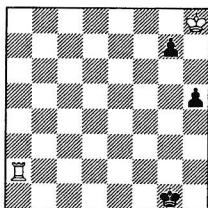


Distorted Borrowings from the Art

by Harrie Grondijs

A lot has been written about *the* study by Moravec.

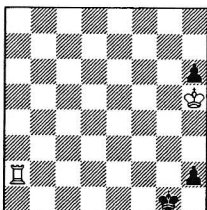
In an article for ROCHADE EUROPA Hartmut Metz tells an amusing story about the last game concluded in the last round of the German Championship. It was played between the Master Schmittdiel and Reefschräger. The starting point is this diagram.



J. Moravec, 1913, La Stratégie, 9th Prize, +, 100.02

Let us just repeat the essential variations.

1. Kh7! h4 2. Kg6 h3 3. Kg5 h2 4. Kg4 h1Q 5. Kg3 and mate. If 4. ... h1N† White wins: 5. Kf3 g5 6. Ra4! Kh2 (or 6. ... g4† 7. Rxc4† Kh2 8. Rg8; if here 7. ... Kf1 then 8. Ra4 Kg1 9. Ra2) 7. Rg4 Kh3 8. Rxc5 Kh4 9. Rg8 Kh5 10. Rh8† and wins the knight.



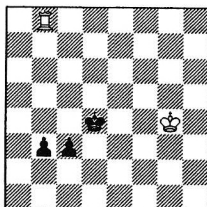
Schmittdiel vs. Reefschräger, Binz, 1994, 100.02

In this position Reefschräger proposed a draw. Schmittdiel replied: 'I'll bet you a 1000 Mark you are lost!' and played 1. Kg4. Black put the queen that was already in his hand down again and after a long pause decided for: 1. ... h1N?? and resigned after 2. Kf3 h5 3. Rg2† Kf1 4. Rh2.

Instead the uncertain Reefschräger should have accepted the bet! After 1. ... h5† 2. Kg3 h4†! the subtle difference with the study by Moravec will soon become apparent: 3. Kxc4?? h1Q†! 4. Kg3 looks almost identical, but now Black in the absence of the pawn on g7 prevents the mate threat 5. Ra1 with 4. ... Qh8! (Hartmut Metz in ROCHADE EUROPA Nr. 1 January 1995, quote translated by HHG).'

This happened in the German championship 1994. Over to the Dutch championship 1994.

Our case in point not only was the last game to be concluded in the last round of the tournament, it happened also to be the game that would decide about the championship (Piket needing to win). However, like Mr. Metz let's meditate about some Classics first.

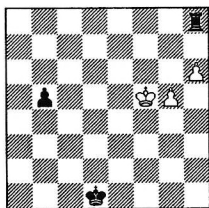


Friedstein vs. Lutikov, Riga, 1954, 100.02

I translate from DAS 1 X 1 DES ENDSPIELS by Dr. H. Staudte and N. Milescu:

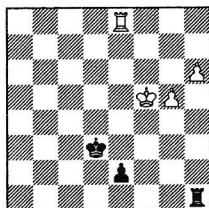
" *Master Friedstein was not in his right*

mind (but who can say he always is?) when in this position - that does not demand deep philosophical considerations - but then again maybe it was a slip-of-the-finger that let him exchange the second move for the first: White played 1. Rxb3 and resigned after 1. ... c2 2. Rb4† Kd5 3. Rb5† Kd6 4. Rb6† Kc7. An easy draw would have been within his grasp had he put in the simple check 1. Rb4†! Then Black cannot win, as after 2. Rxb3 the c-pawn can be stopped without a problem. A classic case of chess-blindness! Need I add that with the white king on a8 Rey's dream might have broken through the wall that separates it from reality? Remarkably enough by itself, Lutikov's manoeuvre was shown 100 years earlier by that famous couple Kling and Horwitz:



J. Kling and B. Horwitz,
The Chess Player, 1853, +,
300.21

1. g6 Rxb3 2. g7 Rh5† 3. Kf4 Rh4† 4. Kf3 Rh3† 5. Kg2 wins. (Without the b-pawn 1. Kg6 wins as well)



J. Piket vs. I. Sokolov,
Amsterdam, 1995, (=),
400.12

A very interesting position: the position of the white pawns and king are borrowed from Kling and Horwitz, the position of the rook behind the pawns is taken from Friedstein versus Lutikov.

First and foremost: after 1. Rxe2 Kxe2 2. g6 Mr. Friedstein would now know to play 2. ... Rh5† (note that after 2. ... Rxb6 3. g7 Rh5† 4. Kf4 Rh3† 5. Kg3 the minor dual in the approach to the g2-square as found in the Rey study is absent (at the cost of his invention).

We'll try to get to the bottom of this position.

Piket played 1. Kf6 Rh3! 2. Kf7 Rf3† 3. Kg6 Re3 4. Rxe3† Kxe3 5. h7 e1Q 6. h8Q Qb1† and perpetual check.

The other try doesn't work either 1. Kg6 e1Q 2. Rxe1 Rxe1 3. Kg7 (or 3. h7 Rh1) Re7† 4. Kg8 Ke4 5. g6 Kf5 and draws. Had Sokolov mixed up the two defences: and had he played 1. ... Rh3 in reply to Kg6, or 1. ... e1Q in reply to 1. Kf6 Piket would have won.

We return to the starting position and conclude that it is the only position that allows some freedom of choice. Besides the unhappy king moves we have seen Re4/5/6/7 and Kg/f4. We have seen that after 1. Kf6 and 1. Kg6 the pawns stumble over their clumsy king. Let us next try 1. Kf4. We soon discover 1. ... Rf1† 2. Kg4 Rg1† 3. Kf3 Rxb3 4. Rxe2! Rf5† 5. Kg4 and wins.... But after 3. ... Rf1† 4. Kg2 Rf5 we have a draw (as kindly pointed out to me by Grandmaster John Nunn, but also 3. ... Rh3† draws).

If White covers the g-pawn from the side: 1. Re5 Rh3 2. Kf4 Kd2 3. Kg4 Re3 draws; If, in this line, on the third move white plays the rook along the e-file to e6/7/8 the black king returns to d3 and a positional draw results. Likewise after 1. Re6 and 1. Re7: always 1. ... Rh3 gets in our way.

A further attempt: 1. Kg4 (sets a trap

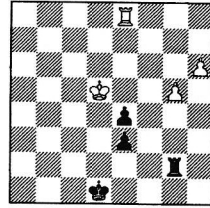
and prevents 11. ... Rh3) Rg1† - but not 1. ... Kd2 2. Kf3 Rf1† 3. Kg2 Rf5 4. h7! Rxc5† 5. Kf3 and now after 5. ... Rh5 6. Rxe2...†! wins - 2. Kh5 Rh1† and now 3. Kg6 boils down to 1. Kg6: White's king is caught in a cage.

One last attempt deserving consideration is 1. Re7. Now 2. h7 is no threat, but what is Black to do:

1. ... Kd2? loses an important tempo 2. Kg6 (and now 2. ... e1Q is lost) 2. ... Rh3 3. h7 and now 3. ... Rxh7 4. Rxe2† or 3. ... Re3 4. Rxe3 Kxe3 5. h8Q both lose. However, 1. ... Rh3 still saves the day: 2. Kf4 (if 2. g6 not 2. ... Rxh6 3. Rxe2 Kxe2 4. g7 and yes: Kling and Horwitz without the dual in the approach to g2, but 2. Rh5† of course) 2. Kd2 draws.

The ghosts of countless possibilities swarm around this position. I add *one* example.

The black rook belongs on the h-file. If not then White sometimes has resources like this one:



H. Grondijs, Original, +, 400.22

1. **Kxe4** (1. Rxe4? Rxc5†, or 1. h7? Rxc5† 2. Kxe4 e2 draws) 1. ... e2 2. **Kf3** (2. Kd3? Rg3†) and A. 2. ... **Rxc5** 3. **Rxe2** or B. 2. ... **Rh2** 3. **Rxe2** wins (not 3. Kg3? when both 3. ... Rh5 and 3. ... Rh1 draw).