Dedicated to gambiteers and players of the unorthodox.
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A special thanks to: Clyde Nakamura, Sam Sloan, IM Gerard Welling, N. Earl Roberts
and to Hugh E. Myers for his contributions to the chess world.

Note that this UON owes its existence to N. Earl Roberts, so an additional very big thanks to him.

Cover Photo, “The Wise Old Man,” by G. K. Gifford

UON 23 © January 2009 by Gary K Gifford.
Please forward UON comments, games, and article submissions to: penswift@yahoo.com
This brief piece is a tribute to Hugh Edward Myers. I have provided some words from Sam Sloan and Cylde Nakamura regarding Hugh. I have also added some links (provided by Clyde) to more information. Before presenting that material, here is a game of Hugh's.

Hugh Edward Myers – William Lombardy
Semi-final, Manhattan Chess Club Championship, New York, 1957
ECO: A11

1 g3 Nf6 2 Bg2 d5 3 Nf3 Bf5 4 c4 c6 5 cxd5 cxd5 6 Qb3 Bc8 7 O-O e6 8 Nc3 Nc6 9 d4 Bd6 10 Rd1 h6

11 a3 Na5 12 Qc2 Bd7 13 b4 Nc4 14 e4 dxe4 15 Nxe4 Rc8 16 Ne5 Bxe5 17 dxe5 Nd5 18 Qe2 O-O 19 Qh5 Qc7
20 Rxd5 exd5 21 Nf6+ gxf6 22 exf6 Nd6 23 Bxh6 Bf5 24 Bxd5 Qc2 25 Bxf8 Rxf8 26 Qh6 Ne8 27 Re1…

27…. Bg6 (A more convincing attempt at survival is 27…Nxf6 28. Qxf6 Bg6, but then 29. Re5 should settle the score) 28 Rxe8 Qd1+ 29 Kg2 Qxd5+ 30 f3 Qd2+ 31 Qxd2 Rxe8 32 Qh6 Resigns (1-0).
Sam Sloan wrote:

I am sorry to hear of the passing of Hugh Myers.

I first met him during the 1956 Eastern States Open in Washington DC.

I played him during the 1969 World Open Championship in San Juan Puerto Rico. (This was not a Goichberg tournament. It was this tournament that gave Goichberg the idea of using "World Open" as the name of a chess tournament.)

I got to know him a lot better during the 1986 World Chess Olympiad in Dubai where he was initially appointed as the bulletins editor but was later replaced by Bob Wade.

I exchanged correspondence with him over the years and he wrote at least one article about my opening systems in his "Myers Opening Bulletin".

I had not heard from him in several years and I believe that he has long been in poor health.

He was married several times and lived for years in the Dominican Republic and in Puerto Rico. I think he originally lived in Iowa, where he died. I do not know if he had any children, but as I recall he did have some.

There was a minor scandal when he tried to marry a local Arab girl during the 1986 World Chess Olympiad in Dubai. He had no idea how impossible that was and he was nearly kicked out of the country as a result. This was also part of the reason why he was not continued as the editor of the official bulletins.

Sam Sloan
Clyde Nakamura wrote:

I am still deeply saddened by the recent death of my friend Hugh E. Myers of Myers Chess Openings Bulletins. I have had correspondence with Hugh E. Myers off and on since the mid 1980's. He had said that I had the gift and talent to write about unorthodox chess openings. And he encouraged me not to give up writing. However he had never posted any of my chess games and analysis in his Myers Chess Openings Bulletins. I had a feeling of anger and animosity against him because he never posted any of my games and analysis in his Myers Chess Openings Bulletins and I had always felt that I was not good enough.

I must now forgive him because he is now gone. And I have to let this feeling of anger and animosity go. He has been my friend and the guiding light to all who played unorthodox chess openings. He has endured great tragedy in his life with the death of his two young children in an airplane crash.

May you now have peace and join those who are now gone but have become immortal such as Morphy, Tartakower, Alekhine, Bronstein and others. You will be remembered for a thousand years and beyond. Farewell my friend, I will miss you.

Best Regards, Clyde Nakamura

From the Editor

In closing I will mention that I was familiar with Myers’ MOBs and have a copy of one. I never knew Hugh, but in 2006 I sent a letter to him and he sent a two page hand written reply in which he briefly commented on the Nimzowitsch Defense to e4 and also mentioned several of his “chess enemies” which he stated I would need to read his Chess Explorer book to fully appreciate that aspect of his life. I had contacted Hugh in regard to possibly using some of his Knight to h6 analysis for a chess book, but Hugh made it quite clear that he did not want me to use any of his analysis from Myers’ Opening Bulletin in the Krazy Kat/Old Hippo book that I was working on with Bill Wall and Davide Rozzoni. Hugh also hinted that I should buy a copy of his Chess Explorer book, which in hindsight I regret not having done. But I did suggest that we could trade books, i.e., my cartoon word-play book for his chess book. After all, I had made such a trade with another master. I never did hear from Hugh again.

I am certainly sad to hear the news of his passing.

Gary
Various Links to information about Hugh E. Myers

Tom Pursers BDG pages

NNSEEK link & comments by Taylor Kingston
www.nnseek.com/e/rec.games.chess.misc/

Edward Winter’s comments:
http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/index.html#5909._Hugh_Myers

Chessbase on Hugh E. Myers:

Wikipedia on Hugh E. Myers
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_Myers

Comments from Sam Sloan, Randy Bauer, Taylor Kingston, and others about Hugh E Myers
www.gamesforum.ca/showthread.php?t=363443&page=2
Brentano's Defence - I.M G. Welling (Cobbled together by N E Roberts.)

In the many years that I played international chess by mail, I have managed to collect a large number of articles kindly sent to me by my various opponents.

I had recently decided to digitize a number of these article for my own use and certainly when Gary's call came through for more contributions for the newsletter, the opportunity presented itself.

While I had already processed a good portion of one of these articles, some historical research on Brentano's attack in the Lopez taken from a Myers Opening Bulletin, it struck me that it might not be all that legal to simply pass on another's hard work (and besides I don't think it would be good form to do as such either) even with the best of intentions.

Through the flash bang whizzo capabilities of the internet, I managed to get hold of the author of the article concerned, Mr. Gerard Welling, and not only did he give permission for said article to be reproduced but he provided a cleaned up version as well. What follows is a compilation of the original file (which in itself contains a number of ideas by Hugh Myers) and the corrected file, both being compiled from "Wiener Schachzeitung" 1900-1903 and "Deutsche Schachzeitung" 1900-1901. The original article appeared in "The New Myers Opening Bulletin Number 6".

N Earl Roberts - New Zeland.

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4...Qe2#
4.Nc3 g4
4.d3 The New Myers Opening Bulletin No6 1993: 'Grant' g4 5.Ng1 Nd4 6.Bc4
Be6 11.Qc2 d5 0-1, 53, Ruiz-Grant New Orleans 1969
4.0-0 g4 5.Ne1 h5
4.g3? g4
[oder 4...Bg7]
5.Nh4
8.Qe2 Bf5]
5...Nf6 6.d3 Bc5 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6
4.h3 Bh7 5.c3 Nf6
[5...h6]
6.d3
[6.0-0 g4 7.hxg4 Nxg4]
6...h6
[6...g4 7.hxg4 Nxg4]
10.Nxd8 Nxd1 11.Kxd1 Kxd8=
[11...0-0 Roberts 12.Nxc6 (12.Nxb7 Fritz
Bxb7 13.f3 Rad8) 12...bxc6]
4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d4
[5.Nxe5 Qd4]
[5.d3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Qe7 z.B.
A) 8.Qg3 f6 '=' The New Myers Opening Bulletin No6 1993: ;
B) 8.Qg4 f6 (8...h6=);
C) 8.Qh5 h6;
D) 8.b3 h6 9.Ba3 Qf6=]
5...Bg4 6.dxe5 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 h6
The New Myers Opening Bulletin No6 1993: '

(Diagram)

8.h4
8...Qxh4 9.Rxh4 h5 10.Bf4 Bd7 11.Nc3 Ne7

12...Qf1+ 13.Kf3 g1N+ 14.Ke3??
[14.Kg4 Qh3+ 15.Kg5 Rg8+ 16.Qg6
(16.Qg7 Rxg7+ 17.Kf6 d6= 18.Bxf7+
Rxh7+ 19.Kg5 Bh6#) 16...Rxg6#]
[14.Kg3?? Qh3#]

4.Nc3 g4
4.d3 The New Myers Opening Bulletin No6 1993: 'Grant' g4 5.Ng1 Nd4 6.Bc4
Be6 11.Qc2 d5 0-1, 53, Ruiz-Grant New Orleans 1969
4.0-0 g4 5.Ne1 h5
4.g3? g4
[oder 4...Bg7]
5.Nh4
8.Qe2 Bf5]
5...Nf6 6.d3 Bc5 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6
4.h3 Bh7 5.c3 Nf6
[5...h6]
6.d3
[6.0-0 g4 7.hxg4 Nxg4]
6...h6
[6...g4 7.hxg4 Nxg4]
10.Nxd8 Nxd1 11.Kxd1 Kxd8=
[11...0-0 Roberts 12.Nxc6 (12.Nxb7 Fritz
Bxb7 13.f3 Rad8) 12...bxc6]

4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d4
[5.Nxe5 Qd4]
[5.d3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Qe7 z.B.
A) 8.Qg3 f6 '=' The New Myers Opening Bulletin No6 1993: ;
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5...Bg4 6.dxe5 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 h6
The New Myers Opening Bulletin No6 1993: '

(Diagram)

8.h4
8...Qxh4 9.Rxh4 h5 10.Bf4 Bd7 11.Nc3 Ne7

8.Nc3 Ne7
[8...c6 9.Bxg5 Qxg5 10.Qxd6 cxb5
11.Nd5]
[10...Be5]
11.Qe3+
[11.Qe4+ Qe5 (11...Kd8) 12.Bd3 0-0
(12...Qxe4+ 13.Bxe4 0-0) 13.Qxe5
(13.Bxg5 Qxe4+ 14.Bxe4 Re8) 13...Bxe5
14.Bxg5 Bxb2]
11...Qe5
[11...Qe7]
[11...Be7]

6 9...c6 (Auch genügend) 10.Bc4 Ng6
11.Bxg5
12.Bd4 Qh6]
11...Bxh2+ 12.Kxh2 Qxg5 13.f4 Nxf4
14.Qf3
14...Rg8 15.Bxf7+
[15.g3? Qh6+ 16.Kg1 Nh3+ 17.Kg2 Ng5
18.Bxf7+ Kh8]
15...Kxf7 16.Qxf4+ Ke7 17.Qxg5+
[17.Qf7+ Kd8 18.Rf2 Rg7]
17...Rxf5 18.Rf4 d6=

7 10.Be3 Ne5 11.Bd4 Qh6+

8 13.Bc4
16.Bxh8 Bc5+ 17.Kh1 Nf2+]
13...f6! Analyse III-Spanisch 3.g5/[F.Brentano, W SZ 1900-1903]
[Auch spielbar ist 13...0-0]
[Aber 13...Bb7? 14.Bxf7+ '! The New
Myers Opening Bulletin No6 1993: 'Kxf7
Qc5+ 17.Be3 Ba6! ) 16...Qc5+ 17.Kh1
Bxf4 18.Rxf4+ Qg5 19.Raf1 Rag8
20.Qxd7 Bc8 21.Qc6+ Kh5 22.Rf5 Bxf5
23.Rxf5 Rd8 24.h3 Qxf5 25.exf5 Kg5
26.Qxc7± Myers]

9 8.0-0 Bg7
[oder 8...h6 The New Myers Opening
Bulletin No6 1993: 'Myers']
[8...Be7]

10 8...Nd5 9.Bxg5 Bg7 10.0-0 0-0 11.c4
Berger, nach Schallopp spielbar.

11 9.0-0 Berger

(Diagram)

14 8...Rg8
8...Bg7 9.h4
9...gxh4

15 12.Bxg5 Nxe4
12.c3 Nh7
[oder 12...g4 13.e5 Ng8 14.f4 f6= ]

16 13.Bd2=

17 7...Qg6 8.Qxb6 0.69 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Nd5 Bd8 10.0-0 ECO c6 11.Bd3 Qe6 12.Ne3+ Adam - Herzog Correspondence, 1937

18 9.c3 Schallopp Bg7! 10.0-0 Bxe5
11.Re1 f6 12.f4
12...gxh4 13.Bxf4 Ne7

19 10.Be2 Rxe5 ‘=
[10...Rc5 11.Nc3 Bh6= (11...Bg7= Grant ; 1.97 Fritz 7: 11...Rxe5 12.Bf4 Rc5 13.Be3 Rc6 14.Bf3 Re6 15.Nd5 Kd8 16.0-0-0 Ne7)]
11.Bf4 Rc5 12.Nc3 Bh6=
[12...Bg7=]
10.Nc3 c6
[10...Bb4 Myers ]

20 13.axb5 b6
[13...d6!= Schallopp 14.Rxa5 dxe5 15.Ra8

24 10.Nc3 Qxd3
[10...b5 11.Qf3 Rb8 12.Bd3 g4 13.Qf4 Qg7 ]
oder 11.cxd3
[11.Bxd3 Bg7]
11...b5 12.Bb3 Bb7
10.Qe2 b6 11.Bd3 Qg7 12.Qe4 Rb8

25 11.0-0 , Schallopp Bg7
[11...Rh5 ]
12.f4
[12.Bxg5 , Zugumstellung ]
12...g4

26 13.f4
13...Bf5 14.Nc3! The New Myers Opening
Bulletin No6 1993: ‘Rosanes’

[Rosanes, 14 Bd3 Bxd3 15 cxd3 dxe5 16 fxe5 Rh5 17 Bf6 (17 h4? Bxe5 18 Re1 f6 19 g4 0-0-0) 17...Bxf6 18 exf6 0-0-0 z.B.: 19 Rf3 Rh5! 20 Nc3 Rxd3]

[14 Na3 Kf8 15 Rae1 Re8]

[14 Bb3 Kf8 15 Nc3! dxe5 16 fxe5 Bxe5 17 g4 f6!]

14...Kf8 15 h3

[15 Ra3 Rc8 (15...Rc8 16 exd6 Re1 17 Axe1 f6 18 Bxg8 Kg8 19 Re8+ Kh7 20 Rxh8 Bxh8 21 Bh4 cxd6 Analyse V-Spanisch 3.g5/[F.Brentano, WSZ 1900-1903])]

[15 Rad1 Rc8 16 Bb3 dxe5 17 fxe5 Bxe5 18 g4 f6! 19 gxf5 fxg5 20 fxg6+ Kg7 21 Rd7+ Kxg6 22 Bf7+ Kh6]

[15 Rac1? Re8]

[15 Nd5? dxe5

A) 16 fxe5 Bxe5 17 Bf4 (17 g4 Bxh2+)

17...Bxb2 18 Nxc7 Bxa1 19 Nxa8 Bd4+

20 Kh1 Nf6;

B) 16 Nxe7 Rc8 17 Rad1 Bf6 18 Bxf6 (18 g4 Bxg4 19...Nxf6 18 fxe5 Ng4);

C) 16 Ne3 e4 17 Nxf5 (17 g4 Bd4 18 gxf5 Bxe3+ 19 Kg2 gx5f) 17...gx5f 18 g3! Bxb2;

D) 16 Ra1 e4;

E) 16 h3 Rh7 17 g4 Be6;

F) 16 Rad1 f6 17 Nxc7 Rc8 18 Ne6+ Ke7 19 Nxe7 Rxc4 20 Nxf5+ gx5

21 fxe5 fxg5 22 Rxh5 Rxc2 ‘†’ The New Myers Opening Bulletin No6 1993.]

[15 exd6 cxd6 (15...f6 16 dxc7 fxg5 17 Rad1+) 16 g3 Bd4+ 17 Kh1 Rc8

18 Bd5 Bxc3 19 bxc3 Rxc3]

15...Re8 16 Bf4 Bb7 17 Rxc7 Rf5 18 Bf3 Rxc3

18...dxe5 19 Bxc7 exf4 20 Rxh4 Bxc3

21 bxc3 Rxh3

9 Bxg5 c6 10 Ba4 Qxe5+ 11 Be3

[11 Qxe3 Qxe3=]

11...Bc5 12 0-0 Bxe3 13 Re1 Kd8 14 Rxe3

[14 Nc3 , Schallopp Bxf2+ 15 Kxf2 Qxh2]

14...Qxb2 mit Vorteil ‘†’ The New Myers Opening Bulletin No6 1993.

9...Qxe5 10 f4

11 Qg7! 12 fxg5 d5=

11 Bd2 Qg7 12 Bc3 f6 13 Re1+ Kd8!

[13 Be7 14 Bxg8 Rgx8 15 Bb4=]

14 Bxg8 Rgx8 15 Qf5 Be7

[oder 15...Qg6 16 Bxf6+ Kc7=]

30 besser 12 Nc3!
The New Myers Opening Bulletin No6 1993: '9...a6 -0.41' Qg6 10.Qe2
10.Qxg6 hxg6 11.f4 Kf8 12.0-0 d6 13.Re1
11.0-0 Bxe5 12.Qxg6 Bd4+ 11.Qa3 Bf8 11.g3 a6 12.Bc4
14...d6 15.Bxf7+ Qxf7 16.Rxe5+ Ne7

17.Bxe7 Kxe7 18.Bc4+ Fritz7

14...Kf8
[ 14...Qf7 15.Qe4 d5 16.Qe3 Ne7 17.Bd3 0-0 18.Re2 ]
15.Bxe5
In this age of the internet, there are so many things that can be done without leaving the comfort of one’s abode. On line you can: order groceries, check and move funds around (that is, if they are not frozen or lost given the current financial climate), watch television shows & movies and of course, play chess (in real time).

With internet chess and the various chess servers it is not uncommon to see, given some imaginative account handles, some very interesting match ups. I did find one that, given recent concerns over the perceived safety of a certain scientific insulation under the mountains along the Fraco-Swiss border, is quite topical.

With the white pieces you have “Hadron”, a sub-atomic particle (a bound state of quarks) and controlling the Black pieces, Doctor J Sarfati, noted former chess champion of the country of New Zealand and a holder of a Ph.D in physical chemistry.

**Hadron (1845) - Doctor J. D Sarfati (2308)**

Internet Chess - Chess.net chess.net, 19.03.2001

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4?!

As far as I know this remains somewhat dubious due to the blunting effects of both the "Philidor Gambit" - 4...Bg7 5.h4 h6 6.d4 d6 7.0-0 Nc6 8.c3 Nf6 and the "Hanstein Gambit" - 4...Bg7 5.0-0 d6 6.d4 h6 7.c3 Nc6. It only has any real effect when 4...g4?! is played!

5.0-0! The Muzio Gambit 5...gxf3 6.Qxf3 Qf6
If such a thing is said to exist for this opening, here we have one of the main positions 7.Nc3!

Here the 'sub-atomic particle' strikes out with something I have not seen before. From what I could find out, this move is referenced as "The Bello Gambit". As for my own experience in this position, I contested 2 games with Mr. J Sveinsson of the Netherlands in 2004 with the routine 7...e5

[7.e5 Qxe5 8.Bxf7+?! (8.d3 Bh6 9.Nc3 Ne7 10.Bd2 Nbc6 11.Rae1 Qf5 12.Nd5 Kd8 13.Qe2 Qe6 14.Nxe7 Qxe7 15.Bc3 Rg8 16.Qh5 Qg5 17.Rf2! Again, as with the other game, all theory. The theory as far as I knew it to this point was that the position could be drawn as White. 17...Rf8!!]
This was to me at the time, new. White is quite lost. 18.Rfe2 d5 19.Qxg5+ Bxg5
26.Kf2 b5 27.a3 Bf6 A lesson in "There is always someone who knows more than you"
0–1 Roberts,E (2082)- Sveinsson,J (2092)/E Mail - Netherlands 2004) 8...Kxf7 9.d4 Qf5!
Kxf6 17.Rf1+ Kg6 18.Rxf8 Qxd4+ 19.Kh1 Nc6 20.Qf3 Kg7 21.Rf7+ Rather sad, the only
move that is not theory is 21...Kg8

½–½ Sveinsson,J (2092)- Roberts,E (2082)/E Mail - Netherlands 2004)

7...Qd4+ 8.Kh1 Qxc4 9.b3!?
I guess the point to it all. This variation I believe is the creation of one Thomas Stock of Germany, a renowned expert on all things Muzio. (Unfortunately my German is not that good)

\[9...Qe6\]

In researching the position I found some analysis by a M. Furth who slates this as the only move in the position, as

\[9...Qc6? 10.Nd5 Bh6 (10...f6 11.Bb2 Bg7 12.Qxf4 Na6 13.Rae1 Kf7 14.c4 d6\ldots; 10...h5 11.Qxf4 Rh7\ldots; 10...d6; 10...Bg7 11.Qxf4) 11.Bb2 f6 12.Qh5+ Kd8 13.Nxf6 Ne7 14.Qxh6 Qxc2 15.Qg7\ldots seems to let White have his way.\]

15.Bc3 Nbc6 16.Ng4 Rg8 17.Nf6 Rh8 18.Qxf4\ldots\]

He also mentions 9...Qc5? 10.Nd5 d6 11.Bb2 f6 12.Qh5+, but 10...d6 can be improved on)

\[10.Nd5 Bd6 11.Bb2\]

[M. Furth gives 11.e5! as a better try. Without reproducing yards of M. Furth’s analysis, one basic variation would be 11...Qxe5 12.d4 Qg7 13.Bxf4 Na6 14.Rae1+ Kf8 15.Qe2 Qg6 16.Be5 Bxe5 17.Qxe5,

\[XA B C D E F G H Y\]

\[8r a l + k v n t 0\]
\[7p p p p + p + p 0\]
\[6- + - + - + - + 0\]
\[5+ - + - + - + 0\]
\[4- + q + p p - + 0\]
\[3+ p N + Q + - 0\]
\[2P + P P - + P P 0\]
\[1R - v + R + K 0\]
\[xi i i i i i i y\]
11...Be5!? Returning an important tempo [According to M. Furth 11...f6! is much better 12.d4 Ne7! 13.Rae1 0-0+] 12.d4 Bd6 Fritz 7 prefers both [12...c6 13.dxe5 cxd5 14.exd5 and ; 12...h5 13.dxe5 Na6 for Black. As for me, all I can say is the great binary beast moves in its own mysterious ways] 13.e5 Ne7! Doctor Sarfati moves to counter the growing white initiative 14.exd6??

which would have been more spectacular.] 22...Rx

I guess that will teach those scientist types to collide hadrons simply because they can?
The Grob and I
(by Earl Roberts)

It was a good twenty five odd years ago, in or around 1983, while playing in my very first chess club championships for the Rotorua chess club a small pink booklet began to do the rounds of a number of players. Certainly a number of the senior players, all devoutly classical in playing style, who where to examine this booklet where left bemused by its contents.

When it came my turn to be able to check this booklet out, I found it’s contents where just as marvellous as its title – The Tactical Grob by Claude F Bloodgood.

I have always been of the opinion correspondence is the ultimate test for any opening. So one of my first tries was a hook on game while playing in APTZ tournament.

**Earl Roberts (NZ) - Glen Crouch (USA)**

Match (Friendly) Postal - USA, 1987

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2! As you will see from the majority of my games, I preferred this to the Basman’s positional approach of 2.h3

2...Bxg4 3.c4 Nf6 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Qb3 e6??

A sizable but not uncommon mistake made. It can be seen in other resulting positions as well

6.Qa4+ Nc6 7.Qxg4 Nf6


I continued to do quite well with the Grob

**Earl Roberts (NZ) - Don Mericer (USA)**

WCCF World Wide Open 19

Postal - Global (7), 01.08.1989

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2! Bxg4 3.c4 c6 This does seem the better try, looking to open up space on the queenside

4.cxd5 [Of course, you can play 4.Qb3 first but it has little independent
Of course, keeping the faith can be testing at times

**Earl Roberts (NZ) - Bill Anderson (NZ)**

NZCCA Handicap Tournament
May Postal - New Zealand (2.1)
05.1991

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2! Bxg4 3.c4 e6 4.cxd5 c6!?N Black seeks to liquidate the pawn on d5 and avoid any complications involved with the tactics surrounding Qb3 & the b7 square. The problem with this though, there are other tactics that can be applied.

5.h3! Bh5 [If 5...Bf5 then 6.e4]


However, Black can also play tactical as well! 12...Bxd3!

13.Qc1 Bf5 14.Ne5 Qe8 [14...Nf6] 15.Qe3

Now White has some initiative for his pawn

15...Bd6 16.Rd1 Ne7?? Black unfortunately does not realise that the initiative in question is along the Black squares in his position
17. Rxd6

Obvious moves should not deserve any exclamation marks
17... Rxd6 18. Qxc5 Ng6 19. Nxg6 Rd1+
20. Kxd1 hxg6 21. Qe5

Those dark squares again
21... Qe7 22. Qb8+ Kd7
23. Qxh8 1–0

In every chess player's career there has to come a point where things don't go exactly to plan

Earl Roberts (NZ) - J Valentin
WCCF Master Section 26
Postal - Global (8), 20.05.1992
1.g4 d5 2.Bg2! c6 3.h3 e5 I perhaps am amongst a minority here in that up until this point I believe this to be the best move order for white 4.d4?? The modern move, suggested by Michael Basman and in reality perhaps this does not deserve the double question mark designation. However in analysing those plans presented by Basman in his book "The Killer Grob", I got the impression that at least positional wise, 4.d4 was somewhat flawed. 4...e4 5.c4

Basman's book are less than inspiring.

The Grob and I
by N. Earl Roberts
Page 21

0–1 Laffranchise Lionel-Martins Peres Jose C
7...0–0 8.Bg5 dxc4!? Not mentioned by Basman in "Killer Grob" [He does mention however the idea of 7.Qb3 is seen in the line 8...f6 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Nxd5 Be6! 11.Nxe7+ Qxe7 12.d5 fxg5 13.Nxe6 which Basman credits to Tim Wall.]
9.Qxc4 Be6 10.Qa4 f6 11.Bd2 f5! Black wisely looks to open a file for his rook 12.gxf5?! and I, unwisely, oblige but is 12.g5 intending Qc2 & 0–0–0 and or 12.e3 intending 13. something x e4 should black exchange on g4...any better than the text?
12...Nxf5

The great binary oracle, Fritz, points out that 12...Rx f5 13.Bxe4 Ra5 14.Qc2+ is not good for Black 13.e3?! A simple move really and easy to make. However in most chess positions there is a "but" and this "but" comes with a very big pointy end! It is hard to recall now why I dismissed the obvious 13.Nxe4 Nh4 14.Bf3 Be7= which does appear far better than what I played.

13...Ng3!


In the few times that I have faced the Grob as Black, the experiences have been alright.

Tom Boswell (NZ) – Earl Roberts (NZ)
NZCCA Trophy Tournament Class 3
Postal - New Zealand (6), 1991
1.g4 d5 2.Bg2! e5!? [Normally I would play 2...Bxg4! with out hesitation] 3.c4 c6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Qb3 Ne7 6.Nc3! d4!
7.Nd5 Nbc6 8.Nxe7 Qxe7 9.h3 g6
10.a3?! Be6 11.Qb5

A new idea in the position intending Bxc6 and Qxe5.

Previously seen was 11.Bd5 Bxd5
12.Qxd5 Rd8 13.Qe4 Bg7 14.d3 0–0
15.g5 f5 16.gxf6 Qxf6 17.Nf3 Qf7
18.Bg5 Bf6 19.h4 Rc8 20.h5 Bxg5
21.hxg6 hxg6 22.Rg1 Bh6 23.Rxg6+Bg7
as in Bloodgood,C-Monroe,F/Virginia 1973 ending in ½–½
after (33)

11...Qc7 12.Nf3 Bg7 13.Ng5 Bd7
14.Qc5 b6 15.Qc4 0–0

Black has completed his development whilst the White Queen has hopped around unaware that all available flight squares are disappearing fast 16.b4 This intends pawn to b5 securing the knight to the rook on a8 16...Rac8 17.0–0 Qd8! This leap backwards creates threats against both queen and knight 18.Ne4 Be6 19.Qb5 Nb8 20.d3 Bb3!

and crunch! The last flight square for the queen drops off and now 21...a6 can not be prevented 0–1

Finally. In the early part of 1998 on the strength of his previous work, The Tactical Grob, I purchased “The Norfolk Gambits” published by Chess Digest. I was rather surprised to find that in the forward of this book was the address of the penal facility that Claude was incarcerated. Having played through a number of his games with the Grob and having, in the end, purchased my own copy of “The Tactical Grob”, I cobbled together a few of my own Grob games together with a brief chess fan letter and sent them off to the Claude care of the Powhatan Correctional Centre address.
I was rather surprised to receive a letter in reply asking if I would like a copy of postal games

Claude F Bloodgood (USA) – Earl Roberts (NZ)
Match (Friendly) v Bloodgood Postal - USA (1), 1999
1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 Bxg4 3.c4 c6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Qb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Qxb7 Nbd7
Bloodgood's own booklet, "The Tactical Grob" mentions this position 3 time with 8.d4 being played each time with a +1 =0 -2 result.

8.Nb5!? I supposed if the position can wear it, why not give it ago. However it does cost valuable tempos
8...Rc8!? I liked this move because for the simple reason if Black took the a7 pawns even more tempos would be lost for white
Claude had faced another rook move in the guise of 8...Rb8 to wit 9.Nc7+ Ke7 10.Qxa7 Kg6!? 11.Na6 Ra8 12.Qb7 Qc8 13.Qb4+ Nc5 14.d4 Rxa6 15.dxc5+ Qxc5 16.Bf4+ Kc6 17.Qb8 Ne4 18.Rc1 Qxc1+ 19.Bxc1 and was able to 1–0 in (33) in the game Bloodgood,C-Mackey,A/Virginia USA 1994
9.Qxa7 Bc5 10.Qa4 0–0 11.d4 Ra8 This seem more forceful as 11...Nb6 12.Qb3 Be7 13.Nf3 Nc4 14.0–0 Qb6 looks equal although it was 0–1 in (36) in Buzas,N-Taucius,M/V Pasaulio 1995
12.Qd1 Qb6 13.dxc5 Qxb5 14.Qd4?! White has moved his queen six times in 14 moves for his extra pawn. Some form of development would be prudent
14...e5 15.Qd3 Qxd3 16.exd3 Nxc5

```
XA  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  Y
8r  +  +  +  +  t  k  +  0
7+  +  +  +  p  p  p  p  0
6-  +  +  +  a  -  +  0
5+  a  p  p  -  +  -  0
4-  +  +  +  +  +  +  -  o
3+  +  P  +  +  +  -  0
2P  P  +  +  P  L  P  0
1R  -  V  -  Kn  -  N  R  0
xi  i  i  i  i  i  i  y
```

Captured forces now lie at a piece each but I have valuable extra tempos as well with white being so chronically undeveloped
17.Bg5 Nxd3+ 18.Kf1
18...Rfb8 19.Bxf6
19...Rxb2 20.Bh4??
White is tied in utter knots because of his lack of development but this just loses out right .The try 20.Nf3 Bxf3 21.Bxf3 Rxf2+ 22.Kg1 Rxf3 23.Bh4-- is equally hopeless
20...Raxa2
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f2 can not be sensibly defended 20...Rxa2 21.Bxd5 (21.Rxa2 Rb1#) 21...Rx f2+ 22.Bxf2 Rx f2#] 0–1

It had been my original intention to sit on these games with Claude as my own little private gem much as a collector owns a painting for his own indulgence. A couple of reasons for this where the notoriety of my opponent and shortly before the end of this game, along with his move, he sent me a letter announcing his transfer to the hospital wing because he was ill with a tumour on one of his lungs. It was this that for me really explained a lot as far as the quality of Claude's play (which was not up to his reputed postal chess ability) and what made even contemplating annotating the games for public consumption so uncomfortable. However to my surprise I found both of my games with Claude on the Grob website http://nestore.mysteria.cz/. I can only surmise that Claude must have a copy of these games amongst his belongings when he left this mortal coil a number of weeks later and they made it out there.

N Earl Roberts.
New Zealand.
Not much to say this time around. Related to UON is that *Winning with the Krazy Kat and Old Hippo* by Davide Rozzoni, Bill Wall, and me has a review by Rick Kennedy posted at Chessville:

http://www.chessville.com/reviews/WinningwiththeKrazyKatandOldHippo.htm

On December 27th 2008 I used the Krazy Kat in an important five-minute tie-break game to take the Gold Medal in the first Thomas Frere Tournament (a non-USCF event). I obtained a significant time advantage over my stronger and better “booked” opponent. When he had 6 seconds left on the clock I had 1 minute and 14 seconds remaining. Had I used a Caro-Kann, French, or Sicilian, well my guess is I would have lost.

Much thanks to Clyde Nakamura and Sam Sloan for allowing use of their tributes to Hugh Myers.

A very big thanks to N. Earl Roberts who pretty much is single-handedly responsible for the existence of this UON... and also to IM Gerard Welling for his contributions to the first article.

I wish you all a great 2009 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Gary K. Gifford
Cleveland, Ohio

9 January 2009