

Analytical Corrections, Additions and Enhancements

for

My Best Games of Chess 1908-1937

by Alexander Alekhine

by Taylor Kingston

The games and note variations in this book were converted to algebraic notation using ChessBase, with the analysis engine Rybka 3 UCI running in the background. During this process much of the book's analysis came to be compared to Rybka's. On the whole, Alekhine's judgment was upheld much more often than not, but like a football referee overruled by instant replay, even a world champion can be proven wrong – sometimes dramatically so – by the relentlessly objective scrutiny of an unblinking silicon eye.

We present here the corrections, additions and enhancements thus revealed that we consider significant: not minor half-pawn differences, but cases where an important tactical shot was missed, where a resource that could have changed a loss to a draw or win was overlooked, where a good move was called bad (or vice versa), or where a position was miscalculated. Also some cases where there was no real mistake, but an especially interesting variation, or a much stronger one, was not pointed out. Generally, we did not concern ourselves with openings, though a few instances of a major change in theoretical evaluation were noted.

Numbers given with some variations represent Rybka's evaluation of the position to the nearest hundredth of a pawn, e.g. a difference of exactly one pawn, with no other relevant non-material differences, has the value +1.00. A position where Rybka considers White better by 3½ pawns (or the equivalent, such as a minor piece) would get the value +3.50; one favoring Black to the same extent would be -3.50. These numbers may vary some from one machine to another, or with the length of time allowed for analysis, but are generally valid and reliable.

The one area where analysis engines are sometimes suspect is the endgame. In such cases we consulted Dr. Stephen B. Dowd, a published study composer and endgame expert, for whose help we are most grateful.

None of this should be taken as any disparagement of Alekhine as a player – his greatness in that respect is indisputable. Granted, Rybka's impartial analysis does reveal that some games, arguably, may not

belong in this collection, examples being games 72, 95, 98, and 129. On the other hand, Rybka ringingly endorses Alekhine in other quite difficult games, for example validating both text moves and complex analytical variations in games 106, 121, 124, 133, 153 and 175.

We did notice what seemed to be two minor patterns in Alekhine's mistakes. One, though he was often admirably objective in pointing out his own errors, on occasion he tended to "analyze by result," i.e. to make it seem, especially if he won by a sparkling combination, that his every move must have been a strong link in a logical chain, and his victory the inexorable result of a master plan, when in fact the game was not nearly so harmonious, the plan not infallible, and he won simply because of a lapse by the opponent at a crucial point. Examples are games 60, 95, 96, 98, 100, 134, 135, and 193. Secondly, in positions where he was attacking, he tended sometimes to overlook important defensive resources by which his opponents could have salvaged draws, especially when perpetual check was involved. See for example games 9, 25, 42, 129, 168, 179, 191, 202, 210, and the Colle game from Baden-Baden 1925 embedded in the notes to game 103. We might conjecture that the former tendency derived in part from the fact that, at least until he won the world title in 1927, Alekhine's annotations were, to some extent, sales pitches. Seeking backers for his challenge to Capablanca, he wanted to appear omniscient. That does not explain the latter tendency, seen mostly in post-1927 games.

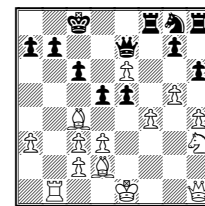
Still, the vast majority of his mistakes came from note variations, not actual game moves. In frequency and degree of annotation error, Alekhine fares no worse, and in some cases better, than other all-time greats – Lasker, Botvinnik, Smyslov, Najdorf, Tartakower, Fine, Timman – whose works we have analyzed in similar fashion. It simply was not possible then for a single chess master, no matter how great, to come anywhere near the accuracy and thoroughness of today's chess engines, which can analyze thousands of moves in mere seconds. It should also be noted that – unlike this writer – Alekhine did not have the luxury of a leisurely pace in writing his books: he generally led a very busy life, filled with – besides frequent serious play and its attendant preparations – many simultaneous exhibitions, lectures and blindfold displays, writing magazine and newspaper articles, transcontinental travel, etc. (Not to mention the occasional war or revolution!) In further mitigation, some of our corrections are to notes by others whom Alekhine quotes, others involve typos, and many of our additions

and enhancements are cases where Alekhine found good moves, but Rybka merely found better ones which we thought would interest the reader (e.g. forcing mate in preference to winning the queen in Game 5, Alekhine-Vidmar, Carlsbad 1911). Also the fact that sometimes Alekhine's opponents erred when they could have equalized, is not to be taken as meaning Alekhine did not deserve to win. Had they not erred at, say, move 25, then they likely would have at some later point.

We do not claim the list below is comprehensive; not every variation of every game was examined. Nor do we claim it is inerrant; though today's engines are very strong, they can miss things beyond their analytical horizon. The interested reader is encouraged to examine further on his own.

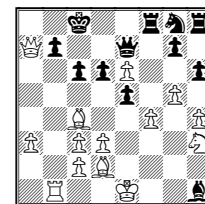
Game 1, Alekhine-Gregory, St.

Petersburg 1909: Alekhine's notes are on the whole quite sound here; we note only some minor improvements and corrections. In the note to White's 20th move, after 20.♖xh1 d5,



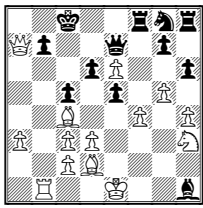
White is not obliged to cede Black the initiative with the retreat 21.♘b3; instead he has 21.♘xd5! cxd5 22.♖xd5 ♖d8 (if 22...hxg5 23.♖xb7! ♖xb7 24.♖c5+ ♖c7 25.♖xf8+ etc.) 23.♖xe5 and with four pawns for the exchange, White is clearly winning.

Therefore 20.♖xh1 was not inferior to the text continuation 20.♖xa7,

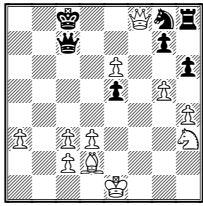


especially since instead of 20...c5, Black could have put up stiffer resistance with 20...b5!?, requiring White to find the more difficult continuation 21.♖a8+ ♖c7 22.♖a5+ ♖c8 23.a4! ♖b7 24.axb5 ♘d5 25.♘xd5 cxd5 26.fxex5 to win.

At move 21,

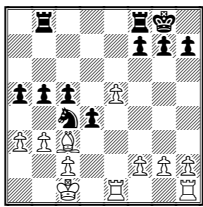


while there is nothing wrong with the text move 21.d4, it is only about 8th-best, and contrary to Alekhine's claim, not strictly necessary. Best is 21.♔a6! ♖c7 22.f×e5 d×e5 23.♙b7+! ♙b7 24.♞b7 ♖×b7 25.♖×c5+ ♖c7 26.♖×f8+,



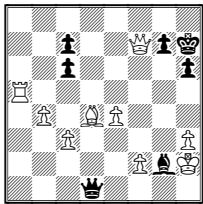
and again White is winning easily.

Game 3, Speyer-Alekhine, Hamburg 1910: 23...d4 may not have been as good as thought.



No mention is made of the variation 24.♙d4!? c×d4 25.b×c4, when if 25...b×c4 26.♞e4=, or 25...♞fc8 26.c×b5 ♞×b5 27.♞d1 ♞b×c5 28.♜b1! ♞×c2 29.♞c1=.

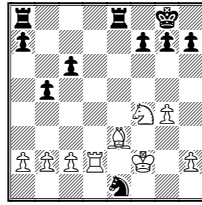
Game 5, Alekhine-Vidmar, Carlsbad 1911: A trifling improvement to the note at move 33: we agree that 34.♖×f7 can lead to White losing his queen,



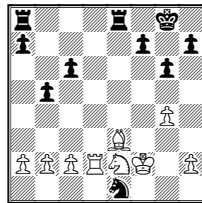
but after 34...♖h1+ 35.♜g3 ♖×h3+ 36.♜f4 ♖f3+ 37.♜e5, Black can do even better than 37...♖×f7 with 37...♖×e4#.

Game 6, Alapin-Alekhine, Carlsbad 1911:

The note variation at move 19 can be improved. After 20.♖×d6 ♖×f3+ 21.♜f2 ♖×d6 22.♞×d6 ♖×e1 23.♞d2,

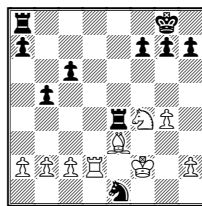


rather than 23...g6, Black should play 23...♞e4. The reason is that after 23...g6, rather than 24.♞e2 as given, White can improve with 24.♖e2!,



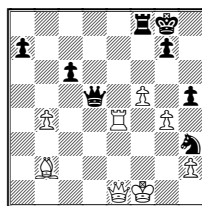
e.g. 24...♞e4 25.♙d4 c5 26.♙f6 ♞ae8 27.♜×e1 ♞×g4, or 24...♖g2 25.♙h6 ♖h4 26.♙g5, in either case leaving Black with a considerably smaller advantage than in the note variation (only about half a pawn at best), mainly because 23...g6 opens convenient squares to the white bishop.

In contrast, after 23...♞e4,



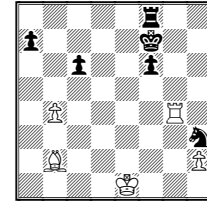
24.♖e2? is answered by 24...♖g2!-+, while if 24.♞e2 ♞×e3 25.♞×e3 ♖×c2 and Black is two pawns up.

The note at move 41 states that after 41...h5,



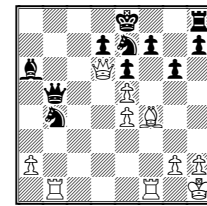
there is nothing better than 42.♖c3, but this is questionable. After 42.♖e2! best play runs something like 42...h×g4 43.f6

♖f5+ 44.♜e1 g×f6 45.♖×g4+ ♖×g4 46.♞×g4+ ♜f7,

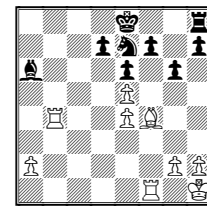


when Black is a pawn up but White has good drawing chances, and Rybka rates the position as virtually even.

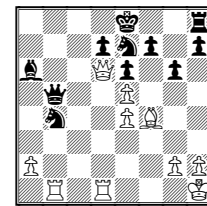
Game 7, Alekhine-Chajes, Carlsbad 1911: The note variation at move 18 can be improved considerably. After 18...♖e7,



the line given, 19.♖×b4 ♖×b4 20.♞×b4 is not good,



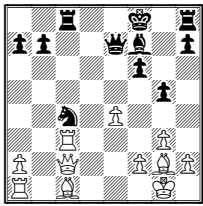
because rather than 20...♙×f1? 21.♞b1+ etc., Black has 20...♖c6! after which he gets back one of the rooks with impunity and regains near equality. Instead, completely decisive is (from previous diagram) 19.♞fd1!,



which gets the ♞f1 out of trouble and overburdens the black queen. Black has nothing better than 19...♖c8 20.♖×b4 ♖×b4 21.♞×b4 and White is up the exchange with a dominant positional and developmental advantage.

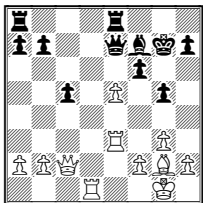
Game 8, Alekhine-Dus-Chotimirski, Carlsbad 1911: The note at move 18

overlooks a winning shot for White. After 18...c4 19.bxc4 dxc4 20.♖c3 ♖c8?? as given (better 20...♗e5±),

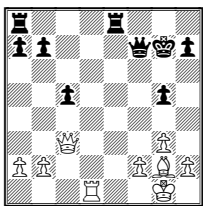


Black will not have time for 21...♙g7 because of 21.♙a3! forcing either 21...♖c5 22.♙xc5 ♗xc5 or 21...dxa3 22.♖xc8+ ♙g7 23.♗c7, White winning in both cases.

The note at move 21 recommends 21...♖he8 as the best defense, but underestimates White's attack in that line.

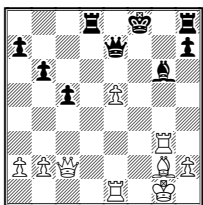


After 22.exf6+ ♗xf6 23.♖f3! ♗e7 (if 23...♙g6 24.♗xc5+-) 24.♖xf7! ♗xf7 25.♗c3+,

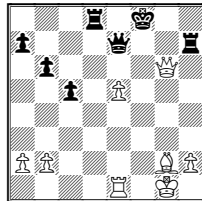


White wins in either 25...♙g8 26.♙d5 ♖e6 27.♗xc5+-, or 25...♙f8 26.♙d5 ♗g6 27.♗xc5+ ♙g7 28.♙xb7 ♖ab8 29.♗c3+ ♙h6 30.♗c7! and the threat of 31.♖d6 forces 30...♖xb7 31.♗xb7+-.

The note at move 26 commits a serious error. After 26...♙g6,

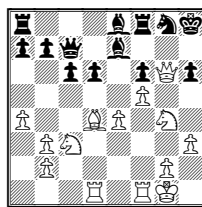


the recommended line 27.♖xg6 hxg6 28.♗xg6 fails if, instead of the seeming typo 28...♗e5?!, Black plays 28...♖h7!,



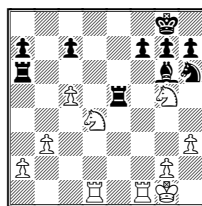
when White has nothing better than perpetual check by 29.♖f1+ ♖f7 30.♗h6+ ♙g8 31.♖xf7 ♙xf7 32.♗h7+ etc. Instead of 27.♖xg6?, White wins by (from previous diagram) 27.♖f1+! ♙g8 28.♖f6 forcing 28...♗xf6 29.exf6+-.

Game 9, Alekhine-Marco, Stockholm 1912: A minor correction to the note at move 19: after 20.♙g4 ♙e8,

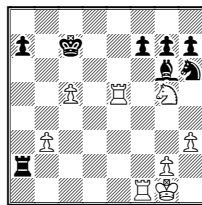


White need lose only a knight rather than his queen, viz. 21.♙xf6 ♙xf6 (21...♙xg6?? 22.♙fd5+-) 22.♗g3 etc.

Game 10, Alekhine-Cohn, Stockholm 1912: Unnoticed is the fact that White could have wrapped up the game earlier. At move 26,

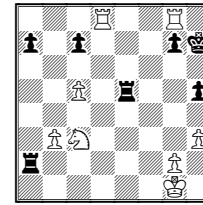


while the text 26.♙de6 was not at all bad, stronger was 26.♙b5!, when there are two main variations: (a) 26...♙f8 27.♙xc7 ♖xa2 28.♖d8+ ♙e7 29.♖e8+ ♙d7 30.♖xe5 ♙xc7,



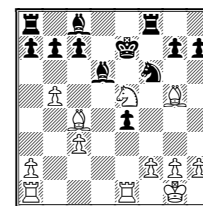
and White is up the exchange with a passed pawn to boot; and (from previous diagram) (b) 26...♙h8 27.♖d8+ ♙g8

28.♙xf7+ ♙xf7 29.♖xf7 ♖xa2 30.♖ff8 h5 31.♖xg8+ ♙h7 32.♙c3,



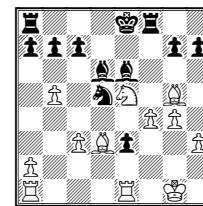
and White is up a piece.

Game 11, Spielmann-Alekhine, Stockholm 1912: Contrary to the note at move 17, after 17...♙d6 White was not forced to play 18.f4. Instead, 18.♖fe1! was best.



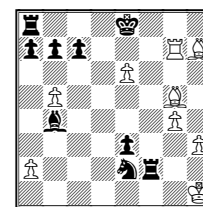
If then 18...♙xe5? 19.♖xe4 regains the piece with advantage, while if 18...♙f5 19.♙f3 ♙d7 20.♙d4 with some advantage for White.

At White's 23rd move,

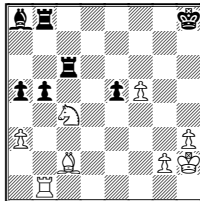


the possibilities 23.♙e4 and 23.♙c4 were worth mentioning, both being considerably better than the text move 23.f5? or the suggested 23.♙xh7, e.g. 23.♙c4 ♙c5 (or 23...h6 24.♙xd6+ cxd6 25.c4 ♙xf4 26.♙xf4 ♖xf4 27.♖xe3) 24.f5 ♙g8 25.♙xe3, or 23.♙e4 ♙xf4 24.♙xf4 ♖xf4 25.♙xb7 ♖b8 26.♙c6+.

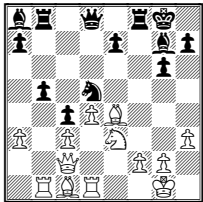
The last note is mistaken to claim that after 27...♙e2+ 28.♙g2 ♖f2+ 29.♙h1 ♙b4 30.♖xg7 Black is forced to take a perpetual check.



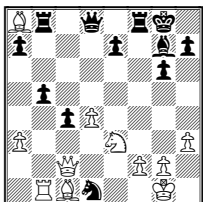
Black still wins with either 30...♖f1+ or 30...♗f4, viz. 30...♗f4 31.♖g8+ ♕f8 32.e7 ♖f7+-, or 30...♖f1+ 31.♖g2 (if 31.♖h2 ♕d6+ and mate shortly) 31...♗f4+ 32.♖xf4 (or 32.♖xf1 e2+ etc.) 32...♖xf4 33.♖g8+ ♖e7 34.♖xa8 e2 etc. However, 27...♗b4, as actually played, was still the best move on the board.



Game 12, Bernstein-Alekhine, Vilna 1912: Alekhine seems to imply that the note variation 21.♗f1-e3,

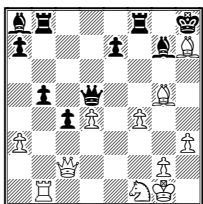


is not essentially different from the text move 21.♗g5?, as Black plays 21...♗xc3 in either case. This seems to overlook a critical difference, that after 21.♗e3 ♗xc3 22.♖xa8 ♗d1 (or ♗b1),



White can play 23.♖d5+, extricating the bishop. Then after 23...♖h8 24.♖xd1, Black's advantage is minimal compared to the game continuation.

It bears mentioning that Black could have improved significantly at move 25.

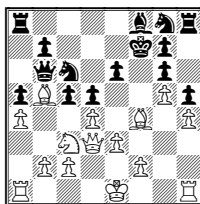


Instead of 25...♖xd4+, best was 25...♖xd4+ 26.♖h2 ♖xg2+ 27.♖xg2 ♖xg2, and after either 28.♖g6 ♖d5 or 28.♖xg2 ♖xh7, Black has a pawn more than in the game continuation and a clearly winning position.

The note at move 32 underestimates 32.♗xc4. After 32.♗xc4 ♖c6,

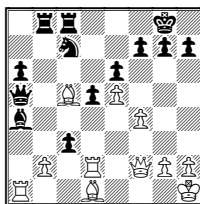
rather than 33.♗e3 as given, best is 33.♖d3! ♖c5 34.♗xa5 e4 35.♖e2 ♖xf5, when Black's winning chances have suddenly become problematic. This whole difficulty could have been skirted by avoiding 32...a5?! in favor of 32...♖fb6.

Game 13, Nimzovitch-Alekhine, Vilna 1912: The note variation dismissed at move 13 has more sting than Alekhine thought. After 13.g5 ♗g8 14.♖d3 ♖f7,

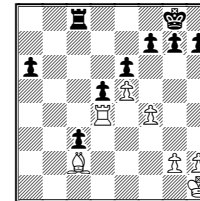


much stronger than the given move 15.♖h3 is 15.dxc5!, when White gets a strong, probably winning attack no matter how Black recaptures, viz. 15...♖xc5 16.♗xd5! exd5 17.♖xd5+ ♖f8 18.♖c4 ♗d8 19.♖f3 ♖e8 20.0-0-0 etc., or 15...♖xc5 16.0-0-0 ♖d8 17.e4 ♗ge7 (17...dxe4? 18.♖xe4) 18.♖c7 ♖d7 (if 18...♖c8 19.exd5) 19.♖xa5 intending, say, 20.♖f3+ ♖g8 21.♖h3 etc. And the attack is all the stronger if Black does not recapture on c5.

Game 14, Alekhine-Bernstein, Vilna 1912: Variation (b) in the note to White's 22nd move goes wrong at the end. After 22...♖xc5 23.♖xc5 ♖fc8 24.c3 ♖xa4 25.♖d1 bxc3,

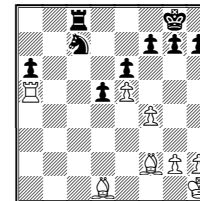


not 26.b4, since this allows the forced line 26...♖xb4! 27.♖xb4 ♖xb4 28.♖xa4 ♖b1 29.♖dd4 ♗b5 30.♖c2 (else 30...c2+-) 30...♖xc2 31.♖xc2 ♗xd4 32.♖xd4,



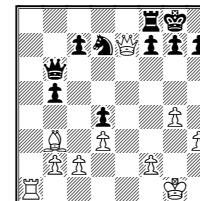
when Black has three passed pawns for the bishop and very good drawing chances.

Best instead is (from previous diagram) 26.♖xa4! cxb2 27.♖xb2 ♖xb2 28.♖xa5 ♖xf2 29.♖xf2,

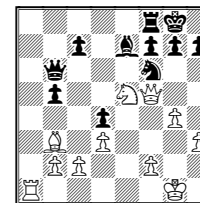


when with two bishops for a knight and two pawns, White should win.

Game 16, Alekhine-Duras, St. Petersburg 1913: The second variation in the note to Black's 22nd move can be improved. After 22...♖e7 the recommended line 23.♗d7 ♗xd7 24.♖xe7 does not lead to much,

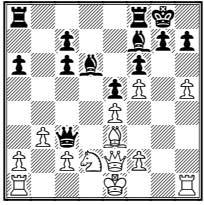


if instead of 24...♖d6 Black plays 24...♖c6!. Strongest, instead of 23.♗d7, is 23.♖f5,



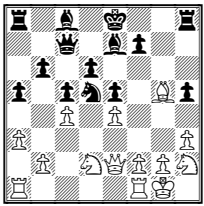
when best play runs along the lines of 23...g6 24.♖f3 ♖c5 (if 24...♖g7? 25.g5+-, or 24...♖d6 25.♗xf7 ♖xf7 26.g5+-) 25.♖e1 (not 25.♗xf7 ♖xf7 26.g5 ♖xg5+, showing the point of 24...♖c5) 25...♖g7 26.g5 ♗h5 27.h4 – defending the g-pawn and thus neutralizing 24...♖c5 – 27...♖b4 28.♖f1 ♖d6 29.♗xf7 and wins.

Game 17, Znosko-Borovsky–Alekhine, St. Petersburg 1913: In the note to move 17, the line 17.♖f5 ♖xf5 18.gxf5 ♖c3 is probably not so good for Black as thought;

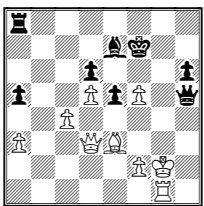


after 19.0-0!? (rather than the egregious 19.0-0-0??) 19...♖xc2 20.♖fc1 ♖b2 21.h6 White has significant compensation for the lost c-pawn.

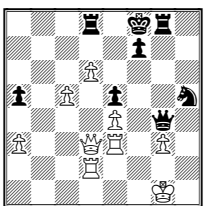
Game 18, Olland-Alekhine, Scheveningen 1913: The note at move 15 overlooks an important move for White. After 15.♖h2 h5 16.♖xg5 ♖xd5,



White need not play 17.♖xe7; instead 17.exd5! ♖xg5 18.f4 ♖e7 19.fxe5 dxe5 20.♖hf3 leads to a strong, possibly winning attack, e.g. 20...f6 21.♖e4, or 20...♖d6 21.♖e4+-. Rybka does not support the conclusion of the note to move 20, that in its ending position,

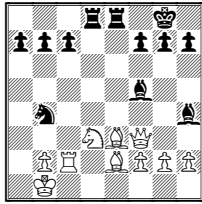


“White’s position would rapidly become untenable.” After, for example, 29.♖c1 ♖g8+ 30.♖f1, Rybka finds the position completely even. The note at move 30 does not give the best reply to 30.♖d2.

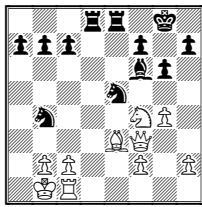


The given move 30...♖h3 leads to nothing after 31.♖h2 (instead of 31.♖g2?? as given) 31...♖g4 32.c6 ♖g6 33.♖g2=. Best instead is the waiting move 30...♖g6!, when White cannot prevent either 31...♖xg3 or 31...♖f4 with a probably winning edge for Black. Even so, 30.♖d2 was by far the best chance for White, much better than 30.d7 as played.

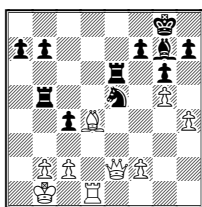
Game 19, Miseses-Alekhine, Scheveningen 1913: At this point in the note at move 16,



the move given was 19...R-K5, i.e. 19...♖e4. Since this is a gross blunder that loses in at least ten possible ways, we presumed it to be a typo and substituted 19...♖e4, which is indeed best answered by the note’s 20.♖xb4!. Further on, Rybka does not agree with Alekhine’s evaluations at several points. First, at White’s 22nd move,

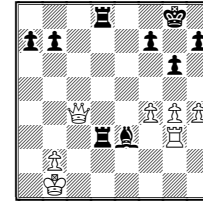


Alekhine rejected 22.♖xb2 on principle, because it would open the b-file for Black’s rooks. However, as Kasparov pointed out in *My Great Predecessors Part I* (p. 345), and as our own analysis with Rybka concurs, there appears to be no way Black can actually capitalize, e.g. 22.♖xb7 ♖b8 23.♖g2 ♖c4 24.c3 ♖a2 (not 24...♖xb2? 25.cxb4 ♖xb4?? 26.♖d5+-, or 24...♖a6? 25.♖c6! ♖xb2+ 26.♖a1 ♖eb8 27.♖xc4+-) 25.♖a2 ♖xb2+ 26.♖a1 ♖xe3 27.♖c6 ♖eb8 28.fxe3, and there is nothing more than a draw by repetition. Then in the note variation at White’s 26th move, 26.g5 ♖g7 27.♖d1 ♖b5 28.♖d4 ♖e6.



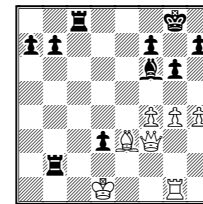
rather than seeing this as to Black’s advantage, after 29.♖f1! (defusing the threat of 29...♖c6) it evaluates the position at about +1.48, nearly winning for White.

Then in the note to White’s 27th move, after 27.cxd3 ♖xd3 28.♖g3 ♖d4! 29.♖c2 ♖xe3 30.♖xc4 ♖ed8,

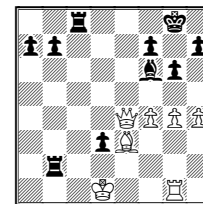


Alekhine says Black has “the better game,” but Rybka sees White standing slightly better after 31.♖e4, forcing 31...♖d1+ 32.♖a2 ♖f7 (else 33.♖xb7) 33.♖h3 b6 34.h5, and White is getting counterplay.

Most importantly, in the actual game, at White’s 31st move,



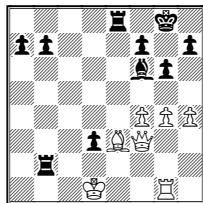
Rybka agrees with Alekhine that 31.♖g2 loses, but disagrees that it is the only defense against 31...♖cc2. Best instead – and more importantly, a saving move – is 31.♖e4!,



when according to Rybka Black can make no headway at all and the position is completely even. If, for example, 31...♖cc2? 32.♖xd3 forces the rook back to c8. And if 31...♖b1+ 32.♖d2 and Black has nothing better than a draw by repetition with 32...♖b2+ etc., or 31...a6 32.♖c1 ♖bc2 33.♖e3 etc.

Even after an overnight search to a depth of 28 ply Rybka still gives 31.♖e4 an evaluation of 0.00. If, as Alekhine thought, there is a win for Black, it is very deeply hidden.

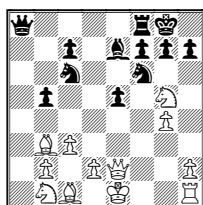
The only alternative Rybka sees as giving Black any winning chances is at move 30,



where instead of the text move 30...♖c8, it recommends 30...♗e7, which it sees as giving Black a slight edge (about -0.64) but no forced win.

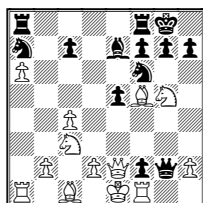
Game 20, Alekhine-Levenfish, St.

Petersburg 1913: The note at White's 10th move goes awry on the last move of the sub-variation 11.f3 exf3 12.gxf3 axb5 13.♖xa8 ♗xa8 14.fxg4:



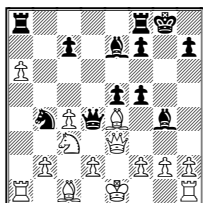
The correct continuation is not 14...♗a5, which allows White to equalize with 15.♗xf7+ ♖xf7 16.♖f1! ♖f8 17.♗xe5. Instead, Black wins with 14...♗d4! threatening 14...♗xe2, 14...♗xb3, and 14...♗xa1+.

In the note at Black's 13th move, the sub-variation 13...♗c6 14.♗c3 e3 15.♗xf5 ♗xg2 16.♖f1 exf2+,

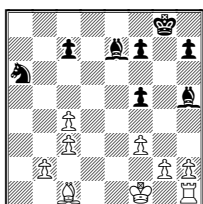


the given line 17.♖xf2 ♗xg5 18.d4 is not at all best for White, viz. 18...♗g1+ 19.♗f1 ♗xf1+ 20.♗f1 exd4 and White's edge is quite small. Instead 17.♗xf2 ♗xg5 18.d3 (or 18.d4) 18...♗h5 19.♖g1 White stands clearly better.

At Black's 17th move the note variation 17...gxf6 18.♗e4 f5 is actually fine for White:



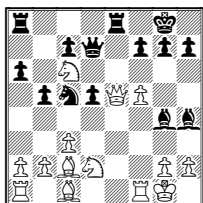
after 19.♗xd4! exd4 20.♗xa8 ♖xa8 (or 20...♗c2+ 21.♗f1 ♗xa1 22.♗d5+-) 21.♗f1! dxc3 22.dxc3 ♖xa6 23.♖xa6 ♗xa6 24.f3 ♗h5,



White is clearly winning, with a bigger advantage (+2.15) than in the given line 18.♗b1 (+1.37).

Game 21, Alekhine-Nimzovitch, St.

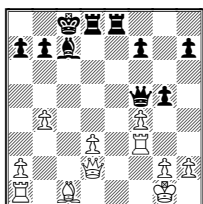
Petersburg 1913-14: Contrary to Alekhine's claim that "White must win" in the ending position of the note to move 11, from Bogoljuboff-Réti, Stockholm 1920,



Rybka sees a very even position with no win for White in view, best play for both sides proceeding along the lines of 17...♗xc6 18.♗f4 ♗b6 19.♗h1 ♗e2 20.♗h4 ♗xf1 21.♗xf1 ♖e2 22.♗d2 ♗e4 23.♗xe4 ♖xe4=.

Game 23, Nimzovitch-Alekhine, St.

Petersburg 1913-14: At White's 25th move,

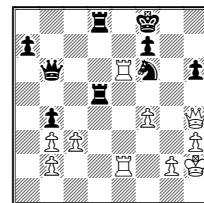


the note neglects to mention that White could probably have maintained equality with 25.♗c3!, threatening 26.fxg5. Rybka sees play continuing along the lines of 25...g4 26.♖e3 ♖e3 27.♗xe3 ♗xd3

28.♖c1 ♗xc3 29.♖xc3 with a very even, likely drawn game.

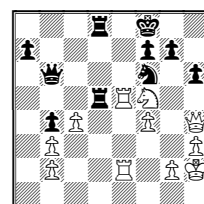
Game 25, Alekhine-Tarrasch, St.

Petersburg 1914: The note variation at Black's 37th move fails to consider a crucial move. After Tarrasch's recommended 37...♗f6, Alekhine's intended 38.♗h6 g×h6 39.♖e6



is refuted by 39...♗g4+, forcing 40.h×g4 f×e6, when White has nothing better than perpetual check by 41.♗f6+ ♗g8 42.♗g6+ etc.

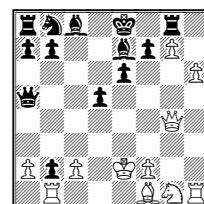
Instead, after 37...♗f6, White has several winning continuations, best of which is probably 38.c4!,



viz. 38...♗d2 (if 38...♖xe5 39.fxe5 ♗g8 [if 39...♗e8 40.♗e7+] 40.c5 ♗a5 41.♗d6 ♗c7 42.♖f2 f6 43.♗xb4+-) 39.♖2e3! ♗g8 (if 39...♖xb2? 40.♖g3+-) 40.♗g3 g6 41.c5 followed by 42.♗d6 and wins.

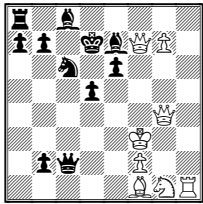
Game 26, Tarrasch-Alekhine, St.

Petersburg 1914: The famous "five queens game," given in the note to move 5 as having been played in Moscow in 1915, is now known to be an apocryphal invention of Alekhine's. Hoax though it is, several improvements are worth noting. First, for Black's 15th move,



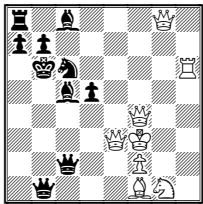
the text 15...♗h2 is a serious mistake (+2.94). Best is 15...♗f8!?, which defuses White's attack, e.g. 16.gxf8♗+ ♗xf8 17.♗h4 ♗d7= (-0.01).

Then at White's 20th move,



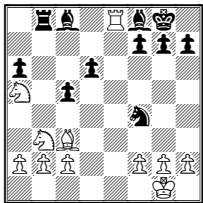
the text 20.♖gxe6+ (only +0.87!) dissipates much of White's advantage compared to 20.g8♖! (+6.04).

Finally, the "coup de repos" in which Alekhine takes such pride, 24.♖h6, does not work as well as he thought.



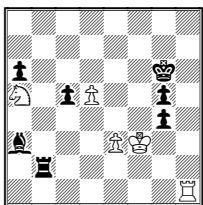
As was pointed out by Dutch master Tim Krabbé as far back as 1985 (pre-Rybka!), overlooked is 24...♗g4+, which probably draws (+0.53).

Game 28, Duras-Alekhine, Mannheim 1914: The note at White's 17th move says that 17...d6 18.exd6 ♖xe1+ 19.♖xe1 cxd6 20.♖e8 gives White "a winning position,"



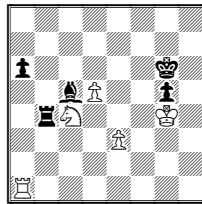
but after 20...♖a8 Rybka does not agree, evaluating the position as close to perfectly even.

At White's 37th move,

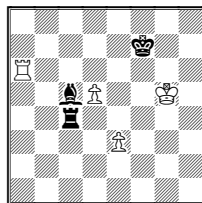


the text move 37.♖e4 may not deserve the "!" Alekhine gives it, while the unmentioned 37.♖g3 appears to be best, Rybka finding no win for Black in that case. Also, 37.♖xg4 may not be as bad as thought. Alekhine considered it refuted by

37...c4, presumably because White must give up his knight to stop the c-pawn, viz. 38.♖a1 ♗c5 39.♖xc4 ♖b4:

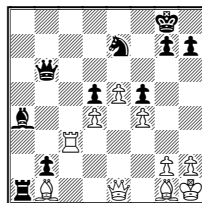


In that case, though, after the forced 40.♖xa6+ ♖f7 41.♖xg5 ♖xc4,



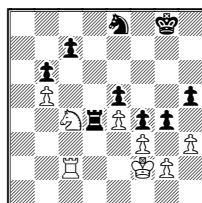
Black has no more pawns and slim practical winning chances.

Game 28, Flamberg-Alekhine, Mannheim 1914: We took the liberty of changing the note at move 37. After 37.♖e1,

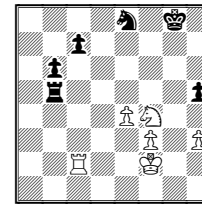


the note originally read B-Kt4, i.e. 37...♗b5, which would be a serious error allowing White to win the b-pawn by 38.♖b3, completely turning the tables. Thus we suspect "B-Kt4" was a misprint, and B-Kt6, or 37...♗b3, which preserves the win, was intended. White is then helpless against the threat of 38...♗a2.

Game 30, Mieses-Alekhine, Mannheim 1914: The note at move 30 says that in the event of 30.♖f2 Alekhine intended 30...g4, to which he gave an exclamation.

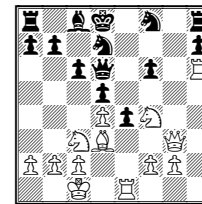


However, Rybka does not support that punctuation. After 31.♖xe5 g×h3 32.g×h3 ♖b4 33.♖d3 ♖xb5 34.♖xf4,

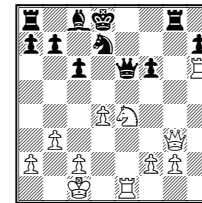


it sees a slight advantage for White, about +0.67, with no clear way for either side to gain a significant advantage.

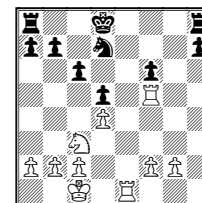
Game 31, Alekhine-Fahrni, Mannheim 1914: The note variation at move 17 can be improved considerably. After 17...♖d6,



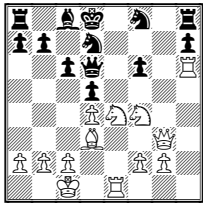
the line given, 18.♗xe4, leads to only a small advantage for White if instead of 18...dxe4, Black plays 18...♖e6!, when after either 19.♖xe6+ ♖xe6 20.b3 dxe4 21.♖xe4 ♖g8 (+0.82),



or 19.♖h4 ♖xf4 20.♗f5 ♖b6 21.♖xf4 (if 21.♗xc8 ♖xc8 22.♖xf4 ♖c7 (+0.76)) 21...♖xf4+ 22.♖xf4 ♗xf5 23.♖xf5 ♖d7,

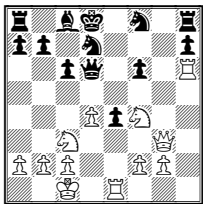


White's only real advantage is his better kingside pawn structure. Much better than 18.♗xe4 is 18.♖xe4!,



when if 18...dxe4 19.♞xe4 followed by 20.♖g7 (+4.27), or 18...♞e7 19.♞hh1! (threatening 20.♗c3 ♞f7 21.♗fxd5 cxd5 22.♖d6 followed by 23.♗xd5+-) 19...dxe4 20.♞xe4 etc. (+3.47).

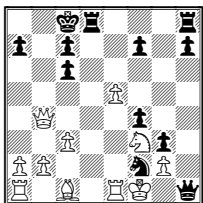
Also in the same note, after 18...dxe4,



the original descriptive notation, 19.RxP, was ambiguous, since three pawn captures by rooks are possible. We corrected this to the clearly intended move 19.♞xe4.

Game 32, Alekhine-Zhukovsky, correspondence 1905-06: This game has perhaps more errors, and of greater magnitude, in both the actual game and the notes, than any other in the entire collection. This is at least partly explained by the fact that it was played when Alekhine was only twelve years old. Furthermore, we suspect that the annotations are based on his original notes from that time, without much further examination. Otherwise it is hard to explain so many tactical mistakes that the mature Alekhine would never make. But, as he himself said, it does have “extremely interesting complications most difficult to fathom.”

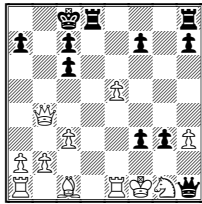
The note variation at move 15 hits an eventual snag; after 15.♞b4 ♗c6 16.dxc6 ♗xc6 17.♗b5 0-0 18.♗xc6 bxc6 19.dxe5 ♗f2 20.♞f1 ♞h1+? (better 20...♗d3 or ♗g4),



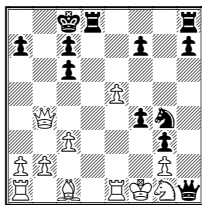
White need not play 21.♗g1 as given. Best is 21.♞e2, with then the forced continuation 21...♞xg2 22.♞g1 ♞h3

23.♞xf4 ♞hg8 24.♗e3 ♞e6 25.♞xg3, and White stands better (about +0.96).

Far worse in that line is that after 21.♗g1?, the given (and supposedly winning) line 21...♗h3 22.gxh3 f3,

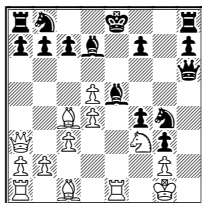


overlooks the saving check 23.♞g4+ and 24.♞xg3, when White wins. Instead, Black must play 21...♗g4!,



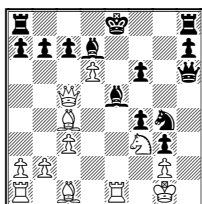
threatening 22...♗h2+ 23.♞e2 ♞xg2#, when the forced continuation is 22.♞e4 ♗h2+ 23.♞e2 f3+ 24.gxf3 ♞g2+ 25.♞e3 ♗f1+ 26.♞f4 ♞xg1 27.♞xc6 g2! 28.♞a6+ ♞b8 29.♞b5+ ♞b6 and Black wins.

At Black’s 15th move,



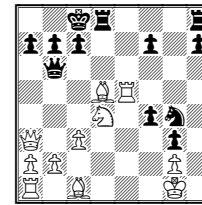
while the text move 15...♗c6 probably deserves the exclamation Alekhine gives it (though for different reasons explained below), objectively best is 15...b5!, viz. 16.♗b3 ♞d8! 17.dxe5 ♗f2 18.♞f1 ♗d3 19.e6 (relatively best) 19...♗xe1 20.♗xe1 fxe6 21.dxe6 ♞e8 22.♞c5 (22.exd7?? ♞h1 #) 22...♗xe6 and wins (-3.20).

In the note at Black’s 17th move, after 17...♗d7 18.♞c5 f6 19.d6,



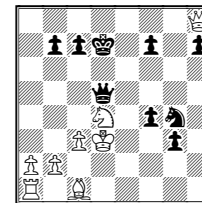
the given move 19...c6 is a serious mistake. Instead 19...cxd6! wins out of hand, e.g. 20.♞xd6 0-0-0 (-7.56) or 20.♞d5 ♗f2 (-3.39). This is the continuation that justifies 15...♗c6.

At Black’s 20th move,



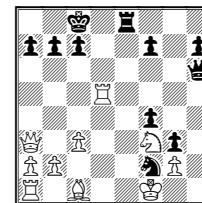
20...♞xd5 is given an exclamation it does not deserve, for reasons explained below. Correct is 20...♗xe5!, forcing 21.♞b3 ♞xb3 22.♗xb3, and after 22...c5 or 22...♗g6, Black is somewhat better.

At this point in the note to move 22,

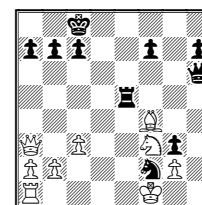


the suggestion that Black could “utilize his dangerous passed pawns on the kingside by playing 27...f3” is refuted by 28.♗f4 ♗f2+ 29.♗d2 c5 30.♗xg3 ♞g5+ 31.♞c2 ♞xg3 32.♞xh7 cxd4 33.♞xf7+ and wins. Also strong is 28.♞xh7.

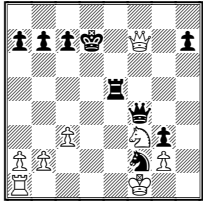
At White’s 24th move, the aforementioned inadequacy of 20...♞xd5 is demonstrated.



Here 24.♗xf4 is said to be White’s “only resource,” but it only draws and does not deserve the exclamation given. Instead, White wins by 24.♞e5!, with the following main lines: (a) 24...♞xe5 25.♗xf4!!

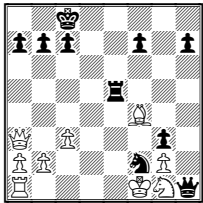


(Now this is right. Not 25. ♖xe5?? ♜h1+ 26. ♜e2 ♜d1 #.) 25... ♜xf4 26. ♜f8+ ♜d7 27. ♜xf7+!



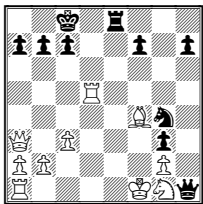
27... ♜xf7 28. ♖xe5+ ♜e7 29. ♖xf7 ♜xf7 30. ♜e1+-;

(b) 24... ♜h1+ 25. ♖g1 ♜xe5 26. ♖xf4

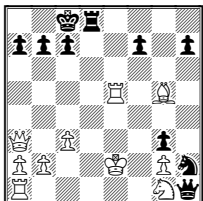


26... ♜e6 (if 26... ♜e8 27. ♜c5 c6 28. ♜d6+-) 27. ♜f8+ ♜d7 28. ♜xf7+ ♜e7 29. ♜d5+ ♜e8 30. ♖g5 ♜e4 31. ♜d1 and mate in at most nine moves.

At White's 26th move,

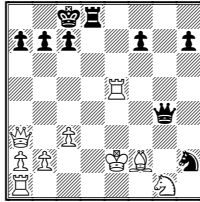


26. ♖h5 is given an exclamation when it actually deserves "??", as will be shown below. Correct is 26. ♜e5. Contrary to Alekhine's analysis, it is the only move that draws. After the forced continuation 26... ♖h2+ 27. ♜e2 ♜d8 28. ♖g5!

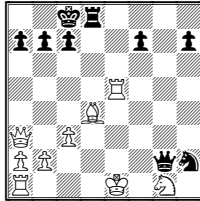


(surer than Alekhine's 28. ♖xg3) Black is forced to take perpetual check by 28... ♜xg2+ 29. ♜e3 ♜f2+ etc.

Further on in that note variation, after 28... ♖xg3 ♜xg2+ 29. ♖f2, the given move 29... ♜g4+ actually loses,

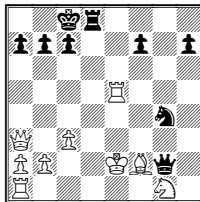


viz. 30. ♜e1 ♜g2 and now not 31. ♜e1 as in the note, but 31. ♖d4!,



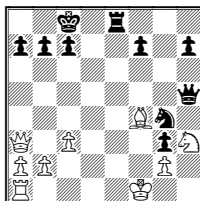
when the best Black can do is win the rook on a1 but still lose the game: 31... ♜f1+ 32. ♜d2 ♜xa1 33. ♜c2+- (+2.23).

Instead, Black must play 29... ♖g4!,

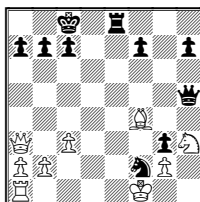


when after the forced 30. ♜xa7 b6 31. ♜f1 ♖xe5 he is still alive and kicking in an unclear position.

The above-mentioned inadequacy of 26. ♖h5?? is shown at Black's 27th move,

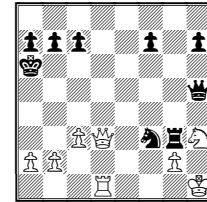


where instead of the text 27... ♜b5+ or the equally indecisive note variation 27... ♖h2+, Black could have won with 27... ♖f2!,

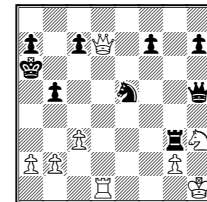


when mate (threatened by 28... ♜e2+ etc.) can only be temporarily postponed, e.g. 29. ♖e3 ♜xe3 30. ♜f8+ ♜d7 31. ♜g1 ♖xh3+ 32. g×h3 ♜f3 and mate is inevitable.

The lengthy note at move 27 goes awry at several late points. After 27... ♖h2+ 28. ♜g1 ♖f3+ 29. ♜h1 ♜g8 30. ♖xg3 ♜xg3 31. ♜f8+ ♜d7 32. ♜d1+ ♜c6 33. ♜e8+ ♜b6 34. ♜e3+ ♜a6 35. ♜d3+,

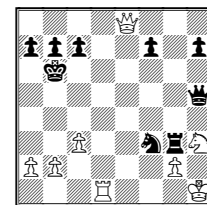


35...b5 is said to fail "because of 36. ♜d7 threatening mate in three moves." But in that case, 36... ♖e5 holds;

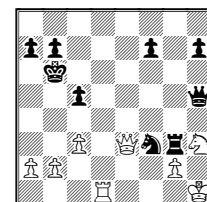


the best White can do is perpetual check by 37. ♜c8+ ♜b6 38. ♜b8+ etc.

At move 34 of that note,

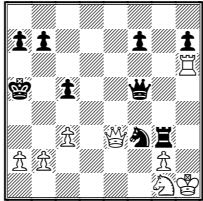


rather than 34. ♜e3+, best for White is 34. ♜d7, which forces a draw (0.00). After 34. ♜e3+?! Black can keep some chances alive with 34...c5!?



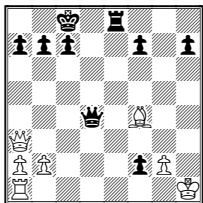
(about -0.45) rather than accepting the draw by 34... ♜a6. Contrary to the note, in this position, which the note reaches after the further repetitive moves 34. ♜e3+ ♜a6 35. ♜d3+ ♜b6 36. ♜e3+, the line 37. ♜d6+

♖a5 38.♖h6 ♗f5 35.♘g1 does not win for White:



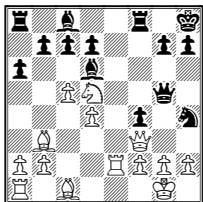
Black actually stands somewhat better after 35...♗g5!.

Finally, at move 28, the variation 28.c4 is said to “leave Black winning chances,” but after 28...♗xc4+ 29.♖g1 ♗d4+ 30.♖h1 ♘f2+ 31.♘f2 gxf2,



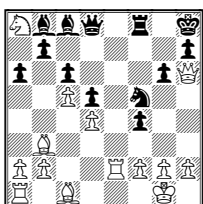
Alekhine does not consider 32.♗h3+ ♖b8 33.♗g3, which Rybka rates as virtually even (-0.07).

Game 34, Wygodchikoff-Alekhine, correspondence 1909-10: The note at move 15 can be improved in one line; after 15...♗g5 16.c5 ♘h4,



better than the given move 17.♗g3 is 17.♖e4!, simply moving the queen out of danger and winning the trapped bishop. If then 17...♘xg2 18.♖h1!+-.

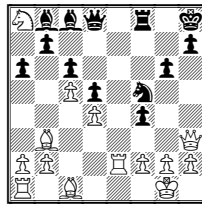
The first variation in the note to move 19 likewise can be improved at the end. After 19.♗h5 g6 20.♗h6 ♘f5,



the note says Black will follow up with 21...♘d4. However, there is no

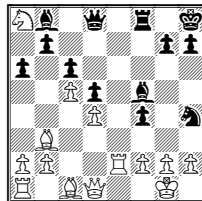
continuation where this is correct.

Relatively best for White is 21.♗xf4, in which case play proceeds 21...♘xf4 22.♘xf4 ♘g7 (about -0.41), since if 22...♘xd4?? 23.♘e5+. While if 21.♗h3 (probably the move Alekhine had in mind),



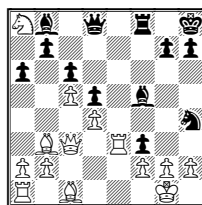
21...♘xd4? loses to 22.♗c3 ♗f6 23.♖e1 (about +2.09). Correct instead is 21...♘g3! (-1.36).

Several problems occur in the second line of that note. In the sub-variation 19.♗d3 ♘f5 20.♗d1,



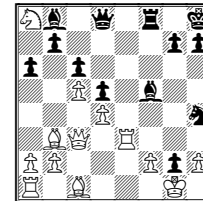
it is unclear why Alekhine gives an exclamation to 20...♗g5, since it is countered adequately by 21.♗f1, when Black has nothing better than the inconclusive 21...♘f3+ 22.♖h1 ♗h5 23.h3 ♘xd4 24.f3 ♘d3 25.♘d1=. More promising is 20...f3.

In the main line of that variation, after 19.♗d3 ♘f5 20.♗c3 f3, the next move given, 21.♖e3,



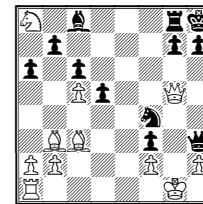
rather than the exclamation given it, instead deserves “??”, since then Black can win at once by 21...♘xh2+!! (instead of 21...fxg2 as given) 22.♖f1 (if 22.♖xh2 ♗g5 23.g3 ♗g4 24.♖g1 ♗h3 25.♖e5 ♗g2#) 22...fxg2+ 23.♖e2 g1♗+- . Rather than 21.♖e3??, White should play 21.♖e5, when after 21...♘xe5 22.dxe5 Black has a definite but not overwhelming advantage.

Further in that note, after 21.♖e3 fxg2,



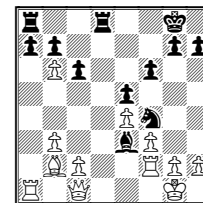
White has more hope of holding on with 22.♘d1 (-1.17), compared to the given move 22.f3 (-6.19 after 23...♘e4).

Contrary to the note at move 24, there was no reason to avoid the line 24...♗h3 25.♘c3 ♖g8 26.♖e5 ♘f4 27.♗g5,



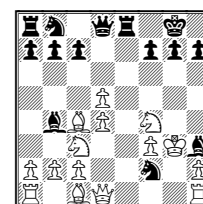
since Black need not play 27...♘g4 allowing the draw by 28.♘xg7+. Instead 27...h6 forces White to give up his queen just to postpone mate.

Game 36, Blumenfeld-Alekhine, match 1908: In the note to White’s 18th move, line (b), the sub-variation 18.f3 ♘f4 19.♖f2 ♘xf5 20.♘xf5 ♘c5 21.♘e3 ♗b6 22.a5 ♘xe3 23.axb6,



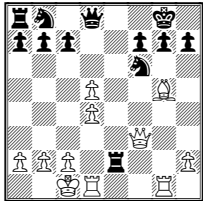
Black does win a pawn as given with 23...♘xc1 24.♖xc1 axb6, but he can do much better with the *Zwischenschach* 23...♘e2+! 24.♖f1 ♘xc1 25.♘xc1 ♘xf2 26.♖xf2 axb6, and Black is up a pawn and the exchange.

Game 40, Alekhine-Levitsky, match 1913: The note variation at move 9 does not win as claimed. After 9.♘f4 ♖e8+ 10.♖f2 ♘g4+ 11.♗g3 ♘f2,



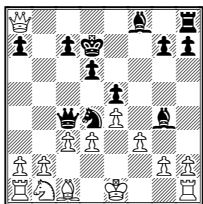
White plays 12. ♖g1, forcing 12... ♜h1+ 13. ♜h3 followed by 14. ♖h1, leaving Black down two pieces for a rook with inadequate compensation (about +1.20).

The note to Black's 11th move says 11... ♜x2 12. ♜x2 ♜xc3 13. ♖xc3 ♜e8 would be refuted by 14. 0-0-0 ♜x2 15. ♖f3.



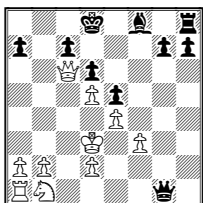
However, in that case, after 15... ♜xc2+ 16. ♜xc2 ♖xd5, Black would have two pawns for the exchange and virtual equality, says Rybka (+0.05).

Game 42, Rodzinski-Alekhine, Paris, 1913: In the note variation at Black's 11th move, after 11... ♜d4 12. d3,



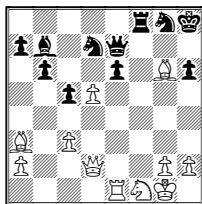
it bears mentioning that 12... ♖xd3? is by no means compulsory; Black can play 12... ♜xf3+! 13. gxf3 ♖xd3 14. ♖d5 ♖xf3 and White must take perpetual check by 15. ♖b5+ etc.

Contrary to the note at move 13, Rybka can find no superiority for White after 13. cxd4 ♖xc1+ 14. ♜e2 ♖h1 15. d5 ♖xh2+ 16. ♜d3 ♖g1 17. ♖c6+ ♜d8.

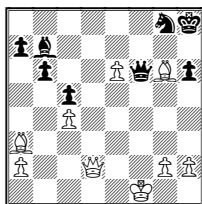


After, for example, 18. ♖a8+ ♜e7 19. ♖c6 ♜f7 20. ♖xc7+ ♜e7 21. ♜c2, White seems able to force perpetual check whenever he likes.

Game 46, Alekhine-Zubareff, Moscow 1916: Rybka does not agree with the assessment at the end of the note to Black's 17th move. After 17... dxe5 18. fxe5 exd5 19. e6 fxe6 20. ♜xg6 ♜xf1+ 21. ♜xf1 ♜f8 22. cxd5,

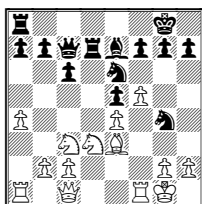


rather than a winning advantage for White, it considers the position quite even after 22... ♖g7 23. dxe6 ♜e5 – so that if 24. ♜c2?? ♜f3+, or 24. ♜h5 ♜c4++ – and thus forcing 24. ♜xe5 ♖xe5 25. c4 ♜xf1+! 26. ♜xf1 ♖f6+,



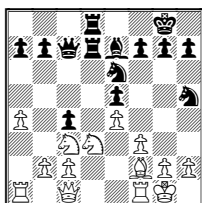
and White's best choice is probably to accept perpetual check after 27. ♖f2 ♖a1+ etc.

Game 47, Evenssohn-Alekhine, Kiev, 1916: The note at Black's 17th move is correct that after 17. f4 ♜g4!, the continuation 18. f5 is bad for White,



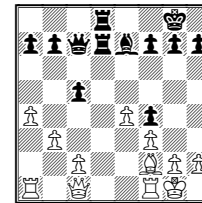
but not because of 18... ♜xd3, which leads to little after 19. cxd3 ♜xe3 20. fxe6 ♜xf1 21. exf7+ ♜xf7 22. ♜d5 ♜d7 23. ♖f1+ ♜g8 24. ♜xe7+ ♖xe7. Rather, Black should play 18... ♜d4! (threatening 19... ♜xe3 20. ♖xe3 ♜xc2) followed in most cases by 19... ♜ad8 with a great positional advantage.

The note at White's 20th move, after 20. ♜c3 c4,

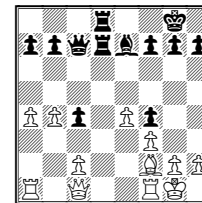


fails to consider 20. ♜b5!, when things are far murkier than after 20. ♜d5? and it's not clear that Black has a definite advantage.

The comment at White's 23rd move,

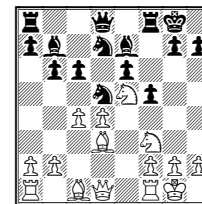


that Black threatens 23... c4 24. b4 c3 followed by ♜d7-d4, is illogical and may have a typo. After 23... c4 24. b4? (relatively best is 24... bxc4),



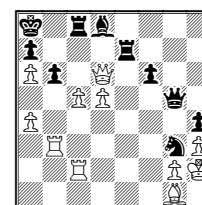
Black should play simply 24... ♜xb4, taking the loose pawn, while 24... ♜d7-d4?, allowing 25. ♜xd4, would be an obvious blunder. Probably ♜d7-d2 was intended.

Game 48, Alekhine-Feldt, blindfold simul, Tarnopol, 1916: In the note variation at move 11, after 11... ♜d7 12. c4,

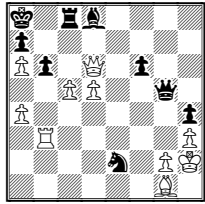
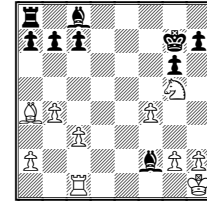
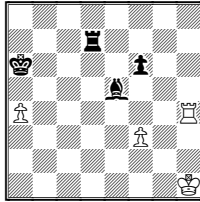


Black is by no means obliged to play into 12... ♜5f6? 13. ♜g5; better instead is either 12... ♜xe5 13. ♜xe5 ♜f6 or 12... ♜b4.

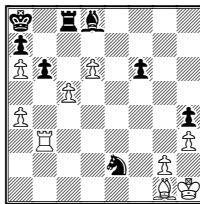
Game 49, Alekhine-Gofmeister, Petrograd, 1917: Regrettably, the notes here overlook an important defense that not only saves Black from losing, but gives him winning chances. While 1. c5 is White's best try, objectively it should not succeed against best play.



Rybka indicates that 1...b5 is by no means obligatory, and that Black can draw with 1...♖f5 or 1...♖c5. Best, however, is 1...♗e2!. If then 2.♙f2 Black wins with 2...♖f1+ 3.♖g1 ♖e3 4.♗xe3 ♗xc2 5.♖d7 ♗c1+ 6.♗e1 ♗xe1+ 7.♙xe1 ♖e3+ 8.♙f2 ♖c1+ 9.♖h2 ♖f4+ 10.♖g1 ♖c7-+. Forced therefore is 2.♗xe2 ♖xe2,



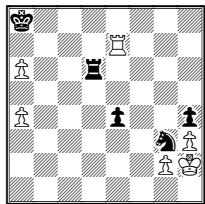
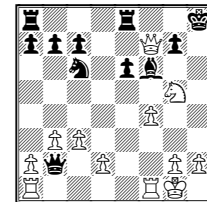
and Black should win, or is certainly in no danger of losing. Better is (b2) 5.♖xc7 ♖xc7 ♙xc7 6.d6! ♙d8



and White is only up a pawn (+0.73). Best instead is (from previous diagram) the straightforward 18.♖xe5+ ♙xe5 19.♗ae1, retaining the material advantage without complications (+2.67).

with two main lines: (a) 3.♖e6? ♖e5+ 4.♖xe5 ♗xe5 5.cxb6 axb6 6.♙xb6 ♙xb6 7.♗xb6 e4! 8.d6 ♗d8 9.♗b7 ♗xd6 10.♗e7 ♖g3

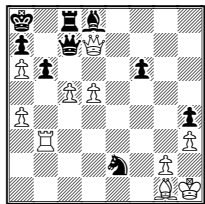
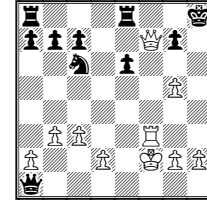
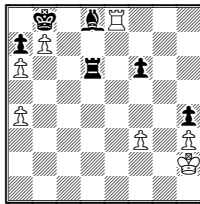
In the note to move 17, variation (b), after 17.c3 ♙e5 18.♖h5! ♖g8 19.♖f7+ ♖h8 20.f4 ♙f6,



7.cxb6 (not 7.♙f2? bxc5 8.♙xh4 c4 9.♗b7 ♗b8 10.♗d7 c3-+) 7...♙xb6 (if 7...♗c1 8.b7+ ♖b8 9.♖h2 ♖xg1 10.♗e3 ♗c6 [or 10...♖f3+ 11.gxf3 ♗c2+ 12.♖h1 ♗c6=] 11.♗e8 ♖f3+ 12.gxf3 ♗xd6=) 8.♙xb6 axb6 9.♗b4 (not 9.♗xb6?? ♗c1+ 10.♖h2 ♖g3 and ...♗h1 ♯) 9...♗c6 10.♗xh4 ♗xd6

the given move 21.♗f3 is a serious mistake that throws away the win, as after the further moves 21...♖xa1+ 22.♖f2 ♙xg5 23.fxg5,

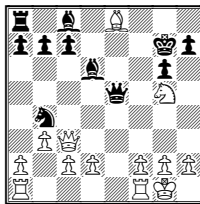
and wins. Better is (b) 3.♖d7 ♖e5+ 4.♖h1 ♖c7



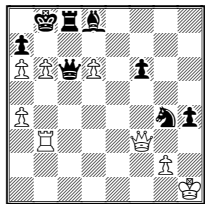
and no win for either side is apparent.

and (b1) 5.♖g4! ♖xg1 6.d6 (not 6.♖xg1? ♖xc5+) 6...♖xh3! 7.♖f3+ ♖c6 8.cxb6 ♖f2+! (not 8...♙xb6? 9.d7 ♖f2+ 10.♖h2 ♖g4+ etc., draw) 9.♖h2 ♖g4+ 10.♖h1 ♖b8

Game 50, Alekhine-A. Rabinovich, Moscow 1918: In the note to move 14, after 14...g6 15.♙xf7+ ♖g7 16.♙xe8 ♖e5 17.♖c3 ♖b4,

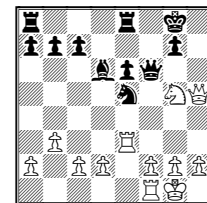


Alekhine overlooked 23...♖b1!, when White cannot win, viz. 24.♗h3+ ♖h7 25.♗xh7+ ♖xh7 26.♖xc7=, or 24.g6 ♖f5 25.♗xf5 exf5=. Instead, White can win with ♗a1-e1 at either move 20 or 21, viz. (from previous diagram) 20.♗ae1! ♖xd2 (or 20...♖c2) 21.♗e3+-.



11.bxa7+ (not 11.b7?? ♖c1+) 11...♖xa7 12.♖xg4 ♙b6 13.♖d1 ♗d8 14.♗d3 ♗d7 15.♗f3 ♖xf3 16.gxf3 ♙c5 17.♗d5 ♙xd6 18.♗d4 ♖xa6 19.♗h4 ♙e5

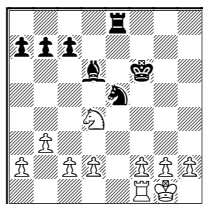
18.f4 does not deserve the double-exclam given to it because, contrary to Alekhine's opinion, White cannot maintain the gain of the exchange, viz. 18...♖xc3 19.dxc3 ♖xc2 20.♗ac1 ♖e3! 21.♗f3 ♙c5 22.b4 ♙b6 23.♙a4 (if 23.♖h1 ♙g4) 23...♖g4+ 24.♖h1 ♖f2+ 25.♗xf2 ♙xf2,



In the note to Black's 19th move, the unmentioned defense 19...♖e5! merits consideration.

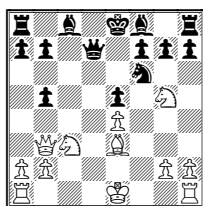
The main point is that it prevents a later ♖h7-d7, a maneuver crucial to the success of Alekhine's line against 19...♖d4. Relatively best for White then is 20.♗h3

♖h6 (not 20...g6! 21.♖h7+ ♜f8 22.d4 ♗xg5 23.dxe5 ♘xe5 24.♙g3=) 21.♗xh6 gxh6 22.♙xh6 ♜g7 23.♙xe6 ♙xe6 24.♗xe6+ ♜f6 25.♗d4 ♙e8,



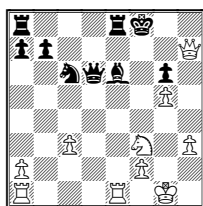
when White may have some winning chances with his passed pawns, but the objective verdict is a probable draw with best play.

Game 52, Alekhine-Issakoff, Moscow 1919: The note at Black's 4th move, in discussing the Alekhine-Verlinsky game, neglects to mention an important improvement for Black. Here, at Black's 12th move,



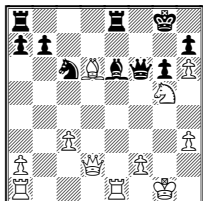
instead of 12...♗d6?, best was 12...a5!, when if (a) 13.♗xb5? ♘b4+ 14.♗c3 h6 15.♗f3 0-0 16.0-0 (not 16.♗xe5? ♗e7) 16...♗d3 17.♗d5 ♗xe4 18.♗xf6+ gxh6, or (b) 13.♙d1 a4 14.♗xb5 ♗xb5 15.♗xb5 ♘b4+ 16.♗d2 ♘xd2+ 17.♙xd2 0-0. Relatively best is (c) 13.0-0 a4 14.♗xb5 ♗d6=.

The note at move 19 goes wrong on the last move. After 19.♗xh6 ♗xd6 20.g5+ ♜f7 21.♗xh7+ ♜f8,

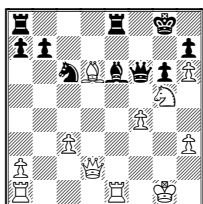


White must not play 22.♗xg6, as it leads to nothing after 22...♙ad8! with complete equality. Instead 22.♗h4! is crushing, viz. 22...♗e7 23.♙ad1 ♗c6 24.♙d3 ♘f5 (if 24...♗f7 25.♙f3 forces 25...♗xf3) 25.♙f3 ♗d6 26.♙xe7! ♙e7 27.♗xg6+ etc.

At White's 22nd move,

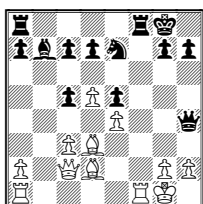


far better than the text 22.f4 was 22.♙ab1! when Black is crushed, e.g. (a) 22...b6 23.♗xe6 ♙xe6 24.♗d5+-, or (b) 22...♗d8 23.♗e4 ♗f7 24.♗g5 ♗f5 25.♗f6+ ♜f7 26.♗xf5 gxh5 27.♗xe8 etc., or (c) 22...♗a5 23.♙xe6 ♙xe6 24.♗d5 ♙ae8 25.♗e1 ♗xg5+ 26.♗xg5 ♙xe1+ 27.♜g2 ♗c6 28.♗f6 ♙e7 29.♘xe7+- . Most other moves simply allow 23.♙xb7. Even in the least favorable of these lines White's advantage is about +3.00, compared to 22.f4,

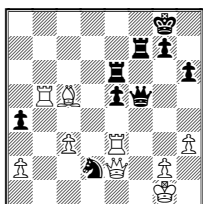


when after 22...♗c4 or 22...♗f7 the valuations go down to about +0.55.

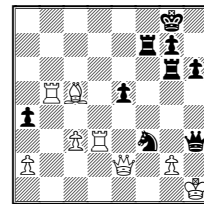
Game 53, I. Rabinovich-Alekhine, Moscow 1920: The note to White's 14th move goes astray in the sub-variation 14.fxe4 e5 15.d5 ♗e7 16.c5 bxc5,



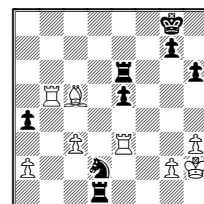
recommending here 17.d6, which leads to only the win of a pawn after 17...cxd6 18.♗b3+ c4 19.♘xc4+ d5 20.♗xb7 dxc4 21.♗xd7 followed by 22.♗e6+ and 23.♗xe5. Best instead is 17.♗b3 when White wins a piece, e.g. 17...♙fb8 18.d6+ ♘d5 19.♗d1 and either the bishop or knight is lost. At White's 33rd move, in the note variation 33.♙e3,



33...♙g6 is incorrect, as after 34.♙d3! (rather than 34.♙b8+? ♜h7 35.♙b2?? as given) Black gets no tangible advantage. The crucial difference is that in the line 34...♗f3+ 35.♜h1 the intended 35...♗xh3+ does not work,

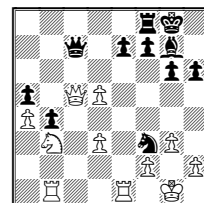


since after 36.gxh3 the bishop prevents 36...♙g1#. Instead Black wins with (from previous diagram) 33...♗f1+! 34.♗xf1 ♙xf1+ 35.♜h2 ♙d1!

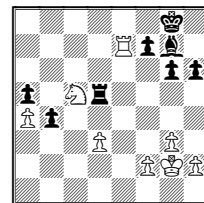


and loss of the exchange is inevitable, e.g. 36.♙e2 ♗f1+ 37.♜g1 ♗g3+ etc.

Game 54, Selesnieff-Alekhine, Triberg 1921: Unsurprisingly, this long and complex game has a number of errors in both text and note moves. First, the note variation at move 27 does not win a pawn by force if, after 27.♗xc5 ♗f3+,

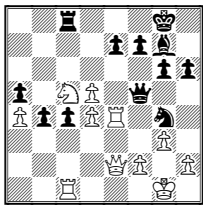


White plays 28.♜g2 instead of 28.♜f1, viz. 28.♜g2 ♗xc5 29.♗xc5 ♗xe1+ 30.♙xe1 ♙d8 31.♙xe7 ♙xd5,



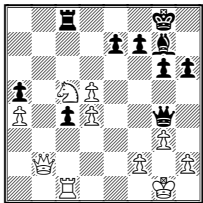
when material is even, though Black still stands better.

At Black's 32nd move,



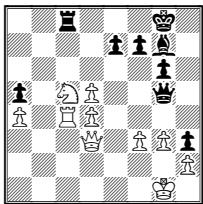
the text 32...b3 does not deserve its double-exclam, as it only draws against best defense. Correct was 32...dxf2!, which wins in all variations, e.g. 33.♖xf2 (if 33.♞h4 g5+) 33...♗xd5 and (a) 34.♞f1 f5 35.♞f4 e5+; (b) 34.♞ce1 c3 35.♞1e2 (35.♞xe7?? ♕xd4) 35...f5 36.♞e5 (if 36.♞f4 e5 37.♞f3 ♞xf3 38.♞xf3 e4 and 39...♕xd4 etc.) 36...♕xe5 37.♞xe5 ♞c4+; (c) 34.♞f4 ♞d8 35.♞d1 e5 36.♞g4 exd4 37.♞e4 d3+.

The flaw in 32...b3 shows up after 33.♞xg4 b2 34.♞xb2 ♞xg4,



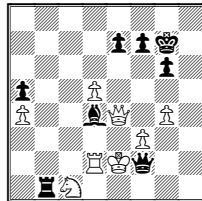
where Alekhine (and his opponent) overlooked 35.♞b7!, when Black had best accept a draw by 35...♕xd4 36.♞e6! ♞e8 37.♞b5 ♞c8 38.♞b7 etc., as trying for more leads to trouble, e.g. 35...♞f8 36.♞xc4 ♕xd4 37.♞g2! ♞d1 38.♞xe7±.

The note at move 37 is correct to say 37...h3 is insufficient, but in the line 38.f3 ♞g5?,



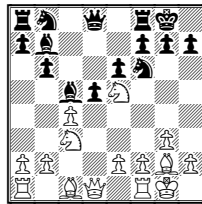
the refutation is not 39.♞e4?, which leads to an unclear Q-vs.-R+B ending after 39...♞f5 40.♞f6+ ♕xf6 41.♞xf5 ♞xc4 42.♞xh3 ♕xd4+ 43.♞f1 ♞xa4. Much stronger is 39.♞e6! fxe6 40.♞xc8+ ♞h7 41.dxe6, winning easily.

Alekhine is unduly harsh on himself in faulting 51...♞b1; it is actually the strongest move. Had he then followed 52.♞c1 with 52...♞f2+! he would have shortened the game considerably,

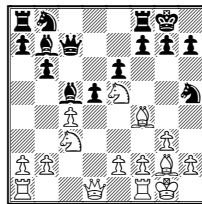


viz. 53.♞d3 ♞f1+ 54.♞e2 (if 54.♞xd4 ♞b4+) 54...♕f6! (threatening 55...♞xc1) 55.♞a2 ♞b3+ 56.♞c4 ♞b2 57.♞d3 ♞d1+ 58.♞c4 ♞xa4+ 59.♞d3 ♞b3+ 60.♞c3 ♞xc3#.

Game 55, Alekhine-Bogoljuboff, Triborg 1921: In the note variation 9.♞e5,

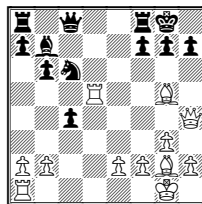


Black's correct response seems to be 9...♞bd7. In the given line 9...♞c7 10.♞f4 ♞h5?,



thought to be good for Black, White actually wins a pawn free and clear by 11.cxd5 ♞xf4 12.gxf4 ♞d7 (not 12...exd5? 13.♞xd5) 13.♞xd7 ♞xd7 14.dxe6 ♞xd1 15.♞fxd1 ♕xg2 16.♞xg2 fxe6 17.e3.

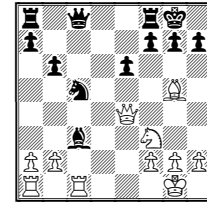
At Black's fifteenth move,



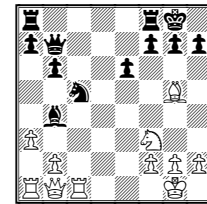
while alternatives to the text 15...♞b4 might not ultimately end any better, practically speaking Black's best bet was the unmentioned 15...f6!?, when White has to thread his way through the long line 16.♞xc4 ♞e5 17.♞b3 ♞h8 (of course not 17...fxg5?? 18.♞c5+, or if 17...♕xd5 18.♕xd5+ ♞h8 19.♞xa8) 18.♞d2 ♕xd5 19.♕xd5 ♞b8 20.♞b4 ♞d8 21.♞e7 ♞d7 22.♞e6 before winning back the exchange

and coming out a pawn up. 15...♞e6 was also worth considering.

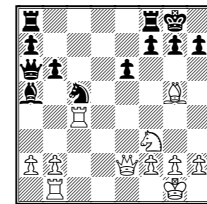
Game 56, Alekhine-Sterk, Budapest 1921: At White's 20th move,



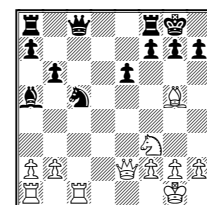
Alekhine surprisingly gets the relative worth of 20.♞b1 versus 20.♞e2 exactly reversed. "Some annotators" were correct: the former was in fact strongest, and after 20.♞b1 ♞b4 the simple 21.♞c4! makes loss of a piece inevitable. Even in the slightly weaker line Alekhine gives, 20.♞b1 ♞b4 21.a3 ♞b7,



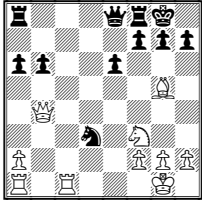
White has 22.b3!, preventing 22...♞b3, and again forcing the win of a piece. The flaw in 20.♞e2 would have shown up a few moves later, after 20...♞a5 21.♞ab1 ♞a6 22.♞c4,



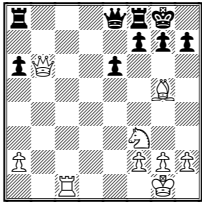
if instead of 22...♞a4? Black had played 22...h6! with at least equality, viz. (a) 23.♕xh6 gxh6 24.b4 ♕xb4 25.♞xb4 ♞ad8=; (b) 23.b4 hxg5 24.bxc5 (if 24.bxa5 f6) 24...bxc5 25.♞xg5 ♕d8 26.♞e4 ♕e7+; (c) 23.♞h4 ♞b7 24.b4 b5 25.♞c2 ♕d8=. About the best White can do after 20.♞e2 ♞a5



is to play 21. ♖b5 a6 22. ♖c4 ♖e8 23. b4 ♗xb4 24. ♖xb4 ♗d3



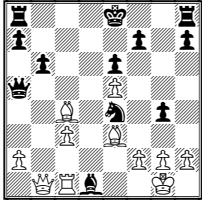
25. ♖xb6 (if 25. ♖g4 ♗xc1 26. ♗h6 ♗e2+! 27. ♖f1 [if 27. ♖h1 g6 8. ♗xf8 ♖xf8 and Black is up a pawn] 27... ♗g3+! 28. h×g3 ♖b5+ 29. ♖g1 ♖b2=) 25... ♗xc1 26. ♗xc1,



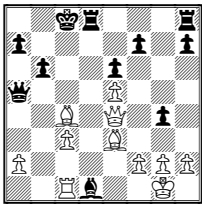
and all White has is the ♗+♗-vs.-♖+♗ imbalance he sought to avoid.

Game 59, Alekhine-Balla, Budapest

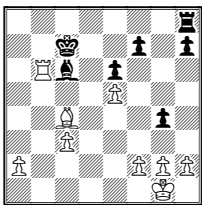
1921: A minor correction to the note at move 18. While after 18... ♗d1,



the recommended 19. ♗b5+ is definitely best, the alternative 19. ♖xe4 0-0-0 is still hardly bad,



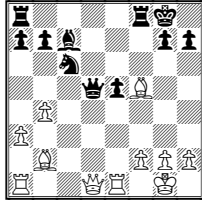
as after the forced 20. ♖c6+ ♖b8 21. ♖b1 ♗a4 22. ♗xb6 ♗xc6 23. ♗xd8+ ♖b6 24. ♗xb6 a×b6 25. ♖xb6+ ♖c7,



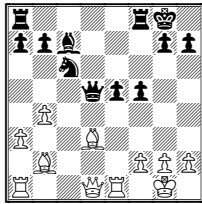
White is up two pawns and clearly winning.

Game 60, Yates-Alekhine, The Hague

1921: The note at move 17 does not give the correct follow-up if Black goes for the pawn grab. After 17. ♗b2 ♗xd5 18. c×d5 ♖×d5 19. ♗xf5,

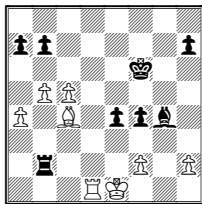


not 19... ♖×d1? but 19... ♖f7! 20. ♗c1 ♖×f2+ and Black remains a pawn up. The correct way to punish Black's greed is to vary a move earlier,

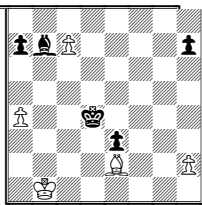


with 19. ♖c1 (threatening 20. ♗c4), and after 19... ♖d6 20. ♗c4+ ♖h8 21. ♖×d6 ♗×d6 22. ♗d5 e4 (or 22... ♖ac8 23. ♗xc6 ♖xc6 24. ♖xc6 b×c6 25. ♗xe5) 23. ♗xc6 b×c6 24. ♖xc6 White has recovered his pawn with advantage. Also worth considering is the gain of several tempi with 19. ♖c2, e.g. 19... ♖h8 20. ♖ad1 ♖f7 21. ♗c4 ♖f6 22. ♖d7 etc.

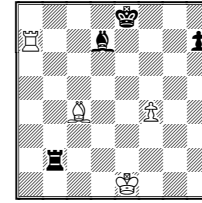
The note at move 34 overlooks some important resources for White. Rybka indicates 34. ♖d1 is probably White's best move, and if 34... ♗g4 White can force a draw in two ways,



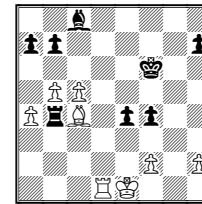
viz. 35. ♖d4! ♗f3 (if 35... ♖e5 36. ♖d5+ ♖f6 37. ♖d4 etc.) 36. c6 b×c6 37. b×c6 ♖b1+ 38. ♖d2 e3+ 39. ♖c2 ♖e5 40. f×e3 f×e3 41. ♖×b1 ♖×d4 42. c7 ♗b7 43. ♗e2=,



or (from previous diagram) 35. ♖d6+ ♖e7 36. h3! ♗×h3 (if 36... ♗f3 37. ♖e6+ ♖d7 38. ♖h6 e3 39. ♖×h7+ ♖c8 40. ♖h8+ ♖d7 41. ♖h7+ ♖e8 42. ♖h8+ ♖f7 43. ♖h7+ and Black must accept perpetual check, since if 43... ♖f8?? 44. ♖f7+ wins) 37. ♖d4 ♗g2 38. c6 b×c6 39. b×c6 e3 40. ♖d7+ ♖e8 41. f×e3 ♗×c6 42. ♖c7 ♗×a4 43. ♖×a7 ♗d7 44. e×f4,

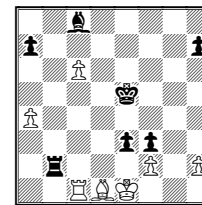


with an even position. Black's only real winning try after 34. ♖d1 seems to be 34... ♖b4,

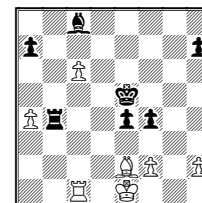


but Rybka could reach no definite conclusion.

The note at move 36 also overlooks a saving resource. After 36. b×c6 (instead of the text 36. ♖xc6) 36... f3 37. ♗d1 e3,

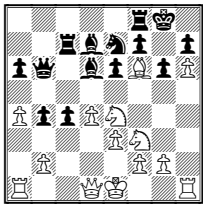


not 38. ♗xf3?? as in the note, but 38. ♖c2! and there is no way Black can win, e.g. 38... ♖b1 39. f×e3 ♗g4 40. ♖f2=, or 38... ♖xc2 39. ♗xc2 e×f2+ (not 39... e2? 40. ♗×h7+-) 40. ♖×f2 h6=. Instead of 36... f3 Black might try 36... ♖b4,



but again Rybka could find no win. These variations indicate that Alekhine may have "annotated by result" in this game.

Game 61, Alekhine-Rubinstein, The Hague 1921: The note at move 22, recommending 22.♖e4,

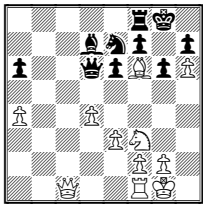


seems to overlook Black's most active defense. Black need not merely sit and wait for the threats of 23.♗d6 and 24.♕e5, or 23.♕g7 and 24.♗f6# to happen. Instead the counter-threat 22...c3! creates some problems, viz.:

(a) 23.♗d6? cxb2! 24.♖b1 and (a1) 24.♕xe7 bxa1♖ 25.♖xa1 b3! 26.0-0 (not 26.♕xf8?? b2 27.♖b1 ♖c1+) 26...b2 27.♖b1 ♕xa4=, or (a2) 24...♗d5 25.♗e4 ♗c3#.

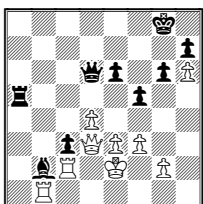
(b) 23.♕g7?! ♗d5 24.bxc3 bxc3 25.♕xf8 c2 26.♖d2 ♕xf8 and Black has a lot of compensation for the exchange.

(c) Relatively best is 23.bxc3 bxc3 24.♗d6 – if 24.♕g7 ♗d5 transposes to (b) – 24...c2 25.♖d2 c1♖+ 26.♖c1 ♖xc1+ 27.♖xc1 ♖xd6 28.0-0 (if 28.♖c2 ♖b4+)



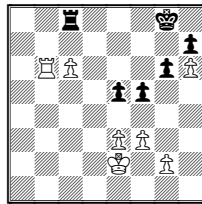
and now not 28...♕xa4? 29.d5! exd5?? 30.♕xe7 ♖xe7 31.♖a1+-, but 28...♗d5 or 28...♖c8, when White is a pawn up with the better game. But in no case does White have a forced win of the exchange, which he does after 22.♗e5, so there would appear to be no compelling reason to consider 22.♗e5 “less decisive” than 22.♗e4.

White missed a more quickly decisive continuation at move 37,



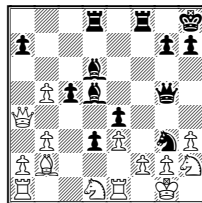
with 37.♖xc3! ♕xc3 38.♖xc3 ♖a8 (if 38...♖a7 39.♖c8+ ♖f7 40.♖h8+-; the

check 38...♖h2+ 39.♖f1 ♖a8 makes no important difference) 39.d5! e5 40.♖c6 ♖xc6 41.dxc6 ♖c8 42.♖b6,

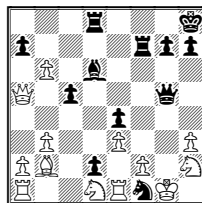


and White has a trivially easy win.

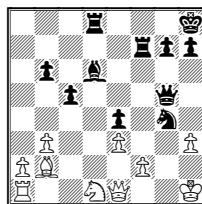
Game 62, Tarrasch-Alekhine, Pistyan 1922: A minor correction to the note at Black's 26th move.



While there was nothing wrong with the text move 26...h5, it was not in fact necessary as claimed. Black could have proceeded immediately with 26...♕e6!, the strongest move, an illustrative denouement being 29.b6 ♗g3+ 30.♖g1 ♕xh3! 31.gxh3 d2 32.♖a5 ♗f1+

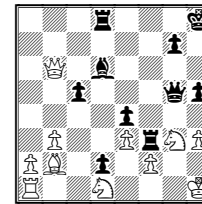


33.♗g4 (if 33.♖xf1 ♕xh2 34.♖e2 ♖h5+ 35.♖f1 ♖xh3+ 36.♖e2 ♖f3+ 37.♖f1 ♖h1+ 38.♖e2 ♖xe1#, or 33.♖h1 axb6 34.♖c3 dxe1♖ etc.) 33...axb6 34.♖c3 dxe1♖ 35.♖xe1 ♗h2 36.♖h1 ♗xg4



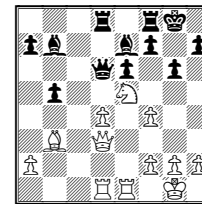
37.♖g1 (if 37.hxg4 ♖xg4 and mate shortly) 37...♗x2+ 38.♗x2 ♖xe3 39.♖f1 (if 39.♗g4 ♖xh3+ 40.♗h2 ♕xh2 41.♖xh2 ♖f1+ 42.♖xf1 ♖xf1+ 43.♖g1 ♖h3+ 44.♖h2 ♖d1#) 39...♖df8+- . Black could also have played ...♕e6 at move 31.

The superfluousness of 26...h5 is shown by the fact that when h5-h4 was finally played, at move 36,

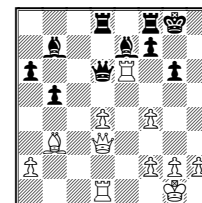


it was not even the best move, that being 36...♕xg3 which forces mate shortly, for example 37.fxg3 ♖xg3 followed by ♖g3-g1+ and ♖g5-g2#.

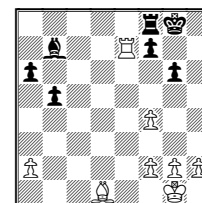
Game 63, Alekhine-Selesnieff, Pistyan 1922: The note at White's 21st move errs at three points. First, 21.♕b3 does not in fact prevent 21...♕b7; after the supposed refutation begins with 22.♖d3,



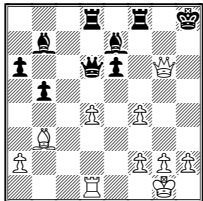
Black need not play either 22...a6 or 22...b4. Instead 22...♖b4! maintains equality, since if then 23.♗xg6? hxg6 24.♖xe6 ♖g7!+- . Further on, after 21...♕b7 22.♖d3 a6 23.♗xg6 hxg6 24.♖xe6,



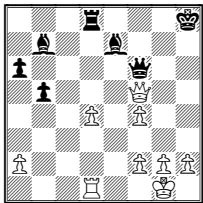
Black need not reply with 24...fxe6 as given; better is 24...♖xd4 25.♖xd4 ♖xd4 26.♖xe7 ♖xd1+ 27.♕xd1



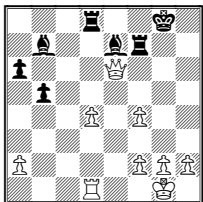
and Black is down only a pawn with reasonable drawing chances. Finally, in the main line 24...fxe6 25.♖xg6+ ♖h8,



26. ♖c2 does not force mate as claimed; this is in fact a serious error which allows Black to win with 26... ♖f5!, when the best White has is 27. ♖xf5 e×f5 28. ♖×f5 ♖f6,

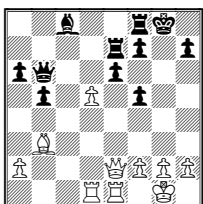


and with two bishops for four pawns, Black will win easily. Correct instead is (from previous diagram) 26. ♖h6+ ♖g8 27. ♖×e6+ ♖×e6 28. ♖×e6+ ♖f7,

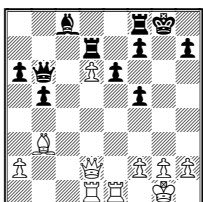


when White should win.

The note at White's 26th move goes badly awry. After 26... ♖×f5,



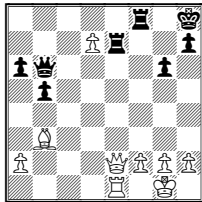
the given continuation 27. d6 is a mistake which would allow Black to resist, viz. 27... ♖d7 28. ♖d2



and now not 28... ♖fd8? as in the note, but 28... ♖d8! (preventing 29. ♖g5+) and Black

holds. Instead, White has several winning alternatives (from previous diagram): 27. ♖d3!, 27. ♖d2!, or probably best, 27. ♖h5!, when 27... ♖f6 is practically forced and 28. d×e6 wins, since if 28... ♖×e6?? 29. ♖×e6 ♖×e6 30. ♖d7+.

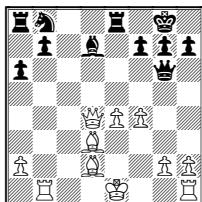
A minor improvement to the note at move 29: after 29... ♖×d7 30. e×d7+ ♖h8,



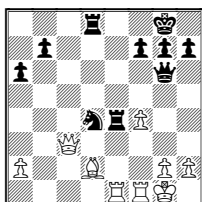
best is not 31. d8♖, but 31. ♖b2+ which forces mate soon.

Game 64, P. Johner-Alekhine, Pistyan 1922: The note at White's 10th move, in what was probably a typographical error, said White was sacrificing his QRP, i.e. the a-pawn. This was corrected to say the c-pawn.

The note at White's 18th move, in the 18.f4 line, overlooks Black's best continuation.

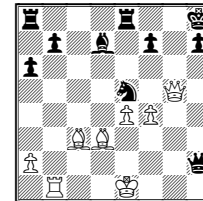


Rather than 18... ♖c6, best is 18... ♖b5!, leading to the more or less forced 19. 0-0 (not 19. ♖×b5?? ♖×e4+) 19... ♖c6 20. ♖e3 ♖×d3 21. ♖×d3 ♖ad8 22. ♖c3 ♖d4 23. ♖be1 (or 23. ♖fe1) 23... ♖×e4,



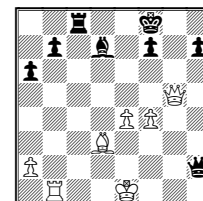
and Black is up a pawn free and clear.

The note to move 21 is incorrect to conclude that after 21... ♖e5 22. ♖×g7+ ♖×g7 23. ♖g5+ ♖h8 24. f4 "Black would have been compelled to satisfy himself with a draw."



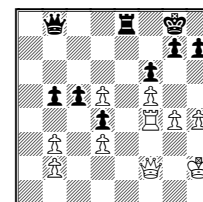
Black can simply play 24... h6!, preventing any perpetual check by ♖f6+ and ♖g5+, and White is lost, viz. 25. ♖×e5+ ♖×e5 26. ♖×e5+ (26. ♖f6+ ♖g8 27. f×e5 is no better) 26... ♖g8, or 25. ♖f6+ ♖g8 26. ♖×e5 ♖g1+ 27. ♖d2 ♖f2+ 28. ♖e2 ♖×e5 29. f×e5 (or 29. ♖×e5 ♖g4) 29... ♖d4+ 30. ♖e1 (if 30. ♖d3 ♖b5 31. ♖b3 ♖d8) 30... ♖×e4 etc., in either case Black being two pawns up and in no danger.

Black even has another, probably winning alternative: 24... ♖ac8, when if 25. ♖f6+ ♖g8 26. ♖g5+?? ♖g6+., and if 25. ♖×e5+ ♖×e5 26. ♖×e5+ ♖g8 27. ♖g5+ ♖f8,

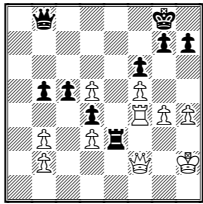


when again any perpetual check (involving ♖c5+) is prevented (as is 28. ♖×b7?? due to 28... ♖c1*) and Black should win with his extra pawn.

Game 66, Treybal-Alekhine, Pistyan 1922: This is an exceptionally complicated game, and some portions seem to have been annotated in haste, resulting in an unusual number of errors, some major. In the note at move 24, after 24. e×d5 ♖d6+ 25. ♖f4 ♖e8 26. ♖g2 ♖×f4+ 27. ♖×f4 ♖b8 28. ♖f2,

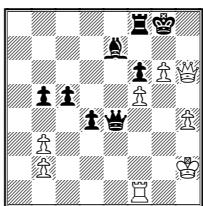


the continuation 28... ♖e5 deserves no better than "?!" rather than the "!" given it. Best is 28... ♖e3! when White is lost,



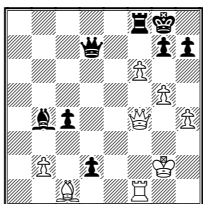
viz. (a) 29.♔g2 ♖e5 30.♞e4 ♜xd5 31.♜f4 ♖a8! (not 31...♞xd3?? 32.♜b8+ ♜f7 33.♜e8#) 32.b4 c4-+, or (b) 29.♔g1 ♖e5 30.♞e4 ♞xe4 31.dxe4 ♜xe4 32.♜g3 and either (b1) 32...h6, or (b2) 32...♜xd5 33.♜b8+ ♜f7 34.♜c7+ ♜f8 35.♜c8+ ♜e7 36.♜c7+ ♜d7 37.♜xc5+ ♜f7 38.♜c2 d3 39.♜d2 h5 40.gxh5 ♜xf5 41.b4 ♜f3.

In the note to move 26, after 26.g6 h6 27.♜h5 ♜xe4 28.♞xh6 gxh6 29.♜xh6,

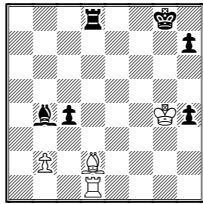


the given continuation 29...♜e2+ is not bad, but best by far is the forced mate 29...♞d6+ 30.♔g1 ♜g4+ 31.♔f2 ♞g3+ 32.♔g1 ♞f4+ 33.♔f2 ♞g3+ 34.♔e2 ♜e3+ 35.♔d1 ♜d2#.

At move 33, Alekhine mentions his desire to avoid an ending where Black has only an h-pawn and a wrong-color bishop. However, his 34th move,

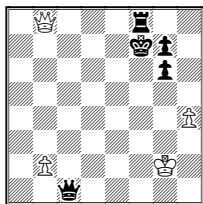


34...d1♜, chosen to avoid that eventuality, is far from optimal and does not merit the exclamation given it. Instead, Black can force a decisive material advantage while still retaining his c-pawn by 34...♜d5+! 35.♜f3 (if 35.♜h3 ♜e6+ 36.♔g2 ♜e2+ 37.♜f2 d1♜-+) 35...♜xf3+ 36.♔xf3 gxh4 37.♞d1 (of course not 37.gxf6?? ♞xf6+, while if 37.♔g4 f5+) 37...fxg5+ 38.♔g4 gxh4 39.♞xd2 ♞d8,

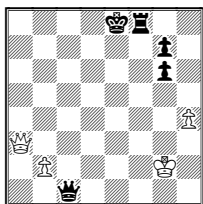


and after either 40.♞xb4 ♞xd1 or 40.♔xh4 ♞xd2 41.♞c1 ♞d4+, Black wins. In the latter case, even if White should succeed in exchanging his b-pawn for Black's c-pawn, the resulting endgame is theoretically won for Black despite the wrong-color bishop, due to the presence of rooks. The full significance of this shows up later; see our final note to this game.

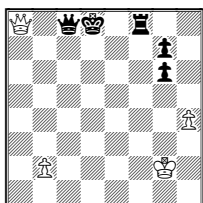
The note at move 40 is correct that 40.g6+! was White's best chance, and that 40...hxg6 would then allow perpetual check. However, it goes astray in illustrating how this should be executed.



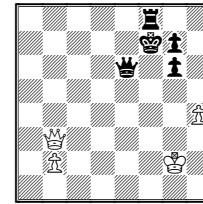
After 41.♜b3+ ♜f6 42.♜f3+ ♜e7 43.♜a3+ ♜e8 (all good so far),



correct is 44.♜a8+ and a draw results after either 44...♜e7 45.♜a3+ etc., or 44...♜f7 45.♜d5+ etc. Instead Alekhine inexplicably gives 44.♜a4+?? (mistakenly punctuated "!"), which allows Black to win with 44...♜d8 45.♜a8+ ♜c8!

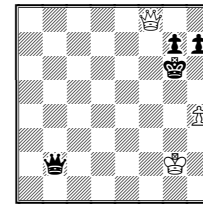


(not 45...♜e7? as in the note) 46.♜a5+ ♜e8 47.♜b5+ ♜f7 48.♜b3+ ♜e6,



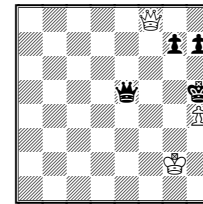
and Black's king finds sanctuary.

A serious error also occurs in the other main variation of that note. After 40.g6+ ♜xg6 41.♜xf8 ♜xb2+,



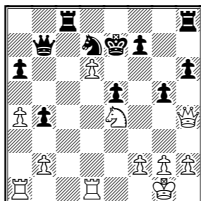
Alekhine has White play 42.♜f3?? (better 42.♜g3 or ♜h3), and then compounds the error by having Black continue 42...♜c3+?. Instead, Black could quickly reach a won pawn ending with 42...♜f6+ 43.♜xf6+ gxh6-+ (though not 43...♜xf6?, which only draws).

Finally, in Alekhine's continuation (from above diagram) 42.♜f3 ♜c3+ 43.♜g2 ♜d2+ 44.♜g3 ♜e3+ 45.♜g2 ♜e4+ 46.♜g3 ♜e5+ 47.♜g2 ♜h5,



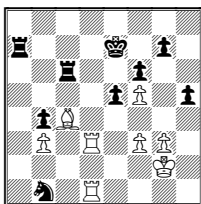
we reach a position that could well arise from 42.♜g3! or ♜h3! (instead of 42.♜f3+??), and is therefore relevant to a final verdict. Here, rather than the given (and losing) move 48.♜f3+?, White has 48.♜b4!, defending the h-pawn, and no win for Black is apparent. Thus it appears that, objectively, to win Black had to go for the 34...♜d5+! line mentioned above.

Game 67, Alekhine-Hromadka, Pistyán 1922: At White's 24th move, the alternative 24.d6+, though it is not significantly better than the text (24.♜g4), bears mentioning.



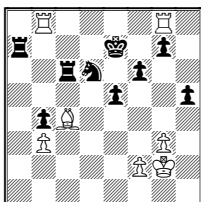
Black is forced to retreat his king to the back rank, allowing 25. ♖xg5, since if 24... ♖e6?? 25. ♗h3+ followed by 26. ♗b3+ forces mate shortly.

Game 70, Rubinstein-Alekhine, London 1922: In the note to White's 41st move, after 41. f3 ♖b1 42. ♗d1,



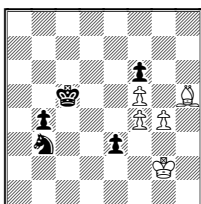
it is not certain that Black must accept the draw by 42... ♖c3 43. ♗d2 ♖b1 etc. Instead 42... ♖a3!? allows Black to avoid the repetition and retain winning chances.

The note to White's 42nd move says that Black cannot answer 42. ♗d5 with 42... ♖d6 because of 43. ♗g8 ♖xf5 44. ♗dd8 ♖d6 45. ♗b8 "and White wins."



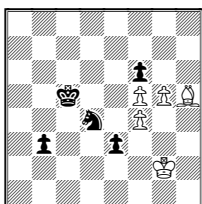
However, Rybka sees no win for White after 45... ♖f5, rating the position virtually even (about +0.23).

One improvement and one mistake can be found in the note to White's 56th move. In the event of 56. g4,



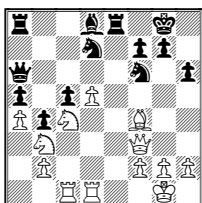
while the given continuation 56... ♖d4 does win, best is 56... ♖c1!, viz. 57. g5 e2 58. ♗xe2 ♖xe2 59. g6 ♖xf4+ 60. ♖f3 ♖h5

etc. And in the line 56. g4 ♖d4 57. g5, while 57... ♖xg5 is good, the equally good 57... b3 is given a "?" it does not deserve,

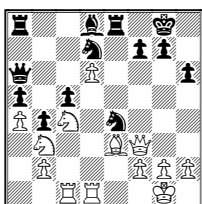


since after 58. gxf6 ♖d6 Black wins anyway. Also after any other move, e.g. 58. ♖f7 e2 59. ♖f2 ♖b4 60. g6 b2 61. ♗a2 ♖c3 62. g7 ♖d2 63. g8 ♖e1 ♖+ etc.

Game 71, Alekhine-Tarrasch, Hastings 1922: The situation in the note to move 23 is considerably more complicated than it appears. After 23... ♗d8,

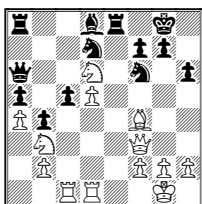


the recommended line 24. ♗e3 ♖e4 25. d6 does not work out as well as indicated.



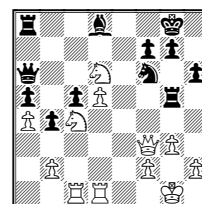
For one thing, the supposed threat 26. ♗xh6 turns out to be empty; even if White were allowed to move immediately, after 26. ♗xh6 gxh6 27. ♗g4+ ♗g5! 28. f4 (if 28. ♗xd7 ♗xc1) 28... ♖df6 29. ♗f3 ♗h4 30. g3 ♖h8 31. gxh4 ♗g8+ 32. ♖f1 ♗ae8 he has nothing.

Better instead seems to be (from previous diagram) 24. ♖d6!,



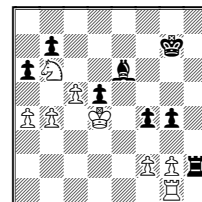
with two likely main branches: (a) 24... ♗e7 25. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 26. ♗xc5 winning

a pawn, and (b) 24... ♗e2 25. ♖d2! ♖e5 (if 25... ♗e7 26. ♖2c4, or 25... ♗c7 26. ♖b5 ♗xf4 27. ♗xe2) 26. ♗xe5 ♗xe5 27. ♖2c4 ♗g5 28. g3,



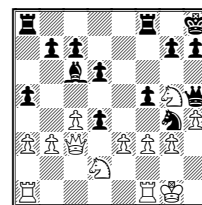
with a great positional superiority for White.

Game 72, Alekhine-Bogoljuboff, Hastings 1922: This game is unfortunately marred by a serious error, the significance of which goes overlooked. After White's 33rd move, Alekhine pronounced the game won and the rest "merely a question of technique." However, he failed to recognize that the game was not truly lost until move 34,

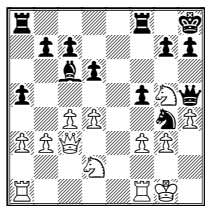


when Black played 34... g3?, a major mistake that sealed his fate. Far better resistance was offered by 34... ♖f7!, removing the king from veiled pressure by the ♗g1 and making the important advance f4-f3 possible. If then, for example, 35. b5 axb5 36. axb5 f3 37. gxf3 gxf3 38. ♖e3 d4+ 39. ♖xf3 ♗h5 and White's queenside advance is stalled, or if 35. ♖xd5 f3 36. ♖f4 ♗d7 and White must either give up his a-pawn or play 37. a5, again stalling his queenside majority. It is unlikely that White can force a win against competent defense.

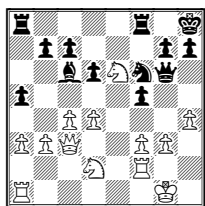
Game 73, Bogoljuboff-Alekhine, Hastings 1922: It is perhaps an act of *lèse-majesté* to criticize one of the most brilliant games of all time (#4 in GM Andy Soltis' book *The 100 Best Chess Games of the 20th Century, Ranked*), but a few points bear mentioning. The note at move 16, in its continuation 16. ♗xc6 ♗xc6 17. f3 exd4,



considers only 18.f×g4, concluding correctly that after 18...d×c3 19.g×h5 c×d2 Black has the better endgame. However, White can improve with 18.e×d4!

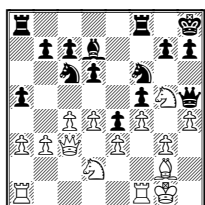


forcing either (a) 18...♖h6 19.d5 ♔d7 20.♞f1 and White is in no danger, or (b) 18...♗f6 19.♗e6 ♜g6 20.♞f2,

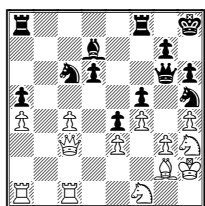


and either 20...♞fc8 with deadeye equality according to Rybka, or an out-and-out draw by 20...♜×g3+ 21.♞g2 ♜×h4 22.♞h2 ♜g3+ 23.♞g2 etc. Lovers of chess brilliancy can be glad the game did not take this course.

At move 18,

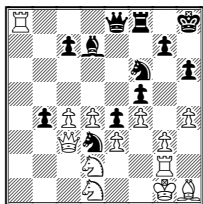


both Alekhine and Soltis opine that 18.d5 was best (instead of the text 18.♞f1), but that may not be as good as believed; for example after the likely continuation 18...♗e7 19.♞fc1 h6 20.♗h3 ♜g6 21.♗f1 b5 22.a4 (not 22.c×b5? ♔×b5 23.♜×c7 ♗e×d5 24.♜c2 ♔×f1 25.♔×f1 ♜×g3+ etc.) 22...b×c4 23.b×c4 ♗h5 24.♗h2 c6 25.d×c6 ♗×c6

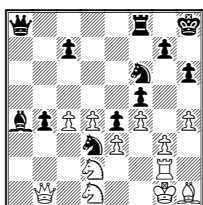


Black appears to be in complete control.

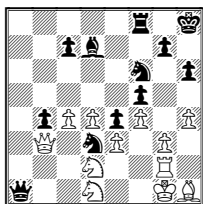
The real *lèse-majesté* lies in our obligation to point out (as have other commentators before), that one of the game's most striking moves was, strictly speaking, not necessary nor perhaps even best. At move 30,



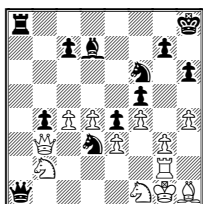
rather than the flashy 30...b×c3, Black could have won with the prosaic 30...♜×a8. After the reply 31.♜b3 (relatively best; if 31.♜c2 ♗e1), Alekhine considered only 31...♔a4 32.♜b1, saying then "White could still defend himself,"



but in fact then after 32...♗g4 33.♞e2 ♔×d1 34.♜×c1 b3! (also good is 34...♞f6 intending ♞a6-a1 etc.) 34.♗×b3 (if 34.♜×b3 ♗c1++) 34...♜a4 35.♔g2 ♞b8 etc. White is lost (about -5.00 per Rybka). But at least as strong as 31...♔a4 is 31...♜a1!

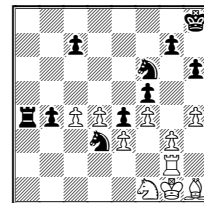


when about the best White has is 32.♗f1 ♞a8 (32...♔a4 is also quite good, viz. 33.♞a2 ♜×d1 34.♜×a4 b3 35.♔g2 ♗g4 36.♞d2 ♜b1) 33.♗b2 (else 33...♔a4 is crushing)



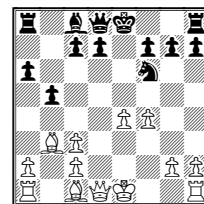
33...♔a4 — Anyway! — 34.♗×a4 ♜×a4 (simplest, though a sadist could take with

the rook and prolong White's agony) 35.♜×a4 ♞×a4,



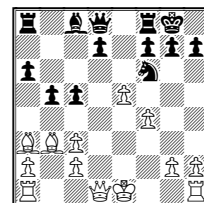
and White can do little but watch helplessly while Black advances the pawn.

Game 74, Alekhine-Réti, Vienna 1922: Today's theory considers this game's opening variation to lead to equality, rather than a dangerous attack for White. For example, after 1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♞b5 a6 4.♔a4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 b5 6.♞b3 ♔c5 7.♗×e5 ♗×e5 8.d4 ♔d6 9.d×e5 ♔×e5 10.f4 ♔×c3+ 11.b×c3,

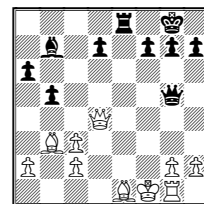


MCO-13 gives 11...♞b7 12.e5 ♗e4 13.0-0 d5 14.♜g7 ♜e7= (Bisguier-Turner, New York 1955).

It is not at all clear that 13.♔a3 deserves the double-exclam given it,



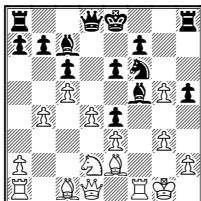
nor that 13...♜a5 (given a single exclamation) was the best reply. Instead, as at move 11 in the above line, 13...♞b7 seems best, the complications eventually petering out to equality, for example 14.e×f6 ♞e8+ 15.♜f1 ♜×f6 16.♔×c5 ♜×f4+ 17.♔f2 ♞e5 18.♜d4 ♜g5 19.♞g1 ♞ae8 20.♞e1 ♞×e1+ 21.♔×e1,



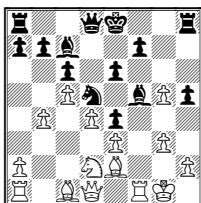
and Black soon recovers his piece, e.g. 21...a5 22.♔d2 (not 22.a3? a4 23.♔a2 ♖c1! etc.) 22...♖f5+ 23.♖f2 ♖xf2+ 24.♖xf2 a4 with a draw likely.

Game 75, Knoch-Alekhine, Vienna 1922:

The note at Black's 13th move says that in the event of 14.fxg5,



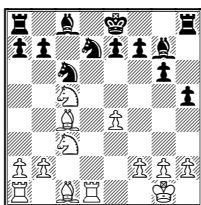
14...♗g5 is the obvious reply. Yet it is not particularly effective against best defense, viz. 14...♗g4 15.♔xg4 hxg4 16.♖e2 ♖xg5 17.b5 and White is holding, with some prospects of counter-play. Much stronger for Black is 14...♗d5!



attacking the e-pawn and making adequate defense impossible, e.g. 15.♗c4 ♖xg5 16.♗d6+ (if 16.♖b3? ♔xg3!+-, or 16.♖h1 ♗c3 17.♖d2 ♗xe2 18.♖xe2 h4 etc., or 16.♖e1 h4) 16...♔xd6 17.cxd6 0-0-0 and the kingside onslaught will be irresistible. ♗f6-d5 is likewise the better reply a move later, should White play 15.gxf4.

Game 76, Alekhine-Sämisch, Vienna 1922:

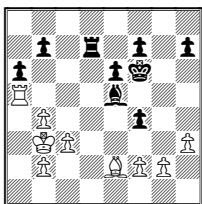
Contrary to the note at move 14, Black can defend his f-pawn. His best defense, the simple 14...♗d8-e8, both defending the pawn and threatening 15...♗xc5, goes unmentioned.



While Black then still stands worse, White has no immediate win and less than a pawn's worth of advantage (about +0.66 per Rybka), compared to about +3.00 after the text move 14...♔xc3??.

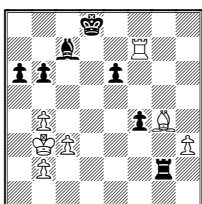
Game 78, Alekhine-Tartakower, Vienna 1922:

The note at move 26 considers the text 26...♔c7 best, but does not mention Rybka's #1 choice 26...♖f6,

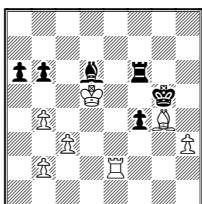


after which it considers the position virtually even (about +0.11) and no plan for either side to gain an edge is apparent.

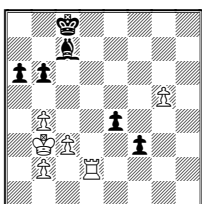
Contrary to the note at Black's 32nd move,



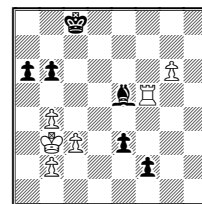
the text 32...e5 is neither forced nor best, and may in fact be the decisive mistake, rather than 24...f4 as Alekhine claims. Rybka prefers a move Alekhine does not consider, 32...♔e5!, giving up the pawn for the sake of keeping the rook, a likely continuation being 33.♔xe6 ♖g6 34.♔g4 ♖f6 35.♖d7+ ♖e8 36.♖d2 ♖f7 37.♖e2 ♔d6 38.♖c4 ♖g6 39.♖d5 ♖g5,



when White stands somewhat better, but no clear winning plan is apparent. In view of the fact that after 32...e5? Black is compelled to give up his rook for the white bishop and enter a lost ending, the referability of 32...♔e5! is clear. The long note at move 35 is basically correct in its final verdicts on all four variations it examines, but it goes astray at a few points. In line (c), after 36.g5 e4,

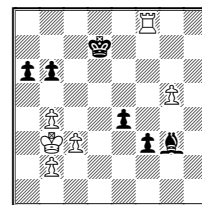


White can draw, but not with the given move 37.♖d5?!, which loses after 37...f2 38.♖f5 e3 39.g6 and now, instead of 39...e2 as in the note, 39...♔e5!,

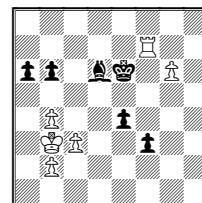


and White's passed pawn is stalled while one of Black's must queen, and if 40.♖xe5 f1 ♖41.♖xe3 ♖g2! nabs the g-pawn, since if 42.♖e6 ♖d5+. Instead, to draw White must play (from previous diagram) a move Alekhine advised against, 37.g6!, and if 37...♔e5 38.♖f2! and the advance 38...e3 need not be feared. White can also play first 37.♖f2 and then 38.g6.

In line (d), after 36.♖h2 e4 37.♖h8+ ♖d7 38.♖f8 ♔g3 39.g5,

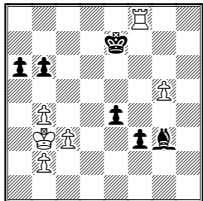


39...♔d6 deserves a "??" rather than the exclamation given it, as it loses to 40.♖f7+! ♖e6 41.g6!,

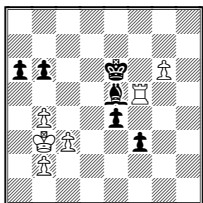


creating a position in which the black king is cut off and neither it nor the bishop can attack White's g-pawn, nor can Black advance his passed pawns. While on the other hand White can maneuver his king over to blockade the pawns and eventually capture them, viz. 41...♔e5 (or 41...♔e7 42.♖f4 ♖e5 43.g7+-) 42.♖c2 ♖f6 43.♖d2 ♔g5+ 44.♖e1 b5 (Black is reduced to waiting moves) 45.♖f2 ♔h4+ 46.♖e3 f2 47.♖xf2! ♔xf2+ 48.♖xf2 ♖f6 49.♖e3 ♖xg6 50.♖xe4 ♖f6 51.♖d5 and wins.

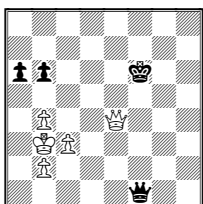
Instead, the drawing line for Black is (from previous diagram) 39...♖e7!,



keeping the rook off f7, when a likely continuation is 40.♖f5 ♕e6 41.g6!? – hoping for 41...♗xf5?? 42.g7+-, but ... – 41...♙e5!,

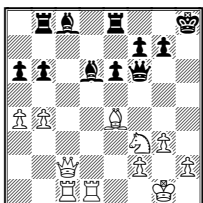


and now White's only try for a win is 42.♖xe5+!? ♗xe5 43.g7 f2 44.g8♖ f1♖ 45.♖b8+ ♕d5 46.♖b7+ ♕e5 47.♖e7+ ♕d5 48.♖d7+ ♕e5 49.♖d4+ ♕f5 50.♖d5+ ♕f6 51.♖xe4,

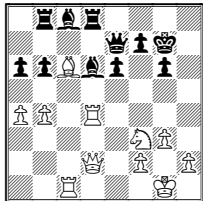


when though White is a pawn up, the difficulty of a win will be very high and its probability low.

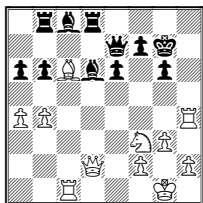
Game 80, Alekhine-Rubinstein, Carlsbad 1923: The note to Black's 20th move is questionable at one point, and clearly wrong at another. In the line 20...♖b8 21.g3 ♖f6 22.b4 ♙d6 23.♖fd1,



the given move 23...♖e7 is probably not best. Black can resist better with 23...e5!?, which gets the queen bishop into play. Further on in that line, after 23...♖e7 24.♙c6 ♖d8 25.♖d4 g6 26.♖d2! ♗g7,



the move given, 27.♖d1, is a serious mistake allowing Black to equalize with the shot 27...♙xb4!. Correct instead is 27.♖h4!,

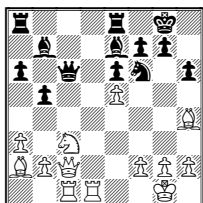


when there is no good defense to the threat of ♖d2-h6+, e.g. 27...♗g8 28.♖h6 ♖f6 29.♖d1 ♙c7 30.♖h7+ ♗f8 31.♖xd8+ ♙xd8 32.♖h8+ ♖xh8 33.♖xh8+ ♕e7 34.♖e8+ ♕d6 35.♖xd8+ ♗xc6 36.♙e5+ ♕c7 37.♙xf7+-, or 27...♖h8 28.♖xh8 ♗xh8 29.♖d1 ♙c7 30.♖h6+ ♗g8 31.♙g5 ♖f6 32.♙e8+-.

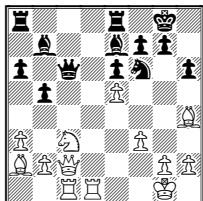
Game 81, Grünfeld-Alekhine, Carlsbad

1923: While this game deservedly won a brilliancy prize, the annotations have an unusually high number of puzzling and sometimes serious flaws, especially of the “long analysis = wrong analysis” variety.

The note at White's 14th move, in discussing Grünfeld-Teichmann, cites the variation proposed by Victor Kahn, 14.0-0 cxd4 15.exd4 ♙b7 16.♖fd1 ♖b6 17.♙e5 ♙xe5 18.dxe5 ♖c6, reaching this position:

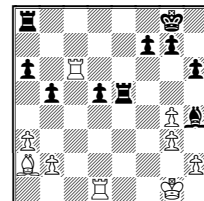


From here the note is rife with errors, whether Kahn's or Alekhine's we do not know. It now continues 19.f3, but much better is 19.f4! when Black cannot gain any advantage comparable to that claimed for the 19.f3 line. And if 19.f3 is played,

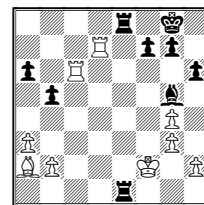


then Black does better to reply not 19...♙g4 (incomprehensibly given an exclamation), but simply 19...♖c5+ and 20...♖xe5 winning a pawn (thus explaining the preferability of 19.f4).

Continuing the note line further, after 20.♙d5?! (another suspect exclamation; better 20.♙b1) 20...exd5 (better 20...♙xh4) 21.♖xc6 ♙xc6 22.fxg4 ♙xh4 23.♖xc6 ♖xe5 24.g3,

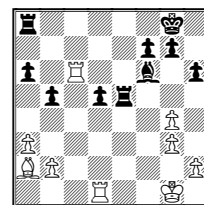


the moves 24...♙f6 and 24...♙g5 are treated as equivalent, both to be answered by 25.♖xd5 (Our clarification: the original text gave the ambiguous “25.RxP” in a position where there were two or three possible pawn captures by rooks, depending on the position of the black bishop.) 25...♖e1+ followed by 25...♙ae8, supposedly with advantage for Black. However, after 26.♖d7,



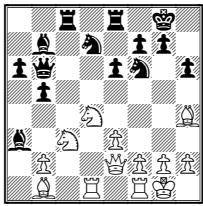
when White threatens to double his rooks on the seventh rank, Rybka indicates Black has nothing better than to force a draw by checking on the e-file, since if 26...♖e1e7 27.♖xe7 ♖xe7 28.♖xa6 costs him a pawn.

Furthermore, if Black does play 24...♙f6 rather than 24...♙g5,

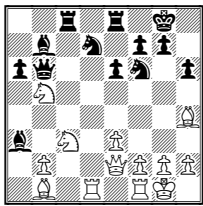


White should avoid 25.♖xd5 in favor of 25.♙xd5, since in the former case Black wins a pawn after either 25...♖xd5 26.♙xd5 ♙xb2 or 25...♖e1+ 26.♗f2 ♖a1 27.♙b3 ♙xb2, though the opposite-color bishops still make a draw likely.

Another instance where two moves are treated as equivalent, when they actually are not, comes in the note to White's 18th move. After 18.♖e2 ♘a3,

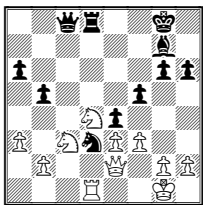


both 19.♗dxb5 and 19.♗cxb5 are said to be best answered by 19...♘b4 when, it is claimed, "Black wins a pawn." However, in the case of 19.♗cxb5 ♘b4 20.♗a3 Black wins no pawn. And after 19.♗dxb5??,

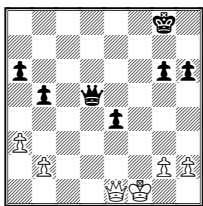


Black wins a piece with the simple 19...axb5! and either 20.bxa3 ♖xc3 (the difference: the ♗c3 is *en prise*) or 20.♗xb5 ♘e7.

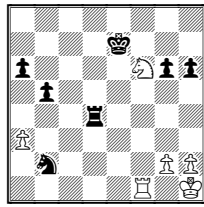
The note to White's crucial 30th move seems to have been written more with drama in mind than analytical accuracy. It is correct that 30.♗c3 was preferable to the text move 30.f3, but then after 30...f5 31.f3,



Black should avoid 31...♖xd4 (another wrong exclamation) for 31...♘xd4! 32.exd4 with two main branches: (a) 32...♖c4 33.d5 ♖c5+ 34.♗f1 ♗f4 35.♖e1 ♗xd5 36.♗xd5 ♖xd5 37.♖xd5 ♖xd5 38.fxe4 fxe4,

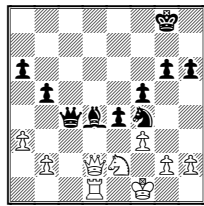


creating a perhaps unwinnable, and certainly very difficult queen ending; or better (b) 32...♖xd4 33.fxe4 ♖c5 34.♗h1 fxe4 35.♗xe4 ♖e7 36.♗f6+ (obviously forced) 36...♗f7! (not 36...♖xf6? ♖xd3=) 37.♖xe7+ ♗e7 38.♖f1 ♗xb2,

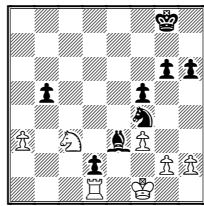


with a not particularly easy but probably winnable ending for Black.

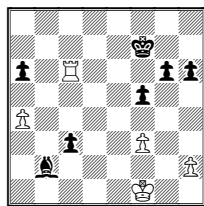
The problems with Alekhine's 31...♖xd4 line are legion. Firstly, after 32.exd4 ♘xd4+ 33.♗f1 ♗f4! (better already to settle for a draw with 33...♘xc3 34.bxc3 ♖c5) 34.♖d2 ♖c4+ 35.♗e2,



the note continuation 35...e3, given another erroneous "!" by Alekhine, is actually a blunder, losing to 36.b3! exd2 (or 36...♗xe2 37.cxb4 exd2 38.♗xe2+-) 37.bxc4 ♘e3 38.cxb5 axb5 39.♗c3,

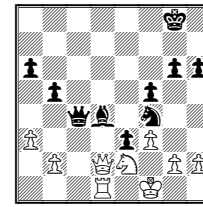


and White will eventually nab the b- and d-pawns and win. Relatively best for Black at move 35 is (from previous diagram) 35...exf3, when best play runs along the lines of 36.gxf3 ♗e2 37.♖xe2 ♘xb2 38.♖xc4+ bxc4 39.♖d6 ♗f7 40.a4 c3 41.♖c6,

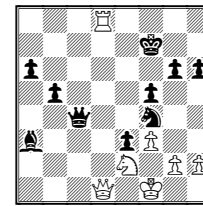


but even then it's White with all the winning chances.

To continue with the note as written (though with our punctuation), after 35...e3??,



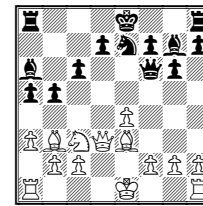
it continues 36.♖e1? ♘xb2 37.♖d8+?! (better 37.g3 ♗d3 38.♖a5=) 37...♗f7 38.♖d1? (better 38.g3 ♗e7 39.♖a8 ♗xe2 40.♖xe2=) 38...♘a3:



Here White might still have some drawing chances with 39.♖d4! ♖xe2+ 40.♖xe2 ♗xe2 41.♖xe2. Instead, Alekhine gives the suicidal 39.♖d7+?? ♘e7 40.♖e8+ ♗f6 41.♖h8+ ♗g5 42.h4+ ♗h5 43.g4+ fxg4 44.♖e5+ g5 and Black wins. We can only guess that Alekhine's flair for the dramatic overrode his objectivity, spurred perhaps by a desire to find a brilliant finish to his brilliancy prize game even against a defense that allowed no brilliancy.

Game 82, Tarrasch-Alekhine, Carlsbad

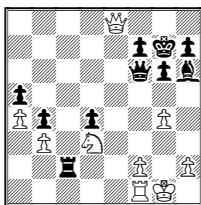
1923: The note at White's 12th move underestimates the value of 12.a3, because after 12...♘a6 White is not compelled to retreat his knight immediately.



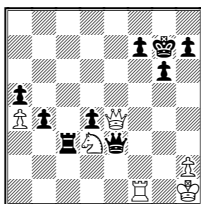
Best instead then is 13.0-0-0!?, when if 13...b4?? 14.♖xd7+ forces mate, or if 13...d5?! 14.exd5 b4 15.♖e4 bxc3 16.d6 cxb2+ 17.♖b1 0-0 18.♖xe7 ♖xe7 19.dxe7 ♖fe8 20.♘c5 ♘f6 21.♖d7±, or 13...♖d8? 14.♘b6±. Relatively best seems 13...0-0, but even then White gains some advantage after 14.♖xd7 b4 15.♖d6 ♖h4 16.g3 ♖h5 17.♗a4. Therefore after 12.a3

Black seems best advised to avoid 12...♙a6 in favor of, say 12.0-0.

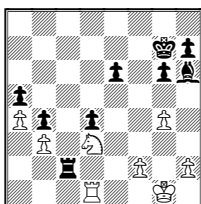
At Black's 31st move, 31...♙f3 may have been the most difficult move of the game, but it was not optimal and the concerns prompting it were largely unwarranted.



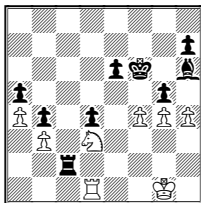
The moves it was intended to prevent, 32.♙e4 and 33.f4, were not really to be feared, viz. (from diagram) 31...♙c3 32.♙e4 ♖xb3 33.f4 ♖c3 (also 33...♖xd3 34.♙xd3 ♙xf4 is an interesting possibility) 34.g5 ♙xg5 35.fxg5 ♙xg5+ 36.♖h1 ♙e3,



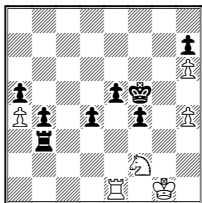
and White is eventually smothered by the passed pawns whether he trades queens or not. Also in the line 31...♙e6 32.♙xe6 fxe6 33.♖d1,



White's resources turn out to be inadequate, e.g. 33...♖c3 34.h4 ♖f8 35.g5 ♙g7 etc. This holds true even in the line Alekhine feared, 33...♖f6 34.f4 g5 35.h4,

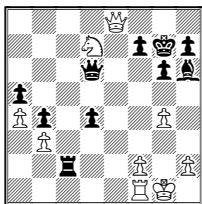


when Black can proceed fearlessly with 35...gxf4! 36.g5+ ♖f5 37.gxh6 e5 38.♙f2 ♖c3 39.♖e1 (if 39.♖d3? ♖xd3 40.♙xd3 e4 41.♙xb4 axb4 42.a5 d3-+) 39...♖xb3,

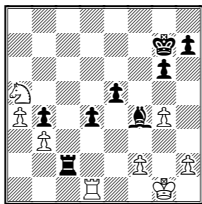


and again the pawns are overwhelming.

The drawbacks of 31...♙f3 become apparent a few moves later in the game, after 32.♙e5 ♙d5 33.♙d7 ♙d6,



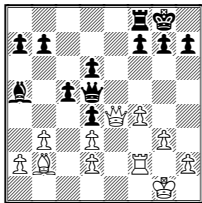
when, instead of 34.♖d1? which lost immediately, White could have tried 34.♙e5!, and after the more or less forced 34...♙e6 35.♙xe6 fxe6 36.♖d1 ♙f4 (or 36...♖f6) 37.♙c4 e5 38.♙xa5,



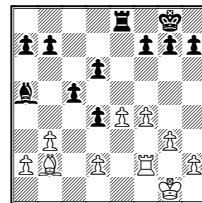
White has some counterplay and Black has a much harder task than in the game, or than in the above variations stemming from 31...♙c3 or 31...♙e6.

Game 84, Wolf-Alekhine, Carlsbad 1923:

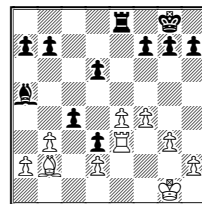
On computer-assisted examination, the fears expressed at move 20 about undoubling White's pawns prove to be unfounded. Black could in fact have spared himself many technical difficulties, and shortened the game,



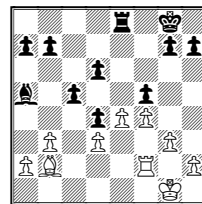
by 20...♙xe4! 21.dxe4 ♖e8,



with now two main branches: (a) 22.♖e2 d3! 23.♖e3 c4!,



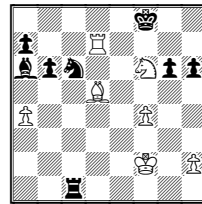
threatening 24...♙b6 (a finesse perhaps overlooked by Alekhine), and giving White only a choice of poisons: (a1) 24.♖f3 (not 24.♖f1?? ♙xd2-+) 24...♖xe4 25.bxc4 ♖e1+ 26.♖f2 (if 26.♖f1 ♙b6+) 26...♖e2+ 27.♖f1 ♖xd2-+, or (a2) 24.bxc4 ♙b6 25.♖f2 ♖c8 (one of several winning continuations) 26.♖f3 ♙xe3 27.♖xe3 ♖xc4 28.♖xd3 b5-+. Or (from previous diagram) (b) 22.d3 f5! and:



(b1) 23.exf5 ♖e3-+, or (b2) 23.e5 dxe5 24.fxe5 ♖xe5 25.♙c1 (forced eventually, else ...♖e3) 25...♖e1+ 26.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 27.♖xf1 with a trivially easy bishop ending two pawns up for Black, or (b3) 23.♖e2 fxe4 24.♖xe4 (if 24.dxe4 d3-+) 24...♖xe4 25.dxe4 ♙c3 26.♙a3 d3 etc., and Black wins.

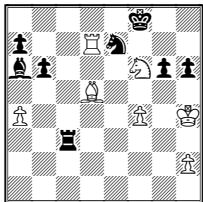
Game 86, Alekhine-Thomas, Carlsbad 1923:

The "long = wrong" bug strikes again in this game, far down the note variation at Black's 33rd move. After 33...♙c3! 34.♖d1 ♖xe3 35.♙d2 ♙xd2 36.♖xd2 ♖c3 37.♙e4! ♖c1+ 38.♖f2 ♙xc6 39.♖d7+ ♖g8! 40.♙f6+ ♖f8 41.♙d5, it reaches this position:



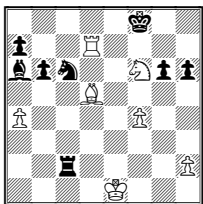
where the given move, 41...e7, is a serious blunder. Instead, Black can save himself by the overlooked 41...c2!!, with two main branches:

(a) Attempting to escape kingside by 42.g3 or f3 leads to a forced draw, viz. 42.g3 c3+ 43.h4 e7! (threatening 44...f5+ 45.g4 e2+ and Black wins),

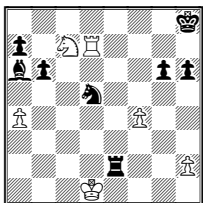


and White must play carefully to draw, e.g. not (a1) 44.e4?? d8+ f7 46.g4 xg4 47.gxg4 c4+, nor (a2) 44.f5? g5+ 45.h5 h3+ 46.g4 h4+ 47.f3 f4+ 48.e3 xf5+, but (a3) 44.e6 d8 45.h7+ e8 46.f6+ f8 47.h7+ etc., or (a4) 44.d8+ g7 45.e8+ h7 46.f6+ etc., with perpetual check in either case.

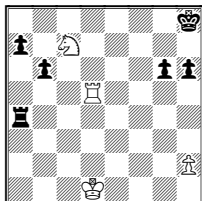
(b) White can avoid an immediately forced draw by heading in the other direction with 42.e1,



but that accomplishes little more after 42...e7! (preventing the threatened 43.f7#) 43.d8+ (anything else leads to a draw or advantage for Black) 43...g7 44.e8+ h7 45.d7 e2+ 46.d1 h8 47.c7 xd5,

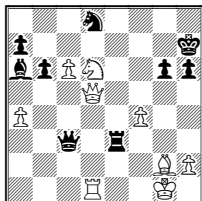


and if (b1) 48.xd5 e6=, or (b2) 48.xd5 Black still draws, despite losing a piece, with 48...f2 49.xa6 xxf4 50.c7 xa4,



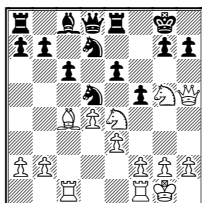
when White simply does not have enough pawns left to win.

Does this mean that Alekhine could not have won against 33...c3, the move he worried most about, analyzing at the board for more than half an hour? No! The win was still there, after 33...c3 34.d1 xe3,



but now, instead of the erroneously exclaimed 35.d2, White must play 35.h3!!, a quietly lethal dual-purpose move, giving his king *Luft* and threatening 36.e4 and 37.d7+. Then 35...e1+ fails to 36.xe1 xe1+ 37.h2. About the only way to avoid immediate material loss, according to Rybka, is 37...d3 38.xd3 dxd3, but in that case White forces liquidation to an easily won ending by 37.e5 xe5 38.fxe5 e6 39.f1 dxf1 40.fxf1 etc.

Game 88, Alekhine-West, Portsmouth 1923: The variation given at Black's 12th move can be improved considerably. As given, after 12...f5 13.h5,

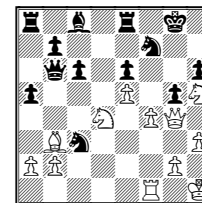


it leads only to the win of one pawn if, instead of 13...h6, Black plays 13...d7f6! 14.xf6+ xf6 15.f7+ h8 16.e6 dxe6 17.xe6 e7 18.xe7 xe7. White can do better by first eliminating one of the knights: 13...xd5! exd5 14.h5 f8 (if 14...h6 15.f7+ h8 16.d6 f6 17.xe8 etc.) 15.f7+ h8 16.d6 e7,

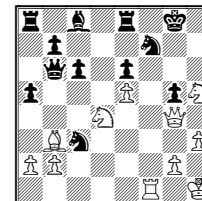


and now White has the surprising 17.xd5! cxd5 18.gf7+ g8 19.xd8 d7 (if 19...d7 20.d8xb7, or 19...e6 20.xe6 xe6 21.xf5) 20.xc8 xc8 21.xc8 xd8 22.c1 a6 23.c7 d7 24.xd7 xd7 25.e7+ f7 26.xf5, and White is up two pawns with an easily won ending.

The note variation given at Black's 25th move is quite good enough to win, but the following minor improvement bears mentioning, if only for its combinative interest. After 25...xc3 26.g4 g5,

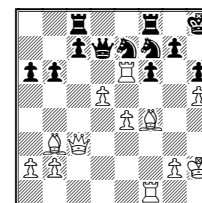


instead of 27.f6+, somewhat stronger is 27.fxg5 hxg5 (nothing else is really better)

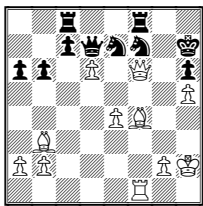


28.xf7! xf7 29.xg5 g8 30.dxe6+! dxe6 31.f6+ e8 32.xe6+ f8 33.f5+ e7 34.h7+ and mate in a few more moves.

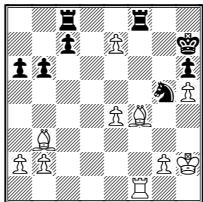
Game 90, Alekhine-Teichmann, match, 1921: The note variation at move 32 can be improved somewhat. After 32...xc8,



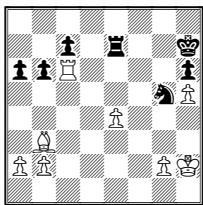
while the intended 33.b4 is fine, White already has a decisive combination: 33.xf6! gxf6 34.xf6+ h7 35.d6!



35...♠g5 (if 35...cxd6 36.♠xf7+-)
36.♖xe7+ ♖xe7 37.dxe7

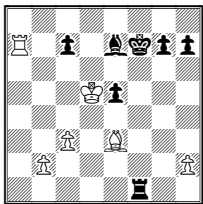


37...♞xf4 – Relatively best; if 37...♞fe8
38.♠xg5 hxg5 39.♞f7+ ♖h6 40.♠e6+-,
or 37...♞h8 38.♠xg5 hxg5 39.♠f7 etc. –
38.♞xf4 ♞e8 39.♞f6 ♞xe7 40.♞c6,

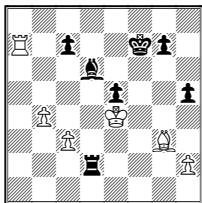


and the rest is a matter of technique. The e-pawn is taboo; if either piece captures it, then 41.♠c2+-.

Game 91, Alekhine-Teichmann, match, 1921: Rybka indicates that Alekhine rather overrates his chances in the latter stages of this game. For example, in the note to move 28, after 28...♞f1 29.♖d5 ♖f7 30.♞a7,

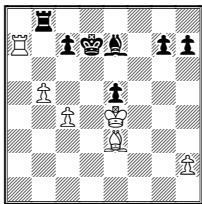


Alekhine considers White to be winning, but Rybka sees the position as somewhat in Black's favor after 30...♞e1! 31.♠f2 (or 31.♠c5 ♞d1+ 32.♖c6 ♠xc5 33.♖xc5 ♞d7+) 31...♞e2 32.♠g3 ♠d6 33.b4 ♞d2+ 34.♖e4 (if 34.♖c6 ♞c2 and the retreat 35.♖d5 is forced, since if 35.♞a3?? ♠xb4)) 34...h5,



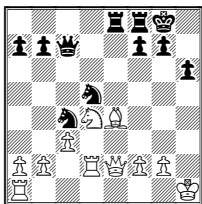
and Rybka's evaluation is about -0.75. In any event, clearly no win for White is imminent.

From that point, Black plays a series of less-than-best moves but is not clearly lost until move 32,



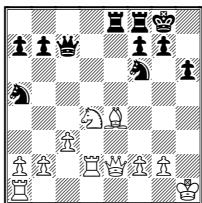
when 32...♠d6?? is fatal. Instead after 32...♖c6 or ♖c8, he stands worse but might have held (about +0.87).

Game 93, Wegemund, Brennert, Friedrich & Dreissner – Alekhine, Berlin, 1921: The note at move 21 is correct that after 21.♠xe4 victory would have been easy for Black, but not by the continuation given. After 21...♠xd2 22.♞xd2 ♠c4?,



White is not obliged to play 23.♞c2? as given; instead 23.♠b5! brings him back to equality, viz. (a) 23.♖f4 24.♠d4 ♠f6 25.♠d3=, or (b) 23...♞xe4 24.♖xe4 ♠xd2 25.♖xd5=, or 23...♖c5 24.♞xd5 ♖xd5 25.♠xd5 ♞xe2 26.♠xc4 ♞xf2=.

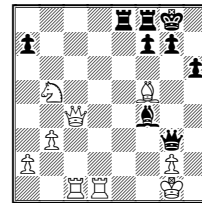
Correct for Black is 22...♠f6!,



forcing 23.f3 ♠xe4 24.fxe4 ♠c4 25.♠b5 (if 25.♞c2 f5) 25...♖f4 26.♠d4 ♠e3 27.e5

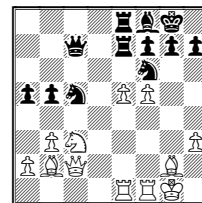
(or 27.♠d6 ♠g4+-) 27...♖g5 followed in most lines by 28...♞xe5 and wins.

The note after White's 28th move exaggerates White's apparent safety.

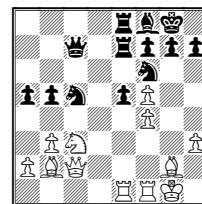


The line 28...♠e3+ 29.♖h1 need not lead only to perpetual check, since instead of 29...♠f4 Black can play 29...♠xc1, with a fairly easy win.

Game 95, Alekhine-Golmayo, Madrid, 1922: Some important possibilities are overlooked in this game. In the note to Black's 22nd move, after 22...dxe5 23.fxe5,

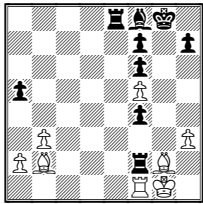


Black need not play 23...♞xe5. Much better is the unobvious but effective 23...♠a6!, preventing 24.♠xb5. In either likely sequel, 24.♖h1 ♞xe5 25.♞xe5 ♞xe5=, or 24.♖d2 ♞xe5 25.♞xe5 ♞xe5=, White loses a pawn without significant compensation. Therefore, on the previous move, after 22...dxe5,

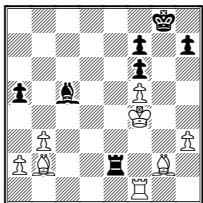


White probably does better to recapture with the rook: 23.♞xe5 ♠cd7 24.♞e7 (not 24.♞xb5?! ♠e2) 24...♠xe7 25.♖d3 b4 26.♠b5 ♖b6+, though even then Black is no worse than equal.

The note at move 28, after 28...♞xf2 29.♠xf6+ gxf6,

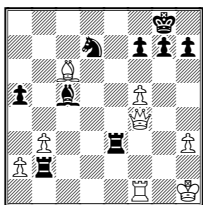


is incorrect to prefer 30.♖f2 to 30.♗f2. In the latter case, after the further moves 30...♙c5+ 31.♗f3 ♖e3+ 32.♗f4 ♖e2,



had Alekhine analyzed further, he might have seen that White has 33.♙xf6 ♖xg2 34.♖d1 ♖f2+ 35.♗g3 ♖xf5 36.♖d8+ ♙f8 37.♙e7 winning a full piece, compared to the smaller advantage (♙+♙-vs.-♖) White gets in the 30.♖f2 line.

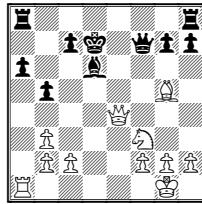
Most importantly, the note at move 31 is wrong about 31...♖e3!



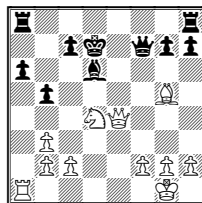
Alekhine called this only “a little better” than the text move 32...♖e7, but it is actually much better and saves Black. The recommended antidote, 32.♗h4, deserves at best a “?!” rather than the “!” given it, as it actually may lose to 32...♙e7!. Necessary for White is 32.♙f3 or 32.♙g2 (to prevent 32...♖xh3+), after which the best White can hope for is a draw with careful defense. Even if, after 32.♗h4, Black plays the note move 32...♖e7?! instead of 32...♙e7!, Rybka finds several improvements on the note variation by which Black can draw.

Game 96, Torres-Alekhine, Seville, 1922:

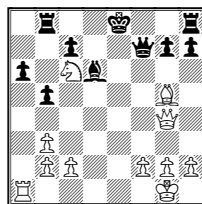
In the note to White’s 6th move, one sub-variation of line (d) can be improved considerably. After 6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 ♘a5 8.d4 ♘xb3 9.axb3 ♙b7 10.dxe5 ♘xe4 11.exd6 ♙xd6 12.♗d4 ♗e7 13.♘c3 f5 14.♙g5 ♗f7 15.♘xe4 fxe4 16.♖xe4+! ♙xe4 17.♗xe4+ ♗d7,



the move given, 18.♖d1, leads only to the win of a pawn after 18...♖ae8 19.♘e5+ ♖xe5 20.♗xe5. Far better is 18.♘d4!

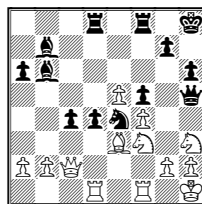


threatening 19...♗c6+, when White wins a rook, e.g. 18...♖ab8 19.♗g4+ ♗e8 20.♘c6,

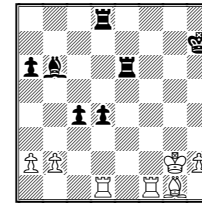


and the rook must simply stay put and let itself be taken, since if 20...♖b6 21.♗c8#, or 20...♖a8 21.♖xa6.

The note after 24...d4 gives the impression that Black’s queen sacrifice on move 28 was then inevitable and White was already lost, but in fact a saving move was overlooked. After 25.cxd4 cxd4,

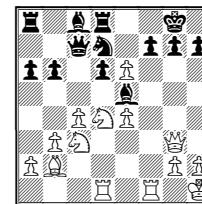


instead of 26.♙xd4?? (when White truly was lost), 26.♙g1! holds. No queen sac is then in the offing, and about the best Black has is 26...g5 27.fxg5 hxg5 28.e6 ♖fe8 (not 28...g4? 29.e7, or 28...♖de8? 29.♗xc4 g4 30.♙xd4+) 29.♘fxg5 ♘xg5 30.♗xf5 ♗xh3 31.♗f6+ ♗h7 32.♗xg5 ♙xg2+ 33.♗xg2 ♗xg2+ 34.♗xg2 ♖xe6,

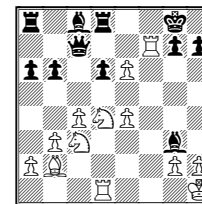


when a draw seems likely. Black’s only other real option is (from previous diagram) 26...c3 (anything else loses the c-pawn for nothing, when after 27.♖d3 a long siege in search of a chink in White’s defenses will be required).

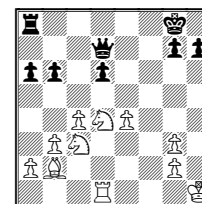
Game 97, Alekhine-Sämisch, Berlin, 1923: Contrary to the note at move 18, acceptance of the queen sacrifice was not compulsory. Black missed (and Alekhine failed to mention) the best defense.



Best was 18...♘f6!?. While probably not sufficient to save the game, it would have made White’s task harder. If 19.exf7+ ♗xf7 and White is only a pawn up. For a greater advantage he has to embark on the tricky line 19.♖xf6 ♙xg3 20.♖xf7,

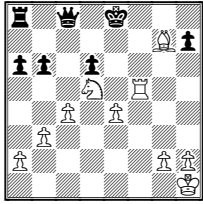


and either (a) 20...♗b8 21.e7 ♙d7 (if 21...♖e8 22.♖df1 ♙g4 23.hxg3 ♙h5 24.♖f8+ ♖xf8 25.exf8♗+ ♗xf8 26.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 27.♗g1+-) 22.exd8♗+ ♗xd8 23.♖xd7 ♗xd7 24.hxg3,



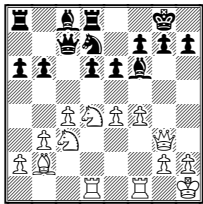
with a lot of tricky play still ahead, or (from previous diagram) (b) 20...♗c5, and again White has to negotiate some very tricky variations, e.g. 21.e7 ♙h4 22.exd8♗+ ♙xd8 23.♖df1 ♙f6 24.♖7xf6 gx f6 25.♘d5 ♗f7 26.♖xf6+ ♗e8 27.♘f5!

♙xf5 28.♞xf5 ♖c8 29.♙g7,

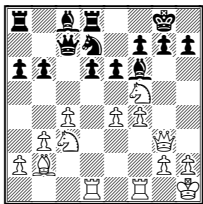


before finally winning.

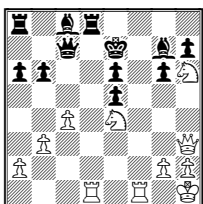
However, White could have rendered all this moot at move 17,



While the text move 17.f5 was good, best by far was 17.♙f5!! (threatening 18.♙d5!!+-), as the following illustrative continuations show:

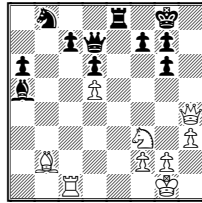


(a) 17...exf5 18.♙d5 and either 18...♙xb2 19.♙xc7+- or 18...♖c5 19.♙xf6+ ♙xf6 20.♙xf6 g6 21.♙g5 d5 22.♙xd8+-; (b) 17...♙b7 18.♙d5! exd5 19.♙xf6 g6 20.♙xd8 ♞xd8 21.exd5+-; (c) 17...♖b8 18.♙h6+ ♖f8 19.e5 g×h6 (if 19...d×e5 20.♙e4) 20.exf6 ♙xf6 21.♖h4+-; (d) 17...g6 18.♙h6+ (also good, though not as quickly decisive, is 18.♙d6, which does the trick against several other 17th moves for Black) 18...♖f8 (or 18...♖g7 19.e5 d×e5 20.♙e4 ♙e7 21.f×e5 and 22.♞xf7+) 19.f5 ♖e8 (if 19...exf5 20.♙d5) 20.f×e6 f×e6 21.♖h3 ♖e7 (if 21...♙any 22.♞xf6) 22.e5 ♙e5 (or 22...d×e5 23.♙a3+ ♙c5 24.♖f3 ♞xd1 25.♖xf6+) 23.♙e4 ♙g7 24.♙×e5 d×e5



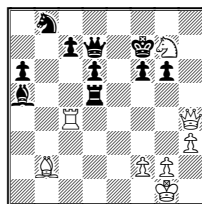
and White wins with 25.♙g8+, ♖h4+, ♖f3 or at least a dozen other continuations.

Game 98, Alekhine-Prils & Blau, Antwerp, 1923: Again, critical defensive resources are overlooked. At Black's 27th move,

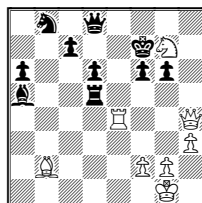


the unmentioned 27...♖b5! (rather than the text 27...f6) was by far the strongest move, viz. 28.♖d4 f6 intending 29...♙b6 30.♖c3 ♖xd5 (about -1.55), or 28.♙c3 ♙d7 29.♙g5 ♙f8 30.♙xa5 ♖xa5; 28.♙d4 ♖xd5 29.♙g5 f6 30.♖h7+ ♖f8 31.♖h8+ ♖g8+- (about -2.50).

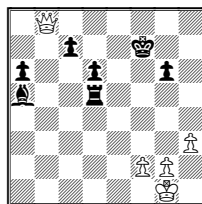
The note at Black's 30th move claims that after 30...♞xd5 White would win by 31.♙xg7:



However, Rybka sees no win for White after 31...♖d8!, e.g. 32.♙e8 ♞h5! 33.♖xf6+ ♖xf6 34.♙xf6 ♞b5 and Black is probably winning, or 32.♞e4,

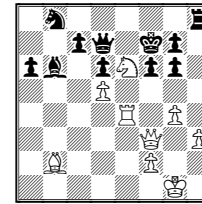


and either (a) 32...♞e5 33.♙×e5 d×e5 34.♖h7 (not 34.♞e5?? ♖d1+ 35.♖h2 f×e5) 34...♖g8 35.♖×g8+ ♖×g8 36.♙e6 ♖f7 with at least equality for Black, or (b) 32...♖×g7 33.♙×f6+ ♖×f6 34.♞e7+ ♖f7 35.♞f7+ ♖f7 36.♖h7+ ♖f6 37.♖h8+ ♖f7 38.♖×b8,



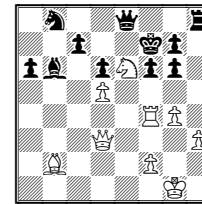
and White may lose, but can hardly win.

At White's 35th move, rather than the text 35.♞e4-f4, winning is easier for White with 35.♖f3!.



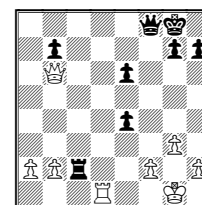
threatening 36.♙g5+. Black then has no plausible defense, e.g. 35...♞e8 36.♙×g7 ♞×e4 37.♖×f6+ ♖g8 38.♙e6 and Black has to give up huge material just to postpone mate, or 35...♖g8 36.♙×f6 g×f6 37.♖×f6 ♖f7 38.♖d8+ ♖h7 39.♙g5+ ♖g7 40.♖×h8+ ♖×h8 41.♙f7+ etc.

In contrast, after 35.♞f4, White has to find a difficult series of "only" moves if Black puts up the best defense, 35...♖e8!.



For example: 36.♙×g7 ♖e1+ 37.♖g2 ♙d7 38.♙e6 ♙e5 39.♖c2 ♖a5 (if 39...♞c8?? 40.♙c3 traps the queen) 40.♖e4 ♖e7 41.♙×e5 f×e5 42.♖×g6 ♖xd5+ 43.♞f3 ♖×e6 44.♖g7+ ♖d8 45.♖×h8+ ♖d7 46.♖h7+ ♖c6 47.g5 etc., and finally White wins.

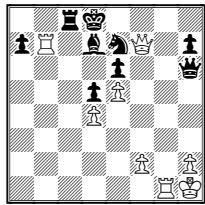
Game 99, Alekhine-Muffang, match, 1923: It is not clear what Alekhine had in mind when, in the note to move 25, he wrote that "it was scarcely possible for Black to entertain" the continuation 25...♙×e4 26.♙×e4 d×e4 27.♖b6.



After 27...♖f5! Rybka rates the position almost perfectly even (+0.08 after 28.♞e1), and completely even in most lines.

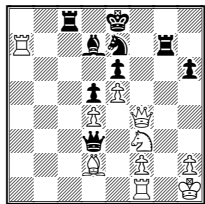
Game 100, Muffang-Alekhine, match,

1923: The note at Black's 23 move, at the end of variation (b), 23...f4 24.♖xf4 ♖f8 25.♖e3 ♖xf3 26.♖xf3 ♖xd2 27.♖h5+ ♖d8 28.♖f7 ♖h6 29.♖g1, concludes that "White should win."

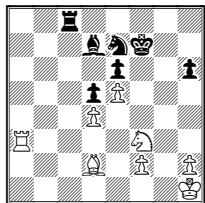


Yet in fact Black can force an immediate draw with 29...♖c1!, viz. 30.f3 ♖g5 31.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 32.♖g2 ♖d2+ etc., or 30.♖a7 ♖xg1+ 31.♖xg1 ♖c1+ 32.♖g2 ♖g5+ etc., or 30.f4 ♖xg1+ 31.♖xg1 ♖g6+ 32.♖xg6 hxg6 33.♖a7 ♖f5 34.♖a8+ ♖e7 35.♖f2 ♖xd4 with a slight advantage for Black.

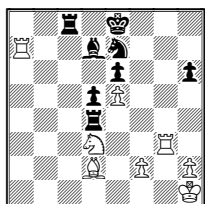
The note at Black's 26th move says that White cannot play 27.♖xf4 "because of 27...♖d3! followed by 28...♖f7, and Black wins."



Yet if White plays either 28.♖g1 or 28.♖fa1, there is no win, for example 28.♖fa1 ♖f7 29.♖7a3! ♖xa3 (or 29...♖c1+ 30.♖g1 ♖xf4 31.♖xd3 ♖a1 32.♖xf4=) 30.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 31.♖xa3,



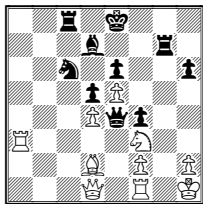
with a very even position (+0.29). Or 28.♖g1 ♖f7 29.♖e1! ♖xf4 30.♖xd3 ♖xd4 31.♖g3,



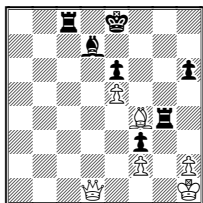
again with a balanced game (if 31...♖b5?

32.♖b4!±).

The note at White's 29th move claims that at that point "the game could not be saved," but the supporting analysis is flawed. The line beginning with 29.♖a3!



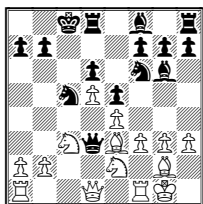
does in fact hold. To examine just Alekhine's own analysis: 29...♖xd4 (as good as any other move) 30.♖e1 ♖xf3 31.♖xe4 dxe4 32.♖xf3 (good enough, and 32.♖xf4 and 32.♖a6 are equally good or slightly better) 32...exf3 33.♖xf4 ♖g4,



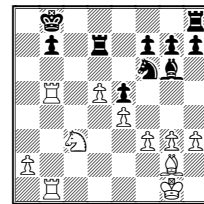
and now Alekhine gives the egregious 34.♖g3?!, and for an alternative only the equally bad 34.♖d2?!. Instead, White draws with either 34.♖xh6! or 34.♖e3!, and Black has nothing.

The number and severity of analytical lapses in this game, and throughout Chapter 23, are somewhat surprising. Granted, it is much easier to find them with computer assistance, but some overlooked moves are fairly obvious. Perhaps Alekhine was in too big a hurry to finish the book (it was the final chapter of volume 1), or perhaps because these games were not from major events he took them less seriously. Or perhaps because of the beautiful concluding combinations these games featured, he was too eager to give the impression that he was winning all along.

Game 102, Alekhine-Janowski, New York 1924: In the note at White's 13th move, after 13.f3 ♖d3,



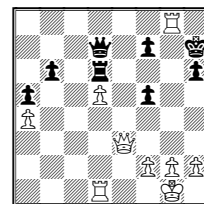
it is unclear why Alekhine thought "then of course 14.♖c1." That leads to a minimal advantage, while instead after 14.♖xd3 ♖xd3 15.♖xa7 White is practically winning, viz. 15...♖d7 16.♖ab1, or 15...♖xb2 16.♖fc1 ♖d3 17.♖a4+! ♖d7 (not 17...♖xc1?? 18.♖b6+ ♖c7 19.♖xc1#) 18.♖c3 ♖c5 19.♖xc5+ dxc5 20.♖b1 ♖c8 21.♖xc5 ♖xc5+ 22.♖xc5+ ♖b8 23.♖cb5 ♖d7 24.♖c3,



intending 25.♖a4 and 26.♖c5 (about +2.24).

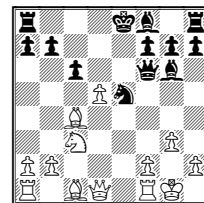
Game 103, Alekhine-Colle, Paris 1925:

This is actually a comment on the Alekhine-Colle game from Baden-Baden 1925, which is included in the notes to their game from Paris 1925. First, the score given in the note to move 10 omits a few repetitive moves. More importantly, and as pointed out in the edition we edited of *Lasker's Manual of Chess* (Russell Enterprises, 2008), a critical saving move for Black was overlooked. At move 41 for Black in Alekhine's score (or move 45 in Lasker's),



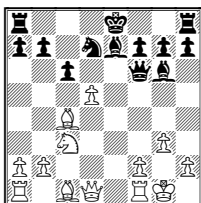
rather than the immediate recapture 41...♖xg2?, Black could have drawn with 41...♖xa4!, and after 42.♖e1 ♖xg8 White, to avoid losing to Black's connected passed pawns, has to force perpetual check by, for example, 43.♖g3+ ♖g6 44.♖b8+ ♖g7 45.♖e5+ ♖f6 46.♖g3+ etc.

Game 104, Alekhine-Opocensky, Paris 1925: The note at move 13 recommends 13...♖e5 as the necessary alternative to 13...♖c5?,



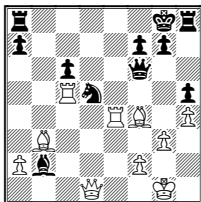
but properly met, it too would lose, not to 14.♖e2 as given, but to 14.♗c6!. If then 14...♗xc6 (of course not 14...♗xc4?? 15.♖d7#, or 14...♗xc6? 15.♖e1+ ♖e7 16.♗d5 ♖d6 17.♖g5 etc.) 15.♗d5! ♖d8 (if 15...cxd5? 16.♖b5+ ♗d7 [or 16...♖e7 17.♖xd5 ♖d8 18.♖b7+ ♖e6 19.♖e1 intending 20.♖c4+] 17.♖xd5 ♖d8 18.♖g5 ♖f5 19.♖fe1+ ♖e7 20.♖xe7+ and wins) 16.♖e1 ♖d6 17.♖f4 0-0 (if 17...f6 18.♖a4 ♖c8 19.♖xe5 ♖xe5 20.♖ad1 ♖f7 21.♗e3 ♖c7 22.f4 0-0 [not 22...♖xb2?? 23.♗d5+] 23.fxe5 fxe5 and White has won a piece) 18.♖xe5 ♖xe5 19.♖xe5 cxd5 20.♖xd5 and White is winning.

Necessary and relatively best for Black at move 13 was 13...♖e7,



when after 14.♖e1 ♗e5 15.♖f4 (15.♗xc6? ♗f3+) ♗xc4 16.♖e2 0-0 17.♖xc4 ♖fe8 18.♖e5 ♖f5 19.♗xc6 ♗xc6 White has some advantage because of Black's isolated c-pawn, but Black is hardly losing.

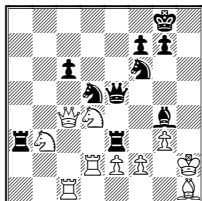
In the note to move 21, after 21...♖xb5 22.♖c5 ♗d5,



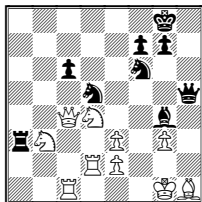
White can do much better than 22.♖c5, by 23.♖c2! and either (a) 23...♖c3 24.♖a4! (threatening 25.♖xd5 cxd5 26.♖xa7!) 24...♖d8 25.♖g5 ♖d6 26.♖xd5 cxd5 27.♖xd8+-, or (b) 22...♖a3 23.♖ce5 ♖d8 24.♖e2 ♖d7 25.♖e8+ ♖xe8 26.♖xe8+ ♖f8 27.♖c1 intending 28.♖a3+-.

Game 106, Réti-Alekhine, Baden-Baden 1925:

We wish we could report a definite conclusion about this game's signature move, 26...♖e6, a move that creates some of the most intricate, baffling complications ever seen on a chess board. All we can say with certainty is that two hallucinations are found in the two main note variations at White's 27th move. In the first, after 27.♖h2 ♖aa3! 28.♗cb3 ♖e5 29.♗xc6 ♗xc6,

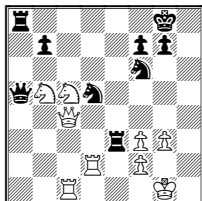


White is said to have "a powerful attack as 30.fxe3 would still be bad because of 30...♖h5+ followed by 31...♖h3." That is true if White replies to 30...♖h5+ with 31.♖g2??, but if he plays 31.♖g1,

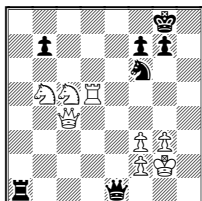


there simply is no win. 31...♖h3 only draws, e.g. 32.♖xd5 ♗xd5 (if 32...♖xg3+? 33.♖g2 ♖h3?? 34.♖xc6+-, or 32...cxd5? 33.♖c7+-) 33.♖xc6 ♖xg3+ 34.♖h1 ♖h3+ etc.

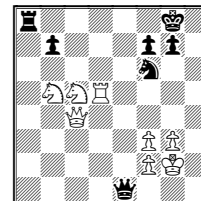
Similarly, in the variation 27.♖f3 ♖xf3 28.exf3 cxb5 29.♗xb5 ♖a5,



30.♖xd5 is said to "lose immediately after 30...♖e1+ 31.♖xe1 ♖xe1+ followed by 32...♖a1."



Yet in that case White actually wins: 33.♖d8+! ♖h7 34.♖h4+ ♖g6 35.f4 and Black is busted (+3.79). Rather than 32...♖a1,

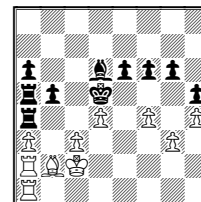


Black would have to accept a draw by 32...♗xd5 33.♖xd5 ♖a1 34.♖d8+ ♖h7 35.♖h4+ ♖g8 36.♖d8+ etc.

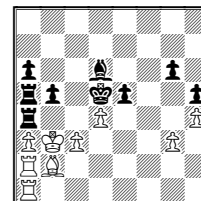
This by no means refutes or discredits 26...♖e3!?, one of the most daring and surprising moves ever played. However, it is clear that Black, if he wants to win in either of those two lines, must vary somewhere before move 31, and it is not clear that he can win even then. On the other hand, it is very much to Alekhine's credit that after the move Réti actually played, 27.♗f3, Rybka validates every move Alekhine made from then on.

Game 108, Thomas-Alekhine, Baden-Baden 1925:

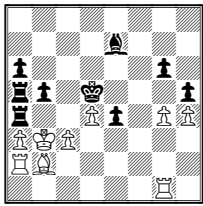
An important defense was overlooked, both in the game and the notes, at White's 48th move. Instead of 48.♖b2-c1? (probably the losing move), it appears White could have held with 48.♗d3-c2!.



The main idea is to bring the king over to defend the a-pawn, thus freeing the ♖a1 for action on the kingside, e.g. 48...♖c4 49.♖b3 ♖aa4 50.♖e1 or 50.♖g1. If Black proceeds as in the game, with 48...e5, White quickly equalizes (at least), viz. 49.fxe5 fxe5 50.♖b3! exd4,

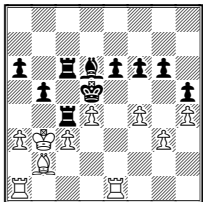


and if, for example, (a) 50...exd4 51.cxd4 ♖c4 52.♖g1 b4 53.a4= (-0.27), (b) 50...♖e7?! 51.♖e1 forcing 51...♖d6=, (c) 50...♖c7 51.♖g1 ♖b6 52.g4 exd4 53.gxh5 gxh5 54.♖g6=, or (d) 50...e4 51.♖g1 ♖e7 (if 51...♖c4 52.g4 e3 53.gxh5 gxh5 54.♖c1 ♖f4 55.♖e2 ♖e4 56.♖ge1 ♖f3 57.♖c2=) 52.g4



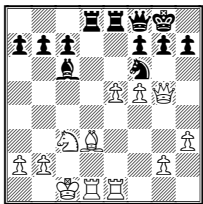
52...h×g4 (52...♙×h4? 53.g×h5 g×h5
54.♖h1 ♙f6 55.♖×h5+±) 53.♖×g4±.

Neither Rybka nor Dr. Dowd could find any win for Black after 48.♖c2. All these lines show the contrast between White's liberated rook, and Black's ♖a5, hemmed in by its own pawns, indicating that Alekhine should have tried something other than walling it in as he did at moves 44-45. Or he might try relocating his rooks to the c-file, for example (from first diagram) 48...♖c4 49.♖b3 ♖aa4 50.♖e1 ♖c6 51.♖aa1 ♖ac4,



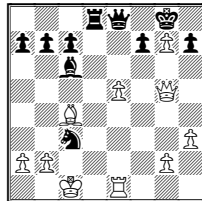
but in that case White's other rook is also freed (e.g. 52.♖ad1), and Black is no closer to winning.

Game 109, Alekhine-Marshall, Baden-Baden 1925: Unmentioned is the fact that at move 20, instead of 20...♗f6-d5?, after which Black was lost, he could have resisted much better with 20...♖e7-f8!

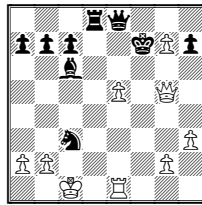


If then 21.e×f6 Black gets back his piece with 21...♖×e1 22.♖×e1 ♖×d3, after which White can gain no great advantage, viz. 23.♖e7 ♖d6 24.♗e4 (if 24.f×g7 ♖×g7 25.♖×g7+ ♖×g7 26.♖×c7 ♙×g2) 24...h6 25.♖g3 ♖d4 26.♗f2 ♖d6 etc.

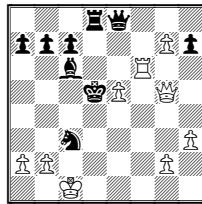
The note at Black's 24th move can be significantly improved at several points. After 24...♖e8,



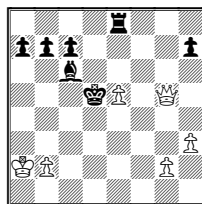
best is the simple 25.b×c3, but to continue with the note line, if 25.♙×f7+ then far better is 25...♖×f7. After 25...♖×f7?? as given,



best by far is 26.g8♖+ ♖×g8 27.e6+ ♖f8 28.♖f1+ etc. (+26.60). But if 26.♖f1+ 26...♖e6 27.♖f6+ ♖d5,

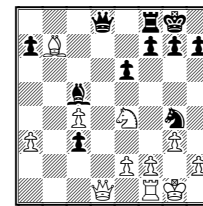


then clearly best is 28.e6+ ♖c4 29.b×c3 ♙d5 30.e7 ♖d7 (if 30...♖×e7 31.♖f4+) 31.♖g4+ ♖×c3 32.♖f2 etc. (at least +26.00). In contrast, the move given, 28.♖f8?, the concluding move of the note, leads to a rather small advantage (only about +1.47) after 28...♗×a2+ 29.♖b1 ♖×f8 30.g×f8♖ ♖×f8 31.♖×a2 ♖e8,



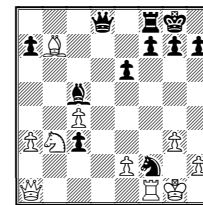
when White can probably still win, but much less easily than before.

Game 111, Rubinstein-Alekhine, Semmering 1926: For once, Alekhine underestimates his position at one point. The note at Black's 18th move says 18...d×c3 would be ineffective because of 19.♗e4, but in that case Black actually gets an advantage greater than in the actual game,

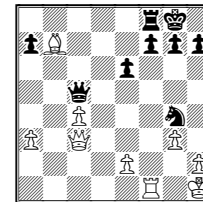


by 19...♗e3!!, viz. 20.f×e3 ♙×e3+ 21.♖g2 ♖×d1 22.♖×d1 c2++, or 20.♖×d8 ♖×d8 21.f×e3 (if 21.♗×c3 ♗×f1 22.♖×f1 ♙×a3++) 21...♙×e3+ 22.♖g2 c2 and wins.

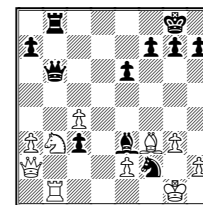
The note at White's 19th move is correct that White has no good alternative, but in one variation, 19.♖a1 d×c3 20.♗b3,



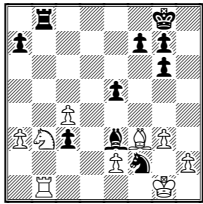
the given continuation, 20...♗g4+, leads to a rather paltry advantage after 21.♗×c5 ♖d4+ 22.♖h1 ♖×c5 23.♖×c3,



when Black is positionally better but by no means immediately winning (about -1.04). Best instead is (from previous diagram) 20...♙e3! (threatening 21...♖b6), when a likely continuation is 21.♙f3 ♖b6 22.♖a2 (if 22.♗c1 ♖b2 23.♖×b2 c×b2 24.♗d3 ♗d1+ 25.♖h1 b1♖++) 22...♖b8 23.♖b1,

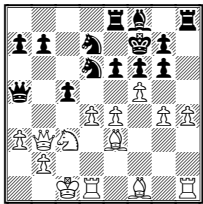


and White is reduced to near-complete immobility and Black can win easily, e.g. 23...e5 24.♖c2 ♖g6 25.♖×g6 h×g6,

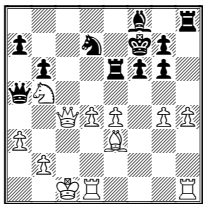


and White is helpless against the coming 26...c2 (about -6.00).

Game 112, Alekhine-Grünfeld, Semmering 1926: Surprisingly, Alekhine again underestimates his position, in the note to move 17. There he says “After 17.♖b3, Black could play 17...c5,”

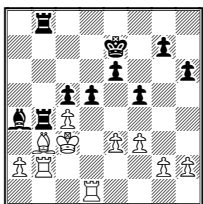


but to do so would be quickly fatal, viz. 18.fxe6+ ♜xe6 19.♙d5! (threatening 20.dxc5) 19...b6 20.♗b5 c4 21.♙xc4 ♗xc4 22.♙xc4,

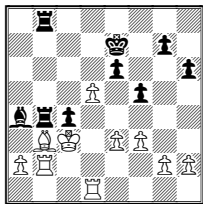


and there is no good defense against the threats of ♗b5-c7 and ♙e3-d2; if 22...♙e7 23.♗c7 ♜d6 24.♙d2 b5 25.♗xb5 ♙d8 (or 25...♗b6 26.♙c7+ ♜d7 27.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 28.♙xa5+-) 26.♗xd6 and Black is crushed.

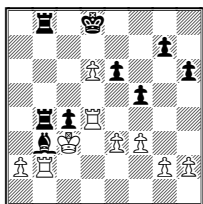
Game 113, Sämisch-Alekhine, Dresden 1926: The note at White’s 29th move presented a couple of problems. First, despite awarding two exclaims in the line 29.♙c3 ♜db8! 30.♜b2 d5!, it nevertheless gave an evaluation of ±, when clearly ♯ was intended. We took the liberty of changing that probable typo. However, the ± was actually more accurate, with 30...d5 deserving “?!” rather than “!” (better 30...g5 or 30...a8).



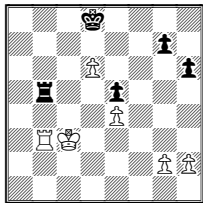
Alekhine apparently assumed the uncompensated demise of White’s pinned bishop after 31.cxd5 e5,



but in fact this would backfire: 32.d6+! ♙d8 (of course not 32...♙d7?? 33.♙xa4+) 33.♜d4! (pinning the pawn that attacks the bishop) 33...♙xb3

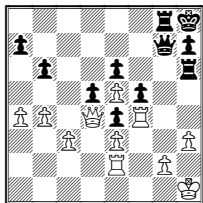


– Now Black’s bishop is pinned in turn. – 34.e4 fxe4 35.fxe4 e5 (to prevent 36.e5, protecting the d-pawn) 36.♜d5 ♜4b5?! (better is 36...♜4b6 37.axb3 cxb3 38.d7=) 37.♜xb5 ♜xb5 38.axb3 cxb3 39.♜xb3



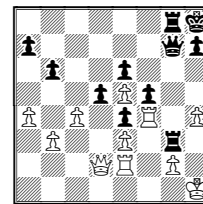
39...♜c5+ (not 39...♜xb3+? 40.♙xb3 ♙d7 41.♙c4 ♙xd6 42.♙b5 and White wins.) 40.♙b4 ♜c6 41.♜d3 and Black will have an uphill fight to draw.

Game 114, Rubinstein-Alekhine, Dresden 1926: The note at Black’s 28th move goes wrong at one point, in the variation 30.b4 ♙g7 31.♙d4?? (better 31.♜c2):

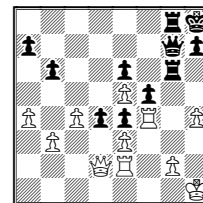


Here Alekhine gives 31...♜c8, which leads to only a minimal advantage. Best is 31...♜xh3+, forcing mate shortly.

In the actual game, 32...♜g6-g3 does not particularly deserve the exclaim given it,

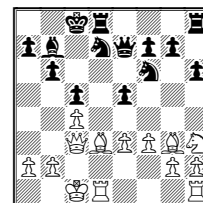


as then after 33.cxd5! (instead of 33.♙d2? as actually played) 33...♜d8 34.♙e1 ♜xd5 35.♜d2 ♜xd2 36.♙xd2 ♙xe5 Black’s advantage is only a pawn. Instead, strongest by far was 32...d4!,

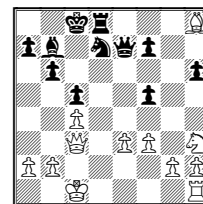


when in most lines White loses to 33...dxe3, and if 34.exd4 e3 35.♙c2 ♜g3+!, or if 33.♜ff2 d3 34.♜e1 ♜g4 etc.

Game 115, Alekhine-Nimzovitch, New York 1927: The note at move 14 makes a serious oversight in the line 14...0–0–0.

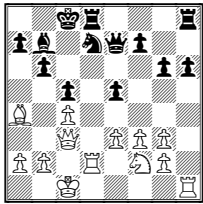


After 15.♙f5 (better 15.♗f2) 15...g6 16.♙xe5 (incorrectly punctuated “!”; better 16.♙c2) gxf5 17.♜xd7 ♗xd7 18.♙xh8,



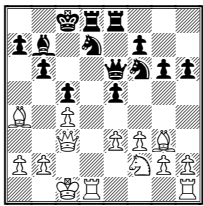
rather than having “a decisive advantage,” White simply loses a piece to 18...f6, e.g. 19.♗f4 ♙f7 20.♙xf6 ♙xf6+.

The note variation at move 17 is not as good for Black as supposed. After 17...♗h5 18.♜d2 ♗xg3 19.hxg3 ♜h8,

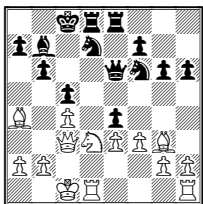


White should play not 20.♖hd1, but 20.♗g4! attacking the e-pawn and forcing 20...f6 21.♖xd7 ♖xd7 22.♗xd7+ ♘xd7 23.♗xf6, winning an important pawn.

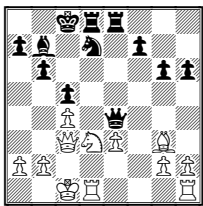
Most importantly, at move 18 in the actual game, crucial errors by both players are overlooked.



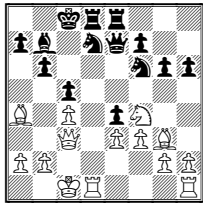
Rather than 18.♗d3?, White should have played 18.♖d2 to maintain his advantage. After 18.♗d3? Black played 18...♖e7!?, missing a powerful counter-stroke with 18...e4!:



If then 19.fxe4? ♗xe4 20.♘c2 ♗xg3 21.hxg3 ♘xe3+ 22.♖b1 ♘xg3-+, so White must choose between 19...♗xd7+ ♗xd7 20.fxe4 ♘xe4



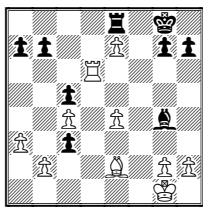
when either the g- or the e-pawn is lost, or (from previous diagram) 19.♗f4 ♘e7 and White must lose either his e- or f-pawn,



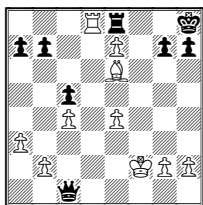
viz. 20.♖he1 exf3 21.gxf3 ♗xf3, or 20.fxe4 ♗xe4 21.♘g7 ♗xg3 22.hxg3 ♘xe3+ 23.♖b1 ♖e7 24.♘h6 ♘xg3.

Game 116, Alekhine-Marshall, New York 1927:

One minor correction to the note at move 21. Alekhine is quite correct that 21.bxc3! is the only move, but the alternative line given, 21.e6 ♗f6 22.e7 ♘g8 23.♖xf6 ♗g4! 24.♘xg8+ ♖xg8 25.♗d6 ♖e8,



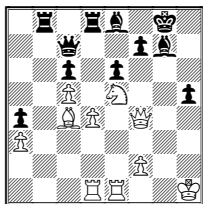
is evaluated as slightly in Black's favor. In fact, after the forced continuation 26.♗xg4 c2 27.♗e6+ ♖h8 28.♖d8 c1♘+ 29.♖f2,



Black is forced to take a draw by, for example, 29...♘f4+ 30.♖g1 ♘c1+ etc.

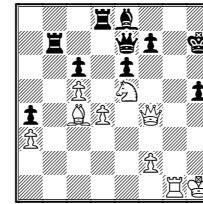
Game 117: Alekhine-Asztalos, Kecskemet 1927:

It bears mentioning that at move 38,



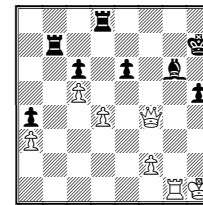
Black could have resisted better with 38...♖h7 (rather than 38...♖b7), though White is still winning in either case.

Two corrections to the final note, at White's 42nd move.

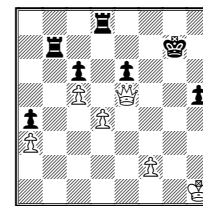


One, its claim of "Only so!" for 42.♗xf7 is incorrect. While that move does win, so do two others. Best was 42.♗f3 (threatening 43.♗g5+), e.g. 42...f6 43.♗d3+ f5 (if 43...♖h8 44.♘h6+) 44.♗g5+ etc. Also winning is 42.♘g3 ♖f8 43.♘h4, and Black cannot stop both 43.♘h5+ and 43.♘xd8.

Two, one hopes that had Asztalos not resigned after 42.♗xf7, Alekhine would not have continued as given in his note, with 42...♘xf7 43.♗d3+ ♘g6 44.♗xg6+ ♗xg6



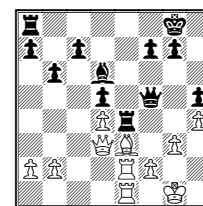
45.♖xg6?! (erroneously given an exclamation) 45...♖xg6 46.♘e4+ ♖g7 47.♘e5+ because then, contrary to the note,



there is no way that White can force the win of one of the rooks. Instead of 45.♖xg6, White should play (from previous diagram) 45.♘f6! ♖g8 46.♘xe6 etc., winning easily.

Game 120, Capablanca-Alekhine, 1st WCh match game, 1927:

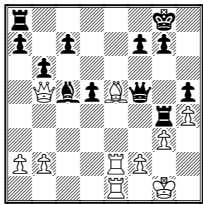
The note at White's 22nd move is correct that 22.♘d3? would have been hopeless,



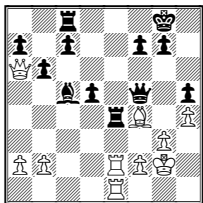
but not because of 22...♖ae8, which leads to only a pawn's worth of advantage.

Instead, immediately decisive is 22...♖f3!, when White has no good answer to the threat of 23...♙xg3! and can resign (at least -4.70).

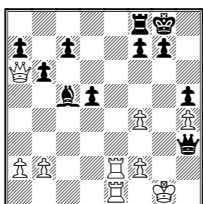
The note at move 23 appears unduly pessimistic. After 23...♙g4 24.♙e5, Rybka indicates that rather than losing back one of his pawns, Black wins the game with 24...♙c5!.



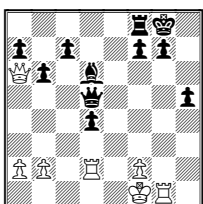
when if (a) 25.♙xc7? ♖c8 26.♙e5 (or of course 26.♙f4?? ♖xf4) 26...f6-+; or (b) 25.♖c6 ♖c8 26.♖b7 ♗e4 27.♖xd5 ♙xf2+! 28.♗g2 ♖xe5 29.♖xe5 ♗e5 30.♗xe5 ♙xe1 31.♗xe1 and Black has an easily won rook ending two pawns up; or, relatively best: (c) 25.♗g2 ♖c8 26.♖a6 ♗e4 27.♙f4 (if 27.♖xa7?? ♖xe5, or 27.♗xe4 dxe4 28.♙f4 ♙d6-+)



27...♗xf4! (also good is 27...♗xe2) 28.gxf4 ♖g4+ 29.♗f1 ♖h3+ 30.♗g1 ♗f8!

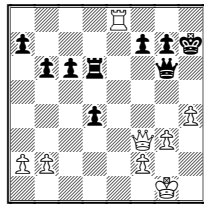


– Removing the rook from the white queen’s line of fire and so freeing Black’s queen for attack. – 31.♖c1 (relatively best; there is no good move – if 31.♗d1 ♖g4+ 32.♗f1 ♖f3 33.♗g1 ♙xf2+ 34.♗xf2 ♖xd1+) 31...♖g3+ 32.♗f1 ♖xf4 33.♖c3 ♖xh4 34.♗g3 ♙d6 35.♗g1 ♖h3+ 36.♗g2 d4 37.♗d2 ♖h1+ 38.♗g1 ♖d5,



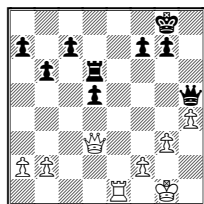
and with so many pawns for the exchange, Black wins easily.

Also over-pessimistic is the note at move 30, which says “Much less convincing would be 30...d4 because of the answer 31.♖f3 threatening both 32.♗a8 and 32.h5.” In fact, after 30...d4 31.♖f3 c6!.

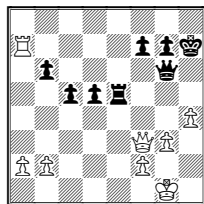


neither of the moves feared (nor any others) need worry Black, viz. 32.♗a8 d3! 33.♗xa7 d2 34.♖d1 ♖e4-+, or 32.h5 ♖b1+ 33.♗g2 ♗f6 34.♖e2 c5, with a much better position for Black than in the actual game.

The preferability of these variations at moves 23 and 30 compared to the text continuations is seen at move 28, where, had White played 28.♖xd3,



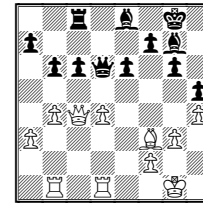
Black’s advantage would have been minimal (about -0.45 to -0.60) and White’s drawing chances considerable. Also at move 33 White could have improved with 33.♖f3!?



again with reasonable drawing chances (-0.39!).

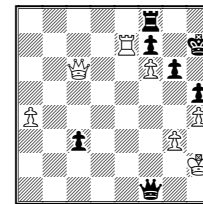
Game 121, Capablanca-Alekhine, 11th WCh match game, 1927: Alekhine notes here are remarkably accurate for such a difficult game, but some improvements are possible. In the note to White’s 26th move, the variation 26.♙c4 ♙g7 27.e5 h5 28.♙d6 ♗xd6 29.exd6 ♖xd6 30.♖c4

(incorrectly punctuated “!”; better 30.♗d3 or 30.♗bc1) is considered better for White,



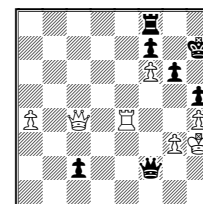
but after 30...♗d8 Black then wins the d-pawn, and with two pawns for the exchange stands no worse.

At White’s 56th move, Rybka indicates that the unmentioned 56.♗e4-e7!? (instead of 56.♖c6-c4) may hold.



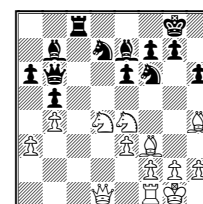
The evaluation then is only -0.68, with no immediately apparent way for Black to make progress. Dr. Dowd considers the position drawn.

The note at move 57 is correct that 57...c2 is insufficient,



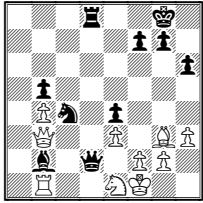
but not because of the given move 58.♗f4?!, as that would allow 58...♖d2! 59.♗f1 ♖d7+ 60.♗h2 ♖c8 61.♖f4 ♖d1 and wins. Instead, White holds with 58.♗e7! ♖xf6 59.♖c7 ♖f3 60.♖xc2 ♗e8 61.♖g2 ♖g4+ 62.♗h2 etc.

Game 122, Capablanca-Alekhine, 21st WCh match game, 1927: In the note to White’s 16th move, after 16...♖b6 17.♙e4 ♗xc1 18.♖xc1 ♖c8, for three of the queen moves given (19.♖c1-e1, ♖c1-b2 and ♖c1-d1),

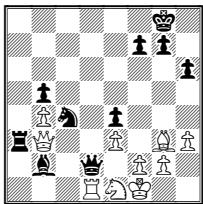


the best reply is not 19...g5 as given (it leads to little or no advantage after 20.♖xf6+), but 19...♙xe4!, when after either 20.♙xe4 g5 or 20.♙xf6 ♖xf6 Black wins a piece.

In the note to White's 31st move, the sub-variation 31.♗e1 ♖d2 32.♖f1,

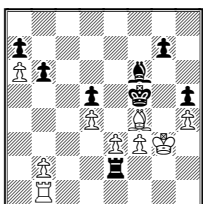


the way for Black to win is definitely not 32...♙a8 33.♙d1 ♙a3 as given,

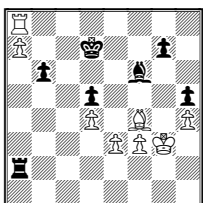


since that allows White to draw by 34.♖xc4! ♖xd1 (even worse is 34...bxc4?? 35.♙xd2+-) 35.♖c8+ ♖h7 36.♖f5+ ♖g8 37.♖c8+ etc. Correct instead is (from previous diagram) 32...♙d3! 33.♗xd3 exd3 followed by ♖d2-c2, d3-d2 etc.

Game 123, Alekhine-Capablanca, 32nd WCh match game, 1927: In the note to move 32, the sub-variation 32.a6 b6?,

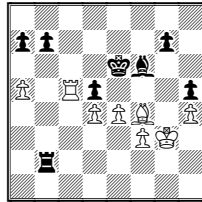


the recommended move 33.♙b8?! does not do so well, viz. 33...♙e7! 34.♙xa7? ♙d6+ 35.f4 ♙xe3+ 36.♖f2 ♙b3=. Winning instead is 33.♙c1!, viz. 33...♙xb2 34.♙c7 ♙a2 35.♙xa7 ♖e6 36.♙a8 ♖d7 37.a7

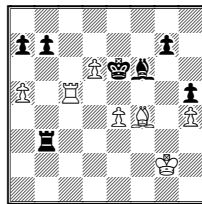


and either (a) 37...♙e7 38.e4! dxe4 39.fxe4+-, or (b) 37...♖c6 38.♙c8+ ♖b7 39.♙c7+ ♖a8 40.♙d7 ♙xa7 41.♙xd5+-, or (c) 37...b5 38.♙g5 ♖c7 39.♙xf6 gxf6 40.♙b8 ♙xa7 41.♙xb5 ♖c6 42.♙b8+-.

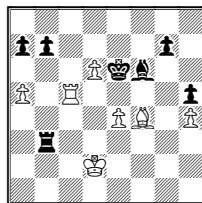
In the actual game, and in the notes, it went unnoticed that White's 34.e4? was a serious mistake.



Instead of 34...♙xd4?, Capablanca could have forced a draw (or perhaps even had winning chances) with 34...dxe4 35.d5+ ♖f5 36.d6+ ♖e6 37.fxe4 ♙b3+ 38.♖g2

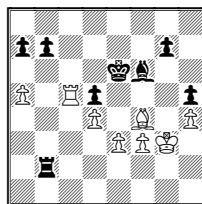


and now not 38...♙xh4 as in the note, but 38...♙b2+! (or 38...♙b4) 39.♖f3 ♙b3+ 40.♖e2 ♙b2+ 41.♖d3 ♙b3+ 42.♖d2



and Black has the choice of continuing to probe for a win with 42...g6!?, or forcing an immediate draw by 42...♙b2+ etc., since White cannot stop the checks by 43.♙c2?? because of 43...♙xc2+ 44.♖xc2 ♙xh4 45.♖d3 g5 and Black wins.

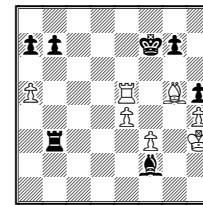
At move 34,



Instead of 34.e4?, Rybka recommends 34.a6, 34.♙g5, or 34.♙c7, though none of

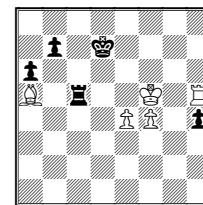
those moves are given a very high evaluation (only +0.40). But at least they do not allow a forced draw.

In the note to move 35, Alekhine says that after 35...♙f2+ 36.♖h3 ♙b3 37.♙e5+ ♖f7 38.♙g5,



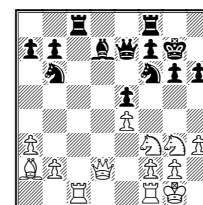
Black's position "would still look very compromised." Rybka seems unimpressed by appearances, indicating that Black draws after 38...♙e1, 38...a6, or 38...b5.

At White's 55th move, the text 55.♙h7+ was quite good, but the alternative 55.♙xa5 was wrongly condemned. After 55...♙c5+,

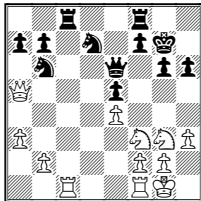


56.♖g4?!, as in the note, is by no means forced. Instead White still wins with 56.e5! ♙xa5 57.♙xh4 etc.

Game 124, Alekhine-Capablanca, 34th WCh match game, 1927: It has long been the consensus that this game was lost due to Black's 21st move,

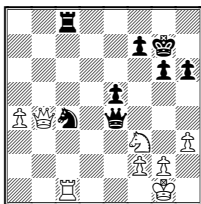


most annotators concurring in Lasker's assertion that 21...♗a4 was the only way to avoid losing a pawn. Rybka, however, while confirming the worth of 21...♗a4, also indicates that the text continuation 21...♙e6 22.♙xe6 ♖xe6 23.♖a5 was still OK for Black, if, rather than 23...♗c4, he had played 23...♗fd7!?

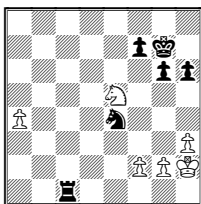


The main point is that if White immediately captures the pawn his queen is trapped, e.g. 24.♖xa7 ♘c5 (defending the b-pawn) 25.♞fd1 ♞a8 26.♗xa8 ♞xa8 27.♞xc5, when the ♖-vs.-♞+♘+♗ imbalance is in Black's favor. A sampling of other possibilities (from diagram): (a) 24.♞xc8 ♞xc8 25.♗xa7 ♖b3 26.♗xb7 ♖xb2 27.a4 ♘c5=; (b) 24.♗xa7 ♘c5 25.♞xc5 (to avoid losing the queen) 25...♞xc5 26.♗xb7 ♞c2 27.b3 ♞e8 (if 27...♞xb3 28.♘e5) 28.♞b1 ♞c3 29.♘e5 ♖xe5 30.♗xb6 ♞b8= /++ (-1.40); (c) 24.♗xa7 ♘c5 25.♞fd1 ♘ba4!? 26.b4 (better perhaps is 26.♞xc5) 26...♞a8 27.♗xa8 ♞a8 28.bxc5 ♞c8 29.♞d5 f6 (-1.35). We do not claim that any of this is conclusive, but it does indicate that Black had more than one line of defense.

The "pitfall" variation in the note to White's 30th move is not at all bad for White if, after 30.♘e4 ♖xe4 31.♞c1 ♞c8,

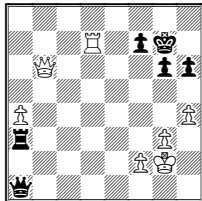


he avoids 32.♘e5?? – understatedly punctuated "(?)" – in favor of 32.a5!. As an aside, we note that after the note line 32.♘e5?? ♘e3 33.♗xe4 ♞xc1+ 34.♞h2 ♘f1+ 35.♞g1 ♘g3+ 36.♞h2 ♘e4,

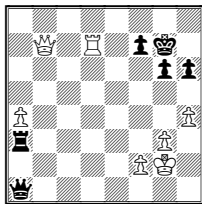


the comment that "Black could even win" is another droll understatement (-6.13).

At White's 48th move, in the note variation 48...♞a3 49.♞d7 ♞g7,

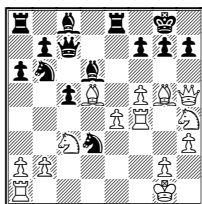


the given move 50.♗e6 should be punctuated at best "?! " rather than "!", since after 50...♗f6! White would be forced into 51.♗xf6+ ♖xf6, reaching an ending Alekhine had already identified as undesirable for White because the black rook is behind his passed pawn. Instead, White should play 50.♗b7!,



and after either 50...♗a2 or 50...♗f6 he wins with 51.♞xf7+! ♗xf7 52.♖b2+ ♞h7 53.♗a3, reaching a queen ending which, as Alekhine had already noted, is easily won.

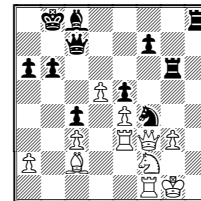
Game 125, Alekhine-H. Steiner, Bradley Beach 1929: The claim that by move 18 Black has "no longer a sufficient defense" appears premature. Overlooked, in both the game and the notes, was 18...♘e5-d3!,



which seems to stall White's attack, viz. (a) 19.♞g4 ♘h2+! (not 19...♘e5? 20.♞f1 c4 21.♘h6! ♖c5+ 22.♞h1 ♘f2+ 23.♞f2 ♖xf2 24.♗xf7+-) 20.♞f1 (if 20.♞h1?? ♘f2#) 20...♘e5 21.♘f3 ♘xg4 22.♗xg4 ♘d6 and Black is no worse than equal; or (b) 19.♞f3 ♘b4 (intending a double capture on d5) 20.♞d1 (if 20.♘b3 c4) 20...♘6xd5 21.♘xd5 ♘xd5 22.exd5 (if 22.♞xd5? ♞xe4) 22...c4 and Black is better (about -0.93). To avoid all this, White should have played not 18.♞f1-f4?!, but 18.♞a1-d1, preventing ♘e5-d3 and retaining his advantage.

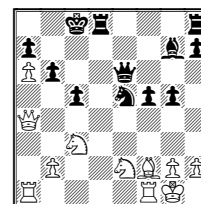
Game 128, Bogoljuboff-Alekhine, 8th WCh match game 1929: The game's last note, at White's 26th move, makes a

serious error. After 26.♘e3 ♘xe3 27.♞xe3 ♘f4 28.g3 hxg3 29.hxg3,

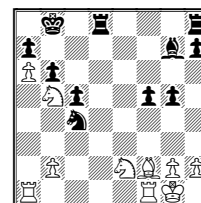


Black has any number of good, winning moves – 29...♘h3, 29...♗d8, 29...♗e7, 29...♞f6, to name a few – but the move given, 29...f5?, lets White off the hook, viz. 30.exf5 and if 30...♗h7?, pursuing Alekhine's idea, then 31.♞b1! when there is no mate at h2 and White is winning (+1.46). Better is 30...♞g5, but it leads to an unclear situation where Black is definitely not winning, e.g. 31.♞d1 ♞hg8 32.d6 ♞xg3+ 33.♗xg3 ♞xg3+ 34.♞xg3 ♘e2+ 35.♞g2 ♖d8 36.♞f3∞.

Game 129, Alekhine-Bogoljuboff, 17th WCh match game 1929: A game with major mistakes, both in text moves and the notes, some of which require a bit of digging to disclose, but others are more obvious. First off, at move 23,



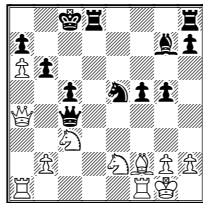
Black was probably better served by 23...♘d3 rather than 23...♗c4 (undeservedly given an exclamation). After 23...♗c4, the exchange of queens is not as good for Black as Alekhine indicates, especially in the note line 24.♗xc4 ♘xc4 25.♘b5 ♖b8?,



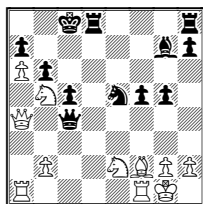
when rather than "get some further material for his piece," Black would lose to 26.♘g3+! f4 27.♘xf4! gxf4 28.♞xf4! (better than 28.♘xf4+) 28...♘e5 (if 28...♘e5 29.♞f7+-) 29.♞f7 ♘xg3 30.♞b7+ ♞a8 31.♞xa7+ ♖b8 32.♞b7+ ♞a8 33.hxg3 ♞c8 34.♞f1 followed by 35.♞ff7 and wins. In this note line, rather than 25...♞f8?, Black must play 25...♘xb2,

when after 26. ♖xa7+ ♕c7 27. ♖a4 ♖d6
28. ♖b1 ♕e5 White has an advantage but
no immediate win (+0.75).

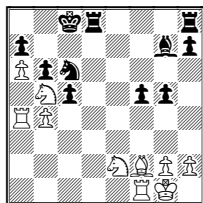
At move 24,



Rybka indicates that best for White, rather
than 24. ♖c4 or the text move 24. b4, were
either of two knight moves, the strength of
which is not immediately apparent. One is
24. ♖b5!

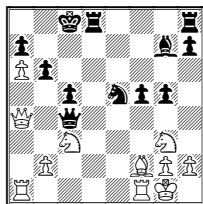


when 24... ♖xe2? loses, viz. 25. ♖xa7+ ♕b8
26. ♖c6+ ♕a8 (if 26... ♖xc6?? 27. ♖xc6 and
mate soon) 27. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 28. ♖b3 ♖b8
(if 28... ♕a7 29. ♖xc5, or 28... ♖d6
29. ♖g8+, or 28... ♖d7 29. ♖d5+ ♕b8
30. ♖b7#) 29. ♖d5+ (also good is 29. a7
♖d8 [if 29... ♖b7?? 30. ♖g8+] 30. ♖xb6+-)
29... ♕a7 30. ♖d6 ♖h8 31. ♖c7+ ♕a8
32. a7+- . If instead 24... ♖xa4 25. ♖xa4
♖c6 26. b4!



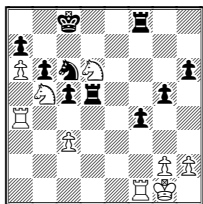
26... ♖xb4 (if 26... ♖xb4 27. ♖xa7+) 27. ♖c1
♕d7 28. ♖xa7 ♖xa7 29. ♖xb6 and wins.

The other is 24. ♖g3!, threatening 25. ♖xf5,

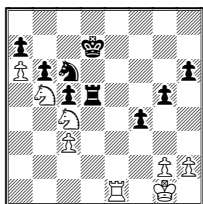


when best play runs something like
24... ♖xa4 (necessary now or later)
25. ♖xa4 ♖hf8 (if 25... f4 26. ♖f5) 26. ♖e1!

(threatening 27. ♖xf5) 26... f4 27. ♖ge4 h6
28. ♖b5 ♖c6 (if 28... ♕b8 29. ♖c3 is all the
stronger) 29. ♖c3 ♖xc3 30. bxc3 ♖d5
31. ♖ed6+



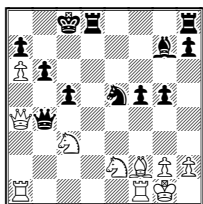
31... ♕d7 (or 31... ♕b8 32. ♖e4 ♖d8
33. ♖e6 h5 34. ♖f7 ♖c8 35. ♖g6 and the
kingside pawns fall) 32. ♖c4 ♖f6 (else
33. ♖xa7 ♖xa7 34. ♖xb6+) 33. ♖e1 ♖e6
(else ♖a4-a2-e2 doubling on the e-file)
34. ♖aa1 ♖xe1+ 35. ♖xe1 (threatening
36. ♖xa7 again)



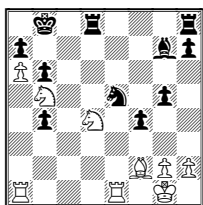
35... ♖f5 36. ♖d1+ ♕e7 37. ♖d6 ♖f6
38. ♖xc6! ♖xc6 39. ♖xa7 ♖c7 40. ♖b5 ♖d7
41. a7 ♖d8 42. ♖xb6 and wins.

The above analysis is intended to illustrate
the main outlines of play after 24. ♖b5 or
24. ♖g3, and is not claimed to be
exhaustive or definitive for either. But
these two alternatives should be kept in
mind, as will be seen further on in the
game.

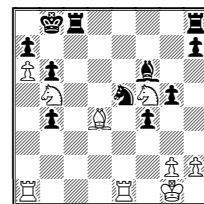
At move 25, Alekhine was loath to
exchange queens, but by failing to do so he
seriously endangered his winning chances.



Correct here was 25. ♖b4 cxb4, when
White should be able win with 26. ♖b5
♕b8 27. ♖ed4 f4 28. ♖fe1

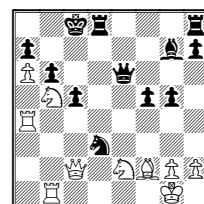


(threatening 29. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 30. ♖c6+)
28... ♖c8 (if 28... ♖he8? 29. ♖ad1 revives
the threat, and if then 29... ♖c8 30. ♖d6+-)
29. ♖f5 ♖f6 30. ♖d4,

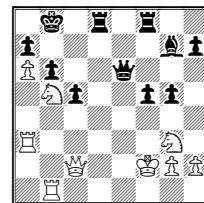


and Black has the unhappy choice of
losing the exchange by 30... ♖c5 31. ♖xc5,
or the game by 30... ♖d7 (or 30... ♖g4)
31. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 32. ♖e7 etc.

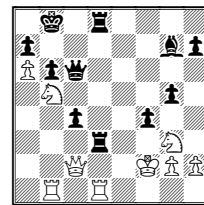
The flaw in 25. ♖c2? does not become
apparent until Black's 28th move,



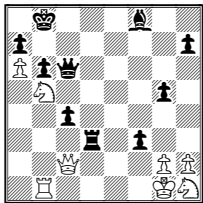
where Alekhine noted that instead of the
text move 28... ♕b8, "a longer resistance
was possible after 28... ♖xf2 29. ♖xf2
♕b8," adding "but by continuing 30. ♖g3
♖hf8 31. ♖a3! (followed by 32. ♖e3 or
32. ♖d3 etc.) White would still increase his
pressure in a decisive manner."



Rybka does indeed agree that this makes a
longer resistance possible, but sees no
decisive pressure for White, scoring the
position virtually even (-0.26). Black is
able to maintain equality (at least) with
any of several moves, such as 31... c4,
31... f4, or 31... g4. Black can even pose
serious threats, for example after 31... c4
32. ♖e3 (the only one of Alekhine's
intended moves still possible) 32... ♖c6
(threatening 33... f4) 33. ♖ee1 ♖d5 34. ♖c3
♖d3 35. ♖b5 ♖fd8 36. ♖ed1 f4!

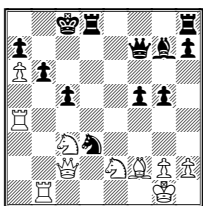


37. ♖h1 (forced; if 37. ♛e2? f3 38. ♛ec3 ♛xc3 39. ♛xc3 ♖c5+ 40. ♖f1 fxg2+ 41. ♖xg2 ♖e3-+, or 37. ♛h5 ♛e5 38. ♖xd3 ♖xd3 39. ♖e2 ♖d5 40. ♖g1 c3-+) 37...f3! (also good is 37...g4) 38. ♖xd3 ♖xd3 39. ♖g1 ♖f8!,

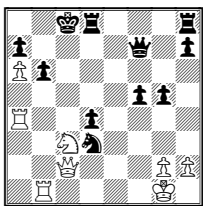


intending 40... ♛c5+, and if anyone is “increasing his pressure in a decisive manner,” it is Black.

The note at Black’s 27th move goes wrong almost immediately. After 27... ♖f7,

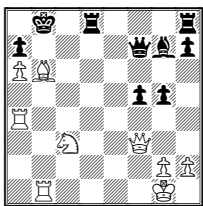


best is 28. ♖b5 with some advantage for White. The note continuation 28. ♛d4 (another erroneous exclamation) fails after 28... ♛xd4+ 29. ♛xd4 and now not 29... ♖xd4? but 29... cxd4!,

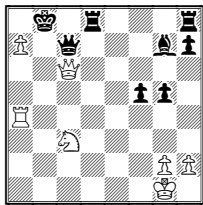


when probably the best White can do is enter complications leading to perpetual check, e.g. 30. ♛e4+ ♖b8 31. ♛xg5 ♖e7 32. ♖xd3 ♖xg5 33. ♖xb6+ (or 33. ♖xd4 ♖hg8 34. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 35. ♖f3=) 33...axb6 34. a7+ ♖b7 35. ♖f3+ ♖c7 36. ♖c4+ ♖d6 37. a8 ♖xa8 38. ♖c6+ etc. ad infinitum.

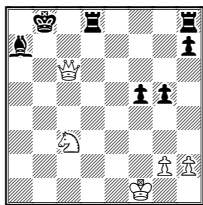
Leaving the worst for last, in the final note,



after 34...axb6 35. ♖xb6+ ♖c8 36. ♖c6+ (better 36. a7) 36... ♖c7 37. ♖b8+? (wrongly punctuated “!”; better 37. ♖e6+ ♖d7 38. a7 and mate shortly) 37... ♖xb8 38. a7+,

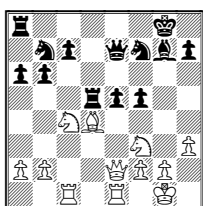


contrary to the note, it is not mate in two; rather, after 38... ♖xa7+ 39. ♖xa7 ♛d4+! 40. ♖f1 ♛xa7,



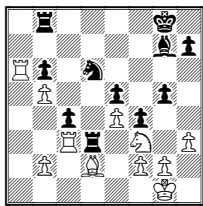
White is going to have a hard time winning a very difficult endgame.

Game 130, Bogoljuboff-Alekhine, 22nd WCh match game 1929: The variation in the note to Black’s 21st move is not especially good for White if, after 21... ♖ed8 22. exf5 gxf5 23. ♛d4 ♖xd5 24. ♖fe1,



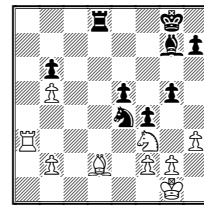
instead of 24...e4?!, Black plays 24... ♖e8 forcing 25. ♛c3, when he is no worse than equal. Perhaps even better is 24... ♖bd6, which Rybka rates at about -0.50.

The note at move 31 gives the impression that Black is winning after 32. ♖c3 c4,



but after 33. ♛e1 (instead of 33. ♖xd3) Rybka sees the position as completely

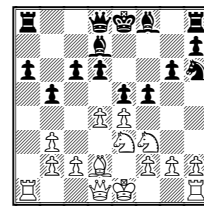
level. Even in the line as given, 33. ♖xd3 cxd3 34. ♖a3 ♛xe4 35. ♖xd3 ♖a8! 36. ♖a3 (better 36. ♖f1=) 36... ♖d8,



after 37. ♛e1 Black’s advantage is not great (about -0.45 to -0.65) and no immediate win is apparent.

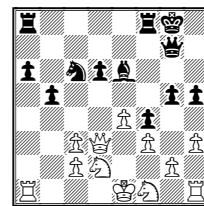
Game 131, Yates-Alekhine, San Remo

1930: Contrary to the note at Black’s 13th move, 13...f5 as an answer to 13.d4 would not have been especially effective.

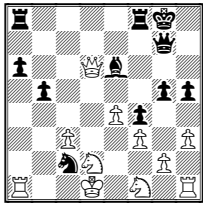


White would then have seized the initiative with 14. dxex5 fxe4 (worse are both 14...dxe5 15. ♛xe5, and 14...f4 15. ♛f1 ♛f7 16. ♛xf4) 15. ♛a5! ♖c8 16. ♛g5 17. e6 ♛xe6 18. ♖d4 ♛f7 (not 18... ♖g8? 19. ♖e5+-) 19. c4 dxc4 20. bxc4 etc.

The note at Black’s 29th move can be improved at several points. After 29... ♖g7 30. ♖d3,

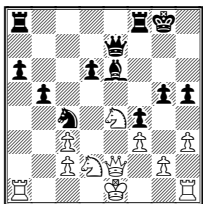


much better than 30... ♖b4 is 30... ♖fd8!, preventing 31. ♖xd6 and giving White only unpleasant choices, e.g. (a) 31. ♖b1 d5 (or 31... ♖b4 32. ♖d2 d5), (b) 31. ♖b1 d5, (c) 31. h4 ♖b4 32. cxb4 ♖xa1+ 33. ♖f2 ♖e5 34. hxg5 ♖ac8 etc., or jumping into the fire with 31. 0-0 b4 etc., with Black winning (or nearly so) in every case. In the line 30... ♖b4 31. ♖xd6 ♛xc2+ 32. ♖d1,

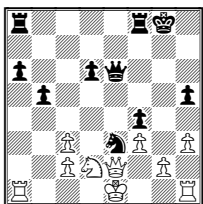


better than 32...♖xa1 (and certainly better than 32...♖f6? 33.♖xa6) is 32...♗b3!, when if 33.♗xb3 ♖ad8 wins the queen, or if 33.♗b1 ♖ad8 34.♗b6 ♖a4! 35.♔e2 ♗xc3 and White is crushed.

At move 32, Alekhine could have shortened the game considerably by avoiding 32...♗c4 in favor of 32...♗c4!

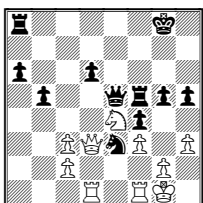


If then 33.♗xc4?? ♗xc4 34.♗f2 d5-+, so a likely continuation is 33.♗xg5 ♗e3 34.♗xe6 ♗xe6



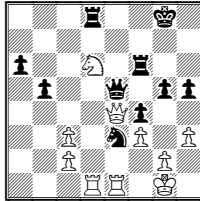
and either (a) 35.♔f2 ♗g6 36.♔g1 ♗xc2 etc., or (b) 35.♖c1 ♖ae8 (threatening 36...♗xc2+ etc.) 36.♗d3 ♗f5+ 37.♔f2 (if 37.♔f1 ♗g3+ 38.♔g1 ♗e3+-, or 37.♔d1 ♗g3 38.♖g1 ♗e2-+, or 37.♗e4 d5-+) 37...♗e3+ 38.♗xe3 ♖xe3+ and wins.

While the note at White's 36th move is correct to prefer 36...d5, the alternative 36...♗e3, contrary to the note's claim, does also win,

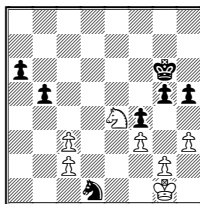


especially if White continues as given with 37.♗xd6? (another erroneous exclamation)

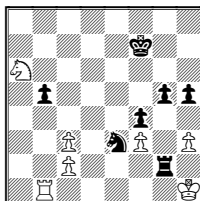
37...♖d8 38.♖fe1 ♖f6 39.♗e4 (considered "the point of the defense"),



and now not 39...♗xc3? but 39...♗e6! and either the ♗d6 or the ♖d1 is lost (-3.73). Also (from previous diagram) the variation 39...♗xe4 40.♗xe4 ♖xd1 41.♗xf6+ ♔f7 42.♖xd1 ♗xd1 43.♗e4, said to be "not yet quite convincing," actually is after 43...♔g6!,

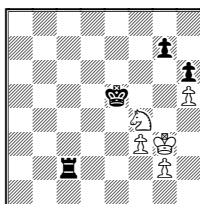


when though material is for the moment equal Black has a winning position (-2.44). The note at White's 42nd goes astray after 42.♗xa6 ♗e3 43.♖b1 ♖xg2+ 44.♔h1,



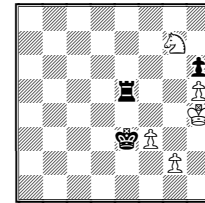
when its continuation 44...♖xc2?! yields only a minimal advantage after 45.♗c5! (about -1.10). Far better for Black to continue in a manner similar to the actual game, with 44...♖g3!, and if 45.h4 g4! 46.♗c5 ♖xf3-+, or if 45.♖xb5 ♖xh3+ 46.♔g1 ♖xf3 47.♖xg5 ♖g3+ 48.♖xg3 ♖xg3-+.

Game 133, Vidmar-Alekhine, San Remo 1930: The notes in this game are on the whole quite accurate, but a couple of things bear mentioning. At Black's 48th move,



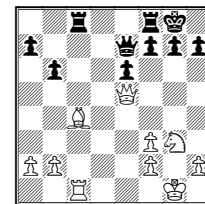
better than the text 48...♖d2 was 48...♔f5!, when 49.♗h3 truly was forced. Contrary to the note at move 49, after 48...♖d2! White could have played 49.♗g6+, putting up stiffer resistance than in the game.

In the variation of the note at Black's 51st move, after 52.♔h4 ♖e5! 53.♗xg7,



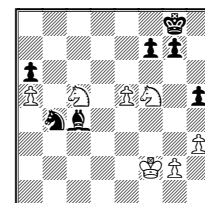
while the given move 53...♖g5 does eventually win, best for Black is 53...♔f4!, threatening ♖e5-e1-h1#, and after the forced 54.♔h3 ♖e1 55.♔h2 ♖e7 the knight is dominated and will be lost.

Game 134, Alekhine-Maróczy, San Remo 1930: In the original edition, the note at White's 16th move ended with 20...QR-B1, i.e. 20...♖ac8 "etc., to Black's advantage."



But that would be decidedly to White's advantage after 21.♗h5! forcing 21...f6 22.♗xe6+ ♗xe6 23.♗xe6 ♔h8 24.♖xc8+- . Therefore we presumed QR-B1 to be a typo and substituted 20...♖fc8.

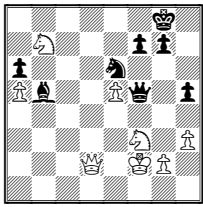
As in several other games, Alekhine seems to have "annotated by result" to some extent here, over-rating his position at several points. For example, the note at move 39 says that "the endgame after 39...♗d5 40.♗d4 ♗xd4+ 41.♗xd4 ♗c4 42.♗f5! followed by 43.♗d6 would be extremely critical, if not hopeless, for Black." However, in that case, after 42.♗f5, Black has 42...♗b4!,



and if White continues as planned with 43.♗d6 (there is nothing better), then

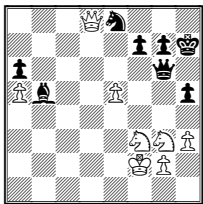
43...♔d5 44.g3 ♖f8 45.♗e3 ♘c6 46.♙a6 ♘a5= leads to a completely equal position, almost certainly drawn.

The note at Black's 40th move is correct that after 40...♙e6 41.♙b7 Black would have been able to resist longer.

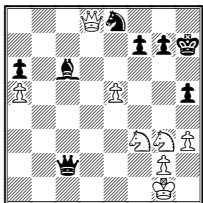


However, it would probably be quite a bit longer than Alekhine believed, after 41...♔c6 42.♙d6 ♖b1! (intending 43...♗a1 followed by ...♔xf3 and ...♗xe5) 43.♗c3 ♖a2+ 44.♗g3 ♖a4=, when Rybka indicates Black can resist indefinitely.

The note at White's 41st move says that after 41...♙e8 42.♙g3 ♖g6 43.♗d8 White wins by "gradual strangulation."

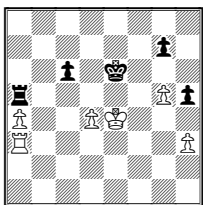


However, Rybka sees no strangulation after 43...♗c2+ 44.♗g1 ♔c6!,



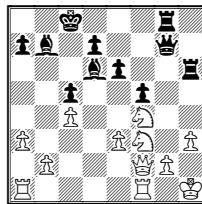
when White has no good way to prevent 45...♔xf3 46.gxf3 ♗c5+ 47.♗g2 ♗xe5, except by moves that allow perpetual check.

Game 135, Alekhine-Tartakower, San Remo 1930: Another undeserved exclamation seen here, with 39.g5?!

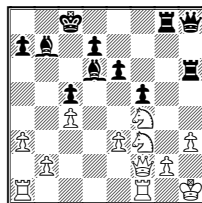


Alekhine was fortunate that Tartakower, probably in time pressure, took this bait and played 39...♗xg5??. Other than putting the rook *en prise* there was hardly a worse move on the board. Alekhine mentioned only one alternative, 39...♗d6, but there was a much better move: 39...h4!, after which White would have a very hard time winning.

Game 136, Ahues-Alekhine, San Remo 1930: A minor improvement to the final note variation 27.♗h1 ♔d6 28.♗f2:

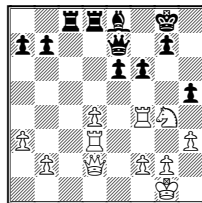


The continuation given, 28...♗g4, leads to only a relatively small advantage after 29.♗g1 ♗xh3 30.♙xh3 ♗xh3 31.♔ad1 ♔c7 32.♔d2, when Black still has a way to go. Instead, best and quickly decisive is 28...♗h8!,



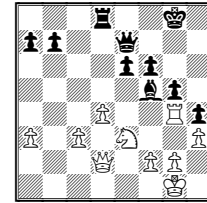
threatening 29...♔xf4 30.exf4 ♗xh3+, etc. White then has no defense, viz. 29.♗g1 e5 30.♙d5 ♗xh3++, or 29.h4 ♔xf3 30.♗xf3 ♗xh4+ 31.♙h3 ♗g3--, or 29.♗h2 e5 30.♙d5 ♔xd5 31.cxd5 e4+ 32.♗h1 exf3-- (-10.29).

Game 137, Alekhine-Kmoch, San Remo 1930: The assessment given in the note to move 27 is highly questionable. After 27...♗e7 28.♙e5 f6 29.♙g4 White is said to be "threatening eventually sacrifices at f6 or h6." However, if 29...h5!

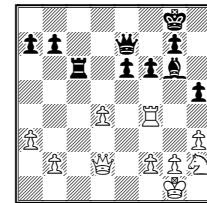


he does not have time for them, viz. 30.♙xf6+? exf6 31.♔df3 f5--, or 30.♙h6+? gxh6 31.♔g3 ♗h7 32.♗d3+ f5--+. The knight is forced to retreat, and no square is really satisfactory, viz. (a)

30.♙e3 g5 31.♔f3 ♔g6 32.♔c3 ♗xc3 33.bxc3 ♔e4 34.♔g3 h4 35.♔g4 ♔f5

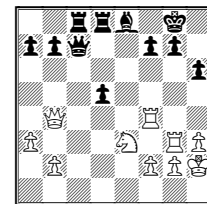


and Black wins the exchange, since if 36.♙xf5?? exf5 wins the whole rook; (b) (from previous diagram) 30.♙h2 ♔d6 31.♔c3 ♗xc3 32.♗xc3 (if 32.bxc3 ♗b6) 32...♔c6 33.♗d2 ♔g6



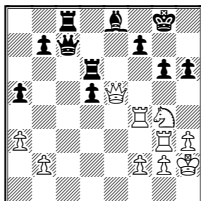
and now (b1) 34.♙f3 ♔c2 35.♗e3 ♗xb2 etc.; or (b2) 34.b4 ♔c2 35.♗e3 ♗c7 (threatening 36...♔c1+ 37.♙f1 ♗c4--) 36.g3 ♗c4 and loss of at least a pawn is inevitable, e.g. 37.♗f3 ♔e8 (threatening 38...♔c6) 38.d5 ♗xd5 39.♗xd5 exd5 40.♔d4 ♔c6 and the a-pawn goes soon too, or 37.♗g2 ♔e2 38.♗f3 ♗c2 and there is nothing White can do against the impending 39...♔e4. These variations indicate that the whole idea of the 28.♙e5 f6 29.♙g4 line is flawed, and that in the event of 27...♗e7 White needs to try something else, probably 28.d5, which leads only to equality.

The note at move 32 can be improved. If 32...exd5,



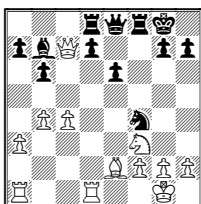
when best by far is not 33.♗d4, but 33.♙f5!, when if 33...g6 34.♙xh6+ ♗g7 (if 34...♗h7 35.♗f8++) 35.♗d4+ ♗f8 36.♗xg6 etc., or 33...♗e5 34.♗xg7+ ♗xg7 35.♙xg7 ♗xg7 36.♗e7+- (+9.27).

The note at White's 35th move underrated the line 35.♙g4 exd5. White can win far more than "only the exchange for a pawn,"

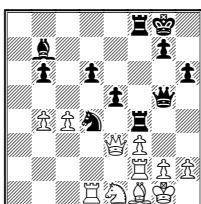


by 36. ♖xh6+ ♜f8 (if 36... ♜h7 37. ♖x7 and mate shortly) 37. ♖c3 (also good is 37. ♜h8+ immediately) 37... ♖c6 38. ♜h8+ ♜e7 39. ♖g8+ ♜d8 40. ♜h4+ f6 41. ♖xc6 ♜xc6 (if 41... bxc6 42. ♜xf6+ ♜d7 43. ♜e7#) 42. ♖xf6+-.

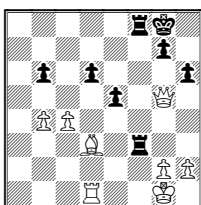
Game 138, Stahlberg-Alekhine, Hamburg 1930: In the note at White's 18th move, in the sub-variation 18. ♜e5 f4 19. exf4 ♖g6 20. ♜c7 ♖xf4,



it is unclear why Alekhine thought this position favored Black. After the obvious 21. ♜xb7, only two moves avoid loss of a piece for Black: (a) 21... ♖xe2+ 22. ♜h1 with a virtually even position (about +0.22), or (b) 21... ♜g6, when at the very least White can force Black to take immediate perpetual check with 22. ♖f1 ♖h3+ 23. ♜h1 ♖xf2+ 24. ♜g1 ♖h3+ etc. Contrary to the final note, at White's 30th move,

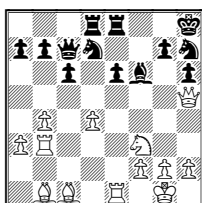


30. ♜d2 was not at all the best defense. Had White played 30. ♖d3!, this game might never have gotten a brilliancy prize. The key factor is that if the note variation is then followed: 31... ♖xf3 32. ♖xf3 ♖xf3+ 33. ♖xf3 ♖xf3 34. ♜xg5,

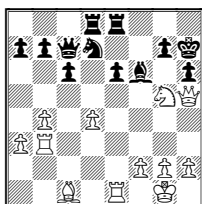


with the bishop now on d3 instead of f1, the planned 34... ♖f1+ no longer works, Black coming out a rook down instead of a pawn up. While after 30. ♖d3 Black still certainly stands better on positional grounds and other general considerations, Rybka rates the position nearly dead even and can find nothing like a winning continuation for Black, even analyzing to a depth of 20 ply. There are too many possible variations to reach a definite conclusion, but 30. ♖d3 was clearly better than anything else, and was White's only hope.

Game 140, Alekhine-Weenink, Prague 1931: We note only one minor improvement. While there was nothing wrong with 22. g4, White could have dispensed with that "little pawn advance,"

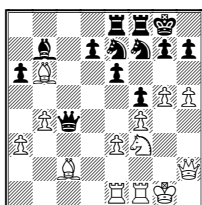


and attacked immediately by 22. ♖xh7! ♜xh7 23. ♖g5+

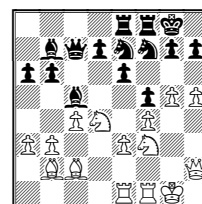


and White wins in all variations, viz. (a) 23... ♖xg5 24. ♖xg5 ♖c8 25. ♖g3+-, or (b) 23... ♜g8 24. ♜f7+ ♜h8 25. ♖xe6 ♜d6 26. ♖be3 ♖c8 27. ♖h3+-, or (c) 23... ♜h8 24. ♖f7+ ♜g8 25. ♖xh6+ gxxh6 26. ♖g3+-+. After 22. g4, Black could have put up a slightly better defense with 22... ♖d8, though he would probably still lose eventually.

Game 141, Alekhine-E. Steiner, Prague 1931: Alekhine here commits a couple of what we must, alas, deem howlers, and misses some interesting variations. In the note to Black's 22nd move, he gives the impression that White is better in the position resulting from 22... a6 23. b4 ♖xd4 24. ♖xd4 ♜xc4 25. ♖xb6,

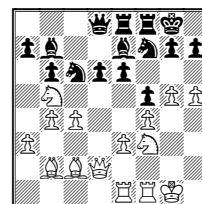


but actually 25. ♖xb6?? is a blunder allowing Black to win with 25... ♖xf3 26. ♖xf3 ♜c6 forking the loose bishop and rook. In the event of 22... a6,

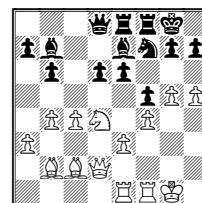


White is better off first playing 23. ♖d3, defending the c-pawn before pushing b3-b4.

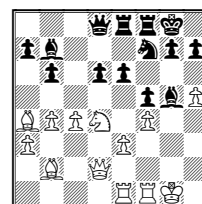
The note at Black's 25th move also goes badly astray. In the event of 25... d6,



best for White is 26. e4! with a winning attack. Also good are 26. ♜c3, 26. h6, 26. g6 and several other moves. In contrast the note continuation, 26. ♖bd4 ♖xd4 27. ♖xd4?,



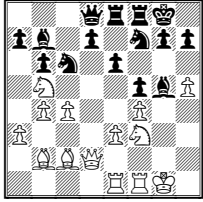
would allow the shot 27... ♖xg5! (instead of 27... ♖d7?! as in the note), when if 28. fxg5?? Black has a forced mate with 28... ♜xg5+ 29. ♜h2 ♜h4+ 30. ♜g1 ♜g3+ 31. ♜g2 ♜xg2#. More or less forced after 27... ♖xg5 is the counter-attack 28. ♖a4,



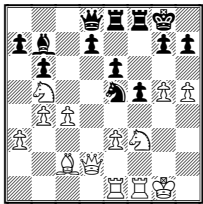
when Black has a choice between (a) 28... ♖f6 29. ♖xe8 ♜xe8 30. ♖f3 ♖xb2 31. ♜xb2 ♖h6, when the imminent win of a second pawn (by ... ♜xh5) and the posting of the knight at g4 are ample

compensation for the exchange; or (b) 28...♖h4 29.♗c1 and either (b1) 29...♗e7, when it's up to White to show he has compensation for the pawn minus, or (b2) the interesting 29...♗e5!? 30.c5 (not 30.fxe5?? ♖g5+ etc.) 30...dxc5 31.bxc5 bxc5 32.♗xc5 ♖d7 (or 32...♗g4!?).

In the actual game, after 25...♗xg5,

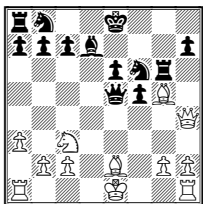


White was probably better off recapturing by 26.♗xg5. After the text move 26.fxg5 Black could have put up a much stronger defense by 26...♗ce5!? 27.♗xe5 ♗xe5,

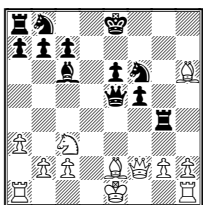


and now not 28.♗xe5?? ♖g5+ (again!), but 28.e4 ♗xc4, when White is still definitely better, but Black has a fighting chance in the complications.

Game 143, Alekhine-Nimzovitch, Bled 1931: The real losing move is not the allegedly fatal 10...♖e5+. The decisive mistake goes unnoticed, at Black's 14th move,

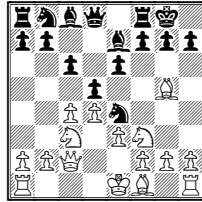


when 14...♗c6? was played. Instead, Black could have stayed alive with either (a) 14...♗c6 followed by 15...0-0-0 with equality, or (b) 14...h6 15.♗xh6 ♗g4 16.♖f2 ♗c6



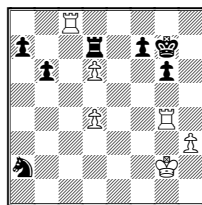
and either (b1) 17.0-0-0 ♗xg2 with good counter-play for Black, or (b2) 17.♗g1, when Black can force a draw by 17...♗e4 18.♖e3 f4 19.♖h3 ♗d4 20.♖h5+ ♗e7 21.♗xe4 ♖xg1+ 22.♗f1 ♖e3+ 23.♗e2 ♖g1+ etc.

Game 144, Alekhine-Vidmar, Bled 1931: Our curiosity was piqued by Alekhine's question of whether, in the position after Black's 7th move,

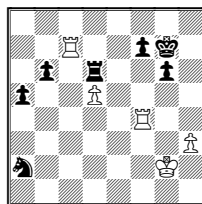


8.h4 had ever been tried. Searching the 2005 edition of ChessBase Mega Database (containing nearly 3 million games), we found no instances of it. The position after Black's 7th move proved rather rare, with only 15 occurrences, in all but one of which 8.♗xe7 was played; in the lone exception White played 8.♗xe4.

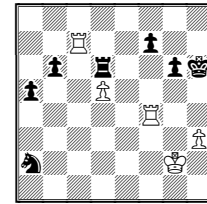
The note at move 35, after 35...♗xa2 36.♗c8+ ♖g7,



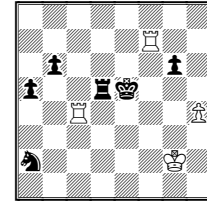
wrongly gives 37.d5 an exclamation; better 37.♗c7 ♗xd6 38.♗xa7 ♗c3 39.♗f4 ♗f6 40.♖f3 ♗d5 41.♗xf6 ♖xf6 42.♖e4 to preserve any winning chance. The note variation then continues 37...a5 38.♗c7 ♗xd6 39.♗f4,



and here wrongly claims that Black must play 39...♗f6 or "White gets a mating attack." To the contrary, Black can quite happily play 39...♖h6! when his king is chased a bit but no mating attack occurs,

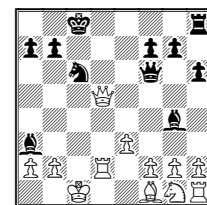


e.g. 40.♗fxf7 ♗xd5 41.h4 ♖h5 42.♗h7+ ♖g4 43.♗c4+ ♖f5 44.♗f7+ ♖e5,

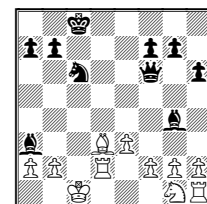


when White's winning chances have vanished. Nor can White preserve the d-pawn; if (from previous diagram) 40.♗d4 ♗b4 etc. Thus, had Vidmar played 35...♗xa2, he might well have drawn the game.

Game 145, Pirc-Alekhine, Bled 1931: In the note to White's 15th move, variation (b), after 15.♗d2,



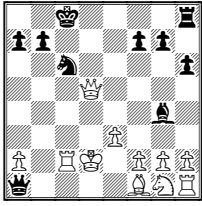
best by far is not 15...♗xb2+ as given, but 15...♗d8!, when if 16.♖b3? ♗xd2 17.♖xd2 ♖xf2+ 18.♗e2 ♗b4+ etc. Thus forced is 16.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 17.♗d3 (if 17.bxa3?? ♖a1+ 18.♖c2 ♖xf1 etc.) 17...♗c6,



when 18.bxa3 is still taboo, and Black has queen and minor piece for two rooks and a pawn (about -4.00), compared to the mere one-pawn advantage (-1.26) gained by the note continuation.

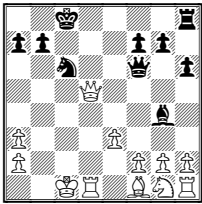
Also in a sub-variation of line (b), 15.♗d2 ♗xb2+ 16.♗xb2 ♖c3+ 17.♗c2 ♖a1+

18.♖d2,

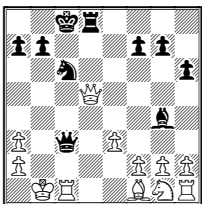


while the note continuation 18...♗d8 is good enough to win, it is surprising that Alekhine overlooked the much stronger 18...♗d1+ 19.♖c3 ♗xd5, winning the queen at no further cost rather than give up another rook for it.

More importantly, in variation (a) of that note, after 15.b×a3,

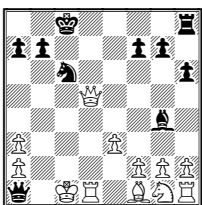


the given continuation 15...♗c3+ would be a serious mistake, leading probably only to a draw after 16.♖b1 ♗d8 and now not 17.♗xd8+? as in the note, but 17.♗c1!:

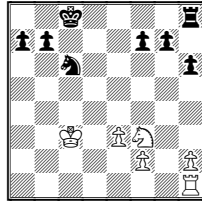


Now 17...♗a3?? leaves Black down a rook after 18.♗c5, and 17...♗f6?! leads to problematic, unclear complications after 18.♗c6+! b×c6 19.♗a6+ etc. Therefore Black is probably best advised to settle for 17...♗xc1+ 18.♖xc1 ♗xd5 19.♗e2 ♗c5+ 20.♖b2 ♗b5+ 21.♖a1, with a probable draw.

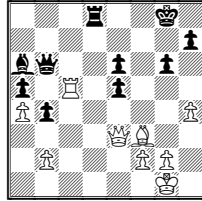
However, all this can be avoided if instead of 15...♗c3+? Black plays 15...♗a1+! with a clear win,



viz. 16.♖c2 ♗xd1+ 17.♗xd1 ♗×a2+ 18.♖c3 ♗×a3+ 19.♗b3 ♗c1+ 20.♗c2 ♗×f1 21.♗e2 ♗×g2 22.♗f3 ♗×f3 23.♗×f3-+:



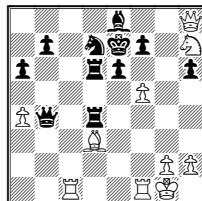
Game 146, Alekhine-Flohr: The note at White's 28th move can be greatly improved. After 28.e5 f×e5,



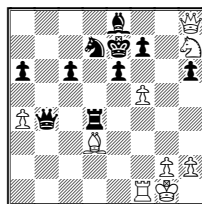
best by far is neither 29.♗×e5 nor 29.h5 (both of which win only a pawn), but 29.♗c8 ♗d6 30.♗c6 winning the bishop.

Game 148, Alekhine-Maróczy, Bled 1931:

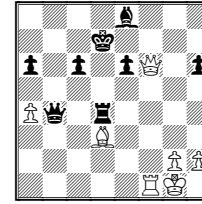
This game features one of the most serious oversights in the whole book, and in the actual game, not in a note variation. 25.b4, given two (!) exclaims, does not deserve even one. After the further moves 25...♗×b4 26.♗e5 ♗d7 27.♗h8,



Black, rather than fall into a quick mate as he did with 27...♗d3?!, or self-destruct by the almost equally bad 27...♗b6? (mistakenly deemed best by Alekhine), instead could have survived with a move unmentioned in the book: 27...♗c6!. Black then wins after 28.f×e6? ♗xc1 29.exd7 (or 29.♗xc1 ♗d2 30.♗×d4 ♗xc1+ 31.♖f2 ♗c5-+) 29...♗×f1+ 30.♗×f1 ♖×d7 31.♗f6+ ♖e7 32.♗×e8 ♗c5-+, leaving as the only alternative 28.♗×c6 b×c6.

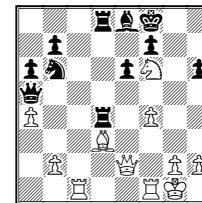


Rybka then gives best play as continuing 29.f×e6 f×e6 30.♗f6 ♗×f6 31.♗×f6+ ♖d7,

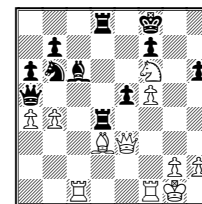


and whether White plays 32.♗×h6, 32.♗g7+, 32.♗×a6, 32.♗b1, or something else, he is a long way from winning, about +0.52 at best.

Does this mean Alekhine could not have won this game? Not at all. With the right move earlier on, the above analysis would never have been written. The crucial point was White's 23rd move,

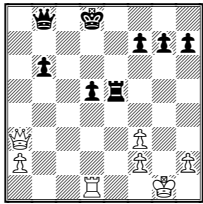


where instead of 23.♗h7+, best was 23.f5!. Black cannot afford to let either the e- or f-file become open, and so must reply 23...e5. Best play then runs 24.♗e3 ♗c6 25.b4! (now!),

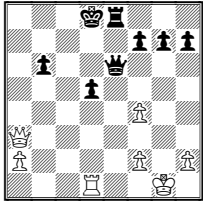


and either (a) 25...♗×b4 26.♗c5 ♗×a4 27.♗c2 ♗a2 28.♗×e5 and mate soon, or (b) 25...♗×b4 26.♗h7+ (now!) 26...♖g8 27.♗×h6 ♗d6 28.♗g5+ ♖h8 29.♗f6 ♗f8 30.♗h5+ ♖g7 31.♗h7 f6 (if 31...♖g8 32.f6+ ♖h8 33.♗g5+ ♗h7 34.♗×h7#) 32.♗f3 etc.

Game 149, Alekhine-Winter, London 1932: The note at move 23 claims that after 23...♗xd5 24.♗fd1 ♗e8 25.♗xd5+ ×d5 26.♗d1 ♗e5 (or 26...♗e5) 27.f4 "Black would have no adequate defense." It is true that Black loses in the 26...♗e5 line, but not to 27.f4.

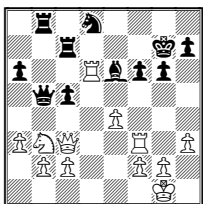


The winning line in that case is 27. ♖f8+ ♜c7 28. ♗xf7+ etc.; instead 27. f4?! would allow 27... ♞e7. More importantly, 26... ♗e5! seems to hold quite well. If then 27. f4 ♗e6!,

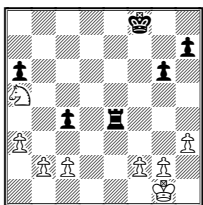


and it is not at all apparent what threats Alekhine thought White could summon. Rybka sees none, e.g. 28. f5 ♗d7 29. ♗a8+ ♜e7 30. ♞e1+ ♜f8=.

Game 151, Alekhine-Koltanowski, London 1932: In the multitude of variations in the note to Black's 23rd move lurk a few errors, both minor and major. In line (d), after 23... ♘d8 24. ♞f3,

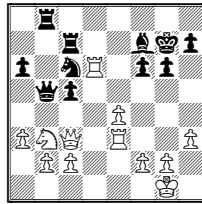


Black's chances improve greatly if instead of 24... ♞f7? he plays 24... ♜g8!, one plausible sequel being 25. ♗xf6 ♗e8 26. ♞fd3 ♞f7 27. ♗xd8 c4 28. ♗xe8+ ♞xe8 29. ♞xe6 ♞xe6 30. ♞d8+ ♞f8 31. ♞xf8+ ♜xf8 32. ♘a5 ♞xe4,



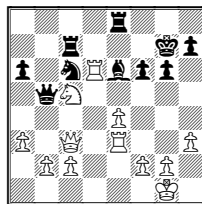
and it's unlikely Black can lose.

In line (e), after 23... ♘f7,

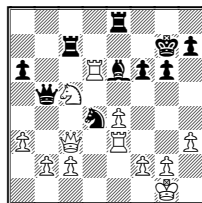


the given line 24. ♞xf6 leads to relatively little if instead of 24... ♘d4?? Black plays 24... ♜g8! 25. ♘xc5 ♘d8 and White has only about a half-pawn's worth of advantage. Best instead is 24. ♘xc5! (about +1.50).

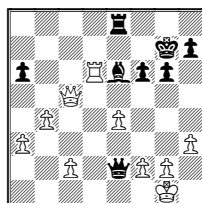
Most importantly, in probably the best continuation for Black, line (f), after 23... ♞e8 24. ♘xc5



Black can improve greatly on 24... ♘d8?, with 24... ♘d4!.



If then 25. ♗xd4 ♞xc5=, or 25. ♞xd4! ♞xc5 26. ♞b4 ♞xc3 27. ♞xb5 ♞xc2 ♣/+-. Best therefore is 25. b4, but then comes 25... ♘e2+! (the crucial difference between this and 24... ♘d8) 26. ♞xe2 ♞xc5 27. ♗xc5 (or 27. bxc5) 27... ♗xe2,

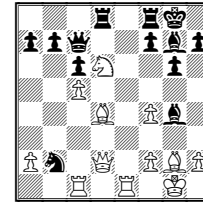


reaching a problematic, highly imbalanced position, rated by Rybka as no worse for Black than even, where it's unclear whether White's extra pawns outweigh the bishop.

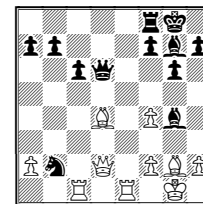
None of the above is claimed to be definitive or conclusive, but it does indicate the position at move 23 was not

the clear win for White Alekhine believed it to be.

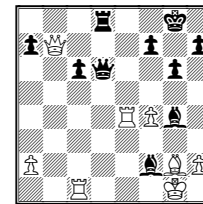
Game 152, Alekhine-Tartakower, London 1932: Contrary to the note at move 23, it appears Black did in fact have a "saving course." The note goes badly wrong in its second variation. After 23... ♘f5 24. g4?! (mistakenly given an exclamation) 24... ♞xg4 25. ♘d4?! (better 25. ♞c2 ♘a4 26. ♞b1=),



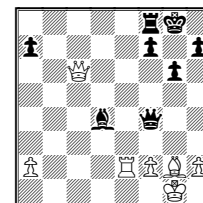
far from having "a decisive advantage," White is in trouble after 25... ♞xd6! 26. cxd6 ♗xd6:



If now (a) 27. ♞e4? ♞d8 28. ♗xb2 ♞xd4 29. ♗xb7 ♞xf2+!

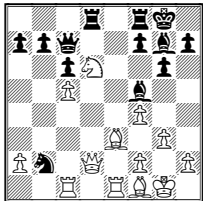


30. ♜h1 (not 30. ♜xf2?? ♗d2+ etc) 30... ♗d1+! 31. ♞e1 (or 31. ♞xd1?? ♞xd1+ 32. ♘f1 ♘f3#) 31... ♗d2 32. ♞f1 ♞e2-+. Therefore White must play (from previous diagram) either (b) 27. ♞e5 ♞d8 28. ♗xb2 ♗xd4 29. ♗xd4 ♞xd4 when any winning chances are Black's, or (c) 27. ♗xb2 ♞xd4 28. ♗xb7 ♗xf4 29. ♞c2 ♘f5 30. ♞ce2 ♘d3 31. ♗xc6 ♞xe2 32. ♞xe2,

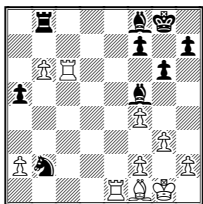


when again Black has whatever advantage there may be.

After 23...♙f4, rather than 24.g4?, correct for White was 24.♙g2-f1,

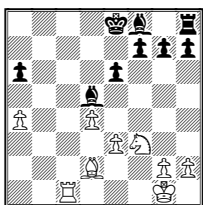


though then Black is still fine after 24...b6! 25.♙b4 a5 26.♙×b6 (if 26.♙b3 ♙e6 forcing 27.♙×b6) 26...♙×b6 27.c×b6 ♙×d6 28.♙c5 ♙dd8 29.♙×f8 ♙×f8 30.♙×c6 ♙b8,



when loss of the b-pawn is inevitable and a draw likely. These analyses indicate that White, to have winning chances, should have varied earlier, perhaps with 22.♙b4 instead of 22.c5.

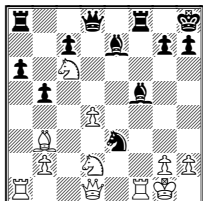
Game 153, Alekhine-Sultan Khan, Bern 1932: The note at Black's 17th move can be improved somewhat. After 17...♙×b3 18.♙fc1! ♙×c1+ 19.♙×c1 ♙×e3 20.f×e3 e6?,



while the given move 21.♙c7 is good (about +0.95), much better is 21.♙e5! winning, viz. (a) 21...♙e7 22.♙c8+ ♙d8 23.♙a5 ♙e7 24.♙b4+ ♙e8 (if 24...♙f6 25.♙d7+ ♙g6 26.♙a5+-) 25.♙×d8+ ♙×d8 26.♙×f7+ etc., or (b) 21... ♙b7 22.♙c7 f6 23.♙×b7 f×e5 24.d×e5 ♙g8 (if 24...♙e7? 25.♙b4) 25.♙b6+-.

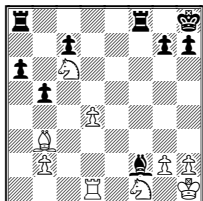
To give credit where it is due, Alekhine's analysis of the long variation at move 29 is virtually flawless.

Game 154, Alekhine-Grob, Bern 1932: At move 22,

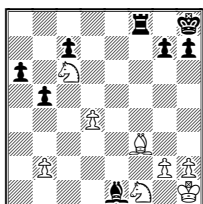


it is strange that Alekhine chose 22.♙×d8, which led to the rather paltry advantage of two knights for rook and pawn. Instead, he could have done much better with the simple 22.♙e2 ♙d7 (or ♙d6 or ♙e8) 23.♙×e3 and either 23...♙×c6 24.♙×e7 or, say, 23...♙d6 24.♙e5, White coming out with a knight for a pawn either way.

This is especially important in view of the fact that a few moves later Black could have equalized, by 27...♙e3-f2!

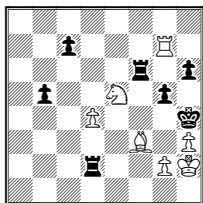


instead of 27...♙e3-f4. If White proceeds then, as in the game, with 28.♙d5, then 28...♙ae8 29.♙f3 ♙e1! 30.♙×e1 ♙×e1 leads to virtual equality. White can in fact easily get in trouble in some lines from that point,



for example 31.♙e3 a5 32.♙d5 a4 33.♙×c7 b4 34.♙b5 ♙a8 35.♙g1 a3 36.b×a3 b×a3 37.♙×a3 ♙×a3 and White has an uphill battle just to draw.

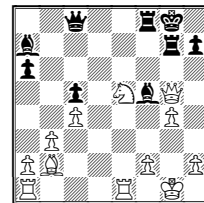
A minor point about move 42 for White:



While the text move 42.♙g6 was quite good enough to win, White did have a forced mate: 42.♙g6+ ♙×g6 43.♙×g6, and,

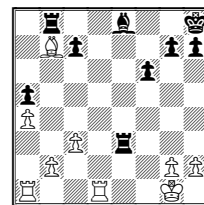
for example, 43...h5 44.♙g4 b4 (if 44...♙×d4 g3#) 45.♙h6 b3 46.♙×h5#.

Game 156, Alekhine-H. Steiner, Pasadena 1932: The note at White's 25th move gives the impression Black might not be losing after 25.♙×g5 ♙g7 26.♙b2 ♙g8.

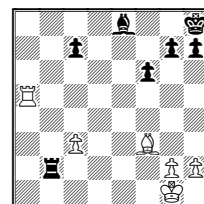


But actually White is still winning handily (about +3.36), and has a choice of 27.♙h4, ♙h6, ♙×g7+ and several other good continuations.

Game 158, L. Steiner-Alekhine, Folkestone OL 1933: The note variation at Black's 14th move ends in this position:

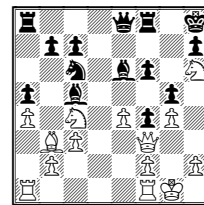


with the claim that Black has a clear advantage. But Rybka and Dowd disagree, giving Black at most a slight advantage. For example after the likely continuation 24.♙f3 ♙×b2 25.♙d5 ♙×a4 26.♙d8+! ♙e8 27.♙×e8+ ♙×e8 28.♙×a5,



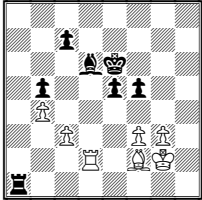
though Black is up a pawn, the game is almost certainly a draw as long as rooks remain on the board.

The notes give the impression that White was losing by move 16, but in fact he was not lost until move 22.



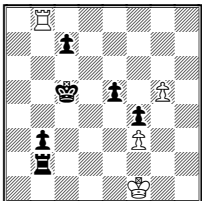
There, instead of 22. ♖d2??, best was 22. ♖e2, and then if, as in the game, 22... ♗e5 (best for Black) White can play 23. ♖×e5 ♘×b3 24. ♖f3 when, though he stands worse, he is by no means lost (about -0.61).

Game 160, Znosko-Borovsky–Alekhine, Paris 1933: Contrary to the note at White's 33rd move, it is not at all clear that 33. b4 ♖a1 would be anything like "immediately fatal" to White.



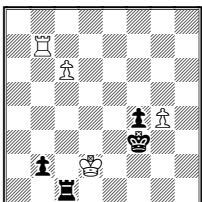
There is no need, for example, for him to play 34. ♖d3 ♖a6 as given in the note; better are either 34. ♖e2, 34. ♖c2, or 34. g4. In any of those White stands somewhat worse, but nothing "immediately fatal" pends.

The note at move 45 is perhaps too pessimistic. While 45... ♗×c5 46. ♗×c5 ♖×c5 47. g5 is hardly Black's best continuation, he still can win, albeit with difficulty,



by, for example, 47... ♖d4 48. g6 ♖e3 49. g7 ♖×f3 50. ♖e1 ♖e3 51. ♖d8 ♖g2 52. g8 ♖×g8 53. ♖×g8 c5 54. ♖c8 ♖d4 55. ♖d2 e4 56. ♖f8 b2 57. ♖c2 f3 58. ♖×b2 ♖d3 59. ♖f5 ♖e2 60. ♖×c5 f2 61. ♖c2+ ♖f3 62. ♖c1 e3 63. ♖c8 e2 64. ♖f8+ ♖g2 65. ♖g8+ ♖f1 etc.

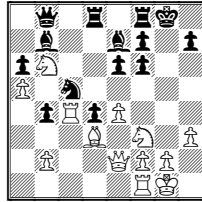
In the note to White's 52nd move, the "nice final joke" 52. c6 ♖c1+ 53. ♖d2 ends up with Black laughing last,



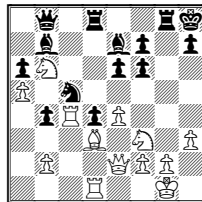
both in the line 53... b1 ♖ 54. ♖×b1 ♖×c6! +- (not, as given, 54... ♖×b1??

55. c7+-), and, better, 53... ♖×c6! 54. ♖×b2 ♖g3 55. ♖b3+ ♖g2 56. ♖b2 f3 57. ♖e3+ ♖g3 58. ♖b1 ♖e6+ 59. ♖d2 f2+- etc.

Game 161, Alekhine-Bogoljuboff, World Championship 1934, second game: The note at move 17 underestimates Black's position and overlooks moves that reverse the verdict given. After 18. ♗g5 ♖c5 19. ♖b6 ♖ad8 20. ♖ac1 ♖b8 21. ♗×f6 g×f6 22. ♖c4,

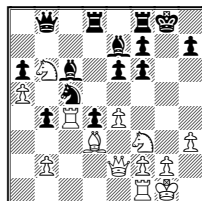


White obtains "ample positional compensation" only if Black obliges with 22... e5?. There is no immediate need to defend the d-pawn, and Black has several much better alternatives. For example 22... ♖h8, when capture on d4 loses a piece, viz. 23. ♖×d4? ♖×d4 24. ♖×d4 ♖d8, or 23. ♖×d4? ♖×d3 24. ♖×d3 e5. Therefore, say, 23. ♖d1 ♖g8,

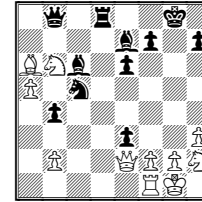


when White has no choice but to allow Black to continue 24... ♖f4 with strong kingside pressure, since if 24. g3? f5! and either 25. e5 ♗×f3 26. ♖×f3 ♖×e5+-, or 25. exf5? ♖×g3+! 26. f×g3 ♖×g3+ 27. ♖g2 ♖f4+-.

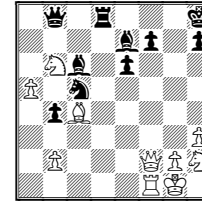
Another good alternative is (from previous diagram) 22... ♗c6!:



White then is best advised to retreat by, say, 23. ♖cc1 ♖b7 24. ♖d2 ♖h8 25. g3 ♖g8, because taking the d-pawn again gets him in trouble: 23. ♖×d4? ♗b5 etc., or 23. ♖×d4?! f5! 24. ♖×d8 ♖×d8 25. ♗×a6 f×e4 26. ♖h2 (not 26. ♖d2?? ♖×a6 27. ♖×a6 ♖×d2) 26... e3!,

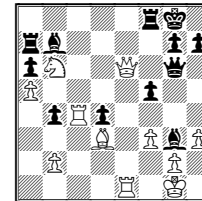


27. ♗c4 (best; not 27. f×e3? ♖×a6 28. ♖×a6 ♗×g2 29. ♖×g2 ♖d2+ 30. ♖f2 ♖×f2+ 31. ♖×f2 ♖×h2+ etc.) 27... e×f2+ 28. ♖×f2 (if 28. ♖×f2?? ♖e4 29. ♖f3 ♗c5+ 30. ♖h1 ♖d2 31. ♖e1 ♖f2+ 32. ♖g1 ♖g4+ 33. ♖f1 ♖×h2#) 28... ♖h8!



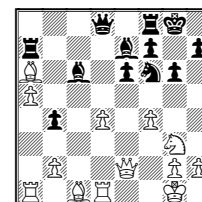
(threatening 29... ♖e4+-) 29. ♖×f7 ♖g3 30. ♖f2 ♖×f2+ 31. ♖×f2 ♖e4 32. ♖c2 (if 32. ♖f1?? ♗c5+ 33. ♖h1 ♖g3#) 32... ♖d1+ 33. ♖f1 ♗c5+ 34. ♖×c5 ♖×c5+-.

In the note to move 26, variation (a) contains several suicidal moves and can be improved considerably. After 26... ♗g3 27. ♖e6+,



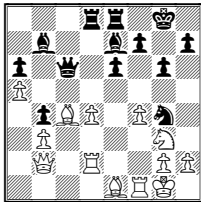
not 27... ♖h8? (better 27... ♖×e6 28. ♖×e6 ♖d8 29. ♖×b4 ♗d6 30. ♖c4 g6, which Rybka considers even) 28. ♖×g6 h×g6 29. ♖e6 ♖d8? (better 29... ♖h7, though Black still stands worse) 30. ♖×g6 f4?? (relatively best is 30... ♗f4, though by then it's too late).

Game 162, Alekhine-Bogoljuboff, World Championship 1934, fourth game: In the note to White's 19th move, one of Bogoljuboff's variations misses an important resource for Black. After 19... ♖a7 20. ♖d1? (better 20. ♗c4 or 20. ♗d3)

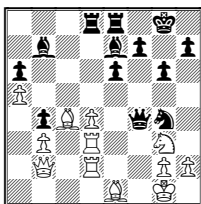


rather than 20...♖a8, Black wins a pawn with 20...♗xg2!, and if 21.♕xg2 ♖a8+ 22.♔g1 ♖xa6.

The note at Black's 29th move is correct to recommend 29...♗f6-g4!, but it would have been even stronger the move before. After 28...♗g4! (instead of 28...♗d7, which however was not bad),

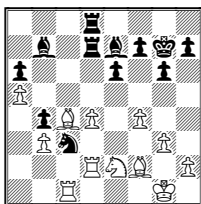


Black threatens both 29...♗f6 and 29...♗e3, and about the best White can do is 29.♖f3 ♖c7 (a bit stronger than 29...♗f6 30.♖fd3) 30.♖fd3 ♖xf4,

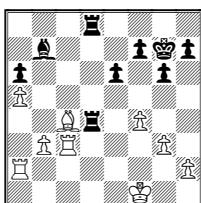


when Black has both an extra pawn and a strong, probably winning attack.

The note at Black's 45th move is hard to understand. 45...♗c3?!, rather than preserving Black's positional advantage,



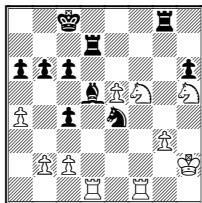
would simply allow White to chop wood and equalize by 46.♗xc3 ♖xc3 47.♖a2! (not 47.♖xc3? ♗b4) 47...♗f6 (if 47...♗b4 48.♖a4) 48.♔f1 ♗xd4 49.♗xd4+ ♖xd4 50.♖xc3,



and White has rid himself of his chief weakness, the isolated d-pawn, and has about an equal position.

Game 164, Alekhine-Bogoljuboff, World Championship 1934, 16th game:

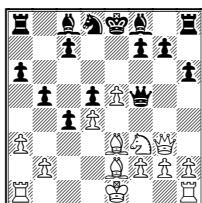
Concerning the note at move 28, Rybka does not agree that 28...♖g8 "would also have left White with the better endgame chances." After the further moves 29.♗h5 fxe5 30.fxe5,



rather than 30...♖e8, best seems 30...♗e6, when more or less forced is 31.♖xd7 ♖xd7 (threatening 32...♗xf5 ♖xf5 ♖g5-+) 32.♗d4 ♗d5, with no clear advantage for either side.

Game 165, Bogoljuboff-Alekhine, World Championship 1934, 17th game:

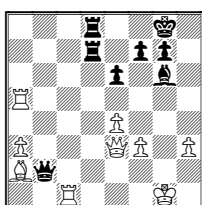
In the note to white's 14th move, it is odd that after 14.♗f3,



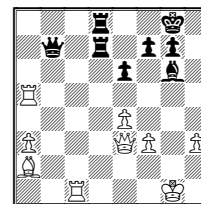
Alekhine recommends 14...♖g4, which merely forces exchange of queens. Though this is hardly bad, much better is to play (as in the actual game) 14...♖c2, which wins the b-pawn, or else forces 15.♗c1, after which Black can proceed with, for example 15...c5 16.a4 (if 16.dxc5 ♗e6, or 16.♗d1 ♖e4+ 17.♗e3 ♗e6 18.dxc5 d4) 16...c3 17.b3 (17.bxc3?? ♖xc3+) 17...♗e6 18.dxc5 ♗xc5-+.

Game 166, Bogoljuboff-Alekhine, World Championship 1934, 25th game:

Contrary to the note to White's 31st move, 31.♖xa5 ♖b2 does not give Black "an immediate win."

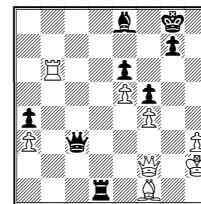


After 32.♗c4 ♗d2 33.♖e1 ♖g2+ 34.♔f1 ♗h2 35.♗e2 Black has some advantage but no win. However, instead of 31...♖b2?! as in the note, he can easily win,



with the simple 31...♖d1+ 32.♖xd1 ♖xd1+ 33.♖g2 ♖b2+ 34.♖g3 (if 34.♖f2 ♗d2) 34...♖xa2, and Black is up a piece.

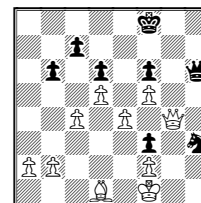
The note at move 40 claims that Black wins after 40.♔h2 ♖c3, but Rybka does not bear this out.



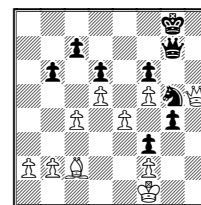
It sees only equality after 41.♗g2!, e.g. (a) ♖xa3 42.♖xe6 ♗f7 (if 42...♖f8 43.♖a2) 43.♖a6=, or (b) 41...♗d2 42.♖g3 ♖xg3+ 43.♖xg3 ♗d3+ 44.♔h4 ♖xa3 45.♖xe6=.

Game 168, Alekhine-H. Johner, Zurich 1934:

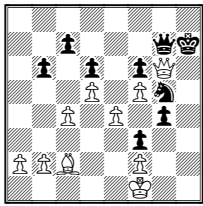
The note at Black's 43rd move is wrong about how White should proceed against 43...♗g5. In particular, continuation (a) would only lead to a draw, as after 44.♖xg4 ♖h6 45.♖g1 ♔f8 46.♗d1 ♗h3+ 47.♔f1,



Black is by no means obliged to play 47...♖d2? as given. Instead 47...♗xf2! draws, viz. 48.♖xf2 ♖d2+ 49.♖xf3 ♖xd1+ 50.♖g3 ♖g1+ 51.♔h4 ♖h2+ 52.♖h3 ♖f4+, with perpetual check. After 43...♗g5,

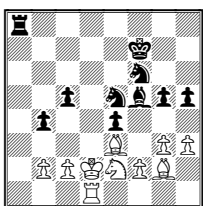


rather than 44.♖×g4?!, White's winning chances appear to lie in the line 44.♖e8+ ♖h7 45.♖g6+:



If then 45...♖g6? 46.f×g6+ ♖g6 47.e5+ ♖f7 48.e6+! ♖e6 (if 48...♖e7 49.♖f5+-) 49.d×e6+ ♖e6 50.b4 wins. Best instead is 45...♖h8 (not 45...♖g8?, self-pinning Black's queen), when the possibilities are too many to analyze with certainty, and the difficulties far from few (and perhaps greater than Alekhine realized), but it appears White can win with a general approach of (1) exchanging queens (else 46...♖e7!), (2) bringing his king to g3 to tie the black king or knight to defense of the g-pawn, (3) playing a2-a4 and b2-b4, (4) making waiting moves with the bishop as necessary, and (5) pushing either a4-a5, c4-c5, or e4-e5, as appropriate, to create a passed pawn. One plausible sample variation (from above diagram): 46.♖×g7+ ♖g7 47.b4 ♖f7 48.♖g1 ♖e5 49.♖h2 ♖h6 50.♖g3 ♖g5 51.a4 c5 52.a5 b×a5 53.b×a5 ♖c4 54.a6 ♖b6 55.a7 c4 56.♖a4 c3 57.e5 f×e5 58.f6 ♖f6 59.♖×g4 e4 60.♖f4 ♖d5+ 61.♖e4 ♖c7 62.♖d3 and wins.

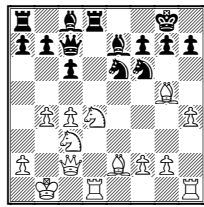
Game 169, Gygli-Alekhine, Zurich 1934: It is somewhat surprising that Alekhine missed the best continuation at move 22.



Stronger than 22...♖f3+ was 22...♖h3!, when if 23.♖h3?? ♖f3+ 24.♖c1 ♖a1#. Therefore the likely continuation was 23.♖h1 ♖c4+ 24.♖e1 ♖e3 25.f×e3 ♖g4 (intending 26...♖f3) 26.♖g2 ♖e6, and White is reduced to helpless waiting moves, e.g. 27.♖c1 ♖e5 28.♖g1 ♖d5 29.♖d2 ♖d8 30.♖f1 ♖c3+ 31.♖e1 ♖d1 32.♖h3 ♖×e3 33.♖×g5 ♖f8 34.♖h3 (if 34.♖e2 ♖g2+ 35.♖d2 ♖d8+ 36.♖d3 e3#) 34...♖h3 35.♖h3 ♖f1+ and wins.

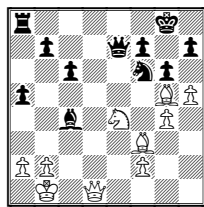
Game 171, Alekhine-Lundin, Örebro 1935: These annotations are marred by some glaring oversights, one of which undermines the validity of the winning combination.

In the note to White's 15th move, one wonders if Alekhine had the board set up incorrectly, or there were some typographical errors, or he might have imbibed too much (something to which he was prone in 1935). After 15.b4 ♖e6,

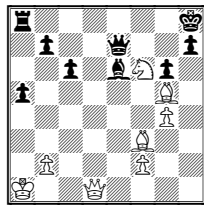


White should play 16.♖f5 rather than the note's inexplicable 16.a3?!, which is refuted not by the equally inexplicable 16...c5?!, but simply by 16...♖d4, capturing the knight left *en prise*.

The note to White's 19th move claims that after 19...♖c4 20.♖×e7 ♖×e7 21.♖e4 ♖×d1+ 22.♖×d1,

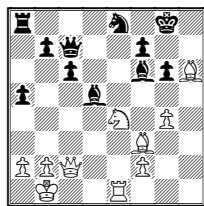


White has a winning advantage. Rybka does not entirely agree, giving the further moves 22...♖×a2+! – a move Alekhine probably overlooked – 23.♖a1 (if 23.♖×a2 ♖e6+ 24.♖b3 ♖×b3+ 25.♖×b3 ♖×e4 26.♖×e4#) 23...♖e6 24.♖f6+ ♖h8 25.h×g6 f×g6,

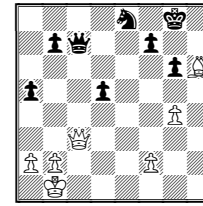


when White probably stands better, but is a long way from a win.

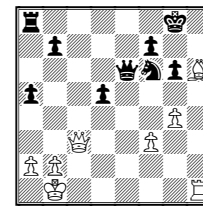
The other oversights come in the critical variation in the note to Black's 24th move, beginning with 24...♖d5:



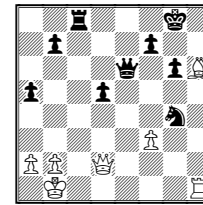
After 25.♖f6+ ♖f6 26.♖c3, better than the given move 26...♖d6 is 26...♖e8!, virtually forcing 27.♖×e8+ ♖×e8 28.♖×d5 c×d5,



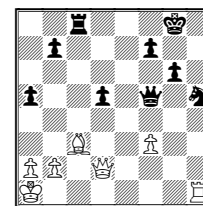
when Black is fine, his extra pawn more than compensating for the dark-square weakness. Returning to the note line, after 26...♖d6 7.♖×d5 c×d5 28.♖h1 ♖e6 29.f3,



Black would be only too happy to let White proceed with "the chief threat ♖c3-d2-h2," e.g. 29...♖c8! 30.♖d2 ♖×g4!!

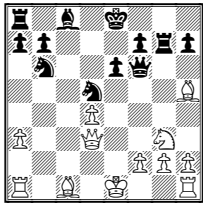


31.♖a1 (not 31.f×g4?? ♖e4+ 32.♖a1 ♖×h1+ etc.) 31...♖f6 32.♖g7 ♖h5 33.♖c3 ♖f5



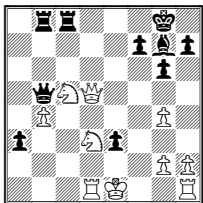
and Black is safe, with perhaps a slight advantage.

Game 173, Alekhine-Euwe, 3rd WCh match game 1935: White missed a much quicker win at move 18.

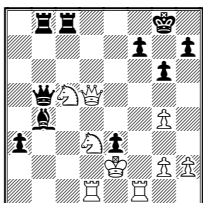


While the text move 18.♘f3 was not at all bad, best was 18.♖e4! and Black must soon lose at least the exchange, viz. 18...♗e7 (if 18...♗h4 19.♗f3 intending 20.♖h6+) 19.♖h6 ♖xg2 20.♖xf7+ ♖d7 (if 20...♗xf7 21.♗f3+, or 20...♗xf7 21.♖d6+) 21.♗f3 and the rook is lost.

Game 174, Euwe-Alekhine, 4th WCh match game 1935: The note to White's 22nd move goes awry at several points. After 22.♖xb4 ♖d5 23.a3 a5 24.♗c4 axb4 25.♗xd5 bxa3, in the sub-variation 26.b4,

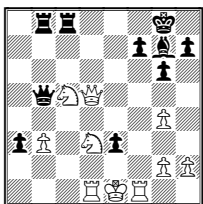


rather than 26...♖c3+, Black should play 26...♖d8 or ♖e8, when he maintains some advantage. The note continuation, however, leads only to a draw at best: 26...♖c3+?! 27.♗e2 ♖xb4 28.♖hf1!

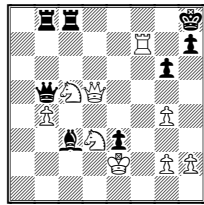


when if 28...♖c7? 29.♖b1 and Black is clearly lost, or 28...♖f8?! 29.♖b1 ♗a5 30.♖d7 ♗xd5 31.♖f6+ ♖g7 32.♖xd5 ♖d6 33.♖xb8 ♖xb8 34.♖a1 and he is probably lost, or 28...♗e8 29.♖e4 and his dark-square weaknesses are problematic. Therefore Black might be best advised to take a quick draw by 28...♖c5 29.♗xf7+ ♖h8 30.♗f6+ ♖g8 31.♗f7+ etc.

In the note's main line, 26.♖f1 (instead of 26.b4),

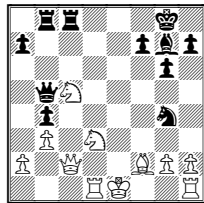


the given continuation 26...a2 does not deserve the exclamation given it; better is probably 26...♗e8. After 26...a2?! White is by no means obliged to play 27.♖xf7?? as given; better instead is 27.b4! ♖a1 ♗28.♖xa1 ♖xa1 29.♗e2 ♖c3 30.♖xf7 ♖h8,

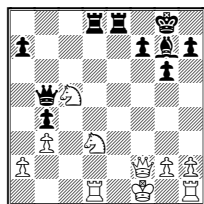


with a complicated position where White has a fighting chance.

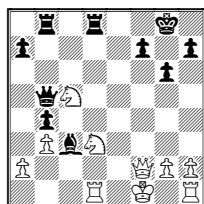
The note at Black's 23rd move goes wrong in the line 23.♖f2:



Best is 23...♖e8+, viz. 24.♗f1 ♖xf2 25.♗xf2 (if 25.♗xf2 ♖d4+ 26.♗f1 ♖b6) 25...♖bd8

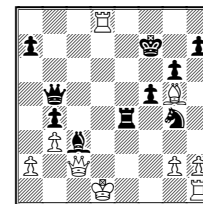


followed in most lines by 26...♖d4+ (at least -2.24). In contrast, after the note continuation 23...♖c3+ 24.♗f1 ♖xf2 25.♗xf2 ♖d8,

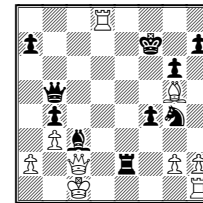


the supposedly "winning position" thus created is nothing of the sort; after 26.♗f3 the evaluation is virtually even (-0.09).

The note at Black's 25th move is correct that 25...♖e8+! was best, but it goes wrong further on. After 26.♖e4 f5 27.♗d1 ♖xe4 28.♖d8+ ♖f7 29.♖g5,

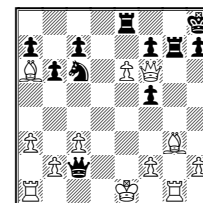


not 29...f4?! (-1.33) but 29...♖f6! (-5.79), and after 29...f4 30.♗c1 definitely not 30...♖e2? but 30...♗xg5 31.♗xe4 ♗xd8 32.♗xf4+ ♖f6 (-1.33). The problem with 30...♖e2



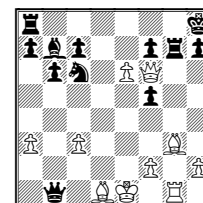
is that instead of the note's losing move 31.♗d3?, Black can draw with 31.♖d7+ ♖e8 (if 31...♗xd7? 32.♗xe2±) 32.♖d8+ ♖f7 33.♖d7+ etc.

Game 175, Alekhine-Euwe, 7th WCh match game 1935: The analysis at Black's 21st move is remarkably accurate, and requires only a few minor corrections. In variation (a), after 21...♗c2 22.♗f6+ ♖g7 23.e6 ♖e8 24.♖g1! ♖a6 25.♖xa6,



much better than the immediate 25...♖xe6+ is first 25...♗b2!, forcing 26.♖d1, and only then 26...♖xe6+ 27.♖e5 ♗xc3+ 28.♗f1 ♗xe5+, picking up two pawns compared to the note line.

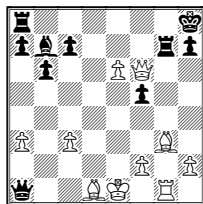
Line (b) is correct that 25...♖d8 allows White to win with 26.♖d6!!, but this is not true for 25...♗b1:



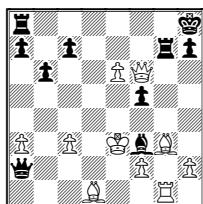
Whether White plays 26.♖d6, or any other

bishop move, Black still draws with 26...♖e4+ 27.♙e2 ♖b1+ 28.♙d1 ♖e4+ etc.

While line (c) is correct that White cannot win with 26.♖xd4 f6! 27.♖xf6, it then goes astray.

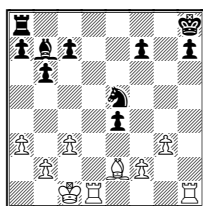


Necessary here is 27...♗g8!, when Black maintains some advantage (about +0.76). If instead 27...♙f3? as in the note, White wins after 28.♗d2 and if 28...♖a2+ not 29.♙c2? but 29.♗e3!,



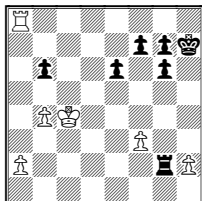
and Black cannot avoid major material loss. Given the complications arising from 21...♖c2, Alekhine's accuracy in this note is on the whole quite impressive; if the whole book were as good, this appendix would be considerably smaller.

The note to White's 23rd move says Black would have "excellent drawing chances" after 23.0-0-0 ♖xg3 24.hxg3 ♖xe5,



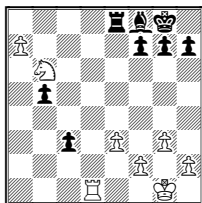
but Rybka sees none after 25.♖h5 ♖e8 (if 25...♖g6 or ♖c6 26.♖d7+-) 26.♖dh1 followed by ♖xh7 (about +2.12).

Game 176, Alekhine-Euwe, 27th WCh match game 1935: The question of what White should do at move 32 has been pondered by various analysts over the years, and support for Alekhine's claim – that 32.♗e2 would win – has not been abundant. For example Levenfish and Smyslov, in the book *Rook Endings* (1971), discuss the position after 32.♗e2 ♖c2+ 33.♗d3 ♖xg2 34.♗c4:



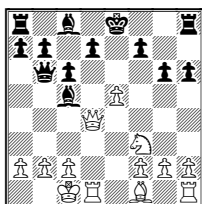
They do not agree with Alekhine that "one would not need to count tempi to realize that White's passed pawn ... will be by far the quickest." After the further moves 6...♖xh2 7.♗b5 ♖f2 8.♗xb6 ♖xf3 9.b5 g5 10.♗c6 g4 they say "double-edged play in which it is hard to prove any superiority for White." Euwe and Hooper reach a similar conclusion in *A Guide to Chess Endings* (1959). Rybka concurs, finding no win for White in any line stemming from the diagrammed position, indicating a draw as the probable result with best play by both sides. (Our thanks to Dr. Dowd for supplying the Levenfish & Smyslov citation.)

Game 178, Alekhine-Bogoljuboff, Bad Nauheim 1936: The note at move 35 has two consecutive gaffes. While it is correct that White has a "short, sharp win" if 35...♖xe8, it goes badly wrong a few moves in. After 36.♙xb5 axb5 37.a6 c4 38.a7 c3,



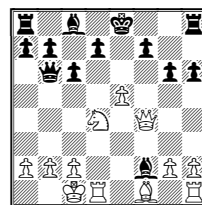
White must not play the wrongly exclaimed 39.♖d7?, as that will allow Black to equalize with 39...c2! (not the note's egregious 39...♙c5??) 40.♖c7 ♖e7 41.♖xc2 ♖xa7, and White's advantage is gone. Instead, almost any reasonable move – the simple 39.♖c1 or 39.a8♖ for example – is good enough to win.

Game 179, Alekhine-Bogoljuboff, Dresden 1936: One wonders if the note at move 13 has a misprint.

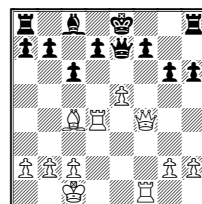


Here it gives 14.♖c3 (14.Q-B3 in descriptive), saying that after 14... ♙xf2

15.♖d4 Black's position "would have rapidly gone to pieces." Rybka see no such imminent disintegration. However, if the move actually intended was 14.♖f4 (14.Q-KB4), then 14... ♙xf2 15.♖d4 does produce a position quite difficult for Black,

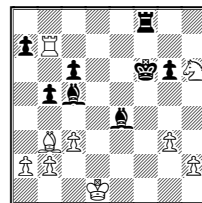


viz. 15...♙xd4 (forced) 16.♖xd4 ♖d8 17.♙c4 ♖e7 (if 17...0-0 18.♖xh6) 18.♖f1,



and White is fully developed with a dangerous attack.

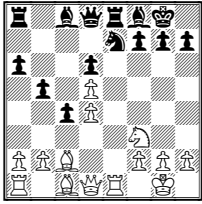
Rybka does not support the general tenor of Alekhine's notes for moves 17 to 31, seeing no significant advantage for White. And at the crucial point, move 31, the line Alekhine claims will leave Black without "sufficient compensation for the minus pawn" actually leads to a forced draw. After 31...♗g7 32.♖e7 ♙b6 33.♙xf7 ♙c5 34.♙b3+ ♗h8 35.♖f7+ ♗g7 36.♖b7! ♙e4+ 37.♗d1 ♗f6 38.♖xh6,



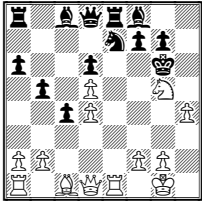
rather than 38...♖d8+?! as given, Black has several ways to draw, probably the clearest being 38...♗g5! and either 39.♖f7+ ♗f6 40.♖h6 ♗g5 etc., or 39.♖h7 ♖f1+ 40.♗e2 ♖f2+ 41.♗e1 ♖xb2 and White cannot prevent perpetual check by ♖b2-b1+ ♖b2+ etc.

Game 180, Alekhine-Eliskases, Podebrady 1936: The note at move 13 overlooks one of the oldest of combinative themes, the Greek Gift. After 13...♙f8 14.♖d5 ♖xd5 15.exd5 ♖e7 16.d4 exd4 17.cxd4 c4? (erroneously exclaimed), rather than "the chances [being] about

even.”

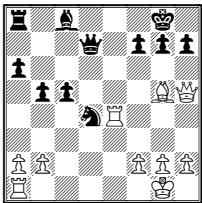


White wins with 18. ♖xh7+ ♜xh7
19. ♗g5+ ♜g6 (19... ♜g8?? 20. ♖h5+-)
20. h4,



and if (a) 20... ♖b6 (to save the queen from the threat of 21. h5+ ♜h6 22. ♗xf7+) 21. h5+ ♜h6 22. ♖f3 f5 23. ♖g3 and there is no good defense against the welter of threats including 24. ♗f7+, 24. ♗f3+, or mate by 24. ♖xe7 ♖xe7 25. ♗e6+ ♜h7 26. ♖g6+ ♜g8 27. ♗g5 etc.; (b) 20... f5 21. h5+ ♜f6 22. ♖e2 (threatening 23. ♖e5+ or ♖e6+ and mate next) 22... ♗xd5 23. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 24. ♖xe8+-; (c) 20... ♖d7 21. h5+ ♜h6 22. ♖f3 ♖b7 23. ♖xf7 ♗xd5 24. ♖e6+! ♗xe6 25. ♗xe6+ ♜h7 26. h6 forcing 26... ♖xe6 27. ♖xe6+-; or (d) 20... ♖a5 21. ♗d2 b4 22. h5+ ♜h6 23. ♖f6 f6 24. ♗e6+ ♜h7 25. ♗xf8+ ♖xf8 26. ♖xe7+-.

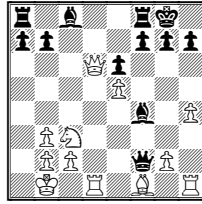
The note at Black’s 22nd move overlooks the best defense.



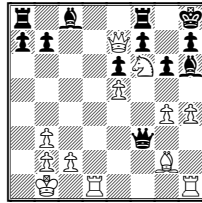
White’s previous move, 22. ♖d1-h5, was by no means best (better 22. ♖e4-e7). The text was best answered by 22... g6!, when if 23. ♖h6 23... ♗b7 24. ♖h4 (if 24. ♗f6? ♗f5) 24... f6 25. ♗xf6 ♗f5 26. ♖g5 ♗xh4 27. ♖xh4 ♖e8=, or if 23. ♖h4 ♗b7 24. ♖e7 ♖c6 25. ♖h3 ♗f5 26. ♖ee1 with only a slight advantage for White.

Game 181, Alekhine-Frydman, Podesbrady 1936: The note at White’s 11th move is correct that 11... ♖b6 “would have led to a rapid debacle,” but its continuation would not accomplish it. After 12. ♗xf6 ♗xf6 13. ♖xd6 ♖xf2 14. e5 ♗g5 15. h4

♗f4,

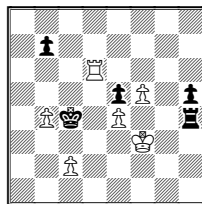


the move given, 16. ♗b5, leads to a rather paltry advantage. Completely decisive, instead, is 16. ♖e7!, threatening 17. ♖d8+- and thereby forcing Black into either (a) 16... ♖b6 17. ♗a5 ♖a5 18. b4+-, or (b) 16... ♗d7 17. ♖xd7+-, or (c) 16... ♗d2 17. ♗e4+-, or (d) 16... g6 17. ♗e4 ♖e3 18. ♗f6+ ♜g7 19. h5+-, or (e) 16... ♗h6 17. g4! (not now 17. ♖d8? ♖e1+ 18. ♜a2 g6) 17... g6 18. ♗e4 ♖f3 19. ♗f6+ ♜h8 20. ♗g2!



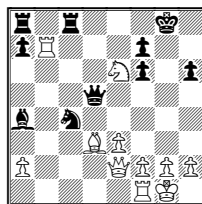
20... ♖f4 (if 20... ♖xg2 21. g5 ♗g7 22. h5 ♖xg5 23. h6 ♖xh6 24. ♖xh6+-) 21. g5 ♗g7 22. h5 etc., winning.

At move 40 for White,



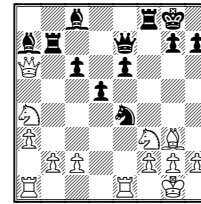
it might amuse Alekhine to know that Rybka, at a depth of 20 ply, evaluates both 40. ♖d5 (the move he regrets not having made) and 40. ♖e6 (the move he did make) as both totally winning, and of exactly equal strength (+3.92).

Game 182, Alekhine-Foltys, Podesbrady 1936: In the note to move 21, the variation 22. ♖xb7 ♖d5 23. ♗xe6?,

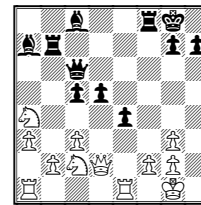


the given reply 23... ♖xe6?! leads only to a probable draw after 24. ♖b4 ♗b6 25. ♖h5. Advantageous for Black instead is first 23... ♗e5!, forcing 24. ♗d4 ♖xb7 25. ♗a6 ♖c7 26. ♗xc8 ♖xc8, and Black is safely up a piece.

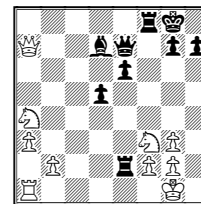
Game 184, Alekhine-Euwe, Nottingham 1936: Alekhine’s notes imply that White has a significant advantage from about move 15 on, but Rybka does not support this view, considering Black no worse than equal up to around move 30. In particular, Rybka indicates an interesting possibility at move 19 with (instead of 19... ♗d7-e8) the intriguing 19... ♗d7-c8!?,



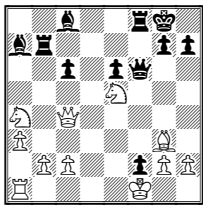
threatening 20... ♖xb2 etc. It is perhaps impossible to reach a definite conclusion, but most lines seem to favor Black, e.g. 20. ♖d3 ♗xg3 21. h×g3 e5! 22. ♖d2 (if 22. ♖xe5 ♗xf2+ 23. ♜xf2 ♖xe5) 22... e4 23. ♗d4 ♖f6 24. c3 c5 25. ♗c2 ♖c6,



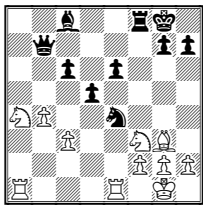
when Black has eliminated his weakness at e5 and has a dominant, probably winning position. Also good for Black is (from previous diagram) 20. ♖xc6 ♗xg3 21. h×g3 ♖c7 22. ♖b5 ♖xc2 23. ♖e2 ♗d7, when White is forced to give up the exchange by 24. ♖b7 ♖xe2 25. ♖xa7,



and Black stands better (about -1.08). If White tries (as mentioned in the note to Black’s 20th move) sacrificing the exchange by (from first diagram) 20. ♖xe4 d×e4, he again comes off worse, viz. 21. ♗e5 e3! 22. ♖c4 (if 22. f×e3 ♗xe3+ 23. ♜h1 ♖b5+-) 22... e×f2+ 23. ♜f1 ♖f6 ♚/+-:

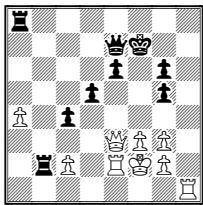


Perhaps best for White is a line in which he sacrifices the queen for rook and bishop but his knights get good squares (from first diagram): 20.b4? ♖xb4 21.♖xa7 ♖xa7 22.axb4 ♖b7 23.c3,

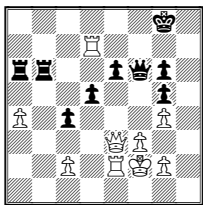


when the weaknesses at c5 and e5 persist, giving the white knights good potential outposts that may compensate for the nominal material deficit. However, while Black may not be able to win in this line, it is also unlikely he would lose.

The real losing move for Black was his 32nd, on which Alekhine makes no comment. There,

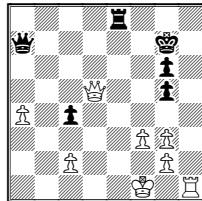


instead of 32...♖g8?, Euwe should have tried 32...♖f6!, when after, for example, 33.♖h7+ ♖g8 34.♖d7 ♖a6 35.g4 ♖bb6,

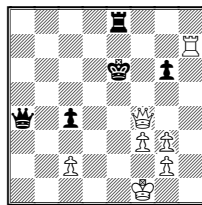


White stands better but Black can resist strongly.

The note at Black's 38th move implies that White would be in trouble after 38...♖e8+ 39.♖f2 ♖a7+ 40.♖f1 ♖g7 threatening 41...♖e3,



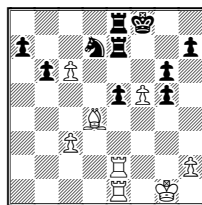
but actually White is still winning handily after 41.♖xg5, when the threat is prevented and Black dare not play 41...♖xa4? because of 42.♖h6+ ♖f7 43.♖f4+ ♖e6 (not 43...♖g7?? 44.♖d4+ etc.) 44.♖h7!



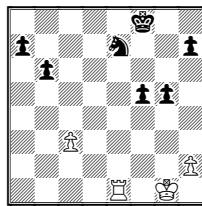
and the many threats to Black's king are too much to handle, e.g. 44...♖b5 45.♖f7+ ♖d6 46.♖f6+ ♖e6 47.♖d4+ ♖d5 48.♖d7+ and wins.

Game 187, Alekhine-Bogoljuboff,

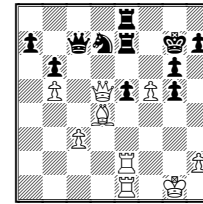
Nottingham 1936: Objectively, while 36.f5 is not a bad move, it does not deserve the two exclams given it, and it definitely does not "force the win in all variations." Alekhine's analysis of variation (c) is badly flawed, and in fact 36...e5! (far better than the text move 36...♖f4??, contrary to the note at Black's 36th move) should allow Black at least to draw, possibly even win. To begin with, the line Alekhine gives, 36...e5 37.♖d5+ ♖f8 38.♖c6 ♖xc6 39.bxc6,



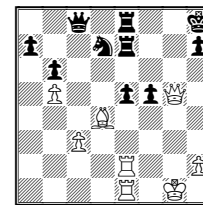
is made to appear winning only because Alekhine has Black playing 39...exd4??. Correct instead is 39...♖b8! (also 39...♖c2 may be playable as well), and after 40.♖xe5 ♖xc6 41.♖d6 gxf5 42.♖xe7+ ♖xe7 43.♖xe7 ♖xe7,



an ending results which neither side can reasonably expect to win. Moreover, Black can improve earlier in the variation (c) line; after 36...e5 37.♖d5+, rather than 37...♖f8, best per Rybka is 37...♖g7,



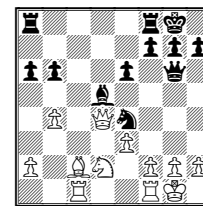
and if, as Alekhine recommended, 38.♖c6, then 38...♖c8 or 38...♖c8 holds (about -0.75). In some lines Black even has winning chances, e.g. 38...♖c8 39.♖g2? (better 39.fxg6 hxc6+) 39...gxf5! 40.♖xg5+ ♖h8



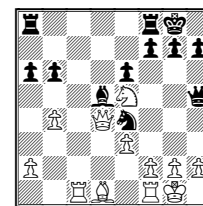
with threats of ...♖g7 or ...♖g8 and ...♖a8 (about -1.88). The complications after 36...e5 are too great to reach a definite conclusion, even with computer assistance, but we can say the position is definitely *not* won for White.

Game 189, Alekhine-Vidmar, Hastings

1936-37: The note at move 19 may be correct that 19...♖d5 would be hopeless, but not because of the note continuation. After 20.♖d2 ♖g6 21.♖c2,

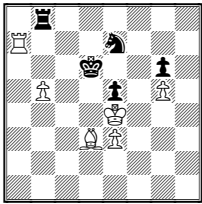


not 21...f5? but 21...♖c3!, when the threat of mate forces 22.♖xg6 ♖e2+ 23.♖h1 ♖xd4 24.♖d3 ♖c6, with a very even position. Instead of 20.♖d2?!, correct is 20.♖e5!,

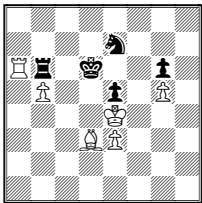


likely followed by 20...♖g5 21.♙f3 f5
22.♗xb6 with impunity.

At move 50, instead of the text move
40.♖a3 (another undeserved exclamation),



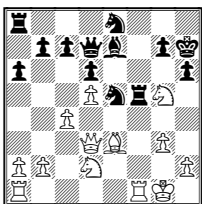
White could have wrapped up the game
sooner with 50.♖a6+! which wins Black's
remaining pawns, viz. 50...♖c5 51.♖e6
♖b7 52.♖xe5 ♖d7 53.♙xg6 ♖xg6+
54.♖xg6+- . It was also the best choice
next move, when after 50...♖b6



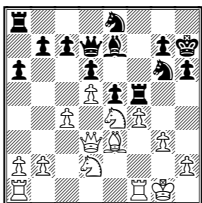
White can win another pawn and simplify
to a trivially easy minor piece ending:
51.♖a6! ♖c8 52.♙e2 ♖e7 (if 52...♖e6?
53.♙g4+) 53.♖xb6 ♖xb6 54.♖xe5 etc.

Game 191, Alekhine-Taylor, Margate

1937: In the note to Black's 20th move, it
is claimed that White threatens 21.fxe5
♖xe5 22.♖g5+.



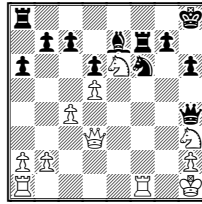
This would in fact be suicidal, viz.
22...♙xg5 23.♗xf5+ ♗xf5 24.♖xf5 ♙xe3+
25.♖g2 ♙xd2 +- . In the position in
question,



White's real threat is 21.g4! ♖f7 22.f5, and

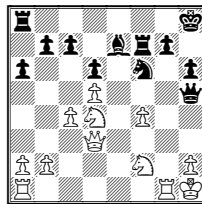
Black will be positionally and/or tactically
lost wherever the knight goes. Black
correctly forestalled this by 20...♖h8,
avoiding a potential pin of the knight, so
that if 21.g4 ♖xf4! was possible.

As in several other games, Alekhine in his
notes here consistently overestimates his
position, and overlooks good moves for
Black. In the note at Black's 26th move,
the continuation 26...♗xf4 27.♖e6 ♖h4
28.♖h3 is said to be strong for White,

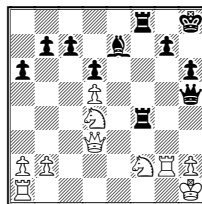


who is "threatening ♖h3-f4-g6 etc." Yet
this threat proves empty after 28...c6!,
when if 29.♖hf4 ♖g8 30.♖g6 ♗e4+
31.♗xe4 ♖xe4 32.♖xf7 ♖xf7 33.♖xe7
♗xe7 and Black has whatever advantage
there is.

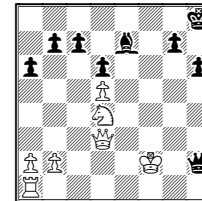
Completely overlooked after move 27 is a
resource that would have allowed Black to
force a draw or even gain a slight
advantage.



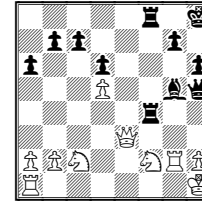
While the text move 27...♖d7 was not bad,
better was 27...♖xd5! forcing 28.cxd5
♖xf4 29.♖g2 (not 29.♖h3?? ♗xd5+)
29...♖af8,



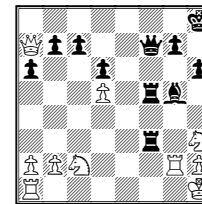
and now Rybka gives these likely
variations: (a) 30.♖h3 ♖h4 31.♗e2 ♗xe2
32.♖xe2 ♖h3 33.♖xe7 ♖f2 and perpetual
check is unavoidable; (b) 30.♖g1 ♖xf2
31.♖xf2 ♖xf2 32.♖xf2 ♗xh2+



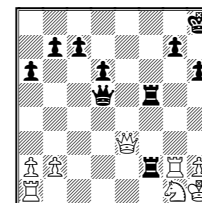
33.♖f3 (33.♖e3? ♙g5+ 34.♖f3 ♗h3+
35.♖e2 ♗g2+ 36.♖e1 ♖h4+ 37.♖d1
♗g1+ 38.♖c2 ♗x1 +-) 33...♗h3+
34.♖e4 ♗h4+ etc., again with perpetual
check; (c) 30.♗e3 ♙g5 31.♖c2



32...♖f8! (threatening 32...♖xf2, which
would not work immediately: 31...♖xf2?
32.♖xf2 ♙xe3 33.♖xf8+ ♖h7 34.♖xe3±)
32.♗a7 ♗f7 33.♖h3 ♖f3



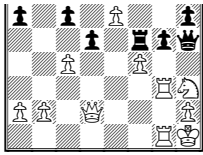
34.♖g1 (not 34.♖xg5?? ♖f1+ 35.♖xf1
♖xf1+ 36.♖g1 ♗xd5+ 37.♖f3 ♗xf3#)
34...♖f2 35.♖e3 ♙xe3 36.♗xe3 ♗xd5



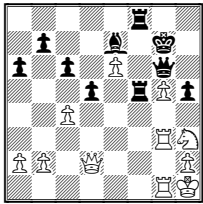
and Black, with three pawns for the knight,
and the safer king, should be in no danger
of losing and may win.

Rybka does not support Alekhine's claim
that 32...g5 was an important mistake,
considering it, along with 32...♖g8 and
32...g6, the only playable moves at that
point. Furthermore, it finds that Black
could have held with ♗h5-g6 at move 35,
36, or 37. This was most crucial at move
37:



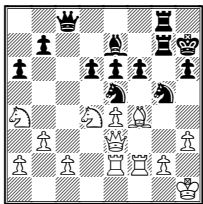


Here Black played 37...♔d6? and the game was irretrievably lost. The only alternative Alekhine considered was the almost equally bad 37...♔c5. Instead after 37...♖g6! 38.f×g5 (if 38.♖c3+ ♕g8=) 38...h5!



White has a choice between 39.♖e1 ♖f1+ 40.♖f1 ♖f1+ 41.♕g2 ♖f8 42.♖e2 ♖f5, or 39.c×d5 ♖d5 40.♖e2, with only a slight advantage in either case. Perhaps because playing ♖h5-g6 earlier, at move 35 or 36, would allow Black to recapture after f×g5, Rybka considers the move even better then, rating the resulting positions almost exactly even.

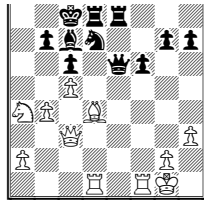
Game 192, Alekhine-Foltys, Margate 1937: Completely overlooked is a resource Black had after the wrongly exclaimed 28.♔c3-a4.



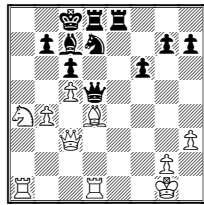
Rather than the text move 28...♔d8, best was 28...b5! which would have forced the knight to retreat back to c3 or b2, since if White proceeded as intended with 29.♔xg5?! f×g5 30.♔b6?, after 30...♖b7 31.♔×e6 ♖g6 he would lose a knight.

Game 193, Alekhine-Reshevsky, Kemer 1937: Another game that Alekhine seems to have “annotated by result.” The notes give the impression White’s victory was inevitable, but in fact the game was not truly lost until Reshevsky blundered (probably in time pressure) at move 34.

Contrary to the note at White’s 27th move, the pawn sacrifice 27.b4 was not sound and did not deserve the exclaim it received.

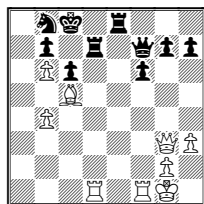


Rybka shows that Black could have safely taken the pawn by 27...♖×a2, and if play had continued as in the note with 28.♖a1 ♖d5 (better than 28...♖e6) 29.♖fd1,



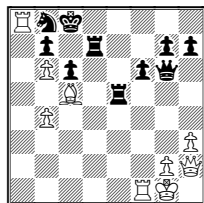
Black would then be close to winning after 29...♖e2!, threatening mate and thus forcing 30.♔f2 (if 30.♖f3 ♖×f3 31.g×f3 ♖h2 etc.), when one plausible continuation is 30...♖f5 31.♖d4 ♔b8 32.♖h4 g5 33.♖d8+ ♕×d8 34.♖d4+ ♕e7 35.♖f1 (not 35.♔c3? ♔e5) 35...♖e5 36.♖×e5+ ♔×e5-+.

Alekhine makes no comment at White’s 32nd move,



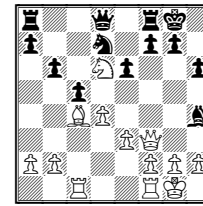
overlooking that 32.♖a1? gave away whatever advantage White had at that point. Best instead was 32.♔d6 ♖ed8 33.b5!, when the threat of 34.b×c6 b×c6 35.♖a3 is probably winning for White.

Finally, at Black’s 34th move,

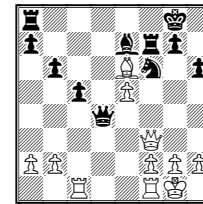


besides the text blunder 34...♔d2?? Alekhine examines only 34...♖e8, which also loses. Rybka indicates that Black could have resisted much better with 34...♖d3.

Game 195, Alekhine-Bogoljuboff, Bad Nauheim 1937: In the note at move 14, after 14.♔d6 ♔×f3 15.♖×f3,

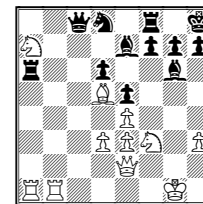


one wonders if 15...♔e7 is a typo and 15...♖e7 was meant. After the latter move the knight must retreat, but after 15...♔e7? White has 16.♔×f7! ♖×f7 17.♔×e6 ♔f6 (worse is 17...♔f6? 18.♖d5) 18.e4 ♖×d4 19.e5,

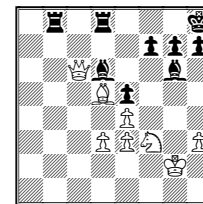


when Black has no choice but to accept loss of the exchange by 19...♖af8 20.e×f6 ♖×f6 21.♖b3 followed soon by ♔×f7.

Game 196, Alekhine-Sämisch, Bad Nauheim 1937: In the note to move 26, in the variation 26...♖a7 27.♖fb1 ♖c8 28.♔×b5 ♖×a6 29.♔a7, it is claimed that Black must lose the exchange, apparently based on the assumption that he must then move his queen.

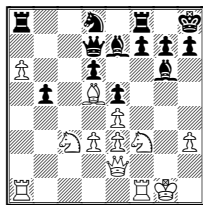


However, he has a better option, namely giving up the queen for two rooks with 29...♖xa1! 30.♔×c8 ♖×b1+, and after the likely continuation 31.♕g2 ♔c6 32.♖c2 (if 32.♔×c6? ♖×c8) 32...♖b8 33.♔×d6 ♔×d6 (also playable is 33...♔b5 34.♖c7 ♔×d6 35.♖×d6 ♔×d5 36.♖×d5) 34.♖×c6 ♖fd8

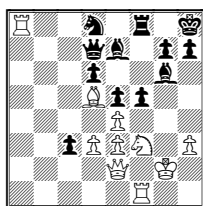


Rybka considers Black to have a slight advantage (about -0.67).

An important alternative goes unmentioned at that same move. Only 26... c6 and 26... a7 were given as alternative to the text move 26... e6 ,

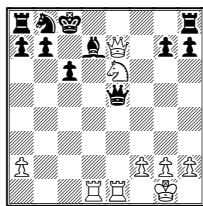


but best may have been 26... c8 !?, when Rybka sees best play as proceeding 27.a7 b4 28.a8 g (if 28. b5 gxb5 , or 28. b1 c6) 28... xa8 29. xa8 bxc3 30. g2 (to prevent 30... gxh3) 30...f5,



when in compensation for the lost exchange, Black has kingside attacking chances. Rybka considers the position virtually even, about +0.18.

Game 198, Alekhine-Euwe, World Championship 1937, sixth game: The “chief variation” in the note at Black’s sixth move can be improved toward the end. After 6...dxc3 7. axf7 + e7 8. b3 f6 9.e5 e4 10.0-0! b6 11. c4 cxb2 12. axb2 gxb2 13. xe4 xf7 14. g5 + e8 15. c4 e7 16. f7 + d8 17. ad1 + d7 18. e6 + c8 19. xe7 xe5 20. fe1 ,



rather than 20... f6 ?, which loses quickly, Black can do better with either 20... a5 or 20... h5 . He will remain under considerable pressure, but no immediate win is possible and Rybka rates the position even.

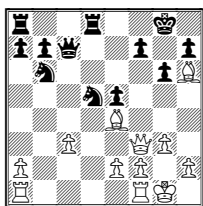
Historical note: While this opening variation, as Alekhine predicted, never

became fashionable, the early knight sacrifice was seen in serious master play at least twice more, in Kashdan-Pollard, US Championship 1938, and Sarapu-Garbett, New Zealand Championship 1976. The sacrifice was declined in the former game and accepted in the latter. In both cases White won.

Kashdan-Pollard, US Ch, New York 1938: 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3. c3 dxc4 4.e4 e5 5. f3 exd4 6. axc4 c5 7. e5 f6 8. xf7 dxc3 9.0-0 e6 10. g5 gxg5 11. gx5 xc4 12. gh5 + g6 13. h3 cxb2 14. ad1 a6 15. c3 xf1 16. xf1 b1 g 17. xb1 1-0

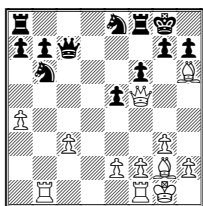
Sarapu-Garbett, NZL Ch, Upper Hutt 1976: 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3. c3 dxc4 4.e4 e5 5. f3 exd4 6. axc4 dxc3 7. axf7 + e7 8. b3 b6 9. axg8 gxg8 10. gxg8 cxb2 11. g5 + e8 12. b1 gb4 + 13. d2 b5 14. e3 b6 15. b3 b4 16. xb2 a6 17. g8 + d7 18. gxg7 + c8 19. g8 + b7 20. hx7 + c8 21. f5 + xf5 22.exf5 c5 23.f4 c6 24. f2 b7 25. f3 c4 26. d1 c3 27. c2 b5 28. d2 e7 29. d4 c4 30. xc3 xc3 31. xc3 xa2 32.g4 h8 33. g3 d5 34. a3 b1 35.g5 d8 36.f6 e8 37.f7 f8 38. e6 1-0

Game 198, Alekhine-Euwe, World Championship 1937, 14th game: A highly complex game, in which many intriguing possibilities are worth exploring. In the note to White’s 16th move, after 16. ah6 fd5 17. a4 g6 18. f3 fd8 ,



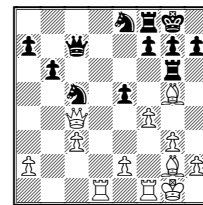
we wonder if the move given, 19. fd1 , is a typo, since it allows Black easy equality with the rather obvious 19... xc3 . Better is 19. ad1 , when if 19... xc3 ? 20. d3 etc. Much better still, however, is 19.c4! xc4 (not 19... e7 ? 20. f6 + -) 20. a1 xa2 21. axd5 dxd5 22.e4 d6 (22... b6 ? 23. f6) 23. a1 b2 24.exd5+-.

In the note to Black’s 18th move, the variation 18... b6 19.a4 f6 20. f5 is not nearly so good for White as thought,

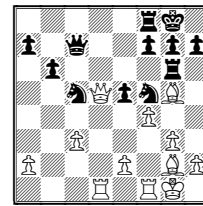


if instead of 20... gxh6 ! Black plays 20... d6 !, when a likely continuation is 21. e6 + h8 22. bd1 ad8 23. c1 bc4 =.

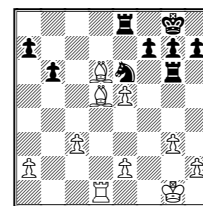
An interesting alternative for Black at move 23, overlooked in the book, bears mentioning. Instead of the text move 23...e4,



it appears Black can either seize the initiative or perhaps even win the exchange with 23... d6 ! 24. d5 (or 24. b4 a5 25. b1 e4+) 24... f5 ,

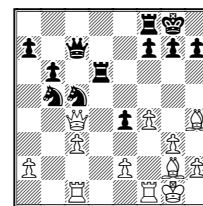


threatening 25... e3 , when the two main variations are (a) 25. f2 h6 26. d8 c8 27. xe5 e6 28. c7 xc7 29. xc7 e3 etc., or (b) 25. d8 b8 26. xe5 xe5 27.fxe5 e3 28. e7 e8 29. d6 xd1 30. d5 e6 31. xd1 ,

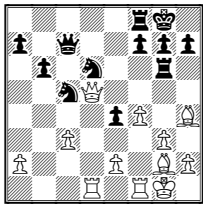


when White has some compensation for the lost exchange but Black is clearly OK.

It is unclear on what grounds Alekhine considered the note variation at move 24, 24... d6 25. d5 b5 26. c1 d6 27. c4 ,

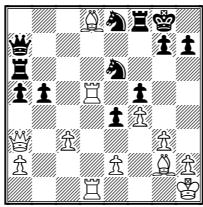


to be in White's favor; Rybka evaluates it at about -0.39. Furthermore, after 24...d6 25.♖d5,

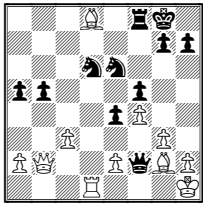


Black can improve on the note with 25...d4! 26.♖c1 ♖xc3 27.♗d2 ♖db5, winning a pawn free and clear.

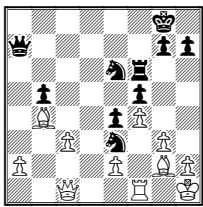
At move 30, an interesting, perhaps saving alternative for Black went unmentioned.



30...♗f2!? leads to some intricate complications. If (as Alekhine intended in reply to 30...♗e3) White plays 31.♗b2, Black has the surprising 31...♖d6! more or less forcing 32.♖xd6 (if 32.♖f1 Black is fine after either 32...♗a7 or 32...♗xf1+! 33.♖xf1 ♖xd6) 32...♖xd6,

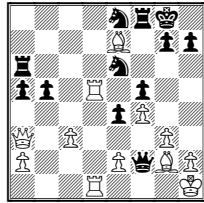


and if (a) 33.♖xd6?? ♗e1+ 34.♖f1 ♗xf1 ♯ (the most important difference between 30...♗f2 and 30...♗e3); (b) 33.♖e7 ♖c4 34.♗xb5 (forced) 34...♗xe2 35.♗d5 (or 35.♗d7) and neither side has better than perpetual check after either (b1) 35...♖f7 36.♖f1 ♗f3+ etc., or (b2) 35...♖e3 36.♗xe6+ ♗h8 37.♖g1 ♖xg2 38.♖xf8 ♖e3 39.♖xg7+ ♗xg7 etc.; (c) 33.♖xa5 ♖f6 (intending 34...♖h6 threatening 35...♗xg3) 34.♖f1 ♗a7 35.♖b4 ♖c4 36.♗c1 ♖e3!,



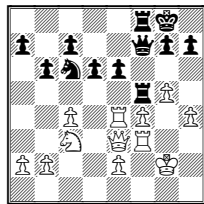
and White must lose the exchange, viz. 37.♖e1 ♖g4 38.♖f1 ♖f7+ 39.♖xf2 (else smothered mate) 39...♗xf2.

The main alternative to 31.♗b2 is 31.♖e7,

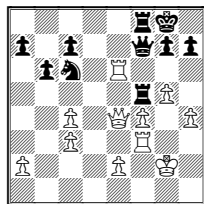


when a likely continuation is 31...♖f7 32.♖f1 (to protect the e-pawn without moving the queen) 32...♖f8 (intending 32...♖h6) 33.♗c5 ♗xc5 34.♖xc5 ♖c7 35.♖d8 ♖ce6 36.♖c8 ♖c7 37.♖dd8 ♖xd8 38.♖xc7 ♖fe6 39.♖d7 ♖c6, with a more or less even position.

Game 201, Euwe-Alekhine, World Championship 1937, 21st game: Black's 22nd move was unnecessarily cautious, and rather than deserving the exclamation given it, actually could have cost Black much of his advantage. Instead of the preparatory 22...♗h8?!,

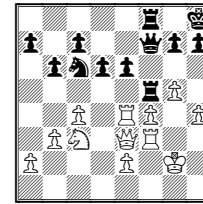


best was the immediate 22...d5!, and if, as in Alekhine's note, 23.♖xe6 d4 24.♗e4 dxc3 25.bxc3,

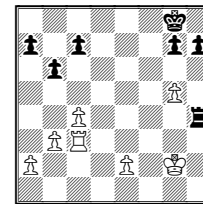


better now than the note's 25...♖d8 is 25...♖a5! so that if 26.♖e7 ♗xc4. White then has no compensation for the piece minus and might as well resign.

Another mark against 22...♗h8?! is that it allows White to shore up his struggling position by 23.b3!:

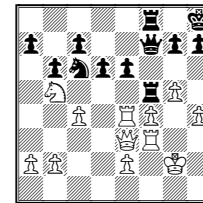


If then, as in the game, 23...d5 24.♖xe6 d4 25.♗e4 dxc3 26.♖xc6! (playable because ...cxb2 is no longer possible, the point of 23.b3), Black, instead of having an easy piece-up position, has to wend his way through 26...♖xf4 27.♖xf4 ♗xf4 28.♗xf4 ♖xf4 29.♖e6 ♗g8 30.♖e3 ♖xh4 31.♖xc3,

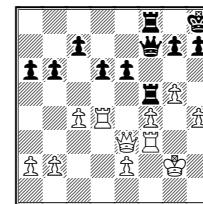


31...♖g4+ 32.♖g3 ♖xg3+ 33.♗xg3 ♖f7 34.♗f4 ♗g6, to reach an endgame he will probably win.

Another defense allowed by 22...♗h8?! is 23.♖b5:

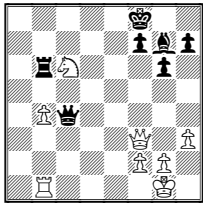


If now 23...d5 24.♖xe6 dxc4 25.♖xc6 ♖xb5 is, as Alekhine might say, unconvincing (about +0.60); but then so is 23...a6 24.♖d4 ♖xd4 25.♖xd4,

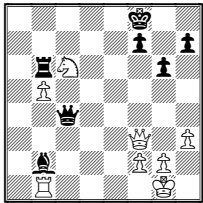


when Black stands better (about -0.52) but has no clear win.

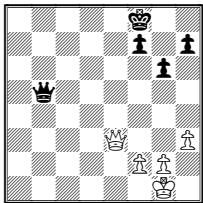
Game 202, Alekhine-Euwe, World Championship 1937, 22nd game: The "plausible variation" in the note to move 37 is flawed. After 37...♗c4 38.♖e7+ ♗f8 39.♖c6 ♖b6,



instead of 40.b5, White should play 40.♖d1!, threatening 41.♖d8# and forcing 40...♗f6 41.♗e5! ♗xe5 (else 42.♗d7+) 42.♖d8+ ♖g7 43.♖xb6 and wins. The flaw with 40.b5? is that instead of the note's 40...♗xb5?, Black can force a draw with the surprising 40...♗b2!,

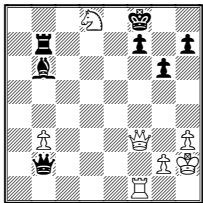


viz. 41.♖e3 (not 41.♗xb2?? ♖c1+ 42.♖h2 ♖xb2+) 41...♗xb5 42.♗xb2 ♖xc6 (not 42...♗xb2? 43.♖a3+) 43.♗xb5 ♖xb5,

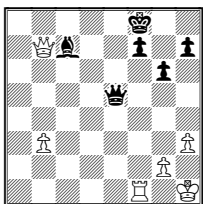


with a dead-even position.

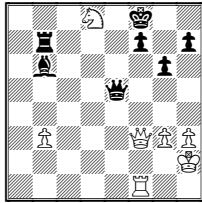
The note at Black's 43rd move has a more serious oversight. While it is true that White can win the exchange in the line 43...♗b7 44.♖f3 ♗b6 45.♗d8,



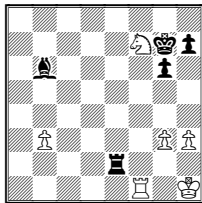
it does him no good because after 45...♖e5+! 46.♖h1 ♗xd8 47.♖xb7 ♗c7!,



Black threatens mate and forces perpetual check, e.g. 48.♖g1 ♖e3+ 49.♗f2 ♖e1+ etc. Nor after 45...♖e5+ does the lone alternative 46.g3 help:



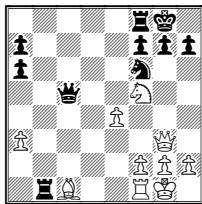
Black still equalizes with 46...♗e7 47.♗xf7 (even less good is 47.♗c6 ♖e2+ 48.♖h1 ♖xf3+ 49.♗xf3 ♗e2) 47...♖e2+ 48.♖xe2 ♗xe2+ 49.♖h1 ♖g7,



and either 50.♗d6 ♗e3=, or 50.♗f3 ♗c7 51.♗g5 ♗d8 52.h4 (if 52.♗f7 ♗e7=) 52...♗xg5 53.hxg5=.

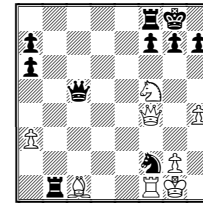
This analysis seems to refute 43.♖h2, a move Alekhine was inordinately proud of. After 43...♗b7 Rybka can find no way to any significant advantage for White. It appears White must either vary at some earlier point, or try 43.♗xf2 with, as Alekhine admitted, "very problematical winning chances."

Game 204, Euwe-Alekhine, World Championship 1937, 25th game: The note at White's 25th move is correct that Black has an "easy defense" after 25.♖g3,

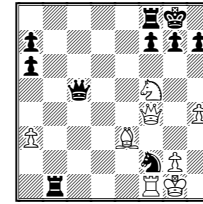


but it is far easier if Black plays the simple 25...g6, which Rybka rates at about -2.78, compared to -1.41 for the note line 25...♗h5.

The note at move 26 is quite correct that 26...♗xf2? is "not convincing enough,"

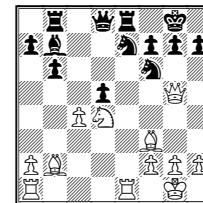


but definitely not because of the note continuation 27.♖h2?, which loses badly to 27...h5! (threatening 28...♗g4+) 28.♗xf2 ♗xc1 29.♖g5 ♖e5+ 30.g3 ♗e1+ . Correct instead is 27.♗e3!,

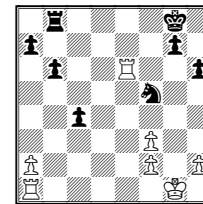


when Black will have at best a severely diminished advantage, if any, after (a) 27...♗xf1+ 28.♖xf1 ♗d3 29.♗h6+ ♖h8 30.♗xc5 ♗xf4 31.♗xf8, or (b) 27...♖b5 28.♗xb1 ♗h3+ 29.gxh3 ♖xb1+ 30.♖g2, or (c) 27...♗h3+28.gxh3 ♗xf1+ 29.♖xf1 ♖xa3.

Game 206, Alekhine-Freeman, simul, 1924: It bears mentioning that at move 18, Black could have repulsed White's attack and gotten a more or less even game,



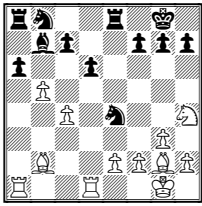
by 18...h6! 19.♖g3 dxc4. If White then carries out his planned threat of 20.♗e6 fxe6 21.♗xf6, Black still survives in the mutually forced line 21...♗f5 22.♗xd8 ♗xg3 23.♗c7 ♗xf3 24.gxf3 ♗f5 25.♗xb8 ♗xb8 26.♗xe6,



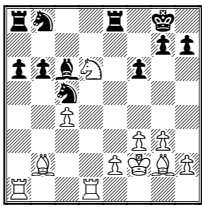
when his extra pawns and better pawn structure compensate for loss of the exchange.

Game 209, Euwe-Alekhine, second exhibition match game, 1926: The notes

here have several elementary errors; the game appears to have been annotated in haste. In the note to White's 15th move, Black is said to have "an easy defense" in the second variation 15.c4 ♖×d1 ♜f×d1 a6:

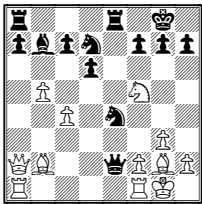


Perhaps, but Rybka sees it as better for White after 17.b6! c×b6 18.♗f5 f6 19.f3 ♗c5 20.♖f2 ♗c6 21.♗×d6,

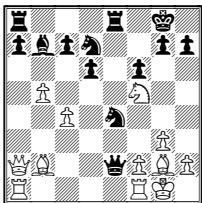


when material is even but White's pieces are much better posted.

The note at Black's 17th move is correct that 17...♖×e2 is inferior because of 18.♗f5, but the note's next two moves are consecutive blunders.

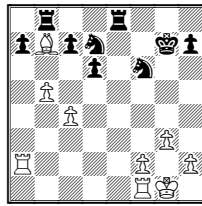


There is no need for Black to play the given move 18...f6?; better and good enough for equality is 18...♗e5!, to which White cannot reply 19.f4? ♗g4!-+. And if Black does play 18...f6,



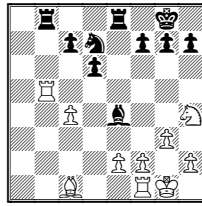
then the correct reply is 19.c5+! ♖f8 20.c6 winning a piece. In contrast, the note continuation simply loses one: 19.♗×g7? ♖×g7 20.♗×f6+ ♗×f6 – One wonders if Alekhine somehow overlooked this reply

and thought Black's queen would be *en prise* after the check. – 21.♗×b7 (if 21.♖×e2 ♜×e2 22.♗×b7 ♜ae8) 21...♖×a2 22.♜×a2 ♜ab8,



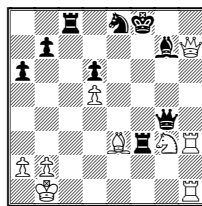
when with reasonable care Black should win.

As originally written the note at White's 21st move, after 21.♗×e4 ♗×e4 22.♜×b5,

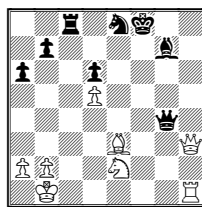


gave 22...♗d5, an obvious blunder putting the bishop *en prise*. We considered it likely that the intervening moves 22...♜×b5 23.c×b5 were inadvertently omitted, with 23...♗d5 following only after the exchange of rooks. However, even so, 23...♗d5 leads to little or no advantage after 24.♗e3 (e.g. 24...♜b8 25.♜c1=), and does not deserve its exclaim. Correct instead is 22...♜×b5 23.c×b5 ♜b8 when winning the b-pawn is inevitable.

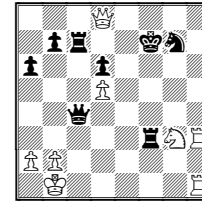
Game 210, Alekhine-Euwe, third exhibition match game, 1926: A saving resource for Black was overlooked, in both the game and the notes, at move 29. Salvation lies in 29...♜f6-f3!!, threatening both the bishop and knight,



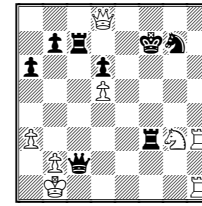
threatening both the bishop and knight, and forcing White into either (a) 30.♖h5 ♗f6 31.♖×g4 ♗×g4=; (b) 30.♗e2 ♜×h3 31.♖×h3 (31.♜×h3?? ♗f6-+)



and Black can either aim for general equality with 31...♖×h3, or force White to take a draw by perpetual check with 31...♖g6+ 32.♖a1 ♗×b2+! 33.♖×b2 ♜c2+ 34.♖a1 ♜×e2 34.♖h8+ etc. Finally there is (from previous diagram) (c) 30.♗h6 ♜c7 31.♖h8+ (if 31.♖e4 ♖×e4+ 32.♗×h3 33.♜×h3 ♜e7 34.♗c3 ♗×h6 35.♜×h6=) 31...♖f7 32.♗×g7 ♗×g7 33.♖d8 ♖c4

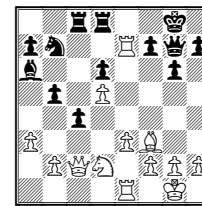


34.a3 (not 34.♖×d6?? ♖c2+ 35.♖a1 ♖c1+ 36.♜×c1 ♜×c1#) 34...♖c2+

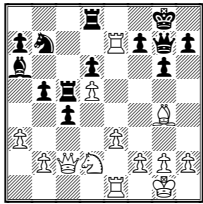


and White must accept perpetual check by 35.♖a2 ♖c4+ 36.♖b1 ♖c2+ etc., because if 35.♖a1? ♜×a3+! 36.b×a3 ♖c3+ and Black will eventually win the queen, viz. 37.♖a2 ♖d2+ 38.♖b1 ♖d3+ 39.♖a1 (39.♖a2?? ♜c2+) 39...♖×a3+ 40.♖b1 ♖b4+ 41.♖a1 ♖a5+ 42.♖b1 ♖b6+ 43.♖a1 ♜c1+ 44.♜×c1 ♖×d8-+.

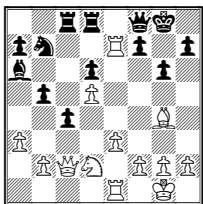
Game 211, Marshall-Alekhine, New York, 1929: The note to White's 24th move is wrong on two counts.



One, the text move 24.♗e4 is not at all best; in fact it was probably, more than any other move, the critical mistake. Two, the alternative discussed, 24.♗g4, is White's best move, and is much better than indicated, especially if Black replies, as in the note, with 24...♜c5?:

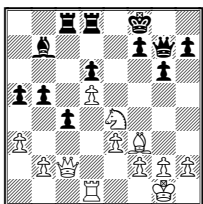


Rather than deserving the exclamation awarded to it, this would lose to 25. ♖e4!, when if 25... ♖xd5?? 26. ♗e6! ♖e5 27. ♖xf7+- . Therefore Black would have to play, say, 25... ♗h8, when White can build more pressure with, for example, 26. ♖d1, or simply win material with 26. ♖xc5. After 24. ♗g4! Black has several reasonable moves but none that give him any advantage. Relatively best seems to be 24... ♗f8,



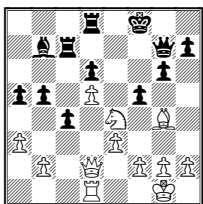
when after 25. ♖xb7 ♗xb7 26. ♗xc8 ♖xc8 the position is quite even.

It is unclear why 26...a7-a5 is given a “?”.



Though probably not best (Rybka prefers 26... ♗e5 or 26...a6), it is not at all bad, and still leaves Black with a substantial advantage (about -1.00).

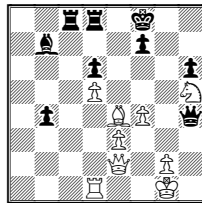
At Black’s 28th move, the text 28...h6, to prevent 29. ♖e4-g5, was unnecessary. Black could have proceeded immediately with 28...f5!,



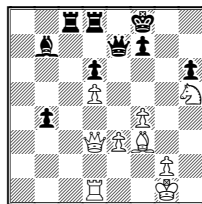
and if 29. ♖g5 ♗c8 30. ♗f3 c3! 31. bxc3 ♗xc3 and either 32. ♗a2 b4 when the b-pawn will be unstoppable, or 32. ♗xc3

♖xc3 33. ♗a1 h6 34. ♖h3 g5 35. ♗e2 ♗d7+- .

The note at White’s 39th move can be significantly improved.

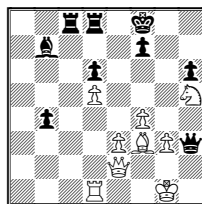


After 39. ♗f3!? ♗e7?! (better is 39... ♖c3), not 40. ♗b2? allowing 40... ♗xe3+, but 40. ♗d3!,

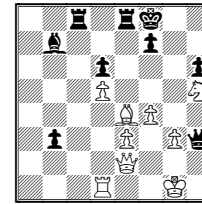


with these main variations: (a) if 40... ♗g8 to prevent 41. ♗h7, then 41. ♗d4 f5 (if 41... ♗f8 42. ♗xb4) 42. e4 with substantial counterplay; (b) 40... ♖e8 41. ♗h7?! (better than 41. ♖e1 ♗c7 42. ♗h7 ♗c3 43. ♗xh6+ ♗e7 44. ♗g5+ ♗d7 45. ♖f6+ ♗c7 46. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 47. ♗f2 ♗d4 ♗d4 ♗e7 48. ♖d6+ ♗b5, threatening 49. ♗g4+, and again White has serious counterplay; (c) 40... ♖c3 41. ♗h7 ♗xe3+ 42. ♗h2 ♗e7 43. ♗xh6 ♖h8 44. ♗f6+ ♗d7 45. ♖d4! threatening 46. ♗g4+, and again White has serious counterplay; (d) 40... ♖c3 41. ♗h7 ♗xe3+ 42. ♗h2 ♗e7 43. ♗g7 (threatening both 44. ♗g4 and 44. ♖d4, winning in either case) 43... ♗d7 44. ♖d4 ♗e7 45. ♖f6+ ♗c8 46. ♖e4 ♗c7 47. ♖xb4=.

Although White has no satisfactory defense at move 40, the text move 40. ♗f3 does not deserve the exclamation it receives.

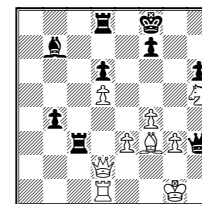


Nor does Black’s reply, 40... ♖c3?!, which prolonged the game unnecessarily. Instead, Black could have won quickly with 40...b3! when the threats of 41...b2 and 41... ♖c2 simply force the bishop back, but the loss of time is fatal, viz. 41. ♗e4 ♖e8

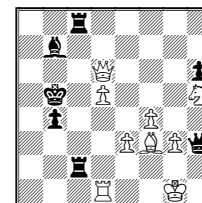


42. ♗h7 (or 42. ♗g2 ♖c2+-, or 42. ♗d3 ♗a6 43. ♗xa6 ♖c2+-, or 42. ♗b1 b2 43. ♗xb2 [else 43... ♖c1] 43... ♗xh5+-) 42... ♗xd5! 43. ♖xd5 ♖c1+ 44. ♗f2 (if 44. ♖d1 ♖xe3+-) 44... ♗h2+ 45. ♗f3 ♗h1+ 46. ♗g4 ♗xd5+- .

It bears mentioning that at Black’s 41st move,



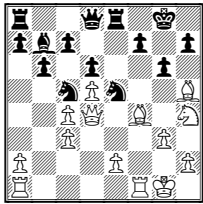
the text move 41... ♖e8 was OK, but objectively best was 41... ♖dc8!. Perhaps Alekhine declined to play it because it does involve quite a king chase, but one that proves ultimately futile: 42. ♗d4 ♖c2 43. ♗h8+ ♗e7 44. ♗f6+ ♗d7 45. ♗xf7+ ♗d8 46. ♗f6+ ♗c7 47. ♗e7+ ♗b6 48. ♗xd6+ ♗b5,



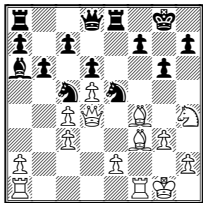
and White can postpone mate only by giving up his queen.

Game 212, Kevitz & Pinkus – Alekhine, consultation simul, New York, 1929: One gets the impression Alekhine was having a bit of (perhaps somewhat sadistic) fun in this game. Once his opponents were reduced to complete passivity by move 29, rather than finish them off efficiently, he toyed with them cat-and-mouse style – as he could well afford to do – indulging in the long king march from g8 to a6 before undertaking anything decisive. However, as will be seen below in the discussion of move 45, this might have backfired on him.

The note at move 16 gives the misleading impression that 16...g6 would have lost,

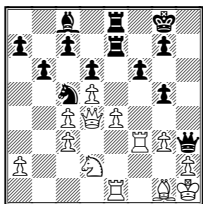


continuing 17.♔f3 g5 18.♕xe5 dxe5
19.♖g4 h5 20.♗xh5 g×h4 21.♛e4! ♜xe4
22.♗xf7+ ♜h8 23.♗h5+ ♜g8 24.♞f7+-.
But actually 16...g6 was quite playable if
followed up correctly. After 17.♔f3 not
17...g5 but 17...♛a6,

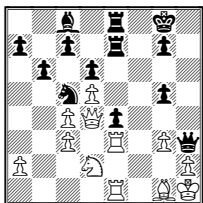


when the c4-pawn is doomed and Black's
dark-square weaknesses on the kingside
are of little importance, viz. 18.♜g2
(eventually forced in most variations)
18...♜xc4 19.♛h6 ♜e5 20.♜e3 f5 etc.

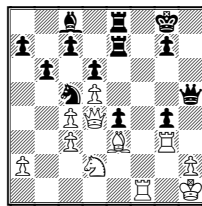
An example of how Black could have
forced matters earlier is at move 25,



where though the text 25...♛g4 was good
enough, best was 25...f5! 26.♞fe3 f×e4,

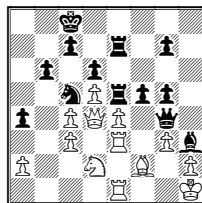


when if, for example, 27.♛f2 ♛g4
(threatening 28...♛f3+) 28.♞g1 ♞f8
29.♞g2 ♜d3 30.♛g1 ♛f3 31.♜xf3 e×f3
32.♞d2 ♜e1 33.♞×e1 ♞×e1 +- . About the
only way to prevent the ♛c8-g4-f3
maneuver is to give up a second pawn by
(from diagram) 27.g4, when after the
likely 27...♗×g4 28.♞g3 ♗h5 29.♛e3 g4
30.♞f1,

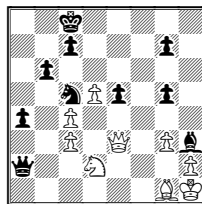


Black's knight will eventually invade
lethally at d3 or f3.

Another opportunity came at move 37,
where instead of continuing the king walk
with 37...♜b7, Black again could have
advanced the f-pawn with decisive effect
with 37...f6-f5!,

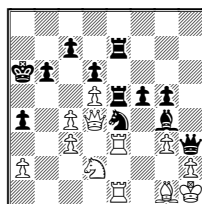


when on any passive move Black simply
takes on e4, while if 38.e×f5 ♗×f5 39.♛g1
(or 39.♞×e4 d×e4 40.♗e2 ♜d3 41.♞e2
♛g4 +-) 39...♗c2 40.♞×e5 ♞×e5 41.♞×e5
d×e5 42.♗e3 ♗×a2,



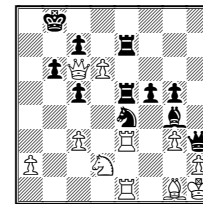
and the a-pawn's advance will soon force
resignation.

The above two examples were not the only
opportunities for an earlier decision. Had
things gone slightly differently at move 45,
Alekhine might have wished he had taken
one of them. In the note to that move, had
White played 45.♛f2-g1 (instead of
45.♞e3×e5), Alekhine wrote that he
intended to continue 45...♜c5-e4:



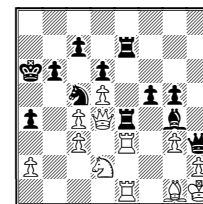
That, however, would have blown up in
his face, and precisely *because of*

transferring the king to a6: 46.c5! (not
46.♜×e4?? as in the note) 46.d×c5
47.♗×a4+ ♜b7 48.♗c6+ ♜b8 49.d6!



49...♜×d2 (not 49...c×d6?? 50.♜×e4 ♞×e4
51.♞b1 ♞b7 52.♗×d6+ and wins)
50.d×c7+ ♞×c7 51.♗b6+ ♜c8 52.♗a6+
etc. with perpetual check.

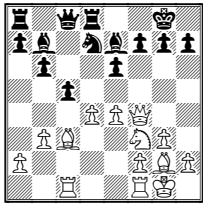
Instead, in the event of 45.♛g1, Black
wins by 45...♞e4!,



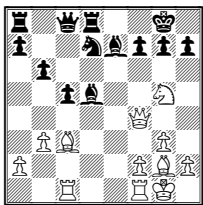
the main variation then being 46.♜×e4
♞×e4 47.♜d2 (if 47.♞×e4?? ♛f3*) 47...f4
48.g×f4 ♛f3+ 49.♞×f3 ♗×f3+ 50.♗g2
♗×g2+ 51.♜×g2 ♞×e1 +- . Interestingly,
Skinner & Verhoeven's massive collection
*Alexander Alekhine's Chess Games, 1902-
1946* gives this continuation, apparently
taken from Alekhine's notes in the
Schweizerische Schachzeitung of 1929.
How the erroneous variation got into the
book ten years later, we cannot say.

As for why Alekhine chose to play in the
style he did in this game, his motive, rather
than pleasure in protracting White's agony,
may have been purely practical. This was
one of three clock simul games, and the
king walk would have allowed Alekhine to
play quickly and without risk, waiting for
the most opportune moment to settle
matters. A further motivation for this
careful policy may have been the fact that,
on another board, he lost against Leonard
Meyer and L. Samuels, resigning at move
27, just about the time he began the king
walk against Kevitz and Pinkus.

*Game 213, Alekhine & Monosson – Stoltz
& Reilly, Consultation Tournament, Nice
1931*: Three careless errors here. In the
note to move 14, after 14...♜d7 15.e4
♛b7,

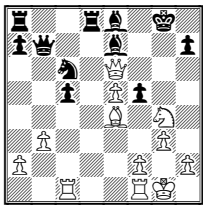


White should avoid the wrongly exclaimed 16.d5 in favor of, say, 16.dxc5, because after 16.d5?! exd5 17.exd5 Black can play 17...Qxd5 with impunity, since the supposedly winning reply, 18.g5, does not win:

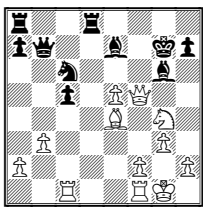


Black plays 18...Qf6, simultaneously defending the f-pawn and the Qd5, and while White can stir up some momentary complications – e.g. 19.Bfe1 Qd6 20.Qh5 etc. – they eventually peter out to equality.

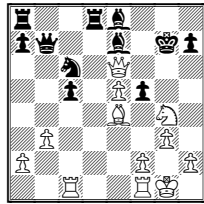
Another non-winning winner is found in the note to Black's 18th move, which gives 18...Qc6 19.Qxg7! Qxg7 20.Qh6+ Qg8 21.e5 f6 22.Qe4! f5 23.Qxe6+,



to be “followed by Qxf5 etc., winning.” This would hold true if Black replies 23...Qf7 or 23...Qf8, but against 23...Qh8 or 23...Qg7 (best), it would fail to 24...Qg6!,



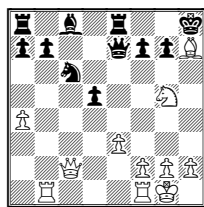
when the attack is parried and Black stands equal after 25.Qf4 Qxe4 26.Qxe4 Bd4 27.Qe2. After 23...Qg7



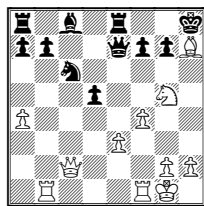
instead of 24.Qxf5?, White wins instead with, among other possibilities, 24.Qh6! forcing either 24...Qg5 25.Qxf5+ etc., or 24...Qg6 25.Qxc6+.

Game 214, Alekhine & Monosson – Flohr & Reilly, Consultation

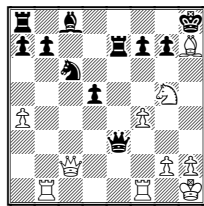
Tournament, Nice 1931: The note at Black's 18th move goes wrong right away in the main variation. After 18...Qe7,



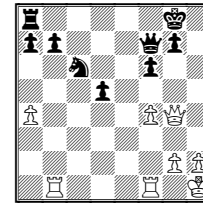
best is 19.Qg8! f5 20.Qf7 Bf8 21.Qxd5 Qxg5 22.Qxc6 Qe7 (22...bxc6? 23.Qxc6 Qe6 24.Qxe6) 23.Qf3, and White wins easily. In contrast, the note continuation 19.f4 immediately hits a snag.



Black need not reply as given with 19...f6?; better is 19...Qxe3+ 20.Qh1 Bf7

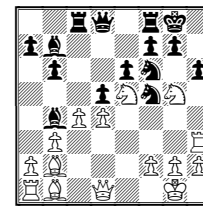


21.Qg6 (if 21.Qg8 g6 22.Qxf7 Qf5 23.Qd1 Qxb1 24.Qxb1 Qe5! 25.Qxg6 [not 25.fxe5? Qxg5=] 25...Qxg6 26.Qxg6 Bf8 and White must force perpetual check: 27.Qh6+ Qg8 28.Qg6+ etc.) 21...f6 22.Qf7+ Qg8 23.Qd6 Qg4 24.Qf7+ Bxf7 25.Qxf7 Qe7 26.Qg6 Qxf7 27.Qxg4

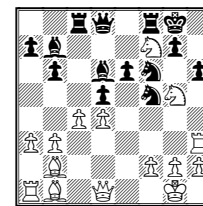


and while White stands better, he has a long way to go to win.

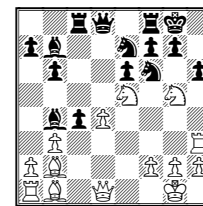
Game 216, Tartakower & Cukiermann – Alekhine & Turover, Consultation Game, Paris, 1931: The note at White's 17th move is correct that 17.Bh3 would not work, but does not give the real refutation.



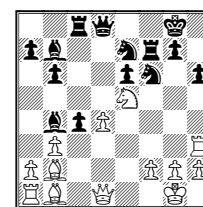
The given move 17...Qf5 leads only to a muddled equality after 18.a3 Qd6 19.Qexf7



19...Qe7 (if 19...Bxf7? 20.Qxe6 Qe7 21.Qxf5±) 20.Qxf5 exf5 21.Bf3 Qxh2+ 22.Qxh2 Qc7+ 23.Qg1 Qg4 24.Bg3 hxg5 25.Qxg5=. Instead, Black can win with 17...dxc4!,

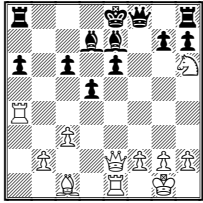


18.Qgx7 (if 18.bxc4 hxg5 safely) 18...Bxf7,

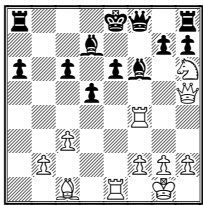


and either 19.bxc4 ♖f8 when White has no compensation for the sacrificed piece, or 19.♗f7 ♜f7 20.bxc4 ♜xc4 21.a3 ♗d6 22.♗a2 ♜c8 23.♖e2 ♗d7 24.♞e1 ♗d5, when Black's knights will be stronger than White's rook.

Game 217, Alekhine – Borochow, blindfold simul, Hollywood, 1932: The note at White's 19th move can be improved. After 19...♖f8 20.♗h6+ ♜e8,

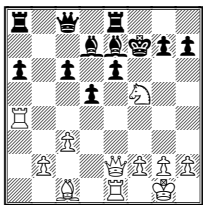


rather than 21.♗g4, which yields a relatively small advantage after 21...♗d6 (about +0.79), best is 21.♞f4!, viz. 21...♗f6 22.♖h5+



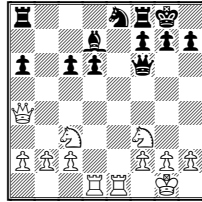
and either (a) 22...♗d8 23.♗f7+ etc., or (b) 22...g6 23.♖g4 e5 (if 23...♖e7 24.♞xf6 ♖xf6 25.♗g5 ♖f8 26.♞xe6+ ♗xe6 27.♖xe6+ ♖e7 28.♖xe7#) 24.♞xe5+ ♗d8 25.♞xf6 ♗xg4 26.♞xf8+ ♞xf8 27.♗xg4+-.

At move 20, while the text continuation 20.♖h5+ was quite good enough to win, it bears mentioning that White did have a forced mate:



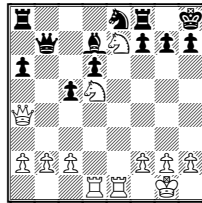
20.♗h6+! g×h6 21.♖h5+ ♜g8 22.♞g4+ ♗g5 23.♖xh6 ♞f8 24.♗xg5 ♖e8 25.♗f6+ ♖g6 26.♞xg6+ ♜f7 27.♖g7+ ♜e8 28.♖e7#.

Game 218, Alekhine – Kimura, blindfold simul, Tokyo, 1933: The note at move 15 can be improved. After 15...♖f6,



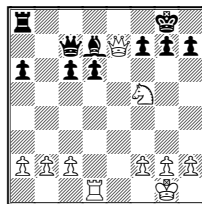
the given continuation 16.♗e5 does not lead to any clear advantage after 16...dxe5 17.♞xd7 ♖e6 18.♞d3 ♗f6 19.f4 ♗d7. Instead, White can win an important pawn by 16.♗e4 ♖g6 17.♗xd6! ♗xd6 18.♗e5 ♖e6 19.♖b4 c5 (worse is 20...♗c8 21.♖xd6 ♖xa2 22.♗xc6) 20.♖xc5 ♗b5 21.♖xd6 ♖xa2 22.♖b4.

The note variation at Black's 16th move goes wrong at the end. After 16...c5 17.♗c6 ♖c7 18.♗d5! ♖b7 19.♗ce7+ ♖h8,



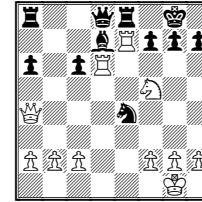
20.♖h4?! simply allows 20...♖xb2 with impunity, since if 21.♞e4 as intended, then 21...h6 and White has no attack. Instead, correct and decisive is 20.♖f4!, threatening mate starting with 21.♗g6+!. Relatively best then is 20...♗c7 21.♖xd6 ♗xd5 22.♖xd5 ♖xd5 23.♞xd5 ♗e6 24.♞xc5 and White is up two pawns.

The note variation at Black's 18th move is not as good for White as claimed. After 18...♞fe8 19.♗e4! ♗xe4 20.♖xe4 ♞xe7 21.♖xe7,

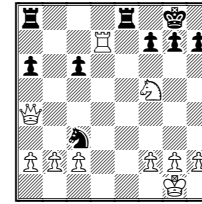


not 21...♞e8?, but 21...d5, and if 22.♗d6 ♞f8 and Black is safe for the time being.

An outright howler occurs in the note to Black's 20th move. After 20...♗xe4,

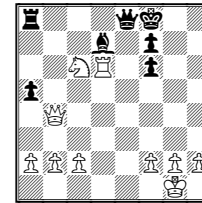


the given continuation 21.♞dx6? would have allowed Black to draw by 21...♖xd7! 22.♞xd7 ♗c3!,

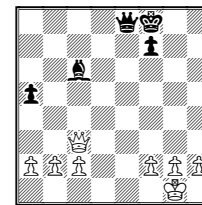


and the threats of 23...♞e1# and 23...♗x4 force White to take perpetual check: 23.♗h6+ ♖h8 (not 23...g×h6?? 24.♖g4+) 24.♗f7+ ♜g8 25.♗h6+ etc. Correct instead is (from previous diagram) the straightforward 21.♖xe4 ♞xe7 22.♗xe7+ ♜f8 23.♗xc6 and White is two pawns up.

Finally, an alternative in the note to Black's 21st move bears mentioning. After 21...♞f8 22.♗xh7+ ♜g8 23.♗f6+ ♜f8 24.♗xe7 g×f6 25.♗xc6 ♖e8 26.♖b4 a5,



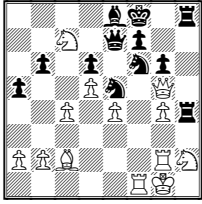
why not the simple 27.♗a5, leaving White four pawns up, three of them passed and connected? The move given, 27.♖c3, loses the knight to 27...♞c8 28.♞xf6 ♞xc6 29.♞xc6 ♗xc6,



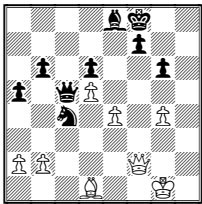
and though White should be able to win the ending after forcing queens off by 30.♖h8+, most players would probably prefer not giving up the knight.

Game 219, Kashdan & Phillips –

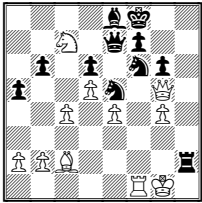
Alekhine & Wahrburg, consultation, New York, 1933: The note variation after Black's 30th move can be improved significantly. After 31. ♖xc7,



rather than 31... ♖xh2, best by far is 31... ♖xc7 32. ♗xf6 ♖c5+ 33. ♖ff2 ♖xh2 34. ♖xh2 ♖xh2 35. ♔d1 (if 35. ♖xh2 ♖xg4+) 35... ♖xf2 36. ♗xf2 ♖xc4,

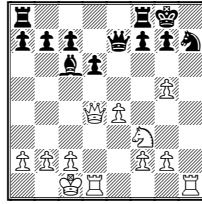


leaving Black up a full piece with a trivially easy ending (about -4.75). This is a much greater advantage than is provided by the note line because, after (from previous diagram) 31... ♖xh2 32. ♖xh2 ♖xh2,



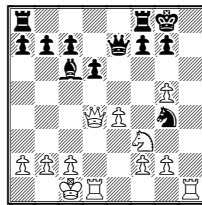
White need not play 33. ♖xe8?; better is 33. ♖xh2 ♖fxg4+ 34. ♖g3 ♖xc7 (if 34... ♖xg5? 35. ♖e6+!) 35. b3, and Black has much less of a superiority (about -1.62).

Game 220, Alekhine-van Mindeno, simul, Amsterdam, 1933: Rybka indicates that the sacrifice at move 11 is actually unsound. The crucial point is at Black's 13th move, where Alekhine claimed that after any knight move the doubling of White's rooks on the h-file would prove decisive. This is not true. First, after 13... ♖f6-h7!,

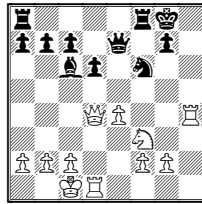


if 14. ♖h4 ♖fe8 15. ♖dh1?, simply 15... ♔xe4-+. White can try instead, say, 15.g6, but after 15... ♖f8 16.gxf7+ ♖xf7 17. ♖dh1 ♖g6 the attack is repulsed and Black is still a piece up. Or if 15. ♖e1 to defend the e-pawn, then 15... ♖e6! (threatening 16... ♖xa2) 16. ♖b1 ♖g6 and again Black is fine.

Also satisfactory is 13... ♖g4,

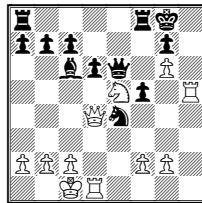


when if 14. ♖h4 f5 15.gxf6 ♖f6



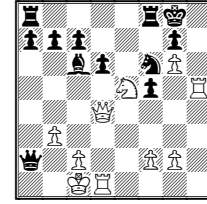
White has no good way to pursue the attack, viz. 16. ♖dh1? ♖xe4, or 16. ♖g5 ♖xe4 17. ♖c4+ ♖f7 18. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 19. ♖dh1 ♖f8 20. ♖xf7 ♖xf7 with two pieces for a rook, or 16.e5 ♔xf3 17.exf6 ♖xf6 18.gxf3 ♖xd4 19. ♖hx d4 ♖xf3 and Black is up a pawn.

Even the text move 13... ♖xe4 seems OK, as Black could have improved later on, in the variation of the note to move 14. After 14. ♖h5 f5! 15.g6 ♖e6 16. ♖e5,



not immediately 16... ♖f6?!, but first 16... ♖xa2! (which Alekhine must have overlooked when he wrote "otherwise 17. ♖dh1 etc.", since the "etc." would be

17... ♖a1 ♯), forcing 17.b3, and only then 17... ♖f6,



leading to two main branches with long forced continuations: (a) 18. ♖xc6 bxc6 19. ♖h4 ♖fe8 20. ♖dh1 ♖f8 21. ♖h8+ ♖e7 22. ♖h7 ♖d8 (if 22... ♖xh7? 23. ♖xg7+) 23. ♖xg7 ♖d5 24. ♖f7 ♖c8 25.g7 ♖b7 26. ♖xf5 ♖e2 27. ♖b2 ♖xb2+ 28. ♖xb2 ♖g8 29. ♖h7 ♖e7 30.c4 (if 30. ♖g5? ♖f6) 30... ♖b4 31. ♖g5 ♖d3+ 32. ♖c2 ♖xf2, and Black is winning; (b) 18. ♖h2 ♖fe8 (probably as good, and certainly clearer, than the complications ensuing from 18... ♔e4!? 19. ♖c4+ d5 20. ♖f7 etc.) 19. ♖c4+ ♔d5 20. ♖xd5 ♖a1+ 21. ♖d2 ♖e4+ 22. ♖e2 ♖c3 23. ♖d4+ ♖xc4+ 24. ♖xc4 d5 25. ♖d2 c5 26. ♖d3 ♖f6+ and Black is a sound pawn up (-1.06).