

Euwe Writes Good Introduction to Chess Masters



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the bookworm

This week's review will please any of the chess buffs on campus. As I am not completely familiar with the game, I have the assistance of Daniel Hopkins in writing these reviews. If anyone cares to question further

about these books, then Daniel is the one to contact. On second thought, I should perhaps say that I assisted Daniel.

Meet the Masters
Dr. Max Euwe

279pp. \$4.00

Chessboard Delights
Comins Manfield
59pp. \$2.25

Selected Chess Games of Mikhail Tal
J. Hajtun
145pp. \$2.95

500 Master Games of Chess
Tartakower and Dumont
665pp. \$6.95

Meet the Masters by Dr. Max Euwe. I figure that most chess buffs will read this through to the end. So for those of you who are not freaks but like the game anyway, I'm telling you that this is by far the most interesting and readable book of the four. Eight of the greatest players of all time from Capablanca and Alekhine to Mikhail Botvinnik and Paul Keres. As all Chess Buffs know, Dr. Max Euwe is the President of F.I.D.E. and is still living unless he died since the Fisher/Spaskey match of '72 (F.I.D.E. is the International Organization for Chess). He is definitely the Veteran Grand Master of the Western World.

Dr. Euwe's biography of the players is not only informative but even enlightening. The players are described in terms of their character and the characteristics of their games. The various styles and strengths of these top masters are explained in simple prose and their games are given as illustrations. My own preferences as to style tend to follow Alekhine's. This section and the ones on Kere, Flohr, and Capablanca are the best in the book. But all eight will provide anyone, as they did for me, the greatest pleasure.

Moving on to Chessboard Delights by Comins Mansfield of the British newspaper, The Sunday Telegraph... of all the books, this is the one that the economist would never buy for its volume. It is indeed a Delight for the problemist and the logician. Although chess may not seem to be logical to the beginner, it is to the expert, some of whom became experts by solving lots of difficult and interesting chess problems.

If you want to widen your tactical abilities in chess in such a manner as to solve difficult and aesthetically good problems, then this is the book for you. However you must pay the price of about two cents a problems and four cents a page.

However, that's not important. What is important are the words on the pages which illustrate many of the combinative themes of the last ten or eleven years. The problems are not the simple two-movers that are frequently seen and heard but are the tactical result of position play. The quality of the problems is excellent as are the notes to the positions. However I might point out that it is also a difficult book and there are vaster books of the same quality. The only reason I would buy this book would be because I wanted to supplement my collection of chess problems (a collection which, by the way I do not have). Conclusion: Don't buy this book unless you are a problem nut.

The previous two were written for just about anybody but the following ones are principally for the actual chess buff and those aspiring to be such.

Selected Games of Mikhail Tal by J. Hajtun.

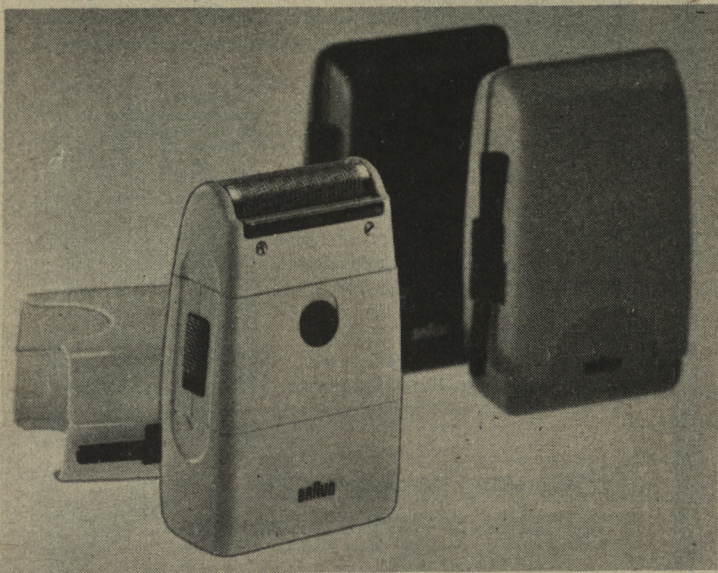
The tournament fan will find the ideas in this book to beat the more experienced players. Beginners won't unless their tactical ideas are good for one new to the game. Tactics are the mark of Tal. A majority of these games are immensely tactical. Unfortunately the reader must be good enough to see all the combinations and sub-variations himself. The author gives merely the main lines most of the time, a fault which affects many writers on chess. However the topic, Tal, is enough to compensate for this shortcoming. Tal is one of a dozen men to have become the world chess champion since 1900.

He became world champion by besting Botvinnik: 12½-8½ in 1960. During the run up to champion he displayed a tactical strategy unmatched before by anyone except Alekhine. The Black Panther, as he was nicknamed by the Press, is still a prime candidate for world champion and takes an act part in many master tournaments.

Anyone who enjoys a good game will also delight in the fine works of Tal. This book is a bed for breeding ideas for combinations for anyone who studies it. It will develop the handling of the pieces in a tacticaly difficult position of any player.

The last of these books is the best of them - 500 Master games of chess by

cont on p.11



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