

## PREFACE

The second volume of this monograph on the Queen's Pawn Opening follows on naturally from the first volume. There we covered the moves 2.♗g5 and 2.♖c3 after 1.d4 d5, and now the discussion continues about positions after 2.♗f3.

**Chapter Six** is devoted to rare continuations (without 2...♗f6).

Beginning with **Chapter Seven**, the initial position for analysis will be the following: 1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6. In Chapter Seven itself the move 3.♗f4 (the London System) is investigated – White pins his hopes on his control of the e5-point.

In **Chapter Eight** the Romanishin Variation 1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.g3 is analysed. It has many features in common with the Reti Opening and the Catalan Opening, but our analysis will be mainly devoted to original ways of developing.

The Torre Attack (1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.♗g5) is analysed very thoroughly in **Chapter Nine**.

The monograph concludes with absolute classics: the Colle System and the Zukertort System (**Chapters Ten and Eleven**). In both cases the initial moves are 1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.e3. But whereas in the Colle System the bishop on c1 remains shut in for at least some time (its development is possible only after the e3-e4 break, and this does not happen soon), in the Zukertort System, without losing time, White develops his bishop on the long diagonal, for which he plays b2-b3.

The theoretical part of the book is provided with a detailed **Index of Variations**.

The book concludes with nineteen **Illustrative Games**. Their role is one of repetition: by playing through these games, the reader will as though again read through the entire book in miniature.

\* \* \*

Nominally the two volumes of the monograph complement each other. As regards content, they are antipodes.

The first volume mainly covers systems that have been forgotten and abandoned (whether justly or unjustly, that is another question), such as the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit and the Veresov Opening. Or, by contrast, new systems which have not yet had time to acquire an established theory and sufficient practice. As examples, one can remember the variations 1.d4 d5 2.♗g5 c5!? or 2...f6!?. Studying Chapters One to Five, the reader must inevitably arrive at the thought that the recommendations suggested are more or less approximate in character, and that a final or at least firm theoretical word on most of the variations has not yet been said.

In the first volume it is imagination and boldness that prevail. The leitmotif of the second volume is knowledge.

The systems of Torre, Colle and Zukertort, as well as the variations 1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.♗f4 and 3.g3, possess a stable and branched theoretical structure. With rare exceptions, on these variations theory is ready to give not approximate, but the most concrete recommendations. Improvisation is allowed, but not encouraged; at any event, it must be based on deep theoretical knowledge.

One further detail. Studying the material given in the first volume, the reader could not help but notice that the strongest modern grandmasters have largely not supported White's ideas, but have opposed them. In other words, they have played with Black, and not with White. In the second volume in practically every chapter there is its 'locomotive' – a strong modern grandmaster, driving forward the theory of the given variation for White. You should latch on to such a 'locomotive', take his games as model examples and, by thoroughly analysing them, approach closer to the essence of an individual variation or system as a whole.

Thus the difference between the two volumes is a fundamental one. At first sight this creates some inconvenience, but if you think it over, it can turn into a distinctive advantage. Two different volumes – two different styles; possibly two different tactical approaches to one specific game. If you want to improvise – choose 2.♗g5 or 2.♗c3. If you want to rely on a firm base – play 2.♗f3.

One opening. But its interpretation can vary. Study, compare and choose.

Good luck!

## INDEX OF VARIATIONS

<b>Chapter Six.</b>	
1.d4 d5 2.♟f3. Everything, apart from 2...♞f6 .....	7
<b>I.</b> 2...c6 .....	7
<b>II.</b> 2...c5 .....	14
<b>A.</b> 3.dc .....	14
<b>B.</b> 3.g3 .....	18
<b>III.</b> 2...e6 .....	21
<b>A.</b> 3.♞g5 .....	21
<b>B.</b> 3.♞f4 .....	23
<b>IV.</b> 2...g6 .....	25
<b>V.</b> 2...♞c6 .....	30
3.g3	
<b>A.</b> 3...♞f5 .....	30
<b>B.</b> 3...♞g4 .....	34
<b>VI.</b> 2...♞f5 .....	38
<b>VII.</b> 2...♞g4 .....	39
<b>Chapter Seven. London System</b>	
1.d4 d5 2.♟f3 ♞f6 3.♞f4 .....	42
<b>I.</b> 3...c5 .....	42
4.e3	
<b>A.</b> 4...♞b6 .....	43
<b>B.</b> 4...♞c6 .....	46
5.c3 ♞b6 6.♞b3 c4	
<b>1.</b> 7.♞xb6 .....	47
<b>2.</b> 7.♞c2 .....	51
<b>C.</b> 4...e6 .....	53
5.c3 ♞c6 6.♞bd2	
<b>1.</b> 6...♞d6 .....	55
<b>2.</b> 6...♞e7 .....	61
<b>II.</b> 3...e6 .....	65
4.e3	
<b>A.</b> 4...♞d6 .....	65
<b>B.</b> 4...♞e7 .....	68
<b>III.</b> 3...g6 .....	70
4.e3 ♞g7 5.h3 0-0	
<b>A.</b> 6.♞d3 .....	71
<b>B.</b> 6.♞e2 .....	72
<b>IV.</b> 3...♞f5 .....	75
<b>V.</b> 3...♞g4 .....	76
<b>VI.</b> 3...c6 .....	79
<b>Chapter Eight. Romanishin Variation</b>	
1.d4 d5 2.♟f3 ♞f6 3.g3 .....	84
<b>I.</b> 3...g6 .....	86
4.♞g2 ♞g7 5.0-0 0-0	
<b>A.</b> 6.♞f4 .....	90
<b>B.</b> 6.♞bd2 .....	93
<b>II.</b> 3...c5 .....	96
4.♞g2	
<b>A.</b> 4...♞c6 .....	98
<b>B.</b> 4...e6 .....	102
5.0-0cd6.♞xd4e57.♞b3 ♞e6	
<b>1.</b> 8.♞g5 .....	103
<b>2.</b> 8.♞c3 .....	105
<b>III.</b> 3...c6 .....	107
4.♞g2	
<b>A.</b> 4...♞f5 .....	107

<b>B.</b> 4...♔g4 .....	110
5.0-0 ♖bd7 6.♗bd2 e6	
7.♙e1 ♕e7 8.e4	
1. 8...de .....	112
2. 8...0-0 .....	117

### Chapter Nine. Torre Attack

<b>1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.♕g5 .....</b>	122
<b>I.</b> 3...♗e4 .....	122
<b>A.</b> 4.♕f4 .....	123
<b>B.</b> 4.♕h4 .....	128
<b>II.</b> 3...g6 .....	133
4.e3 ♕g7 5.♗bd2 0-0	
<b>A.</b> 6.♕d3 .....	136
6...c5 7.c3	
1. 7...cd .....	139
2. 7...b6 .....	140
3. 7...♗bd7 .....	143
4. 7...♗c6 .....	145
5. 7...♙b6 .....	147
<b>B.</b> 6.♕e2 .....	152
<b>C.</b> 6.c3 .....	158
<b>D.</b> 6.b4 .....	162
<b>III.</b> 3...e6 .....	167
4.e3 c5 5.♗bd2	
<b>A.</b> 5...♙b6 .....	171
<b>B.</b> 5...♗bd7 .....	175
6.c3 ♕e7 7.♕d3	

<b>1.</b> 7...0-0 .....	177
<b>2.</b> 7...♙c7 .....	181
<b>3.</b> 7...b6 .....	183
<b>4.</b> 7...h6 .....	189
<b>C.</b> 5...♗c6 .....	192

### Chapter Ten. Colle System

1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.e3. Plan with	
c2-c3 .....	197
1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.e3 e6 4.♕d3	
c5 5.c3	
<b>I.</b> 5...♗c6 .....	206
6.♗bd2	
<b>A.</b> 6...♕d6 .....	208
<b>B.</b> 6...♕e7 .....	225
<b>II.</b> 5...♗bd7 .....	228
6.♗bd2	
<b>A.</b> 6...♕d6 .....	230
<b>B.</b> 6...♕e7 .....	236

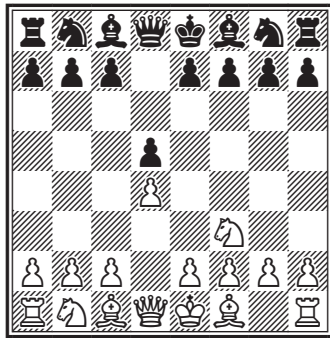
### Chapter Eleven. Zukertort System

1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.e3. Plan with	
b2-b3 .....	240
1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.e3 e6 4.♕d3	
c5 5.b3 ♗c6 6.♕b2	
<b>I.</b> 6...♕d6 .....	248
<b>II.</b> 6...♕e7 .....	262

## CHAPTER SIX

### 1.d4 d5 2.♘f3. Everything, apart from 2...♘f6.

1. d2-d4          d7-d5  
2. ♘g1-f3        ...



This chapter resembles a children's game, where in a conversation it is strictly forbidden to pronounce some common word. Black must watch that he does not accidentally 'say' ♘g8-f6 (the entire further material in this volume will be devoted to an analysis of 2...♘f6); White, in turn, by the conditions of the 'game' must refrain from an early c2-c4 – otherwise events will move out of the framework of the Queen's Pawn Opening and revert to lines of the Queen's Gambit.

Black's main options are: 2...c6

(I), 2...c5 (II), 2...e6 (III), 2...g6 (IV), 2...♘c6 (V), 2...♙f5 (VI) and 2...♙g4 (VII). 2...f5 and 2...♘d7, and even 2...a6 or 2...f6 have also been played (and by some very respected players), but not everything can be covered.

#### I

(1.d4 d5 2.♘f3)

2. ...                  c7-c6

As has already been mentioned in the first volume, this move normally contains two ideas. The first is an active one: awaiting the development of the bishop from c1, to immediately play the queen to b6, attacking the queenside pawns. The second is a waiting one: Black wants to see the opponent's reaction, and, depending on it, to transpose advantageously into other lines: with g7-g6, ♙c8-g4 or something else.

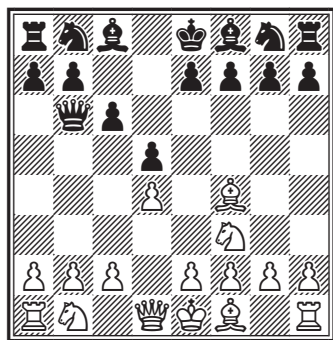
3. g2-g3              ...

In the present chapter there is no point in discussing 3.e3, since the strongest reply is 3...♘f6; and in the event of 3...♙g4 or 3...♙f5

White should reply 4.c4!. None of these fit within the parameters of the present chapter.

We dealt with the position after 3.♙g5 ♖b6 in Volume 1 in the Levitsky Variation (the move order 1.d4 d5 2.♙g5 c6 3.♗f3 ♖b6).

The variation 3.♙f4 ♖b6 is more independent:



4.♗bd2!? ♖xb2 5.e4 ♗f6!? (after 5...e6 6.♙d3 ♗f6 7.0-0 ♖b6 8.c4 ♙e7 9.♖c2 ♖d8 10.cd ed 11.e5 ♗h5 12.♙e3 g6 13.♙h6 White has a clear advantage, Rutman – Shabanov, Sochi 1998) 6.e5 ♗e4 7.♗xe4 de 8.♖b1 ♖xa2 9.♗g5 ♖a5+ 10.♙d2 ♖d5 11.♙b4 ♙f5 12.g4 ♙g6 13.c4 ♖d7 with problematic play for White (Rakic – Bagirov, Moscow 1979), which grandmaster Albur characterised with his customary scepticism as ‘a semblance of an initiative’. A pawn is a pawn!

A roughly equal position arises after 4.b3 ♙f5 5.e3 e6 6.♙d3 ♙xd3 7.♖xd3 ♗f6 8.0-0 ♙e7 (or

8...♗bd7 9.c4 ♖a6!? 10.♗bd2 ♖d8, Schlindwein – Tregubov, Cappelle la Grande 1995) 9.c4 ♖a6!? (9...♗e4 10.c5 ♖d8 11.♗bd2 ♗xd2 12.♗xd2 ♗d7 13.b4 0-0 14.♙g3 ♙h4 15.♙xh4 ♖xh4 16.b5 e5 is also possible, Mamedyarov – Shumiakina, Dubai 2000) 10.♗c3 0-0 11.♖fd1 ♗bd7 12.h3 h6 (the fact that the ♖b6-a6 idea in such set-ups has been known for a very long time is indicated by the game Duz-Khotimirsky – Alapin, Prague 1908, which went 12...♖fd8 13.a3 c5 etc.) 13.a4 ♖fd8 14.♙c7 ♖dc8 15.♙h2 ♙b4 16.♗e5 ♖d8 17.♗xd7 ♖xd7 (Papaioannou – Mitkov, Bled 2002).

Usually White fights for an advantage by 4.♖c1 ♙f5 (4...♙g4!? comes into consideration, luring the knight to e5, in order to then gain a couple of tempi for a counterattack: 5.♗e5 ♙f5 6.e3 f6 7.♗f3 g5 8.♙g3 ♗d7 9.c4 e6 10.♗c3 h5 or simply continue developing, so as to exchange it as soon as possible: 6...♗f6 7.♙e2 h6 8.c4 e6 9.♗c3 ♗bd7 10.c5 ♖d8 11.b4 ♗xe5 12.♙xe5 ♙e7 13.0-0 0-0 14.♖d2 ♖e8 15.♖fd1 ♙f8 16.b5, and White has a spatial advantage on the queenside, but he was unable to convert it, Speelman – Montero, Caleta 2011) 5.e3 e6 6.c4. There can follow, for example, 6...♗f6 7.♗c3 ♗bd7 8.c5 ♖d8 9.h3 ♗e4 10.b4 ♙e7 11.♙e2

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3. Everything, apart from 2...♘f6.

9

0-0 12.0-0 ♗f6 13.♘xe4 ♗xe4  
14.♗d6 ♗xf3 15.♗xf3, when  
White has a minimal plus (Miles –  
Wojtkiewicz, Reykjavik 2000).

In principle, if not exactly the  
same positions, then closely-  
related and very similar ones, were  
analysed in detail in the first and  
second chapters of Volume One.

**3. ... ♗c8-g4**

The most critical: after pausing  
(2...c6) and waiting for g2-g3 to be  
played, Black develops his bishop  
with gain of tempo.

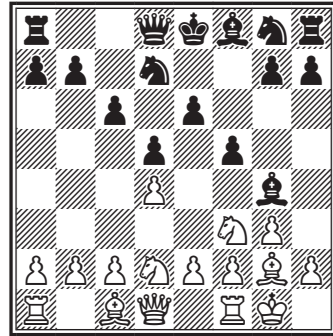
In this position grandmaster  
Vladimir Bagirov liked to bring out  
his bishop to f5, taking play into  
positions typical of the Reti  
Opening. For example, 3...♗f5  
4.♗g2 e6 5.0-0 ♘d7 6.b3 h6 7.♗b2  
(or 7.c4 ♘gf6 8.♗b2 ♗e7 9.♘c3  
0-0 10.e3 ♘e4 11.♙e2 ♘xc3  
12.♗xc3 ♗e4, L. Schulman –  
Bagirov, Jyvaskyla 1991) 7...♘gf6  
8.♘bd2 ♗e7 9.♘e5 a5 10.a4 0-0  
(Jakobsen – Bagirov, Copenhagen  
1993).

**4. ♗f1-g2 ...**

4.♘e5 ♗f5 5.♗g2 is not  
popular, and one can understand  
why: after 5...♘d7 Black develops  
with gain of tempo. However, in  
this case the play definitely  
transposes into the Reti Opening,  
and one can even give the index of  
this variation – A07 (the move  
order: 1.♘f3 d5 2.g3 ♗g4 3.♗g2 c6  
4.♘e5 ♗f5 5.d4 ♘d7).

**4. ... ♘b8-d7**

**5. 0-0 e7-e6**  
**6. ♘b1-d2 f7-f5!?**



The preceding events were  
strictly non-forced, but beginning  
with this move the play will require  
great accuracy, and sometimes the  
only moves. Moreover, the  
accuracy is demanded mainly of  
Black: as we will see later, his  
control of the e4-square is illusory.

It is more convenient to  
consider the position after 6...♘f6  
in Chapter Eight, with the move  
order 1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.g3 c6  
4.♗g2 ♗g4 5.0-0 ♘bd7 6.♘bd2 e6.

**7. c2-c4 ...**

After 7.b3?! ♗d6 8.♗b2 ♙f6!  
9.c4 ♘e7 the position is a highly  
favourable version for Black of the  
Dutch Defence. The light-square  
bishop is not blocked in at c8, but  
is taking an active part in the play,  
the e5-square is inaccessible to the  
white knight, and in addition Black  
is ready for a pawn storm.

Here is how events can develop:  
10.♙c2 h5 (or 10...g5 11.♙c3 ♘g6

12.b4 ♖xf3 13.♗xf3 g4 14.♗d2 h5 15.b5 h4, Soffer – Psakhis, Tel Aviv 1991) 11.♗e5 f4 (both 11...♗xe5 12.de ♖xe5 13.♖xe5 ♗xe5 14.f3 h4!? and the immediate 11...h4!? come into consideration) 12.e4 ♗xe5 13.de ♖xe5 14.♖xe5 ♗xe5 15.f3 fg! (not 16.fg ♗d4+ 17.♔h1 hg) 16.hg (Juergens – Hector, Hamburg 1993), and here the simplest was 16...♗xg3 17.fg hg with decisive threats to the white king.

#### 7. ... ♖f8-d6

7...♗gf6?! is far weaker in view of 8.♗b3 ♖b8 9.♗g5!, and the f8-bishop, which was not developed in time, remains shut in for a lengthy period. Drasko – Ramesh (Ubeda 1996) continued 9...♗e7 10.f3 ♖h5 11.e4 h6 12.♗h3 ♗b4 13.ef ef 14.♗e3+ ♔f7 15.♗f4 ♖e8 16.♗d3 ♖d6 17.♗xh5 ♗xh5 18.a3 ♗a5 19.♗xf5+ ♗hf6 20.c5 ♖c7 21.f4, and White was very close to a win.

Not all Black's problems are solved by 8...♗b6 (instead of 8...♖b8) again because of 9.♗g5! ♗xb3 10.ab ♔e7 11.f3 ♖h5 12.e4 with a strong initiative in the endgame (Maiwald – Slobodjan, Hungary 1994).

#### 8. ♗d1-b3 ...

8.b3 is again unconvincing. In reply, apart from 8...♗f6 9.♖b2 ♗e7 (reverting to the Soffer – Psakhis and Juergens – Hector games), Black can consider 8...♗h6!? (only not 8...♗gf6 9.♖b2

0-0 10.♗e5! ♖h5 11.♗df3 ♗e7 12.♗c2 ♗e4 13.♗xd7 ♗xd7 14.♗e5 ♗e7 15.f3, and White exploited his opponent's routine play, Rukavina – Timman, Zagreb 1985) 9.♖b2 ♗f7!, covering the key e5-square. Bilek – Khenkin (Budapest 1991) continued 10.♗c2 ♗f6 11.a3 h5!? 12.h3 ♖xf3 13.ef f4! (at the right time; otherwise White himself would have played f3-f4). Black has a strong initiative.

#### 8. ... ♖a8-b8

Compared with the variation 1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 c6 3.g3 ♖g4 4.♖g2 ♗d7 5.0-0 e6 6.♗bd2 f5 7.c4 ♗gf6?! 8.♗b3 ♖b8 9.♗g5! here the black queen is keeping a close eye on the g5-square, not allowing the white knight to attack the e6-pawn.

#### 9. ♖f1-e1 ...

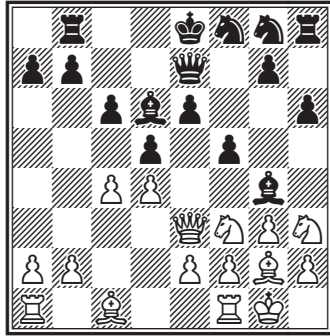
The German grandmaster Michael Bezold advocates the idea of 9.♗e3 ♗e7 10.♗g5 (the alternative 10.♗e5 ♗gf6 11.♗xg4 ♗xg4 12.♗d3 0-0 13.♗f3 apparently leads to a small but stable advantage for White, since 13...e5 14.cd e4 15.♗b3 is dubious for Black, Burmakin – Soln, Schwarzach 1999) 10...♗f8 11.♗df3 h6 12.♗h3, but he has not found any followers. (Diagram)

Not without reason, apparently: 12...g5!? (more interesting than 12...♖xf3 13.♗xf3 ♗f6 14.♗b3, Bezold – Loginov, Budapest 1994, or 12...♗g6 13.♗e5 ♗xe5 14.de ♖c5 15.♗d3 g5 16.cd ed 17.♖e3



1.d4 d5 2.♘f3. Everything, apart from 2...♘f6.

11



♙d8 18.f4, Bezold – De la Riva, Buenos Aires 1993) 13.♘e5 ♘f6 14.cd ♘xd5 15.♚d3 ♘xe5 16.de ♙d8 17.♚c4 ♘d7 18.f3 ♘xh3 19.♘xh3 0-0 20.f4 g4 21.♘g2 ♚c5+ 22.♚xc5 ♘xc5 leads to an ending in which White has no winning chances (Bezold – Yusupov, Altensteig 1993).

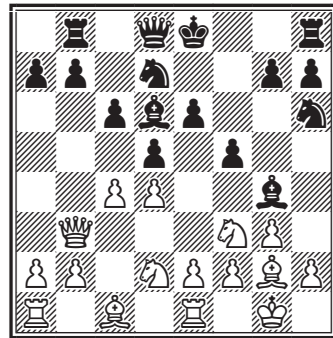
The paradoxical 9.♘e5!? (it appeared that Black had taken firm control of the e5-square) promises extremely complicated play both in the event of 9...♘xe5 10.de ♘xe5 11.♚e3 ♚d6 12.cd cd 13.♙d1 b5 14.a4 a6 15.ab ab 16.h3 ♘h5 17.♙a6! ♚xa6 18.♚xe5 ♙b7 19.♘b3 ♙e7 20.♘g5 (Schulze – Crut, Germany 2002), and after 9...♘xe5 10.de ♘xe2 11.♙e1 ♘h5 12.cd cd 13.♚a3 ♘e7 14.♚d6 ♙c8 15.♚xe6 ♙c6 16.♚d6! ♙xd6 17.ed ♘e5 18.de ♚c7 19.♘b3 ♘d3 20.♙e6 ♚c2 21.♘e3 (Manesh – Shabalov, Minneapolis 2005).

9. ... ♚d8-e7

9...♘gf6?! is still not suitable, and again because of 10.♘g5! ♚e7

11.f3. Speelman – Garcia Padron (Cordoba 1995) took an interesting course: 11...h6!? (11...♘h5 12.e4 h6? is bad in view of 13.ef! e5 14.♘e6, Hug – Lobron, Garmisch Partenkirchen 1994) 12.♘xe6! ♚xe6 13.fg f4!? 14.cd cd 15.gf ♘xf4 16.e4! ♘xg4 17.♘f1. The two sides exchanged blows, but even so Speelman had the last word.

The position after 9...♘h6 deserves a separate diagram:



The g5-square is under attack; the central squares are safely covered, and Black has only to make one more move to complete his development. Is everything alright?

Alas, no. White breaks through at the most fortified point – e4. After 10.cd Black is defenceless:

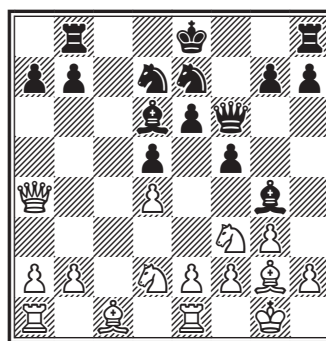
10...ed 11.e4!! 0-0 (11...fe 12.♘xe4 de 13.♙xe4+ ♘f8 14.♘xh6 is hopeless for Black) 12.ed cd 13.♚xd5+ ♘f7 14.♘e5 ♘f6 (not 14...♘xe5 15.de ♘dx5 16.♙xe5) 15.♚b3 and wins

(Smagin – Prie, Cappelle la Grande 1995) or

10...cd 11.h3! (an important nuance: the bishop must be driven away from the e6-point; 11.e4 fe 12.♘g5!? is pointless because of 12...0-0!) 11...♙h5 (had Black known what was awaiting him, he would surely have agreed to an inferior but tolerable position after 11...♙xf3 12.♘xf3) 12.e4!! fe (12...♙xf3 13.♙xf3 fe does not help in view of 14.♘xe4!, Maiwald – Varga, Budapest 1999, 14...de 15.♖xe6+ ♙e7 – 15...♖e7 16.♗xe4 – 16.♙h5+ g6 17.♙xh6 gh 18.♗xe4 ♗f8 19.♗ae1 ♗f7 20.♙g5, and it is all over) 13.♘g5! ♙f7 (a fantastic variation remained off-stage: 13...♖xg5 14.♘xe4 ♖e7 15.♙g5! ♖f8 16.♖xd5!! ed 17.♘xd6, mate!) 14.♘dx4! de 15.♘xe6! ♙xe6 (15...♖f6 16.♗xe4) 16.♖xe6+ ♖e7 17.♗xe4! ♔d8 (nothing is changed by 17...♖xe6 18.♗xe6+ ♙e7 19.♙xh6 gh 20.♗ae1 or 19...♔f7 20.♗xe7+ ♔xe7 21.♙xg7) 18.♖d5, and Black resigned (Kramnik – Beliavsky, Belgrade 1995). This decision cannot be called premature, as one way or another the battle will terminate in a handful of moves, for example: 18...♖f8 19.♙g5+ ♘f6 20.♗ae1 ♘f7 21.♗e6 etc.

An attempt was made to rehabilitate the variation with **9...♖f6**, but in vain – here too

Black is very far from equalising: 10.cd (10.♘e5!? ♙xe5 11.de, and in M. Ivanov– Shabalov, Cappelle la Grande 1995, Black declined to win the e5-pawn, preferring instead to remain with a rather unpleasant position after 11...♖d8 12.cd cd 13.♖a3 a6 14.♘b3 ♖e7 15.♖a4) 10...cd (10...ed? loses immediately to 11.e4!) 11.♖a4 (here Kramnik's idea – 11.h3 ♙h5 12.e4 fe – is more or less pointless in view of 13.♘g5 ♙g6! or 13.♘xe4 de 14.♗xe4 ♙f7) 11...♘e7



12.♘e5! b5 13.♖xa7 (there is no need to allow Black chances in the form of an extra pawn: 13.♖a6?! ♙xe5 14.de ♘xe5 15.♘f3 ♙xf3! 16.ef ♘5c6 17.f4 ♔f7!, Schebler – Vaganian, Belgium 2002) 13...♘xe5 14.de ♙xe5 15.♘f3 ♙d6 (White also has fine play in the event of 15...♙xf3 16.ef ♘c6 17.♖c5 ♔d7 18.♗xe5! ♘xe5 19.♖a7+ ♔d6 20.♙f4!, Drasko – Blagojevic, Tivat 1995) 16.♙g5 ♖f7 17.♖a6 ♘c8 18.♗ac1 ♖d7

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3. Everything, apart from 2...♘f6.

13

19.♙e3 0-0 20.♖c6 ♘xf3 21.ef ♗d8 22.f4. White has an overwhelming position with material equal (Klenburg – Kogan, Port Erin 2005).

**10. ♘f3-e5!? ...**

White would be quite satisfied with 10.h3 ♙h5 11.cd cd, and here, after examining the tempting variations beginning with 12.♘e5!?, 12.e4!? or even 12.g4!?, he could make the correct choice. But the point is that if 10.h3 he has to reckon with 10...♘xf3!. After 11.♘xf3 ♘gf6 Black at least completes his development; if 11.ef?! f4! (Speelman – Peng Zhaoqin, Germany 2003) the position altogether loses its attraction for White, or 11...♘gf6 12.f4 0-0 13.♘f1 ♖fe8 14.♙e3 h5 15.h4 ♘g4 with complicated play (Speelman – A.Onischuk, Caleta 2011).

Therefore he hastens to advance his knight to e5, before Black exchanges it on f3.

**10. ... ♘d7xe5**

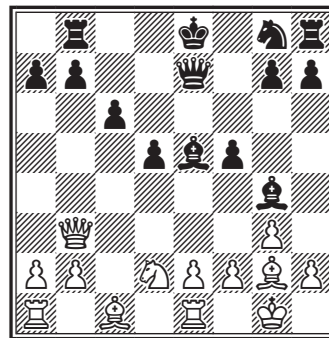
The gift can be refused – 10...♘gf6 11.♘xg4 ♘xg4, but this does not achieve anything good: 12.cd ed 13.e4! 0-0 (13...fe 14.♘xe4 de 15.♖xe4 etc.) 14.e5 ♙b4 15.a3 ♙a5 16.♙xd5+! cd 17.♖xd5+ ♔h8 18.♖xa5 f4 19.♘e4. Black's initiative is temporary and is not worth the two pawns (Tkachiev – Winants, Wijk aan Zee 1995).

**11. d4xe5 ♙d6xe5**

**12. c4xd5 ...**

**12...cd** is met by the now customary 13.e4! fe (13...de? 14.♖b5+) 14.♘xe4! de 15.♖a4+ (here also 15.♖b5+ ♔f7 16.♖xe5 is quite sufficient, but White has calculated further) 15...♖d7 16.♖xe4 ♘f6 17.♖xe5 0-0 18.h3 ♙f5 19.g4 ♙g6 20.♖xe6+ ♖xe6 21.♖xe6 ♙f7 22.♖e7 with an extra pawn and a positional advantage in the ending (Kizov – Glavas, Bajmok 2001).

The position after **12...ed** occurred in Tkachiev – Tregubov (Wijk aan Zee 1995):



With the standard 13.e4! fe 14.♘xe4! White destroyed the opponent's defences and forced him to engage in a prolonged and unpleasant defence: 14...de 15.♖xe4 ♘f6 16.♙g5! (the hasty 16.♖xe5!? ♖xe5 17.♙f4 ♖e6 18.♖xe6+ ♙xe6 19.♙xb8 ♔f7 20.♙xa7 ♖a8 21.♙d4 ♖xa2 gave White only a slightly better

endgame in Barle – Pavasovic, Skofja Loka 1995).

In the variation 1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 c6 3.g3 ♙g4 4.♙g2 ♘d7 5.0-0 e6 6.♘bd2 f5!? Black has invested considerable resourcefulness and effort, and initially he achieved considerable success. But the breach made by Kramnik (in his game with Beliavsky) has not been patched. Defeats have followed one after another, and it will no exaggeration to say that since 1995 and to this day Black has not recovered from the blow.

The idea of 6...f5!? – to give the play a character similar to the Dutch Defence, but in an immeasurably more favourable version for Black – has been refuted, and refuted directly: by the combinative counter e2-e4!.

Today the ‘!?’ assessment of 6...f5 should be replaced by ‘?!’.

## II

(1.d4 d5 2.♘f3)

2. ...                    c7-c5

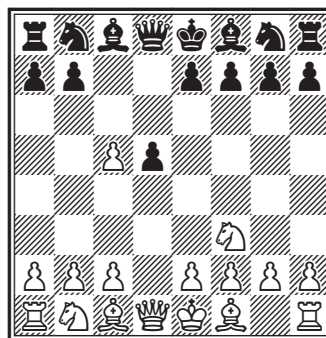
Independent continuations for White are 3.dc (A) and 3.g3 (B).

After 3.c3 cd 4.cd we have the exchange variation of the Slav Defence.

3.e3 ♘f6 transposes into the Colle System (1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.e3 c5). The whole of Chapter Eleven is devoted to its analysis.

A  
(1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 c5)

3. d4xc5                    ...



3. ...                    e7-e6

After 3...♙a5+ 4.♘bd2 e6 (4...♘f6 is evidently weaker in view of 5.a3 ♙xc5 6.b4!? ♙c3 7.♖a2 ♙f5 8.e3 ♘bd7 9.♙b2 ♙c7 10.c4, Farago – Karolyi, Hungary 1987) 5.e3 (here 5.a3 ♙xc5 6.b4 is pointless in view of 6...♙xb4! 7.♙b2 ♙c3) 5...♙xc5 6.a3 ♘f6 7.♙e2 0-0 8.0-0 ♙c7 9.c4 a5 10.b3 in Nikolic – Sermek (Portoroz 1993) Black decided that his position was better than it was in fact, and he played 10...e5?!. There followed 11.♙b2 e4 12.♘d4 ♙e5 13.cd ♙g5 14.♙h1 ♖e8 15.♖c1 b6 16.♘b5 ♘a6 17.♖c4 ♙f5 18.♙xf6 ♙xf6 19.♙g4 ♙g6 20.♙d7 ♖e5 21.♙c6. The attack has petered out, but the material remains, and White soon won. In some way the events resemble those which occur in the ‘Kasparov Gambit’: 1.d4

♟f6 2.c4 c5 3.♟f3 cd 4.♞xd4 e5!?  
5.♞b5 d5 6.cd ♙c5 7.e3 0-0  
8.♞5c3 e4 9.♙e2 ♖e7 10.a3 a5 etc.

After 3...♟f6 4.c4 e6 5.cd White is quite satisfied with 5...ed 6.♙e3!? ♞a6 7.g3 ♙xc5 8.♙xc5 ♞xc5 9.♙g2 0-0 10. 0-0 ♙f5 11.♞c3 ♖e8 12.♞d4 (Alekhine – Kaufman, Odessa 1919). However, neither 5...♖xd5 6.♖c2 ♖e4 7.♞a3 ♖xc2 8.♞xc2 ♙xc5 (Gyimesi – Westerinen, Parnu 1996), nor especially 5...♙xc5!? 6.a3 (6.de? ♙xf2+!) 6...ed 7.b4 ♙b6 8.e3 0-0 9.♙e2 ♞c6 10.♙b2 ♖e7 (or 10...♖e8 11.b5 ♞a5 12.♞bd2 ♙g4 13.0-0 ♖c8 14.♖c1 ♖e7, Lputian – Yurtaev, Riga 1980) 11.♞c3 ♖d8 12.♞a4 ♙c7 13.♖c1 ♙g4 14.0-0 ♞e4 (Ubilava – Gomez Esteban, Elgoibar 1998) gives him any hope of a serious advantage.

There is a similar picture in the 3...♞c6 branch. White is more than satisfied with 4.a3 a5 5.♞c3 d4 (or 5...e6 6.e4 d4 7.♞a4) 6.♞b5 e5 7.e3 ♙g4 8.♙e2 ♙xf3 9.♙xf3 ♙xc5 10.ed ♙xd4 11.♞xd4 ed 12.0-0 (Matlak – Orsag, Karvina 1992), but after the most natural continuation 4...e6 5.b4 a5 6.b5 ♞a7 7.e3 ♙xc5 8.♙b2 ♟f6 9.♙d3 ♙d7 10.a4 ♞c8 11.♞bd2 ♞b6 12.0-0 0-0 he has nothing (Cu. Hansen – Barua, Dortmund 1980). And yet 3...♞c6 comes under suspicion if White acts as in the main variation, namely 4.e4!?.

The point is that, by first developing his queen's knight, Black has lost time for the attack on the c5-pawn. And this factor allows White to play for the retention of the pawn, quite successfully, as statistics show:

4...d4 5.c3 ♙g4 (bad is 5...e5 6.♙b5 ♙xc5 7.♞xe5 ♞ge7? 8.♞xf7!, when Black can resign, Dzagnidze – Skripchenko, Rethymnon 2003) 6.♙b5 ♙xf3 (Noll – C. Bauer, Alzey 1997) 7.♖xf3!? with advantage;

Things are also had for Black in the event of 4...de, for example: 5.♖xd8+ ♞xd8 6.♞e5 ♞c6 (6...a6 is more resilient) 7.♙b5 ♙d7 8.♞xd7 ♖xd7 9.♞c3 f5 10.♙f4 ♟f6 11.0-0-0+ ♖e8 12.f3! ef 13.gf ♖d8 14.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 15.♖d1+ ♖c8? 16.♙c4 etc. (Galego – Duraõ, Oliveira de Azemeis 2001);

After 4...♟f6 White also has clear and simple play: 5.ed ♖xd5 (or 5...♞xd5 6.c4!? ♞bd4 7.a3 ♖a5 – 7...♖xd1+ 8.♖xd1 ♞a6 9.b4 – 8.♙d2 ♙f5 9.♙e2 ♞c2+ 10.♖c2 ♙xc2 11.♙xa5 ♞xa5 12.♞bd2) 6.♖xd5 ♞xd5 7.♙c4 ♞db4 8.♞a3 ♙f5 9.c3 ♞d3+ 10.♙xd3 ♙xd3 11.♙e3 (D'Amore – Bianca, Catania 1991);

And, finally, after the belated 4...e6 in Tu Hoang Thai – Tran Quoc Dung (Ho Chi Minh 2011) White successfully played for the retention of the pawn: 5.ed ed 6.♙e3. So that it is better to wait

## INDEX OF GAMES

№ 1. M. Pavlovic – G. Welling .....	268
№ 2. T. Gareev – T. Luther .....	271
№ 3. C. Matamoros – A. Aleksandrov .....	275
№ 4. P. Blatny – V. Iotov .....	279
№ 5. G. Kamsky – V. Kramnik .....	283
№ 6. A. Matnadze – N. Dzagnidze .....	287
№ 7. G. Meins – J. Gustafsson .....	289
№ 8. D. Paunovic – O. Korneev .....	292
№ 9. S. Peric – I. Khenkin .....	294
№ 10. J. Ehlvest – L. Ftacnik .....	298
№ 11. P. Harikrishna – E. Moradiabadi .....	302
№ 12. I. Papaioannou – N. Managadze .....	306
№ 13. T. Hillarp Persson – L. Karlsson .....	310
№ 14. A. Yusupov – A. Volokitin .....	314
№ 15. L. Bruzon – V. Anand .....	320
№ 16. A. Yusupov – S. De Boer .....	325
№ 17. J. Cori – E. Tomashevsky .....	331
№ 18. T. Gelashvili – A. Goldin .....	337
№ 19. G. Bogdanovich – P. Germer .....	340

# CONTENTS

<b>Preface</b> .....	3
<b>Index of Variations</b> .....	5
<b>Chapter Six</b>	
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3. Everything, apart from 2...♗f6 .....	7
<b>Chapter Seven. London System</b>	
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♗f6 3.♙f4 .....	42
<b>Chapter Eight. Romanishin Variation</b>	
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♗f6 3.g3 .....	84
<b>Chapter Nine. Torre Attack</b>	
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♗f6 3.♙g5 .....	122
<b>Chapter Ten. Colle System</b>	
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♗f6 3.e3 .....	197
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♗f6 3.e3 e6 4.♙d3 c5 5.c3 .....	206
<b>Chapter Eleven. Zukertort System</b>	
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♗f6 3.e3 .....	240
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♗f6 3.e3 e6 4.♙d3 c5 5.b3 ♗c6 6.♙b2 .....	248
<b>Illustrative Games</b> .....	268
<b>Index of Games</b> .....	346