

# **THE CHESS OPENINGS**

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The Chess Openings by I. Gunsberg

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## P R E F A C E

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My aim in arranging this little volume has been to give the chess student the best idea I could of every opening of the game. I have also endeavoured to present to him the methods and tactics of the soundest players, and to place him in a position for appreciating the *raison d'être* of the various *débuts*. In a work of such small compass as this, it is almost impossible to do more. But I have not rested content with the tables which are to be found in most modern chess books. Every variation that appears here has been carefully examined, and I have substituted, both in the text and in the notes, my own views and lines of play. To make the handbook abreast of the times I have included some of the best variations, which have occurred in actual play between chess masters in their most recent encounters. These have never before been included in any chess handbook. I have not thought it necessary to write a general introduction to the subject, but the reader will find that I have dealt synthetically and analytically with each opening separately. The student will also find that the arrangement of the columns is of a kind which will be most helpful to him in learning or in comparing them.

I must not omit here to acknowledge my indebtedness to the works of Steinitz, Bardeleben, Gottschall, Gossip,

Freeborough and Ranken. Their books have served me as a basis in the elaboration of the present handbook.

In conclusion, I trust my readers will find in this little volume the satisfaction which my experience has taught me is not always theirs, even when they have pored over far more elaborate treatises than the one which I here respectfully offer them.

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