



COLUMNISTS

The Instructor

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Classical Immersion

In the interview he gave to mark the release of Volume One of his new book, *Garry Kasparov on My Great Predecessors*, Kasparov named several classic games that he rated especially highly. Understandably, Kasparov would have given these games special scrutiny. We now submit one of these games for your consideration.

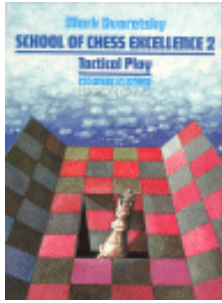
Of course, this game has already been subjected to rather detailed commentary - by J. Neishtadt, in his book, *First World Champion*. Many years ago, I too studied this game, and used the material I had prepared to give lessons to my students; however, this material has never before been published. Of course, after Kasparov's book came out, I compared conclusions, and established that his analyses needed correction or extension in several instances (as, of course, did mine). I would hope that my readers will find the revised version of my commentaries interesting.

Lasker – Steinitz New York 1894 - Match Game 7

This enormously tense game had a decisive influence on the outcome of this match for the World Championship. Before this game, the score was even. Having achieved a winning position, Steinitz nevertheless managed to lose; and he was so upset by this, that he managed to lose four more games in a row.

1. e2-e4 e7-e5 2. Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6 3. Bf1-b5 d7-d6 4. d2-d4 Bc8-d7 5. Nb1-c3 Ng8-e7 6. Bc1-e3

In his three previous games with White in this match, Lasker had tried 6. Bc4 - which puts me in mind of an episode from Ilf and Petrov's comic novel, *The Twelve Chairs*. The chesslovers of the city of Vasiuky, bewitched by Ostap Bender's oratory, dream in exquisite detail of the coming



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chess renaissance that would take place in their hometown. Among other things, they picture the meeting between Emmanuel Lasker and Jose-Raul Capablanca there, in Vasiuky:

The monocled one took Lasker by his waistcoat, brought him to the Champion, and said:

- Let us reconcile! I beseech you, in the name of the great masses of Vasiuky! Let us reconcile!

And Jose-Raul heaved a great sigh, and shaking the old veteran's hand, replied:

- I have always had the highest respect for your idea of moving the Ruy Lopez bishop from b5 to c4.

- Hurrah! - exclaimed the monocled one - Simple and convincing, in the true style of a champion!

6...Ne7-g6 7. Qd1-d2 Bf8-e7 8. 0-0-0

ECO recommends 8. 0-0 0-0 9. Rad1, but then 9...Bg4! is uncomfortable for White.

8...a7-a6 9. Bb5-e2 e5xd4!

9...0-0?! would be inaccurate, in view of 10. de, and if 10...Ngxe5 11. Nxe5 Nxe5, then 12. f4, with advantage.

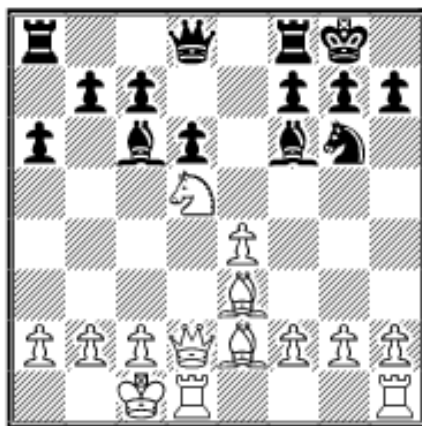
10. Nf3xd4 Nc6xd4 11. Qd2xd4

Lasker avoids the simplification that would follow 11. Bxd4 Bg5! (V. Zak) - although, in Kasparov's opinion, White's position would be preferable after 12. Be3 Bxe3 13. Qxe3.

11...Be7-f6 12. Qd4-d2 Bd7-c6

12...0-0 13. f3 Re8 14. Nd5, with a slight advantage (Kasparov).

13. Nc3-d5 0-0



White has a good position. For example, 14. g3 (with the idea of h2-h4-h5) is possible, and if 14...Re8, then 15. f3 (just not Neishtadt's recommendation 15. Bf3?, in view of 15...Bxd5! 16. Qxd5 Bxb2+! 17. Kxb2 Qf6+). Lasker preferred the immediate 14. f3, while Kasparov prefers 14. Nxf6+ Qxf6 15. f3 Bb5 16.

c4 Ba4 17. Rde1 - in all cases, White has a small positional advantage.

14. g2-g4?

This plan is a mistake. With the center open, a flank attack has no real chance of success. Steinitz refutes it the way one is supposed to in such cases - by active operations in the center.

14...Rf8-e8 15. g4-g5

15. f3 Bxd5 16. Qxd5 Be5 would have handed Black control of the important f4 square (Neishtadt). And after 15. Nxf6+ Qxf6 16. f3 Qe6, Neishtadt examines 17. c4 b5 and 17. Kb1 d5, although in both lines 17...Bxe4! 18. fe Qxe4 is stronger.

15...Bc6xd5 16. Qd2xd5?!

Now Black will come out of the tactical complications with the advantage. On the other hand, the alternatives didn't promise White much either.

Kasparov examines 16. gf Bxe4 17. f3 Bf5 18. Bd4 c5 19. Bc3 d5 (19...b5!?) 20. Qxd5 Nf4 21. Qxf5 Nxe2+ 22. Kb1 Nxc3+ 23. bc Qb6+ 24. Ka1, and continues 24...Qxf6 25. Qxf6 gf 26. Rd5 Re3. But, in the final position of his line, White has every right to expect to draw: 27. Rg1+ Kh8 28.

Rxc5 Rxf3 29. Rc7 is only slightly better for Black. And some of these moves are not forced (26...Re5!?!; 26. Rd7!?!). Black also has no reason to seek the exchange of queens - 24...g6!?! 25. Qf4 Re6 looks stronger, and gives him more of an advantage.

Steinitz would most likely have answered **16. ed** with the exchange sacrifice 16...Rxe3! 17. fe (17. gf Re5 18. fg Qf6 - Kasparov) 17...Bxg5, with Qe7 to follow (Neishtadt).

16...Re8-e5 17. Qd5-d2

"17. Qxb7! Bxg5 [17...Rb8 18. Qxb8!?! Qxb8 19. gf Rxe4 20. fg is unclear - Dvoretzky) 18. Bxg5 Rxc5 19. Rhg1 was far better, even though 19...Rc5! then gives Black an easy game: a6-a5, Rb8, followed either by an attack on the kingside pawns with Qh4, or an attack on the king down the b- and c-files (Kasparov). Besides 19...Rc5, Black had another very strong continuation: 19...Rxc5! 20. Rxc5 Rb8 21. Qa7 (21. Qxa6? Qf6 wins) 21...Rb6 (planning Qf6), when White's position is bad, in view of his dark-square weaknesses and his queen being out of play. So the move 17. Qxb7 hardly deserves an exclamation mark.

17...Bf6xg5!

Lasker evidently overlooked this resource, expecting only 17...Rxc5? 18. f4 Rg2, when White continues either 19. Qe1 (according to Neishtadt) or 19. Qd3!?, with excellent compensation for the pawn, thanks to the misplaced Black rook (Bf3 is threatened).

18. f2-f4!

18. Kb1 Bxe3 19. Qxe3 Qg5!?! or 18. h4 Bxe3 19. Qxe3 Qf6 would grant Black an easy game and a healthy extra pawn.

18...Re5xe4! 19. f4xg5 Qd8-e7 20. Rd1-f1!?!

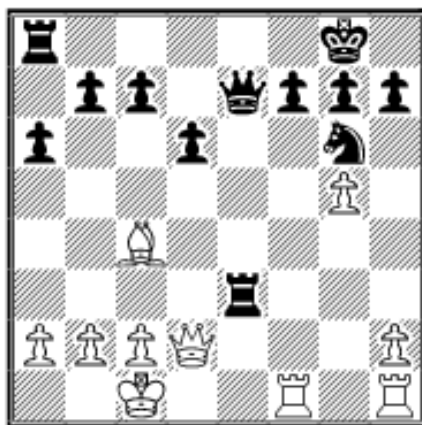
Lasker chooses to continue the struggle in a position where

he will be two pawns down. In Kasparov's opinion, he should nevertheless have won back one of them by **20. Bf3 Rxe3 21. Bxb7**. The grandmaster gives the following variations:

21...Re2 22. Rhe1 Rxd2 23. Rxe7 Rxd1+ 24. Kxd1 Nxe7 25. Bxa8 a5 with an unclear endgame, despite White's being a pawn down; and

21...Rb8 22. Rhe1 Rxe1 (22...Re5 23. Bxa6 Qxg5 24. Qxg5 Rxg5 25. Bc4 Ne5 26. Bd5, with only a small edge for Black) 23. Rxe1 Qd7 24. Bd5 (24. Bxa6?! Qa4) 24...Ne5 *"with only a small advantage for Black."*

20...Re4xe3 21. Be2-c4



21...Ng6-h8!?

"A move in accordance with the Steinitzian principle of economy of force. While defending the f7-square, the knight will also not be subject to the pawn assault with h2-h4-h5; the queen's rook, in the meantime, goes to the open file. Nevertheless, the knight is too

passively placed at h8" (Neishtadt).

"Typical Steinitz! The commentators have gone into raptures over this outlandish move, even though it appears not to have been strongest" (Kasparov).

Neishtadt's suggested move, **21...Qxg5**, leads to completely unnecessary complications. White has a choice between 22. Rxf7 and 22. Rhg1 (22. Rf3? Re5 would be a mistake).

22. Rhg1 Qh6 (Neishtadt) 23. Bxf7+ Kh8 24. Bxg6 hg 25. Rxg6 Qxg6 26. Qxe3 Re8, with an edge to Black (Kasparov).

22. Rxf7 Kh8 23. Rxc7 Rae8 (Neishtadt) 24. Rd1 (24. Kb1 is only slightly better for Black - Dvoretsky) 24...Ne5 25. h4

Qf4 26. Bd5 b5 with a slight edge to Black (Kasparov).

How about **21...Rf8! 22. h4 Re4 23. h5?**

A) 23...Rxc4 24. hg hg. Now White loses after 25. Qh2? Qxg5+ 26. Kb1 f5. Zak examined 25. Re1?! Qd8? 26. Reg1, with the terrible threat of 27. Qh2. However, instead of retreating his queen, Black must continue 25...Re4! 26. Rxe4 Qxe4 27. Qh2 f5, with a great advantage (Neishtadt).

"There is no joy for Black either in 25. Kb1 Re4" (Kasparov). Let's continue: 26. Qh2 f5 (forced) 27. gf Rxf6 28. Qh8+ Kf7 29. Qc8 - this is not so clear: White still has counterplay.

B) Neishtadt's alternative, **23...Ne5!**, is stronger, for instance: 24. Bd5 Rg4 25. g6 hg 26. hg Nxc6 27. Bxb7 Qg5 and wins (Kasparov).

22. h2-h4 c7-c6



"One more move, and the bishop on c4 will have its vital diagonal closed off, so White cannot wait. On 23. Rfg1 d5 24. Bd3 Ng6 25. h5 Nf4, White will have no compensation whatsoever for his material"(Neishtadt).

23. Bd3? Re8 24. Rhg1 Qe6 25. Kb1 b5 26. h5 c5 is bad too

(Kasparov).

23. g5-g6!

"This sets Black the most difficult tasks. In this situation, the pawn sacrifice is, practically speaking, White's only chance to complicate the game - that is, to make the balance shift back and forth more strongly. Then his opponent will find it easier to make a mistake. This tactic was later to become a characteristic of Lasker's style" (Neishtadt).

"Now the game becomes irrational; and Lasker, as will become clear, was better at this than his opponent. The problem of this position is that in almost every line, Black stands to win; but in every line also, White still has some sort of counter-chances. Evaluating in what line they are greater, in what line they are less, is no easy task; and Steinitz would have to spend the next dozen moves or so solving the very tricky question of how to keep his decisive advantage from slipping away" (Kasparov).

From the analyses which follow, it will become clear that Black may have let his decisive advantage slip right here: demonstrating it later becomes exceptionally difficult, if at all possible.

23...d6-d5?

The pawn had to be taken: **23...hg!** The only question is, how best to react to **24. h5**.



I. V. Vukovic suggested **24...g5?!**, and his suggestion was considered strongest by Zak, by Neishtadt, and by Kasparov. On **25. h6**, Black does not reply with **25...g6?! 26. h7+ Kg7 (26...Kf8 27. Bxf7!) 27. Qh2! f5 28. Qh6+ Kf6 29. Bg8!** (unclear - Kasparov), but with **25...gh**. For example: **26. Rxh6 Re8 27. Kd1** (27. Rhh1 Qe5 wins) **27...Qe4 28. Bd3 Qg4+ 29. Kc1 Qg3 30. Kd1 R8e6** and wins (Neishtadt), or **28. Rfh1 Ng6 29. Bd3 Qg4+ 30. Kc1 Qg3 31. Kd1 Nh4** and wins.

The move **26. Rxh6?**, however, is not forced: **26. Qh2!** is far stronger. Neishtadt, and Kasparov after him, give the reply **26...Qf8 27. Rfg1? Re5**, winning; but they overlook the powerful resource **27. Rf6!** The only defense is **27...Qe7**; but after **28. Rff1** Black must either take the draw by repetition

(with 28...Qf8), or enter into the sharp line 28...Qe5 29. Qxh6 Qg7 30. Qxd6, where the enormous activity of all the White pieces probably compensates for his two pawns minus.

II. **24...gh! 25. Rxh5 Re8 26. Rhh1 Qe5!** is quite solid (Kasparov). White's queen will have a difficult time reaching the h-file, which gives Black reason to hope that, with careful play, he might eventually realize his three extra pawns.

III. Another strong line is **24...d5!?** **25. hg Nxb6** (but not 25...dc?? 26. Rxh8+!). On 26. Qh2? Black parries the mate threat with gain of time by 26...Qg5!, and wins. **26. Bd3** makes it more difficult for Black to make the optimal choice. 26...Qe5?? loses to 27. Bxg6 fg 28. Qf2; and 26...Nf8?! 27. Qh2 f6 28. Bf5 is also dubious (Kasparov calls it unclear). Neishtadt recommends that Black sacrifice the exchange by 26...Rxd3, but the position after 27. Qxd3 Re8 28. Kb1 appears unclear.

I believe **26...Qg5!** was Black's best continuation. Generally speaking, the best square for the queen is e5, where it controls the important h2 square; but first it is useful to provoke the retreat of one of White's rooks, from either the f- or the h-file. For instance: 27. Rfg1 Qe5; or 27. Rhg1 Qe5 28. Bxg6 fg 29. Qf2 Qe7; or 27. Bxg6 fg 28. Kb1 Qg3! 29. Rfg1 Qe5, , with a great advantage to Black in all cases.

24. g6xh7+ Kg8xh7 25. Bc4-d3+ Kh7-g8 26. h4-h5

Here, Black has, not three extra pawns (as in the lines examined above), but only two. Additionally, the White h-pawn (a "desperado", to use Lasker's term) will terrorize the enemy.

26...Ra8-e8 27. h5-h6

As Neishtadt pointed out, 27. Rfg1! was worth considering also,. The threat of h5-h6 proves stronger than its immediate execution.

27...g7-g6 28. h6-h7+ Kg8-g7



29. Kc1-b1!

One of Lasker's characteristic "changes of rhythm". As long as his opponent has not yet created any direct threats, White has a little time, allowing him to make the useful moves Kb1 and a2-a3. In the ensuing complications, Black will no longer have access

to tactical resources involving the enemy king's vulnerability. Such play requires both a healthy evaluating capacity and tremendous cold-bloodedness.

"In this game, there is a certain 'Tal-like' element: White's attack is to a large extent undefined - but it never lets up: threats keep popping up all the time! This is what we mean by 'chronic compensation', which also exists after 29. Qh2!? Qg5 30. Kb1 c5 31. Rfg1 Qe5 32. Qh6+ Kf6" (Kasparov).

After 33. Qh4+ Ke6, the advantage remains with Black. So instead of 31. Rfg1, White might still consider 31. a3!? In the line 31...c4 (31...Rg3!?) 32. Rfg1 Qe5 33. Qh6+ Kf6 34. Qh4+ Ke6 35. Bf1, White appears to have somewhat greater possibilities than in Kasparov's line; additionally, one might consider 35. Bxc4!? dc 36. Qxc4+ Qd5 37. Qh4, although this sacrifice can hardly be correct.

29...Qe7-e5 30. a2-a3 c6-c5

Neishtadt's recommended 30...Re6 (with the idea of 31. Qf2? Rf6) is dubious, because of 31. Qb4! b5 32. Qh4, with counterplay.

31. Qd2-f2

"White's queen now reaches h4" (Neishtadt)

On 31. c3, Kasparov gives 31...c4 32. Bc2 Re2! and wins - overlooking the mate in one by 33. Qh6. Black should probably reply 31...b5!? instead.

In reply to 31. Be2, Kasparov offers another line with a hole in it: 31...Qe4 32. Bd3 Qd4 33. Qh2 f5 34. Rd1 Qe5 35. Qh6+ Kf7 and wins. Instead of 34. Rd1? White continues 34. Bxf5! gf 35. Qh6+ Kf7 36. Rxf5+ Ke7 37. Qb6, with a dangerous attack. 31...c4!? is much better, and gives Black a great advantage.

31...c5-c4 32. Qf2-h4

32. Bxg6 loses to 32...fg 33. Qh4 Nf7.



32...f7-f6

In Chigorin's opinion, Black would have refuted the attack with **32...Kf8** (this move's distinction is that it does not weaken the g6 square). Neishtadt agreed with him, but his analysis was flawed. After **33. Bf5!** the master's best line was 33...Re7?

34. Bxg6! Nxg6 35. h8Q+? with a winning endgame for Black, failing to notice the line Kasparov points out: 35. Rhg1!, leading to the exact opposite result. 33...Rg3? is inferior, as it allows a repetition: 34. Qh6+ Qg7 35. Qf4 Qe5 (35...Rge3? 36. Bxg6!) 36. Qh6+. But White doesn't have to take the draw here: he has a powerful attack after 34. Bd7! Re7 35. Rd1 (intending 36. Rxd5), when 35...Rxd7?! is bad, because of 36. Rde1.

33...gf 34. Rhg1 f6 leads to almost exactly the same position as in the game (there, the king stands at f7). A possible continuation might be 35. Rg8+ Ke7 36. Rdg1 Qe4 37. Qf2, and *"it's not at all clear who's winning"* (Kasparov).

Black's most sensible choice would appear to be **33...d4!?**

34. Rhg1 Kg7 (defending against 35. Bxg6) **35. Rh1 Kf8=.**

33. Bd3-f5

White's bishop is a "desperado" too - like the h-pawn before it. By leaving itself open to capture (which would open the g-file), depending upon circumstances, the bishop can either take on g6 or go to d7.

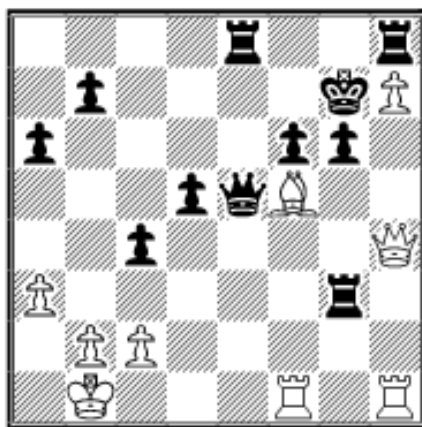
33...Kg7-f7?!

33...gf 34. Rhg1+ Kf7 would transpose into the game continuation. This position is very dangerous for Black. Both Neishtadt and Kasparov offer the improvement 35. Qh5+ Ke7 first, and then 36. Rxf5. This is amusing, since the game continuation was 36. Rg8, when Neishtadt offers no comment, while Kasparov even explains why this move was better than 36. Rxf5.

Could Steinitz have found a safer line? Neishtadt suggests that Black could win by both 33...Rg3 and 33...Qg3. Let's see

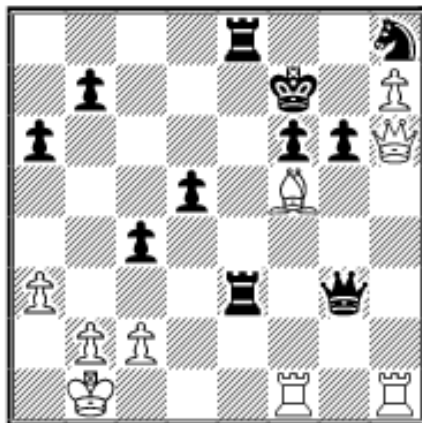
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A) 33...Rg3?!



Rg5 38. Re8 (threatening 39. Rg8+) 38...Rh5 39. Qxh5! gh
 40. Rg8+ Kh6 41. Rxh8, winning. 34...Rg5 is only slightly
 better: 35. Bg4 Nf7 36. Re1 Qxe1 37. Rxe1 Rxg4 38. Qxg4
 Rxe1 39. Qd7 Rh1 40. Qxd5 Rxh7 41. Qxb7; or 34...gf 35.
 Re1 Rg6! 36. Rxe5 fe 37. Qf2! - in both cases, the queen in
 an open position is clearly stronger than rook and knight, and
 White will most likely win.

B) 33...Qg3!? 34. Qh6+ Kf7



a) 35. Rhg1? Re1+ 36. Ka2
 Qxg1! wins (Neishtadt);

b) 35. Ka2!? (threatening 36.
 Rhg1) 35...Re2! (35...Re1 36.
 Bd7 R8e7 37. Rxf6+!, and White
 is guaranteed perpetual check)
 36. Rhg1 Rh2! (36...Rg2? 37.
 Bd7! Rd8 38. Be6+! Kxe6 39.
 Qg7 wins) 37. Bd7! Rxh6 38.

Bxe8+ Kxe8 39. Rxg3 Kf7 40. Rd1 is unclear - the endgame
 of knight and two pawns versus rook is hard to assess;

c) 35. Bd7!? - and now Black has a choice:

c1) 35...R8e7 36. Rxf6+ Kxf6 37. Qf8+ Kg5 38. Qh6+, with
 perpetual check;

c2) 35...Rd8 36. Rh3 Qe1+! (Huebner looked at 36...Re1+
 37. Ka2 Qe5 38. Rxe1 Qxe1 39. Re3 Qxe3 40. Qxe3 Rxd7
 41. Qc5 winning) 37. Rxe1 Rxe1+ 38. Ka2 Rxd7 - unclear
 (Kasparov);

c3) 35...Re1+ 36. Ka2 R8e7 (but not Huebner's 36...R8e5?
 37. Rxf6+ Kxf6 38. Qf8+ Kg5, in view of 39. Rxe1! Rxe1
 40. Qxh8 and wins) 37. Rxf6+ Kxf6 38. Qf8+ Kg5, and
 White has to give perpetual check by 39. Qh6+, since the
 attempt to get more by 39. Rxe1? Qxe1 40. Qxh8 would
 come to grief after 40...Kh6, when the spectacular 41. Be6!?
 comes to nothing because of 41...Qf2! (but not 41...Qxe6?)

42.Qg8 winning).

We may conclude that 35...Qg3!? (instead of 35...Rg3?!) would have been a decent, though hardly winning, alternative to the text.

34. Rh1-g1



34...g6xf5

Steinitz finally decides to accept the bishop sacrifice - and apparently, he was right.

34...g5? would have lost quickly to 35. Qh6 (threatening 37. Bg4) 35...Rg3 36. Bd7 (Huebner) or 36. Rxg3 Qxg3 37. Be4, winning.

Neishtadt gives an interesting, but unfortunately erroneous treatment of the situation:

"For the time being, nothing threatens Black. Let us say that it's White's turn to move here. What can he do? Attacking g6 again with 35. Qh6 is easily parried by 35...Rg3. The sacrifice at g6 does not work: 35. Bxg6+ (instead of 35. Qh6) 35...Nxc6 36. Rxc6 Re1+ 37. Rxe1 Qxe1+ 38. Qxe1 Rxe1+ 39. Ka2 Rh1, and in the rook endgame, Black has too many extra pawns.

Thus, Black has no reason to defend himself. And this means that he can unsettle the enemy king, say, by 34...b5 or 34...c3, and on 35. b3 a5."

In fact, the sacrifice on g6 is a real threat. After **34...b5?** (34...c3? hardly changes anything) **35. Bxg6+! Nxc6**, in the variation 36. Rxc6 Re1+, White does not have to take on e1, but can try 37. Ka2 Rxf1 38. Qh6; this ends, however, in a Queen endgame where he will be two pawns down: 38...Qe1 39. Rg7+ Ke6 40. Qh3+ Ke5 41. Qh2+ Kd4 42. c3+ Kd3 43.

Rg3+ Re3 44. Rxe3+ Kxe3 45. Qh3+ Kd2 46. Qxf1 Qxf1 47. h8Q.

But **36. Qg4!** (instead of 36. Rxc6?) is a real improvement: **36...Nh8 37. Qg7+!** (37. Qd7+ Re7 38. Qc8 Re8 39. Qd7+ secures the draw, but White wants more) **37...Ke6 38. Qb7**, and the attack can hardly be warded off. Kasparov gives the following analysis: 38...f5 39. Rg8 Kd6 40. Rxe8 (40. Rg7!? is also unpleasant enough, in my view) 40...Qxe8 41. Rxf5 Re5 42. Qxa6+ Kc5 43. Qa7+ Kd6 44. Qb6+ Kd7 45. Qxb5+ Kd6 46. Qb4+ Kc6 47. Rf8, and wins.

35. Qh4-h5+ Kf7-e7



36. Rg1-g8

"Worse is 36. Rxf5?! Qe6 37. Rg7+ Kd8 38. Rxd5+ Kc8 39. Qh2 Re5 and wins" (Kasparov). This variation contains a few errors.

Instead of the unpersuasive 39. Qh2?, White gets a draw by 39.

Rc5+ Kb8 40. Rcc7 Re1+ 41. Ka2 c3+ 42. b3 Qe4 43. Rxb7+ Qxb7 44. Rxb7+ Kxb7 45. Qd5+. But a move earlier, he could even win by playing 38. Rxf6! Qe4 (38...Qxf6 39. Qxd5+), and then executing an unusual queen dance along the h-file: 39. Qh2 Qe5 40. Qh4 Re4 (40...Kc8 41. Qg4+ Kb8 42. Qd7 wins) 41. Qh3, winning.

Black's mistake lay in retreating his king to the edge of the board. 37...Kd6! 38. Qh2+ Re5 was stronger, although here White saves himself by a rook sacrifice: 39. Qf2! Rxf5 40. Qb6+ Ke5 41. Qe3+.

36...Ke7-d6?

"But this looks an awful lot like a mistake. 36...Kd7 37. Rxf5 Qe6 (or 37...Qe4 38. Rxd5+ Kc6 39. Rf5 - unclear:

Dvoretsky) 38. *Rxd5+ Kc6 is safer, with an unclear game (Neishtadt's line). On the other hand, this conclusion can only be arrived at after the most thorough analysis of the later course of the game" (Kasparov).*

I believe this was not just an error, but the decisive one; unlike the other commentators, I fail to see where Black could have saved himself after this.

37. **Rf1xf5 Qe5-e6 38. Rg8xe8**

38. *Qh2+?! Re5 (Kasparov).*

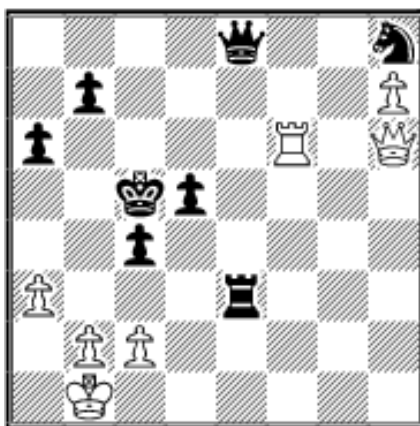
38...**Qe6xe8 39. Rf5xf6+**

39. *Rxd5+ Kc7 (Kasparov)*

39...**Kd6-c5**

On 39...Kc7? both 40. *Qxd5 (Kasparov)* and 40. *Qh6 (intending 41. Rf8)* would be strong.

40. **Qh5-h6**



40...**Re3-e7?!**

Black forestalls 41. *Rf8?* (in view of 41...*Rxh7!*, winning), but trouble comes from the other side. Let's look at the possible alternatives.

I. *"How difficult Steinitz's defense was! Chigorin recommended*

40...Qe7 (and if 41. Qf8?, then 41...Qxf8 42. Rxf8 Ng6 43. Rg8 Rh3); but after 41. Rf8 I could not find a draw for Black, however long I spent looking at this position on my computer. All in all, it appears White's attack is unstoppable" (Kasparov).

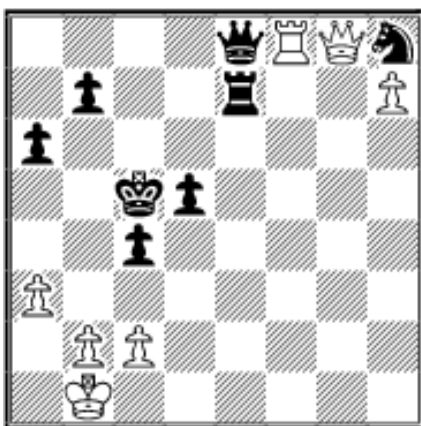
Black plays **41...Re6** (41...Re1+ 42. Ka2 Re6 hardly changes

anything), and now:

A) On 42. Rc8+?! Chigorin gives 42...Rc6?, but this is an error, refuted by 43. Qd2! Qxh7 44. Rxh8 Qxh8 45. Qb4+ Kd4 46. Qc3+. So the right move is 42...Kb6 43. Qh5, with an unclear position (Neishtadt).

B) The immediate **42. Qd2!** is much more dangerous. Kasparov's analysis runs: 42...Qxh7 43. Rc8+ Rc6 44. Rxh8 Qf7 45. Rf8 Qd7 46. Qb4+ Kd4 47. Rf1 Qd8 48. Rd1+ Ke5 49. Re1+ Kf6 50. Qc3+ Kf7 51. Qh3 Kg7 52. Rh1, and wins.

II. Kasparov believes that Black could have saved himself by **40...Re2!?** **41. Qg7 Re7 42. Qg1+ Re3** (42...d4?! 43. Qg5+ Re5 44. Qg8 d3?! 45. cd cd 46. Qb3! and wins) **43. Qg8 Re7 44. Rf8**



44...Qg6 (to which I would add that 44...Qh5 loses to 45. Qg1+! Kc6 [45...Kb5 46. Rf6! wins] 46. Rf6+ Kd7 47. Qa7!, winning) **45. Rc8+ Kd6** "with unstable equality."

From my viewpoint, there is no equality here - even something as simple as 46. Qxh8 Qxh7 47.

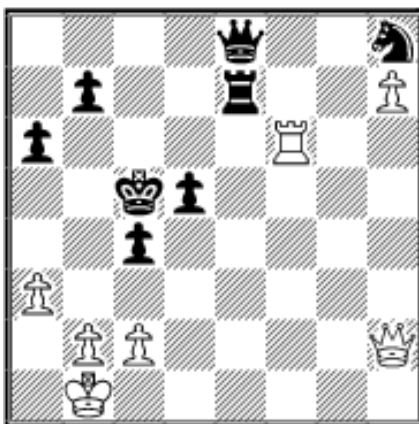
Qd8+ Ke5 48. Qb6 retains a dangerous attack for White. In addition, he might "bargain" for a more profitable moment to take the knight: 46. Qd8+ Ke6 (46...Rd7 47. Qf8+ Re7 48. Rd8+ Ke6 49. Qf4 wins) 47. Qb6+ Ke5 (47...Kf7 48. Qf2+ Ke6 49. Rxh8 Rxh7 50. Rd8 wins) 48. Qe3+ Qe4 49. Qg5+ Kd6 50. Qf6+ Qe6 51. Qxh8 Rxh7 52. Qd8+ Ke5 (52...Rd7 53. Qb6+ Ke5 54. Qe3+ Kd6 55. Qc5+ Ke5 56. Re8! wins) 53. Qg5+, and the king has to go to e4, whence he can hardly come back alive.

41. Qh6-h2!

"A move of absolute brilliance; if 41. Rf8?, then 42...Rxh7;

and 41. Qd2!? Qd8 will not win, either" (Kasparov).

One must take issue with this last comment: after **41. Qd2! Qd8 42. Qb4+ Kd4** then move **43. Rd6!?** is very strong - in fact, it wins. There is also another solution, although not one that springs immediately to mind: **43. a4!!** (threatening 44. Qc3+ Kc5 45. b4 mate) 43...Ke5 44. Qc3+ d4 45. Qf3, and wins.



41...Qe8-d7?!

This makes White's job easier, but there was no longer any salvation.

A) After **41...Qd8 42. Qf2+ Kb5**, Neishtadt's 43. Rf8?! doesn't do much after 43...Re8 and the same goes for 43. a4+?! Kxa4 44. Qc5 Re1+ 45. Ka2 Ra1+! (45...Qxf6?? 46. b3+) 46. Kxa1 Qxf6 47. Ka2 Qf3 48. Qb6 (48. c3 a5 49. Qb6 Qd1=) 48...Qe2! 49. Qxb7 (49. c3?! Qe7) 49...Qxc2= (Huebner).

But **43. b3!** hits the mark: 43...Re1+ 44. Kb2 Re3 45. bc+ Ka4 46. cd Re4 47. d6, and wins (Kasparov); or 43...Re4 44. a4+ Kb4 45. Rb6+ Kc3 46. Qg3+ Kd2 47. Rh6! and wins.

B) On **41...Rd7**, Kasparov recommends **42. Qg1+! d4 43. Qg5+ Rd5 44. Qd2**, winning. Another possibility is **42. Qf2+ d4 43. Qd2!** (although of course not 43. Rf8 Qe4 44. Rxh8 [Neishtadt], because of 44...Rxh7=) 43...Qd8 (White was threatening 44. Qa5+; if 43...c3, then 44. b4+ Kd5 45. Qg2+ is decisive) 44. Rf8! Qe7 (44...c3 45. Qh6 wins) 45. Qa5+ Kc6 46. Rxh8 wins.

C) **41...Re6 42. Qg1+** (Huebner only examines 42. Qf2+ Kb5 43. Rf8 Re1+ 44. Ka2 Qe3=) **42...Kb5 43. Qg8 Re5 44. Ka2!**, with a powerful attack.

D) **41...Re1+ 42. Ka2 Qe5 43. Qh6!** (43. Qf2+ Qe3

[Huebner] is unclear, for example: 44. Qf5 Qg1 45. Qc8+ Kd4 46. c3+ Kd3 47. Qf5+ Kd2 48. Qxd5+ Kc1 49. Qxc4 Qh2!) **43...Qe7** (44. Qf8+ was threatened) **44. Rf8 Re6** (44...c3 45. Rxh8 cb 46. Rc8+ Kb5 47. Kxb2 Qe5+ 48. Rc3 and wins) **45. Qd2!** wins.

42. Qh2-g1+ d5-d4 43. Qg1-g5+ Qd7-d5 44. Rf6-f5 Qd5xf5 45. Qg5xf5+ Kc5-d6 46. Qf5-f6+

Black resigned.

"Although the Champion accepted the loss manfully, mobilizing fully once again for the next game, the psychological loss affected him deeply. The systemic links between his defensive methods and rules had broken down somewhere. Steinitz lost the next four games in a row!" (B. Vainshtein).

"In this game, balancing on the brink of defeat, the young Lasker demonstrated those qualities which would allow him to maintain himself as World Champion for so long . In a difficult position, he succeeded in setting his opponent the sort of complex problems, of a sort that chess would not see again until the latter half of the 20th century (much like those that Tal or, say, Shirov, would set before the strongest opposition). Lasker was far ahead of his time, and it is hard to blame Steinitz for his mistake: he fought with all his strength while under relentless, powerful assault. It is precisely because this exceptionally tense game was so far ahead of its time that it went under a cloud, remaining unappreciated: its contemporaries were simply unable to fathom what was going on here" (Kasparov).

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Translated by Jim Marfia

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