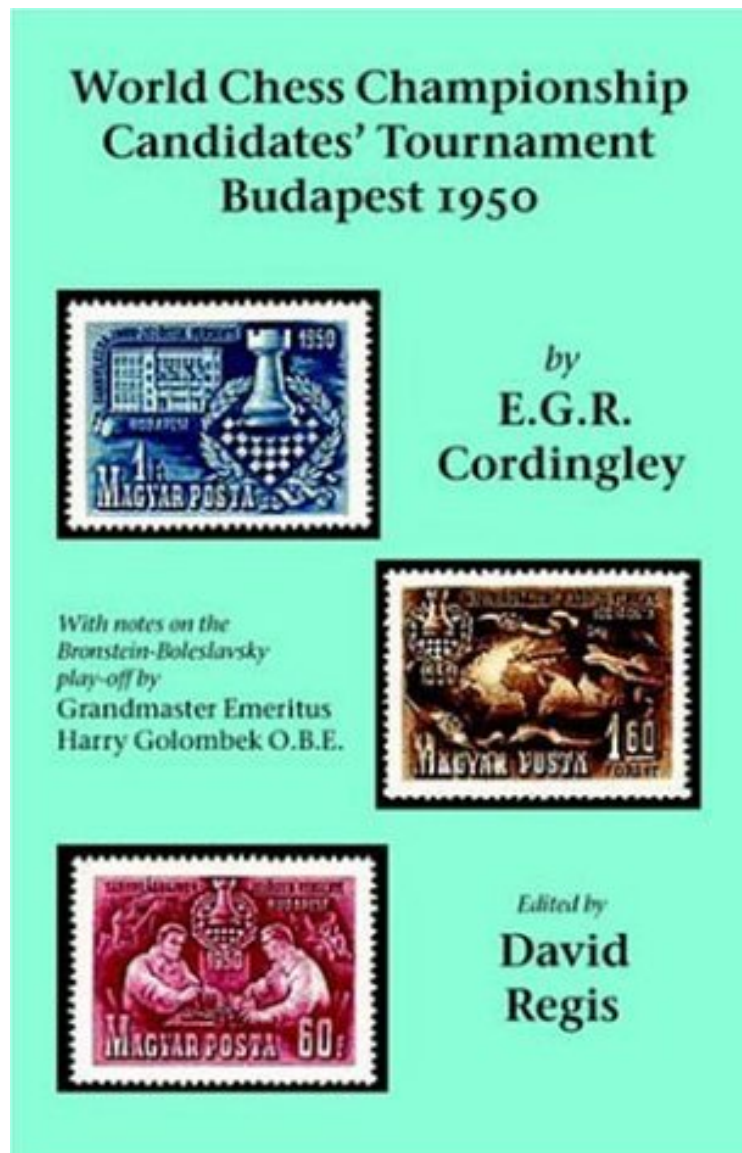


World Chess Championship Candidates' Tournament - Budapest 1950

E. G. R. Cordingley

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E. G. R. Cordingley : World Chess Championship Candidates' Tournament - Budapest 1950 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised World Chess Championship Candidates' Tournament - Budapest 1950:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good Book for Those Who Collect Tournament Books 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.

The 1950 Candidates Tournament held in Budapest was the first of its kind in chess history. Before this point, all challengers for the world championship had to negotiate directly with the title holder to arrange a match. After the death of Alekhine (and the victory by Botvinnik in the 1948 Hague/Moscow Tournament to decide a successor champion) FIDE took over and organized the challenger cycle that included the internal followed by a candidates tournament (until 1962) and matches after that point. The battle in Budapest was an interesting one if a somewhat incomplete struggle as three of the invited players (Euwe, Fine, and Reshevsky) did not attend. In the end, Bronstein and Boleslavsky tied forcing a playoff match which Bronstein eventually won.

Story of the Tournament This section is fairly small only two pages but it does give some general background (and a scathing assessment of the use of seconds as authorized cheating. For individual rounds there is no synopsis. The Bronstein-Boleslavsky match that follows has an excellent amount of detail.

Annotations The annotations are mostly light and of a variation nature. Sometimes a few words are thrown in but there is little of value that a student will find to help explain the players thinking. The match annotations are slightly better.

Biographical Information Basically none except a few tidbits but again there is more in the match section.

Coverage of Games All 90 games are covered with mostly light notes. There is one very gross error made in the very first game where both the score and two (!) diagrams give the wrong position.

Production Value Overall this is very good. The book is well made, diagrams clear, scores in algebraic notation with clear print. There are good cross tables with an opening summary. There is also a game index and opening index. The opening summary and index contain no ECO codes but the codes are given at the start of each game.

Games of Note Keres-Kotov Round 5: This is a good example of typical sacrificial motifs in the Sicilian and should be looked at carefully by those who play this opening. Boleslavsky-Smyslov Round 6: Great example of coordinating pieces in a complex queenless middle game. The image of the two knights anchored by the e5 pawn at the end is very pretty.

Final Evaluation Aficionado This book is really for those who are interested in chess history. While the tournament was dramatic, the games themselves were not. This was the era of deep positional play and there are very few tactical melees. That is not to say there was no fighting chess here as only 19% of the games were drawn, but if you're a fan of Tal or Stein you are looking in the wrong book. While one could enjoy following Bronstein and Boleslavsky through the tournament and match, that is the best that can be said for this book.

Bottom Line: If you are looking to have a complete collection of chess history, I would pick up this book. Otherwise, you may want to pass.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. As a tournament book, there are better ones out there.

By John Kato This was a decent but not outstanding book. The paper is serviceable but not as good as one might find in most books. The binding appears to be adequate. But the notes are very sparse. Not nearly as substantial as New York 1927, Vienna 1922 or Reggio Emilia 2007/2008 let alone great tournament books like New York 1924, Zurich 1953 or San Luis 2005. The notes are good for the playoff match between Boleslavsky and Bronstein. But not much else. The games are good. This is a little seen part of chess history back in the postwar period. Some players have game collections that are hard to find or are very expensive. Andor Lilienthal is a good example of the former and Isaac Boleslavsky is an example of the latter (a used copy of the Jimmy Adams book now starts at \$80). To be sure the games can be found in most data bases. But for me even sparse notes are better than no notes as is the case for the vast majority of the games on databases. I recommend this book to fans of the post war period and those eager to see the early practitioners find their moves. In the latter given that current theory or even theory at 50 years old uses many of those games as a baseline, this book might be useful and valued.

3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Snynopsis

By Hugh Davies The World Championship Candidates' Tournament of 1950 marked a fresh phase in the history of the world title. Hitherto, the champion had chosen his challenger, of course bearing in mind such pressures as public opinion and prize purses on offer. Now, after the interregnum caused by the death of Alekhine as incumbent in 1946, FIDE, the World Chess Federation, instituted a regular series of qualifying events to determine the rightful challenger to the chess throne. Budapest 1950 was to be Bronstein's finest hour: coming from behind he caught his imperturbable compatriot Boleslavsky at the finishing post and then squeezed ahead of him in the play-off. The notes to this great event, which also featured such immortals as Smyslov, Keres, and Najdorf, are by the British publishing pioneer Cordingley, while the comments to the tie-breaking match are furnished by the world champion of chess journalists, Grandmaster emeritus Harry Golombek OBE, based on his insights for the British Chess Magazine. As we now know, Bronstein advanced to challenge Botvinnik for the world title, but faltered at the final hurdle. That epic clash is covered in World Chess Championship 1951, by William Winter and R.G. Wade.

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