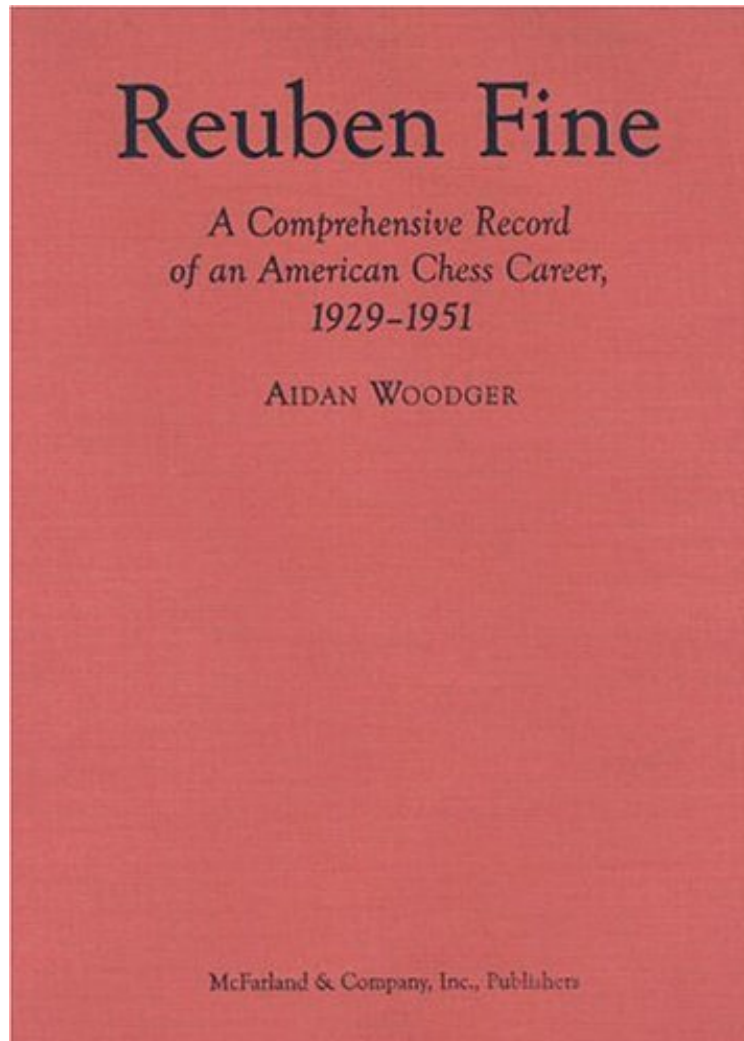


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Reuben Fine: A Comprehensive Record of an American Chess Career, 1929-1951

Aidan Woodger

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Aidan Woodger : Reuben Fine: A Comprehensive Record of an American Chess Career, 1929-1951 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reuben Fine: A Comprehensive Record of an American Chess Career, 1929-1951:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Great Book About an Underappreciated PlayerBy daniel bellThis is wonderful book. First most people know that Fine was a great chess author; however this will show you how great of player he was.The book has almost all of his serious games most are annotated in English not with Informat symbols. Many are done by Fine himself. You can learn from these games,also there are short bios of all the greats of

the era. How many knew that Reinfeld was truly a great player? There is a great deal of biographical information, pictures, and loads of information about the individual tournaments. It is a great book lovingly produced on glossy paper. It is a bit pricy, but you won't regret it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not quite as great as other McFarlands. By johnnyqb This Fine book is nice, but it is lacking the verbal department. Too often it is a collection of game scores. It is not nearly as fine a book as the Amos Burn bio or the McConnell-LaBourdannais match. It is still a beautifully produced book, but not slightly disappointing. It seems a chance was lost to make the ultimate Reuben Fine book.

American Grandmaster Reuben Fine grew up in the East Bronx in an impoverished Russian-Jewish family, learning to play chess from an uncle at the age of eight. During his high school years, his stake winnings and coins earned from playing at a Coney Island concession helped support his family. After graduating from college, he decided to become a professional player. Though his active international career was brief, his accomplishment and talent are unmistakably significant. This comprehensive collection of 659 of Reuben Fine's tournament and match games is presented chronologically, in context, and with annotations from contemporary sources. More than 180 other games and game fragments (rapid transit, correspondence, exhibition, blitz, and others) are also included. The work also includes a biography of Fine, and notes aspects of his career that merit further study: his contribution to endgame and middlegame theory, his methods and style of play, and his exhibition play. Fine's career results, brief biographical data about his opponents, a comprehensive bibliography that includes his contributions to journals, and indexes of players and of openings complete the work.

"four stars"--Chess Horizons; "beautiful, clothbound volume written by [a] meticulous researcher and published by a company which obviously cares about quality"--Winnipeg Free Press; "the overall quality of the games is high. The roster of Fine's opponents is a 'Who's Who' of American and international chess of the time. Of the serious games, the great majority are annotated, often in considerable detail...extensive research to find annotations not just from Fine's and other easy-to-find works, but from many sources. This is one of the few books we have seen with an 'Annotator's Index'...the notes are handled quite well, Woodger often harmoniously blending multiple annotators in one game, making intelligent cross-references between sources, and judiciously adding his own computer-assisted comments, which our own spot-checking found to be quite accurate...Woodger has done fine work to add significantly to the canon of an important player...the history is competently written and well researched...wealth of archival data...physically the book is up to McFarland's usual high standard...we like this book a great deal...an impressive work, presenting in great detail the career of an important chess master who played many outstanding games. We recommend it very highly"--ChessCafe.com; "a solid contribution to the story of an age in American chess...the chess historian and the diehard chess aficionado will want to add this title to their library...money well spent"--Chessville.com; "the author has managed to dig up around 882 Fine games all pleasantly chronological ordered and well analysed with contemporary sources...wonderful"--Chessmail.com; "beautifully produced...valuable historical volume"--British Chess Magazine; "beautiful...most comprehensive collection of Fine's work to date...a most useful collection of Fine's games which deserves to be included in every chessplayers' library...a very nice present...very fine publication...a super present for any keen chess player"--Merseyside Chess Magazine; "world-class...interesting and important...not only is the content outstanding, the production is attractive as well...intriguing...well researched...important...highly recommend[ed]"--Chess Today; "painstakingly compiled...Woodger did great research...comprehensive...marvelously produced"--The Washington Post; "tremendous...splendid...adds tremendously to our knowledge...plenty of incredible stuff. Like all McFarland Company, Inc., books this work on Reuben Fine is handsomely produced and designed to last forever...very easy on the eye while offering the reader pages filled with content...highly recommended"--IM John Donaldson (JeremySilman.com). About the Author Former field archaeologist Aidan Woodger compiles chess books in his spare time. He lives in Halifax, West Yorks, United Kingdom.