

# **PHILIDOR in AUSTRALIA & AMERICA.**

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## PREFACE

When David Lovejoy wrote to me about a novel on Philidor as his possible next project and would I help with research, I agreed. This was an area I had never studied because it was in the chess-play zone. My interests are chess history and problems.

That was in September 2016 and I commenced looking for Philidor in my library and sent them to David. Here is a list:-

1. The amazing articles in BCM June, July & August of 2016 by Gordon Cadden.
2. The 1961 BCM articles by C.M. Carroll an American.
3. The 1893 and 1926 BCM articles. The first by 'A.C.' (possibly Arthur Curnock 1867-1935), the second by John Keeble (1855-1939). The latter was to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Philidor.
4. Traite Elementaire Du Jeu Des Echecs by Count De Basterot 1863 p.59/62 (French)
5. The Chess Player's Magazine June 1867 p.162/171
6. BCM 1924 p.409 & 506
7. BCM 1926 p.125, 434/5/6\* & 685 (**\* See p.46 later for this by John Keeble**)
8. The History of Chess by Robert Lambe 1764 (**see p.15**)
9. Our Folder Magazine. This publication by the Good Companion Chess Problem Club in the 1920's was original in that many of the members did research on Philidor's musical career which appeared later in the magazine. (Vol.X No.2 p.26/30 & 44/48; No.5 p.81/89 & 107/108; No.8 p.137/145 & 168/171. May 1922 p.185/193 & 211/212 & 208)
10. Chess Man v Machine by Bradley Ewart 1982. As a tour de force on automata it stands on its own. Philidor played The Turk in Paris in 1783.
11. The History of Chess in 50 Moves by Bill Price 2015. Great sketches & a fine article.
12. The Chess Kings Vol.1 by Calvin Olson 2006 only 2 pages but good.
13. Geschichte des Schachs Silberman and Unzicker 1975 a long article on P. (German)
15. A Philidor bio in the American Chess Monthly from Oct 1857 to Feb 1858 by Allen. An excellent Bibliography. Plus it is a forerunner to his 1863 book. A further edition to the book appeared in Chess World (UK) in a series. (1867)
16. Twiss had excellent one on one talks with P and included it in 'Chess' Vol.1 p.149/171 & 2 1787/9 p.215/218 and his Miscellanies 1805 Vol.2 p.105/114.
17. Die Ausstellung by Harald Ballo 2005. A fine article on P. (German)
18. Philidor and the Modern Masters in A History of Chess 1913 by H.J.R. Murray
19. Review of Allen by John Hilbert in Quarterly of Chess History 6/2000.
20. Schach Eine Kulturgeschichte 1986 by Joachim Petzold. (German) Good article.
21. BCM 1895 by J.A. Leon (1861-1934) Philidor and Stamma
22. Giambatista Lolli's work of 1763 contains a critique of Philidor's methods.
23. Writings in Chess History 2012 p.505/511 by John Hilbert
24. Cecil Purdy in 1956 Chess World p.142+
25. Manual of Chess by E.Lasker p.180+
26. Charles Tomlinson in Amusements in Chess 1845. (This was the last sent.)
27. The Kings of Chess p.13-23 by William Hartston 1985.
28. The Eight (1988) by Katherine Neville.

David decided to leave his Philidor novel in abeyance but I was interested by then as there was a lot of material, some duplicated, but a lot, such as the above list, that needed to be examined and then placed on a free website for the use of others. For a start any comparison between the two Chess Knights of the Road, Philidor and Morphy must include Philidor's travels over a 9 year period. Morphy was away about 9 months.

Philidor made a massive number of contacts/friends. Morphy was wealthier and though he socialised and liked Parisian society, he did not make any close friends as Philidor did for he didn't stay long enough. The two had different personalities. Morphy used chess as a mental exercise to prove his powers and he made little money from it. The prophetic remarks he made on leaving England are very revealing. Then he failed at the law. It is true that the American Civil war damaged Morphy but Philidor was successful at both chess and music and must have seen a lot of war himself though he was not as affected as Morphy was. Philidor moved between chess and music easily whereas Morphy never seemed to be able to fend off those who said that his chess skills precluded any skills at law.

And there are many wonderful websites:- Francois Andre Danican Philidor (1726-1795). Just typing that name into Google opens one to the modern world. Before that were more books on the French chess player such as *Philidor, Musician and Chess Player* 1995 by Marcelle Benoit 1995 (Picard French)) and H.W. Fink's 1994 book *Koblenz* by J.E. Dupont Philidor. I have not read them because I cannot. His descendants formed a group called the Society of Philidorian Studies.(lapsed 2007) The address was Sep 63, Bd Raspail 75006 Paris. And their website Res Musica-Aller+ Loin is very good. The first biographical book is **G.A. Allen's *Life of Philidor, 1863***. This has a supplement on Philidor's chess strength by Tassilo von der Lasa, a 19<sup>th</sup> century grandmaster. The first copies of Allen's book were printed on vellum. There was an earlier version in *The American Chess Monthly* 1857/8 and a later version in the English magazine *Chess World* 1867 where Allen corrected and added to his earlier work.

In reading Allen's 1863 work the *Supplement* by Baron Von der Lasa (1818-1899) took my interest as he claimed the 1749 games were 'manufactured' or 'unreal'.

This resulted in the following two articles Chapter 1 and 2.

## CHAPTER 1

### PHILIDOR'S GAMES IN HIS 1749 BOOK – ARE THEY REAL?

The games in Philidor's 1749 work are the backbone of this famous book. There are 9 games in the *Games of Philidor's* Section in Pratt's 1804 edition :-4 are King Pawn Openings, 3 are Philidor's Gambits, 1 is a Cunningham's Gambit and the final game is a Queen's Gambit or Gambit of Aleppo. There are many other games, back games and supplements in this book but the 9 games are the only ones that could be classed as genuine Philidor games. I do not have a copy of the 18<sup>th</sup> century editions.

But are they real games? The Games collections of Walker 1844 and Oxford Companion of Chess Games 1981 contain 62 games and 78 respectively with the earliest games from 1780-1795. Any games in a 1749 work are suspect or they would have been included long ago if genuine. Why weren't they?

Von der Lasa wrote in his Supplement to Allen's 1863 book on p.124:-*The Games, with the instructive Notes appended to them, still form the staple of the work. These constitute the exposition of a peculiar system, the characteristic features of which, contrasted with those of the Italian school, I have endeavoured to give, in an essay of some length, contributed to the Berlin Schachzeitung for 1847 and 1848. It can hardly be possible, that these model games ever occurred in actual play: they were, undoubtedly, composed by Philidor himself for his work.....*

Von der Lasa was an acknowledged chess grandmaster of the era.

In 1895 the British chess historian J.A. Leon wrote a two part article on Philidor in his series *The Old Masters of Modern Chess* and claimed the games did NOT occur in actual play (p.450+ Nov. & Dec 1895 BCM) and thus were manufactured and composed by Philidor himself for his book.

H.J.R. Murray in *A History of Chess* 1913 wrote a very fine article on Philidor (p.861-870) of which the relevant paragraph on p.867 was:-*And the whole of this system was unfolded in four games and ten back games or variations, all carried, if not to the actual mate, at least to a position in which the win was evident, and all skilfully composed in such a way that the principles which they were designed to teach were displayed to the best advantage....* The key phrase being 'skilfully composed'.

C.H.O'D Alexander in his 'A Book of Chess' 1973 p.49 analyses Game 3 in this collection of 9 but does not comment on whether the games are real or composed.

Hooper and Whyld did comment in Oxford Companion to Chess 1992 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (OCC):-  
*p.25 Back game: a game that is consciously commenced from a position arrived at in a game previously played, usually between the same players; an old name for a variation, especially one that continues for many moves. For example, PHILIDOR, in the first edition of his book, gives 9 games and, returning to certain positions, 32 back games, one of which has its own subvariation, misleadingly called a sequel. Most of the games revert to the opening phase, but one picks up from the 26<sup>th</sup> move, and another from the 37<sup>th</sup>.*

In the excellent biography of Philidor in OCC starting p.303 the authors do not mention whether the games were genuine or composed but on p.359 in an article on *schools of chess* where *The school of Philidor* is explained, they write:- *In 1749 PHILIDOR published his L'analyse des echecs. Before this time many writers had given useful hints on play, but he was the first to discuss, in detail, the strategy of the game as a whole and the first to appreciate that play of the pieces and pawns is closely interrelated throughout the game. For four fictitious games and ten BACK GAMES he gives copious middlegame annotations, showing how the pawn formation relates to, and largely shapes, the strategy..... 'Fictitious' being the word.*

And the 9 games on p.25 had reduced to 4 games on p.359, though I note H.J.R. Murray using 4 games and 10 Back Games also.

William Hartston in his *The Kings of Chess* 1985 wrote on p.17:-*The major part of the first edition of Philidor's book comprises nine complete games concocted by the author to illustrate his principles.* A damning indictment by the Grandmaster but no proof. He gives an original anecdote on the Chevalier d'Eon de Beaumont who may have been an early transvestite and a fair player who in 1793 met Philidor in a simul. One source on Google stated that he/she won!. Hartston wrote a nice 10p. piece on Philidor and called Philidor *the last of the chess alchemists, born into an era when chess skills were marvelled at, when the playing of two games blindfold was a party trick of such magical brilliance that the aristocracy of London would pay to come and boggle.* (p.71)

In a fine article in *Die Austellung* by Harald Ballo 2005, a book celebrating the 125 year history of the Offenbach chess club in Germany, Philidor's life was written up along with an examination of the first game in the 1749 work. It is true that Philidor's opponents are not given in any of the games in the book except the blindfold games at the rear from Philidor's later period post 1780 (these would be from the 1790 edition). This is easily explained as a diplomatic action by the author. And Philidor does not indicate which side he played. The German article from *Die Austellung* contains many excellent photos of Philidor's time including a superb one of his bust and an internal sketch of the Café de la Regence. There does not appear to be any comment about the games not being genuine.

Here is the first of the nine games with my comments after the game as to the 'unreality' or otherwise of black's moves. Philidor appears to play White.

King's Pawn:-

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..Bc5;3.c3..Nf6;4.d4..e5xd4;5.c3xd4..Bb6;6.Nc3..0-0; 7.gNe2..c6;  
8.Bd3..d5;9.e5..Ne8;10.Be3..f6;11.Qd2..f6xe5;12.d4xe5..Be6;13.Nf4..Qe7;  
14.Bxb6..a7xb6; 15.0-0..Nd7; 16.Nxe6..Qxe6;17.f4..Nc7;18.aRe1..g6;  
19.h3..d4;20.Ne4..h6;21.b3..b5;22.g4..Nd5;23.Ng3..Ne3; 24.Rxe3!..d4xe3;  
25.Qxe3..Rxa2;26.Re1..Qxb3;27.Qe4..Qe6;28.f5..g6xf5;29.g4xf5..Qd5;  
30.Qxd5..c6xd5;31.Bxb5..Nb6;32.f6..Rb2;33.Bd3..Kf7;34.Bf5..Nc4;35.Nh5..Rg8+;  
36.Bg4..Nd2;37.e6+..Kg6;38.f7..Rf8;39.Nf4+..Kg7;40.Bh5 and white won.

Comments (all are mine):-

Black's 8th..d5 lets his KN be pushed back and d6 looks better.

Black's 12th..Be6 is weak. Better d4.

Black's 19th..d4 gives the WN a fine square on e4  
Black's 21st..b5 would be better as c5.  
Black's 23rd..Ne3 spells doom.  
Black's 25th would best be aRe8. Black has no time for pawn hunting.  
Black's 32nd ..Rb2 better aRa8  
Black's 36<sup>th</sup>..Nd2 is futile.

Was Black a fictional player? There are some weak moves but as the game goes on we are sure Philidor plays White and his opponent would be weaker. George Walker has many unnamed players in his 1844 collection and as a young man Philidor did not need to 'parade' his victories against a named opponent. I have an 1804 2 volume edition by Peter Pratt and it states before the start of this game that the games are *PHILIDOR'S OWN GAMES*. It is strange that he did not comment on White's 24th move which destroys Black's pawn centre though it could be argued Black's 19<sup>th</sup> brought on the loss.

The Second game is a White crush with Philidor probably in charge. King's Pawn;-

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..c6;3.d4..exd4;4.Qxd4..d6;5.f4..Be6;6.Bd3..d5;7.e5..c5;8.Qf2..Nc6;  
9.c3..g6;10.h3..h5;11.g3..Nh6;12.Nf3..Be7;13.a4..Nf5;14.Kf1..h4;15.g4.Ng3+;  
16.Kg2..Nxb1;17.KxN..Qd7;18.Qg1..a5;19.Be3..b6;20.Na3..0-0-0;21.Ba6+..Kc7;  
22.Nc2..Ra8;23.Bb5..Qd8;24.b4..Qf8;25.b4xc5..b6xc5;26.Nd2..c4;27.Nf3..f6;  
28.Bb6+..Kb7;29.BxN+..KxB;30.fNd4+..Kd7;31.f5..Bg8;32.e6+..Ke8;33.Nb5..Bd6;  
34. Qd4 white wins.

Comments:-

Black's 6<sup>th</sup> ..d5 Why this after 4..d6?

Black's 16<sup>th</sup>..Nxb1. White's prior moves seem to encourage this.

Black's 20<sup>th</sup>..0-0-0 looks worse than 0-0

Black's 22<sup>nd</sup> ..Ra8 Why chase the WB to a better square?

It only took 8 moves for White to overrun a strong Black position. Philidor wrote that Black's game was 'irretrievable' because White's knights had a free passage.

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> game where Philidor was the exchange down and recovered. His notes verge on extreme politeness a wise idea to avoid upsetting anonymous opponents who would know their own games.

The third game is another King's Pawn but the colours have been reversed:-

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.Bc4..f5;4.d3..c6;5.e4xf5..Bxf5;6.Bg5..Nf6;7.bNd2..d5;8.Bb3..Bd6;  
9.Qe2..Qe7;10.0-0..bNd7;11.Nh4..Qe6;12.Nxf5..Qxf5;13.Bxf6..g7xf6;14.f4..Qg6;  
15.fxe5..fxe5;16.Rf3..h5;17.aRf1..0-0-0;18.c4..e4;19.d3xe4..d4!;20.Bc2..Ne5  
21.Rf6..Qg7;22.Qf2..Ng4;23.Qf5+..Kb8;24.Rxd6..Rxd6;25.Qf4..Qe5;26.Qxe5..Nxe5;  
27.Rf4..Ng4;28.c5..Rg6;29.Nc4..Ne3;30.Nxe3..d4xe3;31.Rf3..Rd8;32.Rxe3?..Rd2 wins.

Philidor played Black and won the exchange this time. A very early Philidor's Defence.

Comments:-

White's 5<sup>th</sup> 4xf5 gives up the centre.

White's 13th.Bxf6 strengthens Black's centre.

The Fourth Game King's Gambit Colours Reversed

1.e4..e5;2.c3..d5;3.e4xd5..Qxd5;4.d3..f5;5.f4..e4;6.d4..Qf7;7.Be3..Nf6;8.Nd2..Nd5;  
9.Bc4..c6;10.Qb3..Be6;11.Bxd5..cxd5;12.Ne2..Bd6;13.0-0..h6;14.Qc2..g5;15.g3..g4;



27.Rxb6..aRd8;28.Rd1..Nf6;29.Rb7+..Kh8;30.Bd5..Nxd5;31.Rxd5..Rf8;32.Rd2..Rf4;  
33.Re2..d5;34.exd5..Rxd5;35.Re7..g5;36.e2Rxe5..RxR;37.RxR..Rf2+;38.Kc3..Rxh2;  
39.a4..g4;40.a5..g3;41.Re1..g2;42.Rg1..Rh3+;43.Kc4..Rg3;44.a6..Rg7;45.Kxc5..h5;  
46.Kb6..h4;47.a7..Rxa7;48.Rxg2..Rh7;49.b4..h3;50.Rh2..Kg7;51.b5..Kg6;  
52.Kc6..Kg5;53.b6..Kg4;54.b7..Rxb7;55.Kxb7..Kg3;56.Rh1..h2 57.draw.  
Comment:-White's 19<sup>th</sup> fxe4 and incredible he got support for d5.

A great game and this Gambit was popular in the East and Stamma sang its praises in his 1745 book. Was this a 'created' game by Philidor?

And what about the 9 games? We don't know for sure which side Philidor plays. It's not hard to work out but as well as that, no opponents are named. All a mystery.

In view of the match between Philidor and Stamma in 1747 so well won by Philidor +8-1=1, it seems likely Philidor included some of the games of the 1747 match. Why wouldn't he? It was a great victory that made him an unofficial world champion. Stamma had the move in all the games so if this 57 move draw was from the match it must have been Philidor who played the Aleppo Gambit against its great fan as Black?

Philidor wrote of the *number of strokes, well designed and well parried* in this game.

There are six BACK GAMES to Game No.9 and these Games depart from Game 9 at White's 3<sup>rd</sup>; Black's 3<sup>rd</sup>, White's 4<sup>th</sup>, White's 7<sup>th</sup>, White's 8<sup>th</sup>, White' 10<sup>th</sup>.

On page 34 of Book 2 is written *Setting aside the move in each, which is distinctly pointed out as inducing defeat in its ultimate tendency, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Back Games of this Gambit, display a penetrating regard to consequences. In a circumspection in the use of stratagem and resource, which has not been detected intermitting in more than one party, may be traced the revising attentions and mellowing touches of a succession of players.*

This appears to be by Philidor but the Editor of the 1804 edition adds comments and one can't be certain who wrote the above. In fact Pratt admits to changing some of Philidor's comments from the 1749 edition. It does suggest that the Back Games were given 'touches' by other players showing the games are not 'created' but played out in earnest. Perhaps in postmortems? The fracas of the Deacon/Morphy 'games'; springs to mind.

Note that if this is so and the Back Games were played out in earnest, then the original 9 games look a little more authentic.

Could it be when Stamma met Philidor in 1747 that the Syrian player from Aleppo took the move so that he could commence his games with d4 and that Philidor accepted it? It may be that some of these Back games are from the match also, but page 34 suggests a *succession of players*, not one.

The sad part of all this is that not ONE game of Stamma's exists for posterity. We do not know how he played and perhaps Game 9 was the first clash between the two champions. It would be nice if it was a match game.

The unusual feature of the Queen's Gambit Back games is that they are played to a conclusion. Not always so in the book where they finish mostly with much to be played. The first Back game

was won by Black in 34, 2<sup>nd</sup> by White in 25, 3<sup>rd</sup> by Black in 34, 4<sup>th</sup> by Black in 14, 5<sup>th</sup> by White in 47 and 6<sup>th</sup> by Black in 17.

1<sup>st</sup> Back Game:-1.d4..d5;2.c4..d5xc4;3.e3..f5;4.Bxc4..e6;5.f3..Nf6;6.Nc3..c5;7.gNe2..Nc6;8.0-0..g5;9.d4xc5..Qxd1;10.Rxd1..Bxc5;11.Nd4..Ke7;12.Na4..Bd6;13.Nxc6..bxc6;14.f4..h6;15.Bd2..Nd5;16.g3..Bd7;17.Kf2..c5;18.Nc3..Bc6;19.Nxd5..exd5;20.Be2..aRg8;21.Bc3..gxf4;22.Bxb8..f4xe3+;23.Kxe3..Rxb8;24.Bf3..Ke6;25.Rd2..d4+;26.Kf2..Be4;27.Re1..Kd5;28.dRe2..Re8;29.g4..Bxf3;30.Rxe8..f5xg4;31.h3..c4;32.Rh8..d3;33.Ke3..Bc5+;34.Kf4..d2 wins. Philidor may have been Black.

In the 1749 work Philidor wrote:-... *I let your game be lost, only to shew the strength of two bishops against the rooks, particularly when the king is placed between two pawns. But if instead of employing your rooks to make war against his pawns, you had on the 31<sup>st</sup> move, played your rook at the Black Queen's Square(d8); on the 32<sup>nd</sup> move brought your other rook at your adversary's king's second square (e7), and, on the 33<sup>rd</sup> move, sacrificed your first rook for his king's bishop; instead of losing, you had made the drawn game.*

Pratt writes that this paragraph was omitted from later editions but it was just, he wrote. Perhaps it was wise to remove it as it does look arrogant.

2<sup>nd</sup> Back game:1.d4..d5;2.c4..d5xc4;3.e4..b5;4.a4..c6;5.b3..c4xb3;6.a4xb5..c6xb5;7.Bxb5+..Bd7;8.Qxb3..Bxb5;9.Qxb5+..Qd7;10.Qxd7+..Nxd7;11.f4..e6;12.Ke2..f5;13.e5..Ne7;14.Nc3..Nd5;15.Nxd5..exd5;16.Ba3..Bxa3;17.Rxa3..Ke2;18.Kf3..hRb8;19.Ne2..Ke6;20.hRa1..Rb7;21.Ra6+..Nb6;22.a6Ra5..g6;23.Nc3..Rd8;24.Rxa7..Rxa7;25.Rxa7 wins. Philidor may have been White.

3<sup>rd</sup> Back Game:-

1.d4..d5;2.c4..dxc4;3.e4..e5;4.dxe5..Qxd1+;5.KxQ..Be6;6.f4..g6;7.Nc3..Nd7;8.h3..h5;9.Be3..0-0-0;10.Kc2..Bc5;11.Bxc5..Nxc5;12.Nf3..c6;13.Ng5..b5;14.Be2..Ne7;15.Nxe6..fxe6;16.a4..Nb3;17.Ra2..a6;18.a4xb5..a6xb5;19.Ra8+..Kb7;20.Rxd8..Rxd8;21.Rd1..Nd4+;22.Kb1..Kb6;23.g4..hxg4;24.hxg4..c5;25.g5..eNc6;26.Bg4..b4;27.Ne2..Na5;28.Nxd4..cxd4;29.Bxe6..Kc5;30.f5..d3;31.f5xg6..Nb3;32.g7..Ra8;33.Rxd3..Ra1+;34.Kc2..Rc1++ Philidor probably Black.

4<sup>th</sup> Back Game:-

1.d4..d5;2.c4..dxc4;3.e4..e5;4.d5..f5;5.Nc3..Nf6;6.f3..Bc5;7.Bxc4..f5xe4;8.f3xe4..Ng4;9.Nh3..Qh4+;10.Kd2..Ne3;11.Qe2..Bg4;12.Qd3..Nxc2;13.Ng1..Qe1+;14.Kc2..Bxc1 wins. Maybe this is a 'created game'?

5<sup>th</sup> Back game:-

1.d4..d5;2.c4..dxc4;3.e4..e5;4.d5..f5;5.Nc3..Nf6;6.f3..Bc5;7.Na4..Bxc1;8.Rxc1..b5;9.Nc5..0-0;10.a4..Na6;11.Nxa6..Bxa6;12.axb5..Bxb5;13.b3..fxe4;14.bxc4..Bd7;15.Bg5..exf3;16.g2xf3..Kh8;17.Bd3..h6;18.h4.hxg5;19.hxg5..Nh4;20.Bg6..Nf4;21.Qc2..Nxc6;22.Qxc6..Bf5;23.Qh5+..Kg8;24.g6..Bxc6;25.Qxc6..Qf6;26.Ra6..Qxc6;27.aRxc6..Rf7;28.Ke2..a5;29.Re6..a4;30.Rxe5..a3;31.Ra1..a2;32.Re3..Rf6;33.Kd3..Ra3+;34.Ke4..Rxe3+;35.Kxe3..Ra6;36.Kd4..Kf7;37.Kc3..Ra3+;38.Kb4..Rxf3;39.Rxa2..Ke7;40.c5..g5;41.Ra7..Kd8;42.Kb5..g4;43.Kc6..Rf6+;

44.d6..cxd6;45.cxd6..Ke8;46.Rg7..Rh6;47.Kc7 wins. Who was White?

6<sup>th</sup> Back Game:-

1.d4..d5;2.c4..dxc4;3.e4..e5;4.d5..f5;5.Nc3..Nf6;6.f3..Bc5;7.Na4..Bxg1;8.Rxg1..0-0;  
9.Nc3..fxe4;10.fxe4..Nxe4;11.Nxe4..Qh4+;12.Ng3..Bg4;13.Be2..Qxh2;14.Rf1..Qxg3+;  
15.Kd2..Nd7;16.Rxf8+..Rxf8;17.Qe1..Rf2 wins.

On various websites some of these 1749 games are claimed as real games but until an expert (I am not) looks at them they have to be suspect.

The games are pre 1749 and from Philidor's youth. He worked on the book manuscript ca 1746/7 in Europe and many of his opponents must have been officers. The Philidor Games collection total was 62 in 1844 when George Walker's book came out. The earliest was 1780 from Philidor's late middle age. The Oxford Encyclopaedia of Chess Games 1981, had 78 games with the earliest 1780.(See list of games and opponents later-p.98) Six more games with Atwood, 5 more with Bruhl, 3 with Jennings, 1 with Conway and 1 with Leycester making 16 in all which when added to 62 makes 78. It should be added that few if any of the recorded games are without odds. Many are blindfold or giving pieces and moves start. Difficult to assess Philidor's strength. These early games do just that and if some of the Back games are 'created' well fair enough. The 9 games from the chapter of his own games seem genuine and appear to be the only recorded games from Philidor's early life.

In the 1804 Edition of Philidor by Peter Pratt there are 29 games, 50 Back Games and 15 others.

## CHAPTER 2

### VON DER LASA ON THE GAMES IN PHILIDOR'S 1749 BOOK.

The great German chess master and diplomat was certain the 9 games in the 'Philidor's Own Games' chapter were not real games and were manufactured by Philidor to promote his pawn play theory. He did not go far enough to proving his beliefs though he may have considered them 10 years earlier in his essay in DSZ 1847/8 which compared the games of Philidor with those of the Italian School. That would be a very useful essay to read, and Ray Kuzanek has found the DSZ 1847/8 and has started to translate them from the German using Google. He has not found vdl's comments on whether Philidor's games have actually been played as yet :-

This is the opening paragraph of the first of nine articles:-

*We have been given a detailed essay on the difference between the schools, the different treatment of the same games at different times, and of different masters, as well as of the influence which the observance of unequal principles has had on the formation of chess theory as a whole. For the purpose of the work is to make known to the reader what has hitherto been written about the object which has been touched, and for this purpose an instructive article in the Palamede of 1844 comes upon a reminder which makes it desirable, this piece in its essential extent to the reader first. We can scarcely regard the translation of the article, which leads in the original to the heading "Memorire sur le Principe des Pions," as the text of the famous Russian author of the analysis nouvelle des Ouvertures, M. de Janisch, has deserved special attention ....*

The following is the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> article:-

*I believe, in the foregoing, that the system of Philidor has been sufficiently characterised, and at the same time has been described as incomplete. It was an extension of Bertin's pronounced foundation and regarded the peasants as the soul of the game. Philidor had described it so in his youth, which was twenty-three years old when his analysis appeared, and left it essentially unchanged. If he never became aware of the one-sidedness of his assertions, this may well be the reason why, among all the contemporaries to whom we met, no one dared to meet. On the contrary, his views were predominant in France, England, and Germany. We find them also in the works of that epoch, the Amateurs 1775, E. Stein 1789, Pratt 1799 and most largely with Allgaier 1795 again. The first of these books is two years ahead of the analysis of the 'analyse' and criticizes the individual sayings of the older ones; it may have been influenced by the revised work of Philidor, and we must not let the Amateurs be unseen. They have, moreover, frequently been paid with the same praise to the chief writers of the literature, with which, however, the judgement pronounced at Bilguer, p.29, strikingly contrast. The first three chapters of their teaching consist of games with prescriptions, to which reference is made in the introduction to the fourth chapter, concerning the theoretical remarks. This circumstance makes the work less usable for our work, since these remarks are conditioned by the inequality of the armed forces in the positions to which they are attached, and therefore do not always bear the character of full publicity. Regarding the games without pretensions, Philidor's alleged sentence, which is nowhere to be determined in his case, decides to be untenable, inasmuch as the traitor, if the first one misses the right train once, must win.*

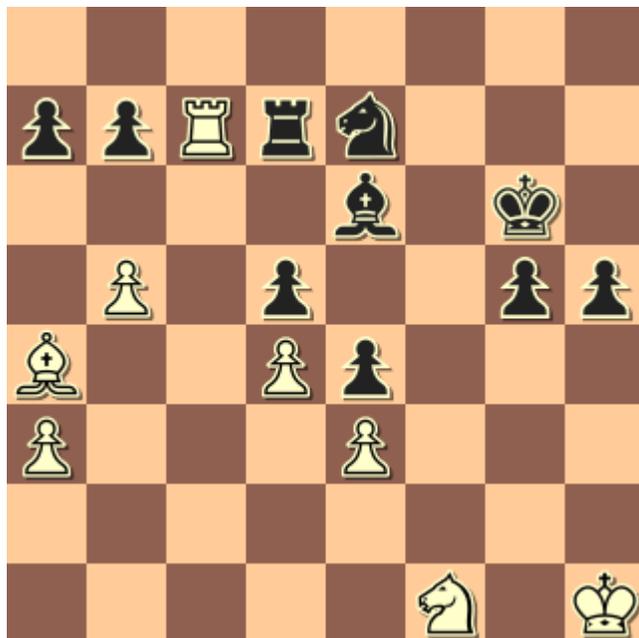
*If we consider this new assertion precisely, it follows from its general formulation that if the first player, by his guilt, gives the attack or the train without any further advantage to Black, the*

*latter gains already by this slight error. Thus, in the author's own words, what they deny is, that the advantage of the train decides. Their view, however, is not so strict, for, according to the German translation, they allow at times to reintroduce a mistake of the most delicate train. I take the attention of this digression, which is perhaps too far removed from the domain of my task, in order to point out the inconsequence of the amateurs, which also at other points of their teaching, and to prepare the reader for Philidor's implied contempt for the work. The master has, of course, passed over all the memories which have been mentioned to him, one of which has already been mentioned in the newspaper (1848 p.11), as if he had blamed them decisively. We therefore do not dare to add to these words where they express the words of Philidor, nor do we, where they deviate, place any particular value upon them. Moreover, the whole lesson contains only a few very brief and peremptory impressions, which may be reckoned with at the Italian school, as, for example, p.189-194 in the edition of 1786; all other games are recorded with obvious lack of imagination under the sole influence of the peasant system. This also applies in general to the work of Stein, Pratt, and the first and second editions of the Allgaier, which are not yet accompanied by tables. Koch gave the games of Selenus, Philidor, Greco, and the Amateurs in 1801 unified in his chess game, and showed so clearly that the spirit of the modern Italian school was still alien to the north. This school, the nature of which we have hitherto described almost negatively, is most evident in the Springer partie.*

*The works of the classical Italians, however, are not generally suited to familiarize us with the nuances of the system named after them, since they contain only a beginning, but we can often, by studying the necessary consequences of the broken games, whole lot. If we now look at the continuations, and express what is perceived in them from the beginnings, as the germs of the subsequent development, we are overwhelmed by the fact that the majority of the plays contained in the Italian writers belong to the figures of the figures. Most of the openings are so used or extended to the point that a farmer's party, though not always possible, can not easily develop from it. The running game as the richest in peasant positions is treated less comprehensively, and even where it occurs, there are often tracts which did not correspond to the Philidorian spirit. If, for example, the Anastasia, a German extract from the Lolli, 1803, volume 2, p.155, we meet the following play under the heading, 25<sup>th</sup> part with Philisto's succession in the Italian manner.*

(There is a lot more to go and the English is not too good but we can see there is no analysis of the games and their construction-real or unreal so far. More will follow from Ray Kuzanek BM)

How does one prove a game is fictional? I guess:- discussion about the moves of both sides showing strong and weak moves highlighting Philidor's pawn play that are unlikely in a real game and there is one example in the Supplement Lasa wrote for Allens' 1863 '*Life of Philidor*'. On p.127 he writes of the Cunningham Gambit game which favours Black and gives a position after the 29<sup>th</sup> move (2<sup>nd</sup> Back Game) On the 31<sup>st</sup> move White plays a very poor move when another is far better. Lasa doesn't name the White player but it looks like a contrived move though bad mistakes occur in real games. Lasa then retracts to the start of the game and plays the moves to the 29<sup>th</sup> above showing the weak White moves which boost Black's chances. It could well be a created game and if he had done the same for more games it would be clearer. Here is



the position after Black's 29<sup>th</sup>  
(8x10) all diagrams by Alexander Maryanovsky

In the game White played 30.Rxd7..Bxd7; 31.Kg2..h4;32.Bf2..Kh5;33.Bd1+ and Black lost on the 40<sup>th</sup> move. But after 30.Rxd7..Bxd7;31.b6!!..Bc6; 32.b6xa7..b5; 33.Bxb5..Ba8; 34.Bd7 should at least draw.

He then analysed 3 of Philidor's 1788 odds games against M.de Beaurevoir on p.136/144 and notes *serious blemishes* in Philidor's play which he puts down to age. The conclusion being that Philidor's early games in the book from the late 1740's are not real games and those from his post 1780 period are real games but not very good ones.

It does seem feasible that Philidor whilst writing his 1749 work would include games from his match with Philip Stamma (1705-1765) in 1747 which he won +8-1=1. He didn't need to disclose Stamma's name or that of other opponents for diplomatic and privacy reasons. This was an era of anonymity and good manners.

Philidor had Black in that match which gave Stamma a great opportunity to play his beloved Aleppo or Queen's Gambit 1.d4..d4;2.c4. Philidor was an e4 player and the match was really an East/West Challenge. Stamma was a Syrian from Aleppo. He was married with 2 sons.

The 9<sup>th</sup> game in the book is an Aleppo Gambit and a 57 move draw. If it was from the match it proved Stamma could fight and reminds one of the much later Morphy/Anderssen match which had a similar result. Anderssen started well and then faded. Stamma only won one game and drew another and as the match continued Philidor, playing Black, worked out a Gambit reply and won steadily.

There are 6 Back games to Game 9, some of which are likely games from the match. The first was won by Black in 34 moves, the 2<sup>nd</sup> by White in 25, the 3<sup>rd</sup> to Black in 34, the 4<sup>th</sup> to Black in 14, the 5<sup>th</sup> to White in 57 and the 6<sup>th</sup> to Black in 14. As Stamma only won one game and had White only Back Game 2 or 5 are eligible.

It could also be that Stamma was required to play some 1.e4 games and this opens up the other 8 games and the 33 Back Games for consideration. They are mostly White wins and the only White loss is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Back game to the Cunningham Gambit game. It doesn't get Philidor to 8 wins but other games (though lost) with many of the officers he played in Europe are eligible and some of Stamma's final games may have been disasters and omitted.

We need some early Philidor games plus some from Stamma who has no recorded historical games.

Lasa's Supplement from which all the later historians have relied upon **requires a 21<sup>st</sup> century airing** to verify if these games in the 1749 book are fictional.

Here are my conclusions on von der Lasa's 'Supplement':-

1. The Second Back Game in the Cunningham Gambit section as explained by vdl on page 9 of this article is quite possibly a 'post mortem' game. There is no argument that these back games are suspect and Philidor says as much on p.34 of Book 2 (Pratt). It could be that Peter Pratt 'manipulated these comments in the 1804 edition but he could hardly have omitted that phrase 'a succession of players' gave 'mellowing touches'.

2. It would appear from the Supplement by vdl in Allen's book (p.122) that Ponziani was not impressed with Philidor's pawn play. This may well be as vdl suggests due to Philidor's criticism of Ponziani's countrymen-Greco and Carrera. Vdl did not like the Introduction in the 1749 work and calls it 'petulant'. He then states that the 1749 book *embraced...only nine games with their variations*. And he further states that only the first four games show his pawn play system. It is fair comment that there should have been some new games and some modification of the game notes in the 1777 edition and that Philidor's lack of play against the 3 Italian Masters Ponziani, Ercole del Rio and Lolli was a real loss. But there are regrets everywhere in matches not played. I was told by the late Jas Duke, a fine Australian chess historian, that Morphy should have played Kolisch whereas I thought Von der Lasa and Morphy should have played not to mention Staunton and Morphy.

Baron Von der Lasa wrote in the Supplement that the age of 40 was the limit for strong chess and that it may well have been much earlier. The Baron was born in 1818.

3. Vdl then gives his view on p.124 of the Supplement that the model games never occurred in actual play, and were composed by Philidor for his book. If early games of Philidor's were available in the chess archives there would be no problem with vdl's statement. **But there are none.** We are required to assess Philidor's strength on his post 1780 games when he was 54 years old. And poor Stamma has no games in the archives.

In this attempt to resurrect these 1749 games as real games we hold out the hope that some may have been played with Stamma.

The conclusion vdl made on p.125 was that Philidor's pawn principles were not new and could be traced back to Lopez. There is an inference that Philidor copied Lopez' theories from the French editions of the 1561 work. He states that Philidor had a mastery of the game and his ideas were clear and comprehensive. A generous conclusion yet based on 'composed' games.

4. In his chapter on Philidor as a chess player he attempts to assess Philidor's strength in actual play and concludes on p.131 that his strength was derived from his book rather than his play! His analysis of Philidor's play in the 'evening of his life' (i.e. he was over 50 years old and past his best) was harsh and clashes with Anderssen, Lasker and Steinitz in their late ages. He felt his opponents were 'weak and inaccurate' and that this affected Philidor's play but that he fell short in accuracy of conception and richness of combination.

The three games from the year 1788 against M. de Beaurevoir who was a 'chess player of high standing in France' are then given. OECG (Levy & O'Connell) has the 3 games also. Vdl stated Philidor could have given his opponent a Knight and why vdl selected these 3 games is a mystery. A further game from 1780 against Carlier and Bernard consulting was lost by Philidor proving vdl's point. His own countryman Count Bruhl he considered 'decidedly inferior' to Philidor yet his score in the recorded games was +5-8=7,2 unf.. Verdoni beat Bruhl 3/2 in 1795. They were all odds games. Von der Lasa ended with comparisons with later players such as Sarratt, Deschappelles, Lewis and La Bourdonnais who were superior to Philidor. George Walker disagreed.

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Robert Lambe the Vicar of Norham upon Tweed, (on the East Coast border between Scotland and England near Berwick) in his book 'The History of Chess' 1764 had a section on Philidor on p.116 where he wrote that Mr Hoyle said in the past 30 years (i.e 1734-1764) *that few people understood how to play the Pawns to perfection: and that the lovers of Chess are principally indebted to Sir Abraham Janssen, Mr Montgomery and Mr Bosan for this knowledge. To the names of these Gentlemen there ought to be added that of Mr A.D. Philidor; for the Lovers of this Game will be under full as great obligations to him, for the precepts which he hath given relating to the management of the Pawns.*

*Mr Philidor is a Frenchman, and supposed to be the best Chess-player in the world. When he was at Paris, and only 18 years of age, the Authors of the Encyclopedia say, that he could play at two chess-boards, without seeing either of them, with two good Gamesters, and beat them both.*

I presume the Vicar means the great *Encyclopedie* of Diderot and D'Alembert, 1751-65. The latter person was ecstatic at Philidor's exhibition in 1744-( 'more lost games' BM)

He then gives the Queens Gambit or Gambit of Aleppo (Game 9 above) the 57 move draw with 16 'Notes' These may be from the 1749 edition of Philidor to which I don't have access. Then follows the six Back Games in my Pratt edition of Philidor 1804, but which he calls 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Parts and includes good notes which have been excluded from Pratt. All these games are included above.

The Vicar was born in Durham, England in 1711 and died in Edinburgh, Scotland 7 May 1795. He is mentioned in Alumni Cantabrigiensis Pt. 1 Vol.3 p.37 and also in DNB Vol. XI p.444 (Gaige) His book has some good articles on chess history in its first 70 pages. He was well-read and the short Chess Bibliography from p.70 – 74 is useful, though he omits Philidor's 1749 work.

It is good when a Grandmaster such as the late C.H. O'D Alexander comments on Philidor's 'Analyse' games, (See Game 3 above) He considered Philidor's positional ideas of creating a strong pawn centre of a different order to the ideas of Greco. He suggested that Philidor's analysis was not accurate and that later tacticians were able to demolish large parts of it and thus cast doubt on the principles. Alexander feels White played 'peacefully' and allowed Black to set up his centre undisturbed (see 'A Book of Chess' 1974 by Alexander p.50+) and gives an alternative game with White attacking vigorously and winning. He concluded that "this tactical refutation of a positional plan illustrates the weaknesses in Philidor's implementation of a fundamentally sound idea" Here are his alternative moves:- 1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.Bc4..f5;4.d4! (not d3 as in Game 3)..fxe4 (best); 5. Nxe5!..d5;6.Qh5+..g6;7.Nxg6..Nf6;8.Qe5+..Be7;9.Bb5+..c6; 10.Nxe7..Qxe7;11.Qxe7+..KxQ;12.Be2 and should win.

This is a modern analysis of an 18<sup>th</sup> century game. Whilst Alexander did not consider the game to be unreal, he gave analysis that helps with the question of whether the 1749 games are unreal. Only an examination of all the games looking for weak moves by Philidor's opponents can answer that. It may be that Alexander had not seen von der Lasa's views but that this Bletchley Park sleuth and Enigma Code breaker did not is a surprise. Another point worth making is that Alexander thought Philidor's analysis was not accurate and that White played 'peacefully'. That being so, one has to wonder why in a manufactured game such moves were played? Shouldn't the moves all be perfect to showcase the Philidorian system? Weaker moves and inaccuracies point towards a real game.

Philidor kept up his pawn centres as he aged. One game in May 1783 (Philidor 56 years old) where he was blindfold with Black against a strong player Count J. Maurice Bruhl (1736-1809) was tough yet he prevailed in 47+:-

1.e4..e5	13.f4..h5	25.g3..aRb8	37.gxh..Nh5
2.Bc4..c6	14.c4..a6	26.b3..Ba3	38.Rd7..Nxf4
3.Qe2..d6	15.cxd..cxd	27.Rc2..cxb3	39.Bxf4..Rf3+
4.c3..f5	16.Qf2..0-0	28.axb3..fRc8	40.Kg2..Rxf4
5.d3..Nf6	17.Ne2..b5	29.Rxc8..Rxc8	41.Rxd5..Rf3
6.exf5.Bxf5	18.0-0..Nb6	30.Ra1..Bb4	42.Rd8..Rd3
7.d4..e4	19.Ng3..g6	31.Rxa6..Rc3	43.d5..f4
8.Bg5..d5	20.aRc1..Nc4	32.Kf2..Rd3	44.d6..Rd2+
9.Bb3..Bd6	21.Nxf5..gxf5	33.Ra2..Bxd2	45.Kf1..Kf7

10.Nd2..bNd7	22.Qg3+..Qg7	34.Rxd2..Rxb3	46.h5..e3
11.h3..h6	23.QxQ+..KxQ	35.Rc2..h4	47.h6..f3
12.Be3..Qe7	24.Bxc4..bxc4	36.Rc7+..Kg6	48.Black wins

Move 6 White's 6th exf5 gives away the centre and allows the BP push plus develops the BB. It looks a bad move.

Move 7 White has lost time with his 5<sup>th</sup> and now 6<sup>th</sup>.

Move 8 Already Black has mighty centre pawns

Move 13 White concedes the centre, better surely is f3

Move 21 Black has consolidated the pawn centre after White's useless Nxf5

Move 24 Black's centre is now solid.

Move 35 Good Black short term piece sacrifice followed by a bad White move Rc7+

Move 43 The united Black pawns march

Move 45 Black stops White's Re8 later

Move 46 Looks weak. Better d7

Move 48.The mate on d1 forces Ke1 or Kg1 48.Ke1..f2+wins or Kg1..e2 wins.

It is hard to find a good White move in this game. Was Bruhl mesmerised? I don't think so. What we don't know is how much alcohol he'd drunk and how interested he was in the game. We can be assured Philidor had his reputation to protect. In many Philidor games he didn't mind the Q exchange but the question is:-Real Game? I think so. (These are my notes BM)

The game was 1 of 3 in a simul played against Bruhl, Maseres and Bowdler.

(From 500 Master Games of Chess-Dover 1975 p.659 Tartakower & Du Mont)

H.J.R. Murray in 'A History of Chess' 1913 p.867 considered that Philidor's system *was unfolded in four games and ten back games....It is by these four games that the 'Analyse' should be judged....In every game Philidor unduly favours White (who plays the attack in the first two, and the defence in the third and fourth games) by not allowing Black to adopt the strongest moves at his disposal.*

These four games are No.1, No.2, No.3 and No.4 given earlier BUT the last two games have colours reversed for proper comparison. This changes the bracket comments above. The King's Bishop Game develops the Bishop on the second move and doesn't obstruct the Pawns. Murray believed criticism of the Philidor system was about piece restriction for the benefit of the Pawns and that the games in the 'Analyse' do not carry conviction.

As for the Ten Back Games here they are to allow full examination of the Philidor system as seen by Murray:-

Game No.1 (2 Back Games)

1<sup>st</sup> Back Game from the 12<sup>th</sup> move but whole game given:

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..Bc5;3.c3..Nf6;4.d4..e5xd4;5.c3xd4..Bb6;6.Nc3..0-0;7.gNe2..c6  
8.Bd3..d5;9.e5..Ne8;10.Be3..f6;11.Qd2..f6xe5;12.d4xe5..Bxe3;13.Qxe3..Be6  
14.Nf4..Qe7;15.Nxe6..Qxe6;16.0-0..Nd7;17.f4..g6;18.h3..Ng7;19.g4..c5;20.Ne2..d4;  
21.Qd2..Nb6;22.Ng3..Nd5;23.aRe1..Ne3;24.Rxe3..dxe3;25.Qxe3..Qxa2;26.f5..Qxb2;  
27.f6..Ne8;28.g5..Qd4;29.Qxd4..cxd4;30.e6..Nd6;31.Ne4..Nf5;32.Rxf5..gxf5  
33.Nd6..f4;34.e7..fRb8;35.Bc4+..Kh8;36.Nf7+..Kg8;37.Nd8+..Kh8;38.e8=Q++

Some very bad Black moves. His 34<sup>th</sup> in particular.

2<sup>nd</sup> Back Game from 37<sup>th</sup> move but whole game given:-

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..Bc5;3.c3..Nf6;4.d4..e5xd4;5.c3xd4..Bb6;6.Nc3..0-0;7.gNe2..c6  
 8.Bd3..d5;9.e5..Ne8;10.Be3..f6;11.Qd2..f6xe5;12.d4xe5..Be6;13.Nf4..Qe7;  
 14.Bxb6..axb6;15.0-0..Nd7;16.Nxe6..Qxe6;17.f4..Nc7;18.aRe1..g6;19.h3..d4;  
 20.Ne4..h6;21.b3..b5;22.g4..Nd5;23.Ng3..Ne3;24.Rxe3..d4xe3;25.Qxe3..Rxa2;  
 26.Re1..Qxb3;27.Qe4..Qe6;28.f5..g6xf5;29.g4xf5..Qd5;30.Qxd5..c6xd5;  
 31.Bxb5..Nb6;32.f6..Rb2;33.Bd3..Kf7;34.Bf5..Nc4;35.Nh5..Rg8+;36.Bg4..Nd2;  
 37.e6+..Kf8;38.Ra1..Rb1+;39.RxR..NxR;40.Kh2..Nc3;41.Nf4..Ne4;42.Nxd5..Rg5;  
 43.e7+..Kf7;44.Be6+..KxB;45.e8=Q wins.

### Game No.2 (3 Back Games)

1<sup>st</sup> Back Game from Move 3 but whole game given:-

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..c6;3.d4..d5;4.e4xd5..c6xd5;5.Bb5+..Bd7;6.Bxd7+..Nxd7;  
 7.d4xe5..Nxe5;8.Qe2..Qe7;9.Nc3..0-0-0;10.Bf4..Nc6;11.0-0-0..QxQ;12.gNxe2..d4;  
 13.Ne4..f6;14.h4..h5;15.Rh3..Nh6;16.Bxh6..Rhx6;17.hRd3..Re8;18.Nxd4..Nb4;  
 19.Re3..Nxa2+;20.Kb1..Nb4;21.Nd6+ Weak Black game.

2<sup>nd</sup> Back Game from move 8 but whole game given:-

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..c6;3.d4..exd4;4.Qxd4..d6;5.f4..Be6;6.Bd3..d5;7.e5..c5;8.Qf2..c4;  
 9.Be2..d4;10.c3..d3;11.Bf3..Bd5;12.b3..b5;13.a4..c4xb3;14.a4xb5..Bxf3;15.Nxf3..Nd7;  
 16.Be3..Rb8;17.c4..Nb6;18.bNd2..Bb4;19.0-0 & wins. Bad Black moves.

3<sup>rd</sup> Back Game from move 26 but whole game given:-

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..c6;3.d4..exd4;4.Qxd4..d6;5.f4..Be6;6.Bd3..d5;7.e5..c5;8.Qf2..Nc6;  
 9.c3..g6;10.h3..h5;11.g3..Nh6;12.Nf3..Be7;13.a4..Nf5;14.Kf1..h4;15.g4..Ng3+;  
 16.Kg2..Nhx1;17.Kxh1..Qd7;18.Qg1..a5;19.Be3..b6;20.Na3..0-0-0;21.Ba6+..Kc7;  
 22.Nc2..Ra8;23.Bb5..Qd8;24.b4..Qf8;25.b4xc5..b6xc5;26.Nd2..f6;27.Nb3..c4;  
 28.Bb6+..Kb7;29.Nc5+..Bxc5;30.Bxc5..Qc8;31.Rb1..Kc7;32.Bd6+..Kd8;33.Qb6+ wins

### Game No.3 (3 Back Games) Colours reversed to White first.

1<sup>st</sup> Back Game from move 3 but whole game given:-

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.d4..f5;4.dxe5..f4xe5;5.Ng5..d5;6.f4..Bc5;7.c4..c6;8.Nc3..Ne7;  
 9.h4..h6;10.Nh3..0-0;11.Na4..Bb4+;12.Bd2..Bxd2+;13.QxB..d4;14.c5..b5;  
 15.cxb5 ep..axb6;16.b3..Be6;17.Be2..Nf5;18.Ng1..Ng3;19.Rh2..e3;20.Qb2..d3;  
 21.Bf3..Rxf4;22.0-0-0..Rxa4;23.bxa4..Rxa4;24.a3..Rc4+;25.Kb1..Rc2;26.Qb4..Na6;  
 27.Qf4..Nc5;28.QxNg3..Ba2+;29.Ka1..Nb3++ Weak White play

2<sup>nd</sup> Back Game from move 5 but whole game given:

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.Bc4..f5;4.d3..c6;5.0-0..f4;6.d4..Qf6;7.d4xe5..d6xe5;8.a4..g5;  
 9.Qd3..g4;10.Ne1..Bc5;11.c3..Qh4;12.b4..g3;13.h3..Bxf2+;14.Kh1..Bxh3;15.Nf3..Qh5  
 Lousy Black development but winning

3<sup>rd</sup> Back Game from move 10 but whole game given:-

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.Bc4..f5;4.d3..c6;5.e4xf5..Bxf5;6.Bg5..Nf6;7.bNd2..d5;8.Bb3..Bd6;  
 9.Qe2..Qe7;10.0-0-0..0-0;11.h3..bNd7;12.g4..Be6;13.dRg1..b5;14.h4..a5;15.Bxf6..Qxf6;  
 16.g5..Qe7;17.c3..a4;18.Bc2..c5;19.h5..fRb8;20.Rh4..c4;21.d4..e4;22.Ne1..b4;

23.c3xb4..Rxb4;24.a3..Rb5;25.f3..Bxa3;26.bxa3..Qxa3+;27.Kd1..Qa1+;28.Nb1..a3;  
29.Kd2..Qxd4+;30.Kc1..a2 wins.

Game No.4 (2 Back Games) Colours reversed to White first.

1<sup>st</sup> BackGame from move 5 but whole game given:-

1.e4..e5;2.c3..d5;3.exd5..Qxd5;4.d3..f5;5.c4..Bb4+;6.Bd2..BxB+;7.QxB..Qd6;8.Nc3..c5;  
9.Nb5..Qe7;10.Be2..Nc6;11.Bf3..Nd4;12.Nxd4..e5xd4+;13.Ne2..Nf6;14.0-0..Qd6;  
15.fRe1..Kf7;16.Nf4..h5;17.Nd5..Be6;18.Nxf6..Kxf6;19.Bxb7..aRb8;20.Bf3..g5;  
21.g3..g4;22.Bg2..h4;23.Re2..Rh5;24.aRe1..Bd7;25.Re5..h4xg3;26.h2xg3..bRh8;  
27.b4..Bc6;28.Re6+\*..Kf7;29.Rxd6..Rh1+;30.BxR..RxB++

\*Pratt gives

28.Bxc6..Qxc6;29.Re6+..QxR;30.RxQ+..KxR;31.Kf1..Rh1+;32.Ke2..Re8;33.Qf4..Kf6+;  
34.Kd2..eRe1;35.Kc2..Re2+;36.Kb3..Rb1+;37.Ka4..Rxa2+;38.Kb5..Rxb4+;39.Kxc5=

2<sup>nd</sup> Back game from move 6 but whole game given:-

1.e4..e5;2.c3..d5;3.e4xd5..Qxd5;4.d3..f5;5.f4..e4;6.Qc2..Bc5;7.d3xe4..f5xe4;8.c4..Qd4;  
9.Nc3..Nf6;10.Nb5..Qd8;11.a3..a5;12.Ne2..0-0;13.g3..Bg4;14.Bg2..Bf3;15.Ng1..Bxg2;  
16.Qxg2..Ng4;17.Nh3..Nc6;18.Nc3..Qd4;19.Ne2..Qd3;20.Bd2..e3;21.Bc3..aRd8;  
22.Ng5..Qd2+;23.BxQd2..e3xd2+;24.Kd1..Ne3++

Black & White play is weak at times in the Back Games.

We know that Philidor's play in the pre 1749 'Games' as given in his book 'Analyse' promoted strong pawn centres and he was still playing that way in later life as in his 1783 game with Count Bruhl. This may not be conclusive in rescuing the 'reality' of the early games in which there are no opponents named but the 1783 game adds credence to those early youthful games. He did not change his beliefs about strong pawn centres. Philidor was reluctant to give his odds games to the public as he did not believe them to be *of service to amateurs* (p.206 Vol.2 Pratt 1804) He also gives the names of his odds adversaries to prove to posterity that there is no doubt to their reality. The article that appeared in a London newspaper dated 9 May 1783 describes the simultaneous blindfold 3 game event.

Another comment might be that Robert Lambe used Philidor's Game No.9 in his 1764 book *The History of Chess*, as the game appeared real to him. But Philip Stamma produced a book in 1745 *The Noble Game of Chess* which contained 100 contrived positions leading to mate in certain number of moves so composition was rife and it may well be that some chess games were the same.

## CHAPTER 3

### AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH

Cecil Purdy (1906-1979) the editor of *Australasian Chess Review* (ACR) and *Chess World* (CW) from 1929-1967 had many historical articles in his magazine and these have been found on Philidor. Nigel Nettheim found the below in ACR Dec 20, 1943 and most has been given :-

#### THE OPEN GAME (1.e4!, e5!) Series by C.J.S. Purdy No.18

#### Philidor on Chess!

“Just for a change at Christmas, I give some extracts from “Chess Analysed,” a book by Philidor, published in 1762. Philidor was so easily the best player of his time that nobody could give him a game on level terms. He was a French musical composer and some of his operas are still performed in Paris. He lived much in England. His writings on chess are still famous, though no longer read.”

Cecil’s comments are given with his surname, Philidor’s likewise, Pratt’s ditto. The game has been changed to algebraic and White moves first whereas it was Black in the 1762 book.

“Philidor:- My chief intention is to recommend myself to the Public, by a novelty no one has thought of, or perhaps ever understood well: I mean how to play the Pawns: They are the very Life of this game. They alone form the Attack and the Defence; on their good or bad Situation depends the Gain or loss of each party.

A player, who, when he has play’d a Pawn well, can give no Reason for his moving it to such a Square, may be compared to a General, who with much Practice has little or no Theory.”

1.e4..e5	8.Nc3..Ne7;	15.cxb e.p..axb6;	22.0-0-0..fRxa4;
2.Nf3..d6;	9.h4..h6;	16.b3..Be6;	23.bxa4..Rxa4;
3.d4..f5;	10.Nh3..0-0;	17.Be2..Nf5;	24.a3..Rc4+;
4.dxe5..fxe4;	11.Na4..Bb4+;	18.Ng1..Ng3;	25.Kb1..Rc2;
5.Ng5..d5;	12.Bd2..Bxd2+;	19.Rh2..e3;	26.Qb4..Na6;
6.f4..Bc5;	13.Qxd2..d4;	20.Qb2..d3;	27.Qf4..Nc5!;
7.c4..c6;	14.c5..b5!;	21.Bf3..Rxf4;	28.Qxg3..Ba2+
			29.Ka1..Nb3++

Notes:

**White move 2 Philidor:-** Playing the King’s Knight, the second move, is entirely wrong; because it not only loses the attack, but gives it to the Adversary. You must not easily play your Knights at your Bishops’ Third Square, before the Bishop’s pawn has moved two steps, because the Knight proves a Hindrance to the Motion of the Pawn.

*White move 2 Purdy*:-Philidor's theory is still regarded as entirely correct for the Queen's Knight in any opening in which you don't play your King's Pawn two squares. For the King's Knight, however, modern theory says Philidor is wrong.

*Black Move 2 Purdy*:-Known as Philidor's Defence, which we have dealt with in this series.

*Black move three Purdy*:-Neither of the modern moves 3...e5xd4 or 3..Nf6 were in accord with Philidor's system, the first because it yielded too much in the centre, the second because it blocked the KBP. As a matter of fact, both the modern moves are considered inadequate still. If you tried Philidor's 3..f5 against someone who did not know the refutation, you would probably do very well. Crawl applied the spirit of Philidor's system at his first meeting with Lajos Steiner (Perth 1936-7). After 1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..Nc6;3.Bb5, Crawl played 3..f5; Steiner was taken by surprise, and it was not long before Crawl not only neutralised the advantage of the move, but obtained a tremendous advantage!

*Black move 3 Pratt*:- It is always advantageous to change your king's bishop's pawn for the adversary's king's pawn, because, by that means, your king's and queen's pawns may place themselves in the centre of the chess-board; besides, in castling on the right wing, your rook is at liberty to act, at the beginning of the game, as will be shewn by a back game on the same play.

*White move 4 Philidor*:-If he had taken our King's Bishop's Pawn instead of this, you must have pushed your King's Pawn upon his Knight and afterwards retake his Pawn with your Queen's Bishop.

*White move 4 Purdy*:- Philidor never examined 4.Bc4!, the one and only refutation (if 4..f5xe4;5.Nxe5!, sacrificing the Knight). In other words, his theory would be sound for the KBP as well as the QBP, but for the flaw that moving the KBP exposes the King.

By the way, did Philidor translate his own works? The syntax is occasionally faulty.

*White move 9 Philidor*:- He pushes this pawn two steps to avoid having a double Pawn...and...a very bad move (...h6;Nh3..Bxh3)

*White move 14 Philidor*:- He playeth this Pawn to cut the Communication of your Pawns.

*Black move 14 Philidor*:-But you avoid it by pushing immediately your Pawn upon his Knight, which having no retreat, obliges your Adversary to take the Pawn by the way. This rejoins your Pawns again, and makes them invincible.

*Black move 14 Purdy*:- Philidor's brilliant discovery of the strength of outpost pawns is now the stock-in-trade of every reasonably good player, who hastens to dislodge such outposts in his territory at the first opportunity. But inexperienced players persistently leave them in peace, and wonder why their position steadily deteriorates. Of course the normal move would be ...b6, not ...b5, but here the en passant capture is forced.

*White move 15 Pratt*:- Takes the pawn, passing by. To some readers this will be an enigma, and to them is offered the solution. It was an institute of MR. PHILIDOR, that when a pawn has penetrated to the fifth square, of his own file, which is the fourth on the adversary's side; adverse pawns, on adjoining files, not having moved, forfeit the privilege of going two squares; and if one of them should move two squares, the advanced pawn may take him, placing himself as if the captured pawn had moved but one square. This player, celebrated for his skill, was very anxious to have this rule, and the mode of enforcing it, received into general practice; but not withstanding the dazzle of his example, there seems, in its principle, an unnecessary deviation from system, into caprice and irregularity. In the appendix, its claims to be a permanent institute of Chess, are analysed.

*Black move 17 Philidor:-* This Knight seems to be of very little consequence; nevertheless 'tis he that gives the mortal Blow to his Party, because this very Knight holds at present all your Adversary's pieces in some measure quite locked up, till you have time to prepare the Checkmate.

*Black move 17 Purdy:-* In short, this Knight is an illustration of Nimzovitch's theory of Blockade propounded 160 years later. In blockading one pawn with a piece you may hamper a whole army.

Philidor concludes this imaginary illustrative game as follows, without further notes.

End of Game Purdy:-The vast majority of players today would be smashed by Philidor just as easily as White is smashed in this game.

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Purdy calls the game "imaginary". It is in fact the first Back Game of the third game given on p.18. It does not help with the reality or otherwise of the 9 actual games. The notes he uses from the 1762 edition may well be those in the 1749 edition. (BM)

Purdy continued in this article with:- 'Not many players know that Philidor discovered the refutation to the Queen's Gambit as then played viz.: -1.d4..d5;2.c4..dxc4;3.d3 or d4..e5!. This counter stroke is the reason good players invariably answer 2..dxc4 with 3.Nf3 before attempting to regain the gambit pawn. Even so, the acceptance of the gambit has never been refuted and is from time to time claimed still as the best defence.'

In a private letter to the Editor last March (1943 BM), Mr.F.K. Esling (1860-1955), of Melbourne, pointed out that Philidor never had a rival. From 1743 (date of the publication of the "Analyse" in French) until his death in 1795 he was recognised as supreme, World champion for 52 years!

Just a parting quotation from the preface. Philidor writes:- "The Game of Chess has in many parts of Germany been so disfigur'd as not to be known but by the Board and the Men; at the Opening of the Game, they allow playing two moves successively.....(then follow further authenticated atrocities)...in my Opinion all these Deformities have been introduced by Wranglers, who have obligated their Adversaries to play according to their Whims." Purdy concluded:- ' He's got something there.'

Those 'Wranglers' just wanted to speed up the game with double moves by both sides at the start but what wonderful enthusiasm the young Philidor shows for chess and which sadly was culled from most later editions when he reached middle age. That date 1743 for the first French edition is probably 1749 where the first edition in French was published in London followed closely by an English edition in 1750. The Hague Catalogue states that there were 3 French editions in 1749 which differs from Allen's list given later from 1857/8.(BM)

Another Purdy article was from Chess World June 1956 and, with the 1943 article are not mentioned in the indexes. Here is the 1956 article in part as it is primarily about the Three Pawns or Cunningham's Gambit and Purdy gives biographical details from H.J.R.Murray (BCM April 1912) which identifies the right Cunningham. None of this material is given:-

## “PHILIDOR

No player stood so clearly supreme for so long a time as Andre Danican Philidor. He lived a long life for an 18<sup>th</sup> century man (1726-1795) and for nearly half a century was beyond dispute the world’s best player- Russian chess historians do not claim to have had any great players of chess under the “new” rules until Petroff (1794-1867).

Reading through Philidor’s best seller “Chess Analysed or instructions by which a Perfect Knowledge of this Noble Game May in a short time be acquir’d” 1762. I am convinced that Philidor like all champions, owed his supremacy to superior tactical skill, i.e. he just saw more of what was happening, and could happen, on the board, than other players – for the theory he evolved, an exaggeration of the value of pawns compared with pieces – is unsound, and did not even mark a genuine step forward in chess theory’s evolution.

Yet it may be untrue to say that Philidor was successful in spite of his theory; it has been said of Nimzovitch, also untrue. For there is a lot to be said for J.N.Hank’s contention that guiding principles, even if a little stray, pay off in cross-board chess. They limit the choice of plans and of moves that the player will permit himself to consider, and this in itself reduces the possibility of oversight – the prime necessity in cross-board chess. Correspondence chess is the field for the eclectic – he who treats all theories as grist for his mill – though one must admit that eclecticism may work over the board if combined with tremendous tactical skill. Botvinnik, Smyslov, Bronstein, Reshevsky – these are a few players who are rather eclectic. But clock trouble dogs even them. Thousands of players today are eclectic, but few of them can get away with it.....”

Purdy then gives Philidor’s view on the Three Pawns Gambit which Philidor thought unsound. And it is not relevant to this article on the unreality or otherwise of Philidor’s early games. Purdy was certain Philidor won because he was a better player than his pawn theory.

In the process of examining ACR & CW the following game was found which is a modern version of Philidor’s pawn play. The winner Aubrey Shoebridge (1898-1962) was a country player from Leeton and Newcastle and he defeated the former Australian champion C.G.M. Watson. (p.214 CW 1949) Purdy wrote that Shoebridge had “specialised in the Stonewall system for about 20 years”. The Stonewall controls the centre or ‘clogs it’ and then comes a king attack. Shoebridge is White:-

1.d4..Nf6;	13.h3..a6?;	25.Qe2..Ra8;	37.Qe4..Ra7;
2.e3..b6;	14.Rg2..b5;	26.e4!..dxe4;	38.Rxa7..Qxa7;
3.Nd2..Bb7;	15.h4..fRd8;	27.Bxe4..Nd6;	39.Bh4..Qd7;
4.c3..g6;	16.h5..Nf8;	28.Bxb7..Rxb7;	40.Be7..Re8;
5.gNf3..Bg7;	17.h6!..Bh8;	29.Nd2!..Rc8;	41.Qe5..Rxe7;
6.Bd3..d5;	18.Qf1..Ne4;	30.axb5..axb5;	42.dxe7..Qxe7;
7.Ne5..0-0;	19.g5!..Qe7;	31.Ra6..f6;	43.Qxb5..Qh4;
8.0-0..bNd7;	20.dNf3..Rc7;	32.gxf6..Bxf6;	44.Qg5..Qe1+;
9.f4..c5;	21.Bd2..dRc8;	33.Ne4..Bxe5;	45.Kh2..Nd7?
10.Qf3..Qc7;	22.Be1..Nd6;	34.fxe5..Nf5;	46.Qe7 wins.
11.g4..e6;	23.a4!..c4;	35.Nd6!..Nxd6;	
12.Rf2..aRc8;	24.Bc2..Nf5?;	36.exd6..Qd7;	

Apparently Shoebridge started playing the Stonewall (d4 & f4) irrespective of the opponent's moves but this didn't pay. In 1934 that devil Chielamangus (aka Purdy) quoted Shakespeare at Shoebridge in the Telegraph:-

*Oh, wicked wall through whom I see no bliss;  
Curst be thy stones for thus deceiving me!*

Very good quote but from what? Cecil liked giving readers puzzles. (Nigel Nettheim found it in A Midsummer Night's Dream Act 5 Scene 1)

The game above is a delayed Stonewall and was the fourth time he had played Watson and the fourth time he had beaten him. Every time in an Australian ch'ship. The above was his best game in the Melbourne tourney. Shoebridge and Watson shared =7<sup>th</sup> place with Purdy winning the title easily. Watson was 70 and Shoebridge a WW1 digger.

Using Purdy's view that Philidor won because of his better tactical play rather than his pawn theory, Shoebridge was no Philidor. Purdy wrote a critical article on the Stonewall system in ACR or CW (yet to be found) and later met Shoebridge in a club match and lost! I have been through CW to 1946 and can't find the game which is a pity as Purdy was a great Australian player and champion on at least 4 occasions.

CHESS WORLD OCT-NOV-DEC, 1966

ANCIENT OR MODERN? By Maurice Newman  
(Moves changed to algebraic)

### **Philidor's Counter Attack**

This is about the most "refuted" defence in the books – ancient and modern – and most of the modern ones give it very little space. MCO (10) gives it one column and a few notes. This makes it almost perfect for resuscitation – for correspondence players.

The ideas behind the defence are much the same as those of Tarrasch's Defence to the Queen's Gambit. Also, if Black castles King-side, he saves a tempo in development of the King's Rook. However, one look at the position after 1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.d4..f5!?! shows the glaring exposure of Black's King. Thus before he tries this defence Black has four reputed "refutations" to analyse carefully.



1. The acceptance of the pseudo-gambit by 4...exf5 was “pooh-pooed” by Philidor and is not even mentioned in MCO(10) but Alapin thought it refuted the defence.

He gave 4...exf5..e5;5.Ng5..Bxf5;6.Nc3..Nf6;7.f3..d5;8.fxe4 with advantage. If 7..Qe7 an advantage is not so clear; but why should Black play 6..Nf6? It blocks his attack on the White King’s Knight. Instead try 6..d5 and if 7.f3, either ..h6 or Be7.

2. The exchange attack – 4.dxe5..fxe4;5.Ng5..d5;6.e6 is the oldest and most analysed “refutation”, which was advocated by Philidor’s Modenese rival Ercole del Rio. He first suggested (after the apparently forced Nh6) 7.c4...but Philidor showed that 7..d4 is more than adequate in reply. Then he suggested the sacrifice 7.Nxh7 but Philidor proved 7..Bxe6!;8.Nxf8..Kxf8! Then the English inheritor of Modenese principles, William Lewis, suggested 7.Qh5+..g6;8.Qh3... Later Der Lasa of Germany showed that this was no good if 8..Qf6;9.c4..d4!10.Nxe4..Qxe6;11.Qxe6+..Bxe6. Der Lasa himself thought 7.f3 was the right move, but George Walker showed that 7..Bc5;8.fxe4..0-0;9.exd5..Bf2+ gives Black a good attack. (Keres has also disposed of 7.f3 with 7..e3!) Walker’s greatest pupil, Staunton, found the only move given in the modern books – i.e.7.Nc3(!) (Steinitz also thought this should be played, but a move earlier.)

However, about 1893 Bird clearly showed that the right answer to Nc3 was not 7..c6 (the only move given in MCO and other modern works.) but Bb4; followed by Qf6 at the right moment. This usually costs the exchange and involves a queen swap but Black gets a very strong attack which should eventually recover the material lost with at least equality. (7..Bb4 seems definitely to dispose of Steinitz’s variation). Bird also showed that Black, after 6.e6..could get good counter chances for the exchange by 6..Nf6(!) instead of 6..Nh6.

3. Thirty five years earlier, Bird as White had played 4.Nc3..fxe4;5.Nxe4..d5;6.Ng3? against Morphy. When Zukertort improved on this with 6.Nxe5! a new refutation was born. However,

Bird later improved for Black with 5...Nf6!. Upon this, Keres gives 6.Nxf6+..gxf6!;7.dxe5..fxe5;8.Bc4...with, he says, “advantage to White”. But if Black continues 8..h6; where is White’s advantage?

4. Now we come to the most serious attempt at refuting the defence, namely 4.Bc4!...seizing one of the vital diagonals. This was first analysed by the historic German player Allgaier (inventor of “the Allgaier”) who was dealing with the analogous “Lopez Counter Gambit” (1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.Bc4..f5;4.d4!-transposing). He dug the grave of the reply 4...fxe4 and others have since piled in the earth with gusto (see MCO). Another great German, Koch – helped by the great Major Jaenisch of Russia buried 4..exd4. Jaenisch also disposed of 4..c6 and did his best to inter **4..Nc6!** (Morphy’s choice) whilst English players exploded with 4..Nf6.

What remains? In the Australian Correspondence Championship 1963/5, I tried 4..Be7 which has never been properly analysed; and I obtained reasonable equality after **5.Ng5?** 5..Bxg5;6.Qh5+..g6;7.Qxg5..Qxg5;8.Bxg5..Nc6;9.dxe5!..Nxe5;10.Bb3..h6;11.Bd2..Nf6; 12.Nc3..fxe4. However, had my opponent played 5.dxe5..fxe4;6.Qd5! my game would have been barely defensible. Probably 6..c6! is just about sufficient but Black’s position would be difficult.

In a game in the Interstate Teams Championship, I returned to Morphy’s choice of 4..Nc6! which now seems satisfactory and is not in MCO. My opponent Dr. Haselgrove (playing for South Australia), replied 5.Ng5!/? as recommended by Keres, forcing 5..Nh6. If instead 5.dxe5..dxe5;6.Qxd8+..Nxd8;7.exf5 as per Jaenisch, then 7..Bxf5;8.Nxe5..Bxc2;and White cannot quite make anything out of his initiative so final chances with his Q-side majority, a draw inevitable. Black may have the final chances with his Q-side majority.- Haselgrove (white) Newman (black) after 5..Nh6

Alternatively,\* if 7.Nxe5..Bd6;8.Nf3..fxe4;9.Ng5..Nf6;10.0-0..Bf5;11.Nc3..Kd7!; 12.Re1..Re8;13.Be3..h6 with equality.Slibold-Stalda, CC game 1932/33. Black may even be able to improve on all this with Anderssen’s 5..Nxe5 or with Steinitz’s 6..Kxd8; or with a pawn sacrifice such as 8..Bd6.

(\*after 1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.Bc4..f5;4.d4..Nc6;5.dxe5..dxe5;6.Qxd8+..Nxd8)

My (diagram) game continued (after 5.Ng5!/?..Nh6) with **6.Nxh7!/?**..(Keres prefers 6.d5 but Jaenisch gave the reply 6..Ne7!;7.Nc3..Ng6!;8.0-0..Be7;9.f4..0-0 with a cramped but defensible game and later chances if White tries to attack) **6..Qh4;7.Bg5?**..(Jaenisch gave instead 7.Ng5..fxe4;8.c3..Qg4;but with a reasonable game for Black) **7..`Qxe4+;8.Kf1..Ng4;9.f3** ( with the conditionals..Ne3+;10.Bxe3..Qxe3;11.Nxf8)

**9..Qxd4!;10.Qxd4..Nxd4;11.Nxf8?..Nxh2+;12.Resigns!** Now what price the old romantic openings? There is no fooling around for 30 odd moves without coming to grips. We were locked in a life-or-death struggle in only half a dozen moves.



After 5..Nh6

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Chess World ran a series called ‘The Evolution of Chess Theory’ by “Zugswang”. The first 4 appeared in 1966 and the 5<sup>th</sup> (numbered No.4) was in the Jan. 1967 issue. The author remains unknown to me but he had Purdy’s confidence. It seems he was a strong CC player and a fair OTB player able to give a piece to the average chess player. He claimed he was a weak player. Purdy intended publishing the series in book form but as CW expired in late 1967 that never happened. The first piece was in early 1966 and started in 1475 the era of modern chess. Philidor featured from No.5 onwards until the demise of CW which was a sad event as the next piece was on the Modenese Masters.

### THE EVOLUTION OF CHESS THEORY No.5 by “Zugswang” From Soldiers of Fortune to Haut-Bourgeois (Jan. 1967 CW)

Greco, during his lifetime, sold innumerable manuscripts, as did most of his fellow professionals. It can be said that, while some of these manuscripts did not appear in print until many years later (in 1669) their contents were common knowledge to all chess-players from around 1619 onwards, through copying and demonstration between players.

Modern chess made great and visible strides from its introduction during the period between 1490 and 1630. From then on, until 1735, there were no important new publications, but the game did not stand still.

In 1630, chess had some extremely difficult problems to solve. The player knew he had to push his centre pawns so as not to be suffocated by the advance of those opposing him. He also knew that he should try to place his pieces in attacking positions, preferably against the enemy king. If

he found himself to have local preponderance of forces, he knew how to conduct a deadly attack, either finishing the game through mate, or leaving him with a crushing material superiority.

The pattern of the game was then as follows. If a player saw any chance of attack at all, he did so without stopping to consider the consequences, and trusted to luck. If there was no possible chance of this, he grimly clung to any material advantage he had until he saw a chance to get going.

Chess began to reach much wider circles, and from the game of the upper nobility, it became a game played among the upper classes in general. Coffee houses where chess was played existed in Paris, London and other centres. We have practically no record of the chess played during this period, other than a collection of games played in one particular club in Paris. This collection did not comprise the games of the best players even of this club, as these objected to having their play analysed. (Here is support for the Philidor games in the 1749 work. Opponents objected to their names being in print. BM)

Gradually a system of play emerged which gave its followers ascendancy over the more haphazard players. It was a difficult system to demonstrate, and took shape empirically. Among the many thousands of good players, there must have been many who, by experience and sheer calculation, could see an attack coming and be able to forestall it. At first, this in itself was enough for victory, as the unsound commitment of the would-be attacker usually accelerated him into disaster. The eventual winner would also notice that, having forestalled or averted an attack, his pawns would be in positions sufficiently superior to secure victory by pawn promotion. It was such perception which eventually culminated in Philidor's theory.

Some leading players were more circumspect. Let us have a look at an opening trap derived from a game of Legal, Philidor's teacher:- 1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.Bc4..Bg4; 4.Nc3..g6;5.Nxe5..Bxd1;6.Bxf7+..Ke7;7.Nd5++ Even by playing 5.dxe5;6.Qxg4, Black would lose a pawn. White's opening is not intended to trap. It is simple, straight forward development. Even Black's aims are positional. He just had the misfortune of not being alert against a very strong opponent.

Contrast this with one of the earliest opening traps, the fool's mate:- 1.f3..e5;2.g4..Qh4++ White's opening play is faulty in his concept, not only in his execution. He doesn't develop. We can see small children play this way after they learn the moves, but before they understand the game.

In 1735, "The Noble Game of Chess" was published by Captain Bertin, dealing mainly with openings and general principles. In his rules, Bertin attaches great value to the retention of the move or attack, and the avoidance of any move that gives it up to the adversary. Thus (1) The King's Pawn, the Bishop's Pawn, and the Queen's Pawn must move before the Knights: otherwise, if the Pawns move last, the game will be much crowded by useless moves. (2) Never play your Queen till your game is tolerably well opened that you may not lose any moves. (3) Do not Castle but when very necessary, because the move is often lost by it.

In 1745 “The Noble Game of Chess”, (apparently there was a dearth of titles in the realm), by Phillip Stamma, appeared containing openings and 100 endgames illustrating and popularising combinations, also advice:-

*“Open the game, so as to make way for your pieces to come out, that you may post them advantageously. This is best done by advancing proper Pawns; these are the King’s, The Queen’s and the Queen’s Bishop’s Pawns, Castle as soon as you can conveniently. This is sometimes so necessary to be done without delay that it may be worthwhile to abandon a pawn, rather than lose the opportunity. If you bring out your pieces too soon, before you have opened their road, they will confine your pawns and crowd your game....in general, it is best to bring out your pieces under the protection of your pawns.”*

The following is from “Rules and Observations for Playing Well at Chess” (1745) by Edmond Hoyle:-

*“If your game happens to be crowded, endeavour to free it by making exchanges of pieces or Pawns, and Castle your King as soon as you conveniently can.”* He lays greater stress than any of his predecessors on the importance of the King in the Endgame, and the proper play of the Pawns. He does not allow that doubled Pawns are always disadvantageous, and would rather sacrifice his Queen for a piece and a Pawn or two than abandon the attack. Hoyle was really a Whist player, but he published a series of treatises on various games including chess. This book he based on such information as he obtained from chess players. It is a measure of the consolidation of the game that he could collect such sound advice at random.

In 1749 there appeared a book written by Andre Danican Philidor, entitled “Chess Analysed or Instructions by Which Perfect Knowledge of this Noble Game may be acquired”.

Philidor was a great player and theoretician, but it would be a mistake to believe that he alone overthrew the image of chess as it existed in Greco’s time. The deficiencies of the style took a century’s practical play to uncover, culminating in the rehabilitation of the pawn, so despised since after the era of Lopez. Philidor was also a penetrating thinker, and a delightful writer, but he was at his greatest as a teacher. He produced a system enabling the mediocre to learn chess and while the thoughts expressed in the book were obsolete practically by the time he put them on paper, the importance of the book does not rest on the validity of the method alone. It was a starting point of chess theory. Until this time, there existed some elementary opening theory, demonstration of tactical devices, strategical hints for players – but Philidor was the first theoretician who set out his ideas on the conduct of a game from start to finish. The book remained the most popular book for the teaching of chess for a hundred years. Some idea of the greatness of Philidor as a theoretician can be seen from his foreward:-

*This game has in many parts of Germany been disfigured; they allow playing two moves successively at the Opening of the Game. Can it be thought that when two good players meet, he who plays last can have any great chance of winning?”*

This shows that Philidor considered two moves a winning advantage, an idea not expressed before. He goes on:-

*Secondly, they give a Pawn leave to pass beyond taking by Pawns; by this means a Pawn may pass before two others, which with much dexterity and industry have reached within three squares of becoming Queens; while this single Pawn will either go and make a Queen, or oblige you to abandon all your advanced Pawns and come attack this Wretch, who during the whole Game has done nothing”.*

A deep and important thought amusingly expressed and showing how necessary the en passant rule is for proper balance of the game.

*Cunningham and Bertin have given us gambits, which are lost or won according as they make the Adversary play well or ill; what use can such Instruction be to one who wishes to make himself Master of the Game? I have seen several Players, who had learnt these and other Authors by heart, and who, when they had played the four or five first Moves, did no longer know what they were about. But may I boldly say, that whoever once knows how to put in practice the Rules I have laid down, will never be in that case”.*

*“My chief intention is to recommend myself to the public, by a novelty no one had thought of, or perhaps ever understood well. I mean how to play the Pawns. They are the very life of this game. They alone form the Attack and the Defence; on their good or bad situation depends the Gain or Loss of each Party”.*

*“A player, who, when he had played a pawn well, can give no Reason for his moving it to such a square, may be compared to a General, who with much practice has little or no Theory”.* Philidor assumes that all the simple mates are known to his reader, and in this book demonstrates only one – that of the Bishop and Rook against a Rook, it being the most difficult that can happen.” This is a beautiful demonstration.

The Black Rook must be ready to interpose whenever the White Rook checks from the back rank and the White Bishop must be used to make both this and checking from the rear impossible.

This is how White proceeds:-

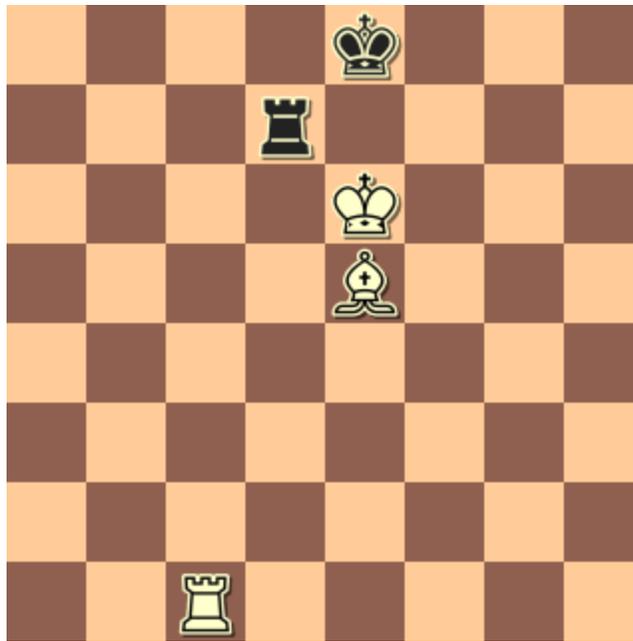
1.Rc8+..Rd8;2.Rc7(threat Rh7)...Rd2;3.Ra7..Rd1(The BR is tied down);4.Rg7..Rf1;  
5.Bg3..Rf3\*;6.Bd6..Re3+;7.Be5..Rf3;8.Re7+..Kf8;9.Ra7..Kg8;10.Rg7+..Kf8;  
11.Rg4..Ke8;12.Bf4 the end.

\* The only place the Rook can go. If instead 5...Kf8;6.Rg4..Ke8;7.Rc4..Rd1;

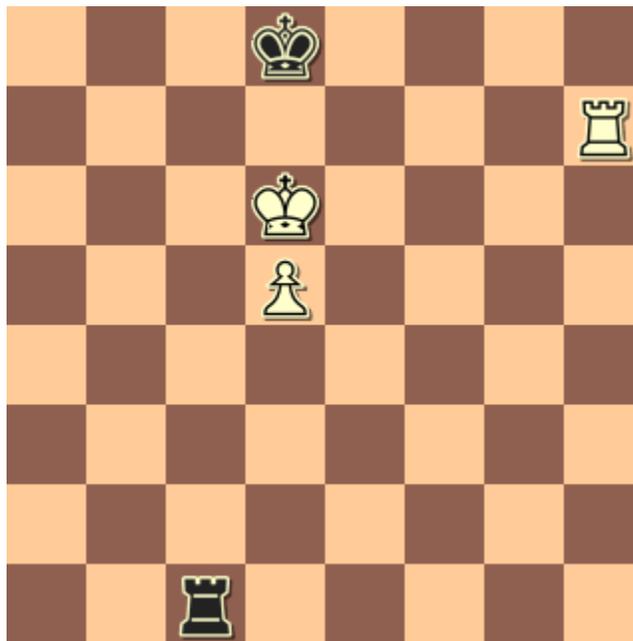
8.Bh4..Kf8;9.Bf6..Re1+;10.Be5..Kg8;11.Rh4 or 7..Kf8;8.Be5..Kg8;9.Rh4

There is a further variation on move 4...Kf8;5.Rh7..Rg1;6.Rc7..Kg8;7.Rc8+ wins BR.

Diagram follows (3x2)



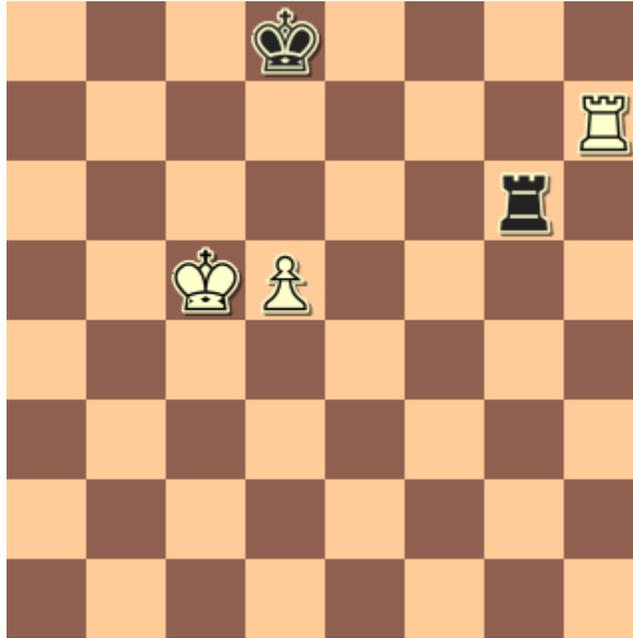
White to win (3x2)



Black to move (3x2)

Philidor has also shown how to Queen a Pawn:- 1...Ke8;2.Rh8+..Kf7;3.Kd7..Rc2;  
 4.d6..Rc1;5.Kd8..Rc2;6.d7..Rc1;7.Rh4..Rc2;8.Rf4+..Kg7;9.Ke7..Re2+;10.Kd6..Rd2+  
 11.Ke6..Re2+;12.Kd5..Rd2+;13.Rd4 wins. And now we know why the White Rook went to h4.  
 (BM What about 6...Rc5?)

Philidor also shows a drawing position according to E. Lasker:-



Black with or without the move-draws. (3x2)

The reason: The White King cannot advance beyond the fifth rank on account of the Black Rook and if he pushes the Pawn to his sixth rank, the Black Rook can go on to his eighth and keep on checking. The White King cannot use the Pawn as a shield, because there is only one rank between it and the enemy King. If however, in the previous position we put the White King on d6 and the Black Rook anywhere he cannot check immediately, White wins as shown previously.

Philidor having felt that he demonstrated how to conduct a game with the least possible winning advantage, a free Pawn, now proceeds to guide his reader how such advantage can be achieved by providing notes to a number of demonstration games which he conducts to victory. As a pedagogue, he does not baulk at having the losing side play weakly when it suits his demonstration. He has his favourite openings as benefits a teacher, and says of gambits:

*By the gambits it may be seen, that these Parties give no Advantage to him who attacks, or to him who defends them". Yet he does demonstrate them because "If either one or the other commits a Fault in the twelve first moves, the game will be lost".*

**THE EVOLUTION OF CHESS THEORY No.6 by “Zugswang”**  
*“Chess Analysed or Instructions by Which a Perfect Knowledge of This  
Noble Game May in a short Time be Acquir’d”* (Feb 1967 CW)

Philidor was a cocksure young man of twenty-three when this book was first published. The work contains a number of imaginary games taken to the end, and the endgames already dealt with. There are also variations (backgames).

(BM. Zugswang is convinced the games are imaginary)

Philidor’s method has the disadvantage that, while he makes the winning side play what he considers the best moves, the losing side merely represents the type of player he would ordinarily encounter, that is, one who uses faulty strategy. There is hardly a struggle in the games. The winning side knows how to play, the losing side does not. Philidor sets out to teach and this he does magnificently. He is very doctrinaire, to the point of nonsense at times, but he did not write for master players. In his actual play, he knew when to make exceptions. In this book, so as to avoid confusing his reader, he considered it more important for his instructions to be clear rather than to include all theoretical possibilities. All these qualities will be found in a later great teacher, Tarrasch, and they certainly gave Philidor the financial rewards he was looking for. The book was an immediate and huge success, and ran to two more editions in Philidor’s lifetime, and countless reprints.

(BM. Game 9 is a real struggle-the 57 move draw)

I shall in the following, set out the first game verbatim, retaining the original spelling; and extracts from the rest. Philidor had a deep understanding of pawn-play, and only in recent times is there anything new, such as the relative importance of the backward pawn, remote pawns, etc. He even incorporates some of Nimzovitch’s teaching in respect of pawn chains.

The book’s merits are countless, the greatest being that it sets out to teach his readers to think. In this, Philidor is entirely successful. A further great merit is that, by setting out a method, he made it possible for a whole world of outstanding players to pick holes in it, thereby setting off tremendous advances in chess theory.

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..Bc5;3.c3..Nf6;4.d4

*(This Pawn is play’d two Moves for two, very important Reasons; the first is, to hinder your Adversary’s King’s Bishop to play upon your King’s Bishop’s Pawn; and the second, to put the Strength of your pawns in the Middle of the Exchequer, which is of great Consequence to attain the making of a Queen.)*

4...exd4;5.cxd4

*(When you find your Game in the present situation one of your Pawns at your King’s fourth Square, and one at your Queen’s fourth Square, you must push neither of them before your Adversary proposes to change one for the other; in this case you are to push forwards the attack’d Pawn. It is to be observed that Pawns, when sustained in a front Line, hinder very much the Adversary’s pieces to enter your Game, or take an advantageous Post. This Rule may serve for all other Pawns thus situated.)*

5...Bb6

*(If instead of retiring his Bishop, he gives you Check with it, you are to cover this Check with your Bishop, in order to retake his Bishop with your Knight, in case he takes your Bishop; your Knight will then defend your King's Pawn, otherwise unguarded. But probably he will not take your Bishop, because a good Player strives to keep his King's Bishop as long as possible.)*

6.Nc3..0-0;7.gNe2..

*(You must not easily play your Knight at your Bishop's third Square, before the Bishop's Pawn has moved two Steps, because the Knight proves a Hindrance to the Motion of the Pawn.)*

7....c6;8.Bd3..

*(Your Bishop retires to avoid being attacked by the black Queen's Pawn, which would force you to take his Pawn with yours. This would very much diminish the Strength of your Game, and spoil entirely the Project already mentioned, and observed in the first and second Reflections.)*

8..d5;9.e5..Ne8;10.Be3..f6;

*(He playeth this Pawn to give an Opening to his King's Rook, and this cannot be hindered, whether you take his Pawn or not.)*

11.Qd2..

*(If you should take the Pawn offer'd to you, instead of playing your Queen, you would be guilty of a great Fault, because your Royal Pawn would then lose its Line, whereas if he takes your King's Pawn, that of your Queen supplies the Place, and you may afterwards sustain it with that of your King's Bishop's Pawn; these two Pawns will undoubtedly win the Game, because they can now no more be separated without the loss of a Piece, or one of them will make a Queen, as will be seen by the Sequel of this Game. Moreover, it is of no small Consequence to play your Queen in that Place for two Reasons; the first, to support and defend your King's Bishop's Pawn; and secondly, to sustain your Queen's Bishop, which being taken, would oblige you to retake his Bishop with the above-mentioned last Pawn; and thus your best Pawns would have been totally divided, and by consequence the Game indubitably lost)*

11...fxe5

*(He takes the Pawn to pursue his Project which is to give an Opening to his King's Rook, and to make it fit for Action.)*

12.dxe5..Be6

*(He playeth this Bishop to protect his Queen's Pawn, and with a view to push afterwards, that of his Queen's Bishop's. Observe, that he might have taken your Bishop without prejudice to his Scheme, but he chuses rather to let you take his, in order to get an Opening for his Queen's Rook tho' he suffers to have his Knight's Pawn doubled by it; but you are again to observe, that a double Pawn is no way disadvantageous when surrounded by three or four other Pawns. However, to avoid Criticism, this will be the subject of a Backgame, beginning from this twelfth move, to which you are sent after the Party is over; the Black Bishop will then take your Bishop. It will be shewn that playing well on both sides, it will make no alteration to the Case. The King's Pawn, together with the Queen's, or the King's Bishop's Pawn, well play'd and well sustained, will certainly win the Game. In regard to these Back-Games, I shall make them only*

*upon the most essential Moves, for if I were to make them upon every Move, it would be an endless Work.)*

13.Nf4

*(Your King's Pawn as yet in no Danger, your Knight attacks his Bishop, in order to take it or have it removed.)*

13...Qe7;14.Bxb6

*(It is always dangerous to let the adversary's King Bishop batter the line of your King's Bishop's Pawn, and as it is likewise the most dangerous Piece to form an attack, it is not only necessary to oppose him by times your Queen's Bishop, but you must get rid of that Piece as soon as a convenient Occasion offers.)*

14...axb6;15.0-0

*(You chuse to castle on the King's Side in order to strengthen and protect your King's Bishop's Pawn, which will advance two steps as soon as your King's Pawn is attacked.)*

15...Nd7;16.Nxe6..Qxe6;17.f4..Nc7;18.aRe1..g6;

*(He is forced to play this Pawn, to hinder you from pushing your King's Bishop's Pawn upon his Queen.)*

19.h3

*(The King's Rook's Pawn is play'd to unite all your Pawns together, and push them afterwards with Vigour.)*

19...d4;20.Ne4..h6;

*(He playeth this Pawn to hinder your Knight entering into his Game, and forcing his Queen to remove; where he to play otherwise, your Pawns would have an open Field.*

21.b3..b5;22.g4..Nd5;23.Ng3

*(You play this Knight to enable yourself to push the King's Bishop's Pawn next; it will be then supported by three pieces, the Bishop, the Rook and the Knight.)*

23.....Ne3

*( He playeth this Knight to hinder your Project, by breaking the strength of your Pawns, which he would undoubtedly do by pushing his King's Knight's Pawn; but you break his Design by changing your Rook for his Knight.)*

24.Rxe3..dxe3; 25.Qxe3..Rxa2;26.Re1

*(You play your Rook to protect your King's Pawn, who would remain in the lurch as soon as you push your King's Bishop's Pawn.)*

26..Qxb3;27.Qe4..Qe6;28.f5..gxf;29.gxf

*(Were you not to take with your Pawn, your first project, laid in the Beginning of the Game, would be reduced to nothing, and you would run the risk of losing the Game.)*

29....Qd5;30.Qxd5..cxd5; 31.Bxb5..Nb6;32.f6

*(You are to observe, when your Bishop runs upon White, you must strive to put your Pawn always upon Black, because your Bishop serves to drive away your Adversary's King or Rook when between your Pawns; the same when your Bishop runs Black, to have then your Pawns upon White. Few players have made this Remark, tho' a very essential one.)*

32..Rb2;33.Bd3..Kf7;34.Bf5..Nc4;35.Nh5..Rg8+;36.Bg4..Nd2;37.e6+..Kg6;

*(As his King may retire at his Bishop's Square it is necessary to send you to a second Back-game which will show how to proceed in this case.)*

38.f7..Rf8;39.Nf4+..Kg7;40.Bh5

*(Black playeth anywhere, the White pushes to Queen.)*

(BM Zugswang's Notes to the moves are not from the first edition, some are missing. My 1804 edition by Pratt stated nearly all the notes had been clarified. Z's notes are probably from the 1762/77 edition. )

## THE EVOLUTION OF CHESS THEORY No.7 by "Zugswang" Conclusion of Series on Philidor (July/August 1967 CW)

**Many readers may think Philidor too ancient to be worth studying but it is our opinion that, behind Philidor's quaint English and questionable syntax – he seems to have done his own translating, for economy's sake – much chess wisdom is stored.**

**In Canberra last Easter, I was White against the junior expert John Hendry. Hendry lost the game but obtained a winning opening, and primarily because I ignored Philidor's advice. The opening was a Gruenfeld, 1.d4..Nf6;2.c4..g6;3.Nc3..d5;4.f3..Bg7; 5.e4..dxc4;6.Bxc4..fNd7;7.gNe2..Nb6;8.Bb3..Nc6. Now I did not like to play 9.Be3! because the Bishop would almost immediately have to go home again after 9....Na5; 10.Bc2..aNc5. But Philidor would say that at any cost White should keep his pawn centre (e4,d4) intact as long as possible. Instead, I spoiled my position with 9.d5? falsely influenced by the more modern emphasis on the time factor.**

**In years to come this series by "Zugswang" will probably be considered the main contribution by this magazine to chess literature. "Zugswang" is the first chess writer in all history to give the ancients a fair deal. All earlier attempts to discuss Philidor have been superficial – except those by the Modenese masters whom "Zugswang" will discuss in our next number –Ed. (BM. Sadly no, as it was the last issue ever)**

Until the time of Philidor's treatise, strategical advice was of a kind which an experienced player could accept without further proof, e.g. "don't use the Queen right at the beginning of a game" or "if constricted, try to free your game by exchanges."

In Philidor's system of pawn play, it is not at all evident to a mediocre player even if experienced why "on the good or bad situation (of the pawns) depends the gain or loss of each Party."

To convey this idea and others, Philidor set out in his book forty games with nine openings, each opening with a principal game and several subsidiary games, which he calls "back-games". In these, he makes one of the players follow his principles, and the other use wrong principles. We saw the first game in the last issue, without the two backgames. The second game has a more

modern look about it. There is a good deal of manoeuvring to secure suitable perches for the White Knights, and Black's game is aimed to prevent this. The game is ultimately won on this point.

There are three backgames.

### **Second Game** 1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..c6;3.d4

*(Tis absolutely necessary to push this Pawn two steps; playing anything else would get him the Move, and by consequence the Attack; This would put your Game in a bad Condition, because you could hinder him no longer from putting the Strength of his Pawns in the middle of the Chessboard; and (supposing always none of you play amiss) would win him the Game.)*

Philidor is saying here that, unless White plays this, Black will get a pawn majority in the centre.

3..exd4

*(If he refuses taking your Pawn, in order to pursue immediately his intended Scheme of attacking your Bishop with his Queen's Pawn, he will (with regular play on both Sides) Lose the Game, because his Queen's Pawn being separated from his Camarades, cannot avoid being lost.)*

This is comment on the isolated Queen's Pawn in case of d5.and White's exd5.

4.Qxd4..d6;5.f4..Be6;6.Bd3..d5;7.e5..c5;8.Qf2..Nc6;9.c3..g6;10.h3..h5;

*(He pushes this Pawn two steps to hinder your Pawns being four to three on that side, to fall upon his own. Here is an Observation to be made, that in the present Situation two equal bodies of Pawns are on the Chess-Board; you have four to three, on your King's side, and he has likewise four to three on his Queen's side; those on the King's Side have always some Advantage, the King being by a superior Number better guarded; Nevertheless he that will be able to separate first his Adversary's Pawns (especially on that Side where they are strongest) will undoubtedly win the Game.)*

It is notable that Philidor recognises the importance of the pawn majority on the wings as a winning factor. Contrary to modern view, he favours a King-side majority. However, Botvinnik very often used the King's-side majority for an attack. Philidor's aim is to preserve the coherence of the pawns for the winning side but throw those of the adversary into disarray.

11.g3..Nh6;12.Nf3..Be7;13.a4..Nf5;14.Kf1..h4;15.g4..Ng3+;16.Kg2..Nxb1;17.Kxb1

*(Though a Rook is commonly a better Piece than a Knight, yet this Change turns to your Advantage; the Reason of it is, in the first place, that this Knight has already made at least four Moves before its Arrival to that Place, whereas your Rook never stir'd yet from its Place.*

*Secondly, his Knight being thus situated proves very troublesome to you; so the taking of him puts your King in an easy Situation, and enables you the better to form your Attack on either Side, where your Adversary shall chuse to castle.)*

One of the features of Philidor's teaching is the frequent sacrifice of the exchange. This is not as though he weren't aware of the Rook's great powers on the 7<sup>th</sup> rank. Indeed he was one of the greatest virtuosi of rook play, as proven by his classic endgame of Rook and Bishop against Rook.

Philidor's opening play is so set in accomplishing its self-appointed task of creating a pawn centre by various stratagems and time-consuming moves that it was only very late in the game that his Rooks came into play. He didn't concern himself about creating openings for his Rooks. Rather, he relied on this

happening accidentally through pawn exchanges. In modern play, it is the other way round. Pawns are exchanged to bring the Rooks into play. While these situations arose through set and faulty play, it did serve the purpose of showing that the position is more important than the nominal value of a piece, and that a piece (or a piece and pawn) for a rook can be advantageous for the player with the piece.

17...Qd7;18.Qg1

*(Tis of consequence to play your Queen, in order to sustain your King's Knight's Pawn, for fear he should sacrifice his Bishop for your two Pawns, which he certainly would do; because all the Strength of your Game consisting in your Pawns, the breaking of them would give him the Attack upon you, and probably make you lose the game.)*

A comment on prevention and the importance of position.

18.a5;19.Be3

*(You play this Bishop with an intention to draw him to push his Queen's Bishop's Pawn, which would give you the Game very soon, because it gives an Opening to your Knights to enter his Game everywhere.)*

19..b6;20.Na3..0-0-0;21.Ba6+..Kc7;22.Nc2..Ra8;23.Bb5..Qd8;24.b4..Qf8;25.bxc5..bxc5;  
26.Nd2..c4;27.Nf3..f6

*(Whatever he may play now, his Game is irretrievable; because as soon as your Knights can get a free passage, the Game is decided.)*

28.Bb6+..Kb7;29.Bxc6+..Kxc6;30.fNd4+..Kd7;31.f5..Bg8;32.e6+..Ke8;33.Nb5..Bd6;  
34.Qd4

*(The Queen takes afterwards his Queen's Pawn, enters his Game, and masters most of his Pieces; therefore it is needless to go on.)*

### **Backgame to Above: After 8.Qf2**

*(If instead of getting out his Pieces, he should continue to push on his Pawns, he would lose the Game infallibly; because it must be observed, that one or two Pawns, too far advanced in the Beginning of a Game, must be reckoned as good as lost, except when all the Pieces are fit for Action, or that those Pawns, when taken, can have their places supplied again by other Pawns. This will be demonstrated by a second Back-game, beginning from the eighth move, which will convince you that two Pawns in a front line situated upon your fourth Squares, are better than two upon the sixth Squares; because they, being so distant from the main Body, may be compared, as in the Army, to the lost Vanguards and Sentries.)*



8...c4; 9.Be2..d4;10.c3..d3;11.Bf3..Bd5;12.b3..b5;13.a4..c4xb3;14.a4xb5..Bxf3;  
15.Nxf3..Nd7;16.Be3..Rb8;17.c4..Nb6;18.bNd2..Bb4;19.0-0

*(The King castles and will undoubtedly win the game, because all his Pawns are well situated, and well sustain'd; whilst his Adversary's Pawns are separated, and likely to be lost..)*

Faulty play by Black, sure! But what an effective way to teach a pupil with little talent, for whom everything has to be spelt out! No modern text-book sets out to demonstrate the importance of the Pawn chain in such easily digestible form. Soundness is altogether a relative notion in chess. In any case, how could Philidor demonstrate his point if he made Black play soundly? Without unsoundness ('Error is the lifeblood of chess' - J.A. Erskine) there would be no chess. This is what Emanuel Lasker tried to express by saying that chess is a struggle. It is true that a reader who can see the unsoundness of Black's play may conceivably query the correctness of the point Philidor is trying to prove, but then he may also be able to improve on White's play. Whatever we think of Philidor's proofs, he makes his point clearly, and it was up to the pupil to accept or discard it.

In chess we could perhaps differentiate between the uses of the words "error" and "oversight" thus: an oversight would occur mainly through lack of concentration. It is a mistake which a given player knows to be a mistake, and would consciously try to avoid. An error, on the other hand, is a mistake which is beyond the knowledge or comprehension of a player at the time he makes his move. Thus, what is an error for one player would be an oversight when made by a more advanced player.

### **Third Game.**

Philidor's predilection for strong pawn centres led him into advocating views and openings which appear very strange to us now.

*(Third Party, Wherein it is shown, that playing the King's Knight, the second Move, is entirely wrong; because it not only loses the Attack, but gives it to the Adversary. It will be seen likewise by three different BACK-GAMES that a good attack keeps the Defender always embarrassed.)*

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;4.Bc4..f5;.

*(Anything else your Adversary could have play'd, this was always your best Move, it being very advantageous to change your King's Bishop's Pawn, because your King and Queen's Pawns place themselves in the Middle of the Chess-board, and become in a State of stopping all the Progresses of your Adversary's Pieces; besides this, you gain the Attack upon him and that by his having play'd his King's Knight at the second Move. You have still another Advantage, by losing your King's Bishop's Pawn for his King's Pawn; that is, when you do castle with your King's Rook, the same Rook finds itself immediately free and fit for Action in the very beginning of the Game. This will be demonstrated by my first Back-game, beginning from the third Move, in which you are sent after the Party.)*

Nobody today would accept the idea that White did not play the opening well, but the fact remains that in the December (1966) Chess World Mr. Maurice Newman sets out to demonstrate that Black's game is playable also.

4.d3..c6;5.exf5..

*(You must observe, that if he refuses taking your Pawn, you are to leave it in the same Situation and Place exposed to be taken; except however, he should chuse to castle with his King's Rook, in such case you must without any Hesitation, or the Interval of a single Move, push that very Pawn forwards, and in order to attack, and fall upon his King with all the Pawns of your right Wing. The Effect of it will be best learn'd by a second Back-game, beginning from this fifth Move to which you are sent. You are to observe again, as a general Rule, not to determine easily to push on the Pawns either of your right or left Wings before your Adversary's King has castled; he will otherwise retire where your Pawns are less strong or less advanced, and by consequence less dangerous to him.)*

In the same game we have the following position in which Philidor points out the importance of the time element.

(BM. moves to the below diagram are 5..Bxf5;6.Bg5..Nf6;7.bNd2..d5;8.Bb3..Bd6;9.Qe2..Qe7; 10.0-0..bNd7;11.Nh4..Qe6;12.Nxf5..Qxf5 diagram)

*(If he did not take your Knight, his Bishop would remain imprisoned by your Pawns, or he would lose at least three Moves to get him free; which three useless Moves are sufficient to spoil his Game.)*



From the same game in the following position, Philidor demonstrates the importance of the pawn chain as well as a thwarted attempt to counteract it.



(BM:-From previous diagram:-

13.Bxf6..gxf6;14.f4..Qg6;15.fxe5..fxe5;16.Rf3..h5;17.aRf1..0-0-0;

18.c4..e4

*(Here is a Move as difficult to comprehend, as it is to be well explained. In the first place you are to observe, that when you find yourself with a Chain of Pawns following one another, upon one and the same colour'd Squares; or to say better, in an oblique Line, the Pawn who has the Van, or is at the Head of them, must not be abandon'd, but must strive to keep and preserve his Post. Here then you must observe that your King's Pawn, being not in the line with his Camarades, your Adversary has push'd his Queen's Bishop's Pawn two Steps, for two Reasons; the first to engage you to push that of your Queen forwards, which in this case would always be stopp'd by that of his Queen's; and thus leaving behind that of your King, would render it consequently entirely useless. The second is to hinder your King's Bishop to batter upon his King's Rook Pawn; therefore it is best to push your King's Pawn upon his Rook, and sacrifice it; because then your Adversary (by taking it, as he cannot well do otherwise) openeth a free Passage to your Queen's Pawn, which you are to advance immediately, and sustain in case of need with other Pawns, in order to make a Queen with it, or draw some other considerable Advantage by it to win the Game. It is true, that his Queen's Pawn (now becomes his King's) appears to have the same advantage of having no opposition from your Pawns to make a Queen; however, the Difference is great, because his Pawn being entirely separated from his Camarades, will always be in danger of being snatch'd away in his Road by a Multitude of your Pieces all at War against it. But to know well how to make use of these Moves at proper times, one must already be a good Player.)*

19.dxe4...d4;20.Bc2..Ne5

### **180 Years Ahead of His Time**

Here, Philidor enunciates the two principles of what Nimzovich called, in a later age, the "Blockade" and "Restraint".

*(It was necessary to play that Knight in order to stop his King's Pawn, in its present situation, stops the Passage of his own Bishop and even of his Knight.)*

Later on he says on exchanges:

*(Having the advantage of a Rook against a Bishop at the End of a Party, it is your Advantage to change Queens; and the more so, because his Queen being at present troublesome to you in the Post where he just play'd it, you force him to change which he cannot avoid, if he will save his being Check-Mate.)*

In this game and the Back-games I have reversed the colours. Philidor gave his first move to Black as it was his convention that White plays the superior game.

### **First Back-Game of the Third Party.**

Philidor warns against the danger of a doubled Rook's pawn. Observe Black's pawn chain, always a feature to Philidor.



9.h4

*(He pushes this Pawn two Steps to avoid having a double Pawn upon his King's Rook Line, which by pushing your King's Rook's Pawn upon his Knight, he could not possibly avoid, and your taking it afterwards with your Queen's Bishop, would have given him a very bad game.)*

9..h6;10.Nh3..0-0;11.Na4..Bb4+;12.Bd2..Bxd2+;13.Qxd2..d4;14.c5

*(He playeth this Pawn to cut the Communication of your Pawns; but you avoid it by pushing immediately your Queen's Knight's Pawn upon his Knight, which having no retreat, obliges your Adversary to take the Pawn by the way. This rejoins your Pawns again, and makes them invincible.)*

14..b5;15.c5xb5 ep..a7xb6;16.b3..Be6;17.Be2..Nf5

*(This Knight seems to be of very little consequence; nevertheless 'tis he that gives the mortal Blow to his Party, because this very Knight holds at present all your Adversary's Pawns in some measure quite Lock'd up, till you have time to prepare the Checkmate.)*

Again, the motif of restraint. This time, Philidor considers his position strong enough to go in for a mating attack mainly on account of the weakness of White's black squares.

**In the third back-game**, Philidor warns against weakening the king's field unnecessarily by pushing the pawns in front of the King when the latter is attacked.



*(When the King finds himself behind two or three Pawns, and that your Adversary falls upon them in order to break them or make an Irruption upon your King, you must take care to push none of those Pawns till you are forced to do it. As for example; it would have been very ill play'd to have pushed your King's Rook's Pawn upon his Bishop, because he would then have got the attack upon you by taking your Knight with his Bishop, and would have got an Opening upon your King by pushing his King's Knight's Pawn. This would have lost you the Game.)*

#### **Fourth Game**

I again show the game with colors reversed for convenience. Philidor favours Black in this game.

1.e4..e5;2.c3..d5;3.exd5..Qxd5;4.d3..f5;5.f4

There is a warning here on the dangers of a backward pawn on an open file.

*(But if he had attacked your Queen with his Queen's Bishop's Pawn, he would have lost the Game, because the Pawn that formed the Van-guard on his Queen's side is left behind.)*

5...e4

Here is an admonition that it does not pay to play too rigidly.

*(It must be a general Rule to avoid changing your King's Pawn for your Adversary's King's Bishop's Pawn, except you are forced to it, as it may sometimes happen by Accidents one meets with in the Defence, but rarely in the Attack. You are to observe likewise the same Rule with regard to your Queen's Pawn against his Queen's Bishop's Pawn, because (as I have already mentioned) the King and Queen's Pawn are better than any other two Pawns. They occupy the centre, hinder best your Adversary's Pieces from hurting you.)*

6.d4

*(If instead of pushing this Pawn, he had taken your King's Pawn, you must in that case have taken his Queen, and afterwards his Pawn; thus hindering him from castling, you preserve the Attack upon him, and by consequence the Advantage.)*

There is also a bit of advice on centralizing:

*(When two Bodies of Pawns find themselves separated from the Centre, you must always strive to strengthen and encrease the strongest file; but if you have two Pawns in the Centre, your aim must be to unite as many as possible; having already observed that the Centre-Pawns are by much the best and strongest. This advice serves for a general Rule.)*

.....

Also on the attack on the King;

*(You are to observe, that if you can succeed to make an Opening upon your Adversary's King with two or three Pawns, the Game is absolutely won.)*

And on the danger of exposing the King to open lines:

*('Tis often better to play the King than to castle; it enables you best to attack with your Pawns on that file. You are to observe in this present Case, that if you had castled on your Queen's Side, your Adversary's Bishop would have been very incommodious to you, having his line quite open. Take notice when you play your King, to put him always upon a Line where your Adversary has a Pawn upon it, because you are better covered from the Rook's ambushes.)*

Following the first four games there is the First gambit with six Back Games.

1.e4..e5;2.f4..exf4;3.Nf3..g5

The Second Gambit with four Back Games.

1.e4..e5;2.f4..exf4;3.Bc4..Qh4+;4.Kf1

The Third Gambit has three Back games.

1.e4..e5;2.f4..d5

The Fourth Gambit, "commonly called the Cunningham Gambit", with two Back Games and one Improvement.

1.e4..e5;2.f4..exf4;3.Nf3..Be7;4.Bc4..Bh4+;5.g3..fxg3;6.0-0..gxh2+;7.Kh1

The Queen's Gambit and six Back Games.

1.d4..d5;2.c4..dxc4;3.e4

.....

At the end of the book, there is the celebrated Rook and Bishop vs Rook ending.

I would like to say that the rook and pawn ending in the January issue is not contained in my copy of Philidor and is quoted in its entirety from Emanuel Lasker's Manual of Chess on his authority, which I accept as sufficient.

## **Gambits**

For a student of Philidor, it is not surprising that he did not favour gambits and in fact he did not properly appreciate the idea behind them. As far as he was concerned, a gambit simply threw away the advantage of the move.

(BM: And so ends this excellent series as Chess World folded. The real pity was the next article was about the Italian (Modenese) School and their critique of Philidor, and it would seem many more articles for later periods.

\*\*\*\*\*

A recent email from Nigel Nettheim provided an educated guess who Zugswang was; Professor D.M. Armstrong. The most compelling was DMA's letter to Purdy published in CW May 1951 p.109/10 entitled "Logician on Chess". If it was DMA unfortunately he died in 2014 and his collected papers are held at the National Library of Australia MS 9363. The NLA has advised that there are no papers on chess in the Armstrong Papers. In August 2017 Nigel replied that Frank Hutchings and his wife Diana (CJSP's daughter) could not help with 'Zugswang'. (Frank Hutchings passed away 10 Jan. 2018.aged 81)

A letter from Bert Corneth dated 15 March 2017 is of interest. Bert is a strong Dutch player/collector and he bought a 1790 edition of Philidor in February:-.....*This edition convinced me even more that the games in the 1749 and 1777 book are not games played by himself, they are artificial. The 1790 edition is very different and in the end he shows several games which he played himself. He mentions the names of his opponents. He does not do that for any of the 'old' games.*

*I was already convinced before that the games in the 1749 and 1777 editions were artificial. Simply because I think that there was in that time no other player in France or the Netherlands able to play a game of that relatively high level.....*

\* From BCM October 1926 Pages 434/5/6 by John Keeble

There were not many publications that honoured Philidor's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday (7<sup>th</sup> September 1726) but BCM did. Below are extracts:--

*....Incidentally it is said that when he moved from Holland to Germany it was music not chess that enabled him to gain a living.....It was in England that his talent for chess received its best encouragement and its highest reward...The late Professor Tomlinson once said that Cowper whose "Task" was published in 1785, had Philidor in mind when he somewhat spitefully asked:-*

*"Who would waste attention at the chequered board,  
His host of wooden warriors to and fro  
Marching and counter marching."*

*The first step of the new club (Parsloe's 1774) was to subscribe to a fund making it possible for Philidor to spend the season, February to May, every year in London, which he did up to 1792, occasionally varying his chess work by musical composition. In that period he composed the music for nine out of his twenty-three operas, and in 1789 produced a 'Te Deum' to celebrate the recovery of George III; but music did not pay. He lived in an age when the best musicians were generally bankrupt and in poverty. Chess was a godsend to Philidor who, by publishing books, giving exhibitions, and receiving an annual salary from the London and Paris chess clubs, was able to maintain a good position in life.*

*When the French Revolution broke out Philidor did not wait until February but came to London at once and he never again returned to France. An American writer has suggested that in 1793 and 1794 this was not exactly due to the war, but that Philidor had a wholesome fear of another “celebrated” La Regence chessplayer. Maximilian Robespierre might have seen in him, not the harmless chessplayer, but the pensioner of two kings and the favourite of a fugitive pretender to the crown. One cannot say how far this is true, but Philidor did not make application for a passport until after the death of Robespierre, much delay occurred....the passport was definitely refused.....*

Keeble found Philidor’s exact date of death 31 August, 1795 and also the whereabouts of his grave at St.James Piccadilly and was thanked for it by the French Chess Federation (see p.685 BCM).

It was surprising that an Australian, William Harris, who came to England in 1842, wrote to Howard Staunton and started the Philidor grave search which ended in 2016 when Gordon Cadden found it and the results appeared in BCM. Somerset House and the Records Office couldn’t help Keeble but the Vicar of St. James did. He was buried 3<sup>rd</sup> September. This was a Christopher Wren church as Keeble advised and Philidor’s burial details could be seen in the church register. He had died at 10 Ryder Street in the parish of St. James. Sad to say I know nothing about William Harris of Australia except that one of his children had a second name ‘Philidor’. (BM)

Town & Country Journal (NSW) 25 Sept. 1880 (From the ‘Huddersfield College Magazine’)

My mind goes back before I wed,  
When first caressing her dear head,  
With rapid beating heart I said –  
My Queen.

Her sweet reply comes back to me,  
Her downcast looks I still can see,  
Her whispered words with these agree,  
My King.

When loss of friends and loss of store,  
Distrest her mind and grieved her sore,  
Who fought and toiled for her the more?  
Her Knight.

Who joined our hands and called us one,  
Putting the holy seal upon,  
What was but one in times past gone,  
The Bishop.

Now safely housed in this dear land,  
We often clasping hand in hand,

Talk of old times when first we planned –  
Our Castle.

And coursing round my knee their speed.  
Eight sturdy imps who me impede,  
Yet are “the soul of life” indeed –  
My Pawns.

George Beach of Cheadle

I think Philidor would have liked this one. He didn't have 8 in his family but they were surely the soul of his life.(BM)

## CHAPTER 4

### AMERICAN RESEARCH PHILIDOR AND THE AMERICAN CHESS MONTHLY

The editor Daniel Willard Fiske (1831-1904) loved chess history and the chess magazine set new standards with great research items over the 1857-1861 life of the magazine. It was cut down by the Civil War.

He had a passion for Philidor who was a form of Knight-Errant travelling to other countries as Morphy did 100+ years later.

On p.252 of the August 1857 issue he wrote under the heading –

“MISCELLANEA ZATRIKIOLOGICA

#### **The Birthday of Philidor.**

The one hundred and thirty-first recurrence of this anniversary will occur on Monday the Seventh day of September. Should any of the friends of chess throughout the United States feel inclined in any way to celebrate this festival we shall be glad to publish an account there-of. We can imagine no more appropriate method of doing honour to the illustrious chess player than by consultation games between the strongest members of each club to be played on the day named. Any such contests we shall be glad to insert along with some of Philidor’s own games in the October issue of the Monthly.”

The 1857 year contained many other articles on Philidor:-  
Extracts are given following the 9 part index.

- 1.Philidor meets the Turk page 7
- 2.The Young American meets a French Count who had played Philidor (fiction) p.65+
- 3.Benjamin Franklin and the Café de la Regence page 197+
4. Mrs Howe and Philidor p.220+
5. The 1821 Philidor edition of Philadelphia p.223 & 287
6. George Allen’s Philidor editions. p.263+
7. George Allen’s book on Philidor appears from p.289+ in sections .(NB The copy has much better English than the book with its old fashioned wording. Strangely it is 3 years earlier than the book.)
- 8.Excellent mini bios of two of Philidor’s opponents:-Francis Maseres and Henry Seymour p.306/8
- 9.Chess Problems dedicated to Philidor by E.B.Cook, Sam Loyd and Napoleon Marache p.314/5.

#### **1.The Last of a Veteran Chess Player (2 parts) very brief extract only.**

This amusing article is about The Turk who is the veteran:-*In the year 1783, the Android encountered the Chess-king, Philidor, at the Café de la Regence, at Paris. Before the Philidors and Legals of this famous resort, the crescent of the Turk grew pale, and he met with a number*

*of reverses. Here, also, he played with Franklin, who was then at Passy, and whom von Kempelen, especially invited, by a letter, now in the collection of the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia.*

## **2. A Leaf from my Chess Life. (2 parts)**

A lovely fictional article by Fiske on meetings between a young American lad in 1815 and an elderly French Count in Modena, Italy. The Count had fled France when the political violence started in 1789 and settled west of Modena in his last years. He lived on a small pension from the French King. Fiske continued:-...*A thousand years of life could not drive from my remembrance the intensely pleasant hours we passed, morning after morning, in close converse beside the sparkling Italian rivulet. The Count had been a frequenter of the Parisian Café de la Regence in the time of its ancient glory. He had known and encountered Legal, the teacher of Philidor, and had played with Franklin and Rousseau. To the French philosopher he was accustomed to give, I believe, the odds of a piece; with the American sage he played upon even terms, but won a majority of games. Our own countryman, he told me, was the complete embodiment of the principles which his Morals of Chess inculcate. His spirits were never raised by victory nor depressed by defeat; slow and careful in his moves, he paid the closest attention to the progress of the game, in which he allowed himself to become fully absorbed, but bore the issue with the calmest and most courteous indifference. After one game, played at Franklin's house at Passy, in which the old patriot philosopher had shown far less than his usual strength, he remarked to the Count, "I have had to play against both you and the gout." With Bernard, Carlier, Verdoni, Leger and the rest of the 'Amateurs' our chess Count stood upon the footing of intimacy.*

*Of Bernard's brilliant style of play he spoke with unbounded enthusiasm. But he chiefly loved to dwell upon the gentle character and Caissan skill of the light and lustre of modern chess – the immortal Philidor. A common passion for music had drawn them somewhat together. He sat by the side of the composer when Philidor's last opera, Themistocle, was performed at Fontainebleau in 1785, and frequently accompanied him to the organ of a church in Paris where Philidor occasionally whiled away an hour or two in either playing or listening to some favourite melodies from his own motets. He had played many games with the great master and witnessed innumerable more; as he often referred, in the course of our conversations, to those remarkable contests, we mourned in unison his sad neglect in not recording them for the profit and delight of posterity. There was, he asserted, as much difference between the mere externals of Philidor's play – the motions of his arm, the gaze of his eye and the shades of his countenance – and other men's, as between the graceful majesty of Apollo and the uncouth awkwardness of a boor. In his combats with the monarch of chess, the Count received the knight at first and afterwards the Pawn and two moves; but finally in the last battle they ever had, just prior to Philidor's return to London in 1788, the game was drawn at odds of Pawn and Move. Upon the story of this last encounter the old chess man was wont to linger with a delightful prolixity. It took place at the Count's own lodgings one Sunday evening, and its every incident and circumstance were treasured facts in the storehouse of his memory.*

*As our acquaintance rapidly ripened into intimacy, I used often to ask my gray-headed friend to meet me face to face over the chess board; but either averse to displaying the weakness which accumulated years might have substituted for the skill of youth and manhood, or afraid of the*

*mental effort required, he, at first, steadily refused. At length, perhaps to put an end to my repeated solicitations, he quaintly proposed that we should play a game, in which we should have a day to reflect on our every move, reporting our decision to each other as we met in the morning at our quiet trysting- place under the vines. With the ardour of an enthusiast I immediately acceded to his whimsical project and we drew for the move. I gained it and promised to communicate my opening move to him the following day. Determined that my native skill should not lack the material assistance which books afford I bought, as I went home to my lodgings in the city, a copy of Ponziani's excellent work, and placed it with del Rio and my chess board upon my table and straightaway began my preparatory studies. After a good deal of consideration, I could find no sounder opening than that of the King's Bishop, which I consequently resolved to play.*

*Our game, which lasted, of course during several weeks, I insert here, as recorded in my journal at that time. I am led to do so not because it is a specimen of good play, but from the peculiar oddity of the manner in which it was conducted. The sombre reflections of mature age have in no wise diminished my chess sensitiveness and I therefore beseech the critical student to remember that my practice had been at that period very limited:-*

*Young America (white) vs Old France (Black)*

*1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..f5;3.Bxg8..Rxf7;4.Qh5+..g6;5.Qxh7..Rg7;6.Qh8?..Qg5;7.Qh3..fxe4;  
8.Nc3..Qf5;9.Qe3..d5;10.Nxd5..Rf7;11.Nh3..Nc6;12.c3..Be6;13.Nb4..Bxb4;  
14.cxBb4..Nd4;15.Qc3..Qh5;16.Ng1..Qg5;17.g3..0-0-0;18.d3..Qg4;19.Be3..Rd5;  
20.dxe4?..Qe2+;21.Nxe2..Nf3+;22.Kf1..Bh3++*

Old France won easily and the young man had to return home quickly on his father's death. Letters changed hands with the Count but he died May 1819. (2 pages of a 4 page article) The article was written by the young man in old age.

### **3. The Chess Life of Benjamin Franklin.**

Fiske had assembled most of the chess facts on Franklin of which the following relates to Philidor:-.. *With the exception of this remarkable scacco-political episode (Mrs Howe-BM) we find no mention of the chess of Franklin during the time he spent in England. He was probably too busy with his colonial agency and otherwise to enjoy, more than occasionally, his favourite amusement. But during the diplomatic leisure of his Parisian life he seems to have pursued this pastime with considerable zest. We learn that he more than once visited the Café de la Regence, and in all probability, had the pleasure of seeing there the great sovereign of the chessmen, the renowned Philidor. Here too, in 1780, he met Mr. Jones, afterwards Sir William Jones, whose extraordinary fondness for the game is well known, and whose 'Caissa' is the most successful effort of the English chess muse....(I paragraph in a 6½ page article).*

**4. Mrs Caroline Howe** in 3 above was admired by Franklin. She was the eldest sister of Lord Viscounts Richard and William and grand-daughter of George the first Lord. She was born in 1720 and still playing cards in 1813 with all the spirit and life of a girl. Her husband John Howe died 1769 and she subscribed to the 1749 edition then 5 copies of the second edition of Philidor in 1777 and was a member of the Chess Club. In 1790 she subscribed to the third edition. No

mention of chess with Philidor but it seems likely. She died 29 June, 1814. Sadly her papers were accidentally burned after her death.

## 5. The 1821 edition of Philidor

This matter started on p.95 of CM when Fiske in his new column 'Notes & Queries' asked the following:-*Several writers on the bibliography of chess assert that an edition of Philidor in French was published in Philadelphia in 1821. We are very much inclined to doubt the story. Has anybody ever met with a copy of the book? Its title as given by Hock is as follows: Philidor, (A.D.) – Analyse du jeu des echecs, avec une nouvelle notation abregee, et 42 planches ou se trouve figure la situation du jeu pour les renvois et les fins de partie. Philadelphie, 1812, 8 vo.*

Another N&Q was the below which mentions Philidor

*Is there really no American publication treating of chess earlier than the one which bears the following title?:-*

*“Chess made easy:- New and comprehensive Rules for playing the Game of Chess: with examples from Philidor, Cunningham, &c, &c. To which is prefixed a pleasing account of its Origin; some interesting Anecdotes of several exalted Personages who have been Admirers of it; and the Morals of Chess, written by the ingenious and learned Dr. Franklin.*

*This game an Indian Brahmin did invent,  
The force of eastern wisdom to express:  
From whence the same to busy Europe sent.  
The modern Lombards stil'd it pensive chess. (Denham)*

*Philadelphia; printed and sold by James Humphreys, at the corner of Walnut and Dock Streets, 1802 12mo.pp.97.*

Von der Lasa followed up on the 1821 Philadelphia edition with information as below:-

*...you ask whether anybody ever met with a French copy of Philidor's 'Analyse' published at Philadelphia in 1821. I have been so happy as to meet with three copies of this book. One I gave to my friend, Mr. Franz of Berlin who has perhaps the richest collection of chess works extant. The two others are still in my possession.*

Fiske continued on p.223 :- *This settles of course the question as to the existence of the book. We are still inclined to believe, however, that the imprint must be false, and that although having Philadelphia on its title-page, it is the product of some European press. Its rarity in this country and the improbability that any person should take it into his head to publish it in Philadelphia at that time a work on chess in French, are the facts which lead us to this conclusion. Only a careful examination of the book, its paper, typography etc. could settle this much vexed question.*

*Our excellent contemporary, the Berlin 'Schachzeitung', in its issue for June, gives, under the title 'Chess in America', a long and flattering notice of our Monthly. The article also contains a response to our query in reference to the Philidor of 1821. We translate as follows:- There is a copy of this book in Berlin; it was not contained however in Bledow's great collection. Its title is*

*'Analyse du Jeu des echecs pa Philidor etc., Philadelphia, chez J. Johnston, libraire-editor. Imprimerie de Lafourcade, 1821, 8vo. pp.150, with several coloured diagrams. This excellent edition corresponds page for page, with another one, bearing the imprint of Philadelphia but without a date, and is perhaps, as well as the last-named, printed in France. Both of these impressions closely follow the arrangement adopted in the edition published at Strasburg and Paris (1803), and the first in which the moves are depicted by figures and letters. Copies of this Philadelphia edition are not easily met with.*

Fiske responded: *We shall recur to this subject again. Meanwhile our thanks are due to these obliging German writers whose acquaintance with the literature and history of the game, like their knowledge of its theory and practice, is unsurpassed and inimitable.*

On p.287 Fiske got a reply re the 1821 Philadelphia Philidor from George Allen:-*The edition of Philidor in French was clearly never printed in America. The type is neither American nor English; it is that of France, Belgium, etc. The paper is also un-American. The water-mark (which is too much cut in pieces to be put together with certainty) has the name 'Berger' on one leaf; on another a capital D with part of some small letter; and on several leaves more or less of the latter part of some word ending –coroy – all French words. The title –page does indeed bear two Philadelphia names "Chez J. Johnston, Libraire –editeur. Imprimerie de Lafourcade, 1821'. But there is not, and probably never was any Lafourcade, printer, here that spelt his name with more than one r; the Philadelphia orthography is 'Lafourcade'. There are plenty of 'Johnstons' here, but all the printer and bookseller Johnsons that I ever heard of spell their name without the t. So also says Mr. Perington.*

*The edition bears marks of piracy. It is really a reprint of that, of which the Paris and Strasburg 1803 was the beginning and type – the edition of the author of Les Stratagemes – the first with diagrams and with the moves given in letters. This edition would seem to have become practically the property of Causette, Paris. The Philadelphia 1821 omits the name of 'the author of Les Stratagemes' from the title, changes some few things in the 'Publishers Preface,' substitutes a leaf of Terms from Stein for that in the prototype, and gives a leaf from 'Le Calabrois' with the names, moves etc. Lastly, on the verse of the fly-leaf (or 'bastard-title' is it?) stands a list of places where the book may be obtained (namely Amsterdam, Bordeaux, Bruxelles, Dresden, Lille, Londres, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Paris, Rouen), which would certainly not have been put on a Philadelphia book – hardly on one printed in Paris. The book is very well printed – rather better than that of 1803. Schmid calls it an 8vo. but it looks like a 12mo. Or 16mo.*

*I conclude, therefore with Heydebrant von der Lasa, that the book was probably printed in Belgium, and I suspect it to have been got up to take the wind out of Causette's sails....*

## **6. George Allen's Philidor editions p.263**

In an excellent article on book collecting Fiske describes many of the great collectors of the world in mini paragraphs:-Francis Mercier, H.C. Schumacher, Frederic Alliey, L.E. Bledow, Mr Franz, von der Lasa, Lewis, Walker, Judge Fiske, H.R. Agnel, Fiske himself, and finally George Allen who was Professor of Ancient Languages, in the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

Here are the Philidors in GA's library:-

Original French 1749,1754,1777 (with Bartolozzi's portrait) and 1845, the English of 1750, 1762, 1777, 1790 and 1791. The German of 1764,1771,1797 and 1840. the Dutch of 1819 and a 'host of abridgements and later editions'.

**7. The October 1857 issue of Chess Monthly** started a serialised form of Allen's later 'Life of Philidor' 1863. It even included a rare side sketch of him and best of all is written in modern English without the old fashioned script with s's that look like f's. It is hard to reason why Allen published his book a few years later that way. There are some variations to the book and it is way more readable than the book. It surprises me that the Da Capo reprint of the 1970's followed the old way. Not sure about the Moravian Chess edition. The use of quotations in other languages is unhelpful. The series continued into 1858 and finished in February. Four games are listed after the first instalment two with Count Bruhl, one with Francis Maseres and the last with Lord Henry Seymour and Fiske gives nice biographies of Maseres and Seymour as below. Other games celebrating Philidor's birthday were played by Napoleon Marache and James Thompson at the New York Club. Won by Marache in 30 moves. At the Athenaeum, Philadelphia Lewis Elkin defeated Samuel Lewis in 27 moves, and at the New York Club Frederick Perrin defeated Daniel Willard Fiske in 48 moves

The Allen book series started in the month of Philidor's birthday.

**8. Francis Maseres MA FRS FSA, *Cursitor Baron of the Exchequer***, was born at London, of a family originally French, on the fifteenth of December, 1731. He studied at Cambridge where he took the degree of BA in 1752 and MA in 1755. He received the appointment of Attorney General of Quebec, where he distinguished himself by his loyalty during the American contest, and by his active zeal for the interests of the province. He wrote a large number of mathematical works and several political treatises. His patronage of letters and literary men was munificent. He seems to have been beloved and respected by every one with whom he came in contact. One writer says of him, 'As to the equanimity of his temper, a celebrated Chess-player used to say of the Baron, who was very fond of that game, that he was the only person of his acquaintance from whose countenance it could not be discovered whether he had won or lost the game.' Baron Maseres died in London, at the ripe old age of ninety three, on the Nineteenth of May, 1824. (There is plenty on Google about FM including a sketch)

Lord Henry Seymour was the second son of the Marquis of Hertford and was born the Fifteenth of December, 1746. He studied and graduated at Oxford. Horace Walpole in a letter to General Conway speaks of him while yet young as follows: 'Henry who has the genuine indifference of a 'Harry Conway', would not stir from Oxford for those pageants. Lord Beauchamp showed me a couple of his letters, which have more natural humour and cleverness than is conceivable. They have the ease and drollery of a man of parts who has lived long in the world – and he is scarce seventeen.' Seymour was elected member of Parliament for Coventry in 1766 and 1768, for Midhurst in 1774, for Downton in 1780 and for Oxford in 1796. He was early appointed Clerk of the Hanaper

*For Ireland and Constable of Dublin Castle; and afterwards he became joint Clerk of the Court of King's Bench in Ireland and Craner and Wharfinger of the port of Dublin. In 1796 he was Major of the Warwickshire militia. On the fifth of February 1830 at the age of eighty three, he died at his seat Norris Castle, near Cowes, in the Isle of Wight. (see Chess Monthly USA June 1858 for more on Seymour in the article 'Mated at Last')*

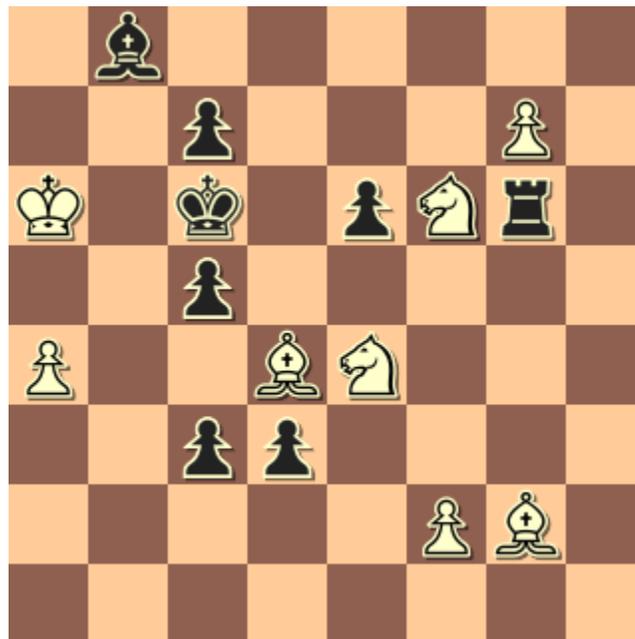
**9. Four Chess Problems were dedicated to Philidor by three of the best composers in America -**

Eugene B Cook (1830-1915), Sam Loyd (1841-1911) and Napoleon Marache (1815-1875) and were diagrammed in the October 1857 issue p.314/5. Cook and Marache were seasoned composers by then but Loyd was 16 years old and on the verge of problem greatness. There is a delightful write-up of Alain White's visit to Cook in 'Memories of my Chess Board' and also of Sam Loyd's ventriloquism skills to whom he was related.

Marache was a task problemist and one of the very best. Cook's great problem book was 'American Chess Nuts' that appeared in 1868. It was the largest American problem book ever published. Loyd wrote his 'Chess Strategy' which appeared in 1881 and White reproduced it with corrections in his classic 'Sam Loyd and His Chess Problems' 1914 which was one of the Christmas Series.

It was terrific that Fiske was able to get these three top composers to dedicate problems to Philidor who was not a problemist. Fiske was so enthusiastic that he carried everyone along in his 'Chess Monthly'

No.41 Eugene B Cook of Hoboken New Jersey Inscribed to the Memory of Philidor



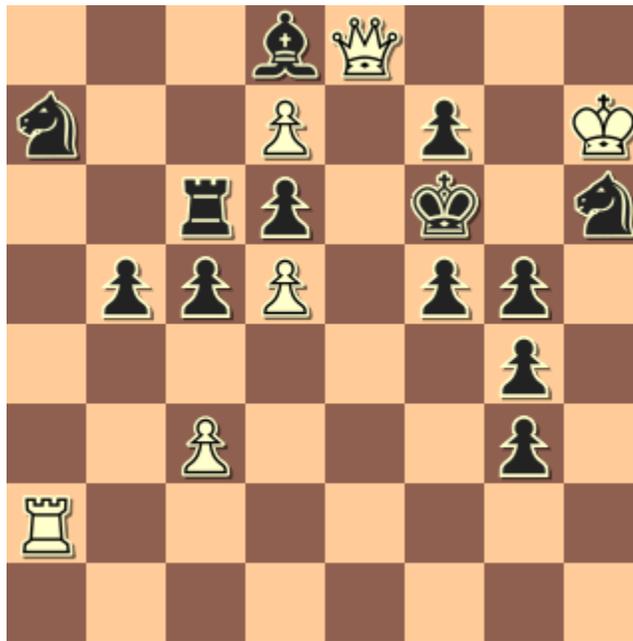
**White to mate in Five (8x8)**

Key 1.Be5 Threat 2.Ng5++

If 1..Rxf2;2.Bg3..Rxf2;3.Bxf2/f2xg3,,d2;4.g8=N..any;4.Ne7++

Or 1..c4;2.Ng5+..Kc5;3.Ka5 threat Nd7/Ne6..any;4.N++ Computer sound

No.42 Sam Loyd of New York The Philidorian



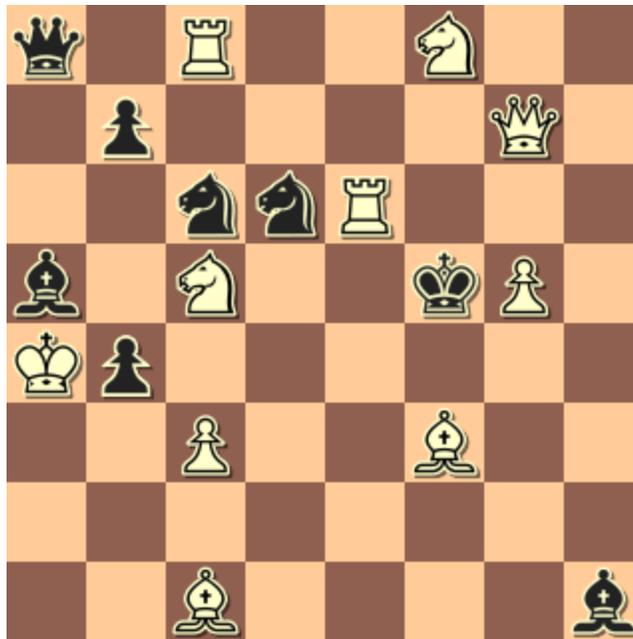
**White to mate in Four (6x13)**

Key 1.Qe1 Threat 2.Re2 & 3.Re6+ & 4.Qe6++

If 1..f4;2.Re2..f3;3.Re6+..Kf5/fxe6;4.Qe6++ Try1 1.Re2?..f4!;2.Kxh6?..f3!;3.?

Beautiful clearance key to sacrifice the Rook for the Queen kill. The Black pawns require 8 captures to diagram so sound. Computer could not test.(Extreme Chess)

No.43 Napoleon Marache of New York “Le Preux Chevalier”

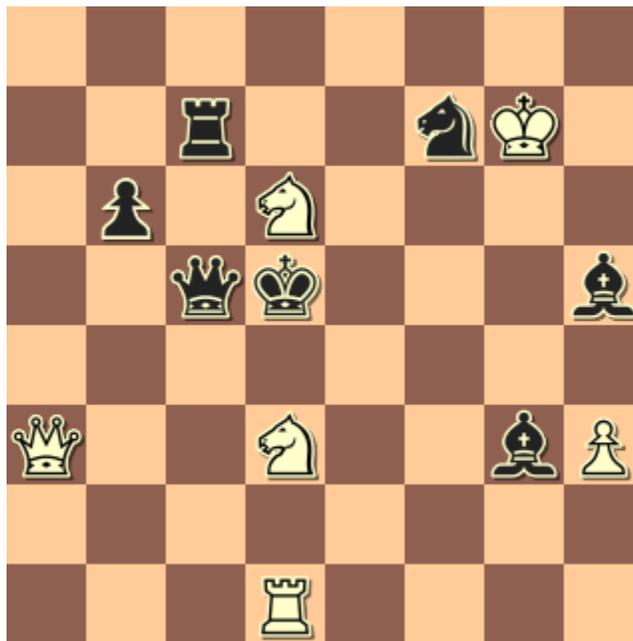


**White to selfmate in Six (10x8)**

Key: 1.Rf6+..Ke5; 2.Qe7+..Nxe7; 3.Ng6+..Nxg6; 4.Bf4+..Nxf4; 5.Nd3+..Nxd3;  
6.Rc5+..Nxc5++

The BN does a circle and is forced to the mate. Not computer checked.

No.44 Napoleon Marache of New York “A La Memoire de Philidor”



**White to mate in Four (6x7)**

Key 1.Nf4+..Ke5;2.Qe3+..Qxe3;3.Rd5+..Kxf4;4.Rf5++  
Or 1..Kc6;2.Qa8+..Rb7/Kd7;3.Qxb7/Qe8++ Computer sound.

The First American Chess Congress opened on sixth October 1857 at Descombes' Rooms No.764 Broadway and the decorations included at the lower end of the rooms the united French and American flags adorned with the honored name of Philidor along with chess pictures and photographs of players. George Allen and Daniel Fiske played prominent roles in the event.

The Philidor series continued into 1858 and another very funny article from Fiske was 'Chess in Hades'. After dining our dreamer finds himself on Charon's small boat and they were soon across the Styx to the land of Hades...*I noticed by the roadside a large building of peculiar construction. At each corner was a lofty tower. In niches next these castellated towers stood huge statues of Knights and Bishops; while supporting either side of the grand entrance were great marble Caryatides representing a stately monarch and his queen. Ranged in front of this ornamented façade, as a sort of fence or protection, was a curious row of bronze foot soldiers eight in number.....* "This," said the descendant of the Sybil, "this is the last home of these unhappy souls who have been madly devoted, during their lives on earth, to the game of chess. Here, through the never ending lapses of eternity, they are compelled to pass their time in the pursuit of that idle amusement which possessed such charms for them during the days of their terrestrial existence. The just gods command them to play chess forever!"  
"Good heavens!" I exclaimed with a shudder, "What a horrible punishment! What are all the pains and terrors of Sisyphus, Ixion and the rest compared to a penalty so terrible, a sentence so shocking. Let us go in and look at the poor wretches."

*And so they entered Hades Chess Club and met LaBourdonnais and McDonnell, and many others watching the two masters play. In another room he found the monarch Philidor, around whose brows were twined a wreath of ivy playing with Stamma. Sir Abraham Janssen, and a host of the great master's contemporaries were viewing the contest. A group nearly as numerous encircled another table at a little distance, where a game was in progress between two great proficients from Modena. They went back to the times of Confucius and Zoraster And the dreamer even played using the Evans Gambit which had not been invented then and winning! Shame on him. There were very ancient players from the followers of Mohammed and zealous supporters of Luther. There is no creed so broad as the orthodoxy of chess. Neither race nor religion, neither age nor caste, neither colour nor climate can shut out from its all-embracing platform the true worshipper in the temple of Caissa.*

*The rooms were all different, some had rare chess volumes such as Caxton and Cessolis and mediaeval manuscripts, some of the chessmen were of walrus ivory. And then they came to the torture ovens numbered one, two, three and four. One was for players who moved hastily. Two for slow players, three for alternative game fanatics and four for outrageous creatures who pestered players with chess problems ad nauseum. Number three torture oven was in use and that seemed a wonderful idea for the real world!*

*Greco agreed and so he must have been cursed by that disease in his day.*

*We thereupon returned to the hall where I had first met Greco, Philidor and Stamma had by that time finished their game and thinking to amuse them with a novelty from our side of the Styx, I*

*called their attention to the Indian problem. Instantly the Syrian and his illustrious competitor with Ponziani, Bruhl, Atwood, Verdoni, Bernard and others, crowded around the board. While they were employed in attempting to discover the solution of this elaborate and beautiful enigma, I caught sight of a vacant table and quietly arranged Loyd's fine three-move position.*

*A very bad move by the dreamer as he had broken Rule FOUR and showed more than one problem to players! There was a cry of "Roast him" but fortunately he woke up in the sofa.*

(It is clear from this story that Rule 4 was invented by Fiske and that he was no fan of chess problems. This article has been much abridged and altered BM)

## CHAPTER 5

### Bibliography of Philidor's Books from the US Chess Monthly.

G.A.Allen's Bibliography from the American Chess Monthly 1858 p.8+ and 40+ It is copied verbatim:-

#### 1. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHILIDOR

[A complete catalogue of all the editions of Philidor has been attempted only by Anton Schmid, keeper of the Imperial Library at Vienna, in his incomparable work on Chess Bibliography (Literature des Schachspiels Gesammelt,geordnet und mit Ammerkungen herausgegeben von Anton Schmid, Custos der k.k.Hofbibliothek. Wien. Carl Gerold, 8 vo. Pp. d 402) Schmid, however, appears to have actually seen only a small part of the editions which he enumerates. His catalogue, therefore, although nearly complete,(Mr. Nathan in the Berlin Schachzeitung for 1848 p.64 has indicated four omissions, and I have found one or two more.) copies the errors of other writers less disposed to accuracy than himself; and, being a mere transcript of titles, would be far from satisfactory, were it not prefaced, as it is, by the whole of the short, but discriminating, article on Philidor in the *Handbuch* of Bilguer and von der Lasa (The *Handbuch* must, however, be mistaken in saying, p.23, that Philidor was *brought up in the house* of M. Legal.) In the following notice, I have thought it important to indicate what I am obliged to copy from Schmid, and what I can vouch for myself:- the remarks are uniformly derived from the examination of such editions as are contained in my own collection]

1. *L'Analyse Des Echecs: Contenant Une Nouvelle Methode Pour apprendre en peu de Tems a se perfectioner dans ce Noble Jeu. Par A.D. Philidor.* Ludimus Effigie Belli. Vida. A Londres,L'An MDCCXLIX – 8 vo (but printed on half-sheets, each having its signature) pp.xxi+1 – 170

Pages iii-v Dedication to the Duke of Cumberland; pp. vi-xi, List of Subscribers (Names, 127 – Copies 433); pp.xii-xxi, Preface, in which (besides an amusing display of classical learning at second-hand) he makes merry with his countrymen for allowing two Queens of the same color on the board at once; pp. 1-59, the four games and their back-games, with very full notes at the foot of the page;pp.60-116, First Gambit (King's Knight's) Second (Bishop's) and Third (Gambit Refused);pp. 117-131, Cunningham Gambit (with a rather boastful heading);pp.132-161, Queen's (or Aleppo) Gambit (Note (a) contains a direct allusion to Stamma);pp.162-167, the celebrated analysis of the checkmate of B. and R. against R.; pp.168-169, Supplement to the fourth Game; and p.170, Errata. –

A handsome volume, well printed on large, thick paper. The orthography (for lack, probably, of a French compositor and corrector) is Philidor's own, and although not so bad as respectability required, at that time, of every Frenchman out of a printing office, is certainly odd enough. The style is singularly fluent, and as "free and easy" as that of Roger North or Tim Brown. The Preface and some of the Notes show, moreover, that if Philidor had no wit, he was still not without a touch of humour and a spirit of pleasantry. He runs naturally into the use of military terms (right and left wing, comrades and sentinels, knights charging lines of pawns, etc); he talks of Black's "taking a fancy" to make such a move (s'il s'visait, s'il s'amusait); he tells you 'it is

your play' to give the *coup de Jarnac* with your Knight, and that then 'the game is up' (*la partie est finie*;) and he even slips into the use of an English designation (Chevalier for *Cavalier*) or an English construction (as "*pousser son pion sur vous*", "*exchanger l'un pour l'autre*" etc)-precious legacies of the *cafes* at the Hague and of the camp at Eyndhoven, and evidences of habitual playing with British officers. One cannot fail of recognising, also, a certain over-confidence of assertion, which may fairly be ascribed as much to the consciousness of being in possession of a consistent theory based on a solid principle, as to the necessary effect of flattering success on a very young man, who was as natural in all his expressions as in his feelings – Reprinted (according to Schmid corrected by Nathan) in 1752, for Arkstee and Merkus, Amsterdam and Leipsic, 8 vo; and also at London, 8 vo. pp.172; at Leipsic in 1754; at Paris in 1762; and at London, again, in 1767. Of these Editions I have only the Leipsic 1754, which is a very neat, small foolscap 8vo. (8ff. unpagged{the second leaf contains a List of thirty subscribers} + pp.1-168) with the imprint A Leipsic, chez Jean Gottl. Imm. Breitkopf. Aux depens de las compagnie. (Note:If this expression means at the expense of the *Subscribers*, it gives the "coup de Jarnac" to one of my arguments for Philidor's visit to Dresden and Leipsic in 1752; and thus, like Victor Hugo's *Ceci tuera cela*,my *Bibliography confutes my Biography*)

II. *Chess analysed; or Instructions by which a Perfect knowledge of this Noble Game may in a short time be acquired.* By A.D. Philidor. London: Printed for J.Nourse, and P. Vaillant, in the Strand. MDCCL. 8vo. (printed on half sheets) pp.xii+ 1-146

A translation in all respects complete, except that it has neither the Dedication nor the List of Subscribers. Reprinted by the same Publishers in 1762, and by F. Wingrave ("Successor to Mr. Norse") in 1791, in the face of Philidor's own third edition of 1790, of which Peter Pratt took Wingrave's to be at the same time an abridgment, an enlargement and an improvement.

III. *Die Kunst im Schachspiel ein Meister zu werden.....gewiesen nach den neuesten Mustern des beruhmten und itzelbenden grossen Schachspielmeisters in England, A.D. Philidor..Strasburg, Verlegts, Amand Konig, Buchandler....8vo.11ff. unpagged + pp. 1-230 (pp.231 -252 Stamma)*

A German translation of Philidor's First Edition, followed by a translation of Stamma in the same volume, printed in 1754, and reprinted (without alteration) in 1764 and 1771. I have the two last. There is a Translator's Preface, the original Dedication, the Preface of the *English* Author, and 16pp. of elementary definitions etc. The translation is made directly and literally from the French, yet the Translation is so preoccupied with the notion of Philidor's being an Englishman, that he translates *parmi mes compatriotes* by *Wir in England*.

IV. *Analyse Du Jeu Echecs; Nouvelle Edition, considerablement augmente. Par A.D. Philidor. Ludimus effigie belli. Vida. A Londres MDCCLXXVII* 8 vo. Large paper. 8ff. unpagged + pp.1-309 + 3ff unpagged (Laws of Chess.) With portrait of Philidor by Bartolozzy.

Philidor's own second edition, published by subscription. The second leaf contains the Dedication *Aux tres illustres et tres respectables Membres du Club des Echecs, par leur tres humble et tres devoue serviteur, A.D. Philidor. A Londre* (the only piece of bad spelling in the volumes) ce 4 Juin, 1777. The long and rather boyish Preface of the first edition is replaced by a

very quiet and gentlemanly one of less than two pages. In pp. 1 -147 (with distinct half-title “*Analyse du Jeu des Echecs, edition de 1749*) Philidor professes simply to reprint the original work “with corrections and new observations.” Not a move, certainly, is changed, curtailed, or added; (Note: I cannot think why Vogt (Letters, p.77) should say that “in the first edition Philidor often continues the game till the final checkmate, but that in the larger one he usually dismisses the game before twenty moves have been played.) and the “new observations” are very few; yet never were Notes more thoroughly made over again. What was loose is made exact and precise; what was over-confidently expressed has been worded more modestly; a caveat is put in against taking the moves as professing to be theoretically the best; and one game, which had before been heralded as a “demonstration,” is now admitted not to have been quite correctly played. Not only have some of the notes suffered a good deal of retrenchment, but many – those of the back games, in particular – have {unfortunately} been dropt altogether. The most striking and amusing feature of these “corrections,” however, is the perfect *auto de fe*, which Philidor, in middle life, with the severe taste of the well-bred man of good company, makes of the slightest phrase, that savored ever so little of the military free and easy-ism, which had so arrided him at twenty-two.- The second part of the volume is entitled “a supplement to the edition of 1749.” Pp. 149-203 give several Openings (all variations of his favourite Bishop’s Game, with the *Giucoco Siciliano*.) Pp. 204-217, Supplement to the First Gambit of the old edition. Pp.226-300, End-Games, including that of B. and R. against R. now illustrated with notes, and completed by giving the preliminary process.

V. Analysis of the Game of Chess; a new edition, greatly enlarged. By A.D. Philidor. Ludimus effigiem belli. VIDA. London: Printed for Elmsley, in the Strand. MDCCLXXV!! 8vo. 2ff, without paging; pp.1-306; Laws of Chess (3ff) Portrait by Bartolozzi. This translation appears to be a new one, and less spirited than that of the first edition.

VI. Praktische Anweisung zum Schachspiel von Andre Danican Philidor. Aus dem Franzosischen. Ludimus effigie belli. VIDA. Gotha, in der Etteringerschen Buchhandlung 1779. 8vo. With Portrait. (Reprinted in 1797, 1810, 1834, and 1840.)

A German translation of Philidor’s second edition made (according to Schmid) by Schak Hiarte Ewald. I have the reprints of 1797 and 1840. All (except the first, which Schmid describes as different) appear to have been in foolscap 8vo. 4ff. unpagged + pp. 1-182 and 1-156 (each *Part* having a distinct paging.) To fill the fourth leaf (for I cannot guess from what other motive) the Translator has appended to the Preface of Philidor a learned *Observation*, wherein he names and characterizes several chess-authors, with just enough of impolitic minuteness to make it was clear as day, that he had never seen a single one of them all.

VII. De Kunst van Schaakspelspeelen, in doelmaatige onderrichtingen, aangewezen, ten nutte van elk, dien het to doen is, om het Schaakbord zoodanig te kennen, als, buiten dit onderwijs, anderezins veele jaaren tijds en eene gestadige oefening vereischt, door PHILIDOR. Met een aantal van Printverbeeldingen, die het beschreevene nog bevatijker maaken. Nieuwe uitgaaf. To Amsterdam bij Hendrik Gartman, 1819. 8vo. 1f. (with half-title Bekwame Handleiding tot het edele Schaakspel) unpagged + pp. I-viii (Advertisement, Philidor’s Preface to his second edition, and the learned Observation of the above described Praktische Anweisung) + 1 – 16

(Introduction) + 1-248 (the whole of Philidor's second edition, with the Preface of the first, and ten engraved plates.)

I have thus given the title of the only Dutch Philidor in my possession. Schmid mentions the same edition, and also what appears to be (but may not be, for the paging is the same,) a different translation, in two editions of 1808 and 1809. Perhaps all three may be reprints of an earlier one of 's Gravenhage, 1786 (Note: There is also another of Amsterdam, 1836. Both of these Mr. von der Lasa has had the kindness to send me, but unfortunately, they have not yet come to hand.)

VIII. ANALYSIS OF THE GAME OF CHESS. By Mr. PHILIDOR. A new edition, improved and greatly enlarged. To which is added, several parties, played by the Author blindfold, against three adversaries. Ludimus effigiem belli. VIDA. London: Printed by P.Elmsley, in the Strand. MDCCXC. 8vo. 2 vols. Vol.I pp.i -xii + 1-223; Vol.II. pp.i-iv + 1-183.

Twiss, writing in 1789 (Chess, Vol.II. pp.217-18) said, that Philidor was then "publishing a new edition of his Chess-book, with additions in English and French" He did not, however, fulfil his intention of putting out his book again in French; (Note: Schmid does, indeed, give a French *Analyse*, etc. *Elmsley, Strand, London, 1790*; but he did not have it before him, (for he does not give the paging.) and he cites authorities, none of which bear him out. He was evidently misled by Twiss's statement of what Philidor intended to do, and by an original piece of carelessness of George Walker's which had been unfortunately backed up by a subsequent misprint. When Mr. Walker published his Catalogue in the *Philidorian* (1838) he made a transition from certain editions, headed with the word *French*, to the *English* edition, therefore, of 1777 (as the paging, although incorrectly given, appears to prove) and to the English edition, therefore, of 1790, without heading them as English. He, however, introduced a dash as a substitute. The dash unluckily slipped out in the Catalogue of 1841; and this Schmid used, with no distrust of either author or printer, and with no thought of the vexation he was preparing for future bibliographers.)

The English version, therefore, of 1790 is Philidor's *original* third edition. The text is the translation of his second edition, here and there retouched, and made rather more idiomatic. A very few slight notes have been added; but the different *Methods of Playing* are now called *Six Regular Parties*; a new back-game on the Second Gambit is given. (Vol.1. pp.92-93); and the Salvio Gambit is further illustrated by a new Second Game (Vol.11. pp.18-24.) Besides this, the three celebrated blindfold matches now appeared for the first time, (Vol.11 pp.131-183,) with a characteristic prefatory note. (Note: Mr. von der Lasa appears not to have given these changes and additions the benefit of considering them in connexion with Twiss's statement, or I think he would not have expressed a doubt, (Handbuch, p.24) whether the edition of 1790 had really been prepared by Philidor himself.)

IX. STUDIES OF CHESS: containing a systematic Introduction to the Game, and the Analysis of Chess, by Mr. A.D. Philidor, with original comments and diagrams. Ludimus effigiem belli:VIDA. Sixth Edition with very considerable additions. London: Printed for Samuel Bagster, No. 15 Paternoster-Row. MDCCCXXV. 8vo. pp.xxiv + 1-536.

As I do not possess the earlier editions of this book, I give the title of the last. It sells with and by the back-title of *Philidor on Chess*; and although it has borne *Studies of Chess* upon its proper

title-page since 1803, (in 1805, 1810, and finally in 1825.) (Note I have what purports to be an edition of 1814, but it is only that of 1810 with two or three cancels and a new title-page. I suspect it to be the same book, (with perhaps, still another title-page) which Schmid gives as a Philidor of 1814, 2 vols. 8v.). It *called* itself originally, in 1801 (what it has always really been,) a veritable *edition* (not a mere reprint) of Philidor's *Analysis*, lying honourably buried under a mausoleum-like mass of introductory, (Note:- The Introduction is an enlargement of Pratt's *Theory of Chess* (1799) stripped unfortunately, of that motley coat, (its original nomenclature,) which had made it, without question, the most divertingly absurd of all Chess-books. That portion of the *Introduction*, (the Essay on the *Scale of Powers*,) which I had taken to be Peter's darling speculation – suggested in his *Theory*, and gradually amplified and beautified in successive editions of his *Studies* – is believed by Mr. von der Lasa (*Handbuch* p.28) to have been written by some other author. The internal evidence still appears to me, however, to be overwhelming. I cannot but suspect, therefore, that the learned German author (although well versed in our language) has been led to deny Pratt's authorship by misapprehending the sense, in which he calls the Essay a "contribution" (ed. Of 1817, p.69.) explanatory, vindicatory, and supplementary matter, most perseveringly piled up by the prince of editors, Peter Pratt, of Lincoln's Inn. To speak only of what is Philidor in all this – Pratt has given the text of 1790, with additions from Wingraves reprint of the first edition, and with many changes of language:- these he professes to have made solely for the sake of perspicuity; but his real aim was to brush up the homely style of Philidor into some likeness to his own, which is a happy cross between *Schoolmaster* – *English and Johnsonese*.

X. Analyse du Jeu des Echecs par A.D. Philidor. Avec une nouvelle Notation abregee et des Planches ou se trouve figuree la situation du jeu pour les Renvois et les Fins de Parties. Par l'auteur des Stratagemes des Echecs. Nouvelle edition ornee du Portrait de l'Auteur., Ludimus effigiem belli. VIDA. A Paris chez Amand Konig, libraire qual des Augustins, No.31. A Strasbourg meme maison de commerce, rue du Dome, No.26. An XI (1803) 12 mo. Pp. xx + 1-148. (With Portrait. Diagrams on separate leaves inserted.)

This edition, by Montigny is remarkable – *First*, for its being the earliest to adopt what may be now called the *continental* notation, by letters and figures – *Secondly*, for a rather bold, but judicious, rearrangement of the matter, together with a delicate and skilful retouching of the language – and, *Thirdly*, for its success...no other edition having been reprinted, or even known, in France, for more than fifty years. In 1820, the property of the edition passed into the hands of Causette, who issued it several times (the dates 1820, 1830, 1835 are given by Schmid.) The transfer to Causette appears to have been the occasion of what I take to have been the speculation of some French pirate, under the false imprint of *Philadelphie* 1821, and also, *Philadelphie* s.a. Causette, in turn, sold the property to Charles Waree, who put out a reprint bearing date 1844, and one or more besides without date. There is no essential difference between these various reprints of Montigny.

XI. Analysis of the Game of Chess, by A.D. Philidor, illustrated by diagrams, on which are marked the situation of the party for the backgames and ends of parties: with Critical Remarks and Notes by the Author of the Stratagemes of Chess. Translated from the last French Edition, and further illustrated with Notes, by W.S.Kenny, Author of Practical Chess Grammar, Chess

Exercises, &c & c. Ludimus effigiem belli. VIDA. London: Printed for T. and J. Allman, Prince's Street, Hanover-Square. 1819 pp.xvi + 1-264  
(Second Edition, 1824)

Well translated from Montigny, but without adopting his notation. Like all of the Allmans' Chess-books, it is beautifully printed.

XII. Analisis del Juego de Ajedrez por A.D. Filidor con una nueva anotacion compendiada y laminas en las cuales esta figurada la situacion del juego par alas llamadas y conclusion de partidae. Edicion aumentada con un tratado de estratagmeas.

Traduccion de D.C. De Algarra. Ludimus effigiem belli. VIDA. Mejico Librareaia de J. Rosa. 1846. 16mo. Pp. + 1-301.

Made from Montigni, (with his notation.) and printed at Paris. The "high Spanish fashion," in which the Translator does his work in the Prologo, is so ludicrously overdone, that I could almost suspect it to be a wicked burlesque.

XIII. Chess rendered familiar by Tabular Demonstrations of the various positions and movements, as described by PHILIDOR. With many other critical situations and moves, and a concise Introduction to the Game, by J.G. Pohlman. With a Frontispiece. Segnius irritant animos demissa per aurem, Quam quae sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus. HORACE. London: Printed for Baldwin, Cradock, and Joy, Paternoster-Row, 1819. Royal 8vo. (2 sig. to each sheet) 4ff unpagged + pp. 1-449.

This book is the edition of 1790, with a Diagram, for every move of the *first* game, and for every "couplet of moves," (as Peter Pratt would say,) of all the other games. The Preface of the First Edition is retained, and some introductory matter is given from Hoyle. The Positions are Stamma's. It is altogether the most delightful of companions for the solitary amateur, and is unique among printed Chess-books. (Note:-The *manuscript* illustrations of this kind, on which Mr. Adam, of Rouen, has laboured for (I believe) twenty years, have been carried to an incredible extent. (*La Regence* for 1856, p.299)

XIV. The celebrated Analysis of the Game of Chess, translated from the French of A.D.Philidor; with Notes and considerable additions, including fifty-six new Chess-Problems, hitherto unpublished in this country. By George Walker, Author of a New Treatise on Chess, &c, &c. London: Whittaker, Treacher and Co. Ave Maria Lane. 1832. 12 mo. (two sig. to a sheet) pp. xxxiii + 1f. (Abbreviations) + 1-146 (Philidor) + 147-251 (Problems and Index)

To the sufficient guarantee of Mr. Walker's name may be added the opinion of Mr. Tomlinson, (*Amusements in Chess*, p.82, n.) that this is the best, as it is certainly the handsomest, of all the English editions of Philidor. Mr. Walker's editorial liberties with his author, however, appear to me to have been carried rather too far. Like Montigny he has rearranged a portion of the matter, (e.g. the Gambit games,) but, unlike Montigny, he has omitted very many of Philidor's Notes, and has cut down pretty freely such as he has retained. His own additional notes, without being at all ambitious, are good and to the purpose. Some of his improvements and one of the best of his Notes (that on Move 54 in Mr. Nowell's Game) are adopted from Pratt, the "quaintness of

whose style” also he has elsewhere commended. If, therefore, I refer Mr. Walker’s favourite bit of Scriptural Syntax (“Castling were better”) to no holier source than honest Peter, I hope I shall not be thought to insinuate against the Chess-Editor of “Bell’s Life,” that  
“His studie is but litel on the Bible.”

XV Das Schachspiel des Philidor; oder Sammlung interessanter Spiele desselben, mit Anmerkungen von ihm selbst und dem Herausgeber J.F. Rust, Quedlinburg und Leipzig, bei Basse. 1834 8vo. pp.106

With the continental notation, (as the *Handbuch* informs us.) I have no other knowledge of the book. (Note: (The Rev. Mr. Pruen’s) *Introduction to Chess* (Cheltenham 1804) contains what is pretty nearly a reprint of Wingrave’s edition of 1791; and the *Easy Introduction* (London 1806, 1809, 1813, and Philadelphia 1824) presents the edition of 1790 in the intolerable notation of the first sixty-four numerals...a disservice, which the *Nouvelle Notation* (Paris 1823) has rendered the edition of Montigny, omitting most of the Ends of Games. The later editions of Hoyle contain a part of the games; and some of the *Academes* (e.g. that of Lyons 1805) give the Philidor of 1749, instead of Greco, for their Chess-section. The games of Philidor are also dispersed through various compilations, such as *Chess Made Easy* (Philadelphia 1802) the *Elements of Chess* (Boston 1805,) Kenny’s *Chess Exercises* (London 1818,) Koch’s *Schachspielkunst* (Magdeburg 1801) and his *Codex* (1b. 1813,) Mauvillon’s *Anweisung* (Essen 1827,) Victor Kafer’s *Anleitung* (Gratz 1842) etc etc. My only *Danish Chess-book*, also (*Underretning om Skak-Spil*, Viberg 1773) gives, for the First Part, the four games of Philidor, very neatly printed – I have not thought, that any such Selections, or even the whole of the *Analysis*, when so associated or so dealt with, deserved a place in my *Bibliography*, among the *Editions* of Philidor, properly so called.- I regret that I do not possess Mr. Petroff’s *Russian* translation and editions of Philidor (St. Petersburg 1802,) and still more do I regret, that *did* I possess it I should be as unable to read and copy, as Mr. Miller to print, so much as its title-page.

## II. PHILIDORIAN LITERATURE

{Under this head I propose to mention the most important helps to the appreciation of Philidor’s skill, and of his peculiar system, as a Chess-player}

1. *A Selection of Games of Chess, actually played by Philidor and his contemporaries: now first published from the original Manuscripts, with Notes and additions*, by GEORGE WALKER. London: Sherwood, Gilbert, & Piper, Paternoster Row, 1835. Small 8vo. pp. xvi + 1-110. Reprinted, without Notes, in Walker’s *Chess Studies*, (1844) Chap IV; and in the *Palamede*, (Tome VII,) with original Notes by M. St. Amant.

II. *Letters d’Informazione sopra il libro del Signor Philidor*. (Lolli, pp.364-368.) By the celebrated *Anonimo Modenese*, Ercole del Rio. A translation of this Letter is given in Mr. Cochrane’s *Treatise* (pp.230-240.) (See Chapter 18 for English translation from Cochrane)

III. *Quelques erreurs de Philidor* (various Numbers of the *Palamede*, Tome V); and *Les Beantes de PHILIDOR. Son Analyse des Echecs, moins ce que le tems a demontre inexact* (various

Numbers of the *Palamede*, Tome VII.) These two series of articles, by M.St. Amant, need only to be put together in the form of a book, to constitute by far the best of all the editions of Philidor. The text, in all but the Notation, is that of Montigny; the Notes have all of M.St.Amant's characteristic neatness and precision; and the spirit in which the work of the great Master is approached is perfect.

IV. *Letters on Chess; containing an account of some of the principal works on that celebrated Game: with copious extracts and remarks; in a series of Letters*, from CARL FREDERICK VOGT. Translated from the German, by U.EWELL. London: Simpkin, Marshall, & Co., Stationers' Hall Court. MDCCCXLVIII. 12mo. pp.viii + 1-134. The author of these valuable Letters (which are *not* translations from the German) is rather a partisan than a critic of the works of the Italian Masters and Mr. Lewis. His review of the *Analysis* (Letters XV and XVI) is, therefore, one-sided and only negatively just. Above all, the tone of sarcasm, which he permits himself to adopt, in reference to so modest and amiable a man, is in the highest degree offensive.

V. *Memoire sur le Principe des Pious, considere comme Principe Fundamental du Jeu des Echecs*. (*Palamede*, Tome IV, pp.202-223.) In this paper, Major Jaenisch, the great Russian theorist, makes a public "profession of that Philidorian Faith," (to use his own expression,) which he holds in common with the great Russian player, Mr. Petroff. Such an act of homage from the author of the *Analyse Nouvelle* is the highest honor that has ever been paid to the memory of Philidor.

VI. *Von des verschiedenen Schach-Schulen*. (*Berliner Schachzeitung* for 1847, pp.247, 284, 324, 339, and for 1848. pp.1, 143, 181, 239.) By Mr. von der Lasa. This elaborate Essay, called forth by the *Memoire* of Major Jaenisch, is not the profession of any particular Chess-creed, but an investigation of the distinctive principles and characteristic tendencies of the different Schools of Chess. The inquiry is conducted with judicial impartiality; and the rare union of English good sense with German profundity, which marks this, like the other works of its author, gives it a rank, with them, as a Chess-classic.

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BM comments: George A.Allen had a very fine collection of books on Philidor and though there are gaps that he may have filled later the Bibliography allows those who do not own many of the works to read about the 1749 French edition, the first English edition in 1750 and the following ones in 1777 and 1790. After Philidor's death the opinion of the various authors does not really help in determining if the 9 games in these early books by Philidor were real games. It would be useful to examine the early works to see if Philidor made any comments on those early games.

The comment by George Walker in his 1835 book where the title specifies games of chess "actually played by Philidor" is much earlier than the Supplement by von der Lasa in Allen's 1863 book, and infers there were games *not* played by Philidor which could include the 9 games in his 1749/50, 1777 & 1790 books. It is not certain.

Also Vogt writes of shortened games in different editions ( See IV in the Bibliography).

My interest in Allen's Bibliography was about the early 1740's games and whether confirmation of von der Lasa's views could be obtained. No.1 the 1749 edition and No.4 the 1777 edition are very desirable items but they appear to throw no light on the 'Reality' or otherwise of the 'Philidor's Own Games' chapters, based on Allen's Bibliography. The surprising feature of the 1777 edition was that it did not include new games by the eminent people promoting that edition nor did it explain the 1749 games that still remained without the names of the opponents. Why was that? It looks logical to include games on the 1770's personages he played with and would have sold further copies if he had been wise in the choice of games. No slaughters that embarrass opponents but good fights that show the opponent did his best. In the 1790 edition some names were given related to the odds games.

On the early editions Cecil Purdy had a copy of the 1762 edition which came to him from his great Uncle James Crake of Hull. He later sold it to an American collector. I was offered a 1749 first edition by Fred Wilson in the mid 1970's for \$300 but did not buy. There seemed to be some variation between the 1749/50 editions and the 1762 edition.

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The Chess Monthly p.292 of 1858 gave a biography of Dutchman Elias Stein (1748-1812) who was considered by some to be a 'Second Philidor' Mauvillon considered him the strongest player in The Netherlands and 'all Europe'. He taught the Princes of Orange. He could play several games at once and played billiards and two chess games together. His superior was never found writes Mauvillon. His book published in 1789 was dedicated to their Highnesses William Frederick and William George Frederic, Princes of Orange and Nassau had a large list of subscribers and was called 'Nouvel Essai le jeu des echecs, avec des reflexions militaires relatives a ce jeu, par. E.Stein ': a la Hague, aux depens de l'auteur. 254 pages. Unfortunately the games in the book were faulty and lacked life and originality according to Fiske. The 1841 edition in Paris rectified that. Did he ever play the 'First Philidor'?

The 1858 year saw the march of Paul Morphy across Europe and Fiske had a nice resume of his visit to the Café de la Regence: *-Behold our young hero in the Café de la Regence! Can we not imagine the shades of Legalle and Philidor, of Bernard and Carlier, of Deschappelles and Labourdonnais looking down with delight upon the youthful inheritor of their laurels?*

The year was also a triumph for the Chess Monthly which followed Morphy's trail with passion. After all Morphy was co-editor of the magazine.

In 1859 on.p.6 was 'Historical Illustrations of the Philidor's Defence *Ruy Lopez, a priest of Zafra, in the Spanish province of Estremadura, the rival and competitor of Leonardo da Cutri and Paoli Boi and the highest ornament of Iberian chess, was the first to recommend the method of play now known as the 'Philidor's Defence'. In his book, 'Libro de la Invencion liberal y Arte del Juego del Axedrez,' first published in Spanish at Alcalá in 1561 and afterwards translated into Italian, French, German and English, he counsels the second player to defend his King's Pawn, when attacked by the adverse Knight, with the Queen's Pawn rather than with the Queen's Knight. The fifteenth chapter of the third portion of his treatise (fol.116) is entitled: 'De otro de guardar el peon del rey contra la offense del cavallo del rey contrario' and*

*his opinion is couched in the following words, which we translate literally. "White plays the King's Pawn as far as it can go; Black plays his King's Pawn as far as it can go. If White then play his King's Knight to Bishop's third, in order to capture the Pawn (the text has 'el bla' evidently a mistake for el neg.) may guard it in the second manner by playing his Queen's Pawn one square, and it is the safest and most free (way of) enabling him to play his pieces; although this did not appear to Damiano so good as the former (that is, QN to c6); firstly, because he had not made himself acquainted with the modes of attack and the difficulties of the former, which are to be seen in preceding games, and secondly, because he had not considered the way or ways in which by this second method of defending the Pawn, he may arrange the game so that the pieces remain free, and the attack of the adversary is weakened. And so it seems to me that this second method of defending with the Queen's Pawn is the best." Carrera appears to prefer to replying to*

*2.KNf3 with 2..QNc6 and so does Salvio. But no writer gives any games played out to the end in this opening until we come to Gioachino Greco, who, nevertheless, as his book sufficiently shows, coincides with the players of the Neapolitan school in condemning the move of 2..d6. This brilliant and original author has often been mentioned as 'The Calabrian', from having passed the years of his youth in the sunny regions of Southern Italy. His work dates from about the year 1615 but the earliest edition to which we have access is that of Paris 1713. From it pages (76-77) we copy the following admirable specimen of Greco's ingenuity. (Changed to algebraic BM)*

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.Bc4..Bg4;4.h3..Bxf3;5.Qxf3..Qf6;6.Qb3..b6;7.Nc3..Ne7;8.Nb5..Na6;  
9.Qa4..Nc5;10.Nxd6+..Kd8;11.Qe8++

*The tenth move of the first player is indeed beautiful. Mr. Lewis truly says of it (Greco of 1819 p.35) that "there are few who would not have preferred taking the Queen's Bishop's Pawn or retreating the Queen."*

*Philidor expressed himself in the first edition of his book (1749) as favorable to the move of 2..d6. Indeed so marked was his belief in its strength, that he thought the move, on the part of the firstplay, of 2.Nf3 altogether inadvisable. In none of his games, that have been preserved, did he ever play it, and, as he impressed his own ideas upon all his contemporaries, his adversaries, in contending against him, never made use of the King's Knight's Opening. Consequently we have no contests of the great master in which he conducted either the attack or defence of the Opening which bears his name. But we give an analysis from his work, which has many excellent points. Philidor, himself, in the supplement to his edition of 1790, seems, in some measure, to have altered his opinion and corrects the mistake made at the sixth move of White by making him play the proper move, namely 6.e6.*

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.d4..f5;4.dxe5..fxe4;5.Nf5..d5;6.f4..Bc5;7.c4..c6;8.Nc3..Ne7;  
9.h4..h6;10.Nh3..0-0;11.Na4..Bb4+;12.Bd2..Bxd2+;13.Qxd2..d4;14.c5..b5;  
15.cxb6ep..a7xb6;16.b3..Be6;17.Be2..Nf5;18.Ng1..Ng3;19.Rh2..e3;20.Qb2..d6;  
21.Bf3..Rxf4;22.0-0-0..fRxa4;23.bxa4..Rxa4;24.a3..Rc4+;25.Kb1..Rc2;26.Qb4..Na6;  
27.Qf4..Nc5;28.Qxg3..Ba2+;29.Ka1..Nb3++  
(BM This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Back Game to Game 3 given earlier on p.13.Weak White play.)

*During his life-time the theory of Philidor was severely criticized by Del Rio, the celebrated 'Anonimo modenese', who in a letter to his friend Lolli, which was published in 1763, defends the Knight's Opening with the logical clearness that might be expected from a man of his legal attainments. He says in one place, "I call this move (Black 2..d6) worse, inasmuch as it confines the King's Bishop....and because it often happens that you are obliged to push the Queen's Pawn two squares, for which object you employ two moves, when only one might be sufficient; and lastly, because by defending with the Queen's Knight at Bishop's third square, you bring a piece into play, in a position to act much better than it could certainly be supposed to do at its own square; by which it is seen in practice, that he who defends, at the second move, his King's Pawn with that of the Queen has at least a weak and confined game for a long time." Ponziani too agrees with his famous friend. And even some of Philidor's own pupils ventured to differ from his opinions if we may judge by the following entertaining skirmish:*

### **Atwood v Wilson**

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.d4..f5;4.dxe5..fxe4;5.Ng5..d5;6.e6..Nh6;7.Nc3..c6; 8.gNxe4..dxe4;  
9.Qh5+..g6;10.Qe5..Rg8;11.Bxh6..Bxh6;12.Rd1..Qe7;13.Bc4..b5;14.Bb3..a5;  
15.Nxe4..a4; 16.Nf6+..Kf8;17.Nxg8..Kxg8;18.Rd8+..Qxd8;19.e7++

*And Mr. Wilson of course resigns. The terminating moves of the first player are certainly very pretty. In fact, George Wilson, Fellow of the Antiquarian Society, to whom we are in a measure indebted for the preservation of many of Philidor's games, appears to have been a chessplayer of great ability and somewhat ahead of his age. He seems to have been almost the only one of the immortal Frenchman's disciples who did not strictly endorse their great master's theory in reference to the weakness of the King's Knight's game. Several others of his battles are extant, where he played this now popular opening.*

*Looking over the 'Amateurs', Stein, Allgaier and Sarratt, we find nothing worthy of note until we arrive at the bold and daring Cochrane, the old man who is still living in farthest India, and whose strange reappearance upon the British chess stage in 1841, after an absence of more than twenty years is still fresh in our minds. In his best days, more than a score and a half years back, he played this dashing game. The readers will remove White's Queen's Knight before commencing to examine it.*

### **Cochrane giving QN odds v Amateur**

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.c3..Be6;4.d4..exd4;5.cxd4..c6;6.Bd3..Nd7;7.0-0..f6;8.Nh4..Bf7;  
9.f4..g5;10.fxg5..fxg5;11.Rxf7..Kxf7;12.Qh5+..Ke7;13.Nf5+..Ke6;14.Bc4+..d5;  
15.exd5+..cxd5;16.Bxd5+..Kxd5;17.Qf3+..Ke6;18.d5+..Kf6;19.Nd6+..Kg7;  
20.Qf7+..Kh6;21.Nf5++

*This is a good example of the style in which Mr. Cochrane used to delight. When the noble 'Handbuch' of Bilguer and Von der Lasa appeared in 1843 the following judgement was passed upon the Philidor's Defence: "Black's centre Pawns can always be broken up to the advantage of his adversary, and it follows, therefore, that d7-d6 is no good defence, since it shuts in the Bishop at f8, while White by 3.Bf1-e4 or still better by 3.d2-d4 can freely develop his game,"*

*and, in support of their belief, this fine encounter, between two distinguished members of the Prussian school, was cited, among many others.*

### **Mayet v Hanstein**

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.d4..f5;4.dxe5..fxe4;5.Ng5..d5;6.e6..Nh6;7.c4..c6;8.cxd5..Qxd5;  
9.Qxd5..cxd5;10.Nc3..Bb4;11.Bd2..Bxc3;12.Bxc3..0-0;13.0-0-0..Rf5;14.e7..Bd7;  
15.Ne6..Nc6;16.Nc7..Rc8;17.Nxd5..Be6;18.Bc4..Na5;19.Nf6+..Rxf6;20.Rd8+..Rf8  
21.Pxf8=Q++

*Black of course at his seventh move should have checked with his Bishop instead of moving his Bishop's Pawn*

*But our limited space will not allow us to follow the subject much further. Boden, a late authority, says, in his instructive little book issued in London, in 1851: "Our conclusion respecting the Philidorian Defence, is that it cannot be considered untenable. It cannot be denied that it gives the second player a close game – that you will get an attacking situation. But be it remembered that a cramped game is not necessarily a lost one – no such thing. He must be content to conduct a slow defence and develop gradually." We all of us have played over and over with pleasure the games between Morphy and Barnes, where the former employs the defence, and the contests of Morphy with Harrwitz and Baucher, in which the American conducts the attack. The Philidor's Defence is just now rapidly rising in public estimation, owing, perhaps, to the strong assaults which grow out of the Evans Gambit. Close games, too, are falling into disrepute under a new order of things. It is possible that the debut of which we have been treating may come to be regarded, for the next ten years, in the light of a compromise, being the closest of all the open games and the most open of all close games.'*  
p.180 of 1859 CM featured 'A New Error by Philidor'

This was the sixth back game in the Queen's Gambit (p.33 Vol.2 1804 Ed. By Pratt)  
The initial moves are:-1.d4..d5;2.c4..dxc4;3.e4..e5;4.d5..f5;5.Nc3..Nf6;6.f3..Bc5;  
7.Na4..Bxg1;8.Rxg1..0-0;9.Nc3..fxe4 reaching the diagram on p.180:-

The following position occurs in Philidor's analysis of the Queen's Gambit, sixth variation. If he takes the King's doubled Pawn with his Bishop's Pawn his game is lost. So Philidor says, and gives the following example in support of his opinion:-



White to play his 10<sup>th</sup> move (12x15)

10.fxe4..Nxe4;11.Nxe4..Qh4+;12.Ng3..Bg4;13.Be2..Qxh2;14.Rf1..Qxg3+;15.Kd2..Nd7;  
16.Rxf8..Rxf8;17.Qe1..Rf2 wins.

*But I think that White's error consists in his 13<sup>th</sup> moves; instead of covering his Queen with the King's Bishop, he ought to have advanced the Queen to Queen's second, etc.*

13.Qd2..Qxh2;14.Qe3..Qh4;15.Bxc4

And White has a good game with a Knight more.Louis Centurini Genoa Italy March 1859.

p.290 New Games by Philidor

*One of the New York newspapers will publish in a few weeks six hitherto entirely unknown contests between Philidor and two of his contemporaries. They were played on three different occasions, two games at a time, without sight of the boards. His adversaries, to each of whom he gave Pawn and Move, were Count Bruhl and Mr. Jennings, two of the strongest players of the day. The games possess peculiarities of the great master not perceptible in his published contests. Simultaneously with their appearance in the New York journal alluded to, they will be published in the pages of the 'Chess Monthly'. Not one of the least curious things connected with this singular scacco-literary discovery is the fact, that these games should come to light, more than half a century after the distinguished Frenchman's death, in a land where Chess, in his day, was almost unknown.*

These games appeared in the Chess Monthly 1860 p.15,46 & 78. The games manuscript was owned by G.A.Allen.

p.295 A monthly magazine called 'The Philidorian' commenced in July in Charleston South Carolina. Fiske wished the new aspirant a long and prosperous existence.

p.300 *Lives of Chess Men - George Atwood.*

*(Fiske wrote:-We have endeavoured to make our sketch of Atwood's life, fuller than any heretofore published. We are indebted to Rose (whose language we have frequently used), Chalmers, the 'Philosophical Transactions', Thomson's 'Royal Society', the 'Gentleman's Magazine', the 'Encyclopedia Metropolitana', and for many chess details to Walker. We have been enabled to rectify some of the errors in dates of previous biographers. Atwood's reputation during the past few years seems to have been on the increase, and much attention has of late been given to his works by men of science.)*

*George Atwood, an eminent mathematician and physicist and a chess-player of note, was born in the parish of St. Clement Danes, London, in the early part of the year 1746. He entered Westminster School in 1759, whence he was elected to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1765. Here he took his baccalaureate degree with distinction, in 1769, his name being third on the list of wranglers, and subsequently, his master's degree in 1772, and became afterwards a tutor and fellow of his College. He was chosen a fellow of the Royal Society on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1776, and was formally admitted a member of that distinguished scientific body on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, in the same year. In July, 1784, he received from the British government the sinecure office of a searcher into the customs. He died, unmarried, at his residence in Westminster, in July, 1807 in his sixty-second year, and was interred on the eleventh of the month in St. Margaret's church, Westminster, under the shadow of the great Abbey.*

*For many years Atwood enjoyed a large celebrity as a lecturer on Natural Philosophy at the University of Cambridge, and was distinguished for the grace of his manner and the ease of his delivery, no less than for the excellence of the illustrative apparatus which he employed. He invented the machine which bears his name, and which is still in common use among scientific men, for the purpose of exhibiting experimentally the uniform action of the force of gravity at the surface of the earth. It was a happy conception, and though it must be admitted that the proof afforded by this ingenious instrument is not without a certain degree of inconclusiveness, it is the most elegant illustration that has ever been devised. At these lectures, which were largely attended, the younger Pitt was, for several terms, one of Atwood's most constant and attentive auditors, and the future Statesman entertained a high opinion of the natural philosopher's ability and integrity. When, in 1784, the son of the great Chatham became the head of the English administration, he employed Atwood as his private secretary for financial affairs; and most of the details, if not the principles, of the various schemes for raising money for the public service were laid down by him. He now made the metropolis his permanent residence. Even before he entered upon the duties of his new place, he had enjoyed a pension of 500 pounds a year, professedly for his scientific eminence; but there is reason to believe that it was, in fact, a remuneration for services of a financial nature, performed for the government, while he still held his professorship at the University. Upon assuming his duties under Pitt, the nominal office mentioned above, with a comfortable salary attached, was conferred upon him.*

*As a chess-player Atwood was a skilful practitioner and an enthusiastic admirer of the game, to which, during the maturer years of his life, he devoted a large portion of his leisure. He was equally fond of its theory and its practice. There are no less than thirty-two of his games extant, fought, as far as we can learn, between the years 1793 and 1800. Of these, fourteen were played, at various odds, with Philidor; seven, in which Atwood received the odds of Pawn and Two Moves or of Queen's Knight for Two First Moves, were contested against Verdoni; ten took place on even terms with Wilson; and one, an even contest, between Atwood and Cotter. In regard to theoretical knowledge he seems to have been, in some respects, in advance of his age. Among all the contemporaries and immediate followers of Philidor, he alone recognised the beauty and strength of the King's Knight's Game, which has become so great a favorite with the analysts of a later and more learned age Bruhl, Bowdler, Seymour, and all the other noted men of the period, blindly imitated the example and obeyed the teachings of Philidor, in preferring the King's Bishop's Game or King's Gambit; but Atwood, even before his great master's death, employed the then unpopular opening, and afterward practised it with a singular fondness. We find it used in every one of his even contests that have been given to the light, whenever he had the first move. In the following train of play in the 'Philidor's Defence',*

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.d4..f5;4.dxe5..fxe4;5.Ng5..d5;6.e6..Nh6;7.Nc3..c6;8.gNxe4

*The ingenious sacrifice of the Knight was introduced by Atwood. Walker pronounced this innovation to be "highly creditable to his general talent as a chess-player". But the services of Atwood, which will meet with heartiest recognition from chess lovers of the present time, were the pains he took to rescue from oblivion the combats of Philidor and his school. At a day when such a thing as the recording of games was hardly known, when even Philidor himself cared to preserve less than a dozen of his contests, Atwood determined that a portion at least of the famous chess-battles of the latter years of the eighteenth century should not be lost to posterity. Being a frequent attender at Parsloe's, in St. James's street- then the seat of the chief club of the British capital and the scene of many a memorable mimic fight – he copied down such of the games as he witnessed, which seemed to him to be of sufficient interest. These have been transmitted, a precious boon to aftertimes. With them has come a mass of manuscripts from the same pen, filled with analytical matter of which we know little, since no portion has ever been made public.*

*(How many of Atwood's games still exist unpublished in the hands of Mr. George Walker we know not. That eminent chess writer would confer a great favor upon lovers of the game by giving further accounts of the Atwood's MSS and their present state. Even inferior games, played more than half a century back, possess sufficient historical value to warrant their publication. The same remark applies to Atwood's analyses. Will not Mr. Walker oblige a public, which has many reasons to be grateful to him, by putting the entire unprinted remainder of the MSS in the way of seeing the light?)*

*The following games are among those which were played by Atwood against Verdoni, Wilson, and Cotter. After running through them we think that our readers will agree with us, that few of the contemporaries of Philidor have evinced more genuine chess talent or a greater inventive spirit. Atwood's powers as a practitioner appear to have reached the summit of their excellence two or three years after Philidor's death.*

Philidor's Defence Atwood (white) vs Wilson (black) Played 11 Feb. 1795  
1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.d4..Bg4;4.dxe5..Bxf3;5.Qxf3..dxe5;6.Bc4..Qd7;7.Qb3..c6;

8.a4..Bd6;9.0-0..Nf6;10.Nc3..0-0;11.Be3..Kh8;12.aRd1..Nh5;13.Rxd6..Qxd6;  
14.Qxb7..Nd7;15.Rd1..Qb8;16.Rxd7..Qxb7;17.Rxb7..f5;18.Rxa7 wins.

Fiske states Atwood mourned Philidor's death in August 1795 and did not play chess again until late January 1796.

Sicilian Defence Wilson (white) vs Atwood (black) Played 29 Dec. 1796

1.e4..c5;2.f4..Nc6;3.Nf3..e6;4.c3..d5;5.e5..Be7;6.d4..Nh6;7.Be3..b6;8.bNd2..Bh4+;  
9.Bf2..Bxf2+;10.Kxf2..0-0;11.Bd3..f6;12.g3..fxe5;13.dxe5..Bb7;14.Qc2..g6?;  
15.Bxg6..Qe7;16.Bh5..d4;17.Ne4..Nf5;18.Nf6+..Kh8;19.g4..Ne3;20.Qd2..Nc4;  
21.Qc2..c6Nxe5;22.fxe5..Nxe5;23.g5..Rxf6;24.gxf6..Qxf6;25.Qe2..Rf8;  
26.aRel..Qh4+;27.Kf1..Nxf3;28.Bxf3..Rxf3+;29.Kg1..Rg6+; Black mates in 2.

Philidor's Defence Atwood (white) vs Wilson (black) Played 4 Aug. 1798

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.d4..f5;4.dxe5..fxe4;5.Ng5..d5;6.e6..Nh6;7.Nc3..c6;8.gNxe4..dxe4;  
9.Qh5+..g6;10.Qe5..Rg8;11.Bxh6..Bxh6;12.Rd1..Qe7;13.Bc4..a6;14.0-0..Bg7;  
15.Qxe4..Bxc3;16.bxc3..Rf8;17.fRe1..Qf6;18.e7..Bd7;19.exf8=Q+..Kxf8;  
20.Rxd7..Nxd7;21.Re3..Nc5;22.Qf3..Qxf3;23.Rxf3+ and white ultimately won.

Philidor's Defence Atwood (white) vs Wilson (black) n.d.

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.d4..f5;4.dxe5..fxe4;5.Ng5..d5;6.e6..Nh6;7.Nc3..c6;8.gNxe4..dxe4;  
9.Qh5+..g6;10.Qe5..Rg8;11.Bxh6..Bxh6;12.Rd1..Qe7;13.Bc4..Bg7;14.Qxe4..Rf8;  
15.Nb5..cxb5;16.Bxb5+..Nc6;17.Bxc6+..bxc6;18.Qxc6+..Bd7;19.Qxa8+..Qd8;  
20.exd7+ wins.

Philidor's Defence Atwood (white) vs Wilson (black) n.d.

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.d5..f5;4.dxe5..fxe4;5.Ng5..d5;6.e6..Nh6;7.Nc3..c6;8.gNxe4..dxe4;  
9.Qh5+..g6;10.Qe5..Rg8;11.Bxh6..Bxh6;12.Rd1..Qe7;13.Bc4..b5;14.Bb3..a5;  
15.Nxe4..a4;16.Nf6+..Kf8;17.Nxg8..Kxg8;18.Rd8+ wins.

Queen's Bishop's Pawn's Defence Cotter (white) vs Atwood (black) n.d.

1.e4..e5;2.Bc4..c6;3.Nf3..d5;4.exd5..cxd5;5.Bb5+..Bd7;6.Bxd7+..Nxd7;7.0-0..Bd6;  
8.d3..Ne7;9.Nc3..0-0;10.Ng5..h6;11.Nf3..f5;12.h3..g5;13.Nxg5..hxg5;14.Bxg5..Rf7;  
15.Nxd5..Qf8;16.Qf3..Qg7;17.Nxe7+..Bxe7;18.Bxe7..Rxe7;19.Qxf5..Rf8;  
20.Qe4..Nf6;21.Qe2..Nd5;22.aRe1..Rf6;23.Kh2..Rg6;24.Qe4..Nf4;25.g3..Qh6;  
26.gxf4??..Qxh3+ wins

Odds of Black's f7 pawn + 2 moves Atwood (white) vs Verdoni (black) 16 Feb.1800

1.e4....;2.d4..e6;3.Bd3..c5;4.d5..d6;5.c4..e5;6.f4..exf4;7.Bxf4..Nf6;8.e5..dxe5;  
9.Bxe5..bNd7;10.Bc3..Be7;11.Nf3..0-0;12.Bf5..Nb6;13.Bxc8..Rxc8;14.b3..bNd7;  
15.bNd2..Bd6;16.0-0..a6;17.Ng5..Re8;18.Ne6..Qe7;19.Nf3..Qf7;20.Qd2..Qg6;  
21.aRe1..Qh5;22.Qd3..Qh6;23.Bd2..Qh5;24.Re2..Re7;25.fRe1..cRe8;26.Bc3..Ng4;  
27.g3..gNf6;28.Be5..Nxe5;29.Nxe5..Ng4;30.Nxg4..Qxg4;31.Rf2..b6;32.eRf1..Ra7;  
33.Rf5..h6;34.Kg2..Rxe6;35.dxe6 wins

Odds of Black's f7 pawn + 2 moves Atwood (white) vs Verdoni (black) 14 April 1798

1.e4....;2.d4..e6;3.Bd3..c5;4.d5..d6;5.c4..e5;6.f4..exf4;7.Bxf4..Nd7;8.e5..dxe5;

9.Qh5+..Ke7;10.Bg5+..gNf6;11.Nc3..a6;12.Nh3..Qb6;13.0-0..Qxb2;14.Ne4..Qd4+;  
15.hNf2..b6;16.aRd1..a5;17.d6+..Kd8;18.Bb1..Qxc4;19.Ng4..h6;20.Bxf6+..Nxf6;  
21.gNxf6..gxf6;22.Nxf6..Qe6;23.d7..Bxd7;24.Rxd7+..Qxd7;25.Nxd7 wins.

Atwood won 4/1 at these odds of published games.

*The personal character of Atwood was altogether lovely. We have already noticed his pleasing manners in the cathedra; he evinced the same grace and urbanity in private life, and was uniformly courteous towards all with whom he came in contact. He must have been a charming antagonist over the board, thoroughly gentlemanly whether he won or was worsted. He was, as we are told, fully versed in the theory and practice of music, of which he was so passionately fond, that, on one occasion, he superintended a concert at Cambridge, in aid of a charitable institution; in this concert the most eminent professional performers of the day took part. It is possible that his love of the musical art may have been the original cause of his acquaintance with Philidor. We regret to add that the last years of his life were spent in much suffering, on account of infirmities produced by intense mental labor. He indulged in no amusement except such as was afforded by the continued exercise of his mind, changing only the object; for the laborious game of chess occupied, under the name of a recreation, the hours which he could spare from his almost unremitting devotion to more productive exertions. He became paralytic some time before his death, and although he partially recovered his health, he did not live to complete his sixty-second year. His powers of application were very great, and his accuracy as a calculator was probably never surpassed. This faculty, however, when strongly indulged, precludes the cultivation of the inventive powers, and although it may render a man useful, it can never make him great. Atwood's earliest treatise (on Rectilinear motion) was, in every respect, his best. The subsequent decline which is plainly visible in his scientific efforts must be attributed rather to the pursuits to which he was induced, by the friendship and patronage of Pitt, to give up his time and attention, than to any want of natural capacity to enter upon higher enquiries, and more original researches.*

### **Bibliography Atwoodiana**

*'A Description of Experiments to Illustrate a Course of Lectures'. Cambridge 8vo.  
This was the first of Atwood's publications, and appeared probably in 1775 or 1776. It was afterwards greatly enlarged and issued under the following title:-*

*'An Analysis of a Course of Lectures on the Principles of Natural Philosophy, read in the University of Cambridge': 1784. 8vo.*

*This is a syllabus of Atwood's Cambridge lectures; it gives us a glimpse of the state of science in the University at that time. That it possessed value of a certain kind, is proved by its translation into some of the continental languages.*

*'Treatise on the Rectilinear Motion and Rotation of Bodies, with a Description or Original Experiments relative to the Subject.' London :1784 Royal 8vo.*

*This celebrated treatise long maintained a high reputation, but as is frequently the case, where a work is for a while estimated above its merits, it afterwards sank into unmerited neglect. There is, unfortunately, nothing so evanescent as mathematical costume, and a change in taste, so far*

*as regards notation and phraseology, often consigns works of the highest rank to an undeserved oblivion. In Atwood's own University, the history of mathematics furnishes numberless justifications of the truth of this assertion. Even Newton's 'Principia' is banished from Cambridge; and can we wonder that the able, though somewhat inelegant work of Atwood should share the same fate? His book contains many germs of thought, which would amply repay even the reader of the present day for the time spent in its perusal.*

*'A Review of the Statutes and Ordinances of Assize, which have been established in England from the 4<sup>th</sup> year of King John, 1202, to the 37<sup>th</sup> of his present Majesty.' London: 1801. 4to. Atwood's researches concerning the history of the Assize of Bread, must have required the employment of great diligence. The whole subject was a novel one, and the selection of authorities and citations gave the author an opportunity of displaying a rare critical judgement.*

*'A Dissertation on the Construction and Properties of Arches'. London 1801-4 4to. 'A Supplement, forming a Second Part'. London 1805. 4to.*

*This work was occasioned by the project of rebuilding London Bridge, then under discussion. There seems much probability in Hutton's assertion that Atwood had only then turned his attention to the subject, as many of the propositions which he produces as new, were well known to those who had given much study to the subject. He was, perhaps, attracted to the theme by its similarity to those of his early predilection. Be that as it may, it is certain that his two tracts on the arches of bridges are the least valuable of his writings.*

*Besides the above, and his chess manuscripts, which display a vast amount of diligence and care, a Treatise on Optics is mentioned by Nichols as having been partly printed by Bowyer, in 1776, but never completed. Atwood is known by four important papers, which he published in the 'Philosophical Transactions' of the Royal Society. Their titles are as follows:*

*'A General Theory for the Mensuration of the Angle subtended by two Objects, of which one is observed by Rays, after two Reflections from Plane Surfaces, and other by Rays coming directly to the Spectator's Eye'. ('Philosophical Transactions', 1781,II,pp. 395-435.) This was read before the Royal Society June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1781.*

*'Investigations, founded on the Theory of Motion, for determining the Times of Vibrations of Watch Balances'. ('Philosophical Transactions, 1794,I, pp.119-168.) Atwood presented this paper to the Society February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1794.*

*'The Construction and Analysis of Geometrical Propositions, determining the Positions assumed by Homogeneous Bodies, which float freely, and at rest, on a Fluid Surface; also determining the Stability of Ships, and of Floating Bodies'. (Philosophical Transactions' 1796, I, pp.46-130.) The author, for this paper, which was read February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1796, received the high honor of the Society's Copleian Medal for that year.*

*'A Disquisition on the Stability of Ships'. (Philosophical Transactions, 1798,II, pp201-310.) This was read March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1798. It, like all his papers before the Royal Society, is somewhat tainted by the lecture style of composition; but they all manifest great ingenuity and research, although they are marked by a want of mathematical power to grapple with his problems in the best manner. At the same time we cannot condemn this; it was the general weakness of the scientific men of his time, or at least of the scientific men of England.*

.....

p.360 *The project of the enthusiastic 'Philidorian' to erect a monument over the remains of Philidor is worthy of all praise. But we believe that the precise locality of the great Frenchman's last resting-place is altogether unknown. The proposed memorial might be set up, however, at his birthplace, Dreux.*

Chess Monthly 1860

p.15+ **UNPUBLISHED GAMES OF PHILIDOR**

*(The original is in the possession of Professor George Allen of Philadelphia, to whose unvarying kindness we are indebted for an accurate copy.)*

*The manuscript from which the following games, and others to be published hereafter, are taken, bears about it every mark of authenticity. It is entitled:*

*'Six Games at Chess, played by Mr. Philidor against Count Bruhl and Mr. Jennings. N.B. Philidor dictated to two players at the same time, without seeing either Board; and also gave King's Bishop's Pawn, and Move.*

*The games appear to have been recorded at the time, either by one of the players or by an eye-witness. Concerning their date we shall have something to say at a future time. This much may now, however, be stated – that they are, probably, much earlier than those recorded by Atwood, and perhaps even older than those blindfold encounters which were given to the world by Philidor himself. Meanwhile we commend the games to the careful attention of our readers. Both the excellence of the contests and the fact that they are new specimens of the skill of the great master of the eighteenth century should procure for them a close and studious examination.*

(OECEG gives a date of 1790 with Morphy as the note giver BM)

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GAME CCLXXX111 – ODDS OF PAWN AND MOVE. GAME 1

Bruhl (white) Philidor (black) take off the f7 pawn. (Changed to algebraic BM)

1.e4..Nh6

This was Philidor's favorite defensive move in giving these odds. It is not a bad one, but has strangely enough, latterly fallen into disuse.

2..d4..Nf7;3..Bc4..e6;4..Bb3..

Evidently fearing 4...d5. The Bishop is now comparatively inactive. White would have found that 4.Qe2 would have answered the same purpose, and would have been, in other respects, better, bringing as it does an additional piece into play.

4..d5;5..e5..c5;6..c3..Nc6;7..f4..Qb6;8..Nf3..Be7;9..Bc2..Bd7;10..b3..cxd4;11..cxd4..Bb4+;  
12..Kf2..g5.

An excellent move on the part of Black, since, play as White may, Black must now obtain an additional file for his Rooks.

13.Be3..

It is quite clear that the Pawn could not be captured to advantage, as Black could have gained the King's Pawn in return, obtaining an extremely favorable game. But White was, nevertheless, wrong in allowing the strength of his centre Pawns to be thus broken, he ought to have supported them by 13.g3

13...gxf4;14.Bxf4..Rf8

Threatening to win the King's Pawn.

15.Be3..h6;16.h4...

White's object, of course is to prevent 16...Ng5 on the part of Black.

16...0-0-0;17.a3..Be7;18.Qd3..Rg8;19.bNd2..dRf8;20.Qc3..Kb8;

Black should properly have played 20.fNxe5 at once

21.Rh3..fNxe5

This appears to have been played to utter unconsciousness of the impending danger.

22.dxe5..d4;23.Nc4..dxe3+;24.Nxe3..

Had he instead captured the checking Pawn with Queen, Black, by exchanging Queens, Would have won either the King's or the King's Knight's Pawn.

24..Bc5;25.b4?

A very bad move, but White's game was already past redemption. The only move to prolong the contest would have been 25.Re1. Black would then have continued 25.Bd4 and so on.

25..Bxe3+;26.Qxe3..Rxc2+;27.Kxc2..Qxe3;28.Re1..Qf4;29.Re4..Qc1;30.Ne1..Ne7;

31.Rc4..Qxe1;32.Bd3..Rf2+;33.Kg3..Qg1++

The game is an interesting one, and with the exception of a slight flaw at his twentieth moves, is played with great elegance by Philidor.

#### Game CCLXXXIV - ODDS OF PAWN AND MOVE GAME 2

Jennings (white) vs Philidor (black) take off the f7 pawn.

1.e4..c5

This defensive move is seldom practiced at the present day. It is scarcely to be commended, for although it enables Black to free his pieces at once, it entails the sacrifice of a second Pawn.

With correct after-play this numerical superiority force should give the victory to White.

2.Qh5+..g6;3.Qxc5..Nc6;4.Qe3..

Modern analysis has shown 4.Qc4 is best.

4..e5;5.Bc4..Nf6;6.Nc3

This is not a good move, since it allows Black to obtain a very favorable game by 6..Nd4, followed by 7..Bc5. The proper play was 6.c3

6..Nd4;7.Bb3..Bc5;8.Qg5..d6;9.d3..Be6;10.Be3..

White here again plays without sufficient consideration. As will subsequently be seen, the move in the text loses a piece.10.Bxe6 was the correct play.

10..Bxb3;11.Bxd4..exd4;12.axb3..dxc3;13.bxc3..Bxf2+;14.Ke2..Bb6;15.Nh3..0-0;

Black, with a piece more and the preferable position, has now an easy game before him.

16.hRf1..Qe7;17.Nf4..aRe8;18.h4..Qe5;19.Nh3..Qxc3;20.aRc1..d5;21.h5..dxe4;

22.hxg6..exd3+;23.Kd1..Be3;24.gxh7+..Kh8;25.Qg8+..Ncxg8;26.h7xg8=Q+..Kxg8;

27.Rxf8+..Kxf8;28.cxd3..Qd2++

This game it will be remembered, was played at the same time as the preceding. Philidor seeing neither board. The distinguished master's play throughout this second contest is excellent scarcely admitting of any comments.

#### GAME CCXCII – ODDS OF PAWN AND MOVE GAME 3

Bruhl (white) Philidor (black) take off the f7 pawn

1.e4..e6;2.d4..d5;3.e5..c5;4.Bb5+?

This is weak; the proper play at this stage of the opening is 4.Bd3

4..Nc6;5.Ne2..cxd4;6.Bxc6+..bxc6;7.Qxd4..Qb6

7..c5 seems a stronger move.

8.0-0..Bc5;9.Qg4..g6;10.c3..a5;11.Nd4..Kf7;12.b3..Bd7;13.Na3..h5;14.Qd1.Ne7;

15.aNc2..Nf5;16.Nxf5..gxf5;17.Be3..Bxe3;18.fxe3..aRf8;19.Nd4..c5;20.Nxf5..

A sacrifice which should have cost the game.

20..exf5;21.Qxd5+..Be6;22.Rxf5+..

Black's next move was evidently played without due consideration; for 22...Kg6 would have won the game.

22...Ke7;23.Qd6+..Qxd6;24.exd6+..Kxd6;25.Rd1+..Kc6;26.Re5..Re8;27.c4..Rh7;

28.e4..Rd7;

A very pardonable error in blindfold play. With the board before him Philidor would have probably moved 28...hRe7

29.dRd5..Rd6;30.Rxh5..

Much better would have been 30.Rxc5+

30..Bd7;31.Rxd6+..

Again carelessly played; capturing the Bishop's Pawn was still the correct move.

31..Kxd6;32.Rd5+..Kc6;33.e5..Bf5;34.h3..Bb1;35.Rd6+..Kc7;36.Ra6..Rxe5;

37.Rxa5..Kb6;38.b4..Re1+;39.Kf2..Rc1;40.Rb5+..Ka6;41.Rxc5..Rc2+;42.Kg3..Bxa2;

43.Rc6+..

White could now have won without much trouble by advancing the Pawns on the King's side of the board. He should have played 43.h4

43..Kb7;44.Rc5..Bxc4;45.h4..Rc3+;46.Kf4..Rc1;47.g4..Rf1+;48.Ke5..

48.Kg5 was the proper move, and would probably have won even at this stage.

48..Be2;49.g5..Bh5;50.Kd6..Rf4;51.b5..Kb6;52.Ke5..Rb4;53.g6..Bxg6

And the game was drawn.

#### GAME CCXCII ODDS OF PAWN AND MOVE GAME 4

Jennings (white) vs Philidor (black) take off the f7 pawn.

1.e4..Nh6;2.d4..Nf7;3.Bd3..d6

We much prefer for the second player either 3..e5 or 3..e6

4.Nf3..e5;5.d5..c5;

Black should here have played 5..Be7, then castles and afterwards moved c6.

6.0-0..Be7;7.Be3..0-0;8.bNd2..a6;9.a4..Bg4;10.Be2..

There was no necessity for this move; the proper course was to play 10.h3

10...Nd7;11.c4..b6;12.Kh1..Bxf3;13.Nxf3..g5;14.g4..Kg7;15.Qd2..h6;16.Ngl..Rh8;

17.Ra3..Nf8;18.h3..Ng6;19.Qc3..

Intending, doubtless, to play 20.f4

19..Bf6;20.Bd2..Nf4;21.Qg3..Rh7;22.Rf3..Nh8;23.Bc3..hNg6;

...Both parties play with prudence.

24.Re3..Qe7;25.Bd1..aRh8;26.Qh2..h5;27.gxh5..Nxh5;28.Bg4..gNf4;29.Ra1..a5;  
30.Ra3..Kf8;31.Bd2..Qg7;32.aRb3..Bd8;33.Rf3..Nf6;34.Qg3..Nxg4;

Either there must be an error in the manuscript, or Philidor, amid the difficulties of blindfold chess, overlooked the obvious and winning move of 34.Nxe4.

35.Qxg4..Rh4;36.Qc8..Qe7;37.Rxb6..g4;38.Rb7..Qxb7;

(38.g4xf3 would, evidently, have been better, but even in that case, white with correct after-play, should have won thus:-38..g4xf3;39.Rxe7..Rhx3+;40.Nxh3..Rhx3;

41.Qxh3 otherwise Black mates in two moves 41..Nxh3 and White must win.)

39.Rxf4+..exf4;40.Qxb7..Ke8;41.Bxf4..gxh3;42.Qc6+..Kf8;43.Bxd6+..Be7;

44.Qc8+..Kf7;45.Qe6+ wins.

And Jennings wins. The manuscript states, in connection with Philidor's fortieth move (Ke8) that he was "obliged to do so because he had called a false move." This proves that in Philidor's blindfold feats the strict laws of the game were enforced and that the blindfold player, as well as his opponent, was compelled to pay the penalty of a casual violation of the Chess code.

#### GAME CCXIX ODDS OF PAWN AND MOVE GAME 5

Bruhl (white) vs Philidor (black) take off f7.

1.e4..Nh6;2.d4..Nf7;3.Bc4..e6;4.Bb3...

See note on this move in another game between these [layers (Game CCLXXXIII)

4..d5;5.e5..c5;6.c3..Nc6;

Up to this point the moves are identical with those in the contest just referred to. In that instance, White now played 7.f4, which was better than the move now selected.

7.Ne2..Qb6;8.Ba4..

Losing time; the first player by no means makes the most of the opening.

8..Bd7;9.Bxc6..bxc6;10.0-0..cxd4;11.cxd4..c5;12.Be3..cxd4;13.Bxd4..Bc5;14.f4..0-0;

15.Bxc5..Qxc5+;16.Qd4..Qxd4+;17.Nxd4..g5;18.g3..gxf4;19.gxf4....aRb8;20.Rf2..Nh1;

21.f5..

Well conceived but premature; he should first have played Nc3.

21..exf5;22.Nc3..bRe8;23.Re1..Be6;24.Nxe6..Rxe6;;

25.Nxd5..Ng6;26.Rg2..Kh8;27.gRe2..f4;28.Nf6..Kg7;

The latter portion of the game is well played by both parties.

29.Kf2..Rf7;30.h4..fRe7;31.Nd5..Rd7;32.Nf6..Re7

Each player persisting in repeating the same move, neither could hope to win and the game was declared drawn.... The reader will readily perceive that, should White attempt to win, his extra Pawn must be given up at once. The whole of the latter part of the game is in Bruhl's best style, and proves him to have been one of the most formidable, as well as most frequent, adversaries whom Philidor encountered in England.

#### GAME CCC ODDS OF PAWN AND MOVE GAME 6

Jennings (white) vs Philidor (black) take off the f7 pawn.

1.e4..c5;2.Qh5+..g6;3.Qxc5..Nc6;4.Qc3..

White in Game CCLXXIV here played 4.Qe3. Neither of the two moves is the correct one. As we have before remarked the proper play is 4.Qc4

4..e5;5.a3..Nf6;6.f3..a5

Intending should White venture to move his Queen's Pawn to play Bb4 and so on.

7.Bc4..d5;8.Bb5..Qb6;9.Qxe5+..Kf7;10.Bxc6..bxc6;11.d4..Bg7;12.Ne2..Re8;

13.Qg5..dxe4;14.bNc3...

Better would have been 14.f4; but, in any case, Black has a good game.

14..exf3;15.gxf3..Qxd4;16.Ne4..Nxe4;17.fxe4..Qxe4;18.0-0+..Kg8;19.Rf2..

Obviously White cannot play either 19.Nc3 or 19.Ng3, on account of the threatened check with the Bishop at d4.

19..Ba6;20.Ng3..Qe1+;21.Kg2..Bd4;22.Rf3..Qg1+;23.Kh3..Bc8+;24.Nf5..

Forced, as is evident.

24...Qxg5;25.Bxg5..Bxf5+;26.Kh4..Re4+;27.Bf4..Be5;28.aRf1..h6;29.Kg3..Rxf4;

30.Rxf4..g5 and Mr. Jennings resigns. The play of Philidor is elegant and forcible, from the opening to the end of the contest.

*Our efforts to attach a certain date to these remarkable contests have not been as successful as we could wish. It seems certain from 'Twiss' (volume 1., p.154) that Jennings played with Philidor blindfold, about 1783, and from another passage (volume 1, p.,164) we infer that Jennings was still living in 1787. We have been unable to ascertain the christian name of Jennings. A "Benjamin Jennings, Esq., husband to the Viscountess Dowager Dudley and Ward" died in August 1791, "at his house in Sloan Street," London. Was this the chess-player? As for Bruhl, who was Saxon ambassador in England, he lived until the beginning of the present century, and played with Philidor until within a few months of the master's death. A rude guess leads us to place the games between 1780 and 1785. But we hope to receive from England before long some notices of Jenning's life, which will throw some glimpses of light upon this interesting question. Perhaps the manuscripts in the possession of Mr. George Walker may be of assistance in this respect.*

As far as I know further information on Jennings's did not appear in the Chess Monthly. But with the much later dating of the games in OECG ( see later article) there are a few difficulties before Benjamin Jennings can be claimed as Philidor's opponent. In a brief examination of the first 10 pages on Google of Benjamin Jennings there are some tantalising by-ways to get lost in. He is probably the Mr. Jennings who subscribed to the 1777 edition (6 copies) as is the Miss Jennings his daughter. Like Philidor's life and dates, there are just too many 'guesses' as to where Philidor was during his life and who his opponents were. Again how did OECG ascribe a date of 1790 to the games? (BM)

### **THE DEFENCE OF THE KING'S KNIGHT'S GAME (p.169+ CM 1860) From the February number of the Chess Player's Chronicle.**

*The History of the Defences to the King's Knight's Opening, exhibits in a most remarkable manner the variable character of Chess Theory.*

*From the fifteenth century down to the present day, we find opinions fluctuating between Black's second move, "Nc6", "d6" and the counter attack "Nf6" each of which in different eras and schools has had its advocates.*

*The two first-named defences we dismiss for the present; that of “Nf6,” as virtually a modern innovation, appears to have been alternately accepted as satisfactory, only again to be rejected, and in its turn reproduced, by each successive generation of players, as new openings were invented, or old forms of attack strengthened and remodelled. A brief review of this strange series of revolutions in the theory of openings, we trust will not prove uninteresting.*

*Lucena, the earliest European writer on Chess, (1495,) touched on all three varieties of the Defence, but we believe without expressing any opinion as to their respective merits. Judging, however, from the examples he has left of the opening; 1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..Nc6;3.Bb5 of which he was the originator, and not Ruy Lopez to whom it has been erroneously ascribed, we may infer that he was in favour of the Defence of QN vs KN. In this view he was followed by Damiano, who expressly advocated the defence of “Nc6”. To this, however, his successor, Ruy Lopez, objected, on the ground that the first player might advantageously reply with Lucena’s move of “Bb5”. He therefore substituted the defence of “d6”. The validity of this reply was stoutly combated by the Italians, the most eminent school of Mediaeval Chess. There is still extant a letter from Ercole del Rio to Lolli (published 1750) in which “d6” is expressly condemned, and Damiano’s move of “Nc6,” recommended instead. We may infer also, that Salvio, from the care which he bestowed on the Giuoco Piano, concurred in this opinion. Thus, with the solitary exception of an ineffectual attempt on the part of Greco to substitute his pet counter gambit of “f5”, the move of “Nc6”, appears to have been unanimously accepted as the correct defence, from the sixteenth, down to the middle of the eighteenth century, when Philidor published his ‘Jeu d’Echecs,’ in which he once more asserted the claims of “d6.” This great master in his subsequent analysis of the opening, went so far as to maintain, and indeed attempted to prove, that this move not only nullified all attack, but was even so strong as to render the first player’s move of “Nf3,” unadvisable.*

*For many years the high reputation of Philidor maintained the popularity of his defence, the efficiency of which was first called into question during a long series of games between Messrs, Atwood and Wilson, in which the opening was thoroughly tested. Indeed, Philidor himself in his last edition, considerably qualified his former high estimate of the defence.*

*On the death of Philidor, a second reaction took place in favour of “Nc6,” which seems to have been uniformly adopted for nearly half a century. The invention of the Evans Gambit, and the introduction of new forms of attack in the Scotch opening, appear to have once more suggested a doubt as to the feasibility of this defence. Then came the question, “Can the King’s pawn be protected at all? And does not the second player by accepting an open game, necessarily expose himself to a dangerous attack from the very outset?” This suggestion gave rise to a two-fold revolution in the Theory of the Openings.*

*The Russian School, represented by M. Petroff, called attention to the counter attack of “Nf6,” originally suggested by Lucena, which, after having undergone an elaborate analysis at the hands of Major Jaenisch, was finally pronounced by him to be the best defence at Black’s command, an opinion which the celebrated games between Pesth and Paris, tended somewhat to modify. On the other hand, the English and German Schools, more especially the former, sought refuge in the French and Sicilian defences. Then followed an era of “close” games which may be*

said to have commenced a little previous to the great match between Messrs. Staunton and St. Amant, and reached its culminating point in the Tournament of 1851.

About this time a reaction seems to have taken place in the popular estimate of the Sicilian Defence. Its validity began to be questioned, and a general feeling prevailed in favor of the more chivalrous and interesting "open" games; more especially now that the Scotch and Evans gambits which had formerly been such a source of embarrassment as to cause a general resort to the close openings, had been elaborately analysed. In their place, however, had arisen another and more formidable attack, which although coeval with the earliest European literature of the game, had never been fully appreciated until within the last few years. We refer to what is commonly known as the "N's game of Ruy Lopez." Less brilliant, because less hazardous than the "Evans," inasmuch as it involves no previous sacrifice of material, but yielding a strong centralised and lasting attack – in itself the more dangerous from the number and variety of the defences which the second player has at his disposal, it quickly became the "fashionable" opening of the day.

Hence the old 'vexata questio' as to the correct reply to the KN attack, again began to be agitated, but under very different conditions. The Chess world had ceased to be a monarchy, and had degenerated into a republic. The influence of "Authority" was no longer what it had been. No longer was one move despotically set up, only to be deposed in a succeeding age by a master hand as powerful as that by which it had been enthroned, but the 'popularis aura' veered capriciously from one point of the compass to another, each of the three defences QN, QP and KN being simultaneously advocated.

Messrs Harrwitz and Boden may be regarded as the principal representatives of the school that favor the "d6" defence, although the latter in his "Popular Introduction" seems to incline somewhat towards the Petroff. On the other hand, among the adherents of the classical defence of "Nc6," we may enumerate the distinguished names of Messrs. Staunton and Anderssen, and to a certain extent Messrs Morphy and Lowenthal, although the two latter, to judge from the published specimens of their play, seem also strong partizans of "Nf6."

Without presuming to pronounce anything approaching to an 'ex cathedra' opinion on the comparative merits of these three lines of play, we shall conclude our article with what are generally considered to be the best opening moves respectively in the Philidor and Petroff defences.

Philidor's Defence: -1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..d6;3.d4..exd;4.Qxd4..Nc6 (We consider this move preferable to 4..Bd7, as White may reply thereto with 5.Be3, and on Black moving 5..Nc6, retire his Queen to d2 with a fine game) 5.Bb5..Bd7;6.Bxc6..Bxc6;7.Bg5..f6(Black's best move we believe);8.Be3..Ne7 or h6. And White may now Castle on either side (perhaps Queen's Rook is preferable) with a fine game.

Petroff's Defence: -1,e4..e5;2.Nf3..Nf6;3.Nxe5..d6;4.Nf3..Nxe4;5.d4..d5;6.Bd3..Be7 (best) 7.0-0..Nc6;8.c4..Be6;9.Qb3

See Herr Falkbeer's Translation of Max Lange's edition of Morphy's Games pp.154,159 and 327.

*The Chess student may advantageously compare these two openings with the result of what he may consider the best defence to the Ruy Lopez N's game, and draw his own conclusions as to their respective values.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*p.349 Chess Monthly November 1860:-Dibdin in his 'Bibliomania' thus describes a scacchic bibliomaniac: "William Templeton, Esq., of Hare Hatch, Bershire, was a great chess-player; and although Caxton's 'Game at Chess' is a mere dull morality, having nothing to do with the game strictly so called, yet he would have everything in his library where the word 'chess' was introduced. In the words of the old catch, he would 'add the night into the day' in the prosecution of his darling recreation, and boasted of having once given a signal defeat to the Rev. Mr. Bowdler, after having been defeated himself by Lord Henry Seymour, the renowned chess champions of the Isle of Wight. He said he once sat upon Philidor's knee, who patted his cheek and told him there was nothing like chess and English roast beef.'" (I see this now in Allen p.83 note and I wonder if Bershire above is Berkshire? BM)*

And on page 384 Fiske said farewell with Morphy too leaving the Chess Monthly. He had 'every confidence in the high ability of those who succeed us in the entire management of the Chess Monthly'. I am not sure who he means. Perhaps Wm. C. Miller of 142 Broadway, between Cedar and Liberty Streets who was the publisher. A very prominent address. Alain White wrote in (Sam Loyd...) that whilst 1857 was a significant year for chess in America with the arrival of Paul Morphy in New York for the First American Championship and 'The Chess Monthly' which included Sam Loyd as Problems Editor, by 1860 Fiske 'gave up chess for other interests'. Loyd himself was so busy that E.B. Cook took over in 1858/9 with Loyd returning in 1860.

Fiske was an amazing editor and the 'CM' was at least on a par with Sissa and Schachzeitung, the great European chess magazines. To include all the Philidor articles was impressive in itself. He was as White wrote "a real dilettante, Fiske took up in turn diplomacy, journalism, archaeology, book-collecting and a professorship at Cornell University. Whatever he undertook he did well and thoroughly..."

The Chess Monthly continued into 1861 and finally the civil war drums silenced it after the May issue. The editor is unknown (probably Fiske) but the publisher Wm. C. Miller continued to have correspondence sent to him.

Pages 1-5 contain a remarkable biography of Count Bruhl, one of Philidor's main opponents. Also on p.96 is the Chess Monthly's attempts to encourage some European chess historian to flesh out Philip Stamma's 'life'. Another excellent article from p.129 is the History of US Chess Columns plus some comments on Chess Bibliography. There were 87 columns in US newspapers. On p.137 is a brief article on the Automaton in London in 1783/4. No mention of Philidor. When the CM finished on p.160 it could be said the high standard had been maintained. Here are some of the items which have been transcribed from microfilm.

**THE CHESS MONTHLY. JANUARY, 1861**  
**LIVES OF CHESS MEN**  
**VI- HANS MORITZ, COUNT BRUHL**

(Our materials for the life of Bruhl have been drawn from a multitude of sources. The sketches in the biographical lexicons and encyclopedias are meagre, unsatisfactory, and in many instances erroneous.)

Count Hans Moriz von Bruhl \* was born at Widerau, in Saxony, the twentieth of December, 1736. He was the son of Count Friedrich Wilhelm von Bruhl, and the nephew of Count Heinrich von Bruhl, the able but extravagant Prime Minister of Augustus the Third, Elector of Saxony and King of Poland. In the year 1750, he was sent to the University of Leipzig. At that famous school his gentle disposition and remarkable precocity drew upon him the notice of the poet Gellert, who became at once his friend and guide. Gellert, then a man of thirty-five years of age, was already recognised as an authority in literature, and his feelings for his boyish friend may be gathered from an ode addressed to the Count on his fourteenth birthday, in which he styles him an

*“In den Jahren des Kinds schon, reifer denkender Jungling”*

Their intimacy continued until Gellert's death in 1769. Their correspondence, a portion of which has been published, bears throughout marks of the deep affection which the master felt for his pupil, and of the genuine warmth with which that affection was returned. Subsequently Bruhl bestowed upon Gellert a pension, but did it with such a kind delicacy that the poet never ascertained the name of his benefactor. Having completed his studies at the University, young Bruhl went, in 1754, to Dresden, the capital of the Saxon electorate, where he seems to have passed a year in various literary avocations.

\*He is styled from one of his German estates, Count *Hans Moritz von Bruhl auf Martinskirche*, which is sometimes anglicised into “of Martinskirk.”

He wrote some short poems which were severely criticised by Gellert, to whom he had the good sense to show them. While praising, in tones of unbounded admiration, Bruhl's high natural abilities, he assures him that it is not in the worship of the muse that he is destined to win distinction. In September, 1755, before he had yet entered upon his twentieth year, Bruhl was attached to the Saxon legation in Paris, where, during the general war which followed, he was enabled to afford great assistance to his countrymen. In the French capital he became intimate with the historian, Duclos, and with the intelligent Madame de Graffigny, the authoress of the ‘Letters Peruviennes’ and associated daily with the leading literary Frenchmen of the period, such as Fontenelle, Marivaux and Henault. At this time he translated some German dramas into French, of which none, as far as we can ascertain, were ever published. In 1757 he paid, probably upon political business, a brief visit to Holland. In March 1759, after a pleasant and profitable sojourn of three years and a half at the Court of Louis the Fifteenth, he left Paris, and reached Warsaw about the first of June.

During the following four years he was engaged in fulfilling the duties of some important offices to which he was appointed by his uncle Count Heinrich, the Polish-Saxon Premier, one of which was the governorship of a province. His father died in 1760, and, as the eldest son, he succeeded

to the family honors and estates. Immediately after the general pacification of 1763, he was appointed, by the Prince Regent Xavier, Polish and Saxon Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James, and arrived in London in 1764. This post to be held for nearly half a century. After three years residence in England on the seventh of July, 1767, he was married to Alice Maria, daughter of Lord George Carpenter, and sister of the Earl of Tyrconnel, whose first husband was Charles, second Earl of Egremont. In the earlier years of the long period which he spent in England, he seems to have devoted the large leisure which his diplomatic labors left him, to the culture of music, an art in which he always felt a great interest. In 1774, he made an important improvement to the construction of the pianoforte, which greatly softened its tones and rendered it less liable to injury. He was called upon in 1778 to mourn the death, at the age of thirty-four, of his younger brother, Count Heinrich Adolf von Bruhl, for whom his letters display the warmest affection. In 1781 he appears to have visited his fatherland, for in that year he published at Dresden a volume entitled ‘Recherches sur divers Objets de l’Economie Politique’\*.

.....

\*1. The remainder of Bruhl;’s works are as follows:

2.Three registers of a Pocket Chronometer, with an account from Vice-Admiral Campbell of the first of Mr. Mudge’s Time-keepers, in a voyage to and from Newfoundland; London 1786, 4to.

3.Latitudes and Longitudes of several Places Ascertained: London,1788 8vo.

4.Noiveau Journal de Chronometre: Londres 1790.fol.

5.On the investigation of Astronomical Circles: London, 1794.

6.A Register of Astronomical Circles of Mr. Mudge’s Time-keepers.: London, 1794, 8vo.

This last appeared the following year in German, under the title.....illegible

The above list is given.....illegible (Apologies BM)

From this time he zealously turned his attention to astronomy and its kindred sciences. He constructed two observatories, one in London and the other at Harefield, twenty miles from the metropolis, where he had a country seat. At one or the other of these places he was constantly engaged in making observations, the results of which he transmitted to the leading astronomers of the period. All of his astronomical contemporaries speak of him in terms of profound respect. He corresponded with Zach, Fischer, Bode, Lalande, Piazzi and the elder Herschel. The first-named, to whose valuable astronomical serials Bruhl was a frequent contributor, and in one of which his portrait appeared, describes him in terms of unrestrained enthusiasm, as his noble friend and patron, and says that the distinguishing trait in his character was an ever-willing readiness to make any sacrifice which should by any degree tend to the advancement of science. He was through life distinguished for his great mechanical skill which he especially displayed in the construction of astronomical instruments. In all the various contrivances for determining longitude at sea he particularly interested himself. Thomas Mudge, one of the most celebrated mechanicians of the last century, states that Bruhl’s encouragement and assistance rescued him from ruin; he also brought into notice another well-known London artisan, Josiah Emory.

In January, 1794, his first wife died; in November, 1796, he was again married to Miss Chowne, heiress of Thomas Chowne of Alfriston House, Suffolk. By his first marriage he had two sons and a daughter. The elder son died in infancy, the other one, George, Count Bruhl, born 1768, entered the Life Guards, and died a year since unmarried. The daughter, Harriet, married Hugh Scott,eleventh Baron of Harden, afterwards Baron Polwarth. The present Lord Polwarth is therefore Bruhl’s grandson. In 1803 Bruhl’s increasing infirmities induced him to abandon his

astronomical labors, and mindful of the pleasures and benefits of his student life, he at that time presented to the observatory of Leipzig University his costly astronomical apparatus and his collection of astronomical works. His remaining years were spent in retirement; he died at his town residence in Old Burlington street, London, January 22d, 1809, his second wife surviving him two years.

It is probable that Bruhl's musical taste first led him to form the acquaintance of Philidor. He soon, however, became an admirer of the great Frenchman's skill at chess, and was one of the chief members of the school which Philidor founded in England. He played innumerable games with him, receiving the odds of Rook or Knight in exchange for Pawn and move. They sometimes contended together in public at less odds, Philidor playing without seeing the board. Seventeen games between them have been published. We have also three games played by Bruhl against Lord Henry Seymour, one against Lord Harrowby, and one against Cotter, on even terms. From Verdoni, the immediate successor of Philidor upon the English chess-throne, Bruhl received the odds of the first two moves or of the Pawn and move. Five of their games are preserved. We have, therefore, twenty-seven games played by Bruhl. They prove him to have been one of the strongest players of his day. His love for the game is shown by the visit which he paid to Legal, then a veteran over four score years of age, while at Paris, in November, 1785. In March 1787, Daines Barrington addressed to him his 'Dissertation on the Game of Chess', and when Kempel was about to proceed from Paris to London to exhibit his chess player, Franklin gave him a letter of introduction to Count Bruhl. He was a member of the chess club at London for many years, and a subscriber to the various editions of Philidor's treatise.

The features of Bruhl, as far as they can be gathered from the wretchedly engraved portrait in Zach's 'Geographische Ephemeriden', represent him as having a high forehead, large eyes, a prominent nose and a firm but pleasant mouth. His character, as seen in the expressed opinions of his many correspondents, must have been that of a generous friend, a kind counsellor and a liberal man. His obituary in the 'Gentleman's Magazine', says that "he was deeply versed in science," and possessed of "learning as great as the family was illustrious".\*

\* Bruhl was a Fellow of the Royal Society, elected November 7, 1765, and formally admitted November 21. In the same year, of the Imperial Academy of Science of St. Petersburg, elected 1793, and of various other learned bodies; he was also a Knight of the White Eagle.

A wonderful biography by the editor of the Chess Monthly who was nameless as Fiske had his name removed in the December 1860 issue. It looks like Fiske's work. Google has plenty on Bruhl including an excellent portrait painted by Samuel Reynolds, and Bruhl composed music for harpsichord.

George Allen suggests in his 'Life of Philidor' that Bruhl and Philidor met in Dresden. It could also be that they met whilst Bruhl was in Paris for those 3.5 years that started in September 1755. He would have met Legal then at the Café de la Regence. Philidor and Bruhl may well have met because of a love of music as this article suggests.

The article reveals where Philidor spent much of his time in London and Paris and it has to be at various residences of the rich and famous for music and chess. He was their patron and when one sees a spectacle such as that shown in the sketch of him blindfold, playing Bruhl and Wilson for

the Turkish Ambassador one appreciates the effect it must have had on the average person who saw such a feat of mental strength. (BM)

p.96

## THE CHESS MONTHLY

### Phillip Stamma

Our efforts to obtain some more definite account of the incidents in the life of Phillip Stamma have been thus far unsuccessful. That he was a native of Aleppo; that he came to Paris, where, in 1737, he published a book on Chess; that he went thence to London and issued another work in English in 1745; that he played in 1747 with Philidor, to whom he was then at least inferior; and that he was “Interpreter of Oriental languages to his Majesty, the King of Great Britain.” – this is in fact all we know about him. That he was a man of considerable attainments, that he understood several of the Asiatic and European tongues, will be evident to every one who reads the preface to his “Noble Game of Chess,” his “Hundred Situations,” and his invention of a simple and concise notation, since gradually adopted on the continent of Europe, are solid proofs of the rank to which he is entitled in the Valhalla of Chess,

There are many learned men in England who have displayed at various times a fondness for our game and an interest in its history. They are so situated that they can command access to the various archives, libraries and collections of that kingdom in which Stamma passed some years of his life, and in which he probably died. Will they not devote a few hours to the task of ascertaining whatever is to be ascertained of the life and death of the famous man of Aleppo?

.....

Again beautifully written and surely by Fiske as he wrote about Stamma when he was CM editor. Another sad feature is that we do not have a single Stamma game!  
What does Google have to say about him? Well, quite a bit:-

1. Three Sketches are given. Plus the fact he died in 1755 in London and had 2 sons.
2. Bledow and von Oppen felt he was unused to Western chess rules in his match with Philidor. He was a regular at Slaughter’s Coffee House.
3. John Roycroft wrote about him in BCM 2004 p.544/549 & 603/08 and the expert end-gamer produced a beginning, middle game and end game for Philip Stamma and even included his will which revealed two sons Lewis and William with a Dr. Cooper as executor of the estate. He made a ‘conjectured chronological scenario’ for Stamma’s life which is believable. Born ca 1705 in Aleppo, Syria, he lived in Italy and then Paris as a translator where he arrived ca 1720. Quite early and if his chess skill was good, a child prodigy. The move to England occurred in 1737 as a result of a problem at the French court but before that his friendship with William Stanhope later Lord Harrington resulted in him dedicating his 1737 chess book to the Lord with a plea for help that was forthcoming, and the family moved to England. Stamma became a translator for the Ambassadors of Morocco and Tunis. In 1748 and 1754 he was granted ‘presents’ of £224/0/6 and £168/4/3 for ‘services’ above translations. The latter netted him £80 p.a. These ‘services’ could have included acting as an agent for England.

As for chess, if he was in Paris ca 1720 he played with Legal well before Philidor did and his book added to his fame. He died in 1755 and his wife must have predeceased him.

John Roycroft's 12 page article has been shrunk to the above. The article is excellent research and fine reading for Stamma-ites.

4. The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography has a 786 word biography on him written by John-Paul Ghobrial in May 2015. I hope to get this one day.

5. His will is available at Kent National Archives. The Probate No. is 11/817/358. But there is a full transcript in Roycroft's article.

The interesting feature on one website suggested Arabs played chess with advisers and there was a constant exchange of ideas that enriched all and pursued knowledge by sharing. European players were solitary and played for the glory of the laurels on the board.

p.129 Chess Monthly May 1861 - with the Civil War guns blazing, this was the last issue of a very fine magazine.(BM)

### **THE AMERICAN CHESS COLONNADE**

The man who shall write the next Chess Bibliography, will be obliged to deal much more largely with Newspapers than his predecessors have done. The successor of Anton Schmid will have to make a very considerable addition to the five titles given by the patient German, as those of papers which had regularly devoted a portion of their space to that game, the literature of which he was cataloguing in a work of four hundred pages.

It is not many years since the checkered diagrams, with their crowns and mitres and towers and horses heads, and that conglomeration of letters and figures which were once so curious and so puzzling to us, began to appear in the corners of the Newspapers. We believe that the first Chess department was established in 1823, in the *London Lancet*, where it was not so much out of place as one might at first suppose.

The second Chess column appeared in 1828, in the *Berliner Staffette*. This was followed in 1834 by the well-known column of *Bell's Life in London*, which is still in existence, and still in the hands of its original conductor, the eccentric George Walker.

The before-mentioned successor of Anton Schmid is requested to be duly grateful to us for publishing the following list of American chess-solumns. It is nearly or quite complete; but we should be glad to receive additional dates, and notice of any omissions which may have been made:

1.The Spirit of the Times, New York City; commenced March 1, 1845; ceased October 14, 1848; revived June 5, 1858, and continued irregularly ever since. Conducted by Charles H. Stanley most of the time.

2.The Albion, New York City; begun November 4, 1843; C.H. Stanley, Editor to March 15, 1856, succeeded by F.Perrin.

3. Montreal Courier, Canada; 1848; Rev. Joseph Abbott, M.A., Editor.
4. Chronicle of Western Literature, Louisville, Ky.; began in December, 1849, and continued about ten months, under the Editorship of B.I. Raphael.
5. Diario de la Marina, Havana; from 1850 to 1853.
6. The Family Journal, New York City; begun November 16, 1850; ceased Feb. 1, 1851; W.C. Miller, Editor.
7. Prensa de la Habana published Chess Problems in 1854 or 1855.
8. Revista de la Habana, a Monthly Cuban Magazine, did the same in 1854.
9. The Illustrated New York Journal; began August 26, 1854, and ceased December 1, 1854; Edited by C.H. Stanley.
10. Frank Leslie's New York Journal; (Monthly); begun January, 1855, and ended July, 1856; Edited by a pair of scissors.
11. New York Saturday Courier; commenced February 3, 1855, and ended with the death of the Paper, September 13, 1856; Miron J. Hazeltine, Editor.
12. The New York Clipper; begun June 30, 1855; a regular column; but for a year before had given games and news, chiefly taken from *Bell's Life in London*; N. Marache, Editor to August 16, 1856, succeeded by M.J. Hazeltine.
13. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, New York City; begun December 15, 1855; Edited in succession by W.J.A. Fuller, W.W. Montgomery, N. Marache and Thomas Frere.
14. The Literary Journal, New York City, published Chess irregularly from May 10, 1856, to July 4, 1857; M.J. Hazeltine, Editor.
15. Syracuse Daily Standard; begun August 25, 1857, and ceased September 7, 1859; Edited in turn by George N. Cheney and William O. Fiske. Its Chess matter was republished in the Onondaga Standard.
16. Porter's Spirit of the Times, New York City; begun September 6, 1856; Edited in turn by W.W. Fosdick, C.H. Stanley, M.J. Hazeltine, C.H. Stanley again, N. Marache, F.H. Norton, and the Scissors.
17. Lynn News, Lynn, Mass.; from February 16, 1858, to latter part of 1859; N.J. Holden and Eben Parsons, Jr., Editors.
18. Sunday Delta, New Orleans, La.; begun March 14, 1858, discontinued in the latter part of 1860; Charles A. Maurian, Editor.

19. The Winona Republican, Winona, Min. ; from March 17, 1858, to July 13, 1859; Edited in succession by C.C. Moore and D. Sinclair.
20. Saturday Evening Gazette, Boston, Mass.; from May 1, 1858, to Sept. 15, 1860; under the Editorship of W.H. Kent and J. Chapman; revived by H.N. Stone, October 6, 1860.
21. The American Union, Boston; from May 8, 1858, to about January 1, 1859; under J.Potter; revived February 19, 1859.
22. Baltimore Weekly Dispatch; from June 17, 1858 to July, 1860; H.Spilman.
23. Cincinnati Sunday Dispatch; begun early in June, 1858 and ceased February 28, 1859; Edited by Dr. C.F. Schmidt, succeeded by Theophilus French.
24. Harper's Weekly, New York City; from October 2, 1858, to June 11, 1859; C.H. Stanley.
25. Sunday Mercury, Philadelphia; begun October 11, 1858 and continued about one year; T.H. Shoemaker, succeeded by N.C. Reid.
26. Daily Missouri Democrat, St. Louis, Mo. From October 10, 1858 to June 25, 1859; Theo M. Brown, Editor. The Chess article appeared also in the semi-weekly, tri-weekly, and California, editors of the Democrat.
27. The Weekly Missouri Statesman, Columbia, Mo.; begun October 29, 1858, and ceased shortly after. William F.Switzler.
28. The New York Saturday Press, New York City; from Oct. 30, 1858, to December 15, 1860; Edited at various times by D.W. Fiske, W.R. Henry, and others.
29. Daily Evening Bulletin, Philadelphia; commenced October 30, 1858; Dr. Samuel Lewis, and Francis Wells, Editors. The same matter appears each week in the Saturday Bulletin.
30. Fitzgeralds's City Stem, Philadelphia; begun November 13, 1858, with John D. Stockton as editor. It is now discontinued – for the second time, we believe.
31. Cincinnati Daily Commercial; from November 16, 1858, to July 6, 1859; Rev. M.D. Conway, succeeded by J.Miller.
32. Sunday Enquirer, Cincinnati, Ohio; from November 21, 1858, to February 13, 1859. M.P. McQuillen.
33. California Spirit of the Times, San Francisco; 1859.
34. The Boys' and Girls' Own Magazine, New York City; Monthly; January, 1859. Alexander Fleming.

35. Liceo de la Habana, Cuba; January, 1859; Pedro N. Palmer.
36. Houston Daily Telegraph, Texas; January 2, 1859; E.H. Cushing.
37. Sunday Leader, Chicago, Ill.; January 2, 1859; Louis Paulsen editor for a time.
38. New York Freemans' Journal and Catholic Register, New York City; from January 2, 1859 to January, 1860; J. Munroe.
39. The Democratic Free Press, Fond du Lac, Wis.; January 12, to March 12, 1859; J. Smith Brown succeeded by E.J. Gillott.
40. The Daily Gazette, Davenport, Iowa; January 13, 1859; Add. H. Sanders.
41. The Mining Record and Pottsville Emporium, Pottsville, Penn.; February 5, 1859; H.R. Edmonds.
42. Rockford Register, Rockford, Ill.; February 9, 1859; Melanethon Smith.
43. The Charleston Daily Courier; Charleston, S.C.; February 14, 1859 to January 25, 1860; P.A. Aveilhe, Jr.
44. Die Schule des Volks, New York City; February 15, 1859.
45. The Golden Era, San Francisco, Cal.; February 20, 1859.
46. The Musical World, New York City; from February 26, 1859, to July 21, 1860; S. Loyd..
47. Young's Spirit of the South, Nashville, Tenn.; 1859.
48. Weekly Whig and Republican, Quincy, Ill.; March 1, 1859; John Tilison.
49. The Providence Evening Press, Providence, R.I.; March 19, 1859; Frank H. Thurber.
50. The Family Journal, Baltimore, Md.; April 2, 1859; S.N. Carvalho, succeeded by N.R. Waters.
51. Family Journal, Louisville, Ky.; April 9, 1859; John W. Clark.
52. Young's Sunday Dispatch, Cincinnati, Ohio; begun April 10, 1859, and continued about 2 months; T. French.
53. The Times, Philadelphia; April 13, 1859.
54. Detroit Free Press, Detroit Michigan; April 27, 1859.

55. Mississippi Blatter, St. Louis, Mo; May 8, 1859; T.A. Meysenburg.
56. Kentucky Turf Register, and Chronicle of the Times, Louisville, Ky.; May 24, 1859; C.C. Moore.
57. New Yorker Humorist und Illustirte, Novellenzeitung; July 9, 1859; Theodore Lichtenhein.
58. Schenectady Daily News, Schenectady, N.Y.;1859; C.E. Judson.
59. New York Ledger, New York City; from August 6, 1859; to August 4, 1860; Paul Morphy.
60. The Arcadia Prospect, Arcadia, Mo.; August 23, 1859; W.L. Faber.
61. The Chronicle, Philadelphia; September, 1859.
62. Wilkes' Spirit of the Times, New York City; September 10, 1859; N. Marache.
63. Cincinatti Daily Gazette, Cincinatti, Ohio; September 10, 1859.
64. New York Bee, New York City; October 1. 1859; John McLean.
65. The Analyst, Cleveland, Ohio; November 5, 1859. M.H.Allardt
66. New York Illustrated News, New York City; November 19. 1859; S. Loyd.
67. Camden Journal, Camden, S.C.; December, 1859.
68. Der Protestant, St. Leeds, Mo.; 1859; T.A.Meysenburg.
- 69..Weekly Citizen, Vicksburg, Miss.; December, 1859
70. Weekly Mirror, New Orleans, Lo.; 1859
71. Southern Field and Fireside, Augusta, Geo.; 1859
72. The Democratic Standard, Pottsville, Penn.; 1859
73. Cincinnati Independent, Cincinnati, Ohio; January 29, 1860; T. French.
74. Evening Journal, Philadelphia, Penn.; March 17, to Oct, 13,1860;W.Lehwan Walker, and others.
75. The Charleston Evening News; March 31, 1860; P.A. Aveilhe, Jr.
76. American Sportsman, Philadelphia, Penn.; April 14, 1860.

77. Kalamazoo Gazette, Mich.
78. Brooklyn Standard; June 23, 1860; John Gardner.
79. Seneca Falls Reveille, Seneca Falls, N.Y.; July 23, 1860; W.H. Mundy.
80. Household Journal, New York City; October 6, 1860.
81. New Yorker Museum, New York City; 1860.
82. Saturday Evening Express, 1860; H.N. Stone.
83. New Yorker Illustrierte Zeitung und Familienblatter; 1861; S.Loyd.
84. The Field, New York City; April 20, 1861.
85. A Paper (title unknown) published at Norwalk or Norwich, Conn. 1859 or 1860.

To which may be added the titles of two Papers devoted entirely to Chess:

86. The Gambit, New York City; October 22, to November 19, 1859  
T.Lichenhein, Editor

87. The Philidorian, Charleston, S.C.; July, August, 1859; W.P. Jacobs and O.A. Moses.

This has the honor of being the smallest and the shortest-lived Chess periodical ever published. Two numbers only appeared, containing altogether, about as much matter as is given in five or six pages of the Chess Monthly.

Of all these columns, we believe that Nos. 2,12,13,16,20,29,62,66,78,80 and 83 are the only ones still in existence.

(I put this list in because I have just discovered in my ancient index a bio of Philidor from the Hartford Times and republished in the Town and Country Journal NSW Australia in the 4 December 1880 issue p.1085. Not sure I have this. But it shows where material one wants to read can turn up. Perhaps some on Philidor in the 87 item list above? BM)

#### **CHESS BIBLIOGRAPHY** (From the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin)

“He that has made no blunders in way,” says a great commander, “has never made war,” and he that has made no blunders in Bibliography (we may add) has never written Bibliography. The Nestor of Bibliographers, at this moment, is also the most accurate in Bibliographers. Yet no Bibliographer can see all the books of which he is bound to speak:- he must give a description of here and there a stray book, at least, upon the authority of others. We have been partly amused, and partly vexed, to see how the Nestor aforesaid – the great Brunet – has been led to introduce into a new edition of his Manual, upon what appears to be the highest authority, one of the most ludicrous of blunders.

There exists an old English Chess book, printed in 1597, in 4to., with the title of *Ludus Scacchiae; Chesse-Play. A Game, both pleasant, wittie, and politicke: with certain briefe instructions thereunto belonging; Translated out of the Italian into the English tongue. Containing also therein A prety and pleasant Poeme of a whole Game played at Chesse. Written by G.B.* The prose part (fourteen leaves unpagged) is from Damiano, the “prety Poeme” (30 pp.) is a paraphrase of Vida. G.B. (who signs himself, at the end of the Poem, W. {G}B.) is entirely unknown.

There is also another English Chess book, which appears to be the first known printed edition of Greco, “the Calabrian.” Greco (according to the investigations of Herr von de Lasa) wrote his work in Italian, about the year 1619. The original was never printed. Copies were circulated in M.S. and M.S. translations were made, both in French and English. From one of the latter a London bookseller published in 1656, *The Royal Game of the Chesse-Play. Sometimes the Recreation of the late King, with many of the Nobility. Illustrated with almost an hundred Gambetts. Being the study of Biochimo, the famous Italian. (10 leaves unpagged, pp.1-120 + one extra leaf. 8to. (With Portrait of Charles I.)*

Either the original translator, or the copyist of the M.S. or the editor of the printed edition, appears, first, to have misread the Italian of Greco’s Christian name; and then, secondly, (like a good Cavalier,) to have had Shakespeare’s Cymbeline running in his head. In this way, *Giochino Greco, Calabrese*, (with a lopping off of what served at least for a surname,) came to take the odd shape of plain *Biochimo*.

Mr. Brunet cited neither of these books in his earlier editions. But Lowndes did. *Biochimo* he described *sub voce Biochimo* to be sure, but he called it a translation of Greco. The *Ludus Scacchiae* he set down to G.B. and there wisely stopped.

But Mr. Bohn, in his new edition of Lowndes, chose to go further. He appears to have taken it into his head, without ever having seen both books, (if either,) that the two - large quarto and very diminutive octavo - were one and the same book, and that G.B. could therefore be no other than our ugly friend Biochimo. In his interleaved copy of Lowndes, accordingly, he must, apparently, have written, after the printed G.B., the supplementary letters ‘iochimo’, with staying to dot his i. Trusting to this M.S. note, he ultimately printed as follows, *Ludus Scacchiae* [&c., &c.] *Written by G: B(lochimo)!* taking his own undotted i for an l. And M. Brunet, knowing that individual corrections are generally more likely to be correct than the matter corrected, eagerly picks up, as a *trouvaille*, the precious discovery of Bohn, and inserts, in his new edition, without the slightest misgiving, the following frightful article: *BLOCHIMO. Ludus Scacchiae: Chess-Play, &c., &c. Written by G.B.* Adding of his own knowledge, the reference : *Voy, Libro -* (i.e. he correctly refers the work of G.B. to Damiano’s *Libro da imparara*, about which and the Bibliographers, we may have a word to say on another occasion) If M. Brunet ever discovers what a blunder he has made, and forgives M. Bohn for betraying him into such a disfigurement of the immortal *Manuel*, he must be indeed the good and pious man we should conceive him to be, from the beautiful close of his Preface.

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I think I have copied this right from a mediocre microfilm. Am a bit worried as surely Fiske wrote this and he is in attack mode over what seems a storm in a teacup. It could just have been a typo. I don't have any of those fabulous editions but I do have a 1750 version and Greco's name is spelled Gioachino. So what is in a name? (BM)

p.137 May 1861 Chess Monthly

### KEMPEL IN LONDON

It is amusing to read some of the remarks made by contemporary writers concerning Kempel's Automaton at its first appearance in London in 1783-4. The 'Monthly Review' for April 1784 says: "*many were simple enough to affirm that the wooden man played really and by himself, (like certain politicians at a deeper game), without any communication with his constituent. It appears, indeed, as yet, unaccountable to the spectators, how the artist imparts his influence to the Automaton at the time of his playing, and all the hypothesis which have been invented by ingenious and learned men to unfold this mystery, are all vague and inadequate; but were they even otherwise, they rather increase than diminish the admiration that is due to the surprising talents and dexterity of Mr. de Kempelen.*" A pamphlet published at the same time in London, and entitled, "The Automaton Chess-Player Exposed and Detected", remarks, "I see a foreigner come among us, and demand five shillings a-piece admittance, to see what he calls an Automaton Chess-Player. An Automaton is a self-moving engine, with the principle of motion within itself; but this Chess-Player is no such thing; and, therefore, to call it an Automaton, is an imposition, and merits public detection; especially as the high price of five shillings for each person's admission induces the visitor to believe that its movements are really performed by mechanic powers; when, in fact, the whole delusion is supported by invisible confederates."

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The 'pamphlet' got close-very close but if the article had added a last word 'inside' to the above, one might believe that they knew. As it is, it could have been an invisible player or players behind a screen somewhere and the final word 'confederates' i.e plural, rules out more than one inside the Turk. Not enough room.

There is a great movie along the lines of the old classic 'The Sting' starring Redford & Newman worth seeing. It is called "The Best Offer" (2014) and stars Geoffrey Rush as the middle aged auctioneer named Virgil Oldman who falls in love. The best scenes were those with the sting accomplice building an automaton from scratch as a teaser to the auctioneer. On one gear wheel was the inscription 'Vaucanson' . One of the best mechanics of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. See p.185. (BM) And so Farewell to the Chess Monthly.

## CHAPTER 6

### PHILIDOR'S GAMES (From OECG) (& Boffa)

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Chess Games (1981) is a very useful book with all the recorded games from 1485 to 1800. It even includes some not previously published and Philidor is mentioned. The games post 1800 to 1866 are not all the recorded games. The book is dedicated to Philidor.

As for dates, the games are arranged chronologically. There is a very intriguing game on page 9 from 1750 with unknown players and source. The feature is the castling where the WK and BK are placed on h1 and h8 respectively with the Rooks on f1 and f8. The Oxford Companion to Chess (OCC) by Hooper & Whyld (1<sup>st</sup> ed 1984) states there were 16 versions of King's side castling and 10 versions of Queen's side castling plus regional variations. OCC states that castling as today, was featured by Ruy Lopez in his 1561 book and that it was generally established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century "except in Italy where many versions of castling remained in use until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century". It seems likely that this 1750 game is an Italian game and Philidor could not have been involved. One wonders if it is in Lolli, Del Rio or Ponziani's books? Here is the game from 267 years ago:-

1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..Nc6;3.Bc4..Bc5;4.0-0 (WKh1)..Nf6;5.Nc3..Ng4;6.d3..0-0 (BKh8);  
7.Ng5..d6;8.h3..h6;9.Nxf7+..Rxf7;10.Bxf7..Qh4;11.Qf3..Nxf2+;12.Rxf2..Bxf2;  
13.Nd5..Nd4;14.Ne7..Nxf3;15.Ng6+..Kh7 drawn by perpetual check Nf8+ etc.

The reason this game is included is because there is then a 30 year gap to the next game which starts Philidor's Games and here is the list from OECG.

Date & Number	Opponent & Colour	Moves	Result to Philidor	Source	Boffa Game No.
1780 BP1	Carlier & Bernard (W)	32	Loss	1836 Le Palamede	5
1783 BP1	Bowdler (W)	51	Draw	1843 CPC	7
1783 BP2	Bruhl (W)	47	Win	" "	6
1783 MP1	Maseres (W)	59	Win	" "	8
1787 BP1	Bruhl (W)	44	Draw	Murray-Bodleian	9
1788 BP1	De Beaurevoir (W)	32	Draw	" "	16
1788 BP2	" " "	56	Win	" "	14
1788 BP3	" " "	39	Win	" "	15
1788 BP4	Bowdler (W)	31	Win	" "	73
1788 BP5	" " "	34	Win	" "	72
1788 BP6	" " "	38	Loss	" "	74
1788 BP7	" " "	29	Draw	1837 Le Palamede	19

1788 BP8	“ “	32	Draw	“ “	20
1788 BP9	Bruhl (B)	49	Unknown	Murray-Bodleian	10
1788 BP10	“ “	41	Draw	“ “	76
1788 BP11	“ “	35	Draw	“ “	79
1788 BP12	“ “	28	Loss	“ “	78
1788 BP13	“ “	20	Loss	“ “	77
1788 BP14	“ “	41	Win	“ “	75
20 May BP15	“ “	48	Win	“ “	26
10 May BP16	“ “	44	Win	“ “	23
6 April CP1	Conway (B)	28	Loss	“ “	18
6 April CP2	“ “	44	Win	“ “	81

Date & Number	Opponent/Colour	Moves	Result to	Source	Boffa Game No.
1788			Philidor		
24 April CP3	Conway (B)	22	Loss	Murray-Bodelian	21
April CP4	“ “	40	Win	“ “	80
April CP5	“ “	37	Win	“ “	17
29 March LP1	Leycester (W)	29	Win	“ “	11
30 March LP2	“ “	46	Loss	“ “	12
30 March LP3	“ “	78	Draw	“ “	13
3 May LP4	“ “	42	Loss	“ “	22
May LP5	“ “	35	Win	“ “	83
May LP6	“ “	35	Win	“ “	82
10 May LP7	“ “	24	Win	“ “	25
10 May NP1	Nowell (W)	60	Win	“ “	24
1789					
BP1	Bowdler (W)	40	Win	Le Palamede	27
14 Jan. BP2	Bruhl (B)	39	Loss	Murray-Bodleian	30
23 Jan. BP3	“ “	29	Loss	“ “	31
26 Jan. BP4	“ “	20	Loss	“ “	32
26 Jan. BP5	“ “	27	Win	“ “	33
26 Jan. BP6	“ “	9	Win	“ “	-
26 Jan. BP7	“ “	19	Win	“ “	35
BP8	“ “	17	Unknown	“ “	28
11 Jan. CP1	Cotter (B)	22	Win	“ “	29
PW1	Wilson (B)	45	Win	“ “	85
PW2	“ “	26	Win	“ “	84
1790					
BP1	Bruhl (W)	53	Draw	Chess Monthly 1860	64
BP2	“ “	32	Draw	“ “ USA	66
BP3	“ “	33	Win	“ “	62
13 March CP1	Conway (W)	46	Win	Murray-Bodleian	38
JP1	Jennings (W)	30	Win	Chess Monthly 1860	67
JP2	“ “	28	Win	“ “ USA	63
JP3	“ “	45	Loss	“ “	65
13 March PS1	Sheldon (W)	31	Win	Murray-Bodleian	36
13 March PS2	Smith (W)	33	Win	“ “	37
1794					
22 March AP1	Atwood (W)	40	Win	“ “	42
March AP2	“ “	40	Loss	“ “	41
March AP3	“ “	40	Draw	“ “	70
1795					
14 Jan. AP1	Atwood (B)	7	Unknown	“ “	-
2 Jan. AP2	“ (B)	8	Unknown	“ “	44
8 Feb. AP3	“ (W)	10	Unknown	“ “	45
7 Feb. AP4	“ (B)	22	Win	“ “	40

9 Feb.	AP5	“	(W)	12	Unknown	“	“	47
12 Feb.	AP6	“	(B)	27	Win	“	“	48

Date & Number	Opponent & Colour	Moves	Result to Philidor	Source	Boffa Game No..
13 Feb. AP7	Atwood (B)	18	Loss	Murray-Bodleian	50
13 Feb. AP8	“ (B)	14	Loss	“ “	49
21 June AP9	“ (B)	27	Loss	“ “	52
24 June AP10	“ (B)	41	Loss	“ “	53
28 June AP11	“ (B)	47	Loss	“ “	69
27 June AP12	“ (W)	26	Win	“ “	55
27 June AP13	“ (W)	25	Win	“ “	54
27 June AP14	“ (W)	33	Loss	“ “	60
28 June AP15	“ (W)	38	Loss	“ “	56
29 June AP16	“ (W)	25	Win	“ “	57
29 June AP17	“ (W)	26	Win	“ “	59
29 June AP18	“ (W)	20	Win	“ “	58
5 July AP19	“ (W)	13	Loss	“ “	61
AP20	“ (B)	25	Win	“ “	43
13 June PW1	Wilson (B)	62	Draw	“ “	51
Total Games -78 Score +39-21=12 & Unknowns 6 =78					

The total collection of 78 games is the accepted total. There are no earlier games accepted before 1780. Most of the games are at various odds but some appear to be even:-1787 BP1. This game has Philidor with Black and is a draw in 44 moves. The opponent Count Bruhl as in 1788 BP16 won by Philidor in 44 moves with Black.

Another is the 1790 PS1 Sheldon Game with Philidor Black and winning in 31 likewise The Capt. Smith game 1790 PS2 won by Philidor with Black in 33. There are some unfinished short games that appear to be even such as Atwood AP1-5 being these.

The 4 games of relevance are the two against Bruhl 1787 BP1 and 1788 BP16 and the Sheldon Game 1790 PS2 and Smith game PS2. The latter two are with Philidor blindfolded and part of a 3 game simul. OECG has not marked the games as such. Likewise Bruhl’s 1788 BP16 game is in a 3 game simul in which he has the move only.

We are left with the 1787 BP1 game played 6 May. There are only 2 games recorded in 1787 and the other is De Beaurevoir vs Conway in May. This is an area of difficulty but playing through BP1 shows a balanced game with a pawn advantage to Bruhl late in the game. It could well be a simul game with Philidor giving Bruhl the move as he played Black in the 3 x 3 simuls in the 1790 Philidor edition. So we are left really with NO even games and that makes it worthwhile to

analyse the 9 games in the 1749 work to try to prove they are real games bearing in mind that von Der Lasa stated they were NOT.

There are some interesting players who have no recorded games against Philidor such as Harrowby, Douglas and Verdoni. The latter was in London in 1795 prior to Philidor's death. Another surprising feature is the 2 game simul for the Turkish Ambassador as shown in that famous sketch. Philidor has the blindfold on and his opponents are Bruhl and Wilson. One would expect these games to be recorded somewhere. That sketch is dated 23 Feb.1794 and perhaps the games are in a newspaper around that date? The sketch is signed SMBL and the latter two letters are I think 'British Library' but what are the S & M? There may also have been another simul for the Ambassador.

The interesting date applied by OECG to the 6 Bruhl/Jennings games published in the American Chess Monthly in 1860 was 1790. Later than the date applied by Fiske. Fiske admits his date is a guess. It would be good to know how that date was applied. (BM)

Sergio Boffa's ca 2010 book:-*Francois Andre Danican Philidor* subtitled *La Culture echiqueene en France et en Angleterre au XVIII siècle* changes the total game number to 81 as there are extra games. No.34/39/46 in Boffa are not in OECG. The Boffa game numbers are given on the RHS of the OECG lists on page 98+.

As for Sergio Boffa's total number of 90; from it have to be deducted No.1,2,3,4 as these are the 1749 games from 'Analyse' which may not be real games. Also No. 86,87,88,89 and 90 must be excluded as the first 4 are partial games/endings and Game No.90 is a fake which Boffa gives with its fake date of 1745 and opponent Rousseau. This Ruy Lopez game is far too modern for the 18<sup>th</sup> century but Lopez himself used the opening in his 1561 book. The other feature is that I couldn't find any existing game by Philidor in which he played with Black:-  
1.e4..e5;2.Nf3..Nc6!! Clearly he would not have liked that move as it blocked his c pawn. Would be interesting to see the source of this fake game.

There are some games missing from SB's book but they are minor games such as the 9 mover against Bruhl 1789 BP6 and Atwood's 1795 AP1 7 mover (OECG). Also game 68/69 in Boffa is combined I think.

