

# Lesson One

RICHARD RETI (1889-1929) was one of the greatest chess artists of our generation. Unfortunately, he lacked that dogged determination which contributes something useful to the score table day after day.

Reti's elaboration of the opening which has been named after him, was one of the greatest achievements of the hypermoderns, and probably made a deeper impression on the chess public than any other hypermodern innovation.

The following game has been selected with a view to helping to break down the prejudice which so many amateurs have against an early exchange of Queens!

London, 1927

(Match: Czechoslovakia—Argentine)

## Queen's Gambit Declined (in effect)

1	c4	c5
2	♗f3	♗f6
3	d4	d5

(a) What do you think of this move, and what kind of policy does it foreshadow on Black's part?

4	cxd5	cxd4
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(b) Consider the alternatives ... ♕xd5 or ... ♗xd5.

5	♕xd4	♕xd5
6	♗c3	♕xd4
7	♗xd4	a6

(c) This seems like a superfluous precaution. How would play proceed after the immediate ... e5?

8	g3	e5
9	♗b3	♗c6

(d) Very superficial. In view of the great power of White's King Bishop later on in the game, Black should have played...?

10	♗g2	♗d7
11	O-O	♗e7

(e) Again rather careless as ... h6 would have been safer. Why? How would play have proceeded in that event?

12	♗g5!
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(f) Why is this a strong move?

12	...	O-O?
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(g) Why is this definitely bad, and what should Black have played instead?

13	♗fd1
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(h) Taking the open file. What is the threat?

13	...	♗fd8
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(i) Give analysis to prove that ... ♗ad1 also has its drawbacks.

14	♗xf6!	gxf6
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(j) Would ... ♗xf6 have been any better?

15	♗d5
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(k) Threatening?

15	...	♗b1
16	♗c5!	

(l) Threatening? How would 16... ♗xc5 or ... ♗e8 be answered?

16	...	♗f8
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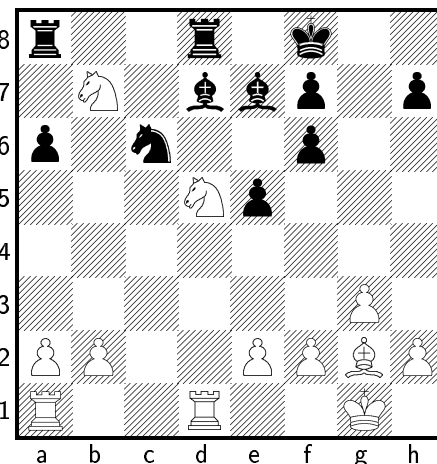
Parrying the threat, but setting the stage for a catastrophe. There was no wholly satisfactory move.

17	♗xb7!
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and Black resigns.

(m) Why?

Rarely does one see so elegant and incisive a refutation of faulty strategy.



# Lesson Two

SIR GEORGE THOMAS (1881-1972) was for years one of England's outstanding players. There is no doubt that he would have achieved a much higher place in international chess had he given the game a more intense study. As it is, he had to his credit notable wins against such celebrities as Capablanca, Nimzovich, Sultan Khan, Botvinnik, Reti, Tartakover, Spielmann, Flohr—to mention only a few.

Folkestone, 1933  
(Match: England—Italy)  
**Ruy Lopez**

1 e4 e5  
2 ♘f3 ♘c6  
3 ♙b5 a6  
4 ♙a4 d6  
5 ♙xc6+

For 5 O-O see Lesson Six.

5 ... bxc6  
6 d4 f6

(a) What is the theory underlying this move? What can you foresee regarding Black's procedure in the center? (b) Answer the above questions with regard to the alternative 6... exd4.

7 ♙e3!

(c) While it ultimately amounts to only a matter of transposition, the text is stronger than 7 ♘c3. Can you see the reason for this finesse?

7 ... ♘e7

(d) Why does Black discard the logical development ... g6 followed by ... ♙g7?

8 ♙d2 ♘g6  
9 ♘c3 ♙e7

(e) What kind of a future is available to this Bishop? Why?

10 h4

(f) With what object?

10 ... O-O

(g) What was the alternative?

11 h5 ♘h8  
12 O-O-O ♘f7

(h) Would 12... ♙g4 have been better?

13 ♙d6

(i) Played with a view to...?

13 ... ♙d7

(j) Another case of pseudo-development; but there is no good use to which this Bishop can be put. Would 13... ♙g4 have been any better? What do you think of the effectiveness of Black's minor pieces?

14 g4

(k) How is White likely to continue if Black plays passively?

14 ... exd4

(l) What is the policy indicated by this move, and why is it likely to fail?

15 ♘xd4 ♘e5  
16 ♙e2

Guarding against ... c5 or ... ♘xg4 or ... ♘c4.

16 ... ♙c8  
17 ♘f5 ♙e8

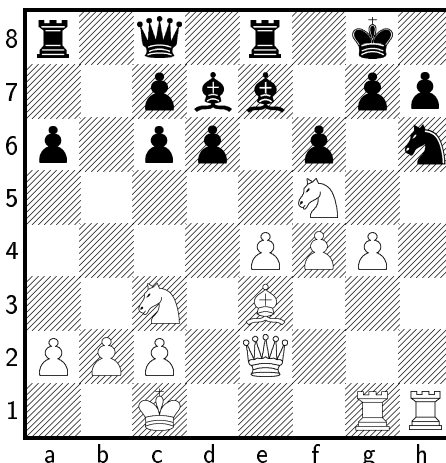
(m) Is 17... ♙xf5 any better?

18 f4 ♘f7  
19 h6!

Forcing a decisive line opening.

19 ... ♘xh6

(n) Prove that both 19... ♙xf5 and 19... g6 are unsatisfactory.



20 ♖xg7!

White would also have a winning game with 20 ♖xh6+ g×h6 21 ♜xh6—but the text is even more devastating.

20 ... ♔xg7  
21 ♜h2 ♖f7

(o) Consider the alternatives 21... ♖xg4, or 21... ♖g7, or 21... ♜h8.

22 ♜xh7+ ♔f8  
23 f5!

(p) Threatening?

23 ... ♗d8

(q) What is the purpose of this move? Refute 23... ♖g5.

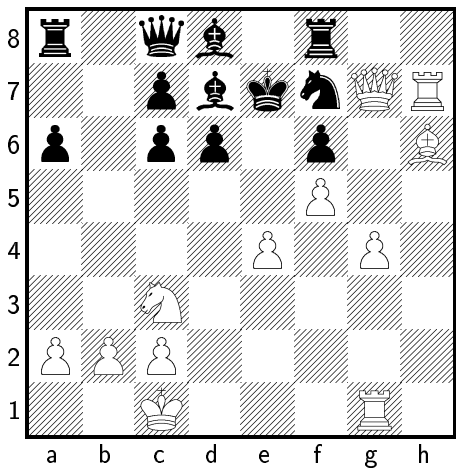
24 ♜g6! ♔e7

A vain attempt at flight, as Black's pieces are bunched together too ineffectually to make a rational defense possible.

(r) Refute 24... ♜e2.

25 ♜h7 ♜f8  
26 ♗h6 ♗e1  
27 ♜g7

and Black resigns, as he loses the Rook to begin with. A tragi-comic position!



## Lesson Three

H. N. PILLSBURY (1872-1905) is one of the most attractive and romantic figures in modern chess. This is due to his triumph in the first of the great modern tournaments (Hastings, 1895); to his phenomenal blindfold play; to his epoch-making games with Emanuel Lasker; and to his tragically early death.

Pillsbury's style was a dynamic one: it was distinguished by his keenly developed tactical alertness and his knack of springing surprises and creating tension in even the most simple and harmless looking positions. In these qualities he is closely akin to Alekhine.

Vienne, 1898  
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5  
2 ♖f3 ♖c6  
3 ♗b5 ♖f6  
4 d3 d3

(a) Protecting his King Pawn and therefore threatening to win a Pawn by...?

