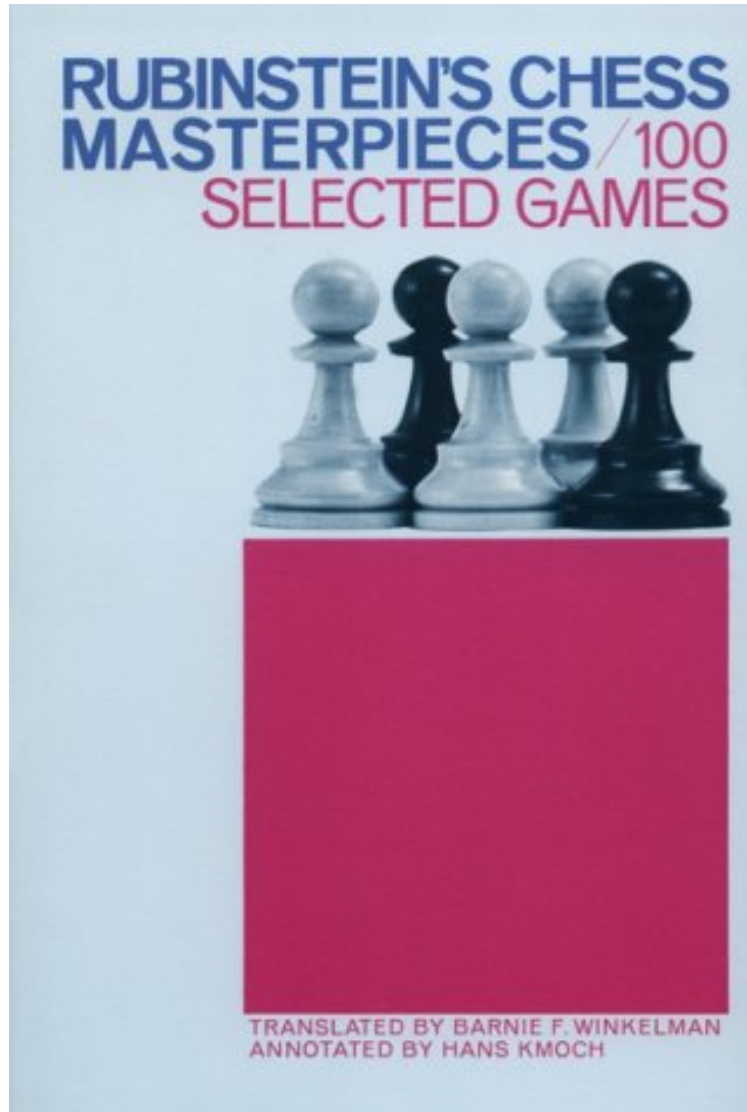


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Rubinstein's Chess Masterpieces: 100 Selected Games

Hans Kmoch

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Hans Kmoch : Rubinstein's Chess Masterpieces: 100 Selected Games before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rubinstein's Chess Masterpieces: 100 Selected Games:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Would Have Been World Champion If Not For Health Problems - A True Endgame Artist Like Capablanca By PRajI would like to start my review by quoting from the free online encyclopedia Wikipedia. Akiba Kiwelowicz Rubinstein (1 December 1880[1] 15 March 1961) was a Polish chess Grandmaster at the beginning of the 20th century. He was scheduled to play a match with Emanuel Lasker for the World Chess Championship in 1914, but it was cancelled because of the outbreak of World War I. In his youth, he

astonished the chess world, defeating many famous players, including Jos Capablanca and Carl Schlechter. His later life, however, was plagued by mental illness. I purchased this book when I was aged 11 from a second hand bookshop. I was too weak a player then to understand it [I was FIDE ELO 1200 then]. I thought the games were boring and the openings antiquated. Many years later I realized what a superb book this is for any tournament player who want to improve their endgame play, in particular their Rook Endings. Rubinstein was a master of Rook endings. Time and again he would outplay and beat a master from an ostensibly dead drawn position. I forget who said this but it rings true - "Rubinstein is the Rook Ending of a game started by the Gods from ancient times" Today, having played in international tournaments I can say that this little known book teaches rook endgames like no other book through 100 complete games. Ignore the outdated opening systems. Fast forward to the endings. And what endings ! Crystal clear technique, perfect understanding of weak squares and weak pawns; unmatched Rook manoeuvres. It is said that Rook Endings comprise 50 % of the endgames a tournament player is likely to face in practice. Hence the vital need to play Rook endings well. This book can teach you to do that. 20 of 23 people found the following review helpful. A strong work on one of the greatest and tragic players ever. By Andre E. Harding Poland's greatest player Akiba Rubinstein (1882-1961) is one of my three favorite chessplayers (the other two being Karpov and Kramnik). He was certainly the strongest player in the world from 1907 to 1912 (though Emmanuel Lasker fans would disagree), until his mental illness set in and slowly diminished the Genius he possessed. Personally, I find Winkelman's opening to be emotionally stirring and incredibly well-written. Then, THE GAMES. For those of you who love "hackers" like Morphy or Tal or (to a lesser extent) Kasparov, please try to appreciate the supreme refinement that went into Rubinstein's play. Many of his games are enormously complex, but in a beautiful, elegant way. And if you doubt that Rubinstein could attack like the three aforementioned champions could, look no further than Rotlewi-Rubinstein from Lodz, 1907 (Game #6 in this book). You will find this game and notes to it all over the internet, as it contains one of the 10 or so GREATEST COMBINATIONS EVER PLAYED. Yes, the book written in Descriptive Notation (many of the great classics of chess literature are written in this "language"). Yes, you may question the diagrams and print in the book. And yes, there are some typos, etc. But so what? To study chess without knowing about great non-champions from the past (others are Schlechter, Marshall, Pillsbury, Chigorin, Niemzowitsch, Keres, etc.) is akin to studying classical music without a knowledge of who Bach was. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A good addition to any chess library. By Loser From the back cover: "Unabridged republication. Biographical introduction by B.F. Winkelman. 103 diagrams. 192 pp 5.375 x 8" PROS: 100 well annotated games played by one of the most famous GMs in history and annotated by IM Kmoch, a respected player and annotator. The opponents include Alekhine, Capablanca, Lasker, Nimzovitch and other world-class players. Very reasonably priced, by today's standards anyway. CONS: English Descriptive, tiny diagrams, this book was first published in the US in 1941 so forget about any modern opening theory in the games or the analysis. CONCLUSION: The Pros far outweigh the cons unless you have some sort of dyslexia in reading English Descriptive notation, which can get confusing at times.

Here are 100 of Rubenstein's best games against such opponents as Euwe, Janowski, Kashdan, Marshall, Tarrasch, and many others. His highly original contributions to chess theory cannot be overlooked by any serious player.