Analytical Corrections, Additions and Enhancements For Alekhine's
The Book of the New York International Chess Tournament 1924

by Taylor Kingston

The games and note variations in this book were analyzed by the engine Rybka 3 UCI running in "infinite analysis" mode. During this process, differences between Alekhine's conclusions and recommendations, and those of Rybka, were found. We present here the corrections, additions and enhancements thus revealed that we consider significant: not minor half-pawn differences, but cases where an important tactical shot was missed, where a resource that could have changed a loss to a draw or win was overlooked, where a good move was called bad (or vice versa), or where a position was misevaluated. Also some cases where there was no real mistake, but an especially interesting variation, or a much stronger one, was not pointed out. We did not concern ourselves with changes in opening theory since 1924. If a game is not mentioned, it means no significant error in or improvement to its notes was found.

Numbers given with some variations represent Rybka's evaluation of the position to the nearest hundredth of a pawn, e.g. a difference of exactly one pawn, with no other relevant non-material differences, has the value +1.00 when in White's favor, or -1.00 when in Black's. A position where Rybka considers White better by 3½ pawns (or the equivalent, such as a minor piece) would get the value +3.50, the advantage of a rook +5.00, etc. These numbers may vary some from one machine to another, or with the length of time allowed for analysis, but are generally valid and reliable, and serve as a useful shorthand for comparisons that would otherwise require detailed explanation. A position rated 0.00 is usually not only theoretically even, but dead drawn, i.e. Rybka detects a forced repetition, perpetual check, stalemate or some such.

The one area where analysis engines are sometimes suspect is the endgame, for example positions where one side has a material advantage but the game is a theoretical draw. In such cases we consulted Dr. Stephen B. Dowd, a published study composer and endgame expert, for whose help we are most grateful. Where feasible, in positions with six men or less, we also consulted the Nalimov tablebase at www.k4it.de/index.php?topic=egtb&lang=en.

Computer-assisted analysis of this sort is something like instant replay reviews in a sporting event. Just as even the best referees may have their calls overruled after electronic examination, so even a chess world champion can be proven wrong – sometimes dramatically so – by the relentlessly objective scrutiny of an unblinking silicon eye that in its brute-force approach considers all possible moves, not just those suggested by general principles.

On the whole, Alekhine's judgment was upheld much more often than not. Some games are annotated excellently, examples being games 28 (Alekhine-Janowski), 41 (Marshall-Em. Lasker), 53 (Ed. Lasker-Marshall), 56 (Em. Lasker-Janowski), 66 (Capablanca-Em. Lasker), and 75 (Bogoljubow-Tartakower). And it should be borne in mind that his notes were devoted in large part to instructive positional and strategic considerations, which are largely outside the competence of tactically-oriented digital analysis. Still, about two-thirds of the tournament's 110 games required comment.

In some cases these were just minor corrections or improvements, but others were more serious. For example, wins were missed in games 43 (Tartakower-Alekhine), 48 (Ed. Lasker-Alekhine, 82 (Bogoljubow-Alekhine), and 97 (Yates-Capablanca). And contrary to what GM Andy Soltis wrote in his foreword, Alekhine was not always "ruthlessly objective" with his own mistakes, for example missing (or suppressing?) potential wins against him by Tartakower and Edward Lasker. In the aforementioned game 82, Bogoljubow-Alekhine, he is at first far too pessimistic about what he might have done, then later too optimistic. The unjustified pessimism is also strong in game 78, Alekhine-Ed. Lasker. This stands in contrast to Alekhine's *My Best Games of Chess* collection, where he would often annotate with rose-colored glasses.

In some cases Rybka found errors so egregious that we must (with some regret, because Alekhine is one of our all-time favorite players) call them howlers. Some examples:

In game 2, Yates-Alekhine, the note variation leading to this position was called "an immediate drawing line."
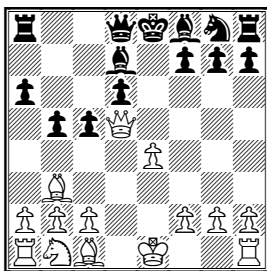
Yet of course Black is not obliged to repeat moves with 11...♗e6 12.♕c6+ ♗d7 etc.; instead 11...c4 wins a piece.

In game 9, Ed. Lasker-Bogoljubow, the note at move 40 reached this position,
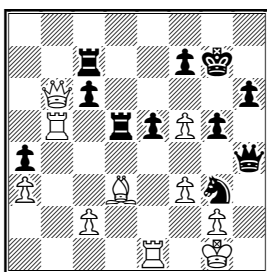
where Alekhine recommended 41...c×b5??, which allows a quick mate with 42.f6+ and 43.♕b8+.

In a note variation at move 40 of game 26, Ed. Lasker-Em. Lasker,
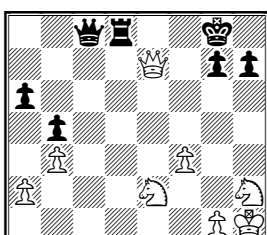
Alekhine recommended 40...♖e8?? which would lose to 41.♘f5!.

Others with comparable errors are games 5, 8, 10, 24, 26, 31, 33, 39, 69, 72, 73, 74, 96 and 97.

One wonders, then, how a grandmaster who was probably the greatest tactician of his time, and who would soon become world champion, could commit such mistakes? First, in fairness it should be noted that many errors and improvements are revealed only after extensive digging, something that can be done relatively easily and quickly by computer today but in those days required hours or even days of hard work. Alekhine obviously took his analytical duties seriously, but there is a limit to human endurance and attention. This may explain why a lot of his errors are found toward the end of a variation.

And if we "grade on a curve," Alekhine is actually on a par with other all-time greats whose works we have analyzed in similar fashion, about the same as Lasker, Euwe, Najdorf, Bronstein and Timman, and definitely better than Tartakower and Fine. Only Botvinnik and Fischer show markedly greater accuracy.

Still, there are mistakes Alekhine would surely never commit in actual play. How could this happen? Unlike, say, Tartakower and Euwe, it's unlikely he lacked time. After the tournament ended in mid-April 1924, he was not exceptionally busy. After simultaneous exhibitions in New York on April 27 and 29, and a 21-round quick-play tournament in Paris on July 21, his career record shows nothing until February 1925: no matches, tournaments or simuls. And Alekhine had not yet succumbed to the alcoholism that would start to affect his play in the mid-1930s. All we can say is *errare human est*, and hope that the "ruthlessly objective" part of Alekhine would appreciate our striving for analytical truth.

None of this should this be construed as any flaunting of our own chess prowess; we give all credit there to Rybka, Dowd and Nalimov. And we do not claim the analysis below is inerrant; though today's engines are very strong, they can miss things beyond their analytical horizon. The interested reader is encouraged to examine further on his own.

Game 2, Yates-Alekhine: In the note to White's 4th move, an elementary trap, the Noah's Ark Trap, seems to have been overlooked. After 5.d4 b5 6.♗b3 ♘×d4 7.♘×d4 e×d4 8.♕×d4?? (correct is 8.♗d5 ♖b8 and only then 9.♕×d4) 8...c5 9.♕d5 ♗e6 10.♕c6+ ♗d7 11.♕d5,
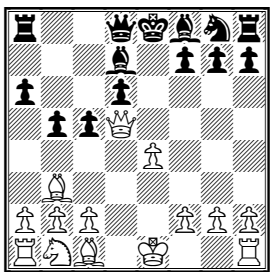
Black is not obliged to repeat moves with 11...♗e6; instead 11...c4 wins a piece.

The note to White's 15th implies that 15.♗c5 is as bad as the text move 15.♗b3+, giving 15.♗c5 f×e4 16.♕×e4 ♖f4 17.♕c2 e4 without further comment. But this stops too soon.
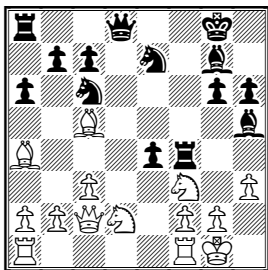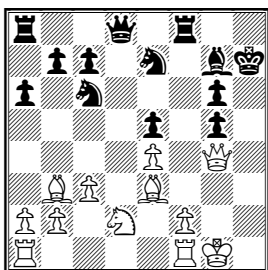
18.♗e3! then is very strong, viz. 18...e×f3 (18...♖f8 19.♕×e4 is worse) 19.♗×f4 f×g2 20.♔×g2 and Black does not have enough for the exchange.

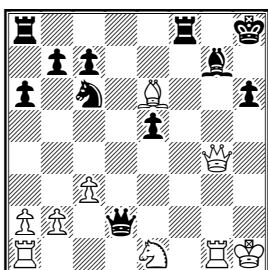The note to Black's 15th is rightly critical of 15...♔h7, but does not give the best refutation.
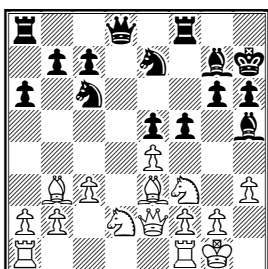
Rather than 16.e×f5 g×f5 17.♘g5+ ♔g6 18.g4, which Rybka rates at only +0.89, stronger is 16.g4! f×g4 17.h×g4 ♗×g4 18.♘g5+ h×g5 19.♕×g4 (threatening 20.♕h3+),

and Black is lost, e.g. 19...♘g8 20.♔g2 etc. (+2.79), or 19...♗f6 20.♖ad1 ♕e8 21.♘f3 (+3.45).

At Black's 24th,

Alekhine is critical of his own move 24...♕g5, but it is actually best. The analysis of his suggested alternative 24...♗f6 considers only 25.♘f3 in reply, overlooking 25.♕h3!.
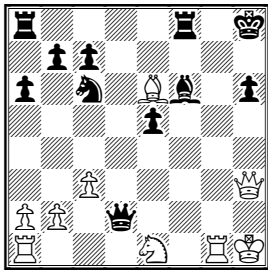
White threatens 26.♘f3 ♕e3 27.♖ae1 ♕f4 28.♖g4+-, forcing Black into one of two drawing variations: (1) 25...♗g7 26.♘f3 ♕f4 27.♖af1 (not 27.♖g4?? ♕xf3+) 27...♕e4 28.♕g2 ♗f6 29.♕h3 etc., or (2) 25...♗e7 26.♘d3 ♗g5 27.♗d5 ♖ad8 28.♖g2 ♕e3 29.♖g3 ♕d2 30.♖g2 etc. 25...♗g5 does not work due to 26.♘f3 forcing 26...♖xf3 27.♕xf3.

The note to White's 28th is definitely correct to say that 28.♘d3 was best,
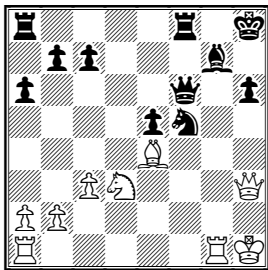
but then goes astray at several points. After 28...♖ad8 White should not play 29.♖ad1, but 29.♖g4!,
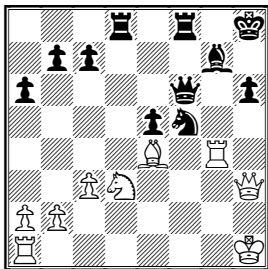
and after 29...♖f7 30.♖ag1 c6 the position is virtually even (+0.19).

If 29.♖ad1 as in the note,
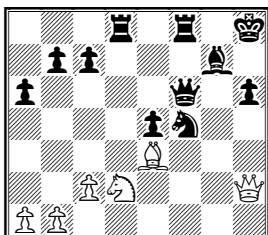
Rybka does not care for 29...b6?!, preferring 29...♘d6!? 30.♖g6 ♘×e4 31.♖×f6 ♖×f6,
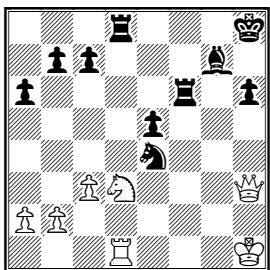
when Black has rook, bishop and two pawns for the queen, and decent chances in a complex position. More importantly, 29...b6?! fails,
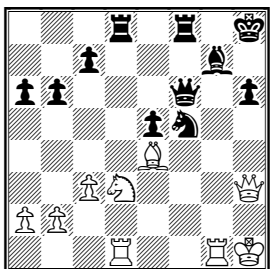
not to 30.b4 as in the note, but to 30.♖gf1! when to avoid losing the pinned knight Black must give up the exchange: 30...♖×d3 31.♗×d3 ♕c6+ 32.♔h2 ♘d6 33.♖×f8+ ♗×f8± (+0.98).

Toward the end of the same note, after (from previous diagram) 30.b4 ♖d6 31.♖g4,
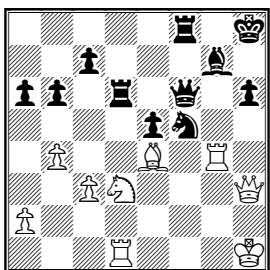
best probably for Black is 31...♖f7 32.♖dg1 ♘e7=. The note's 31...h5 is a serious mistake,
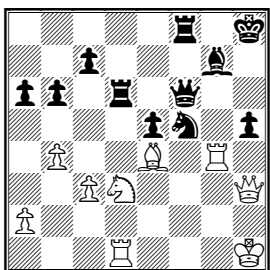
which should be met by 32.♖dg1! ♖f7 33.♖g5! forcing 33...♖×d3 34.♕×d3 ♘h6 35.♖×h5+−

(+2.35), and not, as in the note, by 32.♕×h5+?? ♕h6 33.♕×h6+ (if 33.♕h2 ♕×h2+ 34.♔×h2 ♖h6+ 35.♔g1 ♘e3−+) 33...♖×h6+ 34.♔g1 ♘e3,
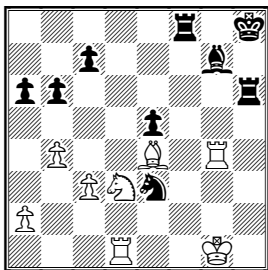
when Black gets far more than just the extra pawn Alekhine envisioned.

Finally, at Black's 29th, the text move 29...c6?! might well have let the win slip.
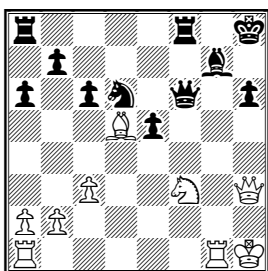
Better was 29...♕f5. Instead of the desperate 30.♖×g7??, White had 30.♘h4! c×d5 31.♖af1 ♕×f1 (relatively best; if 31...♕d8?? 32.♘g6+) 32.♖×f1 ♖×f1+ 33.♔×f1,
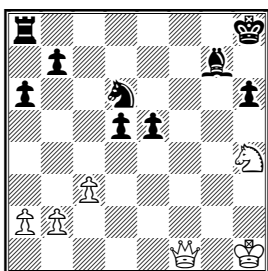
with a problematic position and no clear win for Black (+0.57).

Game 3, Marshall-Réti: The note at move 9 misses the best continuation in the sub-variation 9...♘c6 10.♘e2:
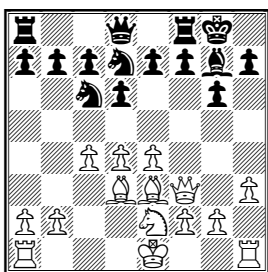
10.♘e2?? is actually a serious blunder, and is best refuted not by the note's 10...e5 11.d5 ♘d4,

but by 10...♞e5! (either knight will do) 11.d×e5 ♞×e5 12.♕g3 ♞×d3+ 13.♔f1 ♞×b2, and White is down two pawns with a ruined position.

The endgame reached in the note to move 23 is erroneously said to be favorable for Black. After 23.a×b5 ♖×a1 24.♖×a1 ♞×b2 25.♖b1 ♕×c3 26.♕×b2 ♕×b2 27.♖×b2 ♖b8 28.♔f2 ♔f8 29.♔e3 ♔e8 30.♔d3 ♔d7 31.♔c4 ♔c7 32.♖a2 ♔b7 33.♖a6 ♖a8 34.♖×a8 ♔×a8 35.b6 ♔b8 36.♔b5 ♔b7,
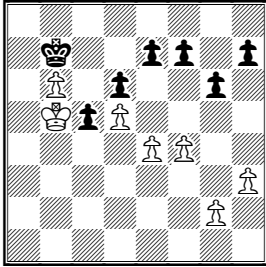
White is not obliged to move any pawns, nor to abandon his b-pawn, his king being able to shuffle between b5 and a5 ad infinitum. Nor does ...c5-c4 avail Black anything; after ♔×c4 ♔×b6 the black king cannot penetrate. Barring a blunder, the game is a draw.

An interesting possibility goes unmentioned at move 27.
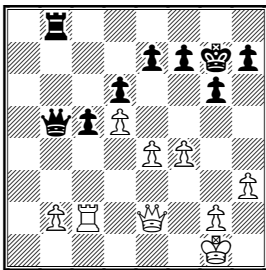
Instead of 27...♕×e2, Black had better chances with 27...♕a4!? 28.♔f2 ♖b4 29.♔f3 f5 30.e×f5 ♖×f4+ 31.♔g3 ♖×f5 32.♖c4 (not 32.♕×e7+?? ♖f7 33.♕e2 ♕f4#) 32...♕b3+ 33.♖c3 ♕b7,
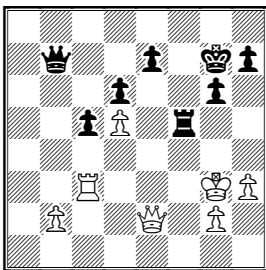
and Black is up a pawn.

Game 5, Tartakower-Bogoljubow: The note at move 33 is correct that 33.a4 should not win, but the supporting analysis is flawed at several points.
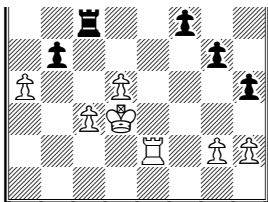
Alekhine gives 33...b×a4 34.c4 a3 35.d5 ♖a6 36.♖a2 f5?! (better 36...♔e7= or ♔e8=) 37.c5,
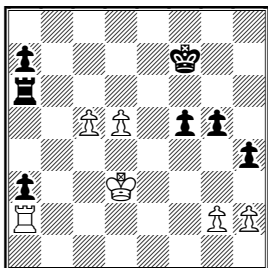
and now his 37...♖a4?? would lose to 38.c6! ♖a5 39.c7 ♖c5 40.♖c2 etc. Necessary instead is 37...f4 38.d6 h3 39.g×h3 f3 40.♔e3 ♔e6=.

Further on in that note, after 37...♖a4 38.♔c3 f4 39.♔b3 ♖a6,
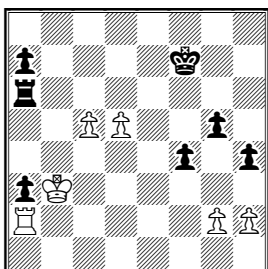
White could again win by playing not 40.♔b4 as in the note, but 40.d6! ♔e6 41.♔b4 h3 42.g×h3 ♔d7 43.♔b5 ♖c6 44.♖×a3,
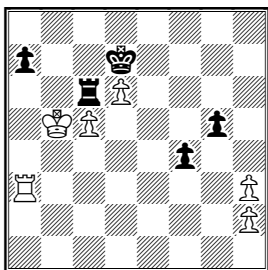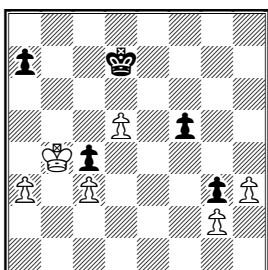

with a winning position (+4.45).

And finally, continuing in the note line, after 40.♔b4 h3 41.g×h3 f3?? (necessary is 41...♖f6=),
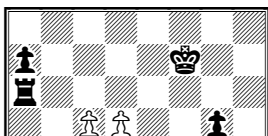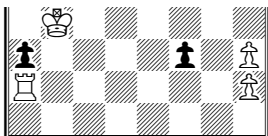
White should not play 42.♔b5?? or 42.c6?? as in the note, but again 42.d6! ♔e6 43.♔b5, winning Black's rook.

In the note to Black's 41st move, the sub-variation 42.♖×h4 ♖c8+ 43.♔b4 ♖c4+ 44.♖×c4 b×c4,

White need not play the losing 45.♔×c4??, but can still draw with 45.h4! f4 46.h5 f3 47.h6 f×g2 48.h7 g1♕ 49.h8♕ g2 50.♕g7+ and the checks will never stop.

In the note to move 45, its variation #1, after 46...♖d1+ 47.♔c4 ♖d2 48.♔c5 ♖×g2 49.♖a7+ ♔e8 50.♔d6?? (necessary is 50.d6),
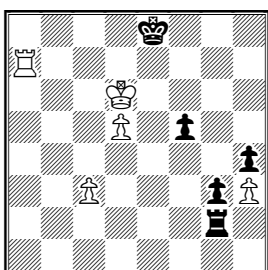
Black need not be content to draw by 50...♖d2?, but can win with 50...♖e2!, keeping White's king off the e-file, viz. 51.♖a1 g2 52.♔c5 f4 etc., or 51.♔c6 g2 52.♖g7 ♖c2 53.d6 ♖×c3+ 54.♔d5 ♖g3−+ .

Alekhine was sure that 46...♖g1 was Black's fatal error, but this may not be correct. Rybka sees it coming later,
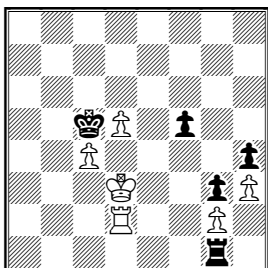
when Black played 51...♖f1??. Instead, 51...♖e1!, a move Alekhine did not consider, seems to hold, e.g. 52.♖e2 ♖d1+ 53.♔c2 ♖d4=, or 52.♖a2 ♖d1+ 53.♔e2 ♖g1 54.♔e3 ♖f1=.

Game 7, Maróczy-Alekhine: In the note variation at move 18, after 18.c3 ♞×f3 19.g×f3,
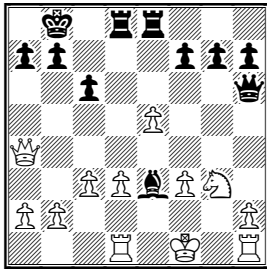
Alekhine is correct that 19...♖×e5 should win (-1.87), but it is much stronger for Black to interpolate first 19...♛h3+! 20.♔e2, and then 20...♖×e5 21.♞e4 ♗f4 22.♔f2 f5 winning the knight and more (-6.02), since if it moves to d2 or g3, mate follows shortly beginning with 23...♗e3+. If 19...♖×e5 first, White can avoid immediate disaster with 20.♔f2 or 20.♕c2 ♛h3+ 21.♕g2.

Game 8, Marshall-Tartakower: The note at move 9 says that after 9...♞×c3 10.♗×d8 ♞×d1 11.♗×c7 ♞×b2 12.♗e2 "the black knight would be in trouble,"
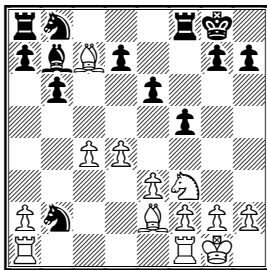
but Rybka shows that Black can avoid loss by pressuring the c-pawn: 12...♖c8 13.♗×b8 ♖a×b8 14.♖fc1 ♗a6 15.♞e5 d6 16.♖ab1 d×e5 17.♖×b2 e×d4 18.e×d4=.

One suspects a typo in the sub-variation of the note at move 18 giving 18.♞c3 g5 19.f×g5 ♛×g5 20.♞f3? as advantageous for White,
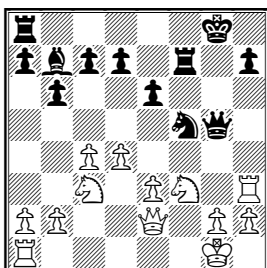
as this would allow the obvious 20...♛×e3+, winning back the lost pawn. Better, say, 20.♖f1.

Game 9, Ed. Lasker-Bogoljubow: Alekhine seems to have had an off day when he annotated this game, making some major tactical errors. First, the note to move 10 says the line 10...e×d4 11.♘×d4 ♘c5 12.♗c4 would give White "quite a good game,"
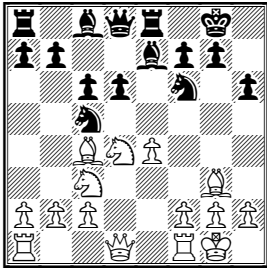
but it simply drops a pawn to 12...♘c×e4.

The note to move 35 considers the variation 35...c×b5 36.♕×c7 b4 37.a×b4 a3 38.♕a5 a2 39.b5 "not very convincing."
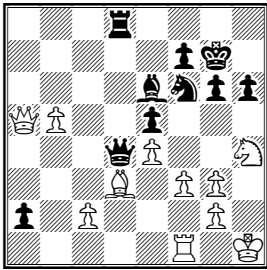
Yet it does seem to be best, and probably winning for Black, viz. 39...♖d7 40.♕e1 (if 40.b6? ♖b7 41.♖d1 ♕×b6) 40...♗c4 41.♕a1 ♗×d3 42.c×d3 ♕×d3 43.♔h2 ♕c2 (-3.33), or 39...♖b8 40.♖c1 ♖b7 41.♕e1 ♗c4 42.♗×c4 ♕×c4 43.♖a1 ♕×c2 (-3.48), both evaluations about -2.00 better than the text continuation even if Black had not missed 40...♖d5.

The note at move 40 commits a major oversight. While its recommended 40...♖d5 is indeed best, after 41.♕b6
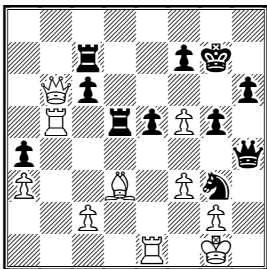
Black must not play 41...c×b5??, which allows a quick mate with 42.f6+ and 43.♕b8+. Instead the best he can do is 41...♖×b5 42.♗×b5 (if 42.♕×c7? ♘×f5 43.♖d1 ♕d4+ 44.♔h2 ♘e3 45.♗×b5 ♘×d1 46.♗d3 ♕h4+ 47.♔g1 ♕e1+ 48.♗f1 ♘c3 and the bishop is lost) 42...♕d4+ 43.♕×d4 e×d4 44.♗×a4 ♘×f5,
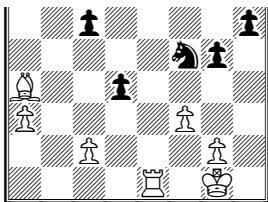
reaching an endgame favorable to Black but by no means an easy win.

At White's 41st move, in the note variation 41.♖b4 e4,
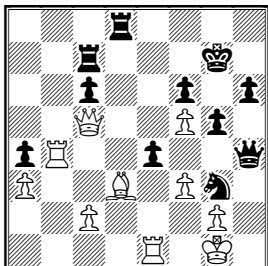
42.♗×e4?? does not lead to a draw; rather it allows mate by 42...♕h1+ 43.♔f2 ♖d2+ etc. The note's second alternative 42.f×e4 does draw.

At move 46, the pedant in us prompts us to observe that the note variation 46...♖f8 47.♗c4+ ♔g7 can be improved slightly.
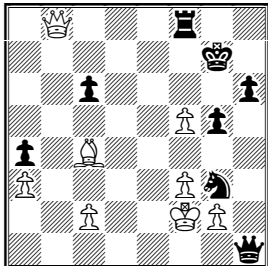

While 48.f6+ is quite sufficient to win, mate can be forced by 48.♕e5+ ♖f6 49.♕e7+ ♔h8 50.♕×f6+ ♔h7 51.♕g6+ ♔h8 52.♕g8#.

Game 10, Yates-Janowski: The note at move 16 goes wrong near the end. After 16...♗×e1 17.♘c5 ♕×e6 18.♘d×e6 ♗b4 19.♘×d8 ♗×c5,
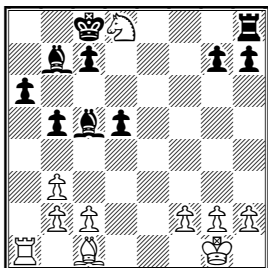
20.♘×b7 is the only playable move. The note's 20.♘e6?? would lose the knight to 20.♖e8, since

if 21.♘×c5?? ♖e1#. Oddly, Alekhine seemed to see the back-rank mate possibility at an earlier point in the note,
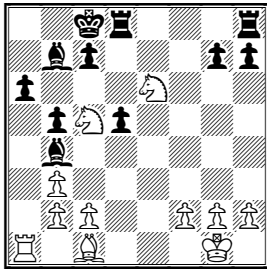
when he rejected 19.♘×b7 "on account of 19...♖de8."
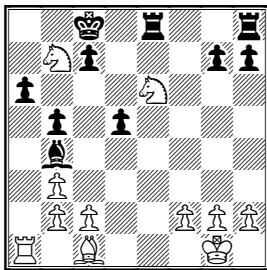
In that case, however, White gets out of trouble with 20.♘bd8!, more or less forcing 20...♖×d8 21.♘×d8 ♖×d8 22.♖×a6, when he may actually have some advantage.

Game 14, Réti-Maróczy: At White's 22nd move,
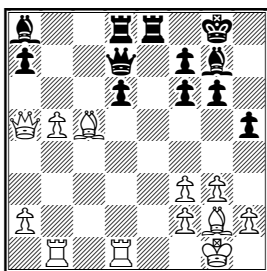
in the note line 22.♗×d6 ♗f8 23.♗f4 ♕×d2 24.♖×d2 ♖×d2 25.♗×d2 ♖e2,
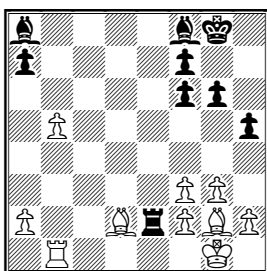
Alekhine says "White cannot save the a-pawn, on account of the threat of 26...♗c5." Yet 26.♖d1! ♗c5 27.♗e3! thwarts this threat: 27...♗×e3 28.f×e3 ♔g7 (obviously not 28...♖×a2?? 29.♖d8+) 29.e4,
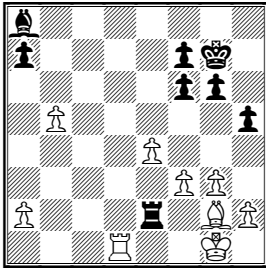
and now Black's bishop will be trapped no matter what he tries: (a) 29...♖×a2 30.♖d8 ♗b7 31.♖b8, or (b) 29...♖c2 30.♖d7 intending 31.♖×a7, or 29...♖b2 30.♗f1! followed by either 31.♖d8 or 31.♖d7. It is relatively best for Black to avoid 26...♗c5, in which case his rook will be driven off next move by 27.♗f1 or ♔f1 (about +1.65).

Going back to the first diagram, Rybka indicates that after 22.♗×d6 ♗f8 23.♗f4,
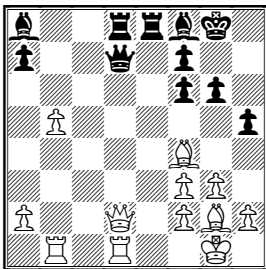
rather than exchange queens, Black should seek dynamic compensation, e.g. 23...♕f5!? 24.♕c3 h4 intending h4-h3 and g6-g5 with attack.

Game 15, Tartakower-Yates: A bewildering game. If, as the old saying goes, "chess is a sea where a gnat may drink and an elephant may bathe," an elephant could drown in this one.

The note at move 40 can be considerably improved. After 40...♘a4,
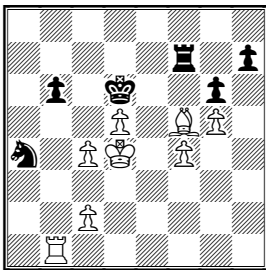
the note line 41.♗d3 ♖×f4+ 42.♔e3 does not yield much after 42...♖f7 43.♖b4 ♖a7, defending the knight. Much better is 41.♗e4!, so that the capture on f4 is not check. If then 41...♖×f4 42.♖b4 b5 43.♖×b5+− (+5.27). Or 41...♖b7 42.f5 g×f5 43.♗×f5 ♖g7 44.♖b4 ♖×g5 45.♗e4 b5 46.♖×b5 ♖g4 47.♖a5 ♘c3 48.c5+ ♔e7 49.♔×c3 ♖×e4 49.♖a7+ ♔e8 and White wins easily with either 50.c6, 50.d6, or 50.♖×h7 (+8.17).

One line stemming from 41.d6+ deserves much deeper scrutiny than Alekhine chose to give. His very brief note makes it seem obvious that it wins by force quickly, but further analysis reveals a much more complex situation.
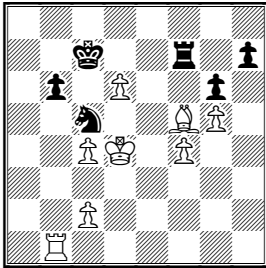
The text reply 41...♔d8 definitely loses (+5.12), as do 41...♔×d6 (+4.77) and 41...♔b7 (+2.52). However, 41...♔c6 resists much more sternly. Alekhine's 42.♗e4+ is clearly the only good try, but he analyzed no further than that. After the obligatory 42... ♘×e4 43.♔×e4 ♔×d6 44.♖×b6+ ♔c5 45.♖f6,
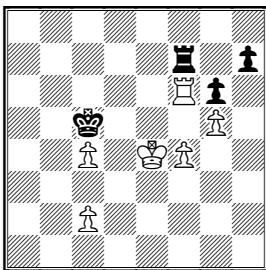
a clear win is far from obvious. Black has two main defensive plans: (A) invade White's back rank with the rook in hopes of picking off pawns and harassing the king, or (B) keep the rook on the seventh rank to defend the h-pawn, and hope that White will be unable to advance his c-pawn successfully.

With either plan very careful play is required by both sides; one slip by White and it's a draw, one slip by Black and he loses. We give some plausible sample lines, stemming from the above diagram.

Plan A first. The main line starts 45...♖e7+ 46.♔d3 ♖d7+ (46...♖e1 has little if any independent significance) 47.♔c3 ♖d1:
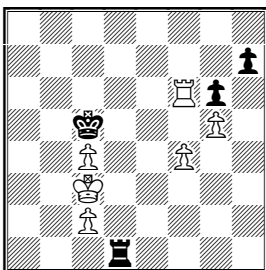
A1) White should avoid 48.f5 g×f5 49.♖×f5+ ♔c6 50.♖f7 ♖g1 51.♖×h7 ♖×g5,
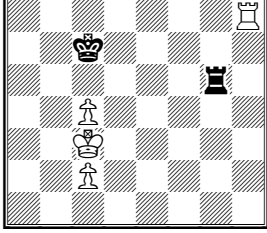
which, despite White's nominal two-pawn advantage, is a theoretical draw according to the Nalimov tablebase. (This was true of every variation we tried that resulted in Black having no pawns and White just the doubled c-pawn.)

A2) However, White may be able to eke out a win by avoiding complete kingside liquidation, varying from the above line with 48.♖f7 (instead of 48.f5):
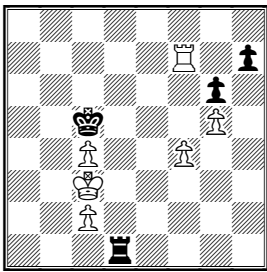
Rybka then sees one plausible line as 48.♖f7 ♖h1 49.♖c7+ ♔d6 50.♖c8 ♖f1 51.c5+ ♔d5 52.c6 (52.♔b4? ♖b1+) 52...♖×f4 53.c7 ♔d6 54.♖h8 ♔×c7 55.♖×h7+ ♔d8 56.♖h6 ♖f5 57.♖×g6,
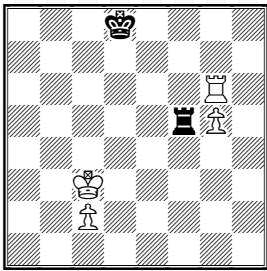
reaching a position Nalimov says is won for White, though 34 more arduous moves are required to reach mate.

For **Plan B** we start from the stem position after 45.♖f6:
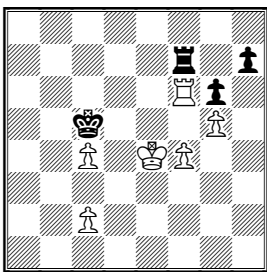
B1) If 45...♖d7, keeping the white king from defending the c4-pawn, then 46.♖f8 ♚×c4 (46...♖c7 47.♚d3 transposes to B2 or a similar line) 47.♖c8+ ♚b5 48.c4+
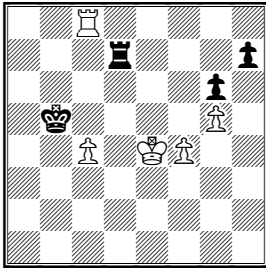
48...♚b4 (if 48...♚b6 49.♚e5 ♚b7 50.♖f8 ♚c6 51.♚f6 ♖d1 (51...♚c5? 52.♖f7 +−) 52.♚g7 ♖h1 53.♖h8 ♖f1 54.♖×h7 ♖×f4 55.♚×g6+−) 49.♚e5 ♖f7 50.c5
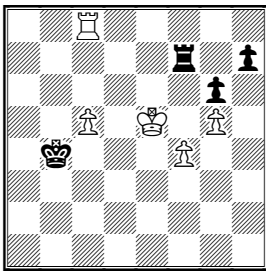
 50...♚c4 (or 50...♚b5 51.♚d6 ♖×f4 52.♖b8+ ♚c4 53.c6 etc.) 51.♚d6 ♖×f4 52.c6 ♖f5 53.♖h8 ♖d5+ 54.♚e6 ♖c5 55.♚d7 ♖d5+ 56.♚c8 ♖c5 57.c7 ♖×g5 58.♚d8 ♖d5+ 59.♚e7
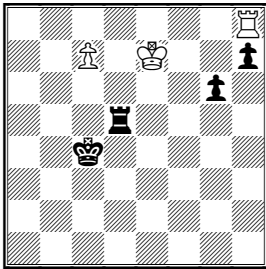
and again White wins.

B2) After 45...♖e7+ 46.♚d3 ♖d7+ 47.♚c3, rather than 47...♖d1 as in Plan A, the best practical chance for Black seems to be 47...♖e7:
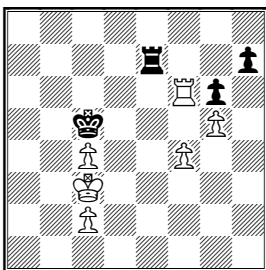
White need not repeat moves with 48.♚d3. The best attempt to make progress is 48.f5 g×f5 (if

48...♖g7 49.f×g6 h×g6 50.♖e6 ♖g8 51.♖e5+ ♔c6 52.c5 ♖g7 53.♔c4 etc. wins for White)
49.♖×f5+ ♔c6
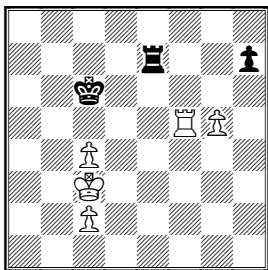
B2a) Rybka at first here recommended 50.♔b4 as White's best chance, but after 50...♖b7+
51.♔b5 ♖g7 52.♖c5+ (if 52.♖f5 simply 52...♖b7+ again) 52...♔d6 53.♖f5 ♔e6 54.♖f6+ ♔e7,
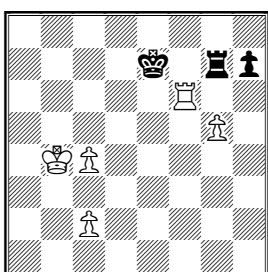
White must be careful to avoid 55.♖h6 ♖×g5 56.♖×h7+,
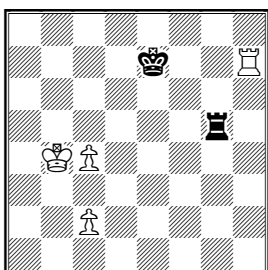
reaching another Nalimov draw. Therefore the only try left for White is advancing the c-pawn,
e.g. (from previous diagram) 55.c5 ♖×g5 56.♖h6 ♔d7!,
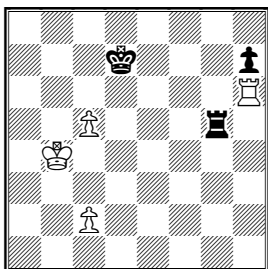
reaching a position where it appears White is thwarted no matter what he tries. If 57.♖×h7+ ♔c6
we have another Nalimov draw, if 57.♔b5 ♔c8 58.♔b6 ♖g6+! 59.♖×g6 h×g6 is a draw, and
Rybka sees no win in lines stemming from 57.c6 ♔d8 58.♔b5.

B3b) White can also try 50.♔d4.

B3b1) After 50...♖e7+ 51.♖e5, Black should avoid 51...♖g7, which Rybka analyzed to a white win. Better 51...♖f7:
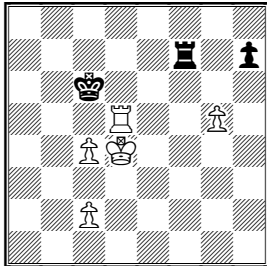
If now 52.c5 ♖f4+ 53.♔e5 ♖g4 54.♔e6 h6!! 55.g×h6 ♖e4+ 56.♔e5 ♖h4 57.♔f5 ♖×h6, and again we have a Nalimov draw, while if 52.♖c5+ ♔d6 53.♖e5 ♖f4+ 54.♖e4 ♖f5 and White is getting nowhere. There are other plausible 50th moves for White, but as far as Rybka and we could tell, none led to anything better than what we've already considered in variation A3.

B3b2) However, after 50...♖e7+ White can also try 51.♔e5!?:
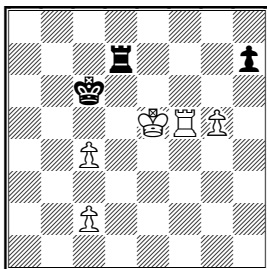
Black then cannot afford to keep his rook on the seventh, viz. 51...♖c7 52.♔f6 ♔b6 53.c5+ ♔c6 54.♖e5 followed by 55.♖e7, or 51...♖a7 52.♔e6 ♖g7 53.♔f6+− (or 52...♖b7 53.♖f7+−), so something like 51...♖d2 is called for. A plausible continuation then is 51...♖d2 52.♔f6 ♖h2 (52...♖×c2? 53.♔g7 ♖h2 54.♖f6+ ♔c5 55.♖h6 wins) 53.♔g7 ♖h5,
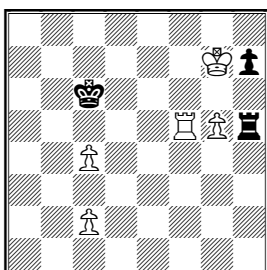
when Black is practically in *Zugzwang*, and Rybka rates the position at about +5.00.

So, it does appear that White can win after 41...♔c6. However, the above may be a case of "long analysis, wrong analysis," so we are not going to pronounce an absolute judgment, and the interested reader is encouraged to analyze further. In any event, the position after 41...♔c6

42.♗e4+ is far more complex than Alekhine's terse note indicates, and White's practical difficulties would have been far greater than in the actual game.
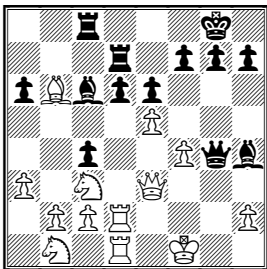
Game 16, Janowski-Em. Lasker: After 30.♖d2,
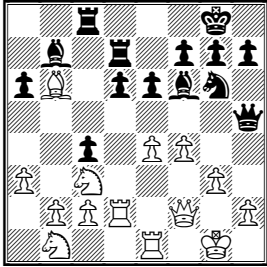
Alekhine says that White is threatening 31.e5 ♗e7 32.♘e4. However, 31.e5 is not to be feared, as Black can reply 31...♗×e5! 32.f×e5 ♘×e5,
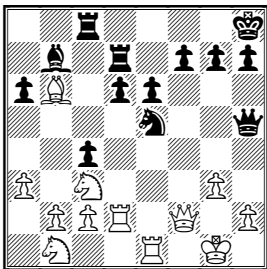

when the threat of 33...♘f3+ forces either 33.♖e3 ♘g4 or 33.♖×e5 ♛×e5, Black ending up with attacking chances, and a rook and two pawns for two knights either way.

In the note at move 32, in the line 32.e5 ♘h4 33.g×h4 ♗×h4 34.♛e3 ♛g4+ 35.♔f1,

35...♗f3 does not win as claimed. White replies 36.♖e2, and while Black has compensation for the sacrificed piece, there is no clear win any time soon (-0.14). Black wins instead by 35...d×e5 36.f×e5 (36.♖×d7?? ♛g2#) 36...♗g2+ 37.♔g1 (if 37.♖×g2 ♖×d1+ 38.♘×d1 ♛×d1+ 39.♔e1 ♛×e1#) 37...♗f3+ 38.♔f1 f5 39.e×f6 ♖f8 40.♖f2 ♗×f2 41.♛×f2 ♗×d1,
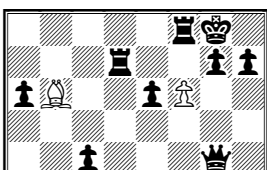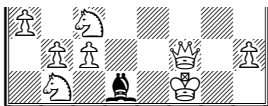
with an overwhelming advantage (-6.51).

From move 35 on, several possible significant improvements go unmentioned. At White's 35th move, a better alternative to the text move 35.♖f1 was 35.♕e3-e2!:
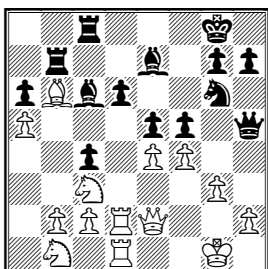
This forces an exchange of queens, since if 35...♕h6? 36.♕×c4+ ♔h8 37.♖×d6 ♗×d6 38.♖×d6 e×f4 39.♖×c6 ♖f8 40.e×f5 f×g3 41.h×g3 ♖bf7 42.♖c5+− (+1.88). After 35...♕×e2 36.♖×e2, Rybka then gives optimal play as 36...f×e4 37.f×e5 ♘×e5 38.♘d5 ♖f8 39.♘bc3,
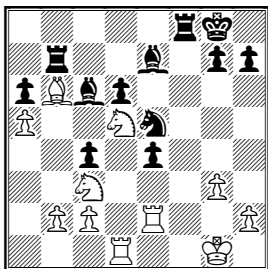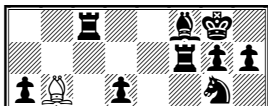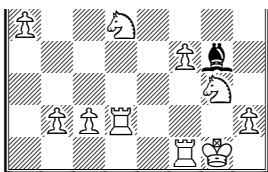

with a very even position.

At move 41,
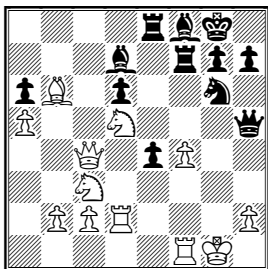
nothing is said about the fact that 41.♗e3? was a serious mistake. Much better was the straightforward pawn capture 41.♘×e4, play likely continuing 41...♗e6 42.♘g3 ♕g4 43.♕e2 (if 43.♕×a6?! ♗×d5 44.♖×d5 ♘×f4) 43...♖c8 44.♕×g4 ♗×g4,

and White is up a pawn with decent chances (+0.74). It's unclear why Lasker allowed this, Janowski chose not to play it, and Alekhine did not comment on it.

At Black's 43rd move,
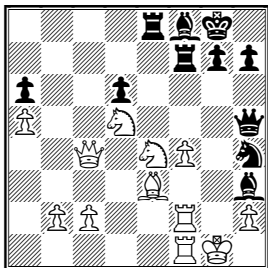
while the text 43...♕g4+ was good enough, eventually winning the exchange, Black instead could have won a bishop with 43...♖×e4! 44.♕×e4 ♗f5 45.♕h1 (45.♕d4?? ♕g6+ 46.♔h1 ♗d4+ etc.) 45...♕g6+ 46.♖g2 ♕e6 47.♗d2 ♘×g2 48.♕×g2 ♗e4 49.♖e1 ♗×g2 50.♖×e6 ♗×d5.
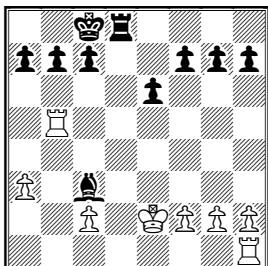
At move 45,
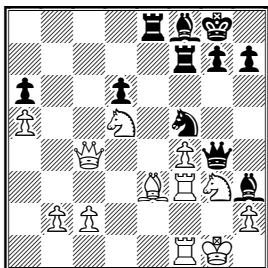
Lasker's 45...♗×f1 was relatively weak (-1.26), only about the fifth-best move. Strongest was 45...h5!, when the pinned knight is doomed, since if 46.♔h1 h4 47.♘e4 ♕g2♯. After the virtually inevitable 46...h4 Black will be up about a rook, e.g. 46.♕×a6 h4 47.♔f2 h×g3+ 48.h×g3 ♗g2! 49.♔×g2 ♘h4+ 50.♔h2 ♘×f3+ (-5.88), or 46.♕d3 h4 47.♗f2 h×g3 48.♗×g3 ♗×f1 (-3.98).

Game 18, Bogoljubow-Réti: The note at move 12 is incorrect to say that after 12...♕a2 13.♘c3 ♕a1+ 14.♔d2 ♕×b2 15.♗b5+,
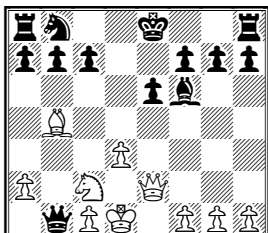
Black must lose his queen. One saving line is 15...♘d7 16.♖a1 c5!, and if 17.♖hb1?? c×d4−+ . White would have to play 17.♕d3 ♗g5+ 18.♔e2 c4 19.♗×c4 (19.♕×c4? ♕×c2+) 19...♕b6 and the queen escapes. Another is 15...♘c6 16.♖a1 0–0–0 17.♖a2 (17.♖hb1?? ♖×d4+ is far worse) 17...♖×d4+ 18.♕×d4 ♘×d4 19.♖×b2 ♘×b5 20.♖×b5 ♖d8+ 21.♔e2 ♗×c3,


and though Black has lost his queen, so has White. Black *is* down an exchange, but has two pawns in compensation.

*Game 19, Tartakower-Maróczy***:** The note variation at move 47 does appear eventually to win, but the process can be shortened and simplified considerably. After 47.♗e1 f3 48.d5 e×d5+ 49.c×d5 ♘e7 50.e6 ♔f6,
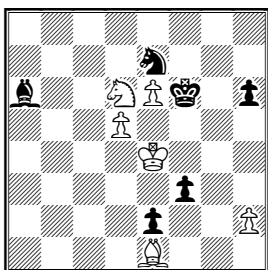
much better and more straightforward than 51.♗h4+ is 51.♘e8+! ♔g5 (51...♔g6 is no better) 52.d6 ♗b7+ 53.♔e3 ♘f5+ 54.♔f2 ♘d4,
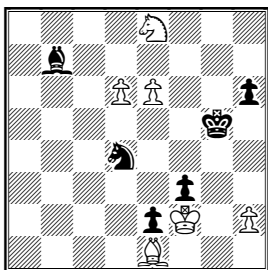
and after 55.♘g7 or 55.♘c7 (not to mention several other moves) Black can obviously resign. The variations stemming from 51.♗h4+ present much more technical difficulty.

*Game 20, Yates-Ed. Lasker***:** The note at White's 22nd move correctly disparages 22.g4, but gives an incorrect refutation, wrong at several points.
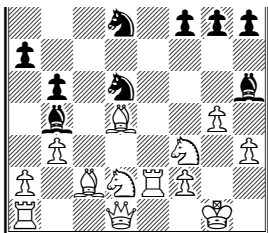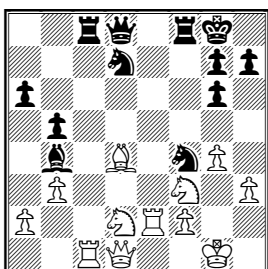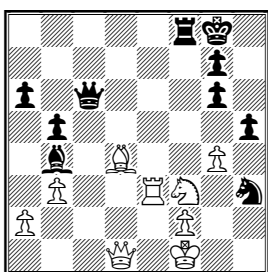
After 22...♗g6 23.♗×g6 f×g6, 24.♕f1 is relatively best (-0.82), not 24.♖c1. But after 24.♖c1,
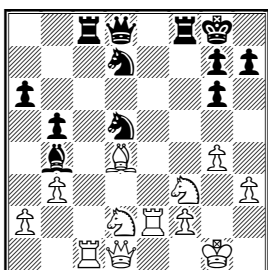
the note's 24...♗c3 leads to only a small advantage for Black after 25.♘e4! and either 25...♗×d4 26.♖×c8 ♕×c8 27.♘×d4 (-0.61), or 25...♖×f3 26.♖ec2 ♖×h3 27.♗×c3 ♘×c3 28.♖×c3 ♖h×c3 29.♖×c3 (-0.53). Strongest instead is 24...♘f4!,
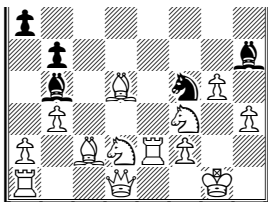

best play then continuing 25.♖e3 ♘×h3+ 26.♔f1 ♘c5! 27.♘e4 ♘×e4 28.♖×c8 ♕×c8 29.♖×e4 ♕c6 30.♖e3 h5!

31.g×h5 (not 31.g5?? ♘×g5 32.♘×g5 ♕h1+ 33.♔e2 ♖×f2+ 34.♔×f2 ♕×d1 -4.83) 31...g×h5, and Black has an outside passed pawn and the better position (-2.28).

All this is moot, however, because at the start of the line, the best move for Black is not 22...♗g6 but 22...♘f4!:

If now 23.g×h5? ♘×e2+ 24.♕×e2 ♖×c2−+, or 23.♖e4? ♘×h3+ 24.♔h2 f5 25.g×f5 ♘g5−+. Therefore forced is 23.♗×h7+ ♔×h7 24.g×h5 ♘×e2+ 25.♕×e2 ♖e8, and Black is winning (about -1.70).

At Black's 22nd move, Alekhine calls 22...♗c3 "very misleading,"
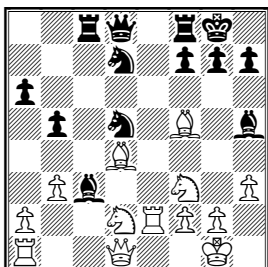
giving as the refutation 22...♗c3 23.♘e4 ♗×f3 24.g×f3 ♗×a1 25.♗×a1 ♘f4 26.♖d2 ♘b6 27.♗×g7 27...♔×g7 28.♖×d8 ♖c×d8 29.♕a1+ f6 30.♔h2. But Black is by no means compelled to follow this line. In fact 22...♗c3 is best, because three moves later, instead of 25...♘f4?, Black has the far better 25...♘c5!:
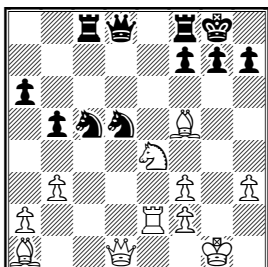
If now 26.♘×c5?? ♘c3!−+, or if 26.♖e1 Black, having won the exchange, simply consolidates with 26...♘e6. Therefore 26.♗×c8 ♘f4 27.♖d2 ♕×c8 28.♗e5 (28.h4, trying to save the pawn, is disastrous: 28...♕h3 29.♕f1 ♘×e4 30.f×e4 ♕g4+ etc.) 28...♘×h3+ 29.♔g2 ♘×e4 30.f×e4 ♘g5, and with his extra pawn Black has every prospect of winning the endgame (-1.07).

Rybka disagrees with Alekhine's recommendation of 31...b4:
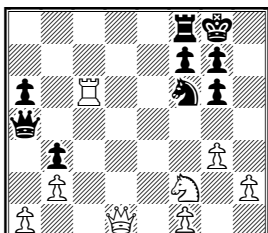
Best here is a move Alekhine does not consider, 32.a4!, and either Black's a- or b-pawn eventually falls. In the note line, after 32.♕e2,
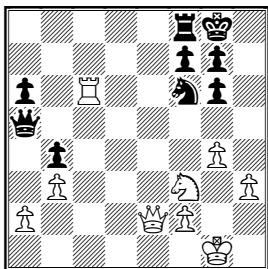

Rybka sees no need to give up the a-pawn with 32...♖d8? 33.♕×a6; instead Black has 32...♕d5!, when if 33.♕×a6?? ♕×f3−+, or 33.♖×a6?? ♖e8−+; therefore 33.♖c7 ♕a8 with equality.

After move 44,
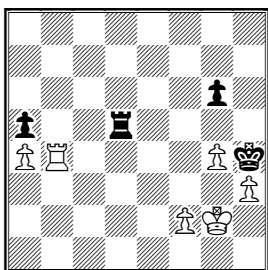
Alekhine says "Still another trap: 45.♖b5 ♖×b5 46.a×b5 a4 47.b6 a3 48.b7 a2 49.b8♕ a1♕ 50.♕d8+ g5 51.♕b8 ♕a8+," with a draw by stalemate. He does give 50.♕d8+ a "(?)", and was probably trying to illustrate the stalemate trap rather than condemn 45.♖b5, but it bears mentioning that 45.♖b5 is perfectly playable and winning, because instead of 50.♕d8+ White has 50.♕f4!,
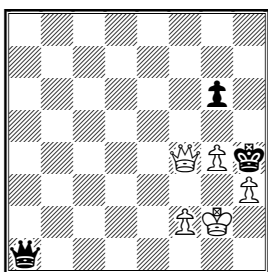
with mate very shortly.

Game 24, Maróczy-Bogoljubow: The note at move 14, after 14.♗×g6 h×g6 15.♘f3 c×d4 16.♘g5 ♗e7 17.♗×d4,
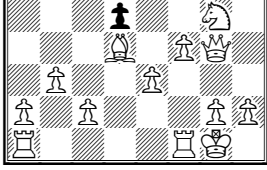
says that Black must avoid 17...♖×c2 because of 18.♘×e6 f×e6 19.♕×g6+−. However, 17...♖×c2! is actually best, because 18.♘×e6?? is refuted by 18...♕c8!,
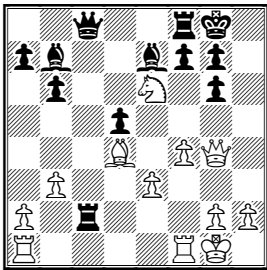

winning the knight safely, viz. 19.f5 f×e6 20.♕×g6 e5 21.♗×e5 ♗f6−+.

Game25, Ed. Lasker-Janowski: The note variation at move 16 can be improved considerably. After 16...c6 17.♕a4 ♔c7 18.♘f5,
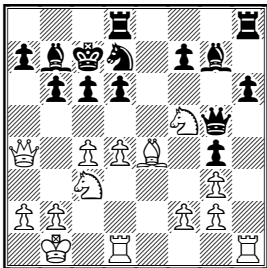

Black is by no means obliged to play the egregious 18...♗f8? 19.♕×a7 ♖a8?? 20.♘b5+ ♔d8 etc. Much better is 18...♘f6!, and White has much less of an advantage after 19.♗d3 or 19.♗c2 (about +1.10), and still less after 19.♘×g7 ♘×e4 20.♘×e4 ♕×g7 (+0.49).

After 27.♖f5,
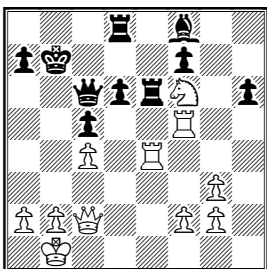
White is said to be threatening to win a pawn by 28.♘d5 ♖d7 29.♖×f7. However, 28...♖d7?? would lose much more than that: 29.♖×e6 f×e6 30.♕b3+ (much stronger than 30.♖×f8, though that also wins),
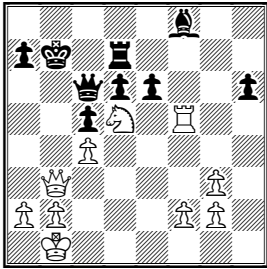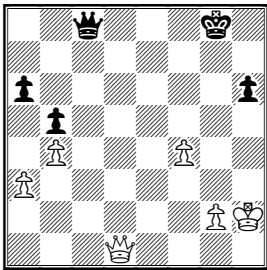
and either 30...♔c8 31.♖×f8+ ♖d8 32.♘e7+, or 30...♔a6 31.♖×f8 e×d5 32.♖c8! ♕b6 33.♕a4+ etc. Rather than 28...♖d7??, relatively best is 28...♕e8, though Black is still losing then (+2.06).

Game 26, Em. Lasker-Ed. Lasker: The two variations given in the note at White's 40th move can be improved, one slightly, the other immensely. After 40.♘g5 ♖×d1 41.♕f7+ ♔h8 42.♕h5 h6,
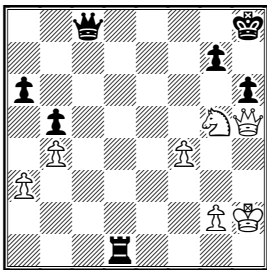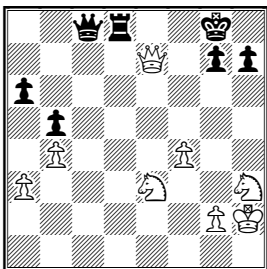

rather than the immediate 43.♕×d1, White can try 43.♘f7+ ♔g8 44.♘×h6+ g×h6 45.♕×d1,

the difference being that Black has an h-pawn instead of a g-pawn, and thus White's f-pawn is passed. Whether this would make the queen ending winnable, we cannot say.

In the other note variation, 40.♘e3,

Alekhine's recommendation 40...♖e8 is a serious error which would lose to 41.♘f5!, threatening 42.♕×g7♯ and forcing either 41...♖×e7 42.♘×e7+, or 41...♕×f5 42.♕×e8+ ♔f8 43.♕×f8+ ♔×f8, with an easy win either way. Correct instead would be 40...h6 or 40...♕d7.

Game 27, Capablanca-Tartakower: Rybka has a much higher opinion than does Alekhine of the note variation at move 33, as long as after 33...♘d1 34.♖h6, Black plays not 34...♔f8-f7, but 34...♔g7:
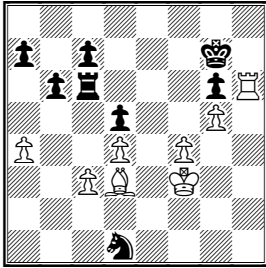

The key difference is that the black king touches the white rook, which is relevant in the line 35.f5 ♘b2 36.f6+ ♖×f6+! 37.g×f6+ ♔×h6 38.♗c2 ♘c4=. In other lines after 35.f5 ♘b2,
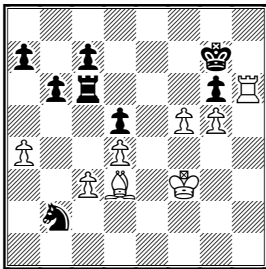
Rybka sees White coming out no better, e.g. 36.♔e2 ♘×a4=, or 36.♗b5 36...♖×c3+ 37.♔f4 g×f5 38.♔×f5=. Nor does Rybka think avoiding 35.f5 does much either, e.g. 35.♗b5 ♖e6 (35...♖×c3+ is OK too.) 36.f5 ♖e3+ 37.♔f4 ♖e4+ 38.♔f3 g×f5 39.♗d7 ♖g4=. Perhaps a white victory lies somewhere beyond the computer's analytical horizon, but the lines stemming from 34...♔g7 definitely have significance apart from 34...♔f7 and were worth mentioning.

Game 28, Alekhine-Janowski: Alekhine's play is overwhelming in this game, and we can only note a few points at which it might have been even more so. First, he is perhaps too harsh in faulting his move 15.a4 for "lack of precision." Rybka sees his play over moves 15-21 as optimal, faulting him only at move 22. There, instead of 22.♘e2-c1, which it considers playable but only 7th- or 8th-best, it recommends 22.a6:
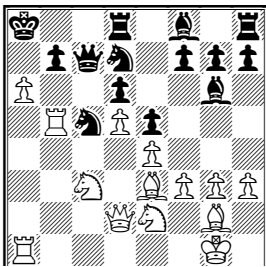
Illustrative variations then are:
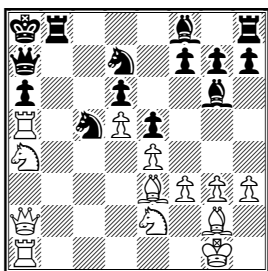
(A) 22...♘×a6 23.♕a2 ♘dc5 24.♖a5
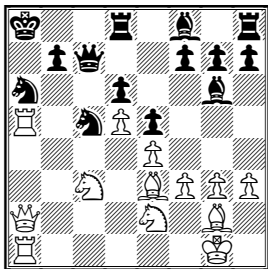
with a decisive attack (about +4.70), viz.

  (A1) 24...♕b6 25.♖b1 ♕a7 26.♘b5 ♕b6 27.♗×c5 ♕×c5+ 28.♔h1 ♔b8 29.♖×a6 b×a6 30.♕×a6 and mate shortly, or

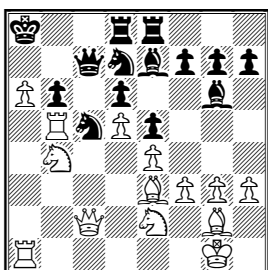 **(A2)** 24...♔b8 25.♗×c5 d×c5 26.♖×a6 b×a6 27.♕×a6 ♕b7 28.♖b1 +− , or

  (A3) 24...♕c8 25.♕b2 ♖d7 26.♘a4 ♕d8 [if 26...♘×a4 27.♖5×a4 ♖c7 (or 27...♕c7 28.♕b5 and mate in six) 28.♕b6 etc.] 27.♕b5 forcing 27...♕×a5 28.♕×a5+− ;

(B) 22...b×a6 23.♕a2 ♕a7 24.♘a4 ♖b8 25.♖a5

and Black has nothing better than 25...♖b6 26.♘×b6+ ♕×b6 27.♘c3 followed by either 28.♗f1+− or 28.♖b1+− .

(C) Relatively best is 22...b6, similar to the actual game, but after, say, 23.♕c2 ♗e7 24.♘a2 ♖he8 25.♘b4,

while there is no immediate win, it's obvious White will triumph eventually (+1.91 at 12 ply).

In the note to Black's 24th move, after 24...♔b8,
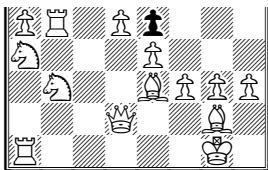
it is definitely true that the recommended 25.♖c1 ♛d8 26.♖c6 is a decisive attack (+4.38). Even stronger, though, is 25.♛b2 with the overwhelming threat of 26.♖c1 ♛d8 27.♖×b7+! ♚×b7 28.♘bc5+ etc. If then, say 25...♖e8 26.♖b1 ♚a8 27.♗f1 and nothing can be done against the threatened 28.♘b6+ ♘×b6 29.♖×b6+− (+9.53).

The note at move 30 is correct that after 30...♗d8,
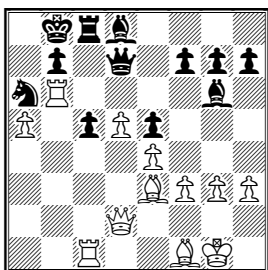
Black would be unable to defend his c-pawn after 31.♖b2. But why worry about a trivial pawn when White has 31.♖×a6!! b×a6 32.♗×a6 ♖c7 33.♖b1+ ♚a7 34.♛b4 and mate in about a dozen moves at most.

Game 31, Maróczy-Em. Lasker: In the note at White's 22nd move, Alekhine seems to have gotten the evaluations of his two variations reversed. He says that after 22.♗f4,
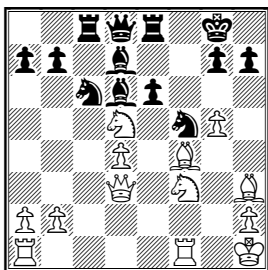
Black should play 22...♘b4 23.♘×b4 ♗×b4
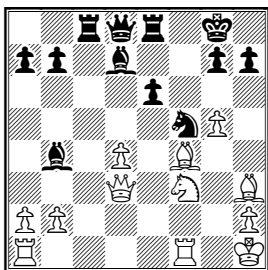
"with a winning position." It is indeed a winning position, but for White: 24.♗×f5 e×f5 25.♛b3+ ♗e6 26.♛×b4, winning the bishop. Instead, Black must do what he advises against, and what

seems obvious, taking the knight *en prise* on d5 (from previous diagram): 22... e×d5 23.♗×f5 ♗×f4 24.♗×h7+ ♔h8 25.♘h4,
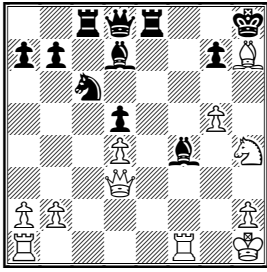

and now, after either 25...♘b4 or 25...♖e3, Black will simply remain up a piece for a pawn, e.g. 26.♕b1 ♖c1 27.♖×c1 ♗×c1 28.♕×c1 (nothing comes of 28.♘g6+ ♔×h7 29.♘e5+ ♔g8) 28...♔×h7, or 25...♖e3 26.♕b1 ♕×g5 27.♖×f4 ♖h3. One can only think that Alekhine meant to advise against 22...♘b4 and in favor of 22...e×d5.

Game 33, Alekhine-Marshall: This game, like many with the King's Indian Four Pawns Attack, presented major complications. So it was not surprising that even so capable a tactician as Alekhine went astray at several points.

First, the note to White's 18th move, after 18...♘df6 19.♘×d5 ♘×d5 20.c×d5 ♕×d5,
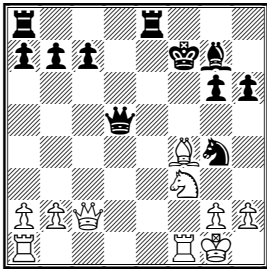
recommends 21.♖ad1, but after 21...♕c6 this leads to little or no advantage (+0.34). Instead, White has the decisive 21.♗×h6!:
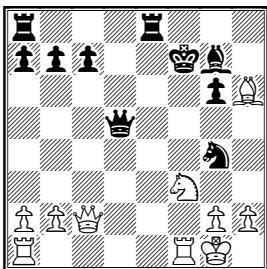
If then 21...♗×h6 22.♘g5+ ♔g7 23.♕×c7+ and mate shortly; if 21...♘×h6 22.♘g5+ ♔g8 23.♕×g6 and Black must give up his queen to stop mate; or if 21...♔g8 22.♕×g6 ♕c5+ 23.♔h1 ♕e7 24.♘g5 etc. Relatively best is 21...♖e2 22.♕×e2 ♘×h6 23.♘e5+ ♔g8 24.♘×g6, but that leaves White up the exchange and a pawn (+3.67).

At move 19, Rybka does not agree that the line 19.h3 d4 20.♘×d4 ♘e5 is "without any danger for Black."
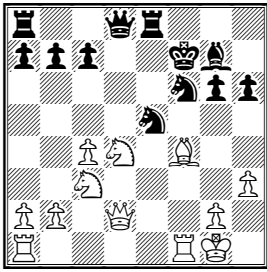

White can, to use one of Alekhine's favorite phrases, go fishing in troubled waters with 21.♖ad1!? ♘×c4 — Other moves are worse: if 21...♔g8 22.♗×h6, or 21...♘c6 22.♘db5 ♛×d2 23.♗×d2 ♖ac8 24.♘d5 and the c-pawn goes, or 21...c6 22.♗×h6 ♘×c4 23.♕g5 ♗h8 24.b3 ♘e3 25.♘×c6+− — 22.♕c2,
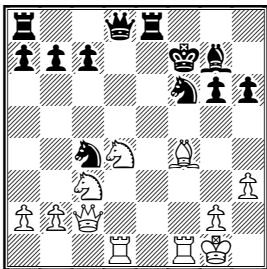

with multiple threats along the d- and f-files and the a2-g8 diagonal. The knight on c4 must not move, viz. 23...♘b6 24.♕b3+ ♔f8 25.♘e6+, or 23...♘a5 24.♘f5. Thus 22...c6 is forced, starting a long, bewildering forced continuation: 22...c6 23.♕b3 b5 24.♘×c6 ♛b6+ 25.♘d4
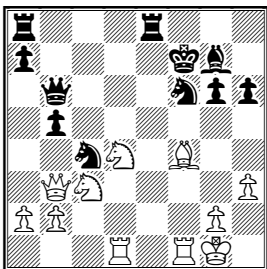
25...♔g8 (if 25...a6 26.♘d5 ♛c5 27.♘c7, or 25...♖ac8 26.♘d5 ♕c5 27.♘×f6 ♗×f6 28.♗×h6) 26.♘c×b5 ♖ac8 27.♗c7 ♕c5 28.♗d6
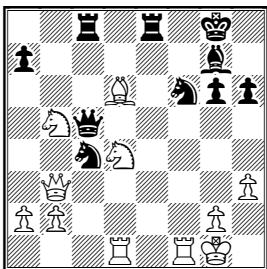
And now Black must steer clear of 28...♕b6 29.♖c1 a6 30.♖×c4 ♖×c4 31.♕×c4+ ♔h7 32.♕c7 ♘d5 33.♕×b6 ♘×b6 34.b3 a×b5 35.♘×b5 when the smoke has cleared with a won ending for White. Best instead is 28...♕d5 29.♘c7 ♖×c7 (29...♕×d6 30.♕×c4+ ♔h7 31.♘×e8 is worse) 30.♘b5 ♕c6 31.♘×c7 ♖e2 32.♕f3 ♕×f3 33.♖×f3 ♖×b2 34.♘e6 ♘e4,
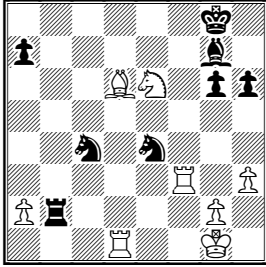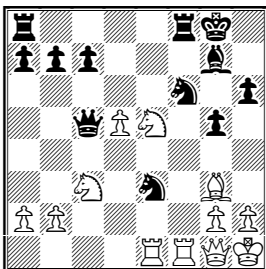
when though Rybka rates the position at +2.86, there are so few pawns and the position is so open that Black may yet draw. We will hardly claim that the above analysis is exhaustive and conclusive, but it does show, contrary to Alekhine's opinion, that a lot of danger was lying in wait for Black.

In the note after move 20, Rybka does not agree that 21.♖ae1 ♕c5+ 22.♔h1 ♘e3 leads to any advantage for Black.
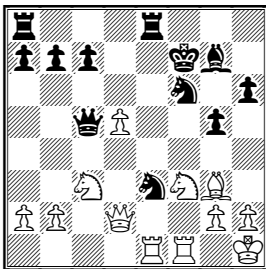
Apparently Alekhine did not consider 23.♕f2! ♔g8 (forced, else 24.♘e5+ ♔g8 25.♕×e3 after most other moves) 24.♘e5 ♖f8 25.♕g1

25...♘f×d5 (or 25...♘h5 26.♖×f8+ ♖×f8 27.♘d7 ♘×g3+ 28.h×g3 ♕d6 29.♘×f8 ♘g4 30.♘e4 ♕×f8 31.♕×a7 ♕b4 32.♕g1 ♗×b2 33.♕f1 +1.57) 26.♘×d5 ♖×f1 27.♖×f1 ♕×d5 28.♕×e3,
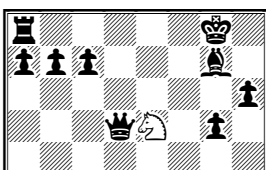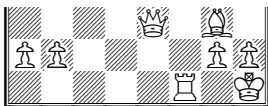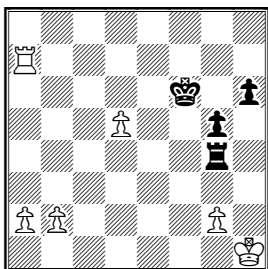
and while it's not clear that White can win, the position is certainly not advantageous for Black.

The note to White's 22nd move claims that 22.♘d4 ♘e3 "would have led only to a draw,"
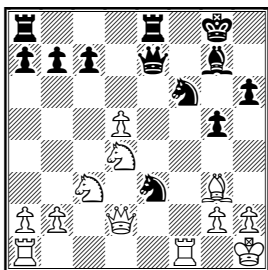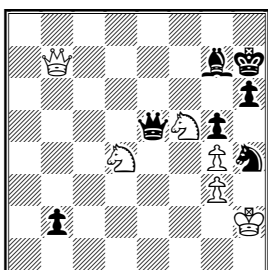

considering only one line stemming from 23.♘f5. Instead, White can try 23.♖fe1!, when a likely continuation is 23...♖ad8 24.♘c2 ♘fg4 25.h3 ♗×c3 26.♕×c3 ♕g7 27.♕×g7+ ♔×g7 28.♖ac1 (not 28.h×g4? ♘×c2) 28...♘×c2 29.♖×e8 ♖×e8 30.♖×c2 ♖e3 31.♖×c7+ ♔f6 32.♖×b7 ♖×g3 33.h×g4 ♖×g4 34.♖×a7,

and this looks winnable for White.

In the note at move 52, Alekhine seems to have gotten his evaluations reversed as he did in Game 31. After 52...♕e5+ 53.g3 ♘h4,

White simply must play 54.♘×g7 ♕×g7 55.♕e4+ ♘g6, which though rated -2.33 by Rybka may still be tenable for White (the unmentioned 54.♕×b2 may also work). If instead White plays the recommended 54.♔h3??,
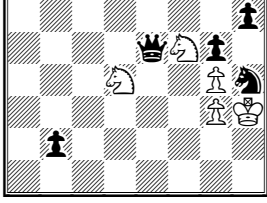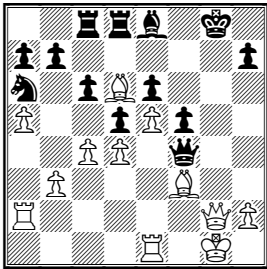
Black wins with 54...♘×f5 55.♘×f5 h5!! 56.♘×g7 h×g4+ 57.♔×g4 ♕d4+ 58.♔h5 ♕d1+ 59.♔×g5 ♕c1+ 60.♔g4 b1♕ −+ :
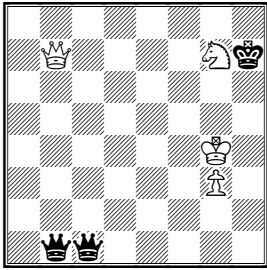

Game 34, Réti-Ed. Lasker: Only a minor quibble here. The note to Black's 27th claims that after 27...♕×f4 28.♕g2+ White is winning,

giving the continuation 28...♔h8 29.♗e7 ♗g6 30.h4 ♕×d4+ 31.♖f2. Rybka tentatively agrees about that line, but finds a much better way to get out of check: 28...♗g6!, when White has much less compensation for the lost pawn, e.g. 29.♖d2 ♖d7 (-0.30), or 29.♕f2 ♖d7 (-0.10). And definitely not 29.♗e7? ♖d7 30.♗f6 ♕×d4+ 31.♔h1 d×c4 (-1.29).

Game 35, Bogoljubow-Janowski: At White's 31st move, Rybka agrees with Alekhine's suggested alternative 31.♕g3, but not with his follow-up.
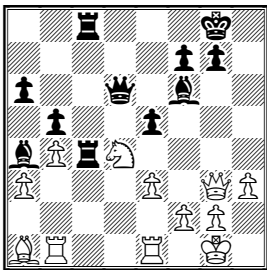
His continuation 31...♕d5 would allow White some initiative with 32.e4! and, say, 32...♕a8 33.♘f3 ♖×e4 34.♗×e5 (+0.90), or 32...♕d6 33.♘f5 ♕e6 34.♘h6+ ♔f8 35.♘g4 ♖e8 (+1.04). In

either case White has freed up his position and my eventually be able to make his extra pawn tell. Rather than 31...♕d5?!, Black would have to content himself with further maneuvering, e.g. 31...♕c7 32.♘f3 ♖e8 (+0.40).

The note at move 35 is puzzling. It is correct that 35.♕g3 would lose,
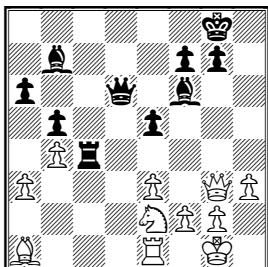
but the note continuation 35...♖c2?! 36.♔f1 ♗e4?!, far from winning as claimed, leads to nothing after 36.f4 (-0.19). Furthermore, 36.♔f1 is not required; a much better defense is made by 36.♘d4! when if, say 36...♖c7 37.e4 (+0.54), or 36...♖a2 37.♘f5 ♕e6 38.♘h6+ ♔h7 39.♘g4 ♖×a3 40.♗×e5 (+0.34).

The correct refutation of 35.♕g3 is 35...♕d2!:
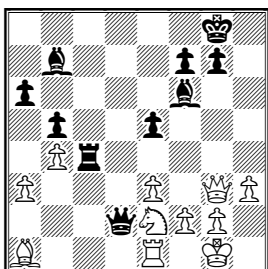
If now 36.♔f1 ♗e4 37.f4 ♗d3 38.♕f2 ♖c1−+ (-3.62) or if 36.f3 ♗×f3! 37.g×f3 ♗h4−+(-5.53). Relatively best is for White to abandon the hapless knight with 36.♖f1 ♕×e2 37.♗×e5 ♗×e5 38.♕×e5, but of course this too loses (-1.82).

In the note at White's 36th move, after 36.♔f2,
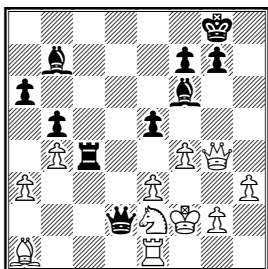
by far the strongest move is not 36...e×f4 (only -0.66), but 36...♖e4!, when if 37.♕f3?? ♖×f4!−+. Therefore the e-pawn cannot be defended and White's position collapses, e.g. 37.♗c3 ♕×e3+ 38.♔f1 ♖c4 (-2.20).

The text move 36...♖e4 is called "a convincing continuation,"
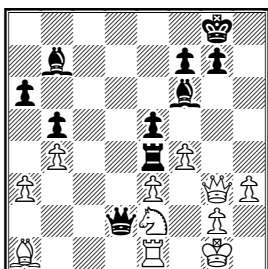
but it is actually much inferior to the recommended (and clearly winning) alternative 36...e×f4. After 36...♖e4 37.♗c3 Black had to play 37...♕d3 to retain any advantage. The text move 37...♕d5?! allowed White a defense that went completely overlooked:
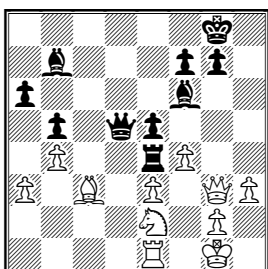

Instead of 38.♗×e5??, the losing move, White could have held with 38.♕f3!, likely continuations being 38...♗h4 39.g3 (-0.40), or 38...♕d3 39.f×e5 ♗g5 40.♔h2 (-0.39), or 38...♖×e3 39.♕×d5 ♗×d5 40.♗×e5 ♗×e5 41.f×e5 ♖×a3 42.♘f4 (-0.30).

Game 36, Bogoljubow-Em. Lasker: One minor comment here. In the note to White's 35th move, in variation II, after 35.♔e1 ♖×g2 36.♖c8+ ♔h7 37.c5 f5 38.c6 ♖c2 39.c7,
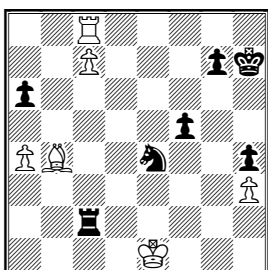
the next move reads "39...f4 (or 39...♖c4)" as if the two were interchangeable and equally good. In fact 39...♖c4?? would lose to 40.♗a5! protecting the c-pawn and allowing the white rook to move off the queening square, e.g. 40...♘d6 41.♖d8 ♘b7 42.c8♕ ♖×c8 43.♖×c8 ♘×a5 44.♖a8+− , or 40...♘g5 41.♖a8 ♘×h3 42.c8♕ ♖×c8 43.♖×c8+− . After 39...f4 40.♗a5 does not win,
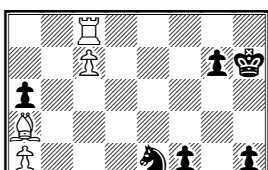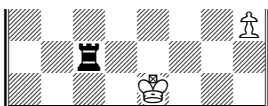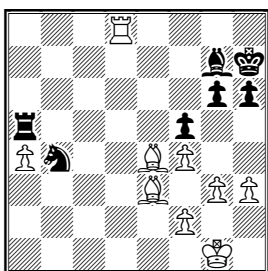
because the advance of Black's f-pawn counters the threat of White's c-pawn, viz. 40.♗a5 f3 41.♔d1 (forced by the threat of 41...♖c1╪) 41...♖c6 42.♖f8 f2=,
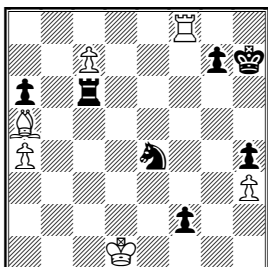

with the chess equivalent of a Mexican standoff.

Game 38, Alekhine-Réti: Only one minor improvement here. In the note for Black's 36th move, after 36...f5,

while the recommended 37.♖d7 is good enough to win, best and simplest is 37.♖a8 ♖×a8 38.♗×a8 (or 37...♖a6 38.♖×a6 ♘×a6 39.♗b7), when the passed pawn, supported by the two bishops, cannot be stopped without giving up a piece.

Game 39, Janowski-Marshall: "A game rich in vicissitudes," says Alekhine. Indeed it was, so rich in fact that quite a few resources, on both attack and defense, were missed by the players and the annotator.

In the note at move 15, the refutation offered for the sacrifice 15.♘×f7 is not convincing. After 15.♘×f7 ♔×f7 16.♗f3 ♗e6 17.♖fe1 ♘c7 18.♖×e6 ♘×e6,
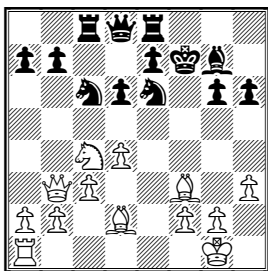
the note's 19.♗d5? is a mistake. Much better is 19.♖e1!, when 20.♗d5 becomes a real threat. Forced then is 19...d5 20.♗×d5 ♕×d5 21.♘e5+ ♕×e5 22.d×e5,
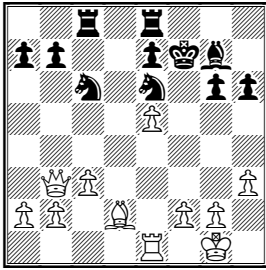
when, with the unusual material imbalance of two knights and a rook for the queen and two pawns, Rybka rates the position as virtually even. Black has to be rather careful, e.g. 22...♘×e5? 23.♗×h6!, or 22...♖ed8 23.♗e3 ♘×e5? 24.♗d4+−, or 23...♗×e5? 24.f4 ♘a5 25.♕b5 ♗c7 26.f5 ♘g7 27.f×g6+ ♚×g6 28.♕a4 ♚f7 29.♕e4 ♖d6 30.♗d4+− (+1.88). This is not to say that 15.♘×f7 was best, but it was not as bad as it was made out to be.

In a sub-variation of that same note, in the line 19.♗d5 ♕d7 20.♗×e6+ ♕×e6 21.♖e1,
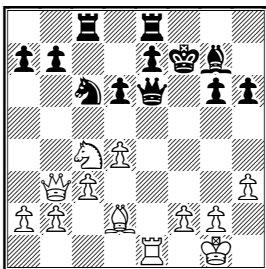
the note continuation 21...♘a5 22.♘×a5 ♕×b3 23.a×b3 is relatively weak (-0.59). Instead 21.♖e1?? is refuted by 21...♘×d4! 22.c×d4 ♕×c4, when the dust has settled with Black up a rook (-4.64).
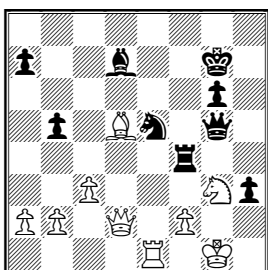
In the note to move 24, after 24.♗h5 g×h5 25.♕×h5,
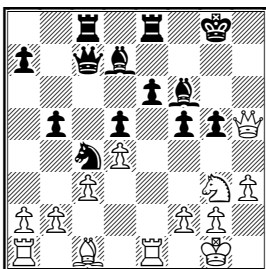
the moves 25...♗c6 and 25...♖e7 seem to be regarded as equivalent. The former move is probably Black's best, but the latter fails spectacularly:
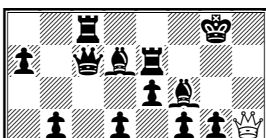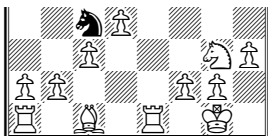
26.♕g6+! ♗g7 27.♘×f5 ♖ce8 (if 27...e×f5?? 28.♖×e7) 28.♗×g5 e×f5 29.♖×e7 ♖×e7 30.♗×e7+−
(+2.23). This idea does not work against 25...♗c6 because if 26.♕g6+ ♕g7−+.

At White's 42nd move, the best move goes unmentioned.

As Alekhine points out, the text move 42.♖e3? allowed a winning combination that Marshall
missed. With either 42.♕e3, 42.♕e2 or 42.♔h1 White would have avoided danger, e.g. 42.♕e3
♘g4 43.♕e7+ ♔h6 44.♕×g5+ ♔×g5 45.♖e7 ♘f6= (-0.20).

Alekhine goes astray in giving the line Marshall should have played at move 42. After 42.♖e3?
h2+ 43.♔h1,
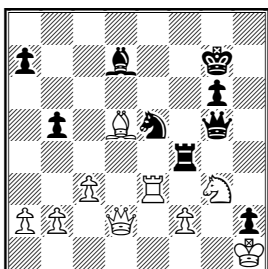
correct was 43...♘c4! 44.♕d3 (if 44.♗×c4 ♗c6+) 44...♘×e3 45.♗g2 (or 45.♕×e3 ♕×d5+)
45...♖×f2 (45...♘×g2 is good too) 46.♕×d7+ ♔f8 when White's checks will quickly run out
leaving Black with an overwhelming plus (-5.23). In contrast, the recommended 43...♘g4?! is
much less effective if White avoids 44.♖f3?? in favor of 44.♘e4!,
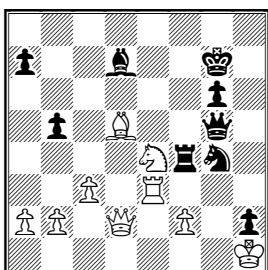
when after, say, 44...♘×f2+ 45.♕×f2 ♕g4 46.♕e1 ♕f5 47.♔×h2 ♕×d5 48.♘g3 ♗c6 49.♕e2
Black's advantage is much smaller (-0.86).

At White's 44th move,
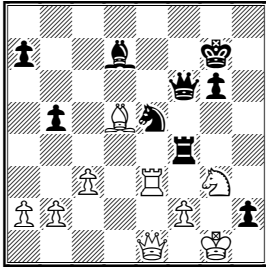
it goes unmentioned that 44.♔h1 was a serious mistake. Instead 44.♔g2!, which makes ...♘×f2 not a check, holds, viz. 44...♘g4 45.♖e7+ ♔f8 46.♖×d7 ♖×f2+ (not 46...♘×f2?? 47.♕e3+− or 47.♖f7++−) 47.♔h3= (0.00), or 44...♖×f2+ 45.♕×f2 ♗h3+ 46.♔×h3 ♕×f2 47.♖×e5= (-0.20).

One move later, Marshall again missed the best line, playing 46...♔h6 which could have allowed Janowski to draw, as will be shown below. Correct instead was 46...♔f8!,
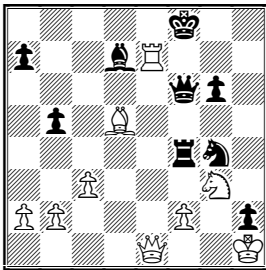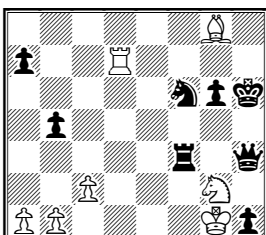
when White's doom is sealed: 46.♖×d7 ♘×f2+ 47.♔g2 ♕g5−+,
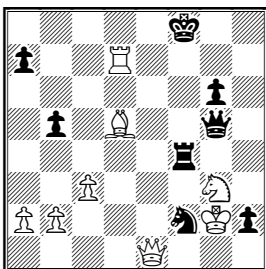
the difference being that, unlike when the king is on h6, 48.♗g8 does not threaten mate.

At move 48, contrary to Alekhine's opinion, White's queen sac 48.♕×f2 was not forced. The alternative he dismissed, 48.♗e6, was best, because after 48...♘e4 49.♗g8 ♘f6,

where Alekhine left off concluding Black had an advantage, White in fact has at least eight moves that retain equality, the best being probably 50.♖d6 or 50.♖f7, when if 50...♘×g8?? 51.♘f5+!+−.

No comment is made on 56.♔f3, a decidedly inferior move (-2.04). Better resistance was afforded by 56.♘e2!,
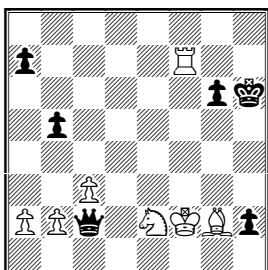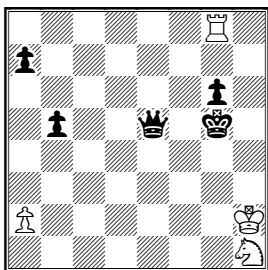
when after, say, 56...♛×b2 57.♖f3 ♛×a2 58.♖h3+ ♔g7 59.♖×h2 White can fight on (-0.95).

The laconic note at Black's 61st move says merely "Or 61...♛d2 62.♖g8, etc." indicating this was not as good for Black as the text move 61...♛d1+. We're not sure what sort of an "etc." Alekhine had in mind, but 61...♛d2 wins in all variations, *especially* against 62.♖g8:
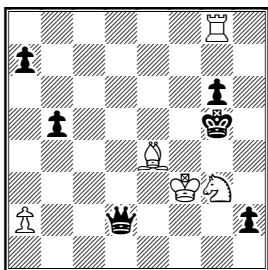
62...h1♛+ 63.♘×h1 ♛f4+ 64.♔g2 ♛×e4+ 65.♔h2 ♛e5+,

and Black eventually nabs the stray rook: 66.♔g2 ♛d5+, or 66.♔h3 ♛e6+, or 66.♔g1 ♛a1+ 67.♔g2 ♛×a2+, or 66.♘g3 ♔h4 67.♖×g6 ♛b2+ 68.♔g1 ♛b1+.

Lastly for this vicissitudinous game, an improvement to the note at move 65. After 65.♖d8,
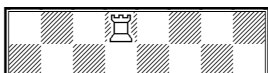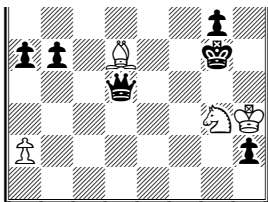
while 65...♕h4+ would indeed have been unpleasant (-1.90), much more so was 65...h1♕+ 66.♘×h1 ♕f6 67.♖e8 ♕f5+ 68.♔h2 ♕×d5−+ (-5.02).

Game 41, Marshall-Em. Lasker: A very engrossing game with some uncharacteristic lapses by Lasker, and on the whole very perceptive analysis by Alekhine. Still, some surprising and interesting improvements were found.

In the note variation at move 20, after 20.♘×e6 ♖×e6 21.♕×d5,
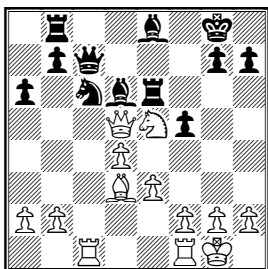


Black should avoid 21...♕e7 (+1.57) in favor of 21...♗f7! 22.♘×f7 ♕×f7,
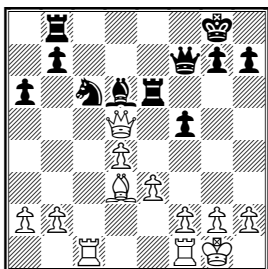
and after either 23.♗c4 ♖be8 24.♕f3 or 23.♕×e6 ♕×e6 24.♗c4 ♔f7, White will have one less pawn than in the note line, a considerable improvement (about +0.40).

The possibilities at White's 43rd yield some surprises. Alekhine is absolutely correct that the text move 43.♘×g4 was best, but his analysis of the alternative 43.♖×g4 can be improved.
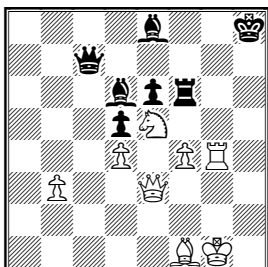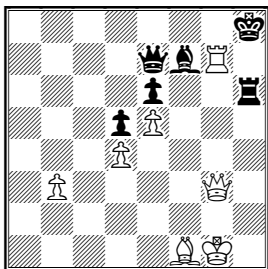
After 43.♖×g4 ♖h6 44.♕g3 ♗f7,
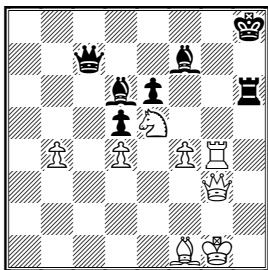
rather than the note's 45.♖g7, Rybka prefers the trappy 45.b4, when if 45...♗×b4?? 46.♖g7 ♖f6 47.♘×f7+ ♖×f7 48.♖g8+ ♔h7 49.♕g6♯. Black would have to play, say, 45...♕a7, when White could either go for slow progress on the queenside with 46.♕c3, or fish in troubled kingside waters with 46.♖h4.

Returning to the note line, after 45...♗×e5 46.f×e5 ♕e7,

Alekhine considered that Black may have a defensible position, but Rybka questions this, going further with 47.♖g4 ♖h5 (else 48.♕f4 ♖g6 49.♖×g6 ♗×g6 50.♕h6+ ♗h7 51.♕f6+ ♔g8 52.♕×e6+ etc.) 48.♗e2 ♕f8 49.♕f4 (threatening mate starting with 50.♕f6+) 49...♕h6 50.♕×h6+ ♖×h6 51.♖g2
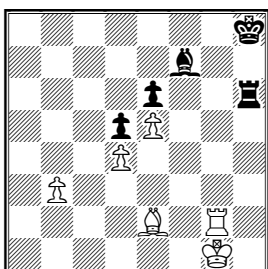
and Black has no way to avoid exchanging rooks, leading to what should be an elementary ending winning for White, e.g. 51...♗e8 52.♖h2 ♖×h2 53.♔×h2. Or if 51...♗g6 52.b4 etc.

This is why, rather than 46...♕e7, Rybka prefers the startling 46...♕c1!:
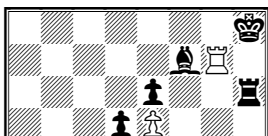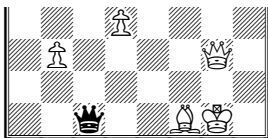
Frankly, when we first saw this we thought something had gone haywire in the program. It looks like Black is committing suicide leaving his bishop *en prise*, but in fact he wants to give up *all* his pieces: 47.♖×f7 ♖g6!! 48.♕×g6 (48.♖f8+ ♔h7 is no better) 48...♕e3+ 49.♔h1 ♕g1+!! 50.♔×g1 stalemate!
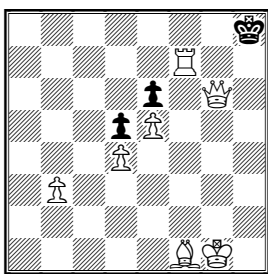
Other White tries fare little or no better (from previous diagram):
(A) Definitely not 47.♔g2?? ♕d2+ 48.♔g1 ♕×d4+ 49.♔g2 ♗g6 50.♖×g6 ♕e4+ 51.♔f2 ♖×g6−+;
(B) 47.b4 ♖h1+!! 48.♔×h1 ♕×f1+ 49.♔h2 ♕e2+ with perpetual check;
(C) 47.♕g4 ♕e3+ and Black has any number of paths to perpetual check;
(D) 47.♖g5 ♖g6 48.♕h4+ ♔g7 49.♖×g6+ ♗×g6 50.♕f6+ ♔h7 51.♕×e6 ♕e3+ with perpetual check again;
(E) 47.♕g5 ♕×g5+ 48.♖×g5 ♖h4 and 49...♖×d4=;
(F) 47.♖g4 ♖g6 48.♖×g6 (48.b4 ♖×g4 49.♕×g4 ♗g6 amounts to the same thing) 48...♗×g6 49.b4 (if 49.♕×g6 ♕×f1+ and stalemate again) 49...♔g7,
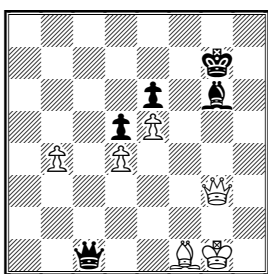
and though White still has the extra pawn it is probably not enough to win (+0.10). An amazing drawing resource in a difficult position.

At White's 44th move, Alekhine is correct that Marshall could have won with 44.♗d3!, but as at move 43 his analysis ends too soon, with 44.♗d3 ♗h5 45.♘h6 ♖f8 46.♕g5,
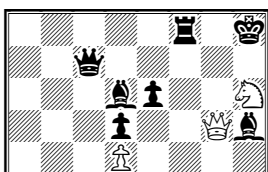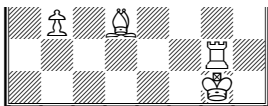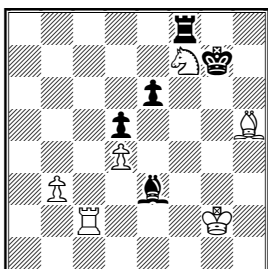
concluding that "Black would have no defense against 48.♕g8+." But in fact he does: 46...♗g6!, when if 47.♕×g6?? ♕c1+ 48.♗f1 ♕×f1♯! There are only two other possibilities for White to try for the win:

(A) 47.♗×g6 ♗f4!! 48.♘f7+ (or 48.♖c2 ♗×g5 49.♖×c7 ♗×h6=) 48...♔g7! 49.♕h4 ♕c1+ 50.♔f2 ♕d2+ 51.♔f3 ♕e3+ 52.♔g4 ♔×g6 53.♘h8+ ♖×h8 54.♕×h8 ♔f7 and though Black is down the exchange he has a fighting chance;

**(B)** 47.♖c2 ♕g7 48.♕×g6 ♕×g6+ 49.♗×g6 ♔g7 50.♘f7 ♗f4 51.♗h5 ♗e3+ 52.♔g2,

and either 52...♖×f7 53.♗×f7 ♔×f7 54.♖c7+ ♔e8 55.♔f3 ♗×d4, or 52...♔f6 53.♘e5 ♖g8+ 54.♔f3 ♗×d4, leading in either case to a difficult endgame where Black has definite chances.

Does this mean that 44.♗d3 does not win? Not at all. Instead of 46.♕g5?, White plays 46.♘f7+!,
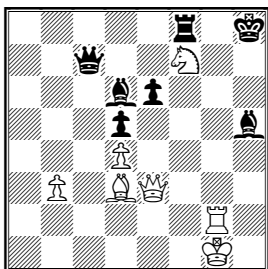
and Black can resign. If 46...♕×f7 47.♕h6+ forces mate, or if 47...♖×f7 47.♕h6+ ♖h7 48.♗×h7 ♗g3 (if 48...♕×h7 49.♕f6+ etc.) 49.♗g6+ and it's a massacre (+14.72).

Game 42, Bogoljubow-Capablanca: One of those limpidly clear Capablanca games where everything looks inevitable and self-explanatory. Only one minor note correction is offered. In the note to Black's 23rd move, the variation 24.b4 a5 25.b5 ♘c4 26.♘×c4 ♖×c4 27.♖a1,
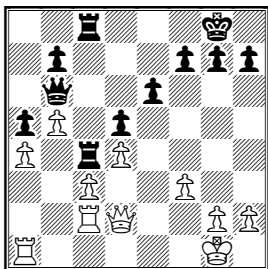
much better than 27...e5 is 27...R×d4!, and after either 28.c×d4 R×c2 29.Q×c2 Q×d4+ 30.Kf1 Q×a1+, or 28.Q×d4 Q×d4+ 29.c×d4 R×c2 followed by ...Rc4, Black has won two pawns.

Game 43, Tartakower-Alekhine: A difficult game Alekhine barely managed to draw. His later analysis has puzzling lapses, some serious.

To begin with, the note at Black's 27th move is correct that 27...Re8 was not an adequate defense, but then botches the proof. The final position the note reaches is said to be winning for White,
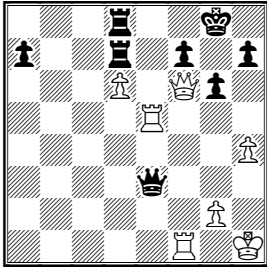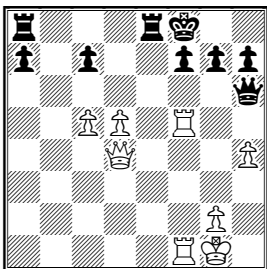

but Rybka rates it dead even, and after the likely continuation 36.Re5 Qb6 37.Re7 R×e7 38.Q×e7 Q×d6 39.Q×f7+ Kh8 40.Q×a7 Rd7,
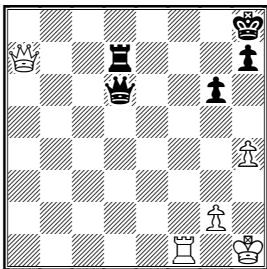
it's obvious there's no win for either side.

However, a win is there, if after 27...Re8 28.Rg5 Qh6, White avoids the note's 29.Qf4 in favor of 29.Rgf5!:
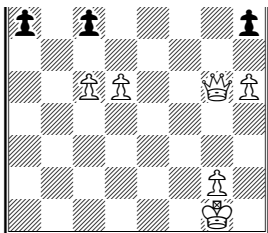

Black simply cannot defend the f-pawn now:
(A) 29...Qg6 30.h5+−;
**(B)** 29...Re7 30.d6 c×d6 31.Qd5+−;
(C) 29...f6 30.R×f6+! g×f6 31.R×f6+ Q×f6 32.Q×f6+ Kg8 33.h5 Rf8 34.Qg5+,

and either 34...♚h8 35.♕e5+ ♚g8 36.h6 ♖f7 d6+−, or 34...♚f7 35.h6 ♖g8 36.♕f5+ ♚e7 37.♕e6+ ♚f8 38.d6 c×d6 39.c×d6 ♖g6 40.♕f5+ ♚e8 41.d7+ ♚e7 42.♕e4+ ♚×d7 43.♕×a8+−.
(D) Relatively best is to abandon the pawn with 29...♚g8, but this loses too: 30.♖×f7 ♖ac8 31.d6 c×d6 32.c×d6 ♖ed8 33.♖c7! etc. (if ♖×c7 34.d×c7 ♖×d4 35.c8♕+).

The note at move 28 is wrong both in asserting that after 29.♕g4 "Black could have saved himself more easily," and in demonstrating that claim. In its variation (I) 29.♕g4 ♖ad8 30.♖fe1, the recommended 30...f6 is a blunder that allows White to win immediately,
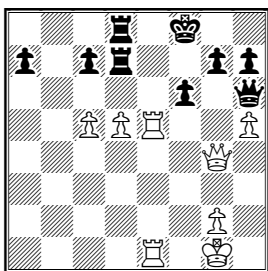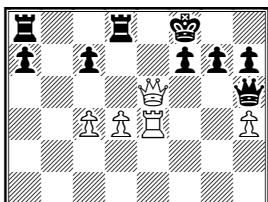
not with 31.c6?, but 31.♕×d7! ♖×d7 32.♖e8+ ♚f7 33.c6+− (+9.62). Instead of 30...f6??, relatively best is 30...f5,
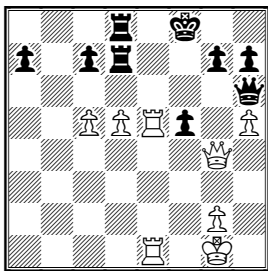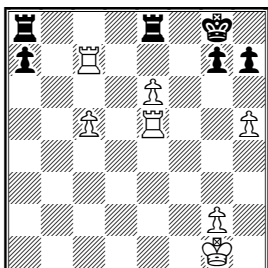
but this loses too: 31.♖×f5+ ♚g8 32.d6 c×d6 32.♕c4 ♚h8 (else 33.d6+) 33.♕c3 ♕a6 (otherwise 34.♖e6 traps the queen on most other moves, and if 33...♖×d5 34.♖×d5 ♖×d5 35.♖e8⌗) 34.c6 ♖d6 35.♖e7 and mate soon.

In the note's variation (II), after 29...♖dd8, instead of the ineffective 30.♕g4-e2, White has the surprising 30.♕e6!,
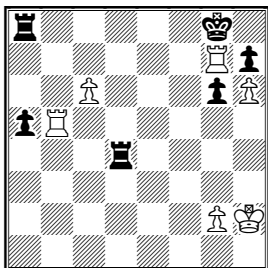
forcing 30...♕×e6 31.d×e6 ♖e8 32.♖×f7+ ♔g8 33.♖×c7:

Rybka then sees best play along the lines of 33...a5 34.♖g5 g6 35.h6! (35.h×g6?! h6 36.♖e5 is only +0.68) 35...♖×e6 36.c6 ♖d6 37.♖b5 ♖d1+ 38.♔h2 ♖d4 39.♖g7+,

and either 39...♔f8 40.♖×h7, or 39...♔h8 40.c7 and nothing can stop 41.♖b8+. Alekhine disparages some unnamed critics who suggested 29.♕g4 as a winning line — but they were right.

But Tartakower's text move 29.♕e4 was also good enough to win, if he had followed through correctly. Alekhine's reply 29...f6 probably made the best of a bad situation, but still would have failed had Tartakower, instead of 30.g2-g4?!, found 30.d6!:
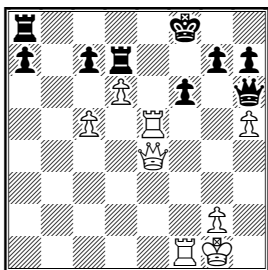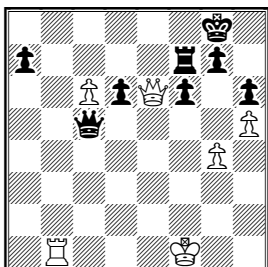
This move, unmentioned by Alekhine, forces 30...♖ad8 (not, of course, 30...c×d6?? 31.♕×a8+) 31.♖e7 ♕×h5 32.♕c6 c×d6 33.♖×d7 ♖×d7 34.♕×d7 ♕×c5+ 35.♔h1,
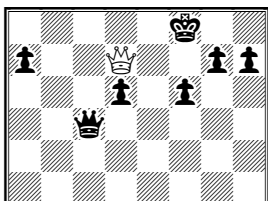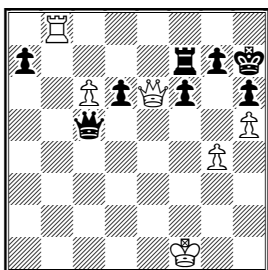
and though Black has four pawns for the rook, White should still win.

Finally, the note at move 33 goes wrong at the end. After the last move given, 39...h6,
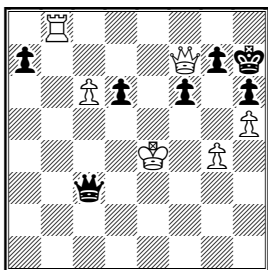

Alekhine says "Black would have a perpetual check in case White should capture the rook." On further analysis, after 40.♖b8+ ♔h7,

Rybka does not agree, giving White two ways to win:
(A) 41.c7! ♛c1+ 42.♔g2 ♛d2+ 43.♔g3 ♛c3+ 44.♔h4 and Black has no more checks. 44...♛f3 45.♖h8+ ♔×h8 46.c8♛+ ♔h7 47.♛f5+ and wins;
(B) 41.♛×f7! (anyway!) 41...♛c1+ 42.♔e2 — beginning an amazing king-walk — 42...♛c2+ 43.♔e3 ♛c3+ 44.♔e4,
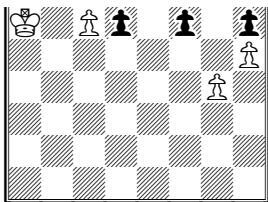

and now the king-walk can go in two directions:
  (B1) 44...♛c2+ 45.♔d5 ♛a2+ 46.♔×d6! (giving up one queen to create another!) 46...♛×f7 47.c7 ♛c4 48.c8♛ ♛f4+ 49.♔e7 ♛e5+ 50.♔f7 ♛d5+ 51.♛e6 and mate soon;
 **(B2)** 44...♛e1+ 45.♔d3 (not 45.♔d5? ♛e5+) 45...♛f1+ 46.♔c3 ♛c1+ 47.♔b4 ♛e1+ (if 47...♛b1+ 48.♛b3) 48.♔b5! ♛b1+ 49.♔a6 ♛×b8 50.♛b7:

Alekhine is hardly to be faulted for not finding lines like this; the bewildering multiplicity of possible checks would baffle any human analyst. But the errors at moves 29 and 30 smack of at least a subconscious — if not deliberate — suppression of unpleasant facts, something Alekhine was prone to occasionally when annotating his own games, and seen again in his game with Edward Lasker in the next round (game 48).

*Game 45, Yates-Maróczy*: In the note at White's 21st move, after 21.♗e3 e5 22.♘e2,
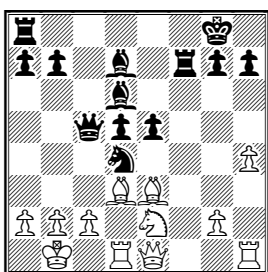
Black need not retreat meekly and give back a pawn with 22...♕c7 23.♘×d4 e×d4 24.♗×d4. Instead he can retain his plus with 22...♘×c2! 23.♗×c2 (worse is 23.♗×c5 ♘×e1 24.♗×d6 ♘×d3 25.♖×d3 ♗f5) 23...♕×e3 24.♖×d5 ♗c7 (-0.85). Rather than 22.♘e2 Rybka suggests 22.h5 or 22.♕g1.
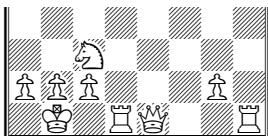
The note at White's 22nd move is quite correct that 22.♗g6! was best, but misses the strongest continuations at two points. First, Rybka indicates that Black's best reply is not 22...♘e5 but the unmentioned 22...♖f7-f6,
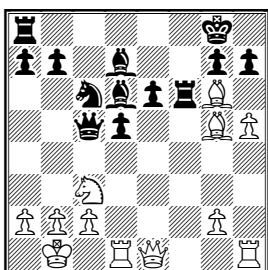
giving 23.♗×f6 g×f6 24.♗d3 when White's advantage is minimal (+0.45). Also reasonable is 22...♖af8 23.♗×f7+ ♖×f7 (+0.54).

In the note's variation (III) after 22...♖ff8 23.h6 g×h6,
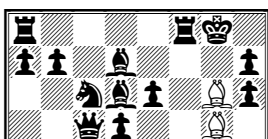
while 24.♖×h6 is quite good, strongest by far is 24.♕h4! forcing mate within a few moves, e.g. 24...h×g5 25.♕×h7♯, or 24...h×g6 25.♕×h6 etc., or 24...♗e5 25.♕×h6 ♖f7 26.♗×f7+ ♔×f7 27.♖df1+ etc. Mate is postponed longer only by a massive material giveaway: 24...♕d4 25.♖×d4 ♖f1+ 26.♖×f1 ♖f8 27.♗×h7+ ♔h8 28.♖×f8+ ♗×f8 29.♖f4 ♗g7 30.♗×h6 ♔×h7 31.♗×g7+ ♔×g7 32.♕g5+ ♔h7 33.♖h4♯.

Game 46, Em. Lasker-Réti: Only one minor correction here. At White's 19th move, Alekhine says "Not 19.♘f5 on account of 19...♗×f4+." It must be admitted that the straightforward text move 19.♘b5 is probably preferable on practical grounds because of its clarity. However, 19.♘f5, though leading to more complications, is in fact playable and about as strong. After 19...♗×f4+,
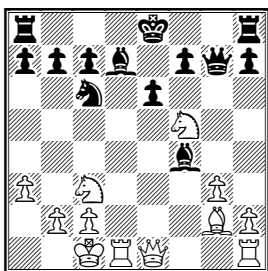
play would continue 20.g×f4 ♕×g2 21.♕h4!, preventing Black from castling.
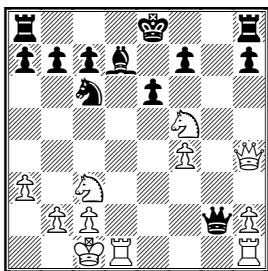
If now 21...e×f5? 22.♘d5! and there are more threats than Black can cope with, e.g. 22...♖c8 23.♘f6+ ♔f8 24.♕h6+ ♕g7 25.♘×d7+ etc., or 22...♔f8 23.♖hg1 and 23...♕×d5 is forced; most other moves allow a deadly 23.♘f6+ or 23.♘×c7+. Relatively best is 21...♖g8 22.♘b5 ♖c8 23.♘×a7
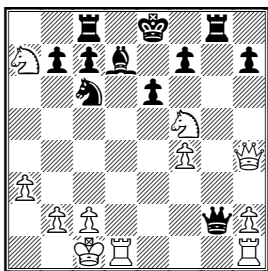
23...♕g4 (23...♘xa7?? 24.♕e7#) 24.♖hg1 and Black has nothing better than 24...♕xg1 25.♘xc6 ♕c5 26.♘d6+ ♕xd6 27.♖xd6 ♗xc6 28.♖d4 (+2.51).

Game 48, Ed. Lasker-Alekhine: This game is on the whole very well annotated, but some key errors were made. The note at White's 49th move says that after 49.♗c2 b3 50.♔d1 ♖f7 White is somehow "trapped."
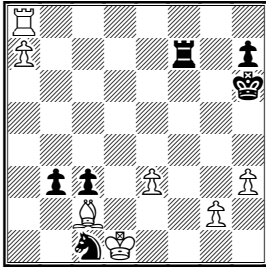
It's not clear what constitutes this entrapment. After the forced continuation 51.♔xc1 ♖f1+ 52.♗d1 b2+ 53.♔c2 ♖xd1 54.♖b8,
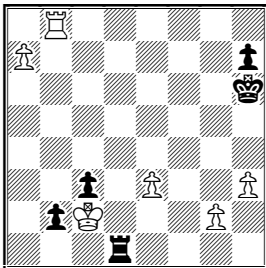
both 54...♖c1+ 55.♔d3 ♖a1 56.♔xc3 ♖xa7 57.♖xb2, or 54...♖a1 55.a8♕ b1♕+ 56.♖xb1 ♖xa8 57.♔xc3, yield positions where White has all the winning chances, or is in fact winning.

The long variation given in the note to Black's 49th move goes wrong at the end. After 49...♖f7 50.♗c2 b3 51.g5+ ♔h5 52.g6 bxc2 53.gxf7 ♘d3+ 54.♔e2 c1♕ 55.f8♕,
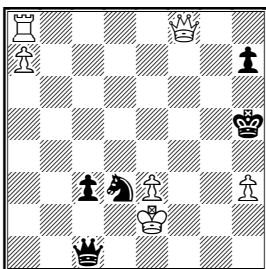
Alekhine concluded that White was winning, but he considered only 55...♕d2+, which allows the king to escape by 56.♔f3 ♘e5+ 57.♔e4. Instead, 55...♕c2+! holds the draw, e.g.
(a) 56.♔f3 ♘e5+ 57.♔g3 — The key difference. 57.♔e4 is impossible, and 57.♔f4 risks losing. — 57...♕g6+ 58.♔f4 ♘d3+ 59.♔f3 ♘e5+ 60.♔f2 ♕c2+ 61.♔g1 ♕g6+ etc., or
(b) 56.♔f1 ♕d1+ 57.♔g2 ♕e2+ 58.♔g1 ♕e1+ 59.♕f1 ♕xe3+ 60.♔h2 ♕e5+ 61.♔g2 ♘e1+ 62.♔f2 ♕h2+ etc. *ad infinitum*.

Most importantly, as with Tartakower-Alekhine, a missed win for White goes unmentioned. Instead of 50.h4, Rybka indicates that Edward Lasker could have won with 50.♗c2!:
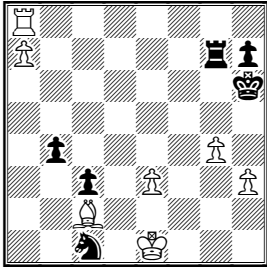

The main variations are:
(A) If 50...♖d7, or most other rooks moves along the 7th, then 51.g5+! ♔h5 (not 51...♔×g5?? or 51...♔g7?? 52.♖g8+ and 53.a8♕) 52.g6! h6 53.♖f8 ♖×a7 54.♖f7 ♖a8 55.g7 ♖g8 56.♗h7 and wins;
(B) 50...♘a2 51.e4 ♔g5 52.♗b3 c2 (52...♘c1?? 53.♖g8) 53.♗×c2 ♘c3 54.♗d3+− (+2.83).
(C) 50...b3 51.♔d1 and:
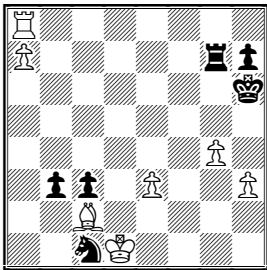
(C1) Of course not 51...b×c2+?? 52.♔×c1 +− ;
(C2) 51...b2 52.♗b1 ♔g5 (if 52...♖d7+ 53.♔c2 ♘e2 54.g5+ etc. as in variation A) 53.♔c2 ♔h4 54.♔×c3 ♖b7 55.g5 ♘e2+ (55...♔×h3 56.♖h8 ♖×a7 57.♔×b2 ♘e2 58.g6+−) 56.♔d3 ♘g3 57.g6 h5 58.♖f8 ♖×a7 59.♖f7 ♖a5 60.g7 ♖g5 61.♔c3 ♔×h3 62.♔×b2 h4 63.♗h7 and wins;
(C3) 51...♘a2 52.♗×b3 ♖d7+ 53.♔e1 (not 53.♔e2? ♘c1+) 53...♘b4 54.♔e2 c2 55.♗×c2 ♘×c2 56.♖c8 ♖×a7 57.♖×c2:
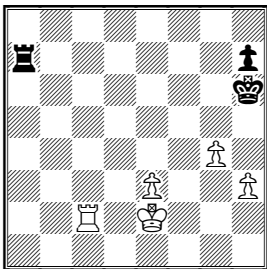

This boils down to an ending where White has the e-pawn and either the g- or h-pawn, to no pawns for Black. Both are theoretically won for White, though the process is laborious, about 45 to 47 moves per Nalimov.

Game 49, Yates-Bogoljubow: Regarding the key point of the game, Black's winning a pawn at move 20, White's best line seems to have been overlooked. Instead of 20.♗e4, Rybka indicates White could have avoided losing a pawn with 20.g2-g4:
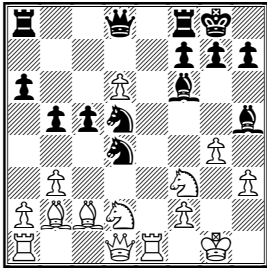
If now 20...♗g6 21.♗×g6 f×g6 22.♘×d4 ♗×d4 23.♗×d4 c×d4 24.♘e4=, or 20...♘×c2 21.♗×f6 ♘×f6 22.♕×c2 ♗g6 23.♕×c5=. Trickiest is 20...♘f4!?,
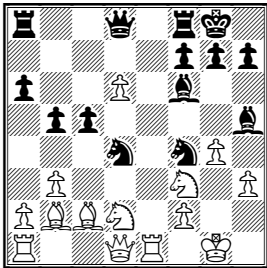
when 21.g×h5 ♘×h3+ 22.♔f1 ♘×f3 23.♕×f3 ♗×b2 24.♕×h3 ♗×a1 25.♕d3 g6 26.♖×a1 is about even (+0.08), while 21.♘×d4 leads to some interesting complications after 21...♘×h3+:
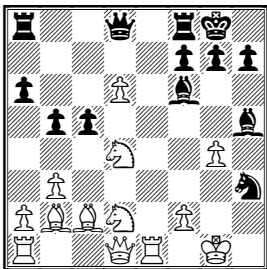
(a) 22.♔f1 ♗g6 23.♘c6 ♕×d6 24.♘e5 ♘f2 25.♔×f2 ♗h4+ 26.♔f1 ♗×e1 27.♔×e1 ♗×c2 28.♕×c2 ♖ae8, or especially after:
(b) 22.♔g2 ♗×d4 23.♗×d4 ♘f4+ 24.♔f3 (24.♔g3 c×d4 25.♔×f4 ♕d6+ is even wilder and less clear) 24...c×d4 25.g×h5 ♘×h5, Black having compensation for the sacrificed piece in either case. In any event, White's loss of a pawn was not forced after 20.g4.

*Game 50, Janowski-Tartakower*: The meaning of the note at move 26 is unclear. In this position,
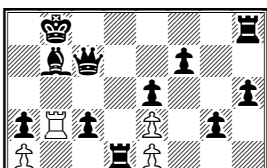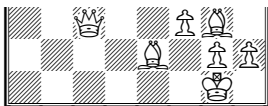
Alekhine writes "If 26.♗f2, then follows simply 26...♖hd8 (27.♖×c5 ♖d1+ 28.♗f1 ♗a6)." This makes it sound like White must not play 27.♖×c5, but in fact he can and should, because after 27...♖d1+,
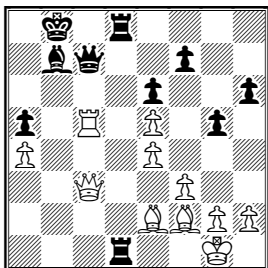

not 28.♗f1?? (-2.56) but 28.♗×d1 ♖×d1+ 29.♗e1 ♛d8 30.♔f2, and White is fine (+0.90). Rybka rates 26.♗f2 as one of White's two best moves, along with the text 26.♖×c5.

Game 52, Alekhine-Bogoljubow: The note to Black's 38th move says that "After 38...a3, White would not have had an adequate defense," giving two variations, one with 39.♗c5, the other beginning 39.♖c7+ ♔g8:
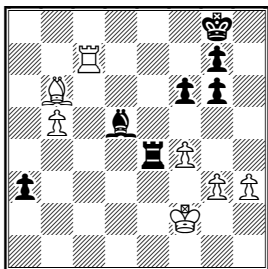
The note continued with 40.♖a7, which Rybka does find inadequate. However, a move not considered may yet draw: 40.♗a5!, intending to bring the bishop to c3 where it covers the a-pawn's queening square. A plausible continuation then is 40...a2 41.♗c3 ♖b4 42.♖c8+ ♔h7 43.♖c7 (threatening 44.♗×f6) 43...♔h6 44.♖c8 (threatening mate) 44...g5 (or 44...♔h7 45.♖c7, repeating) 45.f×g5+ f×g5 46.♖c5,
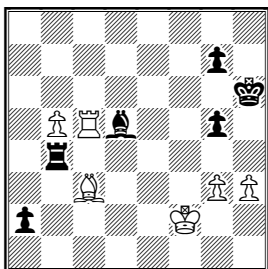
and no matter where Black moves the bishop, Rybka sees Black with some advantage but no path to a win (about -0.80).

Rybka does indicate that Alekhine may well have been right, that there was no defense to an ...a4-a3 advance, but only if Bogoljubow had played it a tempo earlier, at move 37:
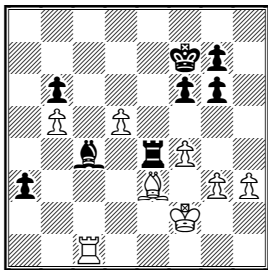
For example 38.♖c3 a2 39.♖a3 ♚e7 40.♗×b6 ♖e2+ 41.♔f3 ♚d6 42.♗a5 ♚×d5 43.♗b4 ♖b2 44.♗c3 ♖c2 45.♗a1 ♖c1 46.♗b2 ♖b1 47.♗c3 ♗×b5 (-2.57).

***Game 53, Ed. Lasker-Marshall*:** A game especially well analyzed by Alekhine; at several points Rybka at first indicated errors, but as the computer went deeper he was proven right. We note only some minor improvements and one important omission.

In the note after Black's 18th move, the complications possible after 19.e×f5 were bewildering, but Alekhine's conclusion that it would give Black a winning position was validated. It just should be mentioned that at the end of his note,
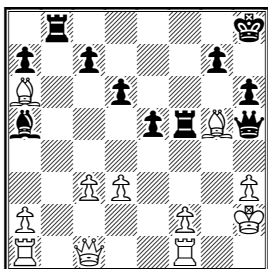
the move he gives (probably for illustrative purposes), 24.♗e3??, is about the worst on the board, allowing mate within about a dozen moves. Better, though still without hope, are 24.♗c4 or 24.♖b1 (about -1.32).

At Black's 27th move, while the recommended 27...♞d5 wins in straightforward fashion, Marshall's text move 27...♞f5 is unjustly criticized. The game continuation then is forced, 28.♗f4 ♗×f4 29.♞×f5 ♗×f5 30.g×f5 ♗c7 31.♕e3 ♕e5 32.♕g1, reaching this position:
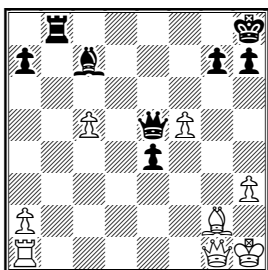
It was at this point that Marshall went wrong. Instead of 32...e3?, he (and Alekhine) overlooked 32...♗a5!, covering e1, when White cannot prevent the advance of the e-pawn or serious collateral loss, viz. 33.c6 e3 34.♗f3 ♖b2 35.♖c1 e2 36.c7 ♗×c7 37.♖e1 ♖×a2−+, or 33.♖b1 ♖×b1 34.♕×b1 ♗c7 35.♔g1 ♕d4+ 36.♔h1 e3 37.♕e1 ♕e5 38.♔g1 e2 39.♔f2 ♕g3+ 40.♔×e2 ♕×g2+ and wins.

The note before White's 46th move says 46.♕g2-f3 "would have sufficed for the defense," but it does not.
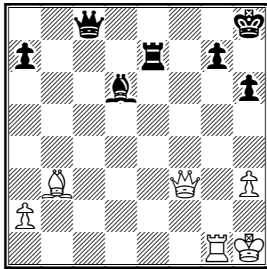
It fails to 46...♖e2! 47.♖d1 (if 47.♕×e2 ♕×h3+, or 47.♖g2 ♕c1+) 47...♖h2+ 48.♔g1 ♖×h3 etc. (-4.39). Rybka indicates the most if not the only viable moves are 46.♗d5 (correctly recommend by Alekhine), 46. ♗d1 and 46.♗a4.

*Game 54, Réti-Tartakower***: After 20.f5,
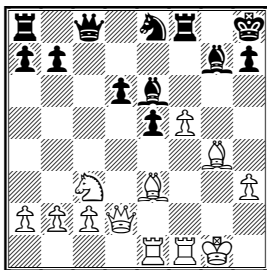
Alekhine recommends 20...♗d7, which is indeed better than the text move 20...♗×f5. Rybka indicates however that Black's best line is 20...♖×f5!? 21.♗×f5 ♗×f5 22.h4 ♕e6, with compensation for the exchange (+0.20), and much better chances than in the actual game.

The note at move 26 is correct that 26...g×h3 would allow White to win quickly, but then goes wrong at two points. After 27.♗e3-d4(?) ♕g6+ 28.♔h1,
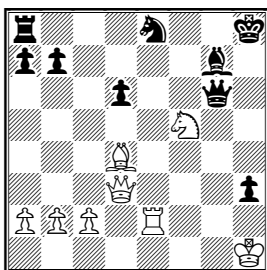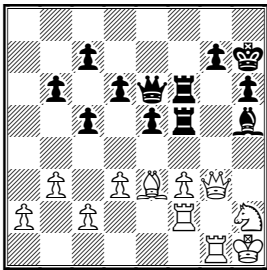
not 28...♘f6?? (+6.53), but 28...♗×d4! 29.♕×d4+ ♘g7, when White's advantage is minimal (+0.51). Instead, the winning way is 27.♗e3-g5!:
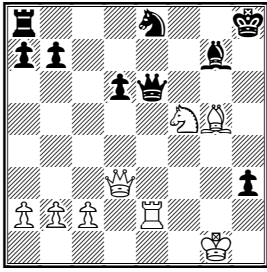
when the best Black can do is 27...♕g6 28.♕×h3+ ♔h7 (if 28...♔g8 29.♘e7+) 29.♕f3 ♗e5 (else 30.♖h2) 30.♖e4 and wins.

Game 55, Maróczy-Janowski: At Black's 23rd move, Alekhine's recommended 23...c5 is among Black's best moves, but after 24.♖g1,

the sample continuation 24...g5?! 25.c3?! is far from best for either side. Better for Black is 24...♕f7, while after 24...g5?! 25.♘g4! gives White some advantage (+0.83).

At move 25, Rybka indicates White might have initiated counterplay with 25.♘g4! ♖f8,
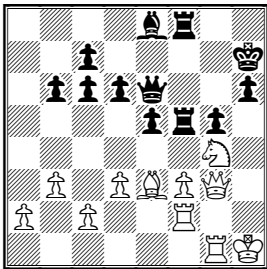
and either 26.♕h3 or 26.♖h2!? ♖×f3 27.♕g2 h5 28.♗×g5. Throughout the game, Maróczy repeatedly and unaccountably failed to see the potential of ♘h2-g4, and Alekhine does not mention the idea until the note at move 32.

In that note, Alekhine is absolutely correct that 32.♕h1! was best,
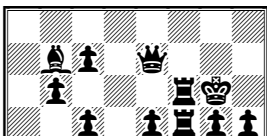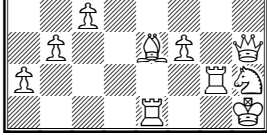
but he does not seem to have looked much further, or he would have noted that it wins hands down. Black can really do nothing about the coming attack on the g-pawn. As relatively best (but still useless), Rybka gives 32...♕f8 33.♖eg1 g4 (if 33...♕h6? 34.♗×g5+−).
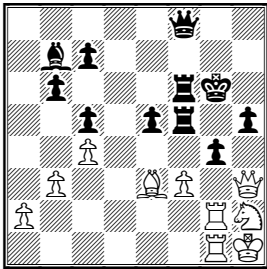
In the note Alekhine mentions "sacrificing the knight with a decisive attack," but that is neither necessary nor effective: 34.♘×g4 h×g4 35.♖×g4+ ♔f7 and White has nothing (-0.11). Instead he wins in straightforward fashion with 34.f×g4! ♖f2 (34...♗×g2+ 35.♖×g2 is no better, or even worse (+4.56)) 35.g×h5+ ♔h7 36.♗×f2 ♖×f2 37.♘g4 (or any of about ten other moves) and Black can resign (+3.75).

Game 56, Em. Lasker-Janowski: An interesting game where one cannot help but think that Janowski's habitual reluctance to part with either of his beloved bishop pair caused his downfall. It is quite well annotated on the whole, especially from a strategic standpoint; we offer just a few tactical improvements.

The note at move 39 says 39...♗e6 "would have threatened nothing," but it is one of Black's best moves at that point.
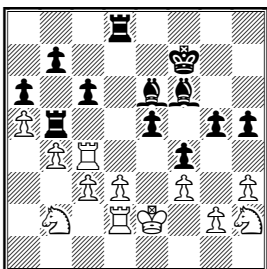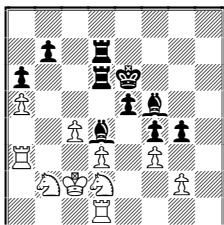
Rybka gives 40.♘a4 and then not 40...♗×c4?, but 40...♖×d3 41.♔×d3 ♖d5+ 42.♔e2 ♖×d2+ 43.♔×d2 ♗×c4, a position even David "I detest the endgame" Janowski should be able to win (-1.90).
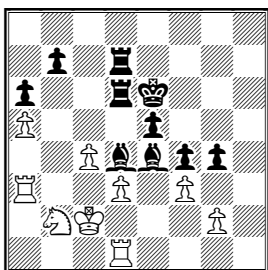
At Black's 49th move,
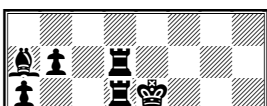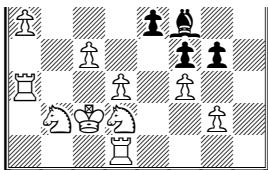
the note is correct that both 49...♖h7 and 49...♗d4 were preferable to Janowski's 49...♗e3, but the analysis after 49...♗d4 can be improved.

Rybka considers both 50.♘a4 and 50.♘b3 superior to the note's 50.♘e4. But if 50.♘e4 is played, then not 50...♗×b2?! but 50...♗×e4!:

It is much better to retain the bishop on d4 because ♖d1-g1 is prevented and a potential queening square is covered, viz. 51.f×e4 ♖h7 52.♖d2 ♖h2 53.♘d1 f3 54.g×f3 g3+− (-4.21). Or if 51.d×e4, only then 51...♗×b2 52.♖×d6+ ♖×d6 53.♔×b2 ♖d2+ 54.♔c1 ♖×g2 55.f×g4 ♖g3 56.♖a4 ♔d6 57.♖b4 ♔c7 and 38...♖×f4 winning (-2.55).

Alekhine's note at move 57 is clearly intended to illustrate the trap awaiting Black if he plays 58...♖×f3, but some further comment is warranted. After 57...♗×d2?,
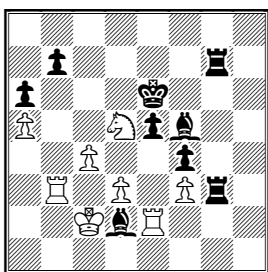
the note's 58.♖×d2?! leads only to equality if Black avoids 58...♖×f3?? in favor of 58...♔d6, 58...♗g6, or 58...♗h7 (all around 0.00). Much better, in fact winning, is 58.♔×d2!,
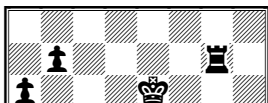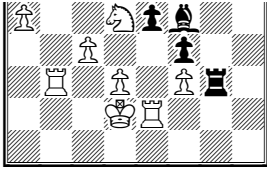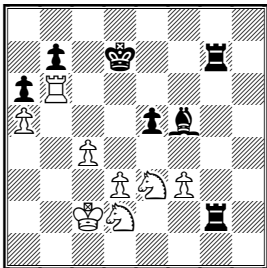
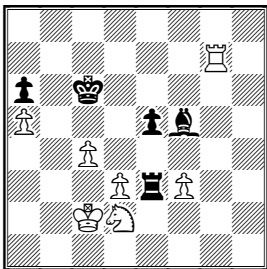threatening 59.♘×f4+, and if 58...♔d6 (or 58...♔f7/♔d7 59.♖×b7+) 59.♖b6+ ♔c5,
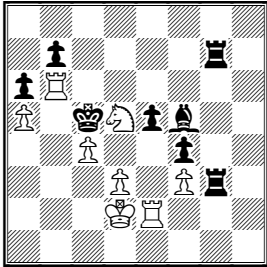
and now not 60.♖×e5? ♔d4! 61.♖×f5 ♖g2+ 62.♔c1 ♖g1+ 63.♔b2 ♖7g2+ with perpetual check, but 60.♘×f4! ♖e7 (if 60...e×f4?? 61.♖e5+ ♔d4 62.♖d5✠) 61.♖e3+− (+2.96).

At Black's 60th move,

Alekhine is absolutely correct that 60...♖e2 was necessary, but it bears mentioning that after 61.♖×b7+ ♔c6 62.♖×g7 ♖×e3, Black might still not have drawn.
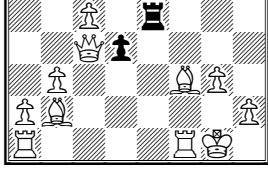
Instead of 63.♘e4, White could still try for a win with 63.♖a7!?, e.g. 63...♖×d3 64.♖×a6+ ♔b7 65.♖b6+ ♔a7 66.♔d1 ♖a3 67.♖b5, and Black will have to work hard to draw.

Game 58, Réti-Bogoljubow: The note at move 18 says "After 18...♖e5 19.♕c4+ ♔h8 20.f6, among other lines, would be very strong."
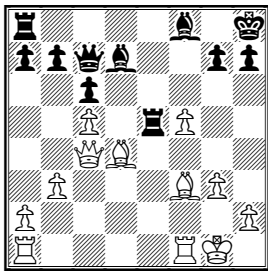
But 20.f6 seems to lead to nothing, e.g.

(A) 20...♗e6 21.f×g7+ ♕×g7 22.♕×d4 ♗c5 23.♕×c5 ♖×c5 24.♗×g7+ ♔×g7=;

(B) 20...♗×c5 and:

 (B1) 21.♕f7 g×f6 22.♗e4 (or 22.♕×f6+ ♔g8 23.♖ae1 ♖f5 24.♕h6 ♖af8=) 22...f5 23.♗×f5 ♖e7 24.♕c4 ♕d6=;

 (B2) 21.f×g7+ ♔×g7 22.♗×d4 (if 22.♗e4 ♗e6 23.♕d3 and as long as Black doesn't put something en prise, almost any move suffices for near deadeye equality) 22...♗×d4+ 23.♕×d4 ♕b6=.
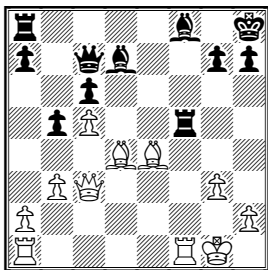
In fact there is only one good move after 18...♖e5 19.♕c4+ ♔h8, that being 20.♗×d4!:

Now 20...♗×f5 21.♗×e5 ♕×e5 22.b4 is obviously losing for Black, and if 20...♖e7 21.♗g2 ♗e8 22.f6 (now it works!) 22...♖f7 23.♖ae1 (+2.71), so 20...♖×f5 21.♗e4 and:

 (A) 21...♖×f1+ 22.♖×f1 ♕d8 23.♖f4 ♕e7 24.♖h4 ♗e6 25.♖×h7+ ♔g8 26.♕e2 (+2.02);

 (B) 21...b5 22.♕c3 and:

 (B1) 22...♖g5 23.♕e3 ♗e7 24.♖f7 ♕d8 25.♖af1 ♗e6 26.♗×c6 ♖b8 27.♖7f4 (+2.47);

 (B2) 22...♖×f1 23.♖×f1 (threatening 24.♖×f8+ ♖×f8 25.♗×g7+, therefore the bishop must move so the queen can guard g7) 23...♗g4 24.♖f4 ♕d7 (or 24...♗h5 25.♖h4 ♕f7 26.♗×c6) 25.♗×c6 ♕×c6 26.♖×g4 (+1.92).

There are various other tries for Black, but none are better than these, and most are worse.

***Game 60, Ed. Lasker-Yates:*** One minor clarification. At White's 22nd move,
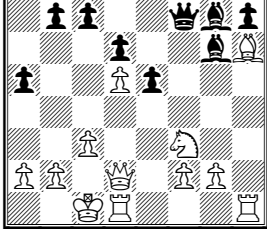
Alekhine writes "after 22.♕g5, Black, by means of 22...♗×h6, followed by 23...♕f4+, would force an ending similar to the one in the actual game." This is certainly true in the case of 23.♖×h6, but it bears mentioning that after the other recapture, 23.♕×h6?,
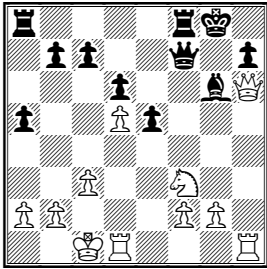
Black would have the much stronger 23...♕f5!, threatening mate and forcing 24.♔d2 e4 25.♘d4 ♕×d5 26.♔e1 ♕×a2 and Black has won two pawns.

Game 61, Em. Lasker-Bogoljubow: In variation (III) of the note to White's 20th move, 21...♖f7 22.f4 is said to give White a winning position.
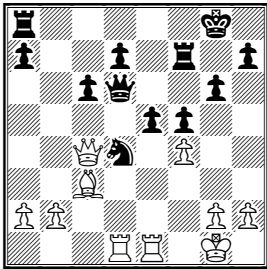
Perhaps Alekhine meant strategically winning, because after 22...♕c7, while White has compensation for the pawn, Rybka can find nothing even close to a tactical win. If 23.♖×e5 ♘e6 (-0.35), or 23.f×e5 ♘e6 (-0.50), or 23.♗×d4 d5 24.♗×e5 d×c4 25.♗×c7 ♖×c7 26.♖c1 ♖b8 27.♖e2 ♖cb7 28.♖cc2 (-0.40).

In the note at move 48, Alekhine recommends 48...f3 over the text move 48...♖h1,
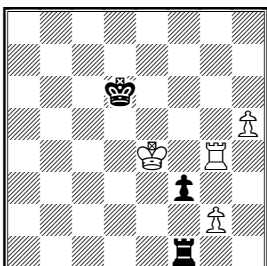
because then if 49.g×f3 ♔e6 "[the] pawns are separated [and] it is sometimes very difficult to achieve victory." Nalimov confirms that the position of that variation is in fact a theoretical draw. However, it bears mentioning that capture on f3 is not obligatory, and with 49.♖g6+ ♔e7 50.g4!, White would still win in a fashion similar to the note at move 47.

Game 62, Maróczy-Capablanca: A well-annotated game up to Black's 41st move. To that point, only some minor quibbles and improvements can be offered. First, in the note line at White's 24th move, after 24.♘h4 g6 25.♖g3 ♔h7 26.♗×h6 ♔×h6 27.♕c1+ ♔h7 28.♘f5,
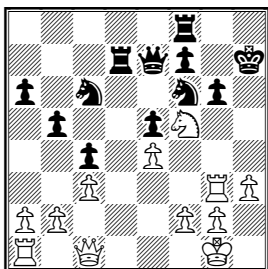
it can be noted that Black need not play the losing 28...g×f5?. Correct is 28...♖d1+ 29.♕×d1 g×f5 30.♕c1 ♘×e4, and Black has a reasonable chance to survive (+0.24). However, this is basically moot since Alekhine, in reply to 24.♘h4, correctly recommended 24...♕d8 25.♖e2 ♘e7 (-0.29).

In the note to move 26, the variation 26...♖d3 27.♗e3 ♕d6 28.♖e2?! (better 28.♕e2),
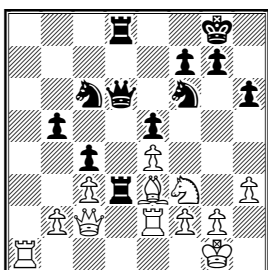
Rybka calculates that rather than 28...♘e7, Black can simply play 28...♘×e4, and after 29.♗b6 ♖b8 30.♖×e4 ♖×b6 Black is a clean pawn up (-1.00).
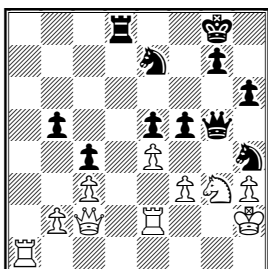
In the variation given at White's 34th move, 34.g3 ♕h5 35.g×f4 e×f4 36.♗×f4 ♕×f3,
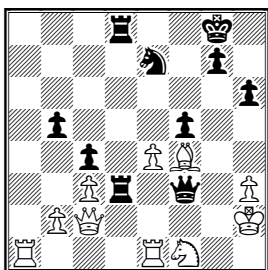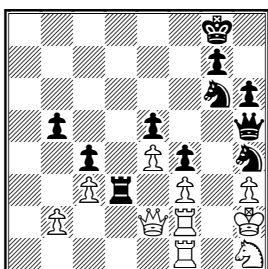

Alekhine treated the moves 37.♗g3 and 37.♗e3 as equivalent, but they are not. 37.♗g3? loses as

claimed to 37...f4, but if 37.♗e3 f4 38.♕e2! ♕×e2+ 39.♖×e2 f×e3 40.♘×e3 and Black's advantage is minimal (-0.57).

At Black's 36th move, the text 36...♘g2-f4 was good enough, but an interesting and stronger alternative was 36...♘h4!,
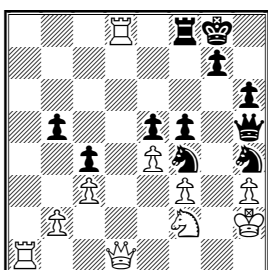

Best play then continues 37.♖f1 f4 38.♘h1 ♖d3 39.♖ef2 ♘eg6 40.♕e2 ♕h5,

and White is almost in *Zugzwang*. He can do little but mark time while Black builds up more pressure, e.g. 41.♔g1 ♘f8 42.♔h2 ♘h7 43.♔g1 ♘g5, and White is crushed.

The real surprise is at Black's 41st move.

There, Capablanca's 41...♘×f3+ was good enough to win (-1.45), but it is amazing that both he and Alekhine missed the far, far stronger 41...♖×d8!! 42.♕×d8+ ♔h7:
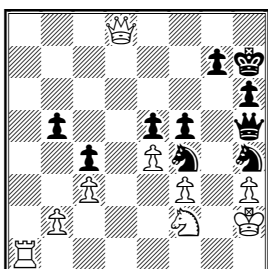
This both deflects White's queen and removes the possibility of the defensive exchange sac ♖d8×♘d3 as in the game. Black has a crushing attack, e.g. 43.♕d1 ♘xf3+ 44.♔h1 ♘xh3 etc. (-13.62), or 43.♖a7 ♕xf3 and there's no chance for a perpetual: 44.♖×g7+ ♔×g7 45.♕d7+ ♔g6 46.♕e8+ ♔g5 47.♕g8+ ♔h5 48.♕f7+ ♘fg6 and wins.

Similarly (though less dramatically), at Black's 49th move,
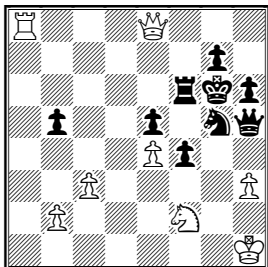
49...♖f7, keeping the knight on attack, was much the best move, viz. 50.♔g2 ♕e2 51.♖a1 f3+ 52.♔g3 ♘×e4+ 53.♘×e4 ♕×e4 (-4.55).

Game 64, Marshall-Janowski: We note only one improvement. At White's 23rd move,
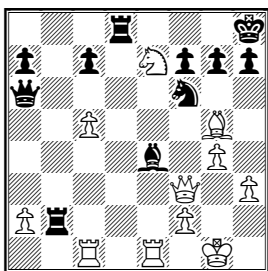
the text move 23.♖×e4 is only about fourth best. Both Marshall and Alekhine missed 23.♕c3! ♖×a2 24.♗×f6 ♕×f6 (worse is 24...g×f6 25.c6 ♖d6 26.♖×e4) 25.♕×f6 g×f6 26.♖×e4, and White is up a piece instead of two minor pieces for a rook (+3.10 vs. +1.14).

Game 65, Ed. Lasker-Tartakower: At move 26 there are errors of both omission and commission. First, it is not pointed out that White should not have wasted his chance with 26.g4?!, but immediately played 26.♗×b5 a×b5 27.♘c6,
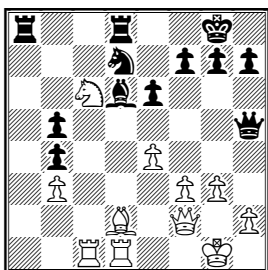
forcing the win of material by either 27...f6 28.♘×d8, or 27...♖e8 28.♗e3 ♘e5 29.♖×d6. By first interpolating 26.g4, White could have lost most or all of his advantage, because after 26...♕h3!

27.♘×b5 White does not win as claimed. Rather than the automatic recapture, Black has an overlooked and surprising resource, 27...♗c5!:
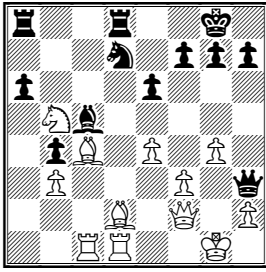
The threat to the queen forces one of two responses. If 28.♗e3 ♗×e3 29.♕×e3 a×b5=, while if 28.♘d4, which seemingly keeps White a piece up, Black can force a draw by 28...♘e5! 29.♗e3 ♗×d4 30.♗×d4 ♘×f3+ 31.♔h1 ♘×d4 32.♖×d4 ♖×d4 33.♕×d4,
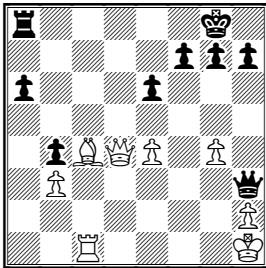

and now 33...♕f3+ 34.♔g1 ♕×g4+ etc. with perpetual check, since if 35.♔f1?? ♕f4+ winning the rook. Therefore, had Black played 26...♕h3,
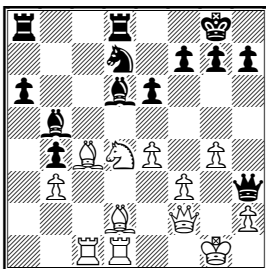

White, to retain any winning chances, would have to forego 27.♘×b5 for something like 27.♗g5 ♘f6 28.♘×b5 a×b5 29.♗e2 (not 29.♗×b5?? ♘×g4 30.f×g4 ♗×h2+ 31.♕×h2 ♖×d1+ 32.♖×d1 ♕×g4+ 33.♔f2 ♕×d1) 29...♗e5 with just a minimal advantage (+0.50). Unfortunately for Tartakower the point became moot when he played 26...♕g6?.

Game 66, Capablanca-Em. Lasker: A difficult and complex game worthy of the combatants, and quite well annotated by Alekhine. We offer only one correction.

The note to Black's 10th move states that after 10...f6, the reply 11.♘g5 "would not have sufficed on account of 11...♕e8."
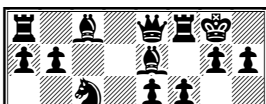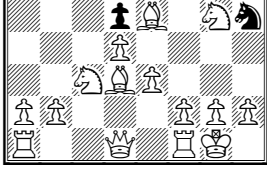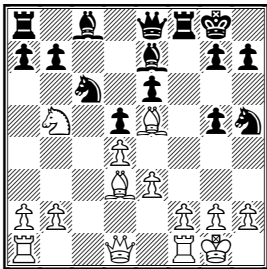
This overlooks the possibilities of 12.♘b5!, when White has threats on both wings. If then 12...f×e5 13.♘c7 ♕d7 14.♕×h5 ♗×g5 15.♕×h7+ ♔f7 16.♕g6+ ♔g8 17.d×e5
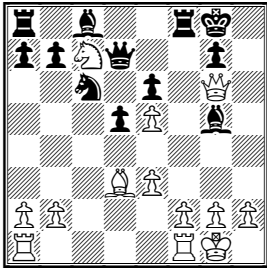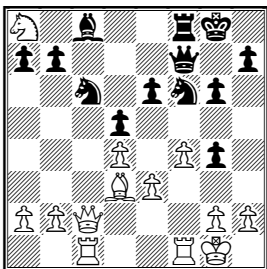

17...♗h6 (not 17...♕×c7?? 18.♕h7+ ♔f7 19.♗g6+ ♔e7 20.♕×g7+ etc.) 18.♘×a8 ♘×e5 19.♕h7+ ♔f7 20.♖ac1 and White is winning (+2.72).

If instead 12...f×g5,

then 13.♘c7 ♕f7 14.♘×a8 ♗f6 15.♕c2 g6 16.♗×f6 ♘×f6 17.f4 g4 18.♖ac1,


and try as he might, Black is unable to touch the cornered knight, e.g. 18...♗d7 19.♘c7 a6 20.♕c5 ♖c8 21.♕b6 ♖b8 22.b4 etc. Meanwhile if Black leaves the knight alone, White can start to extricate it with a2-a3, b2-b4 etc. Rybka indicates the best reply to 11.♘g5 is not 11...♕e8? but 11...g6, viz. 12.♘×h7 f×e5 (12...♔×h7?? 13.♕×h5+) 13.♘×f8 ♕×f8 14.♗×g6 ♘f6 (+0.19).

***Game 67, Alekhine-Maróczy*:** The note at White's 18th move is correct that 18.♖c7 would be premature, but after 18...♕d8 19.♕c5,
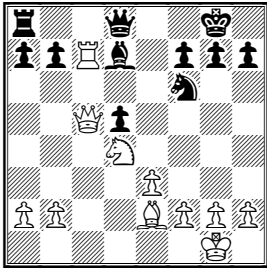
the right move is not the note's 19...♖c8?, which loses a pawn to 20.♖×c8 ♕×c8 (or 20...♗×c8 21.♕×a7) 21.♕×c8+ ♗×c8 22.♘b5 a6/a5 23.♘d6 ♗e6 24.♘×b7 (+2.02). Correct instead is 19...♘e4! forcing 20.♕a5,
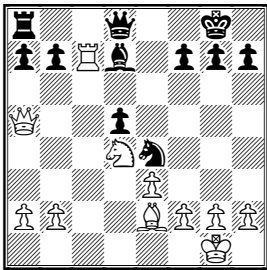
after which Rybka gives best play as 20...♗e8 (threatening 21...b6) 21.♘f5 g6 (not 21...b6? 22.♕×d5 ♕×d5 23.♘e7+) 22.f3 g×f5 23.f×e4 ♖c8 24.♖c5 ♕×a5 25.♖×a5 ♖c2 26.♔f1 d×e4 and Black has a slight edge (-0.54).

Game 68, Tartakower-Marshall: The note at move 50 proposes 50...♖c4 as a better drawing chance than the text 50...♖e2,
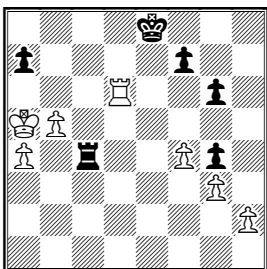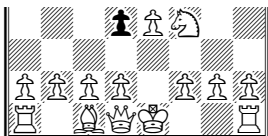

giving 51.♖d2 ♖e4, "whereupon White would have won in the end, though not without difficulty." But White can win without difficulty by 51.♖c6!, when if 51...♖e4 52.♖c7 ♖e2 53.♖×a7 etc. (+7.43), or 51...♖×c6 52.b×c6 ♔d8 53.♔b5 ♔c7 54.♔c5 etc. (+8.04).

Game 69, Bogoljubow-Ed. Lasker: A sub-variation in the note to Black's 4th move contains an surprising blunder. After 4...♘d4 5.♘×d4 e×d4 6.♘d5 ♕d8 7.♘f4?? (inexplicably given an exclam),

Black would simply play 7...♕g5 forking knight and bishop (-1.59). One must wonder what Alekhine thought he saw in 7.♘d5-f4. One might suspect a typo, but there is no knight move, nor any move to f4, that is good for White. Perhaps intervening moves such as 7.♗c4 c6 were omitted. In any event, correct and good for White (+1.04) is 7.♕h5! so that if 7...c6 8.♕e5+ ♗e7 9.♘c7+.

The note at move 25 is somewhat unclear. After 25...♖×c5 26.♕×c5 ♕×f4! 27.♗×b7 ♗e5,
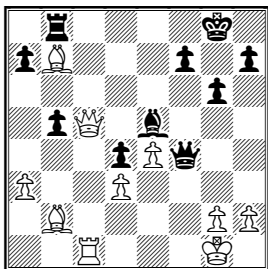
Alekhine gives two lines, and seems to be saying that both draw. That is certainly true of 28.g3, when Black has no choice but perpetual check by 28...♕e3+ etc. However, the other line, 28.♕c2, does not draw but loses: 28...♕×h2+ 29.♔f1 ♖×b7! 30.♕c8+ ♔g7:
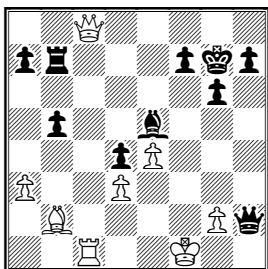
if now 31.♕×b7?? ♕f4+ 32.♔g1 ♕e3+ and Black forces mate soon, e.g. 33.♔f1 ♗g3 etc., or 33.♔h1 ♕h6+ 34.♔g1 ♗h2+ 35.♔f1 ♕f4+ etc. Therefore 31.♕h3 or 31.♕g4 is forced, either move leaving Black in a clearly winning position (at least -2.53).

At Black's move 26,
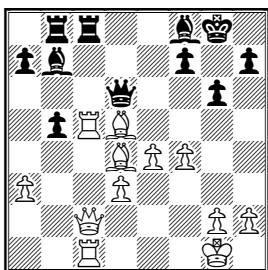
it goes unmentioned that 26...♕×f4? was a critical mistake that as much as any other cost Black

the game. Instead, he could have held with 26...♛b6!, for example 27.♗×b7 ♝×c5 28.♗×c5 ♛×b7= (-0.15).

Game 70, Janowski-Yates: It is sad to see good attacking chances in this game wasted in dilatory play by the aging Janowski, who in his prime had been one of the most vigorously energetic of tacticians. At Black's 24th move,
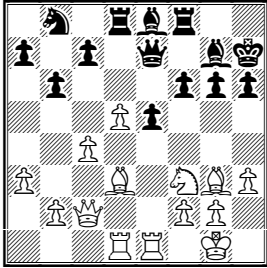
it bears mentioning that Yates could have blunted the coming attack somewhat by 24...c6, preventing ♘f3-d4 for the time being. When he failed to do this and played 24...♘d7, Janowski could have played 25.♘d4! immediately,
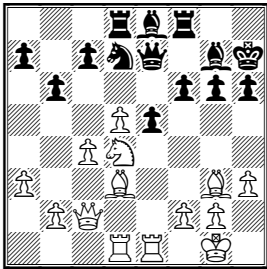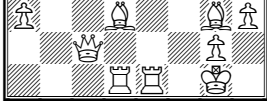

when Rybka indicates his attack would already be irresistible, e.g. 25...♖c8 26.♘c6! (better than ♘e6 as in the game) 26...♛f7 27.b4 (preventing 27...♘c5) 27...a5 28.h4 h5 29.f4 ♚h8 (29...e×f4?? 30.♖e7) 30.f×e5 ♘×e5 31.♘×e5 f×e5 32.♖f1 ♛e7 33.♖×f8+ ♛×f8 34.♗×g6,
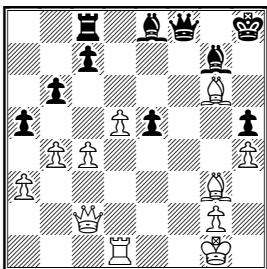

reaching a position Rybka rates at +1.86 (34...a×b4 35.a×b4 ♛×b4? 36.♛f5+−).

Alekhine is rightly critical of 30.c6, but after his suggested alternative 30.f4,
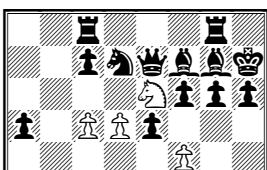
Black need not make things quite so easy with 30...♗×e6?! 31.♗×g6+ ♔h8 32.d×e6 ♕×c5+?? as in the note (+4.22). Somewhat better resistance is offered by 30...f5, though then after 31.♘×g7 ♖×g7 32.c6 ♘b6 (32...♘f6? 33.♗×f5! g×f5 34.♕×f5+ and 35.♕×c8) 33.d6 c×d6 34.f×e5 White is still winning,
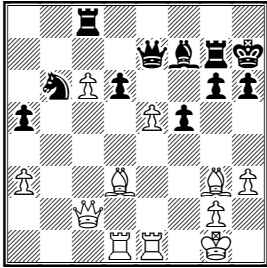

viz. 34...d5 (34...d×e5? 35.♗×e5 ♖gg8 36.c7 etc.) 35.♗a6 ♖e8 36.c7 ♗e6 37.♕c6 ♘c8 (+1.85).

In the endgame, Alekhine considers White to be lost after 58.f4. That was certainly not the best move, yet later at move 63,
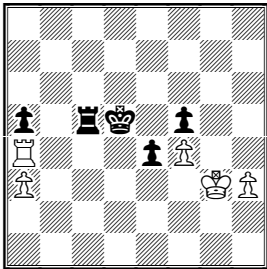

Rybka indicates that instead of the text 63.♔f2, White could still have drawn with 63.h4, giving about a dozen variations with a 0.00 evaluation as deep as 20 ply. For example 63...♔e6 64.h5 ♖c3+ 65.♔h4 ♖f3 66.♔g5 e3 67.♖×a5 ♖g3+ 68.♔h6 ♔f6 (if 68...e2 69.♖e5+ ♔f6 70.♖×e2) 69.♖a6+ ♔f7 70.♖a7+ ♔e6 71.♖a5, and neither side can get anywhere. Or 63...♖c3+ 64.♔g2 ♖f3 65.♖×a5+ ♔e6 66.h5 ♖×f4 67.h6 ♖g4+ 68.♔f2 ♖h4 69.♔g3 e3 70.♔f3=.
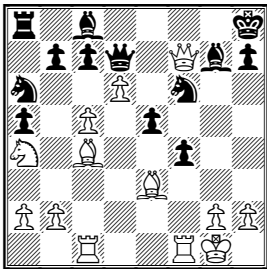
Game 72, Alekhine-Yates: The note at Black's 14th move, in the variation with 14...f5,
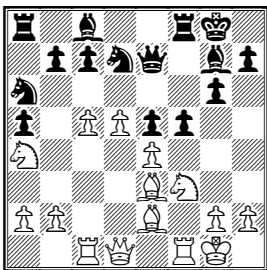
recommends 15.♗c4 ♔h8 16.e×f5 g×f5 17.♘g5 f4 18.♕h5 ♘f6 19.d6 "with a winning attack."
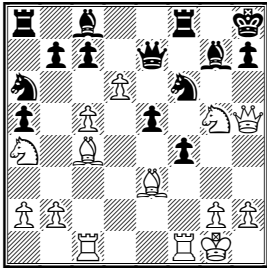
But in fact this squanders White's attacking chances, and the best he can hope for is a draw, viz. 19...♕d7! 20.♘f7+ (if 20.♕h4? ♕×a4) 20...♖×f7 21.♕×f7,


and Black can either continue fishing with 21...♕×f7 22.♗×f7 f×e3 (-0.40), or force White to take a draw with 21...♕×a4 22.♗×f4 e×f4 23.♖×f4 ♗g4 24.♖×f6 ♗h5 25.♕×h5 ♗×f6 26.♕f7 ♗×b2 27.♖e1 ♘×c5 28.♖e7 ♕d1+ 29.♗f1 ♕c2 30.♖e8+ ♖×e8 31.♕×e8+ ♔g7 32.♕e7+ etc.

The note line can be improved at several places after 14...f5,
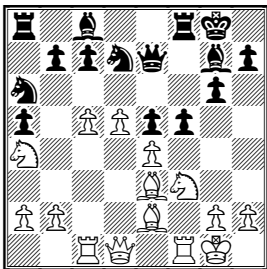
but we'll just give the earliest deviation, which happens to be the strongest: 15.e×f5 (instead of 15.♗c4) 15...g×f5 16.d6 ♕e8 17.♘g5 ♖f6 18.♗h5 ♕f8 19.♕b3+ ♔h8 20.♘f7+ ♖×f7 21.♕×f7 +− (+2.50).

Contrary to move 25's note, 25.♘e5×f7 is just fine.
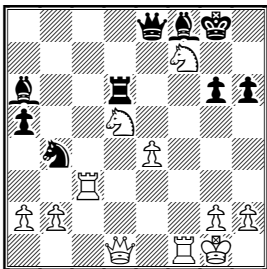
If then 25...♖×d5, thought by Alekhine to be a refutation, White wins with 26.♕g4! ♖g5 (or 26...♔h7 27.♖f6) 27.♘×g5 h×g5 28.♖d1+− (+3.12).

Game 73, Réti-Marshall: Some surprising errors in a game Alekhine seems to have analyzed in haste. The note at White's 18th move is correct that 18.d×c5 would have exposed White to a dangerous attack,
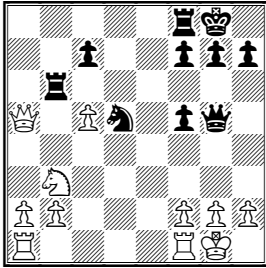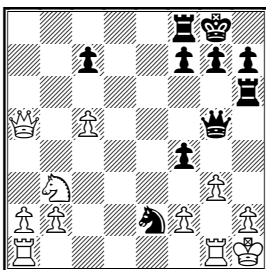
but Rybka does not find this borne out by the continuation given, 18...♖g6 19.g3 f4 20.♕d2 h5,
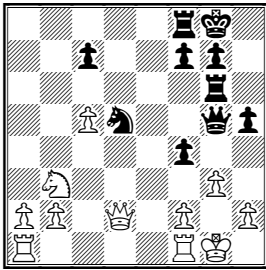
the resulting position being evaluated at practically even, +0.11. Instead, the truly dangerous, in fact winning continuation is (from previous diagram) 18...♘f4! 19.g3 ♘e2+:
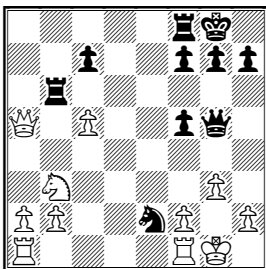
If now 20.♔h1 ♖h6 (threatening 21...♕h5 22.h4 ♕f3+ 23.♔h2 ♖×h4+ 24.g×h4 ♘f4 and mate very soon) 21.♖g1 (if 21.♕d2 ♕h5 22.h4 ♕f3+ etc.) 21...f4!
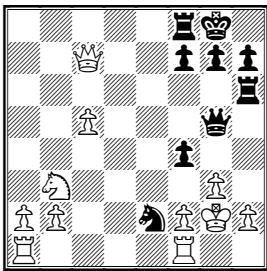
22.c6 f×g3 23.f×g3 (23.♕×g5?? ♖×h2#) 23...♘×g3+ 24.♖×g3 ♕×g3 25.♕d2 ♕f3+ 26.♔g2 ♕×g2+ 27.♔×g2 ♖×c6,
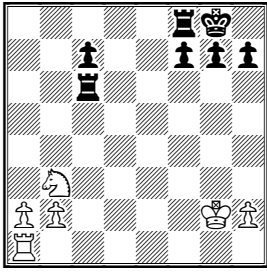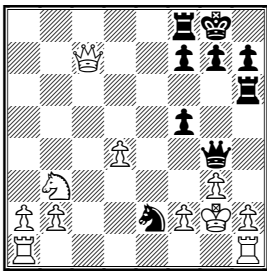

and Black wins easily (-3.62).

If on the other hand White plays 20.♔g2, then 20...♖h6 21.♕×c7 (if 21.h4 ♘f4+ 22.♔g1 ♖×h4 etc. as already seen), and now 21...f4!,
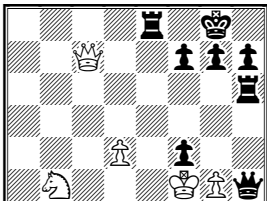

threatening two different mates: 22...f3+ 23.♔×f3 ♕d5+ 24.♔×e2 ♖e6+ 25.♕e5 ♖×e5#, and 22...♖×h2+ 23.♔×h2 ♕h5+ 24.♔g2 f3#. White can forestall these only at great material cost, e.g. 22.♘d2 f×g3 23.h×g3 ♕d5+ 24.♘e4 ♕×e4+ etc., or 22.♕d7 ♖d8 forcing 23.♕×d8+ ♕×d8−+.

At Black's 22nd move,

while the text 22...f4 was good enough to win (about -2.25), it went unnoticed that Marshall had a much stronger line in 22...♕h3+! 23.♔f3 ♖e8 24.♖ae1 f4
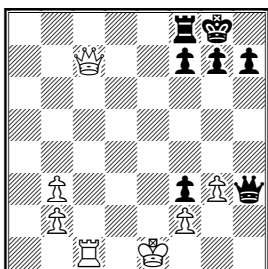
and either 25.♖×e2 ♕h5+ 26.♔g2 f3+ 27.♔f1 f×e2+ 28.♔e1 ♕f3−+ (-23.13), or the desperate 25.♔e5 ♖×e5 26.d×e5 ♕h5+ 27.g4 ♕×e5 28.♖×e2 ♕d5+ 29.♖e4 (or 29.♔×f4 g5+ 30.♔g3 ♖h3+ 31.♔×h3 ♕f3 ✠) 29...♕d3+ with mate in 15 at most.

The note at White's 23rd move is badly flawed. After 23.h3 f3+ 24.♔f1 ♖×h3 25.♖×h3 ♕×h3+ 26.♔e1 ♘×d4,
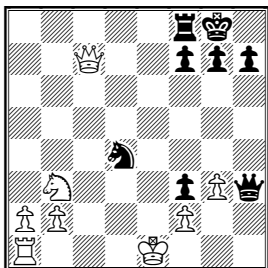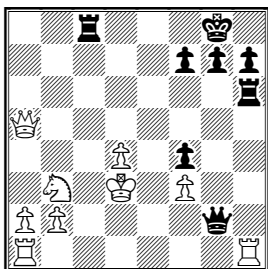
27.♖c1?? is a gross blunder which is refuted not by 27...♘×b3?! but by 27...♕e6+ 28.♔d2 ♕e2+ 29.♔c3 ♘b5+ winning the queen. The final error comes after 28.a×b3,

when Alekhine's baffling 28...♕g2?! gives Black little advantage after 29.♕b6! defending the f-pawn (-0.66). Winning easily instead is 28...♕e6+! 29.♔d2 (or 29.♔f1 ♕h6 30.♔e1 ♖e8+ 31.♔d1 ♕e6 etc.) 29...♕e2+ 30.♔c3 ♕×f2 (-3.67).
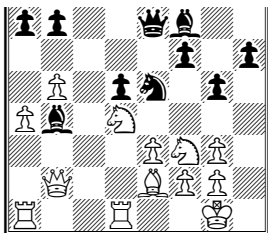
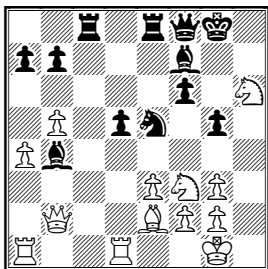Finally, in the note at move 26, after 26.h×g3 ♕×g3+ 27.♔e2 ♕g2+ 28.♔d3,

we agree that 28...♖×h1 would eventually win, but why not simply 28...♕c2, mate?

Game 74, Maróczy-Ed. Lasker: It goes unremarked that 25...♗c5-b4? was a mistake;
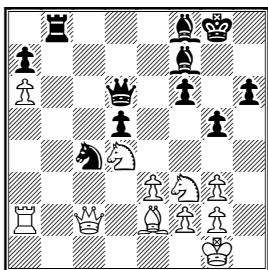
(better 25...♗g6 or 25...♕d7), and that instead of 26.♖ab1, White could have won a pawn with 26.♘f5 ♕f8 27.♘×h6+

27...♕×h6 (worse is 27...♔g7 28.♘×f7 ♗c3 29.♕a3 ♕×f7 (if 29...♗×a1? 30.♘d6) 30.♖ac1 (+1.46)) 28.♕×b4 and Black has little compensation (+0.88).

The note at move 34 is seriously mistaken. After 34...♖b8 35.♕c2,

Black is by no means obliged to play 35...♘a3??; he has at least a dozen playable moves, such as 35...♖b6, 35...♕d7, 35...♘e5, or 35...♖b4. Furthermore, after 35...♘a3?? 36.♕c6, wrongly given an exclam, does nothing for White,
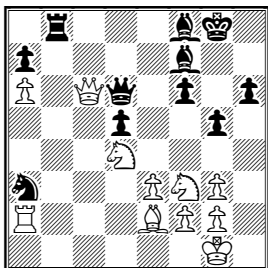
viz. 36...♕×c6 37.♘×c6 ♖b1+ 38.♔h2 d4 (attacking the rook) 39.♖d2 d×e3 40.f×e3 ♗c4 41.♘×a7 ♗×e2 42.♖×e2 ♖b6 43.♖a2 ♖×a6 44.♘b5 ♖a5 and Black has whatever advantage is going due to his better pawn structure (-0.23).
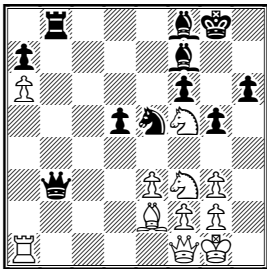
Instead the killer is 36.♕f5!,
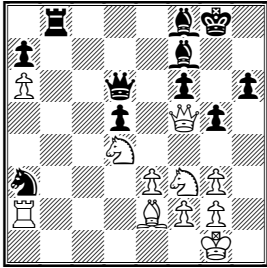
with the deadly threat of 37.♗d3 and 38.♕h7♯. About the best Black has is 36...♔h8, but then comes 37.♘×g5! f×g5 (or 37...h×g5 38.♗d3+−) 38.♕×f7 ♕e7 39.♕×d5 and White is up two pawns with much the better position.

At Black's 38th move,

Edward Lasker's 38...♖b6 is said to be the decisive blunder, but this is questionable. Rybka rates it near the top of about ten playable moves in the range +0.25 to +0.35, and indicates the crucial mistake came later on, as shown below.

Contrary to the note at move 40 for Black, 40...♘c6 is probably playable, arguably best, and is certainly not refuted by the line Alekhine gives. In reply to 41.♘fd4,
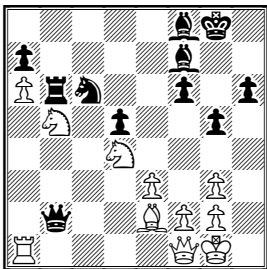
not 41...♗c5?!, but 41...♘×d4 and either 42.♘×d4 ♗c5 with equality, or 42.e×d4 ♖e6 43.♗d3 ♖e7 with only a small advantage for White (about +0.46).

The note at move 69 incomprehensibly claims that "After 69.♘c8+ and 70.♘×b6, the pawn ending would result in a draw." This is simply wrong. After 70...♔×b6 (70...a×b6?? is far worse),
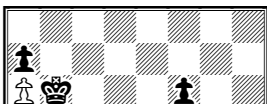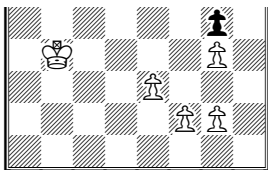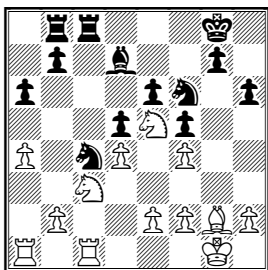
White wins easily with either 71.f4 or 71.e4, for example 71.e4 ♔c6 72.♔c4 ♔d6 73.♔b5 ♔c7 74.♔c5 ♔d7 75.♔d5 ♔e7 76.♔c6 etc., or 71.f4 ♔×a6 72.e4 ♔b6 73.e5 ♔c6 (if 73...f×e5 74.f×g5+−) 74.e×f6 ♔d6 75.f×g5,
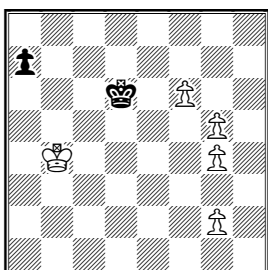

reaching an ending even a novice could win.

Game75, Bogoljubow-Tartakower: A game well played by Bogoljubow and well annotated by Alekhine. We found only one improvement. In the note to Black's 22nd move, after 22...♘c4,


the line given, 23.♘×d7 ♘×d7 24.♘×d5 ♔f7, wins only one pawn. White can get at least a pawn more with 23.♘×d5!, when if 23...e×d5 24.♘×d7 ♖×d7 25.♗×d5+ ♔f8 26.♗×c4, or 23...♘×d5 24.♘×d7 ♖a8 25.♘c5 ♘d6 26.♘×e6, or 23...♘d6?? 24.♘×f6+ g×f6 25.♘×d7 ♖a8 26.♘×f6+, or 23...♔f8 24.♖×c4 e×d5 25.♘×d7+ ♘×d7 26.♗×d5.

Game 76, Réti-Em. Lasker: Another well-annotated game; Rybka found only one improvement, in the note to move 37, after 37.♗×d4:
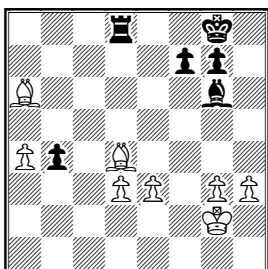

The note variation starting with 37...♖×d4 may eventually win as claimed (though Rybka found

no win), but if so the process is laborious and problematic. Rybka saw no need to give up the valuable rook, preferring 37...f6!. A likely continuation then is 38.♔f3 (if 38.♗c4+ ♗f7, the point of 37...f6) 38...b3 39.♗c3 ♗×d3 40.♗b7 ♗c4 41.g4 ♗d5+ 42.♗×d5+ ♖×d5 43.♔e2 ♖a5 44.♗b2 (44.♗×a5?? b2) 44...♖×a4,
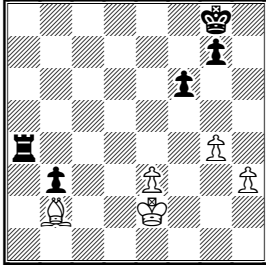

with an easily won exchange-up ending.

***Game 77, Capablanca-Marshall*:** A dull and even game throughout, to which we can add only one comment. In the note at move 37 it is said that after 38.♖c7+ ♔h6, Black would be winning. This is not true; in fact had Capablanca been intent on drawing, he pretty much could have forced it with 39.♖h7+!.
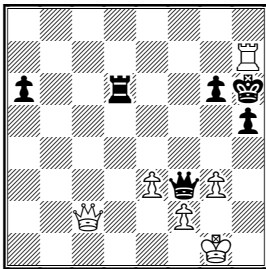

If now 39...♔g5? 40.♕c5+ ♔d5 41.♕b4! (threatening mate), Rybka rates the position at +5.00, foreseeing a lengthy series of checks and threats that results in White winning queen for rook or some comparable gain. One illustrative line: 41...♔f6 42.♕f4+ ♔e6 43.♕f7+ ♔e5 44.♕e7+ ♕e6 45.♕c7 (threatening 46.♖e7) 45...♔d5 (or 45...♔d5 46.♖e7+ ♔f6 47.e4 ♕d4 48.e5+) 46.♖e7 ♕f6 47.e4+ ♔d4 48.e5, forking queen and rook.

Therefore Black must play 39...♔×h7 40.♕c7+ ♔h6 41.♕×d6,
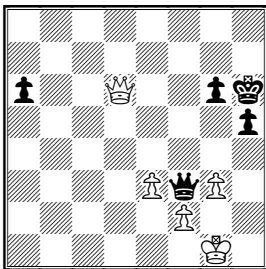
reaching a queen ending neither side can win.

Game 78, Alekhine-Ed. Lasker: Yet another game Alekhine was lucky to draw (see Tartakower-Alekhine, game 43, and Ed. Lasker-Alekhine, game 48), and which he annotated worse than he played. To start with, in the note at move 22, he seems so intent on proving his opponent had a won game that he overlooks important resources for White. After 22.e×f5 e4,
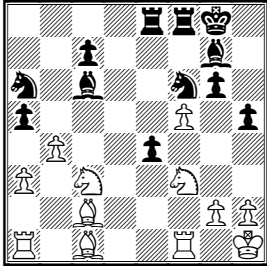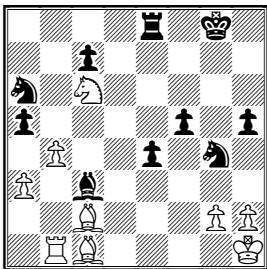
much better than 23.♘d4?! is 23.♗b3+!, beginning a long forced line: 23...♘d5 24.♘×d5 e×f3 (or 24...♖×f5 25.♘e7+ etc.) 25.♘e7+ ♔h7 26.f×g6+ ♔h8 27.♘×c6 f×g2+ 28.♔×g2 ♖×f1 29.♔×f1 ♗×a1 30.♗f7 ♖e4 31.♘×a5,
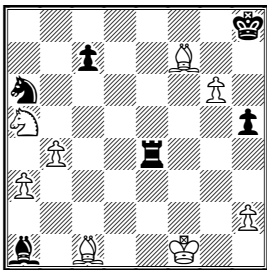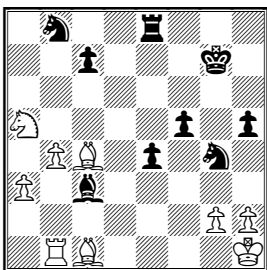
and White has whatever advantage there is (+0.62).

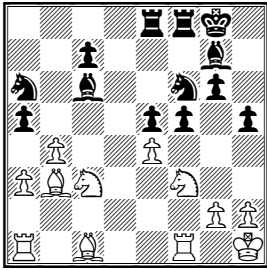Further on in the note line, after 23...♘g4 24.♘×c6 ♗×c3 25.♖b1 ♖×f5 26.♖×f5 g×f5,

27.♘×a5? is a serious mistake; again White can hold with 27.♗b3+ ♔g7 28.♗c4 ♘b8 29.♘×a5,

because now if 29...e3 30.♗e2=.

Furthermore, the note completely overlooks another good 22nd move — yes, you guessed it — 22.♗b3+:
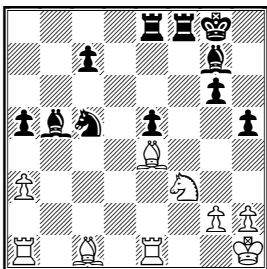

and either 22...♔h7 23.♘g5+ ♔h8 24.e×f5 g×f5 25.♘e6 f4 (25...♖f7? 26.b5) 26.b5 ♖×e6 27.♗×e6 ♘c5 28.b×c6 ♘×e6 29.♖b1 with advantage for White (+0.85), or 22...♔h8 23.♘h4 ♔h7 24.e×f5 g×f5 25.♘×f5=.

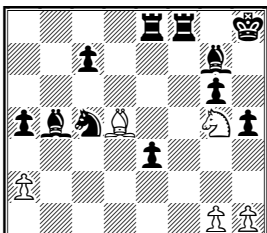The note at Black's 23rd move is wrong at several points.
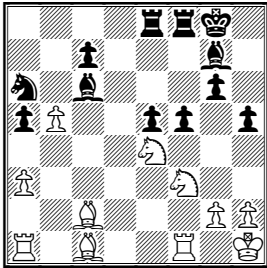
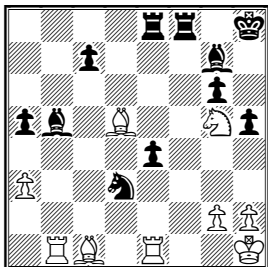After 23...♗×b5 24.♖e1 (probably better is 24.♖d1) 24...f×e4 25.♗×e4 ♘c5,

not 26.♗d5+?, but 26.♗×g6 ♖e6 27.♗e3 ♖×g6 28.♗×c5 and White stands worse but is not lost (-1.09).

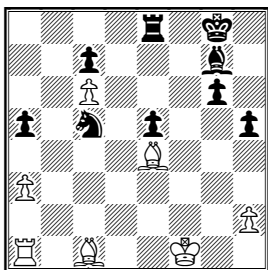Continuing with the note line, after 26.♗d5+? ♔h8 27.♘g5 e4 28.♖b1,

White is now indeed lost, but 28...♗d3?! is hardly the way to prove it; after 29.♘f7+ ♖xf7 30.♗xf7 ♖f8 31.♗xg6 ♗xb1 32.♗e3 White can still fight (-1.29). Much stronger instead is 28...♘d3!,

when the rook on e1 has nowhere to go: if 29.♖g1 ♘f2#, or 29.♖e2 ♖f1#, or 29.♖d1 ♘f2+, and if 29.♗d2 ♘xe1 30.♖xe1 ♖d8 (-6.77). Relatively best but still losing badly is 29.♘f7+ ♖xf7 30.♗xf7 ♖f8 31.♖f1 ♗c4 32.♖b7 ♖xf7 (-2.97).

At move 27, Alekhine writes "In reply to 27...♘c5, White intended 28.♗d5+ ♔h7 29.♗e3, followed by 30.♖b1." He was lucky this line was not played, as it would have been suicidal. After 27...♘c5,

28.♗d5+? is very bad; the only playable line is 28.♗xg6 ♖e6 29.♗xh5 (-0.41).

Continuing with the note line, after 28...♔h7 29.♗e3, best for Black is 29...♘a4:
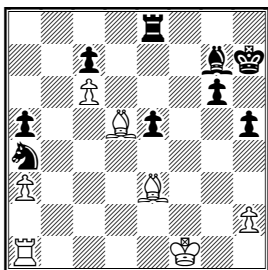
Had Alekhine then played 30.♖b1?? as intended, he would quickly resign as Lasker happily played 30...♘c3 (-5.27). Relatively best is 30.♗g2, but that just leaves White two pawns down with inadequate compensation (-1.44), while if 30.♖c1 e4! opens the bishop's diagonal with major effect.

The note at move 31 is correct that both 31...♖e7 and 31...♔g8 would risk losing for Black, but the proof is flawed in one sub-variation of the latter case. After 31...♔g8 32.♗d5+ ♔h8 33.♗f7 ♖e7,
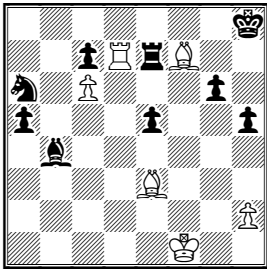
the recommended 34.♗g5 does nothing, viz. 34...♖×f7+ 35.♖×f7 ♔g8 36.♖d7= (0.00). The try for a win is 34.♗c4! ♘b8 (if 34...♔g7 35.♗×a6) 35.♖d8+ and 36.♖×b8 (+1.51).

The note at move 36 is correct that 36.♗h6?? "would have been decisive for Black,"
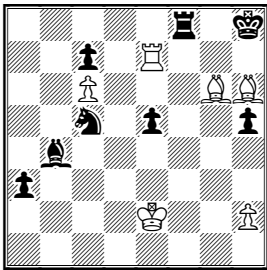
but the incomprehensible recommendation 36...♘a4 (somehow given a !) is not the way to prove it; that would just allow White to draw with 37.♖h7+ ♔g8 38.♖g7+ etc. Instead the winner is 36...♘e6!, viz. 37.♖×e6 a2 38.♗×f8 a1♕ 39.♗×b4 (if 39.♖e8 ♕e1+ 40.♔d3 ♕b1+ 41.♔c4 ♕×g6−+) 39...♕a2+ 40.♗d2 ♕×e6 and wins.

All the above are errors in note variations, not actual game moves. We come now to the most egregious of this game's errors, committed by Alekhine as both player and analyst, and by Edward Lasker. At move 38,
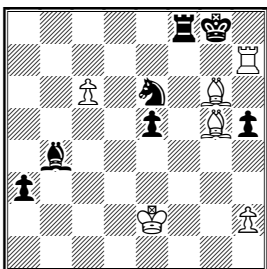
rather than the text 38.♗c1??, White had to play 38.♗e3 ♖f6 39.♗d3 when a draw was still possible (-0.88).

After the further moves 38...a2 39.♖a7,
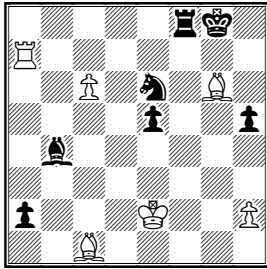
Lasker missed his last chance to win, playing 39...♘d4+?. Instead, the clincher was 39...♗c5! 40.♖a4 ♗d4 and the pawn can't be stopped, since if 41.♖×a2 ♖f2+. Also winning was 39...♖f2+!, when if 40.♔×f2 ♗c5+, or if 40.♔d3 ♗c5 etc. as already seen. Such mistakes in what was probably major time pressure are understandable. What is harder to understand and excuse is that neither White's mistake at move 38 nor Black's at move 39 was given any comment. As with games 43 and 48, one has to wonder if Alekhine was suppressing, unconsciously or deliberately.

Game 79, Bogoljubow-Yates: Surprisingly few errors for such a long game, and Alekhine's analysis of Yates' tragic mistake at move 40 is accurate and instructive. But two omissions, one major, bear pointing out.

At White's 46th move, rather than the text 46.♔d2, the game might have been shortened considerably by 46.♔d1,
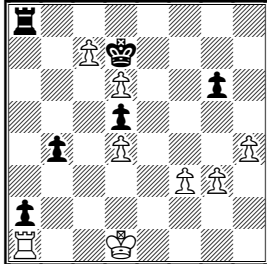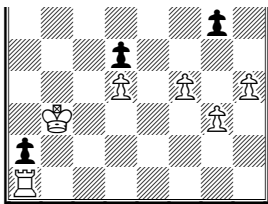

the difference being that it prevents a skewer if White plays ♖×a2, e.g. 46...♖a3 47.g4! ♖×f3 and White can safely play 48.♖×a2+−,
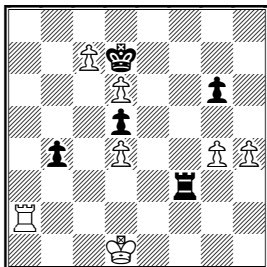
whereas with the king on d2 Black would win with 48...♖f2+ and 49...♖×a2. Relatively best after 46.♔d1 is 46...b3 47.♔c1 ♔×d6 48.♔b2 ♔×c7 49.♔×b3 ♖f8 50.f4,
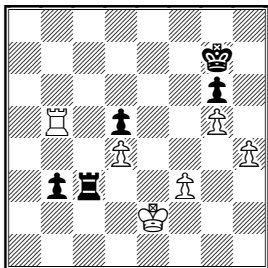
and White will obviously have an easier time winning than in the actual game.

More importantly, the claim that Black was in *Zugzwang* after 55.♖b5 is not true.

Yates might well have been able to hold by just shuffling his king around the squares g7, f7, e6 and e7, and he did not need to be concerned about defending his d-pawn at that moment because it was expendable. For example 55...♔f7 56.♖×d5 ♖c4,
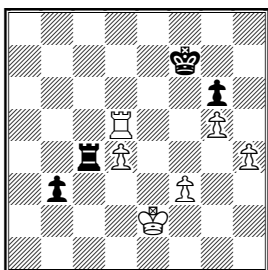

and it is suicidal to retain the rook on the d-file in hopes of advancing the d-pawn, as either 57.♖d8?? or 57.♔d3?? are answered by 57...♖b4! and Black wins. Forced therefore is 57.♖b5 ♖×d4 58.♖×b3 ♖×h4 with good drawing chances.

Alekhine made no comment on this, nor on the fact that with 55...♖c2+?? was the losing move, and that with 56.♔d3 ♖h2? Black went from bad to worse. 55...♔f7 was the only chance to save the game after missing his winning opportunity at move 40.

Game 82, Bogoljubow-Alekhine: A complex game in which Alekhine's analysis, understandably biased toward Black's chances, is in the first half too pessimistic, but too optimistic in the later stages.

Alekhine is correct that "Black might have entered without disquietude upon the complications bound up with 12...♗f6,"
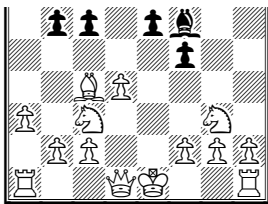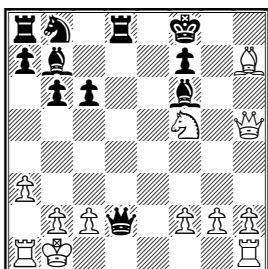
but the main line of his analysis, 13.♕h5 ♕×d4 14.♗×e6 ♕e5+ 15.♔d1 ♕d6+ 16.♘d5 0–0 17.♗×f5 ♕×d5+ 18.♔c1 ♖d8 19.♗×h7+ ♔f8 20.♘f5,
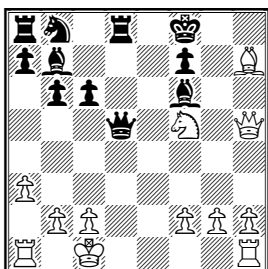
is even better for Black than he thought. While his 20...♕d2+ is good, stronger is 20...♕×g2! 21.♖e1 (if 21.♘g3 c5 or 21...♕×f2) 21...♕g5+ 22.♕×g5 ♗×g5+ 23.♔b1 ♘d7, and Black is up bishop for pawn and White's attack has petered out (-2.57).

If 20...♕d2+ 21.♔b1,

the note's 21...♕g5?! leads to little advantage after 22.♕f3 ♗e5 (-0.65). Better 21...c5! 22.♖f1 (not 22.f3?? ♕d1+! 23.♖×d1 ♖×d1+ 24.♔a2 ♗d5+ 25.b3 ♖×a1 ♯) 22...♕g5 23.♕×g5 ♗×g5 24.f3 ♘c6 (-2.02).

The note at move 45 can be strengthened. 45.g4 is even worse for White than supposed, because after 45...f×g4+ 46.♔×g4,
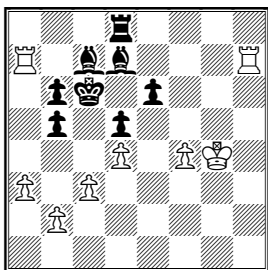
Black need not be content with merely winning the pawn with 46...♖f8 (-1.11). Stronger is

46...♗b8! 47.♖a8 (47.♖a6?? ♔b7 loses the whole rook) 47...♔b7 48.♖×b8+ ♔×b8, and Black is up a piece.

At Black's 79th move, Alekhine's assessment of 79...e6-e5 is overly optimistic, and his analysis misses both defensive and attacking resources.
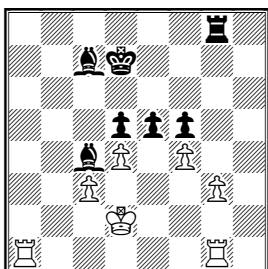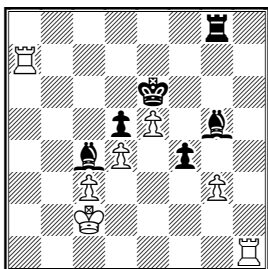

In the line 80.d×e5 he goes no further than 80...♗b6 81.♖g2 ♔c6 (intending 82...d4), concluding this is favorable to White.
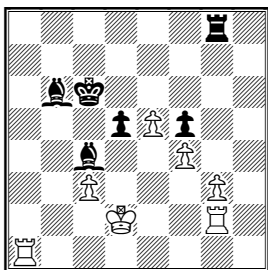

But after 82.♖h2! Rybka says 0.00. If 82...♖×g3 83.♖h6+ ♔b7 84.♖b1! and Black, rather than winning, is forced to take perpetual check with 84...♖g2+ etc.

In the other main line, after 80.f×e5 ♗d8 81.♖a7+ ♔e6 82.♖h1 ♗g5+ 83.♔c2 f4,

rather than the chancy 84.g4, White should play 84.g×f4 ♗×f4 and virtually any reasonable move maintains deadeye equality. But to continue with the note line, after 84.g4 f3 85.♖hh7 f2 we reach a crucial position:
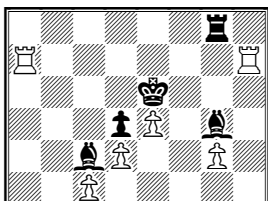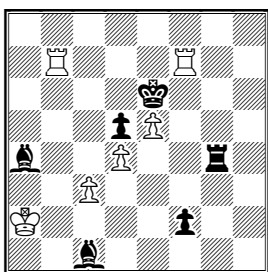
Alekhine here considers three moves, 86.♖hd7, 86.♖hc7, and 86.♖hb7. Black can win in the first two instances, though in the first Alekhine's method is not best and in the second it does not work at all. Looking first at 86.♖hc7,
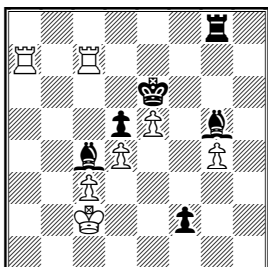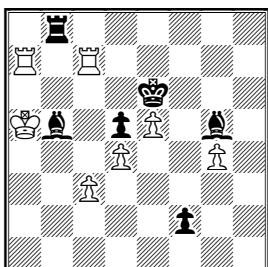

the note wrongly gives 86...♗b5 an exclam then analyzes no further. In fact it fails to 87.♖ab7 ♗a4+ 88.♔b2 ♗c1+ 89.♔a2 ♖×g4 90.♖f7,

and the threat of 91.♖be7♯ forces 90...♗g5 91.♖×f2 and any advantage belongs to White (+0.59). The way to win against 86.♖hc7 is 86...♗d3+!:
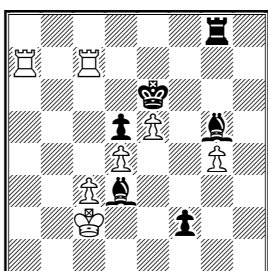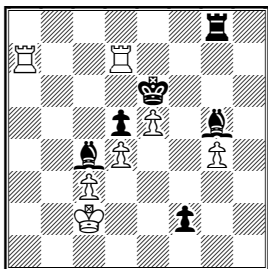

If now 87.♔×d3 f1♕+ and mate soon. Therefore the white king must run away, but he can't hide: 87.♔b2 ♖b8+ 88.♔a3 ♗c1+ 89.♔a4 ♗b5+ 90.♔a5 ♗g5,
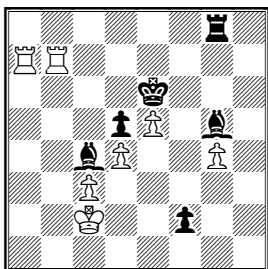
and Rybka indicates Black mates in at most 14 moves, e.g. 91.♖f7 ♗d8+ 92.♔b4 ♗d7+ etc.
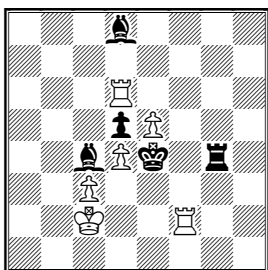
If 86.♖hd7,

Alekhine's 86...♖d8 does eventually win, but much stronger is 86...♗d3+! etc. as shown above.

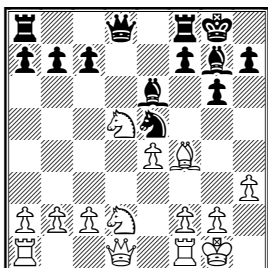All this is moot, however, because White can hold with 86.♖hb7!:

Now 86...♗d3+ does not work. Alekhine gives only 86...♗d8, as if Black's win were then self-evident, but it's a mirage: 87.♖d7! ♖×g4 (not 87...f1♕?? 88.♖d6#) 88.♖d6+ ♔f5 89.♖f7+ ♔e4 90.♖×f2,
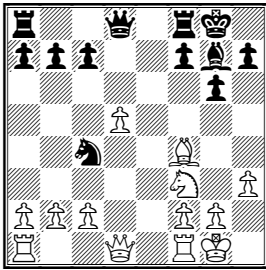
and barring a blunder, it's 0.00 all the way.

*Game 83, Marshall-Ed. Lasker*: A correction to the note at move 14:

Rybka considers 14.♘f3 actually best, and finds that after 14...♗×d5 15.e×d5 ♘c4 Black does not recover the pawn lost at move 11:


16.♕d3! ♘×b2 (not 16...♗×b2? 17.♕×c4 ♗×a1 18.♖×a1 ♖c8 19.♖b1 b6 20.♘e5 with both material advantage and an attack) 17.♕b3, when if 17...b6 or any other move defending the b-pawn, then 18.♗e5 ♗×e5 19.♘×e5 and the knight is trapped. Therefore 17...♕d7 (so that if 18.♗e5 ♘a4) 18.♕×b7 and White is once again a pawn up.

*Game 85, Janowski-Maróczy*: The note at White's 19th move can be improved at two points. After 19.e×f7+ ♖×f7,
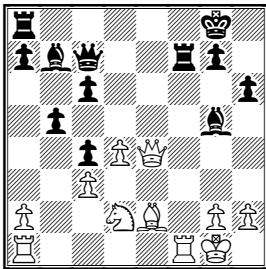
the note's 20.♘f3? is a mistake. Best is 20.♘×c4! when capture of the knight is to White's advantage: 20...b×c4?? 21.♗×c4 etc. (+2.48), or 20...♖×f1+ 21.♖×f1 b×c4 22.♗×c4+ ♔h8 23.♖f7 ♕d6 24.♗d3 g6 25.♖×b7 (+1.32). Therefore Black must play 20...♖e7 21.♘e5 c5 22.♕f5 with a slight advantage to White (+0.46).
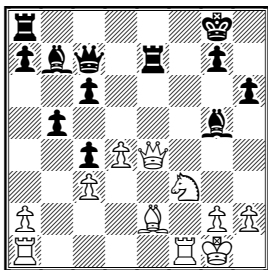
If White does play 20.♘f3?,
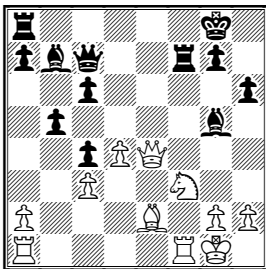
the note line 20...c5?! does not lead to much after 21.♕e6! ♗f6 22.♘e5 ♗×e5 23.d×e5 ♕e7 24.♗g4 ♖e8 25.♖ad1 (only -0.42):
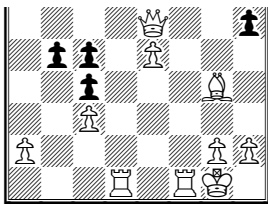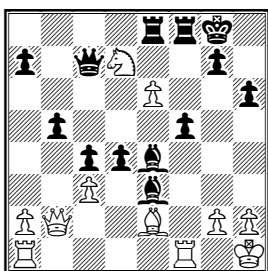
e.g. if 25...♕×e6? 26.♗×e6 ♖×e6 27.♖d8+ ♔h7 28.♖×f7 (+1.49). Much better is 20...♖e7!,


e.g. 21.♕c2 ♗e3+ 22.♔h1 c5 23.♖ad1 ♖d8 24.d×c5 ♗×c5 and Black's superiority is obvious (-1.78).

At White's 25th move,

Rybka indicates Janowski could have attained equality with 25.♕×b5!?, giving best play then as 25...d3 26.♗f3 a6 27.♕×a6 ♗×f3 28.♖×f3 f4 29.♘×f8 ♔×f8 30.♖b1 d2 31.♖ff1 (0.00).

In the final note, Rybka indicates that 29...♔h7 is actually Black's best move (-0.87), but the engine could not calculate any win for Black from that point. After Maróczy's suggested 29...♕c7-c6,
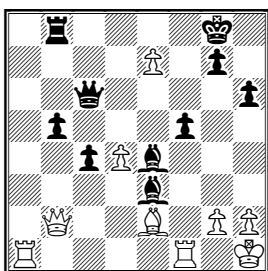
Alekhine is correct that the sub-variation 30.♗h5 g6 31.♗f3 ♗×f3 32.♖×f3 ♗g5 leads to equality. The main analysis stemming from 30.d5 seems to have been written to illustrate

potential pitfalls for White, rather than to show best play for both sides. It can be improved at move 36,
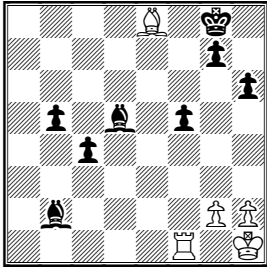
where instead of 36.♗×b5? (which Rybka confirms does lose), White has 36.♖×f5! with a draw, viz. 36...♗e4 37.♖×b5 c3 38.♖b8 ♔h7 39.♗a4=, or 36...c3 37.♖×d5 c2 38.♖c5 c1♕+ 39.♖×c1 ♗×c1=.

Game 87, Ed. Lasker-Capablanca: A very interesting game where some important resources for both sides went unnoticed, some in note variations, but more importantly, some in the actual game.

In the note to Black's 19th move, Alekhine is correct that Capablanca was right to surrender his e-pawn, but had he tried to defend it, White's position would have been even stronger than supposed. After 19...♖c7 20.♖ec1 ♖e8,
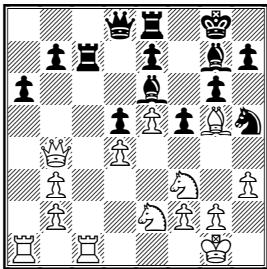
Alekhine's suggestion of 21.♘e1 intending ♘d3-c5 is thwarted by 21...♗d7 22.♘d3 ♗b5 (+0.36). Better is 21.♖×c7 ♕×c7 22.♖c1 ♕d7 23.♕b6,
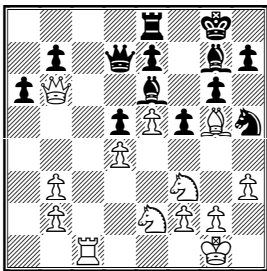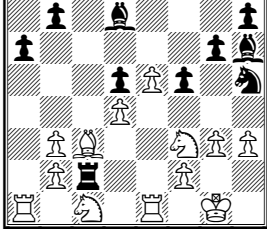

when if 23...♔f8? 24.♖c7 ♕d8 25.♕×b7 etc. Relatively best is 23...♖c8 24.♖×c8+ ♕×c8 25.♗×e7, with an extra pawn that is passed and protected, and much the better game (+1.38).

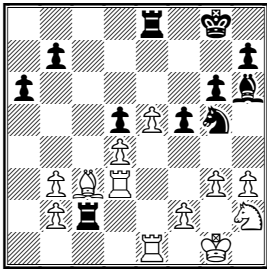Contrary to the note at move 25, White could have proceeded immediately with 25.♘c1,

because if 25...♗b5 then 26.♘a2! ♗f8 (otherwise 27.♘b4 wins the rook) 27.♖ac1 and White rids himself of the "unpleasant prisoner" rook.

In the note at move 29, the suggested 29...♘e6-g5 is not as convincing as supposed.

30.♔g2 is not compulsory in reply; better is 30.g4!?. If then 30...♖f8 31.h4 ♘e4 32.g5 and Black's pressure is much reduced. Or if 30...♘e4 31.g×f5 g×f5 32.♖f3 ♖f8 33.e6 ♖f6 (or 33...♖e8 34.♖×f5) 34.e7 ♔f7 35.♘g4!,
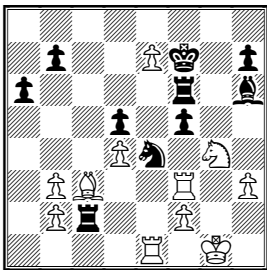
and Black must give up the exchange by 35...♔×e7 36.♘×f6 ♔×f6, since if 35...f×g4?? 36.♖×e4 d×e4 37.♖×f6+ ♔×e7 38.♖×h6+−.

The note after move 41 is correct that 42.f3 would be a bad move, but then misses the strongest reply.
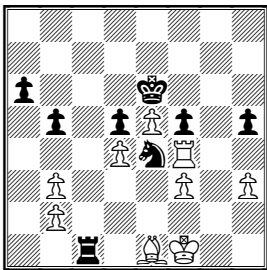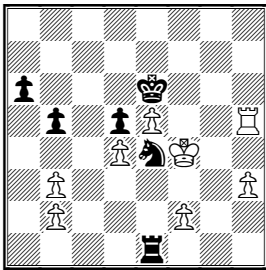
The suggested 42...♘d2+ leads to nothing after 43.♔f2 ♘×b3 44.♖h4 a5 45.♖×h5 ♘×d4 46.f4=

(-0.02). Best instead is 42...♘g5! when the h-pawn cannot be defended, viz. 43.♖h4?? ♖×e1+ 44.♔×e1 ♘×f3+ and 45...♘×h4, or 43.h4?? ♘h3 winning the rook. Therefore a likely continuation is 43.b4 ♘×h3 44.♖h4 ♘g5 45.♖×h5 (if 45.♖f4 h4 or 45...♖b1) 45...♘×f3 46.♖h6+ ♔e7 47.♖×a6 ♘×e1 and with reasonable care Black should win.

As we have seen in some other endgames, no comment is made on what were the actual crucial mistakes. Alekhine is correct that 44.♔f1-e2 was inferior to 44.♖h6+, but not fatally so, and Edward Lasker still could have held after that. The irreversible errors were at White's 46th and 47th moves.

First, rather than 46.♖h5-h6+?, correct was 46.♔f3-f4!,

in order to keep the black king off f5. If then, for example 46...♖f1 47.♖h6+ ♔e7 48.♖h7+ ♔f8 49.e6 ♖×f2+ 50.♔e5=, or 46...♘×f2 47.♖h6+ ♔d7 48.♖×a6 ♘×h3+ 49.♔g4 ♘f2+ 50.♔f5 ♘e4 51.♖a7+ ♔c6 52.♖a6+ ♔b7 53.♖a5 ♔b6 54.♖a8 etc. There are other possibilities, but Rybka rates none higher than about -0.11, hardly a winning advantage.

Further on in the game, even after 46.♖h6+? ♔f5, Rybka indicates that Lasker still had good drawing chances if, instead of 47.♖×a6?, he had played 47.h4:
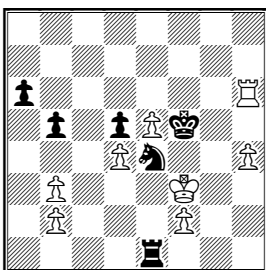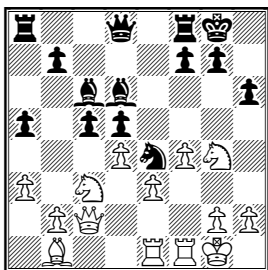

White must be very careful if he is to salvage the half-point, but the activity of his rook and passed pawns should enable it. The two main lines are (A) 47...♘d2+ 48.♔g2 ♔e4 49.♖g6 ♔×d4 50.e6 ♔e5 51.e7 ♔f5 52.♖g5+ ♔f6 53.♖×d5 ♘b3 54.♖d6+ ♔×e7 55.♖×a6 when Black has some advantage (-1.17) but the win, if any, will be hard to find; and (B) 47...♖b1 48.♖h5+ ♔g6 49.♖h8 ♖×b2 50.h5+
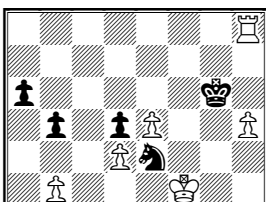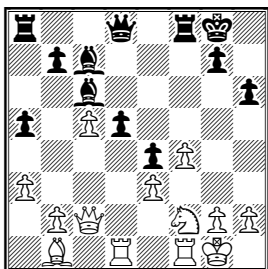
and now if 50...♔g7 51.♖d8 ♖×b3+ 52.♔f4 ♘×f2 53.♖×d5 (-0.18), or 50...♔g5 51.♖g8+ ♔×h5 52.e6 ♖×f2+ 53.♔e3 ♖f6 54.e7 ♘d6 55.e8♕+ ♘×e8 56.♖×e8 (-0.31).

Game 88, Marshall-Bogoljubow: A very well played game (by White, at least) that arguably deserved the tournament's first brilliancy prize, rather than just second. Marshall's attack from move 22 on is conducted so brilliantly that any improvements Rybka found are too trivial to mention. We offer only one minor comment from an earlier point. In his note to White's 20th move, Alekhine opined that by 20...♘e4, Black "could have defended himself by offering a pawn sacrifice not without prospects."


That is perhaps true if White plays 21.♘×e4 d×e4 22.d×c5 ♗c7 (+0.86), but a better way is 21.d×c5! ♗c7 (not 21...♗×c5? 22.♘×e4 ♗×e3+ 23.♘ef2 ♗×f2+ 24.♖×f2 f5 25.♘e5+−) 22.♖d1 f5 23.♘×e4 f×e4 24.♘f2 (+1.52).

White will be able to pressure the backward pawn by playing ♗b1-a2 and doubling or even tripling his major pieces on the d-file. The knight can also be posted on d4, if desired, by the h1-g3-e2-d4 route. Meanwhile Black's counterplay materializes too slowly.

One final aside. At move 28,
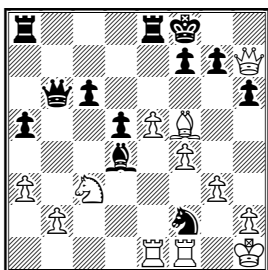
Alekhine called Marshall's 28.♖×f2 "an unnecessary sacrifice which merely prolongs the game

somewhat," preferring 28.♔g2. Marshall would no doubt be pleased to know that Rybka considers 28.♖×f2! objectively best.

Game 89, Maróczy-Réti: A competently played game with relatively few notes, so there is little to comment on. Rybka found one error. The note after Black's 23rd move is quite wrong.
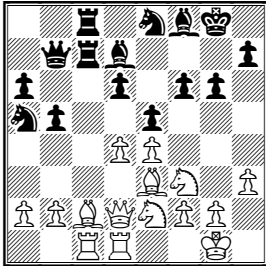
24.b3, which Alekhine said would be "of doubtful merit," is actually quite playable and is probably best. The supposed refutation, 24...d5 25.d×e5 ♗a3,
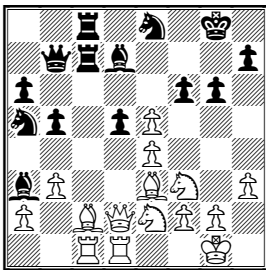

is actually disastrous for Black: 26.e×d5! ♗×c1 27.♖×c1 f×e5 28.♘×e5
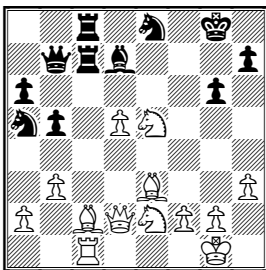
28...♖×c2 — More or less forced, since White threatens 29.♘×d7 ♖×d7 30.♕×a5. If 28...♘f6 29.d6 compels 29...♖×c2 anyway, or if 28...♘d6 29.♘×d7 ♖×d7 30.♕×a5 ♕×d5 31.♘f4+− (+3.16), while if 28...♗f5 29.♗×f5 g×f5 and White wins with either 30.♕×a5 (+2.52) or the even stronger 30.d6 (+4.71). — 29.♖×c2 ♖×c2 30.♕×c2 ♕×d5 31.♕d2 ♗e6 32.♕×a5 ♕×e5 33.♕×a6 and White is up two pawns (+2.19).
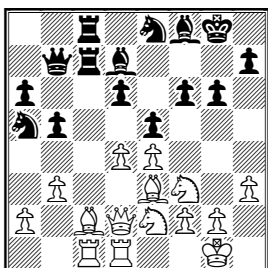
Rather than 25...♗a3?, somewhat better is 25...d×e4, but after 26.♘e1 b4 27.e×f6 ♘×f6 28.♗d4 ♘e8 29.♘g3 ♗c6 30.♕e3 ♖e7 31.♗c5
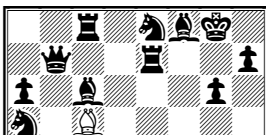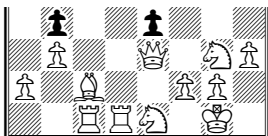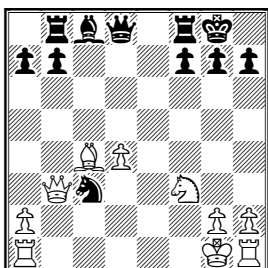
Black can no longer defend the e-pawn, since if 31...♖e6? 32.♗×f8 ♔×f8 33.♕c5+ ♔g8 34.♕×a5.

Better still after 24.b3! is for Black to avoid 24...d5? altogether,

and play, say, 24...b4 or 24...♘c6 with only a slight disadvantage (about +0.54).

Game 92, Tartakower-Capablanca: The note variation after White's 13th move can be strengthened somewhat. After 13...♗×c3 14.b×c3 ♘e4+ 15.♔g1 ♘×c3 16.♕b3,
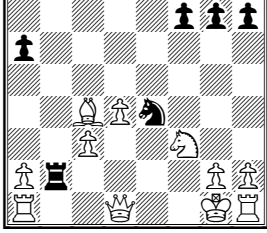

Alekhine's 16...♘e4 is good (-1.22), but better is 16...♗e6 17.♕×c3 (or 17.♗×e6 ♘e2+ 18.♔f2 ♘×d4) 17...♖c8 and 18...♗×c4 (-1.62).

The note variation following Black's 13th move is much weaker than Alekhine realized, and can be improved considerably. After 14.♘×b5,
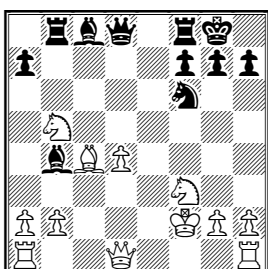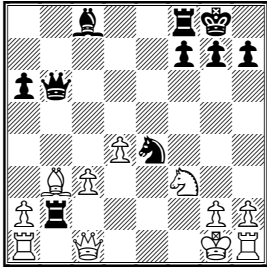

he envisioned "penetrating decisively with the rook to b2" by 14...a6 15.♘c3 ♗×c3 16.b×c3 ♘e4+ 17.♔g1 ♖b2:
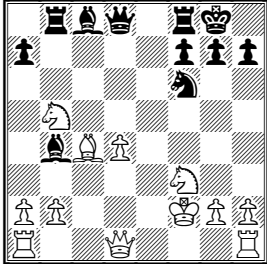
Unfortunately, the rook's presence there proves more detrimental than decisive, viz. 18.♕c1 ♕b6 19.♗b3,

and now Black must either submit to a draw with 19...♖e2 20.♗c4 ♖b2 21.♗b3 etc., or keep fishing around with 19...♖f2 20.♕e3 ♗b7 21.♘e5 ♖c8 22.♖c1 a5 23.c4 a4 24.c5 ♕b5 25.♗c2 ♕b2 26.♘d3 ♕a3 27.♗b1, which Rybka rates almost dead even.

However, going back to the position after 14.♘×b5,

the line can be greatly strengthened with a slight change of move order, 14...♘e4+ 15.♔g1 a6:
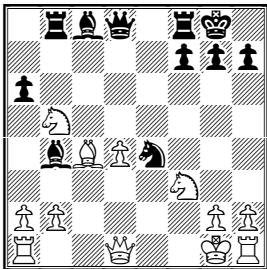
Rybka now indicates that Black wins in all variations. The main ones:

(a) Relatively best for White is the straightforward but losing 16.♘c3 ♘×c3 17.b×c3 ♗×c3 (-1.75);

(b) Much worse is 16.♘a3? ♗×a3 17.b×a3 ♗g4 18.♗b3 ♗×f3 19.g×f3 (if 19.♕×f3 ♕×d4+ 20.♔f1 ♘d2+) 19...♕g5+ 20.♔f1 ♖b6 21.f×e4 ♕f4+ 22.♔e1 ♕×e4+ 23.♔d2 ♖c8−+ (-13.17); (c) 16.♗d3 ♘g5 17.♘×g5 ♕×g5 18.♘c3 ♗×c3 19.b×c3 ♖b2 (Here it is decisive!) 20.♕f3 ♗b7 21.♗e4 ♖×g2+! 22.♕×g2 ♕e3+ 23.♔f1 ♗×e4 24.♕g3 ♕×g3 25.h×g3 ♗×h1 (-3.35); (d) 16.♘a7? ♗b7 17.♕b3 ♘d2 18.♕×b4 (if 18.♘×d2 ♕×d4+ 19.♔f1 ♕×d2 -10.94) 18...♘×f3+ 19.g×f3 ♕×d4+ 20.♔f1 ♕f4 21.♘c3 ♗×f3 22.♖g1 ♗g4+ 23.♔e1 ♖fe8+ and mate shortly; (e) 16.a3 a×b5 17.♗d3 ♘d2 18.a×b4 ♘×f3+ 19.♕×f3 ♕×d4+ 20.♔f1 ♖b6 (-2.39); (f) 16.♕b3 ♗a5 (-2.82).

At Black's 20th move, Alekhine considered 20...♕g5+ 21.♔f2 "inviting" but "by no means convincing,"
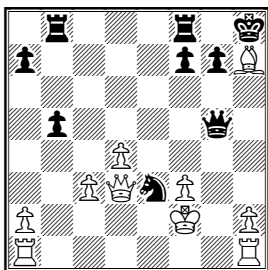
because if 21...♖fe8 22.♗e4 defends adequately. A classic case of wrong rook! The line is quite convincing if instead Black plays 21...♖be8! 22.♗e4 f5 23.♕×e3 ♕h4+ 24.♔g2 f×e4:
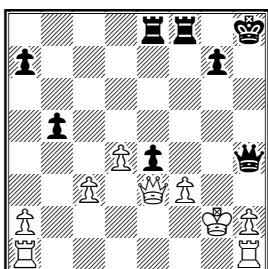
Now obviously if 25.f×e4?? ♖×e4, therefore forced is 25.f4 ♖×f4, and Black is clearly winning (-1.87). The difference between this position and the one stemming from 21...♖fe8 is that in the latter, after 22.f4 the f-pawn is not *en prise*, and furthermore White can also play 22.♖he1!,
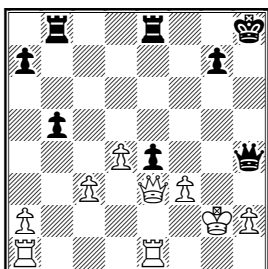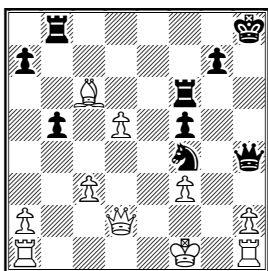
and after 22...e×f3+ 23.♕×f3 ♖×e1 24.♖×e1 ♕×e1 White has perpetual check with 25.♕h5+ etc. With the black rooks on e8 and f8, however, this does not work:
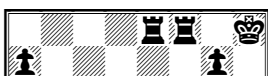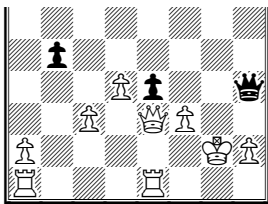
25...e×f3+ 26.♔×f3 ♖×f3 27.♖×e8+ ♔h7 28.♔×f3 ♕h5+ and Black goes up queen for rook.

A minor comment on the position after White's 25th move.

Capablanca played 25...♖d8, setting up the threat of 26...♖×c6. However, he could have played 25...♖×c6 straight away, since if 26.d×c6 ♕h3+ and either 27.♔g1 ♕×f3 winning the queen, or 27.♔f2 ♕g2+ 28.♔e3 ♖e8+ and mate shortly.

Game 93, Janowski-Alekhine: In the note at White's 24th move, after 24.♗e7 ♗×c1 25.♗×f8,
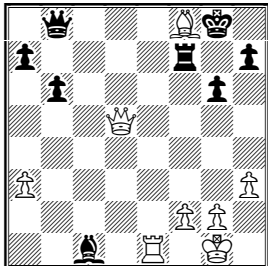
Black can retain some winning chances by avoiding 25...♕×f8 in favor of 25...♕f4!? 26.♗b4 ♕×f2+ 27.♔h1 ♗b2, with a small advantage (-0.70).

The note at move 33 is correct that White was better off with 33.♕×b5 than 33.♖c1, but 33.♖c1 was not the crucial mistake. Rybka indicates that came one move later,
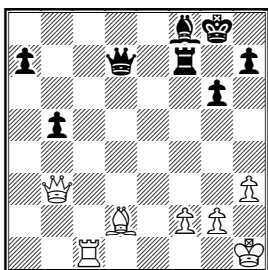
when Janowski played 34.♗f5?, on which Alekhine makes no comment. Instead, White still

could have avoided loss with 34.♖d1!, when Black finds it too difficult to defend his a- and b-pawns, e.g. 34...♕e8 35.♖e1 ♕b8 (or 35...♕c6 36.♖c1) 36.♖a1 ♕b7 37.♗e3 a6 38.♕e6,
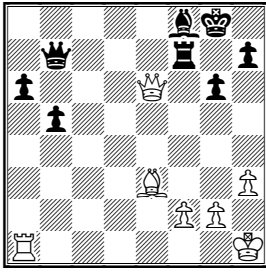
and something has to give (-0.09).

Game 94, Marshall-Maróczy: The note at move 9 is seriously misleading. It gives the impression that 9...c×d4 would be a blunder, allowing a forced mate starting with 10.♘×f7. In fact 9...c×d4 is actually best, even winning, as long as after 10.♘×f7,
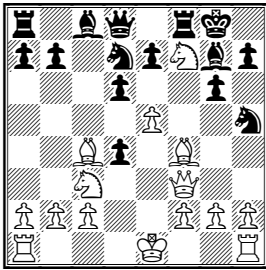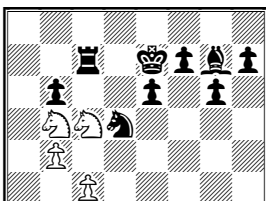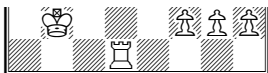
Black avoids 10...♖×f7? and plays 10...♕c7!. A plausible continuation then is 11.♘×d6+ ♔h8 12.♘cb5 ♕b6 13.♘f7+ ♖×f7 14.♗×f7 ♕×b5 15.♗b3 ♘×f4 16.♕×f4 ♘×e5,
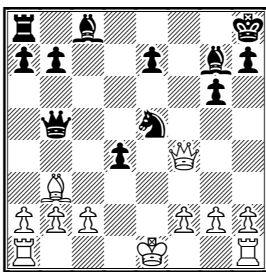
and though the material imbalance is just bishop and knight for rook, Rybka rates the position at -2.85. In contrast, the text move 9...d×e5 scores a mere -0.29.
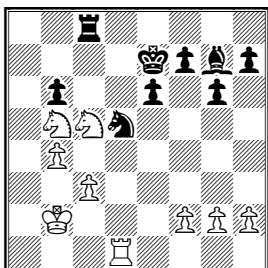
In the note at Black's 28th move, variation (I) can be greatly strengthened. After 28...♘d5 29.♔b2 b6 30.♘b5,
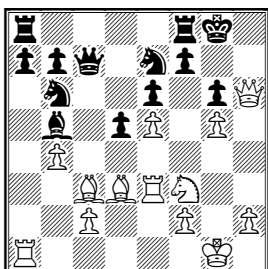
much stronger than 30...♖c8?! is 30...♘×c3! 31.♘×c3 (worse is 31.♘×c7? ♘×d1+ 32.♔c2 ♘×f2 33.♘a4 ♔d7 34.♘a6 ♔c6) 31...b×c5 32.♔b3 c4+ (-1.70).

If, however, 30...♖c8 is played,

then not 31.♘a7?? as in the note (-4.16), but 31.♘a4 ♘×b4 32.♔a3 ♘d5 33.♔b3 and White still has some life (-0.90).

Game 96, Em. Lasker-Maróczy: Some major tactical errors are found here. The note after Black's 21st move goes wrong immediately. After 22.♖e3,


the recommended 22...♗×d3 only leads to a small advantage for Black (-0.68). Much better is 22...♕×c3! leading to a long forced continuation: 23.♘e1 (to allow ♖e3-h3) 23...♖fc8 (not 23...♕×a1?? 24.♖h3 and mate shortly) 24.♖h3 ♕×e5 25.♕h7+ ♔f8 26.♕h6+ (slightly better than 26.♕h8+) 26...♕g7 27.♗×b5 ♘f5 28.♕×g7+ ♔×g7,
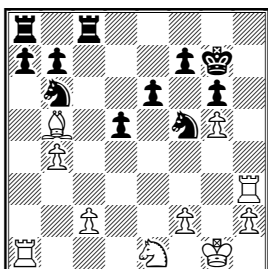
and Black is a sound pawn up with the better position (-1.65).

The note's next move is seriously wrong as well. If Black does play 22...♗×d3,
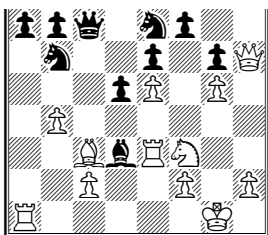
the correct reply is the obvious and natural 23.♖×d3. The note's 23.♘d4?? is a terrible blunder that is refuted even more convincingly than Alekhine's 23...♘f5 by the even stronger 23...♕×c3 24.♘b3 (else 24...♕×a1+) 24...♘f5 25.♖×d3 ♕×a1+ 26.♘×a1 ♘×h6 27.g×h6 (-7.13).

Alekhine is correct that Maróczy missed a golden opportunity when he failed to play 36...♖c2, but another, lesser chance went unnoticed two moves later.
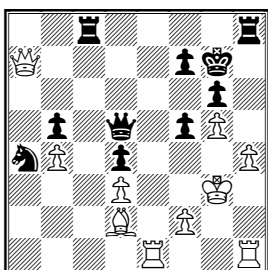
Here, 38...♘b2! was Black's last try for a win. White's intended ♗d2-f4-e5+ would now be rendered pointless by 39...♘×d3. Rybka sees best play for both sides as 39.♕e7 ♘×d3 40.♕f6+ ♔g8 41.♖e7 ♘e5 42.♕×e5 ♕×h1 43.♕×d4 ♕g1+ 44.♔h3 ♕f1+ 45.♔g3 ♕c4 46.♗e3,
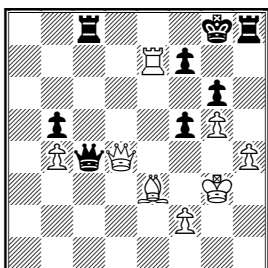
reaching a position evaluated at -0.85. Black is somewhat cramped and awkward, but if he can get his king's rook into the game, his material advantage could be enough to win.

The note at Black's move 41 is among the worst in the book.
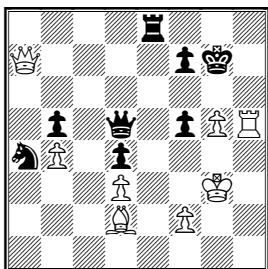
The text move 41...♘c3 was objectively best, and the recommended 41...f4+ would have been disastrous. Rather than having to play 42.♔h4 as Alekhine thought, White can go right ahead with 42.♗×f4!,
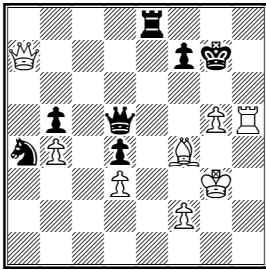

because if 42...♖e1 43.♕b8! ♖g1+ 44.♔h4 ♖h1+ 45.♗h2 and to avoid mate Black must play 45...♖×h2 46.♕×h2 (+4.38). Clearly, 43.♕b8! never occurred to Alekhine.

Game 97, Yates-Capablanca: An apocryphal story was once published in which the young Alekhine was said to be smoking a noxious Russian tobacco called mahorka. One can only wonder what he was smoking when he annotated this game, there are so many fundamental errors. Admittedly, some are not revealed without analysis in depth, but others are more obvious, and positions are completely misjudged.

To begin with, 19.e5 is claimed to "lead to an immediate loss,"
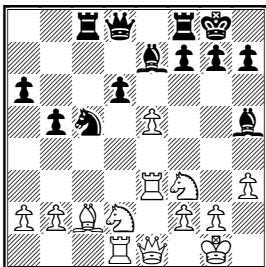
but Rybka considers it White's best move, and the only one to maintain equality. In response, Black should have played, say, 19...d5, 19...♕b6, or 19...♘e6, all of which are evaluated close to 0.00. Capablanca's 19...♗g5?, far from being "the opening maneuver of the winning line of play," should have lost (or had no better than an outside chance to draw), had Yates only played a move Alekhine and Capablanca must have considered impossible, 20.♘×g5!:
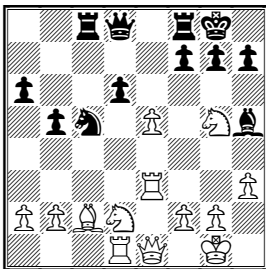
If now 20...♕×g5 21.g4 ♗g6 22.♘f3 ♕h6 23.♗×g6 h×g6 24.e×d6 ♕×h3 25.♘e5 and White is in great shape (+2.15). The crucial line is 20...♗×d1 21.♗×h7+ ♔h8:
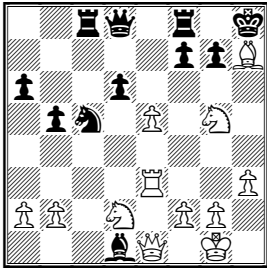
Now White has two good continuations: the solid 22.♗f5 ♛×g5 23.♗×c8 ♖×c8 24.♛×d1 d×e5 25.♘f3 ♛f6 26.♘×e5 and White is up a pawn and in no danger of losing (+1.03); and the riskier and more complicated (but probably more rewarding) 22.f4:
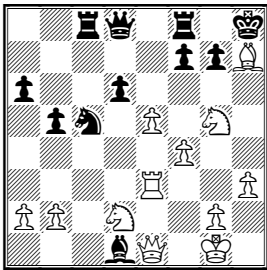
Black then has only two viable moves:
(A) 22...g6 23.♛×d1 d×e5 24.♘×f7+ ♖×f7 25.♗×g6 ♖g7 26.♛h5+ ♔g8 27.♘f3 ♘d7 (not 27...e×f4?? 28.♖e8+) 28.♗e4 ♘f6 (if 28...e×f4?? 29.♗d5+) 29.♛×e5 and with three connected, passed pawns for the exchange White definitely has the advantage (+1.60);
(B) 22...♗h5 23.♗f5 ♖c7 24.b4!,
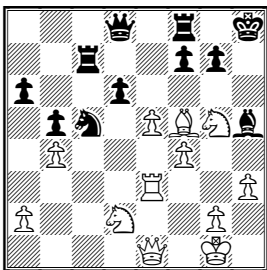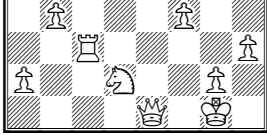

and now, surprisingly, the attacked knight must stay put:
(B1) if 24...♘e6? simply 25.♗×e6 f×e6 26.♘×e6+−;
(B2) 24...♘d7?? 25.♛h4 g6 26.♘×f7+ ♖×f7 27.♛×d8+;
(B3) 24...♘a4 25.e6 ♖e7 26.g4 and the bishop must stand and die (+2.75), since if 26...♗g6 27.♛h4+ forces mate;
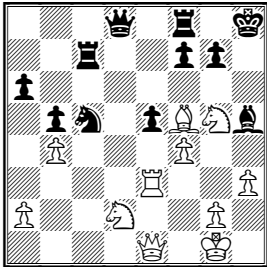**(B4)** 24...♘b7 leads to a long forced line, 25.e6 ♛f6 (if 25...♖e7?? 26.♘×f7+! ♖×f7 27.e×f7 ♗×f7 28.♖e7 ♛b6+ 29.♔h2 ♔g8 30.♛h4+− +10.27) 26.♘h7! ♛×f5 27.♘×f8 ♖c8 28.e7 ♖e8 29.♖c3,
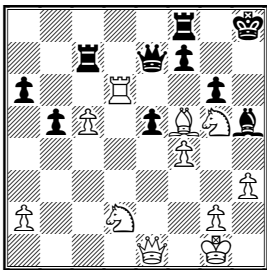
— aiming for the trapped knight — 29...♕×f4 (if 29...d5 30.♕e5 ♕×e5 31.f×e5 and the knight is still trapped) 30.♖c7 ♕×b4 31.♖×b7+− (+3.17);
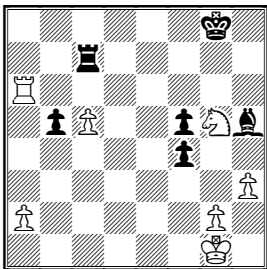
(B5) Therefore Black has nothing better than 24...d×e5,

after which comes 25.b×c5 g6 (worse is 25...e×f4? 26.♕h4 g6 27.♕×f4 ♔g7 28.♘de4 +2.10) 26.♖d3 ♕e7 27.♖d6


27...e×f4 (if 27...g×f5 28.♕h4 ♔g7 29.♕×h5+−) 28.♕a1+ f6 29.♘de4 g×f5 30.♘×f6 ♖×f6 31.♕×f6+ ♕×f6 32.♖×f6 ♔g8 33.♖×a6


and White, with two passed pawns, should win this ending (33...♖×c5?? 34.♖a8+ ♔g7 35.♘e6+). There are of course many more variations than we have time and space to consider here, but Rybka finds them all at least quite favorable to White, if not in fact winning.

The assertion that 22...♗e7 "would have been decisive" is not supported by Rybka. After 23.g4 ♘e6,
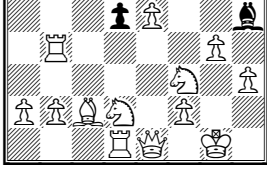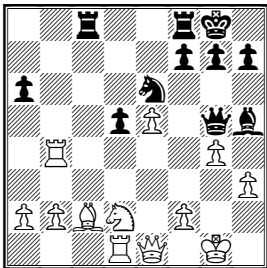
instead of the note's 24.♖b7?!, much better is 24.♖b3! ♖×c2 25.g×h5 with a fairly even game (-0.29). Further on in that note, after 24.♖b7 ♖×c2 25.g×h5 ♗c5,
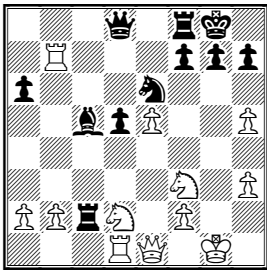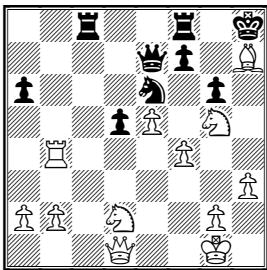
the only two moves Alekhine considers, 26.♘e4 and 26.♖c1, are serious blunders; relatively best is (again) 26.♖b3, when White is worse (-0.95) but not clearly lost.

In the note to Black's 23rd move, in the sub-variation 23...♕×g5 24.g4 ♘e6,

much better than the suggested 25.♗f5 is 25.♘f3 ♕e7 26.♗b3 a5 27.♖b5 ♗g6 28.♖×a5 (+1.54). It bears mentioning that Rybka does not share Alekhine's view of 23...♕×g5 as a winning attempt, though admittedly that may be due to the materialist bias computer programs often show.

Finally, the note to White's 25th move is rife with errors. First off, in the sub-variation 25.f4 g6 26.♕×d1, the suggested 26...♘c5-e6 does not win;
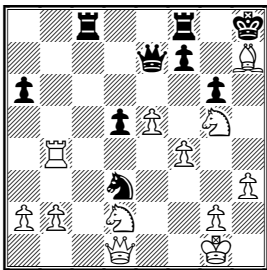
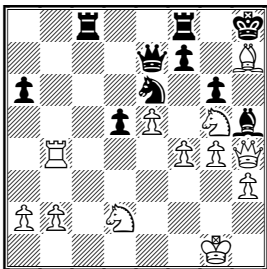it only draws after 27.♘×e6 ♕×b4 28.♘×f8 ♖×f8 29.♘f3 ♔h7 30.f5!,
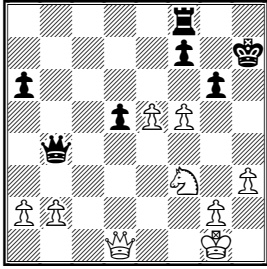
viz. 30...♕×b2 31.f×g6+ f×g6 32.♕×d5=, or 30...♕f4 31.f×g6+ ♚×g6 32.♕×d5=, or 30.g×f5 31.♕d3 ♚g6 32.♕×a6+ ♚h7 33.♕f6 ♕×b2 34.♕×f5+ etc.

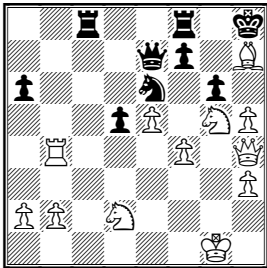What does win in that line is 26...♘d3!,

when the threat of 27...♖c1 forces 27.♘b3 ♘×b4 (-1.81).

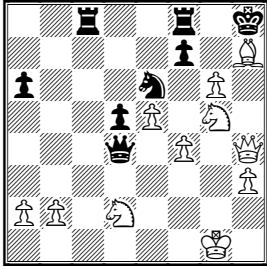In the note's main line, 25.f4 g6 26.♕h4 ♗h5 27.g4 ♘e6,

the suggested 28.g×h5?? is a ghastly mistake. Correct is 28.♗×g6! f×g6 29.g×h5 ♘×g5 30.h×g6+ ♚g8 31.f×g5 with a difficult but approximately even game (-0.09).

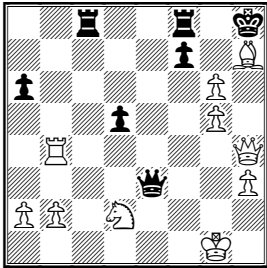If, however, White does play 28.g×h5??,

the refutation is not 28...♘×g5?! (about which see below), but 28...♕×b4! 29.h×g6 ♕d4+,
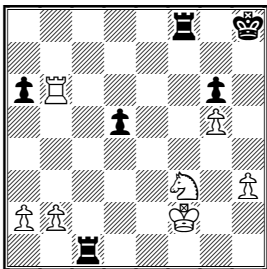
and either 30.♔h2 ♛×d2+ etc., or 30.♔f1 ♜c1+ 31.♔e2 ♞×f4+ (-14.34), or 30.♔f2 ♜c1+ 31.♔g2 ♛×f2+ 32.♔×f2 ♞×g5 33.f×g5 f×g6+ 34.♔e3 ♔×h7 (-7.74).

Continuing with the note line, after 28...♞×g5?! Alekhine gives 29.f×g5 ♛×e5 30.h×g6 ♛e3+ "and wins,"

but there is no win for Black in that position, viz. 31.♕f2 ♜c1+ 32.♔g2 ♛×f2+ 33.♔×f2 f×g6+ 34.♞f3 ♔×h7 35.♜b7+ ♔h8 36.♜b6,

and whichever pawn Black chooses to lose, White will have two connected passed pawns on one wing or another, and little chance of losing (-0.29).

Finally, to add the caboose to this analytical train wreck, we note that all the above analysis of lines stemming from 25.f5 is moot, because in fact a win for White was missed, by both Yates in the game and Alekhine in his analysis. Instead of 25.f5, or the text 25.♜b4-h4, Yates could have beaten Capablanca (something he never managed to do in eleven tries) with 25.♕×d1!:
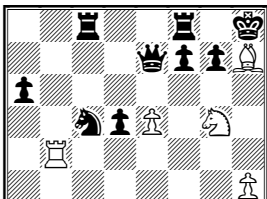
If now 25...g6? 26.♗×g6! ♛×g5 (or 26...f×g6 27.♖h4+ ♚g8 28.♘df3+−) 27.♘f3 ♛×g6 28.♖h4+ ♚g8 29.♖g4 winning the queen (+3.03).
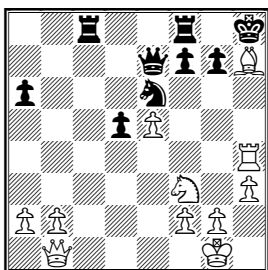
Somewhat better, but still inadequate, is 25...♛×g5 26.♘f3 ♛e7 27.♖h4:
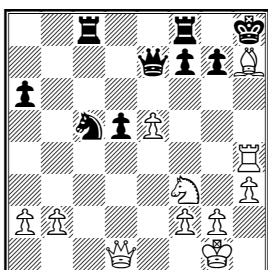
Black then has only two moves Rybka rates under +3.00:
(A) 27...♖c6 28.♗c2+ ♖h6 (28...♚g8 29.♛×d5 ♖h6 30.♖×h6 g×h6 31.♛c6 is worse) 29.♖×h6+ g×h6 30.♛×d5, and with three pawns for the exchange and much the safer king, White should win (+1.88);
**(B)** 27...♘e6 28.♛b1!

Threatening 29.♗f5+ ♚g8 30.♗×e6 f×e6 31.♛h7+ ♚f7 32.♛h5+ ♚g8 33.♘g5+− . If 28...♘g5 29.♖h5 ♘×f3+ 30.g×f3 g6 31.♗×g6+ and wins (+3.74). Least of evils is 28...♖c4 29.♖h5 (threatening 30.♗g8+ and mate) 29...g6 30.♗×g6+ ♚g7 31.♗d3 ♖f4 32.♗×a6 ♖h8 33.♖×h8 ♚×h8, and with four pawns for the exchange, White can surely win (+2.24).

Why Alekhine showed such a pro-Capablanca bias in his analysis here is hard to understand; by the time he wrote the tournament book for New York 1927 he certainly had changed his tune. In fairness we must acknowledge that some of these variations are long and complex, but White's best choices at moves 19 and 25 went completely overlooked, leading Alekhine to misevaluate those positions badly. One wonders if he was still too much in awe of The Great Cuban to be objective.

Game 98, Ed. Lasker-Réti: The variation examined in the note to White's 15th move is made to seem more advantageous than it actually is. After 15.g4 ♗b7 16.♘e4,
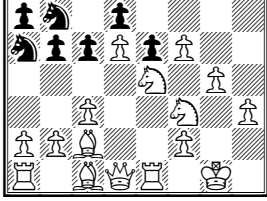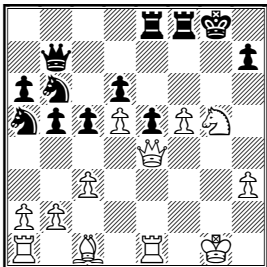
16...♗×d5 is preferable to the note's 16...♘×d5. Continuing on, after 16...♘×d5 17.♘fg5 ♗×g5 18.♘×g5,
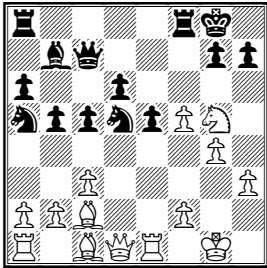
the note's 18...♘f4? is very bad. Much better is 18...♘f6, when if 19.♘e6 ♛c6! (threatening mate) 20.f3 ♖fe8, avoiding loss of the exchange and leaving White only a small advantage (+0.52).

In variation (IIA) of the note to Black's 21st move, after 21...♖ae8 22.f5 g×f5 23.g×f5,
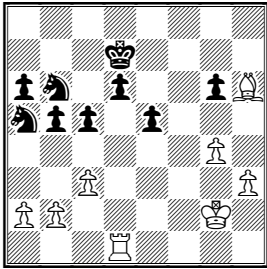
rather than 23...♛×d5? (+0.99) is 23...♘×d5! (+0.07), mainly because if 24.♛g4 ♚h8 and 25.♘×h7 doesn't work because of 25...♛×h7−+.

In the main line of variation (II), after 21...♖ae8 22.f5 ♛×d5 23.f×g6 ♛×e4 24.♘×e4 h×g6,
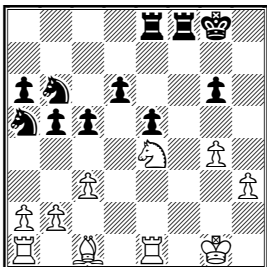
while the line given, 25.♘×d6 ♖d8 26.♘e4, is good for White, he can do better with 25.♗h6! forcing Black to give up the exchange, viz. 25...♖f7 26.♘×d6, or 25...♖f3 26.♔g2 ♖d3 27.♘f6+ ♔f7 28.♘×e8 ♔×e8 29.♖ad1 ♖×d1 30.♖×d1 ♔d7,
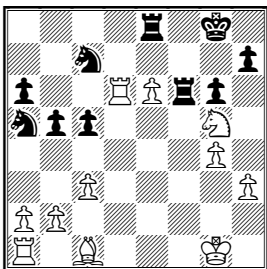
when with Black's knights way out of play White can make hay on the kingside, viz. 31.h4 ♔e6 32.h5 g×h5 33.g×h5 etc.

In the note at Black's 22nd move,
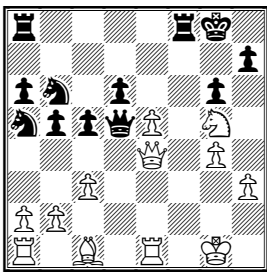
the analysis of the variation stemming from 22...d×e5 is flawed at several points, but we will skip over that because Black's best move is entirely overlooked: 22...♕×e5! 23.♕×e5 d×e5 with dynamic equality (about +0.28).

At Black's 26th move,

Alekhine's recommended 26...♖e7 would have definitely been better than the text move 26...h6?, but Rybka prefers 26...♘c4!?, a move that leads to interesting complications and really makes White work if he wants to win. Best play then continues 27.♖c6 ♖e7 28.a4 ♘e5:
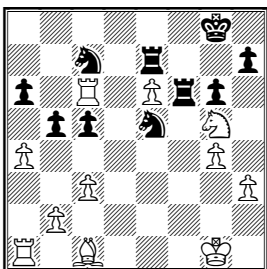
Now White does not seem to get much out of 29.♖×c5 ♘d3 30.♖c6 h6 31.a×b5 a×b5 32.♘f7 (32.♘e4? ♖f×e6) 32...♖f×e6 33.♖×e6 ♘×e6 34.♘d6 ♘×c1 35.♖×c1 (only +0.40). Best is probably 29.♖d6 b4 30.c×b4 c×b4 31.♖d8+ ♔g7 32.♗d2 ♘×e6 33.♗×b4 ♖b7 34.♘×e6+ ♖×e6,
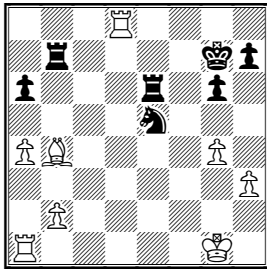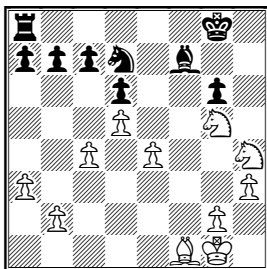
when White stands better but is still a long way from chalking up the point (+1.08).

Game 101, Em. Lasker-Tartakower: A brief comment on White's 23rd move. If White is intent on sacrificing the exchange,
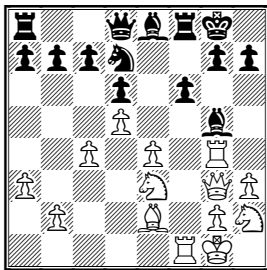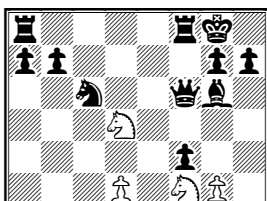
the optimal way seems to be 23.♘f5!? h5 24.♖×g5 f×g5 25.♘f3 h4 26.♕×g5 ♕×g5 27.♘×g5 g6 28.♘×h4 ♖×f1+ 29.♗×f1 ♗f7,

and with two extra pawns, he is in much better shape (-0.11) than in the actual game after 23.♕f2 etc. (-0.99).

Game 102, Capablanca-Réti: The note at Black's 18th move treats two moves as equivalent which are not. After 18...e×f4 19.♘×d5,
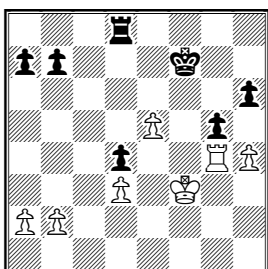
Alekhine gives 19...♛d6 (or 19...♛d8) 20.♘×f4 ♗×d3. This is OK with the queen on d8, but with her on d6,
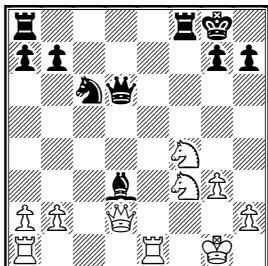
White has 21.♖e3!, and to avoid losing a whole piece Black must give up the exchange, 21...♖×f4 22.g×f4 (+1.58).

One last drawing chance for Black goes unmentioned. At move 31,

instead of the natural-looking but futile 31...♚g6?, Réti could have tried the seemingly suicidal but more effective 31...♚e6!?. Rybka then sees best play proceeding 32.h×g5 h×g5 33.♚e4 (better than 33.♖×g5) 33...♖h8:
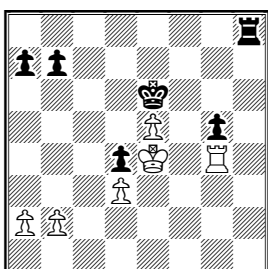
If now 34.♖×g5 ♖h4+ 35.♚f3 ♖h3+ 36.♚f4 ♖×d3 and Black has counterplay. The other try is 34.♚×d4 ♖h4 35.♖e4 (not 35.♖×h4?? g×h4 36.♚e4 h3 37.♚f3 ♚×e5−+) 35...a5 36.a4,
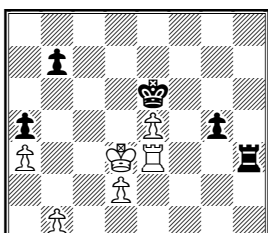
and after the pawn moves are exhausted, Rybka indicates that Black can merely shuffle his rook along the h-file ad infinitum, e.g. 36...♖h8 37.b3 ♖h4 etc, or 37.♔e3 ♖h3+, or if 37.♔c3 ♖g8! 38.d4 g4=.

Game 104, Bogoljubow-Maróczy: In the note at move 21, variation (II) can be improved. After 21.♕b6 ♗d7 22.♗×a5 ♖fb8 23.♖×d7 ♖×b6 24.♗×b6 ♕f3 25.♖e1,
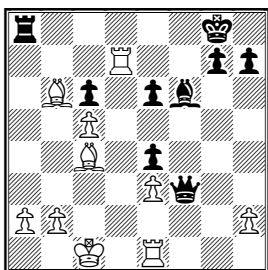
the suggested 25...♗g5 yields relatively little (-1.06). Much stronger is 25...♕f2! 26.♖e2 ♕f1+ 27.♖d1 (or 27.♔c2 ♖×a2−+) 27...♗×b2+ 28.♔c2 ♕f6 (-2.38).

Game 105, Ed. Lasker-Janowski: Another won game Janowski sadly failed to win. Most of Alekhine's notes here are very accurate, with one exception. At Black's 30th move, he comments "Why not at least 30...♗×g2? In any event it could not have led to anything worse." But indeed it could.
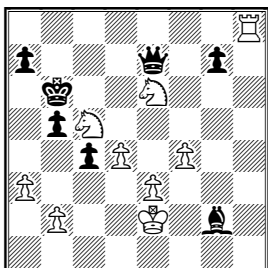
White would then win with 1.♖b8+ ♔c6 32.♖c8+ ♔d6 (or 32...♔d5 33.e4+ ♗×e4 34.♖d8+ ♔c6 35.♘×e4 ♕×e6 36.d5+) 33.e4 ♕h4 34.♖d8+ ♔e7 35.♖d7+ ♔e8 36.♘×g7+ etc. (+2.94).
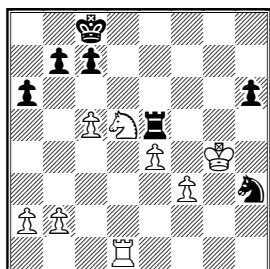
Best at move thirty is neither that nor the text 30...♗d5, but probably 30...♕f7,
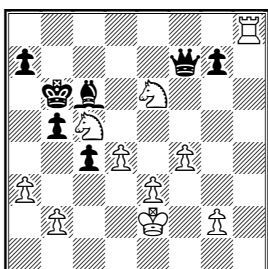
with the serious threat of 31...♕g6. It is doubtful that White can win then. He can force a draw

by 31.♖b8+ ♔a5 32.♘d8 ♕h5+ etc., or try, probably in vain, for more with 31.e4 ♗×e4 32.♘g5 ♗d3+ 33.♔e3 (not 33.♘×d3? c×d3+ 34.♔×d3 ♕×f4 -1.54) 33...♕f5 34.♖b8+ ♔c6=.

Game 106, Em. Lasker-Marshall: The note after Black's 27th move is incorrect. In the event of 28.♔×g4,

Black should not play 28...♘g5?, which allows White to continue winning with, for example, 29.b4 ♖e8 30.♘f6 ♖e7 31.♖h1 ♘f7 32.f4 etc. Best instead is 28...♘f2+! (surprising that Alekhine would overlook this obvious knight fork) 29.♔f4 ♖×e4+ 30.f×e4 ♘×d1, when a plausible continuation is 31.b4 c6 32.♘e7+ ♔d7 33.♘g8 ♘c3 34.a3 (34.♘×h6? ♘×a2) 34...♔e6 35.♘×h6 ♘b5 with a draw almost inevitable.

Rybka indicates the best 28th move for White was 28.♖e1,
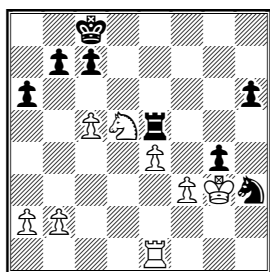
allowing him to nab the g-pawn with impunity (28...♘g5 29.♔×g4), since if 28...g×f3? 29.♔×h3, or 28...h5? 29.f4 etc.

*Game 107, Capablanca-Bogoljubow*: The variation given at Black's 12th move is not as bad as claimed. After 12...♗×c3+ 13.♔×c3 ♘a4+ 14.♔b4 ♘×b2 15.♖b1 a5+ 16.♘×a5,
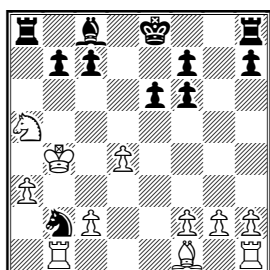
not 16...b6?, which does lose, but 16...♘a4! 17.♔×a4 (or 17.♗b5+ ♗d7) 17...b6 18.♖b5 ♗d7 19.♔b4 ♖×a5 20.♖×a5 b×a5+ 21.♔×a5 ♔e7 and any white advantage is very small (+0.18).
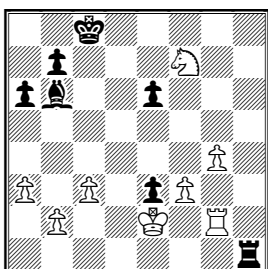
In the note to move 35, in the sub-variation 35...♗a7 36.♘e5 ♖h1 37.♘c4 ♖b1 38.♘×e3 ♖×b2+ 39.♔d3, it's not clear why Alekhine gave 39...♖b3 an exclam,
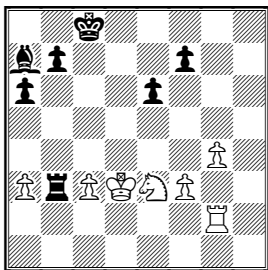
since it accomplishes little after 40.♘c4 and either 40...♗b8 41.♔c2 driving off the rook, or 40...b5 41.♘d6+ ♔d7 42.♘×f7 ♖×a3 43.g5 which favors White.

Contrary to the note at White's 37th move 37.♘×f7 is perfectly playable,

and it most definitely is not refuted by 37...♖b1?, when instead of the note's 38.♔d3?! White wins with 38.♘d6+! ♔d7 39.♘c4 ♗c5 40.♖h2 ♔c6 41.♘e5+ ♔d5 42.♘d3 (+2.47). In reply to 37.♘×f7, relatively best is 37...♖c1, e.g. 38.♔d3 ♖d1+ 39.♔c2 ♖f1 40.♘d6+ (not 40.♘e5?? ♖f2+) 40...♔c7 41.♘e4 ♖×f3 42.g5 ♖f1 43.g6 e2 44.♖×e2 ♖g1 45.♘f6 ♖×g6 46.♖×e6 with a draw likely.

Contrary to the note at White's 40th move, 40.♘g4 is fine. After 40...♖b1 41.♔d3 ♖d1+,
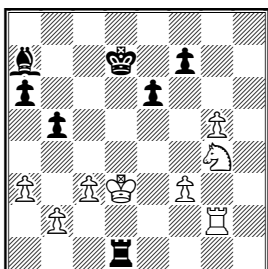
there is no need for White to play 42.♔e4? allowing a draw. Instead two moves keep good winning chances alive:
(A) 42.♔c2, a likely continuation then being 42...♖e1 43.♖h2 ♗g1 44.♖h7 ♔e8 45.♘h6 ♖e2+ 46.♔b1 ♖h2 47.♖h8+ ♔e7 48.f4 ♖g2 49.♖h7 ♗e3 50.♖×f7+ ♔d6 51.♖f6 (+1.34);
(B) 42.♖d2 ♖g1 (not 42...♖f1?? 43.♔e2+) 43.♖h2 ♗c5 (if 43...♖d1+?? 44.♔c2 ♖f1 45.♖h7 ♔e8 46.g6 f×g6 47.♖×a7+−) 44.♖h7 etc. (+1.26).

Black's 44th move and White's 45th are quite puzzling, and Alekhine makes no comment on them. Here,
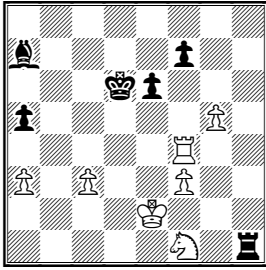
Bogoljubow made no attempt to defend his f-pawn, which he could have done by 44...♔e7 or 44...♖h7. Instead, he played 44...♗c5, to which Capablanca replied with 45.♘d2, instead of the seemingly obvious 45.♖×f7, which appears to allow White to win in straightforward fashion, e.g. 45...♖g1 46.♘d2 ♖g2+ (if 46...♖×g5?? 47.♘e4+) 47.♔d3 ♔c6 48.♘e4 ♗×a3 49.♖a7 etc. (+1.61).

The note at move 56 has Black making unnecessarily bad moves. After 56...♔e7 57.c4,
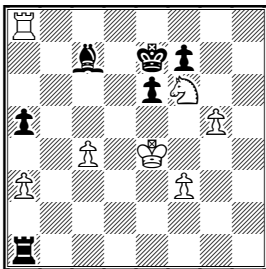
57...♖×a3? 58.c5 ♗d8? makes things far too easy for White (+3.70). Instead 57...♖g1! puts up a much better fight, e.g. 58.♖e8+ ♔d6 59.♖g8 ♔c5 and Black still has drawing chances (+0.86).
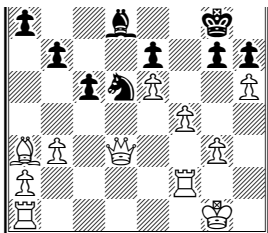
Alekhine made no comment at move 57, but Rybka indicates that may well have been the real decision point.
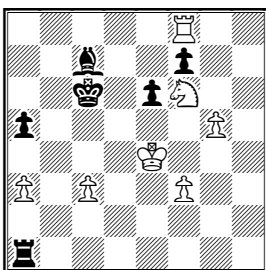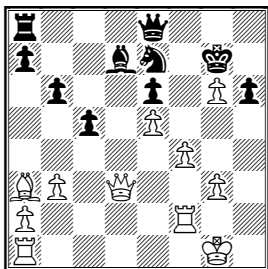
Bogoljubow's 57...♖e1+ may have been the losing move. Instead much better chances to hold were offered by 57...♖g1, e.g. 58.♘g4 ♖e1+ 59.♔d3 ♖d1+ 60.♔c4 ♖d5; 58.♘h7 ♗d6 59.♖×f7 ♗×a3 (+0.68), or 58.f4 ♖e1+ 59.♔f3 ♖f1+ 60.♔e2 ♖×f4 61.♖×f7 ♗d8 (+0.87).

Game 109, Réti-Janowski: At White's 26th move,

Alekhine gives the impression that 26.h×g6 would have been inferior to the text 26.♕×g6+, due to the reply 26...♘e7.

In fact 26.h×g6 was objectively best, and 26...♘e7 would have led to swift defeat after 27.f5 e×f5 28.e6 ♗×e6 29.♗b2+ ♔f8 30.♖e1 ♕×g6 31.♕d6 ♔f7 32.♖fe2 (+4.78). Relatively best for Black, though still inadequate, would have been 26...♗b5 27.♕e4 ♗c6 28.f5 e×f5 29.♕×f5 ♕×g6 30.♕×g6+ ♔×g6 31.♖af1 (+1.85).