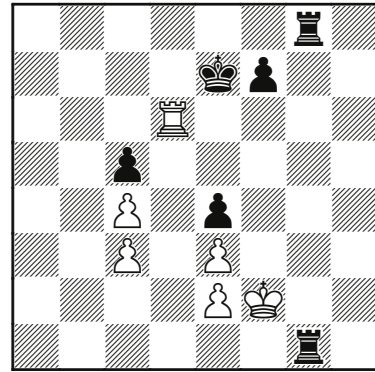


Here, instead of **1...♔e8**

Black was obliged to respond with **1...♔e6**

2.♘xf6+ ♚xf6 3.♚b5+ ♔d7 4.♘xd7 ♘d3+ 5.♚xd3 ♚xg5 6.♘xf8 ♖xf8 7.0-0

1 : 0



3.♖e6+!! ♔f8

Or **3...♔d7** with a perpetual check along the 6th rank, or stalemate!

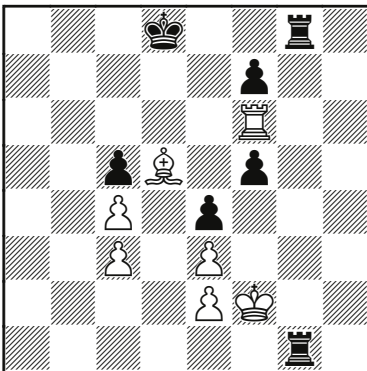
4.♖e8+=

Ivkov - Ingvi Randver Jóhannsson

La Habana (ol-qual) 1966 [2/488]

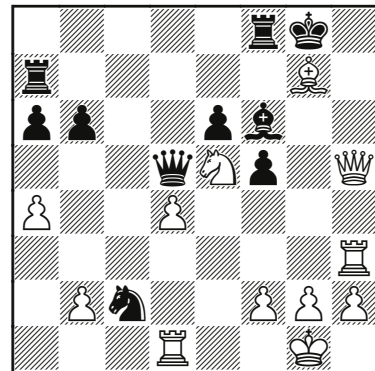
Francisco José Pérez Pérez - Ivkov

La Habana 1962



White resigned.

After **1.♔xe4!! fxe4 2.♖d6+ ♔e7**



Interference in all its beauty:

1...♔xg7

1...♖xg7 2.♚h8# checkmate.

2.♚h7# checkmate.

1 : 0

THE SYMPHONY OF MISTAKES

The best achievements of chess masters have been preserved and printed, like poetic anthologies. Such extraordinary games, saved from oblivion, serve to teach chess players of all generations. In contrast to these brilliant games interwoven with subtle positional solutions, dazzling sacrifices, fireworks of unexpected moves and combinations, there are such games in which one good idea never reached the goal, in which one correct and bold idea for the inexplicable reasons stopped halfway before reaching its final destination.

From such games that remained inconsistent throughout their duration, and which were unacceptably many in my tournament practice, I could compile a "nice" anthology entitled "How I lost 1001 winning games". I don't remember exactly when it started... It must be the moment I stepped into the maze of chess catacombs.

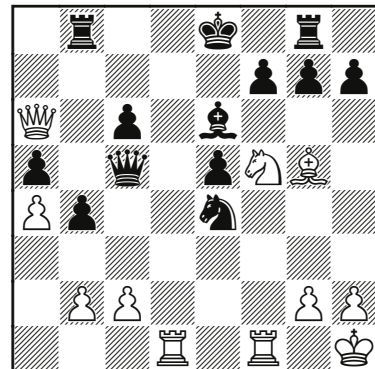
The Beginning of the Infamous Series

Ivkov - Vasilije Tomović
Jugoslavija (ch) 1949

The first game in the infamous series of missed chances that comes to my mind is the game against chess master Tomović at the Yugoslav Championship in Zagreb in 1949. A few months earlier, Fuderer won the master title at the semifinals in Herceg-*Novi*, while Matanović and myself won it at that Championship in Zagreb. Although, in general I have

fond memories of the autumn of 1949 in Zagreb (Matanović even more so, since in addition to sharing 4th place with Rabar, Fuderer and me, he also met his future wife...), there is one detail that, whenever I remember it, creates a bitter-like feeling.

We reached the diagram position after 20. moves of play. It was one of those games which resembles the old, nearly forgotten era of chess romanticism.



I followed my imagine with passion, sacrificed two pawns and left a piece en prise, reaching the position on the diagram. At a first glance we can sense that something dangerous may happen to the black monarch. Alas, I played "a tempo"

21. ♔e3??

And then after 21... ♚c4!-+ ended up in a losing position.

Only if I had invested a bit more patience and calmness I could have won in a really brilliant fashion: 21. ♖b7!! with probable instant resignation.

An Oversight of the Decade

Ivkov - Efim Geller

Jugoslavija - USSR (m) 1956

Another terrible oversight that deeply "stuck" in my memory happened in a game against one of the leading Soviet grandmasters, Efim Geller.

Even though many years passed since, a great number of chess fans who follow events for decades remember it clearly, while I considered it to be simply tragic! During the numerous simultaneous chess events and meetings at clubs, chess lovers asked me quite often: how is it possible for a grandmaster to over-

look a checkmate in a single move!?

The aforementioned game was played in the same round when Gligorić unexpectedly emerged as the winner from a very bad position in the game against Petrosian. The excited audience, which filled the big "Kolarac" concert hall, praised Gligorić with the standing ovations. The judges had their hands full trying to restore the order in those crucial moments.

In such atmosphere roughly reminiscent of a turbulent volcano, Geller and I played the final moves trying to prevent our clocks to run out of time thus bringing abrupt conclusion to our thrilling encounter.

It should be also noted that I had a clear positional edge throughout the whole course of the game, hoping to convert the advantage after well-planned operations on the queenside.



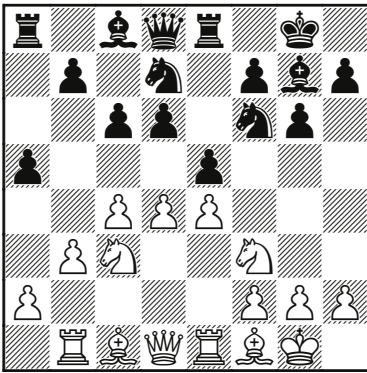
1974 - Amsterdam IBM - Efim Geller - Ivkov (R. Croes, ANEFO)

COMBINATIONS

Miguel Najdorf - Ivkov

Mar del Plata 1955

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♕g7 4.e4 d6
5.♗f3 0-0 6.♖e2 e5 7.0-0 ♗bd7 8.♞e1
c6 9.♖f1 ♞e8 10.♞b1 a5 11.b3



11...♗g4!

The knight sortie is quite useful at this point, as it clears the way for the f-pawn to advance and allow Black dynamic play.

12.♖g5

Black's response to 12.h3 is familiar in practice 12...exd4 13.♗xd4 ♗xf2! (Also good for Black is 13...♞b6) 14.♗xf2 ♞f6+ 15.♖e3 ♗c5 ♞ → with an overwhelming attack for Black.

12...f6 13.♖c1 exd4 14.♗xd4 f5!
(△♞h4; △♞b6)

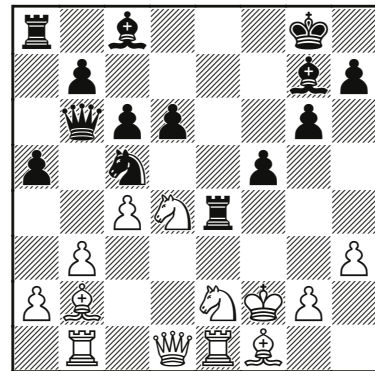
15.h3 ♞b6 16.♗ce2 ♗xf2

A necessary sacrifice that grants Black a strong attack and reasonable drawing chances at least.

E96 17.♗xf2 ♞xe4 18.♖b2

Of course not 18.♖e3? f4

18...♗c5



19.♗g1!

Najdorf found the best possible rejoinder which allows him to save the game. The white king goes to h1 and escapes from the havoc caused by the black army. On his part Black wins two knights for the rook and obtains material balance. Also, White can try to parry the ♗e6 threat with 19.♞d2?, but then Black can proceed with 19...♞xd4 20.♖xd4 ♗e4+ 21.♗g1 (21.♖e3 ♞d8!) 21...c5! 22.♞d3 cxd4, with strong attack and material equality.

In order to retain the material White may try 19.♗f3!?, and after 19...♗e6 White is forced to play 20.♗c2 ♗g5+ 21.♗g3 but it is very hard to find the way from this point on. Black should continue with 21...♖xb2 (For example 21...f4+ followed by ♖xb2 and ♞f2 does not promise much in view of 24.♗g1) 22.♞xb2 ♞c5! 23.♞b1 (Also, in case of 23.♗ed4 Black can continue with 23...♞e5+ 24.♗f2 c5) 23...♞e5+

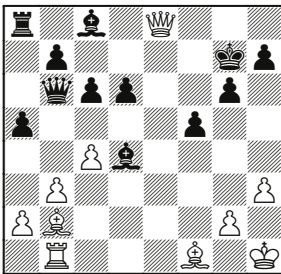


Miguel Najdorf

24. ♖f2 ♜h2 25. ♗g1 ♜xe1 26. ♜xe1 ♗e4+ followed by 27... ♜g1 etc.

19... ♗e6 20. ♖h1 ♗xd4 21. ♗xd4 ♜xd4

Black should avoid 21... ♜xe1? 22. ♜xe1 ♗xd4 because of 23. ♜e8+ ♖g7



24. ♜e3! c5 25. ♜e7+ ♖g8 26. ♗xd4 cxd4 27. c5 ♜xc5 28. ♗c4+- White is winning.

22. ♗xd4

Now, if 22. ♜e8+ ♖f7 23. ♜e1? is weak due to 23... ♜e4

22... ♜xd4

Black cannot play for a win after 22... ♗xd4? because after 23. ♜e7! ♗e5 (or 23... ♜d8 24. ♜e1 ♗e5 25. ♜xe5 dxe5 26. ♜xe5 with c5 or ♗e1 to follow.) 24. c5! ♜xc5 25. ♗c4+ → White obtains a really strong attack.

23. ♜xd4 ♗xd4 24. ♜bd1 c5 Of course not 24... ♗e5? due to 25. c5

25. ♜e8+

On 25. ♜e7 ♗f6

25... ♖f7 26. ♜de1 ♗e5 27. ♜d8 b6 28. ♗d3 h5 29. ♗c2 ♖e7 30. ♜h8 ♖f7 31. ♜d8 ♖e7 32. ♜h8 ♖f7 Draw.

In order to push for a win Black must go for 32... ♖f6 33. ♜f8+ ♖g5 But there was no need for such adventure, since a draw was sufficient for the first prize at the Mar del Plata Tournament. Anyway, Ivkov played this final round game as if he needed a victory, attacking Najdorf with great vigour. **1/2 : 1/2**

Vladimir Vuković

Jugoslovenski Šahovski Glasnik 1955

E08

Ivkov - Dragoljub Ćirić

Zenica 1963

Yugoslav Chess Championship

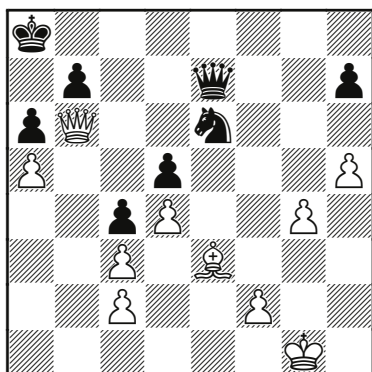
The following game was played in the final round of the Championship and was extremely important for both rivals. A victory would secure Ivkov a shared first place, while a draw would be enough for Ćirić to finish in top six and qualify for the next Yugoslav Championship.

Anatoly Bannik - Ivkov

Rijeka 1963

USSR - Jugoslavija Match

The following position occurred in one of the traditional matches between USSR and Jugoslavija. My opponent was in a really good shape, and managed to break down my French fortress with considerable skill. Very quickly I ended up in a completely hopeless position. However, I tried to remain focused and slowly reach the time scramble, leaving the impression of total despair... and it all came very naturally at that point...



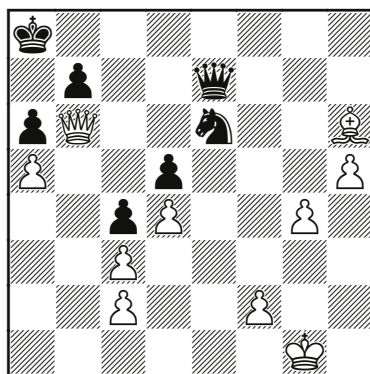
I had only seconds left on my clock (the old analogue handles signaling close defeat), while Bannik had 45 minutes left. Our home audience was also expecting my inevitable resignation... However, it came the moment of truth, and in *momenta lucida* being forced against the ropes by the opponent's attack - I made a "nonsensical" move...

34...h6

White grabbed the pawn without any second thoughts.

35. ♗xh6

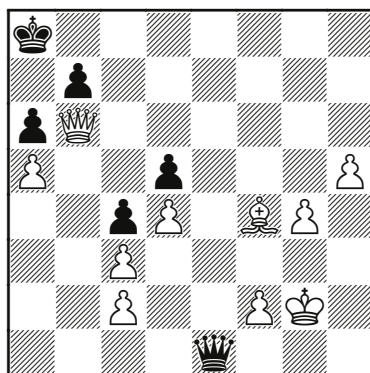
The bishop reached a new destination. Now, another "meaningless" move lands on the board, apparently yet another consequence of a terrible time scramble...



35... ♖f4! 36. ♗xf4

"Why not!?" - must have been Bannik's reasoning. "Black is doomed, and resignation is coming any moment now."

36... ♕e1+ 37. ♖g2



37... ♕h1+!

Only now White realised what was going on, so he started thinking. However, the most probable outcome was still Black's defeat on time.

38. ♖g3!

White makes the final winning attempt, but...

38... ♕h3+ 39. ♖xh3 - stalemate! **1/2 : 1/2**

The game was finished in the most spectacular fashion with 3 seconds remaining on my clock - DRAW!

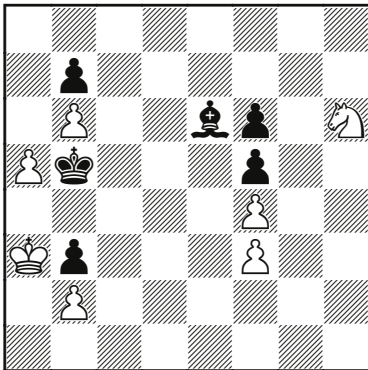
The most amazing, bizarre conclusion of the

game. However, much to my surprise the motif that saved my day was well known in the realm of chess studies! We were both unaware of it, and the conclusion of the game caused a real shock at the time...

From Markovich Simkovich

1938

Even though there are quite a few famous chess studies that explore this theme (Domenico Ercole del Rio, Alexey Troitzky, Frédéric Lazard, Carl Dorasil, Evgenij Somov-Nasimovich, Mikhail Kliatskin - to name just the most important composers), the following study resembles the practical game to great extent:



In the diagram position we have a very instructive model of the bishop over knight domination. The white knight is trapped at the edge of the board, while his own monarch shares the same miserable fate on the other side... Taking all of that into consideration, a draw is inevitable with Black to move.

1...♔a5 2.♖g8! ♕g8 - stalemate.

However, the author tried to explore the idea that occurred in my game against Bannik, so he generously gave White the move.

1.a6!

There are no waiting moves available, so everything is pretty much forced. Nonetheless, the exclamation mark is adequate because it is a harbinger of a truly remarkable idea.

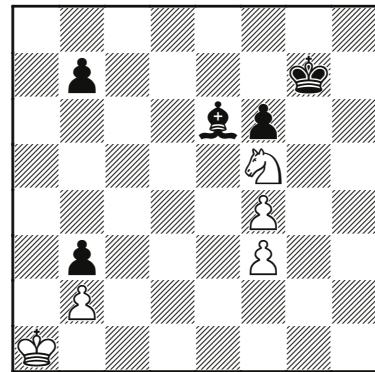
1...♔xa6 2.♖b4 ♕xb6 3.♖c3 ♖c5
4.♖d2 ♖d4 5.♖e2 ♖c5

The black king faces a blockade, so he changes his focus towards the entombed white knight.

6.♖d2

The active play does not offer much: 6.♖d3 ♖d6 7.♖d4 b6 so White decides to stay put. We can now indulge in deliberation: how many players would simply lay down their arms and accept defeat, unable to save the imprisoned knight? How many players would find a brilliant idea hidden in this position?

6...♖d6 7.♖c1 ♖e7 8.♖b1 ♖f8 9.♖a1
♖g7 10.♖xf5+



10...♕xf5 - stalemate!

Now the finale of the Bannik - Ivkov game makes much more sense, doesn't it?! Compared to the game, there is a pawn on b3 (instead of queen), and White sacrifices the knight instead of her maesty... Different means to the same end!

We can also argue that the combinations should be primarily classified according to ideas and motifs, and not the mere number and distribution of pieces.

Ivkov - Arkadij Naiditsch

Wijk aan Zee (open) 1999

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.♙e2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.♖xd8 ♜xd8 9.♗d5? ♗xd5 10.cxd5 c6 11.♙c4 b5 12.♙b3 ♙b7 13.♙g5 ♜d7 14.♜c1 h6 15.♙e3 ♖h7 16.h4 cxd5 17.♙xd5 ♙xd5 18.♗g5+ hxg5 19.hxg5+ ♖g8 20.♜c8+ ♙f8 21.exd5 ♜xd5 22.♖e2?

22.b4 ♖g7 23.♙c5 ♙xc5 24.♜ch8

22...♖g7 23.b4 e4 24.♙c1 ♗c6!
25.♜xc6 ♙d6?

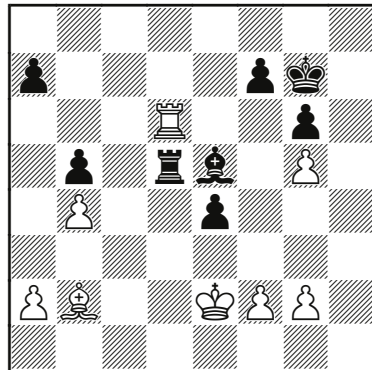
25...♖g8

26.♙b2+ ♙e5

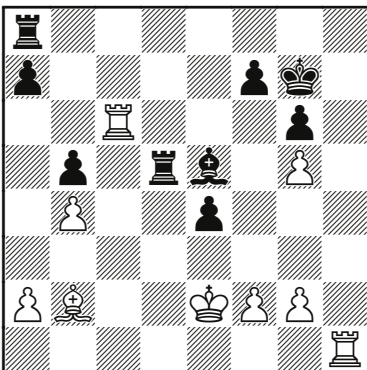
Now, White wins after the only move

27.♜d6!

which was one of the possible moves for White in my game versus Naiditsch.



+-



And after

27.♜d1+-

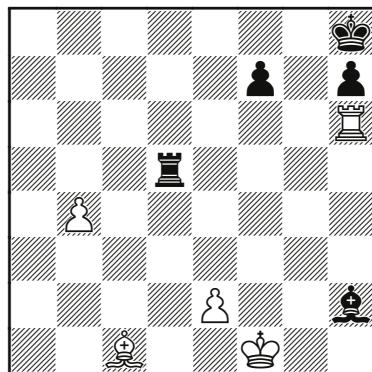
White won very quickly.

However, for a bit deeper exploration of our theme we need to remove the h1 and a8 rooks from the board.

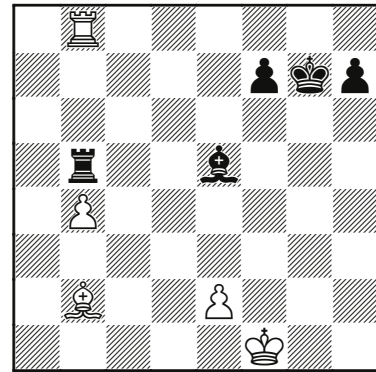
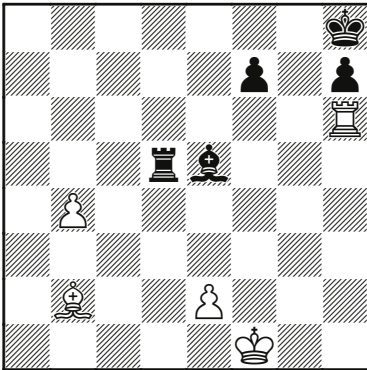
P. Sobolevsky

1957

Finally, we shall see how a true chess artist depicts and explores the theme of deflection and luring of the piece.



1. ♖b2+ ♙e5



White deflects the black rook for the second time, simultaneously forcing it on the unfavourable square.

2. ♖d6!! ♖b5 3. ♖d8+ ♔g7 4. ♖b8!!

4... ♖d5 5. e4+-

Black loses the race, the bishop or exchange to be exact.



Malta Olympiad 1980