

**TIBOR KAROLYI**

**ALEKHINE'S REMARKABLE  
GAMES**

**VOLUME I: (1902-1921)**

**Alekhine's Remarkable Games – Volume I: 1902-1921**

**Author: Tibor Karolyi**

Typesetting by Andrei Elkov

© Elk and Ruby and Tibor Karolyi, 2026. All rights reserved

Follow us on Twitter/X: @ilan\_ruby

[www.elkandruby.com](http://www.elkandruby.com)

ISBN 978-1-916839-65-6 (paperback); 978-5-6047848-0-8 (hardback)

## Contents

Index of Games .....	4
Index of Remarkable Ideas.....	7
Author’s Preface .....	9
1902 .....	11
1905 .....	17
1906 .....	23
1907 .....	35
1908 .....	48
1909 .....	65
1910 .....	82
1911 .....	97
1912 .....	111
1913 .....	129
1914 .....	148
1915 .....	191
1916 .....	199
1917 .....	206
1918 .....	208
1919 .....	216
1920 .....	225
1921 .....	233
Remarkable Ideas .....	283
Remarkable Ideas – Answers .....	304
Epilogue .....	349

## Index of Games

<b>Game</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Opening</b>	<b>Year</b>
1	Alekhine	Kraichik	Fragment	1902
2	Alekhine	Malkov	Spanish Opening	1902
3	Alekhine	Utkin	Fragment	1902
4	Alekhine	Geish-Ollisevich	King's Gambit	1905
5	Alekhine	Urusov	Vienna Game	1905
6	Zhukovsky	Alekhine	Vienna Game	1905
7	Alekhine	Liubimov	Fragment	1906
8	Liubimov	Alekhine	Spanish Opening	1906
9	Alekhine	Manko	Four Knights Opening	1906
10	Shavrov	Alekhine	Fragment	1906
11	Viakhirev	Alekhine	Vienna Game	1906
12	Alekhine	Rozanov	Fragment	1907
13	Alekhine	Parfenov	Owen's Defence	1907
14	Alekhine	Isakov	Ponziani Opening	1907
15	Alekhine	NN	Fragment	1907
16	Seleznev V	Alekhine	Fragment	1907
17	Alekhine	Rubtsov	French Defence	1908
18	Kade	Alekhine	Irregular Opening	1908
19	Trcala	Alekhine	Fragment	1908
20	Alekhine	Gajdos	Fragment	1908
21	Lasker Ed	Alekhine	Fragment	1908
22	Von Bardeleben	Alekhine	Philidor Defence	1908
23	Alekhine	Blumenfeld	Fragment	1908 (m/1)
24	Blumenfeld	Alekhine	Philidor Defence	1908 (m/2)
25	Alekhine	Rozanov	Owen's Defence	1908
26	Nenarokov	Alekhine	Philidor Defence	1908
27	Alekhine	Favorsky	Spanish Opening	1909
28	Alekhine	Rozanov	Irregular Opening	1909
29	Tereshchenko	Alekhine	Fragment	1909
30	Alekhine	Gregory	Vienna Game	1909
31	Verlinsky	Alekhine	Spanish Opening	1909
32	Lebedev	Alekhine	Fragment	1909
33	Maliutin	Alekhine	Fragment	1909
34	Alekhine	Liubimov	Fragment	1909
35	Andreev	Alekhine	Fragment	1909
36	Trublenkov/Polzikov/ Sladkov	Alekhine	Fragment	1910
37	Speijer	Alekhine	Fragment	1910
38	Duz-Khotimirsky	Alekhine	Fragment	1910
39	Alekhine	Leonhardt	Fragment	1910

<b>Game</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Opening</b>	<b>Year</b>
40	Alekhine	Yates	Queen's Gambit	1910
41	Alekhine	Tartakower	Dutch Defence	1910
42	Alekhine	Vidmar	Four Knights Game	1911
43	Alekhine	Schlechter	Scandinavian Defence	1911
44	Alekhine	Salwe	Fragment	1911
45	Alekhine	Chajes	English Opening	1911
46	Alekhine	Cohn	Fragment	1911
47	Nimzowitsch	Alekhine	Fragment	1911
48	Alekhine	Levenfish	Benoni Defence	1912
49	Alekhine	Bernstein	Fragment	1912
50	Alekhine	Levenfish	Sicilian Defence	1912
51	Alekhine	Bernstein	Sicilian Defence	1912
52	Levenfish	Alekhine	Spanish Opening	1912
53	Alekhine	Cohn	Scotch Game	1912
54	Rodzinski	Alekhine	Italian Opening	1913
55	Alekhine	Levitsky	King's Gambit	1913 (m/2)
56	Alekhine	Levitsky	Fragment	1913 (m/6)
57	Alekhine	Levitsky	Vienna Game	1913 (m/8)
58	Levitsky	Alekhine	Fragment	1913 (m/9)
59	Alekhine	Duras	Spanish Opening	1913
60	Znosko-Borovsky	Alekhine	Spanish Opening	1913
61	Mieses	Alekhine	Fragment	1913
62	Lasker Ed	Alekhine	Four Knights Game	1913
63	Salwe	Alekhine	Fragment	1914
64	Alekhine	Nimzowitsch	Fragment	1914
65	Freiman	Alekhine	Queen's Gambit	1914
66	Lebedev	Alekhine	Dutch Defence	1914
67	Znosko-Borovsky	Alekhine	Fragment	1914
68	Nimzowitsch	Alekhine	Fragment	1914 (m/1)
69	Alekhine	Nimzowitsch	Fragment	1914 (m/2)
70	Alekhine	Lasker Em	Four Knights Game	1914
71	Gunsberg	Alekhine	Italian Opening	1914
72	Nimzowitsch	Alekhine	Fragment	1914
73	Alekhine	Marshall	Petroff Defence	1914
74	Rubinstein	Alekhine	Nimzo-Indian Defence	1914
75	Lasker Em	Alekhine	Scandinavian Defence	1914
76	Lasker Em	Alekhine	Fragment	1914
77	Alekhine	Tarrasch	King's Gambit	1914
78	Tarrasch	Alekhine	French Defence	1914
79	Post	Alekhine	Fragment	1914
80	Flamberg	Alekhine	Fragment	1914
81	Alekhine	Tarrasch	Fragment	1914

<b>Game</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Opening</b>	<b>Year</b>
82	Alekhine	Fahrni	French Defence	1914
83	Alekhine	Litov	Fragment	1915
84	Levashov	Alekhine	Fragment	1915
85	Rabinovich I	Alekhine	Ponziani Opening	1915
86	Grigoriev	Alekhine	French Defence	1915
87	Szwarcman	Alekhine	Fragment	1916
88	Alekhine	Greenberg	Fragment	1916
89	Evenson	Alekhine	Philidor Defence	1916
90	Alekhine	Rozanov/Simson	Danish Gambit	1917
91	Bernstein	Alekhine	Fragment	1918
92	Alekhine	Rabinovich	Petroff Defence	1918
93	Rabinovich	Alekhine	Fragment	1918
94	Gonsiorovsky	Alekhine	Bishop's Opening	1918
95	Alekhine	Kaufmann	Fragment	1919
96	Alekhine	Isakov	Danish Gambit	1919
97	Alekhine	Grigoriev	Fragment	1919
98	Alekhine	Champion	Scandinavian Defence	1920
99	Alekhine	Levenfish	Fragment	1920
100	Alekhine	Kubbel A	Spanish Opening	1920
101	Rabinovich	Alekhine	Fragment	1920
102	Alekhine	Grigoriev	Fragment	1921
103	Grigoriev	Alekhine	Fragment	1921
104	Wegemund/Brennert/ Friedrich	Alekhine	Fragment	1921
105	Alekhine	Teichmann	Fragment	1921
106	Alekhine	Teichmann	Fragment	1921
107	Alekhine	Saemisch	English Opening	1921
108	Bogoljubov	Alekhine	Fragment	1921
109	Seleznev	Alekhine	Fragment	1921
110	Alekhine	Bogoljubov	Queen's Indian Defence	1921
111	Alekhine	Seleznev	Irregular Opening	1921
112	Alekhine	Bogoljubov	Bogo-Indian Defence	1921
113	Alekhine	Vajda	Fragment	1921
114	Alekhine	Sterk	Queen's Gambit	1921
115	Alekhine	Tartakower	Fragment	1921
116	Steiner	Alekhine	Alekhine Defence	1921
117	Alekhine	Balla	Fragment	1921
118	Alekhine	Davidson	Fragment	1921
119	Marco	Alekhine	Fragment	1921
120	Yates	Alekhine	Fragment	1921
121	Alekhine	Rubinstein	Queen's Gambit	1921

## Index of Remarkable Ideas

A1 Alekhine-Antushev	1902
A2 Alekhine-Vinogradov	1902
A3 Alekhine-Urusov	1905
A4 Alekhine-Gaidukevich	1907
A5 Gaidukevich-Alekhine	1907
A6 Duz-Khotimirsky-Alekhine/Alekhine/Isakov	1907
A7 Shaposhnikov-Alekhine	1908
A8 Liubimov-Alekhine	1908
A9 Liubimov-Alekhine	1908
A10 Alekhine-Koehnlein	1908
A11 Alekhine-Blumenfeld	1908
A12 Alekhine/Bernstein-Rubinstein/Goncharov	1909
A13 Alekhine-Izbinsky	1909
A14 Rotlewi-Alekhine	1909
A15 Alekhine-Pavlov-Pianov	1909
A16 Kan-Alekhine	1909
A17 Alekhine-Gutkevitsch	1910
A18 Alekhine-Ostrogsky	1910
A19 John-Alekhine	1910
A20 Pavlov-Pianov-Alekhine	1911
A21 Andreev-Alekhine	1911
A22 Bachrach/Schapiro/Wolfrum-Alekhine	1911
A23 Alekhine-NN	1911
A24 Alekhine-NN	1911
A25 Alekhine-Freiman	1911
A26 Alekhine-Tenner	1911
A27 Alapin-Alekhine	1911
A28 Alekhine-Duz-Khotimirsky	1911
A29 Potemkin-Alekhine	1912
A30 Alekhine/Esser-Levenfish/Freiman	1912
A31 Rabinovich,A-Alekhine	1912
A32 Nimzowitsch-Alekhine	1912
A33 Spielmann-Alekhine	1912
A34 Nyholm-Alekhine	1912
A35 Znosko-Borovsky-Alekhine	1912
A36 Teichmann-Alekhine	1913
A37 Alekhine/Blumenfeld-Bernstein/Seleznev	1913
A38 Alekhine-Schelfhout	1913
A39 Speijer-Alekhine	1913
A40 Alekhine-Breyer	1913
A41 Alekhine—Janowski	1913

A42 Lasker,Ed-Alekhine	1913
A43 Alekhine-Prat	1913
A44 Alekhine-Levitsky	1914
A45 Hallegua-Alekhine	1914
A46 Alekhine-NN	1914
A47 Alekhine-Bogoljubov	1914
A48 Bogoljubov-Alekhine	1914
A49 Alekhine-Bogoljubov	1914
A50 Alapin-Alekhine	1914
A51 Alekhine-Hallegua	1914
A52 Alekhine-Krueger	1914
A53 Alekhine-Breyer	1914
A54 Alekhine-Isakov/Tselikov	1915
A55 Alekhine-Krauz	1915
A56 Alekhine-Tselikov	1915
A57 Alekhine-Zubarev	1915
A58 Alekhine-Fischer	1916
A59 Alekhine-NN	1918
A60 Alekhine-Rabinovich,A	1918
A61 Alekhine-Evenson	1918
A62 Alekhine-Verlinsky	1918
A63 Alekhine-Verlinsky	1918
A64 Alekhine-Iglitsky	1919
A65 Grigoriev-Alekhine	1919
A66 Liubimov-Alekhine	1919
A67 Grigoriev-Alekhine	1920
A68 Ilyin-Zhenevsky-Alekhine	1920
A69 Golubev-Alekhine	1920
A70 Alekhine-Saemisch	1921
A71 Alekhine-Brinckmann	1921
A72 Saemisch-Alekhine	1921
A73 Alekhine and team-Bogoljubov and team	1921
A74 Maroczy-Alekhine	1921
A75 Alekhine-Euwe	1921
A76 Alekhine-Euwe	1921
A77 Alekhine-Resser	1921
A78 Alekhine-Bosscha	1921

## Author's Preface

Sergey Voronkov has written a truly outstanding series on the fourth world champion, *Alexander Alekhine – The Russian Sphinx*, offering a comprehensive and meticulously documented account of both his life and his chess career. As of the time of writing, the first volume has already been published and the other volumes are on their way.

Through extensive archival research, Voronkov has succeeded in uncovering numerous previously unknown details concerning the great Russian champion — insights that, in some cases, Alekhine himself might no longer have retained in his memory. We now know a great deal more about Alekhine the man than we ever did, and much of what we thought we knew has been turned on its head.

The first volume of Voronkov's work made a deep impression on me, even though its analytical scope in terms of annotated games was intentionally selective, comprising just 52 encounters. It was in this context that the publishers Elk and Ruby invited me to prepare a complementary volume, conceived in the spirit of a games collection that would harmonize chronologically with Voronkov's biographical study.

Originally, I wanted to avoid substantial overlap with the games already examined in Voronkov's study, but their relatively small number led me to change my mind, and I instead aimed for a comprehensive coverage of Alekhine's career in this book.

In my own series, rather than consistently presenting complete games, I frequently concentrate on critical fragments and decisive phases. The rationale for this approach is primarily pedagogical and historical: many opening systems from the first half of the twentieth century have limited relevance for contemporary theory. Although Alekhine's genius is beyond dispute, the overall standard of chess prior to the Second World War was necessarily lower than in later decades. Consequently, even his games contain a greater number of technical inaccuracies when compared with those of the champions of the 1950s. For this reason, the present work concentrates on those moments in which Alekhine's creative power, strategic imagination, or tactical brilliance manifests most clearly.

When I submitted a large part of Volume One, my publisher liked it and suggested expanding the series to three volumes. I happily agreed: Alekhine's games are so rich and captivating that even many volumes can be filled with interesting material.

Altogether, Elk and Ruby has undertaken a huge project, devoting seven books to the fourth world champion. His life was full of extreme events — he may have been murdered, he faced a death sentence, and he produced many masterpieces at the chessboard. I think that such a life and career justify so many volumes. Perhaps no chess career has ever been investigated in such depth.

I also take special personal joy in this project: with these three volumes, the number of my books devoted to great Russian and Soviet players will reach twenty-four in total. That is a landmark that I could hardly have imagined before, and it means a great deal to me.

World champions may be classified according to numerous criteria, one of the most significant being their instructional value. All great players have enriched chess in fundamental ways; however, certain styles lend themselves more readily to systematic study and practical emulation than others. For example, it is considerably easier to adopt the methodical approach of Mikhail Botvinnik than to reproduce the intuitive dynamism of Mikhail Tal. Alekhine occupies a special place in this spectrum: his games are renowned for their breathtaking attacking power and original tactical vision.

It is undeniable that Russia has been the most successful country in chess history; the record number of world champions and their overwhelming lead in Olympic team gold medals strongly support this claim. Furthermore, if one had to name the most historically important chess city in the world, it would undoubtedly be Moscow. Alexander Alekhine was the pioneer, becoming the first world champion from Russia and the first from the Russian capital.

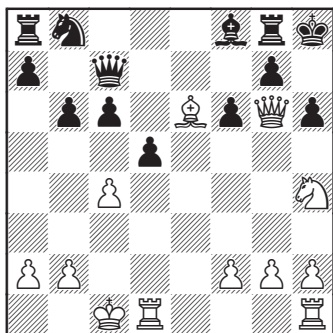
His achievements likely influenced the Soviet authorities to invest heavily in the game. Sadly, these days the nation is more preoccupied with the battlefield than the chessboard, and while the level of Russian chess has deteriorated, its players' historical contribution to the game's development remains unparalleled. This legacy did not start with Alekhine — masters like Petrov and Chigorin were brilliant — yet Alekhine's impact was arguably stronger than that of his predecessors.

It is my hope that the present volume will enable readers to engage more deeply with this remarkable legacy. The book is recommended not only to admirers of creative chess, but especially to those who have already studied Voronkov's seminal work.

**International Master Tibor Karolyi,**  
Soltvadkert, 6 March 2026

Black is completely lost.

18...♖c7 19.♙e6+ ♚h7 20.♘h4  
♜g8 21.♗g6+ ♚h8



22.♙f5 1–0

One rarely loses with such a miserable position in the end.

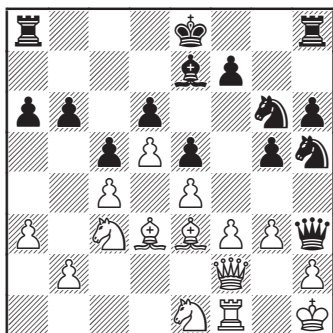
In the next two games, Alekhine scored 1.5 points. He was very fortunate; he could have easily scored zero.

### GAME 29

Tereshchenko, N – Alekhine, A

All-Russian Amateur Championship

St Petersburg, 1909



20...♘gf4!!

This brilliant knight move opens the g-file or enables the f5 advance. Alekhine correctly feels the need to act immediately — if White were

allowed time, the rook could swing to g1, and with all pawns intact, his extra exchange would count for little. Remarkably, Alekhine already has four developed pieces, though two remain awkwardly on the board's edge.

21.gxf4

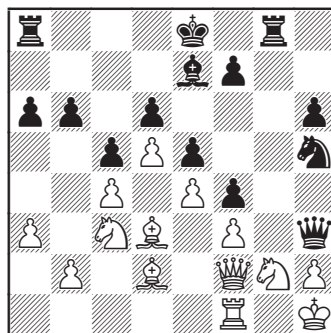
After 21.♙c2 ♘xg3+ would win. If 21.♜g1 ♘xd3 22.♘xd3 f5 would win. If 21.♙e2 ♘xe2 22.♘e2 f5 23.exf5 ♘f6 (which is more precise than the 23...e4 24.fxe4 ♘f6 move order) 24.g4 e4 25.♘g1 ♗h4 Black's advantage is sufficient to win.

21...gxf4 22.♙d2 ♜g8

22...♘g3+ would be more decisive. 23.♚g1 ♜g8 24.♗g2 ♗h5 and Black would win after 25.♚f2 ♘xe4+ or 25.hxg3 ♜xg3 or 25.♜f2 ♙h4.

23.♘g2?

This mistake makes the position clearly lost. After 23.♜g1 ♘g3+ 24.♜xg3 ♜xg3 25.♙f1 (25.♗f1 ♗h5) 25...♗h5 26.♙g2 White is clearly worse, though Black may not yet be fully winning.



23...♙h4

Alekhine wins White's queen.

24.♘d1

After 24.♘xh4 ♘g3+ wins.

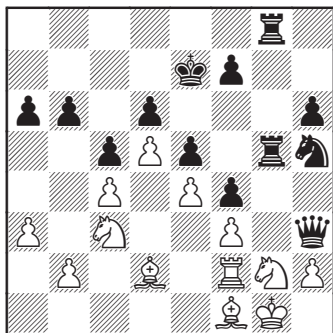
24...♙xf2 25.♖xf2 ♖g5!

Alekhine prepares to exert pressure along the g-file.

26.♔g1 ♔e7 27.♙f1

After 27.♔f1 ♖ag8 would win.

27...♖ag8 28.♘c3



28...♘g3

This elegant move not only targets the elimination of the f1-bishop, but also sets up a potential checkmate with a queen sacrifice on h2.

29.hxg3

If 29.♙d3 ♖xh2+ checkmates.

29...♖h5 30.♖e2

If 30.♘h4 ♖xh4 wins.

30...fxg3 0-1

White resigns, caught on the kingside. After 30...♖xg3 31.♔f2 ♖xf3+ 32.♔e1 ♖xf1+, mate is inevitable.

### GAME 30

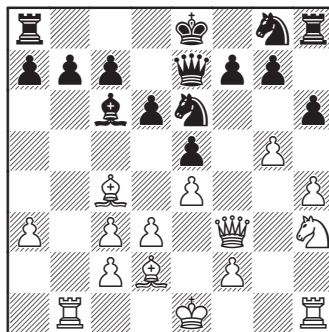
Alekhine, A – Gregory, B

All-Russian Amateur Championship

St Petersburg, 1909

Vienna Game

1.e4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♙c4 ♘c6  
4.d3 ♙b4 5.♙g5 ♘d4 6.a3 ♙xc3+  
7.bxc3 ♘e6 8.h4! h6 9.♙d2 d6 10.♖f3  
♙d7 11.g4 ♖e7 12.g5 ♘g8 13.♖b1  
♙c6 14.♘h3



14...♔d7?

Black ventures a risky approach by leaving his king in the centre. The position would remain balanced after 14...hxg5 15.♘xg5 or 14...0-0-0 15.♙d5 (15.♖g4 ♔b8) 15...♙xd5 16.exd5 ♘c5

15.♖g4!

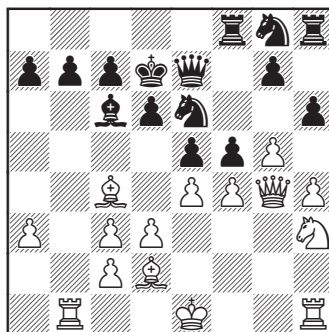
Alekhine pins the knight and prepares to advance the f-pawn.

15...♖f8?!

After 15...♖e8 16.f4 ♔c8 17.f5 ♘d8 18.f6+ ♖d7 19.fxg7 ♖h7 20.♖g1 hxg5 21.♖xa7 ♖g4 22.♙xg5 White would be slightly better.

16.f4 f5??

This aggressive move loses. Black can stay in the game with 16...♔c8 17.f5 h5 18.♖g2 ♘c5, though White still has a clear advantage.



17. **exf5!**

This exchange sacrifice wins, as White's queen will invade and the pawn on e6 will become a powerhouse.

17... **g1** 18. **fxe6+ ♖c8**

Black also loses after 18... **♔e8** 19. **fxe5 dxe5** 20. **♚g1** or 18... **♚d8** 19. **fxe5 ♕f3** 20. **♚d4**.

19. **♚g1!**

This double attack is devastating.

19... **c6** 20. **♚xa7**

The queen moves dangerously close to the black king.

20... **c5**

Black prevents the taking of the b7-pawn, but only temporarily. After 20... **b5** 21. **♚a8+ ♔c7** 22. **♚a5+ ♔c8** 23. **a4** his position collapses.

21. **d4**

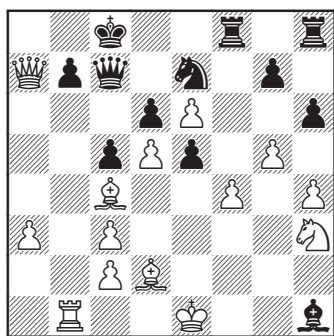
Alekhine seeks to restrict the h1-bishop.

21... **♚c7**

If 21... **cxd4** 22. **cxd4 b5** (22... **exd4** 23. **♚a8+**) 23. **♚a6+ ♚b7** 24. **♚xd6** White wins.

22. **d5 ♘e7**

On 22... **♚b8** 23. **♚xb7** or 23. **♚a4** would win.

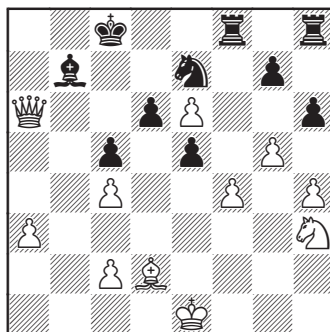


23. **♚xb7!**

This capture doesn't deliver checkmate; it simply leads to a completely winning position.

23... **♚xb7** 24. **♕a6 ♕xd5** 25. **c4**  
White can win at will.

25... **♚xa6** 26. **♚xa6+ ♕b7**



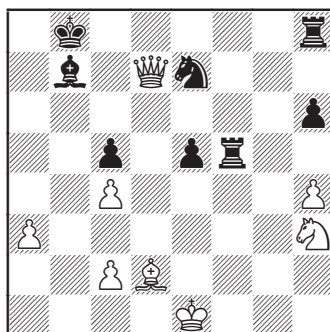
27. **♚xd6**

Black's central pawn chain is on the verge of falling.

27... **♘c6** 28. **gxh6 gxh6** 29. **f5**

White is ready to win material, with options like 29. **♚xc5** or 29. **♕e3** all decisive.

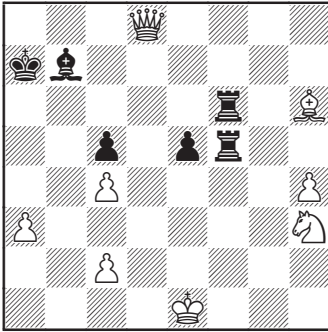
29... **♚xf5** 30. **♚d7+ ♔b8** 31. **e7 ♘xe7**



32. **♚xe7**

Ahead in material, White also threatens to exploit the soon-to-be vulnerable black king.

32... **♚hf8** 33. **♚d6+ ♔a8** 34. **♕xh6 ♚f6** 35. **♚d8+ ♔a7**



36. ♔e3

The black king is about to be caught by White

36... ♖f3 37. ♔xc5+ ♔a6 38. ♗b8  
1-0

The next game is remarkable as it appears to be the first time Alekhine thoroughly prepared his opening. How deeply previous masters prepared is hard to judge, but it was likely not as extensive.

### GAME 31

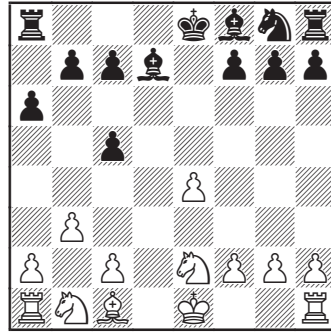
Verlinsky, B – Alekhine, A

All-Russian Amateur Championship  
St Petersburg, 1909

*Spanish Opening*

1.e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♗b5 a6  
4. ♗xc6 dxc6 5.d4 exd4 6. ♗xd4 ♗xd4  
7. ♘xd4 c5 8. ♘e2 ♗d7 9.b3

According to the database, Verlinsky played this move in his first-round game of the same event, and it also appeared in the Lasker – Tarrasch World Championship match of 1908.



9...c4!

Alekhine most likely prepared this imaginative pawn sacrifice to eliminate his doubled pawns. Practice had seen 9... ♗c6 earlier. The pawn sacrifice disrupts White's pawn structure.

10.bxc4

This capture offers no advantage, but allowing the exchange of the doubled pawns would indicate that the opening variation is not dangerous.

10... ♗a4?!

Tactics do not justify Black's ambitions. After 10...f5 or 10... ♗e6 11. ♘d2 0-0-0 12. ♗b2 ♘f6 13.f3 ♗c5 Black has sufficient play for the pawn.

11.c3

Hanging onto the pawn results in a passive position.

a) 11. ♘d4! 0-0-0 12. ♗b2 ♗b4+ (12... ♖e8 13. ♘c3 ♗b4 14.0-0-0 ♗xc3? 15. ♗xc3 ♖xe4? 16. ♘e6 and White is winning.) 13. ♗e2 and the position would be balanced after 13... ♘h6 14.a3 ♗d6 or 13... ♘f6 14.f3 ♖he8.

b) 11. ♘bc3! ♗b4 (If 11... ♗xc2?? 12. ♗d2 would win, or if 11... ♗d7 12. ♗g5 White would have an edge.) 12.0-0! (or 12. ♗d2 0-0-0 (12... ♗xc2? 13. ♖c1) 13.0-0-0 and White would have some advantage.)

b1) 12...♙xc2 13.♘d5 ♙d6 (13...♙a5 14.♙d2) 14.♙b2 f6 15.e5 fxe5 16.c5 and White is winning.

b2) 12...♙xc3 13.♘xc3 ♙xc2 14.♙f4 and Black's position is extremely difficult.

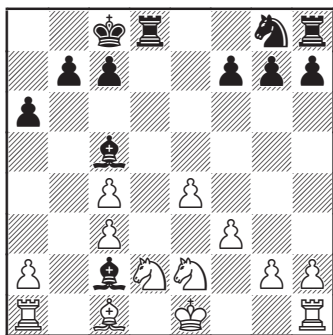
### 11...0-0 12.♘d2

After 12.♘d4 c5 13.♘b3 ♖e8 14.f3 f5 15.♘1d2 ♗f6 Black wins back the pawn, likely gaining a winning advantage.

### 12...♙c2?!

This move allows White to gain a tempo on the bishop on c2. White's position would become very unpleasant after 12...♗f6 13.f3 ♘d7.

### 13.f3 ♙c5



### 14.a4

14.♘d4 ♖xd4 15.cxd4 ♙xd4 16.♖b1 leads to equality. 14.♙b2 followed by ♘d4 would also maintain the balance.

### 14...♗f6 15.♙a3

Verlinsky aims to exchange the c5-bishop. After 15.♘d4 ♙d3 16.♙a3 ♙xd4 17.cxd4 ♖xd4 the game is likely to end in a draw.

### 15...♙e3 16.♗f1

If 16.♘d4 ♙d3 17.c5 ♖he8 18.♘2b3 White seems to escape with a passive position.

### 16...♙a7 17.a5?!

This move is somewhat optimistic, as it ignores development.

a) 17.c5 ♖he8 (17...♙xa4 18.♘d4 and White gets organised.) 18.♘d2 ♙xa4 19.♙b4 and White would remain in the game.

b) 17.♘d4! ♖xd4 (17...♙xe4 18.fxe4 ♗xe4 19.♘g3 ♗xc3 20.♗de2 ♗xa4 and Black has three pawns for the piece, with the endgame looking balanced.) 18.cxd4 ♙xd4 19.♖c1 ♙xa4 20.♘g3 and Black has sufficient play for the exchange.

### 17...♖d3 18.c5?

Verlinsky aims to restrict one of Black's pieces, but chooses the wrong target. 18.♙e7! ♘d7 (18...♖e8 19.♙xf6 gxf6 20.♖c1 ♙b3 21.♗f4 ♖d6 22.♘d2 and White gets away with a draw.) 19.♖c1 ♙a4 20.♗f4 ♗e5 21.♘xd3 ♗xd3+ 22.♗d2 ♗xc1 23.♗xc1 ♖e8 24.♙g5 ♖e5 25.♙e3 and White can hold the position.

### 18...♖hd8 19.♗f2?

White's position is already unpleasant. Verlinsky correctly identifies the problem — he needs to remove the bishop from c2 — but his solution is too slow.

a) 19.♙b4? Ignoring development may be punished. 19...♖d1+! 20.♖xd1 ♖xd1+ 21.♗f2 ♘d7! After 22.♘d4 ♙a4 or 22.♘fg3 ♗xc5 23.♖xd1 ♘d3+ 24.♗f1 ♙xd1 White faces a difficult endgame.

b) 19.♖c1. Perhaps chasing the bishop away immediately is best. 19...♙a4 20.♘fg3 ♘d7 (White would be passive after 20...g6.) 21.♗f4 ♖e3+ 22.♗ge2 (22.♗f2?? ♗xc5) 22...♙b5 23.♗f2 ♗xc5 24.♘d4 ♖xc3 25.♖xc3 ♗a4 and Black is pressing hard.

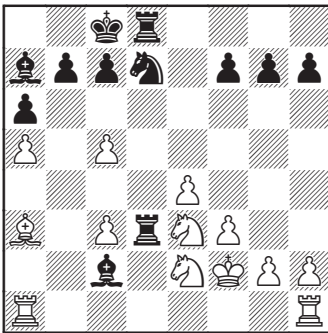
c) 19. ♖fg3 ♘d7 20. ♖f5 (20. ♖f4 ♜xc3 21. ♖d5 ♜b3 with a big advantage for Black) 20... ♘xc5 21. ♙xc5 ♜d1+ (or 21... ♙xc5) 22. ♚f2 ♙xc5+ 23. ♖fd4 and White would still struggle greatly.

d) 19. ♜a2 ♜d1+ 20. ♚f2 ♙b3 21. ♜b2 ♙c4 and White should lose.

**19... ♘d7!**

Alekhine goes for the c5–pawn in time.

**20. ♘e3**



**20... ♘xc5!**

Verlinsky probably missed in his calculations that the bishop on c2 doesn't have to move.

**21. ♘d4**

21. ♘xc2 gets White mated after 21... ♘xe4+ 22. ♚e1 ♜d1+ 23. ♜xd1 ♙f2+ 24. ♚f1 ♜xd1+ 25. ♘e1 ♜xe1.

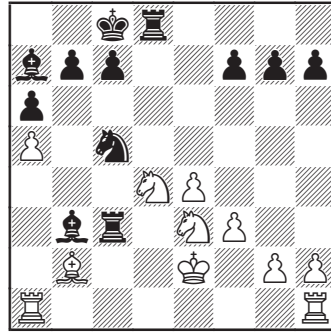
**21... ♙b3**

21... ♜xc3 is more convincing, since if 22. ♖exc2 ♘b3 Black wins.

**22. ♚e2?**

This causes White's position to collapse quickly. 22. ♙xc5 would allow White to play on for longer. After 22... ♙xc5 23. ♜hc1 ♜8xd4 24. cxd4 ♙xd4 25. ♜e1 ♙xa1 26. ♜xa1 Black's extra pawn should be decisive.

**22... ♜xc3 23. ♙b2**



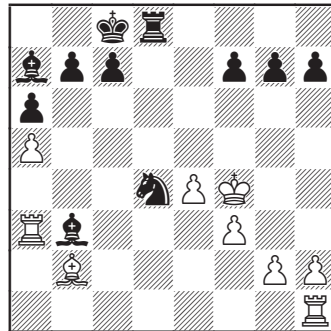
**23... ♜xe3+**

Alekhine wins material.

**24. ♚xe3 ♘e6 25. ♜a3**

If 25. ♜hd1 ♙xd1 26. ♜xd1 c5 would win.

**25... ♘xd4 26. ♚f4**



**26... ♙c5**

Alekhine wants to end the game quickly.

**27. ♜ha1**

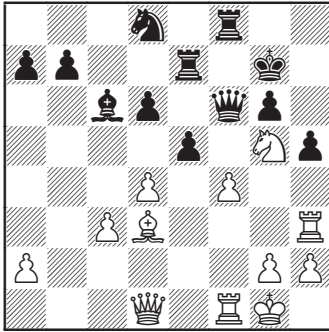
27. ♜aa1 ♘e2+ 28. ♚g5 ♙e7+ 29. ♘h5 ♘f4+ 30. ♚g4 g5 would also be hopeless.

**27... ♘e2+**

Alekhine could win by increasing his material advantage, but keeps attacking the white king.

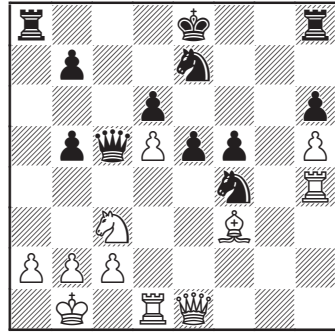
**28. ♚g4 ♙e6+ 0–1**

A51  
**Alekhine,A – Hallegua,B**  
 Quadrangular Tournament Paris  
 (2), 1914



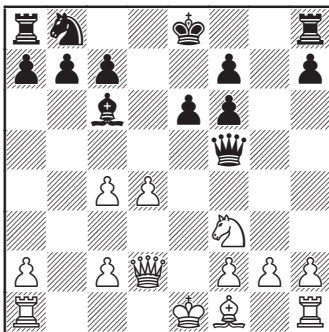
Move 22, White to move

A53  
**Alekhine,A – Breyer,G**  
 DSB Kongress Meisterturnier  
 Mannheim (4), 1914



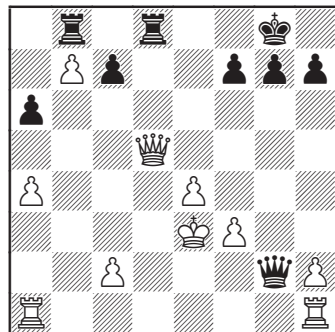
Move 30, White to move

A52  
**Alekhine,A – Krueger,P**  
 DSB Kongress Meisterturnier  
 Mannheim (2), 1914



Move 11, White to move

A54  
**Alekhine,A-Isakov,K/Tselikov,N**  
 Exhibition game Moscow, 1915



Move 23, White to move

42...dxe3 43.♖e2 ♖d4 0–1

Black is about to deliver checkmate.

A49

**Alekhine, A – Bogoljubov, E**

All-Russian Masters (Qualification)

St Petersburg (16), 1914

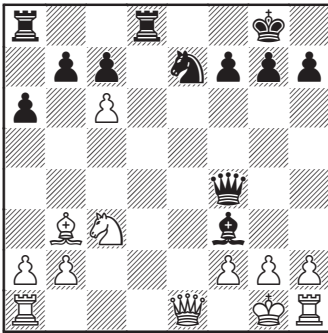
15.♖e1!

Alekhine's subtle move wins a piece.

15...♙g4

If 15...♗xd5 16.♙b3! wins, but 16.♗xd5? fails as 16...♖xa4 would be a strong reply.

16.♙b3 ♖f4 17.dxc6 ♙xf3



18.♖xe7

Alekhine has won a piece and obtained a completely winning position. 18.gxf3 would win as well. Later, Alekhine lost after falling for a clever trap.

18...♙xc6 19.h4 ♖d2 20.♖f1 ♖e8 21.♖g5 ♖xf2 22.♙xf7+ ♖h8 23.♖d1 ♖xf7 24.♖d2 ♗h6 25.♖xf2 ♖e1+ 26.♖h2 ♖xf2 27.♖g4 ♙xg2 0–1

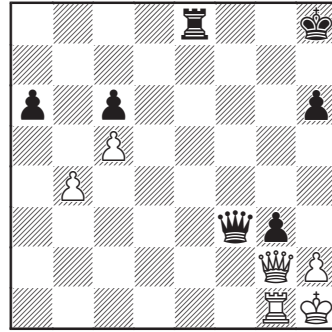
A50

**Alapin, S – Alekhine, A**

All-Russian Masters (Qualification)

St Petersburg (17), 1914

42...♖d2 43.♖e8+ ♖xe8 44.♖xd2 ♖xf3+ 45.♖g2??



45...♖e2! 0–1

Alekhine wins the queen or delivers checkmates.

A51

**Alekhine, A – Hallegua, B**

Quadrangular Tournament Paris (2),

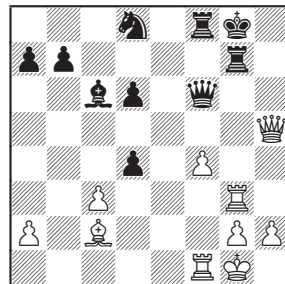
1914

22.♗h7!

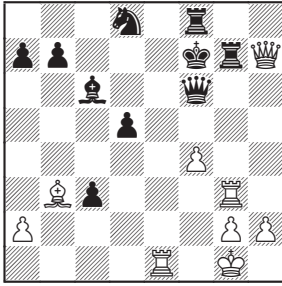
White has more than one winning continuation, such as 22.fxe5 or 22.f5, but Alekhine opts for the most elegant.

22...♖xh7 23.fxe5

White can also launch a direct attack on the black king: 23.♖xh5+ ♖g8 24.♙xg6 exd4 25.♖g3 ♖g7 26.♙h7+ ♖h8 27.♙c2+ ♖g8



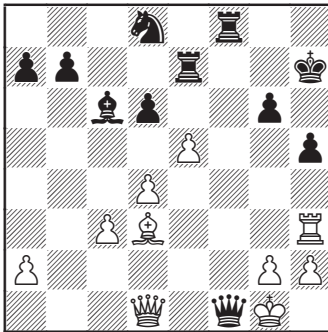
28.♖e1!! dxc3. Black can do nothing about White's threat. 29.♖h7+ ♖f7 30.♙b3+ d5



31. ♖xg7+ ♜xg7 32. ♖e7+ and White wins.

23... ♜xf1+

After 23... ♜g7 24. ♖xf8 ♜xf8 25. ♜xh5+ White delivers checkmate.



24. ♖xf1 dxe5 25. d5 ♖d7 26. ♖h4 e4 27. ♖e2 ♖f5 28. ♜d4 ♖fe5 29. ♖f4 b6 30. ♖f8 ♖e8 31. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 32. ♜f6 ♖f5 33. d6 ♖e6 34. d7 ♖h8 35. ♜e7+ ♖h6 36. h3 ♖h7 37. d8=♜ ♖xd8 38. ♜xd8 ♖d7 39. ♜h8+ ♖g5 40. ♖f2 h4 41. g3 hxg3+ 42. ♖xg3 ♖e6 43. h4+ ♖f5 44. ♖g4 1-0

■ A52  
**Alekhine, A – Krueger, P**  
 DSB Kongress Meisterturnier  
 Mannheim (2), 1914

**11.d5!**  
 Alekhine plays a brilliant move that secures a winning advantage.

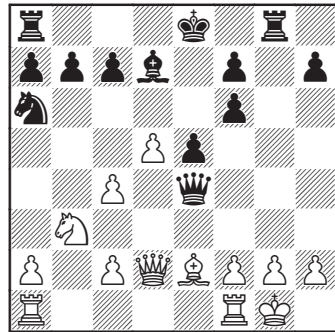
11... ♜e4+

If 11...exd5 then 12.0-0-0 and White would win.

12. ♖e2 ♖d7 13.0-0

13.0-0-0 would win as well.

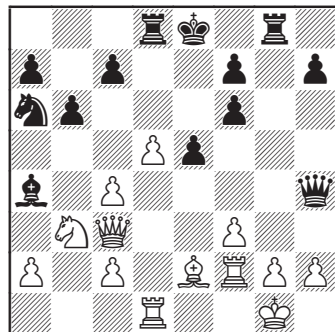
13... ♖a6 14. ♖d4 e5 15. ♖b3 ♖g8



16.f3

White's position is strategically winning.

16... ♜h4 17. ♖f2 b6 18. ♖d1 ♖d8 19. ♜c3 ♖a4



20.f4

Alekhine's position is winning, but later he blunders and the game ends in a draw.

20... ♖xb3 21. cxb3 ♖c5 22. ♜e3 ♜h6 23. b4 ♖d7 24. c5 bxc5 25. bxc5 ♖f8 26. ♜a3 ♖g7 27. c6 ♖b6 28. d6 cxd6 29. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 30. ♜xd6 e4