

CHESS OPENINGS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649426355

Chess Openings by Frank J. Marshall

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FRANK J. MARSHALL

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OPENINGS**

P R E F A C E .

I N submitting this work to the Chess Public I am fully aware that my opinions of many of the lines of play given are in opposition to the *dictum* of some of the recognised authorities on the openings. Notwithstanding this fact, I urge chess players to put my theories to practical tests; the more so because the analyses given are the results of personal investigation and experience, and the foundation of any success which has attended my efforts in chess contests.

My aim has not been to cover the whole field of chess openings, but rather to indicate to the chess student what I consider the best lines of development in attack and defence, in the openings most frequently adopted in matches and tournaments at the present time.

I also take this opportunity to explain that the inclusion of the biographical sketch of my chess career and selection of my games is one of the results of suggestions and assistance given by the Editor of the *British Chess Magazine* and Mr. G. Howitt, of the Bradford (England) Chess Club. To these gentlemen and also to the various journals from which the "notes" to my games have been taken I desire to tender my thanks, particularly to the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (U.S.A.), to which journal I originally contributed the notes to those games played at Cambridge Springs and St. Louis.

FRANK J. MARSHALL.

"THE MORALS OF CHESS,"

BY DR. FRANKLIN.

The game of chess is not merely an idle amusement : several very valuable qualities of the mind, useful in the course of human life, are to be acquired and strengthened by it.

By playing at chess, we may learn—

Foresight, which looks a little into futurity, considers the consequences that may attend an action ; for it is continually occurring to the player "If I move this Piece, what will be the advantage or disadvantage of my new situation? What use can my adversary make of it to annoy me? What other moves can I make to support it and to defend myself from his attacks?"

Circumspection, which surveys the whole chess-board, or scene of action, the relations of the several Pieces and situations, the dangers they are respectively exposed to, the several possibilities of their aiding each other, the probabilities that the adversary may make this or that move, and attack this or the other Piece, and what different means can be used to avoid his stroke, or turn its consequences against him.

Caution, not to make our moves too hastily. This habit is best acquired by observing strictly the laws of the game, such as "If you touch a piece, you must move it somewhere; if you set it down you must let it stand." To observe these laws makes the game the image of human life, and particularly of war; in which, if you have incautiously put yourself into a bad and dangerous position, you cannot obtain your enemy's leave to withdraw your troops and place them more securely; but you must abide all the consequences of your rashness.

We learn by chess the habit of not being discouraged by present bad appearances in the state of our affairs, the habit of hoping for a favourable change, and that of persevering in the search of resources. The game is so full of events, there is such a variety of turns in it, the fortune of it is so subject to sudden vicissitudes, and one, so frequently, after contemplation, discovers the means of extricating one's self from a supposed insurmountable difficulty, that one is encouraged to continue the contest to the last, in the hope of victory.

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>
PORTRAIT OF FRANK JAMES MARSHALL	<i>Frontispiece</i>
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF CHESS CAREER	7-18
MARSHALL <i>versus</i> ESSER—TWO KNIGHTS DEFENCE ...	8
JACKSON .. MARSHALL—KING'S BISHOP'S OPENING	10

CHESS OPENINGS.

	<i>Page.</i>
INTRODUCTION	19-24
QUEEN'S GAMBIT	25
QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED	26-29
QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING—DUTCH DEFENCE	30-31
QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING—STONEWALL DEFENCE	32
GIUOCO PIANO	33-36
EVANS GAMBIT	37-38
TWO KNIGHTS DEFENCE	39-41
THREE AND FOUR KNIGHTS GAME	42
PETROFF'S DEFENCE	43-45
PHILIDOR'S DEFENCE	46
PONZIANI'S OPENING	47-48
SCOTCH GAME... ..	49

	<i>Page.</i>
SCOTCH GAMBIT	50-52
RUY LOPEZ	53-63
SICILIAN DEFENCE	64-68
FRENCH DEFENCE	69-74
KING'S AND QUEEN'S FIANCHETTO	75
CENTRE GAME	76-77
CENTRE GAMBIT	78-80
DANISH GAMBIT	81-82
KING'S GAMBITS	83-85
ALLGAIER GAMBIT	86-87
RICE GAMBIT... ..	88-89
MUZIO GAMBIT	90
KING'S BISHOP'S GAMBIT	91-92
KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED... ..	93
FALKBEER COUNTER GAMBIT	94
VIENNA GAME	95-97
FROM'S GAMBIT	98-100

GAMES.

<i>Game.</i>	<i>Black.</i>	<i>White.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
1	MARSHALL <i>versus</i>	BURN	101
2	MARSHALL ..	MARCO	103
3	MARSHALL ..	LASKER	105
4	PILLSBURY ..	MARSHALL	109
5	FINN ..	MARSHALL	112

Contents.

5

<i>Game.</i>	<i>Black.</i>	<i>White.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
6	MARSHALL	versus SCHLECHTER	116
7	MARSHALL	„ NAPIER	118
8	MARSHALL	„ BURGOYNE	120
9	ALLIES	„ MARSHALL	122
10	MARSHALL	„ TEICHMANN	125
11	PILLSBURY	„ MARSHALL	129
12	MARSHALL	„ ATKINS	134
13	MARSHALL	„ MAROCZY	137
14	MARSHALL	„ SWIDERSKI	139
15	PILLSBURY	„ MARSHALL	142
16	MARSHALL	„ SCHEVE	145
17	MIESES	„ MARSHALL	147
18	LASKER	„ MARSHALL	150
19	FOX	„ MARSHALL	153
20	HODGES	„ MARSHALL	155
21	BARRY	„ MARSHALL	157
22	MARCO	„ MARSHALL	159
23	MARSHALL	„ PILLSBURY	161
24	MARSHALL	„ DELMAR	163
25	JANOWSKI	„ MARSHALL	165
26	KEMENY	„ MARSHALL	170
27	MARSHALL	„ UEDEMANN	174
28	MARSHALL	„ EISENBERG	178
29	JAFFE	„ MARSHALL	180
30	MARSHALL	„ ALLIES	183