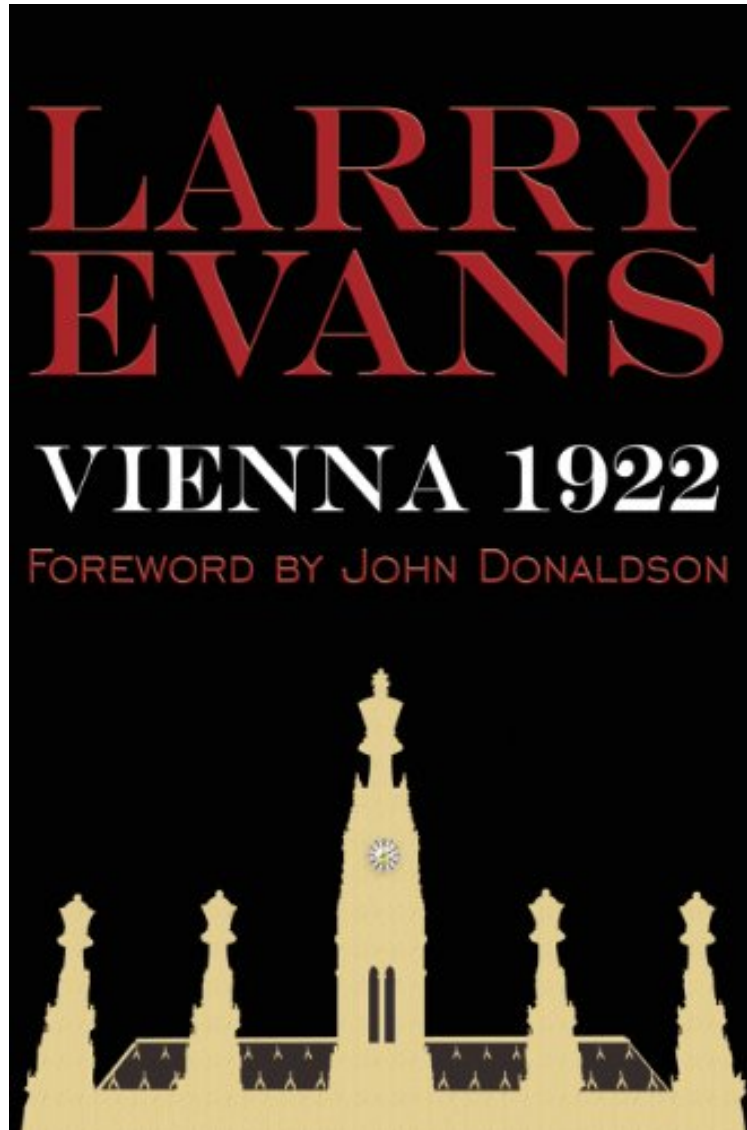


[Download] Vienna 1922

Vienna 1922

Larry Evans

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Larry Evans : Vienna 1922 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vienna 1922:

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Rare Find By L. M. Jordan In Fischer's "My 60 Memorable Games" Larry Evans' game introductions added a much appreciated perspective to each game. The US Chess Federation publication Chess Life featured his monthly column ("Larry Evans On Chess") -- readers' questions answers, and "what's the best move" -- which was abbreviated sadly during his final year(s). Given these demonstrated qualities highly prized in an annotator, I jumped at the chance to add this post mortem release of "Vienna 1922". The

book features 103 games fully annotated by Evans in 144 pages! Vienna 1922 features a major tournament win by Rubinstein, who eclipses Alekhine and Reti. Tartakower starts with 4 consecutive wins but cannot sustain the pace. The talented Bogoljubov has a miserable tournament and finishes losing his last 2 games. Hans Kmoch of "Pawn Power in Chess" manages only three draws among this notable field. Wolf was the tournament lead after round 10 and poised to stage an upset, but could only score 1.5 points in the last five rounds. Gruenfeld introduces his opening, defeating Alekhine. Production quality is excellent. Diagrams are clear and regular. Player photos or drawings illustrate notable games by name. The tournament apparatus consists of a crosstable and a players game index. Missing is a table showing the round-by-round tournament standings. I compiled one by hand. This was complicated by the fact that I had missed the round 13 note by Evans that Spielmann had withdrawn due to illness (I was puzzled why the game count was 103 not 105. This explains it.). Also, the Takacs-Tarrash game of round 13 is mistakenly prepended to round 14! This is the only editing flaw in this production.

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Poor analysis
By Marcelo Lellis
This book shows all the games of the old chess tournament of Vienna 1922, analyzed by Larry Evans. The author was a grandmaster and excellent chess columnist, but he analyzed the games when he had only 16 years old and it seems he had no time to improve his work because of his death. The analyzes are poor and give an inaccurate view of most games, so the reader doesn't learn much. I recommend the book only for those that want the printed score of the games.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good book that could've been great
By Tim Zagurskie
All of my chess tournament reviews use the following method. I analyze each book using these five categories: Story of the tournament/match, Annotations, Player biography, Coverage of games, Production Value. I also list any games that I really enjoyed playing over and found instructive/entertaining. Then I give a final evaluation based on the following criteria:
Essential: Every serious chess player should own a copy of this book.
Recommended: Most players should own a copy of this book.
Aficionado: Players who are very interested in tournaments and the history of chess a lot would enjoy this book.
Die Hards: Only those who are interested in completing collections or really want to look over the games of the given tournament should take the time to track this down.

Vienna 1922 was a blockbuster tournament featuring most of the top players of the day. Lacking only Lasker and Capablanca, it was a spirited fighting tournament where only 26% of the games were drawn. In the end, the surprise winner was Akiba Rubinstein who did not lose a single game enroute to capturing first place. Sadly, it was the last great flash of the brilliance of this one time world title contender. The other surprise of the tournament was Alekhine finishing tied 4th-6th. After a huge string of successes in the early 1920s, Vienna must have been a sobering experience as the Russian grandmaster lost three games one of them a devastating loss at the hands of Grunfeld.

Story of the Tournament
There is some information mainly from John Donaldson's excellent forward but the late Larry Evans also discusses Rubinstein in some detail in his preface. The author also discusses his own personal connection to two of the participants which makes for good reading. Before each round, Evans also briefly outlines the results and the current standings.

Annotations
The annotations in this work are mainly pithy but very educational. Evans gets right to the point whether its with words or variations. He introduces each game with a sentence giving an overview of the game. For example he introduces the Tartakower-Grunfeld game from round 3 by noting it was a swindle in Tartakower's finest style. Other intros tell the student exactly what to look for when they analyze. White mishandles the opening and never recovers keys the reader right into the crux of the matter when studying Reti-Bogoljubow from Round 9. Evans also makes some witty remarks. After white's 32nd move in the Round 15 clash between Bogoljubow-Tarrasch he remarks, Resigns was the best move. Evans style and approach to the games makes the annotations both useful and a joy to read.

Biographical Information
There is very little on the players although Donaldson makes some remarks on Alekhine and Wolf while Evans comments on the tragic career of Rubinstein. However, the personal reminiscences of Evans regarding Kmoch and Koing makes for interesting reading. There are also pictures of the players scattered throughout the text.

Coverage of Games
All 103 games are included and annotated to varying degrees. Each game has the ECO code given for the opening.

Production Value
This another supple paperback from Russell Enterprises. The print is crisp and clear, the diagrams sharp. The publishers convinced Evans to re-examine his annotations for this edition as well as add diagrams and the end product is a good one. There is a cross table at the beginning and an index of player games but no opening index. The intention of the publishers to stick to the original mimeographed(!) product with some minor enhancements was a good one.

Games of Note
For this tournament, I looked at Alekhine, Rubinstein, and Wolf but I also looked at Larry Evans introduction comments for every game to help me pick the games to look over.

Games of Note
Tartakower-Samisch Round 1: Excellent use of development by white to create a monster passed pawn. The game ends with a bold king walk to the middle which is always very cool!
Kmoch-Alekhine Round 2: Passive set up versus aggressive action ending with a brutal attack by Alekhine.
Rubinstein-Bogoljubow Round 3: This game won the brilliancy prize. Evans commented that he was puzzled as to why. I think it was because white sacrificed his queen. Rubinstein uses the c file to attack with great skill.
Alekhine-Smisch Round 3: Another great display of Alekhine's attacking skill this time against an uncastled king.
Reti-Kmoch Round 5: Interesting game in which white foregoes positional advantages to continue with his attack but then in the end grasps a positional advantage to seal the win.
Alekhine-Konig Round 9: This time the Russian uses his development lead to totally slaughter his opponent.
Rubinstein-Alekhine Round 10: Great clash of positional elements versus looking to attack at

all costs. Alekhine can't seem to coordinate his pieces for the attack and Rubinstein exploits the dark square weakness to win. Reti-Rubinstein Round 13: Good display of defensive skill by Rubinstein who wins a pawn, parries all of white's attacks, then turns the tables for the win. I chose the following two games to highlight. This was a tough choice as there were a lot of great games but these two stand above the rest in my opinion. First we have an epic draw between Reti and Alekhine from round 1. Next from round 10 we have a battle between Tarrasch and Reti that ends with the good doctor boldly marching his king into the fray. Final Evaluation Recommended This was a tough call between essential and recommended. In the end, I went with recommended as I was torn between two thoughts. On the one hand, the book has all the great games of this tournament supported by good analysis. The introduction to each game is a nice touch allowing players to skip over some games while looking at ones they might otherwise have missed. Evans does not get bogged down with notes and while some more depth might have been nice, his approach works well here. On the other hand, if this book had included background information about the players and well as the progression of the tournament I would have hardly endorsed it as essential. While I understand that the intention was to capture Evans' original work, adding some more notes would've enhanced the reader's experience. What is puzzling is that the addition of the historical tournament information could've been handled by an editor and I am left wondering if any effort was made to broach this subject with Mr. Evans. If that was the case and turned down such an approach then I do respect that but I think it was a missed opportunity to take his book into the ranks of elite tournament books. Bottom Line: Evans produced a great book that captured the richness of the games. It is a shame that an opportunity was missed to create a tournament book that could've become a staple in the collection of every player.

The First and Sadly the Last Book by Larry Evans Vienna 1922 is remembered as one of the first great tournaments after World War I. All the stars of the day (Alekhine, Bogoljubow, Grnfeld, Marczy, Rti, Spielmann, Tarrasch and Tartakover) played except Capablanca and Lasker, but it was Akiba Rubinstein who was to turn in an outstanding success scoring an undefeated 11 from 14 to finish a point and half ahead of second place Tartakover and two and a half (!) points ahead of Alekhine. Hindsight allows us to know that Vienna 1922 was an aberration, that the future would belong to Alexander Alekhine, but for fans of the great Rubinstein this was one last chance to dream that he might yet battle for the world championship title. Certainly his victories over Alekhine (the last of his career), Bogoljubow (which won the first brilliancy prize) and Spielmann compare with the best games he ever played. Every tournament winner needs a little luck and Rubinstein used his to save a difficult and theoretically important ending against his compatriot Tartakover in what proved to be the crucial game in the battle for first place. Vienna 1922 will also be remembered as the greatest result in the career of the Austrian master Heinrich Wolf who finished an outstanding third with 10 points, beating both Alekhine and Bogoljubow. The journeyman master Wolf, who was to perish at the hands of the Nazis in 1943, played in many other international events in his career but with nothing resembling the success he enjoyed at Vienna 1922. This was the first book ever written by American grandmaster Larry Evans. The then 16-year-old master self-published it in 1948 with English descriptive notation, no diagrams, with a plastic ring binding, mimeographed. He was persuaded to revise and update it, making use of modern figurine algebraic notation, many diagrams not to mention annotations that have made him one of the most popular chess writers of our era. Just when this book was being prepared to go to press, however, the tragic news flashed around the world: Larry Evans had died. As noted by John Donaldson in his Foreword, this book marked the beginning of what turned out to be one of the longest and most productive literary careers in American chess history. It also tragically turned out to be Larry's swan song. It is unlikely that the chess world will ever see another chessplayer who accomplished so much both with the pieces and with the pen.

About the Author Larry Evans is a five-time U.S. Chess Champion, with more than 20 chess books to his credit. Vienna 1922 marked the beginning of what turned out to be one of the longest and most productive literary careers in American chess history. A complete list of all of grandmaster Larry Evans' contributions would require a small book but one can mention his co-authoring *My Sixty Memorable Games* with Bobby Fischer, his revision of MCO-10, his magazine *American Chess Quarterly* and his long-running column in *Chess Life* as some of the highlights.