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Foreword

When the Chess Informant staff suggested the idea of gathering together all my articles from the "Old wine in new bottles" cycle within a book covers, I felt enormously pleased. It is always rewarding to have your name on a new book's cover. Besides, it may be no secret for the reader that the inheritance of the classics, the core of this whole series, is one of my favourite themes.

But at the same time I could not avoid the feeling that a book should be a bit more than just a collection of articles. Therefore I suggested to my Serbian friends that it would be better to allow me grouping the existing chapters into thematic categories (or parts of the book), writing short introductions to them and not least adding a few new articles

(we should actually call them chapters by now) to the sections where too few previous articles would be classified. This is how the following new chapters were born: *Strong king in the centre*, *The strength and weakness of the double pawns in static positions* and *The necessity to attack*. Their significance for each section will be explained at the due moment.

The editors kindly accepted idea, displaying understanding for the fact that this would cause some delay, as I was going to compete in two tournaments, including the București 2019 World Senior Championship. But I hope that in the end things have turned out well for all the involved parts, editors, readers and (actually this is obvious) the author himself.

It is worth explaining what the reader could expect from this book.

I may be old-fashioned, but I keep using for my inspiration (as an author and as a player alike) the treasure of the past. It does not make sense to speculate whether, for instance, Carlsen is stronger than Fischer or Korchnoi, as matches between players separated in



time by so many decades are impossible. But this book aims to prove that some of the basic aspects of our game did not change over the generations. The same kind of brilliant ideas and mistakes are played again and again in specific situations.

The idea expressed in the previous paragraph may seem to have a purely historic significance but there is more about it. I actually launch an invitation to examine the games of the classics, featuring ideas thought over only by human brains, and by no means less deep than those used today. We all use computer assistance when preparing or writing, but at the chess board we are all alone with our opponent, so educating our mind to work along the classical values is essential.

But even to those who think that modern players are closer to the truth than their predecessors, the book should have instructional value, as the 25 included chapters are aimed at offering insight into specific aspects of the enormously complicated chess fight.

It is virtually impossible to write a "complete" chess course, as the general themes and examples to each of them are practically inexhaustible. But I hope that after studying the book the reader will feel enriched, technically and aesthetically.

I remember my enthusiasm when receiving my first original copy of the Chess informant in 1987 (number 43) after having annotated some of my games from the Warszawa zonal tournament, ending in my first qualification to the Interzonal. Almost a third of a century has passed since then, but I am looking forward to hold this new book in my hands with no less excitement.

Mihail Marin

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