

**CHESS OPENINGS: ANCIENT AND
MODERN; REVISED AND
CORRECTED UP TO THE PRESENT
TIME FROM THE BEST
AUTHORITIES**

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Chess Openings: Ancient and Modern; Revised and Corrected up to the Present Time from the Best Authorities by E. Freeborough & C. E. Ranken

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UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

CHess OPENINGS

ANCIENT AND MODERN

REVISED AND CORRECTED UP TO THE PRESENT
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By

E. FREEBOROUGH

AND

REV. C. E. RANKEN

*WITH NUMEROUS ORIGINAL VARIATIONS AND
SUGGESTIONS BY GEO. B. FRASER, DUNDEE,
REV. W. WAYTE, LONDON, AND OTHER
EMINENT PLAYERS AND ANALYSTS*



PHILADELPHIA, DAVID MCKAY
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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

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THE first edition of this work has become a useful and convenient book for reference among Chess writers, correspondence players, &c., not only throughout Great Britain and Ireland, but also in America and the Colonies. The present edition was begun about two years ago, under the impression that it would be chiefly a reprint of the former one, with improvements in detail and arrangement. The progress of knowledge has however led to the introduction of new ideas, and new lines of play, with which every amateur of moderate strength, desirous of doing full justice to his skill, ought certainly to be acquainted. The result is necessarily a larger book, with the recommendation that it is likely to be useful to a larger circle of players. This will now include all who are interested in Club Handicap Tournaments and odds-play, as well as all students, and Chess-lovers generally.

Readers will please note that the Index in the present edition is transferred to the end of the volume.



INTRODUCTION.

THIS Work is a compilation on the principle of arrangement introduced in Cook's *Synopsis*, with such additions and improvements as have suggested themselves by comparison with the German *Handbuch des Schachspiels* and other treatises on the Openings. Mr. Cook's arrangement is unsurpassed for facility of reference, and for the clearness with which it places the results of various lines of play before the reader. We have taken his columns as a starting point and posted them up to the present time from published and unpublished games, availing ourselves of the labours of several eminent analysts for the purpose of supervision. We have varied the arrangement where we have found the original stem of an opening hidden by the growth of variations. In such cases we have either transferred the accretion of material to some kindred opening or used it as the foundation of a distinct début. Thus some variations of the Philidor defence which were unknown in Philidor's time, find their place in the Three Knights' game; while we have relieved the Bishop's Opening and the Petroff Counter Attack from the joint charge of the Boden-Kieseritzky Gambit, and established the Hungarian Defence and the Jerome Gambit as openings on their own account. On the other hand there has been a shrinkage in the popularity of some openings, as for instance the Damiano Gambit, and the Lopez Gambit, to which we have awarded secondary places, the former among the Irregular Defences to the King's Knight's Opening, and the latter among the offshoots from the King's Bishop's Opening.

In adapting the various lines of play which we have found already arranged in the pages of the *Synopsis*, the *American Supplement*, and the *Handbuch*, we have taken nothing on trust. We have gone carefully through every variation, and noted alternative moves; selecting the latter

for our columns if they showed themselves on examination to be improvements on the previous text. Mr. Cook's preference was for actual play, but the play of even the best masters over the board is uneven, as their own annotations sufficiently show. On the other hand long series of moves, supplied originally by ingenious analysts as the best on both sides, are never met with in practice. If they involve intricate or apparently risky play they are commonly disregarded. Something simpler is called for, and is invariably forthcoming. Thus true progress is made by a combination of practice and theory. We have utilised one to correct the other. Where the correction required several moves we have given them. Where it allowed freedom of action we have contented ourselves with naming the initial move. It is possible and also probable that we are not always right in our selections. Every existing Chess work supplies illustrations of the danger of being too positive. One of our objects has been to make the book useful to correspondence players and industrious students, who with the aid of an alternative move, not necessarily superior to the one it replaces, will often be able to upset the plans of older players, whose ideas with time and practice move most freely in familiar grooves.

It is a weak point in books of this class that they are not and never can be exhaustive. However carefully and elaborately they are worked out they simply provide a foundation upon which ingenious players build novel combinations. The *Handbuch* is the most advanced work of the kind, but the many variations it supplies, while contributing to its completeness, take away from its handiness. It has become chiefly valuable as a book of reference, and as such deservedly holds the first place. Here again it follows, as a matter of necessity, that the greater the number of variations the greater the difficulty of arranging them, and of tracing any one of them when arranged. Further, there is the reader's pocket to consider. To meet these considerations we have enlarged upon Mr. Cook's text in those directions where a novice will be likely to require further information, and deleted columns and notes that with the natural progress and cultivation of the game seem now poor and commonplace. We have also added a special introduction to each opening, to show the general principles which govern the play. If the student's memory fails him with regard to the order of moves, he ought at all events to remember the principle of the opening he is playing, and so evolve suitable moves from his internal consciousness according to his strength. Assuming him to be possessed of a moderate share of analytical acumen it is probable that he will derive as much benefit from this process as he will by wading through the details of every variation. He will certainly be in a better position for satisfying his immediate requirements over the board, for there will not be that discrepancy between his plans and his performance that so frequently characterises a book player when he arrives at the mid-game.

In addition to all this we have given a list or summary of the general principles on which the play in the openings is established. "From analogies of positions," remarks Mr. Steinitz, "in the play of old and modern masters certain maxims have been deduced, which dispense with

a good deal of analysis, and are generally accepted by experts as scientific laws." We are indebted to Mr. Potter for this idea, and have supplemented his list by others that have been suggested to us in working out various lines of play, and their consequences.

Having thus done what we can to economise the student's time and money, with a due regard for efficiency, we have not thought it essential to dive very deeply into questions and variations which occupied the minds of Chess players a generation or two ago. They have for the most part been disposed of by some preliminary or alternative move which we have given and marked as best with the sign !. If a move occurs to the reader that we have not treated, he must not too rashly assume that we have missed it. It will be safer to suppose that it is contrary to some fundamental principle, or that there is something objectionable about it which we consider fairly within the limits of an ordinary Chess-player's capacity to discover. The tendency in practical play is to turn from those openings or variations which have been most thoroughly analysed and select, in preference, others less familiar. Both players are thus placed on a more equal footing. To meet this tendency we have supplied in our notes numerous alternative lines of play which will be found useful for consideration or practice. In cases where we are not certain whether the alternative moves we give are the best, and it is a matter of importance, we generally supply a reference to the player or writer. When this is not done it implies that the original author of the suggestion is not known, that our authority has failed to supply the source from which he had it, or that it is an effort of our own to fill up a gap left by some previous writer.

As a general rule our columns supply the best, or main, variations, while the notes give the sub-play. There are, however, exceptions, sometimes arising out of space considerations, sometimes where an apparently stronger move or combination has not yet passed the ordeal of analysis and practice, and sometimes when an inferior but plausible continuation requires many moves to demonstrate its disadvantages. It follows that the columns and notes must be considered together. We have occasionally given in the latter, as illustrations of the resources of an opening, the results of actual practice carried into mid-game. We have preferred this course to that of adding a complete series of illustrative games; such games—the practice of the best masters—being, so far as they are available, the material out of which our columns and notes are constructed.

With reference to the signs + and = used in this work, they must not be regarded as mathematically exact. The student should bear in mind that = does not mean absolute equality, but that there is no decisive advantage on either side, or not sufficient advantage to justify the use of the sign +. Further the application of the signs may possibly appear in some cases to be less a matter of fact than of fancy. It is not easy at all times to estimate the resources of position as opposed to force. Where there is a difference of opinion on these points between the reader

and the compilers, the former must take into account that we have had before us in many cases a continuation of the various games, or moves, as our guide in positions that he may consider open to question. In case no sign at all is affixed to a column, the conclusion is, that there is more to be said on both sides, and that this is left to future analysis.

One of the principal advantages to be derived from an examination of the Openings is a knowledge of the art of transposition. It is very rarely that we meet with an opponent who sticks to the text of an analysed opening. When he departs from it he usually makes an inferior move, but this does not necessarily follow. He may be transposing by some indirect method into another opening or variation in which he is more at home, or by which he hopes to gain an advantage. It is clear that this requires a corresponding change of tactics on the other side, so as to force him into a line of play which shall yield him no benefit through his innovation. The summary of sections prefixed to each book will show generally the various ramifications of kindred openings from a single stem, and enable the student to contract or enlarge his base of attack or defence according to his knowledge. We have pointed out where one opening runs into another, and a little observation and practice will enable the student to invent transpositions for himself. He will quickly find their utility. He will discover, among other things, that tact and inference are useful in Chess, as in other games of skill, although they are not regarded as the special accomplishments of a Chess-player; and also that independent thought is by no means cramped or weakened, but rather encouraged and strengthened by familiarity with book openings.

It will be seen from these remarks that we do not encourage the student to rely implicitly on memory. A book is useful to point out where the novice has gone astray. A player who commences with the idea of becoming a first-rate by mastering the theory, and studying the principles of the game, may exhaust himself in encountering the numerous exceptions which crop up in actual practice, and discover too late that he might or ought to have won but did not. On the other hand a player who despises book knowledge, and determines to find out everything for himself, may expend the whole of his Chess life in ascertaining the truth of elementary principles. It is well to give our predecessors credit for knowing something of the game, and economy of time and labour to accept the result of their experience as if it were our own; although it is not our own, till it fits in with our own practice and requires little effort of memory to recall.

To those players and analysts who have assisted us with original variations we must express our deepest gratitude. Mr. Geo. B. Fraser, of Dundee, whose reputation is world wide, has supplied us with much original analysis, which we doubt not will be highly appreciated by numerous players. Mr. Ranken in addition to general revision, is responsible for the entire plan and compilation of the Scotch Gambit, the Four Knights' Game, the Vienna Opening, the Steinitz Gambit, and the Centre Gambit. Mr. Freeborough's special contribution in this respect

is the Allgaier Gambit, with some original variations of the King's Gambit proper. The majority of the Prefaces to the Openings and the General Introduction are also from his pen. The Rev. W. Wayte has exercised his unrivalled theoretical and book knowledge in general supervision. We are largely indebted for miscellaneous assistance to Messrs. D. Forsyth, of Edinburgh, J. Russell of Glasgow, W. H. S. Monck of Dublin, Edward Marks of London, W. Nash of St. Neots, W. T. and J. Pearce, and numerous other players for hints and special variations.

The joint labour (suggestive, constructive, or critical) of so many experienced players has, we trust, fully carried out our programme, and enabled us to submit to the Chess world a reliable text-book which will provide alike for the requirements of the student and the skilful player.

In our second edition we have extended the process of discrimination and selection to the works on Chess published since 1889. Our principle has been to fit into our treatise whatever seemed worthy of adoption or consideration while avoiding variations of inordinate length, untested by practice or deficient in general interest.

In addition to new lines of play supplied in the latest edition of the German *Handbuch*, Mr. Steinitz' *Modern Chess Instructor*, and other publications, we have had to consider numberless corrections or suggestions received from British and Colonial Amateurs. The introduction of these variations, founded generally on hard experience, has added materially to the utility of our work. We have accepted them gladly as evidence of the wide-spread interest taken in the subject; further, in connection with the novelties given in our first edition and not to be found in the great German treatise, they enable us to take up a more independent standpoint. They contribute to the formation of a British School of Analysis, distinguishable from others by its preference for what is simple and solid rather than for what is subtle and far-fetched; advancing by easy stages from precedent to precedent, rather than trying to arrive at important conclusions by leaps and bounds.

It is an instance of the widely spread knowledge and study of the game, that many of the suggestions we have received refer to openings and variations that Chess writers are apt to consider as almost obsolete, but which, it is apparent, still hold their ground away from Chess centres among a large class of amateurs.

With regard to the German analysts they aim at thoroughness and are certainly most remarkable for industry. The *Handbuch*, in its seventh edition, is a receptacle for both good and bad lines of play, far beyond the capacity of a single mind to assimilate. We find therein long continuations of weak moves, very possibly exhibitions of fine Chess, but which turn away the reader's attention from the object he has in view in consulting the work. We have preferred to add short games in which