

# Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The structure of the book.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Playing style .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>BOBBY FISCHER.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Fischer's generosity.....</b>	<b>352</b>
<b>A FAREWELL .....</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>Fischer's most outstanding performances .....</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>Matches .....</b>	<b>357</b>
<b>Team Tournaments .....</b>	<b>358</b>
<b>Index of games .....</b>	<b>359</b>
<b>Index of openings .....</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>Bibliography.....</b>	<b>362</b>
<b>The author.....</b>	<b>363</b>

# Introduction

It is very satisfying to continue this new venture with a book about Robert James Fischer, published by *Zenonchess Ediciones*.

Robert (“Bobby”) Fischer was the great revolutionary in the history of chess in the twentieth century. Thanks to his dazzling career and his demands for better conditions for players, chess was popularised and was converted into a professional activity with many offshoots. His practically single-handed struggle to overthrow Soviet domination of the world of chess is an achievement difficult to match.

A few years ago I rejected the idea of writing a book about Fischer’s games, because I felt that so much had already been written about him that it would be difficult for me to bring anything new to it. But I changed my mind; I think that a new study using the “Move-by-Move” format, is appropriate for commenting on his games and is useful for both learning and teaching.

As usual, exercises are set and also questions are asked from the reader’s point of view. This system of training and education is similar to the one I have used so many times already, the system of “guessing the moves.” Here there are no points awarded for guessing moves, but instead there are more explanations, giving the reader the opportunity to ask questions.

Of course, to many fairly experienced chessplayers, some of Fischer’s games will already be well-known, or at least familiar. That is not an obstacle to benefitting from this book, because for the most part these games will not have been analysed in depth or recalled very clearly, so that taking a fresh look at them, pausing at key moments, can be instructive.

Also, as usual, I have tried to include the contributions of the players themselves or of distinguished commentators. Old analyses sometimes contain errors that the ever-stronger and stronger analysis engines detect, but those earlier explanations are still to be valued.

Also, as usual, I try to include the practical viewpoint, since we do not play against computers of unattainable calculating ability, but against human beings who, like ourselves, make mistakes, like or dislike their positions (which at times does not depend on objective evaluation), get tired, etc.

I am glad to discover that Magnus Carlsen also gives great importance to the practical element in his choice of variations. For him it is important for the position to be “easy to play,” not for a computer but for a human.

This book is about Fischer's games; it is not a biography, but I wanted to include some lesser-known anecdotes from his tournaments in Argentina.

I am grateful to Daniel Green, Carlos Bielicki and the late Carlos Incutto for their stories about Fischer which I relate in this book, to newspaper La GACETA from Tucumán, for the two photos and to Agustín Berrueta for the poem which ends this homage/appreciation of our eleventh World Champion.

Thanks also to John Donaldson.

I hope that you will enjoy this book as much as I enjoyed writing it. I also hope that it will be of benefit to you for learning a little more about our game of chess, through the medium of Fischer's games.

Finally, it is my hope that it will also provide useful teaching material to those involved in chess education.

**Pontareas, November 2021**

**Dedicated to Yudania**

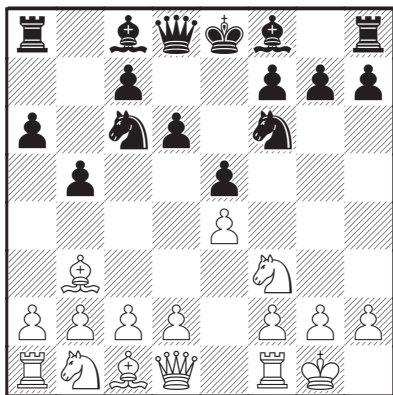
▷ **Robert Fischer**

▶ **Attilio Di Camillo**

**Ruy Lopez [C90]**

Eastern States Championship Open,  
Washington DC (1), 11.1956

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4  
♘f6 5.0-0 b5 6.♙b3 d6



7.c3

**Question:** Black has employed an unusual move order; with the bishop already on b3, isn't it strong to attack f7 with 7.♘g5?

**Answer:** Black's line is actually quite playable, because he can respond to this attack with a manoeuvre that is also seen in some other lines: 7...d5! 8.exd5 ♘d4!, and Black is fine.

7...♙g4

Instead of continuing with the classical 7...♙e7, or 7...♘a5 8.♙c2 c5, Black tries to restrain White's d4 advance.

8.h3

One of Fischer's characteristics from a very young age was that he generally

forced the enemy bishops to commit themselves, either by exchanging or choosing a particular diagonal of retreat.

8...♙h5 9.d3

**Question:** Surely forcing White to play this modest move is a small triumph for Black, isn't it?

**Answer:** It's not all positive though; the black bishop on h5 is exposed to the typical Spanish manoeuvre ♘d2-f1-g3, not to mention an opportune g4, and it can easily become passive.

9...♙e7 10.♘bd2 0-0 11.♖e1 ♙d7?!

Black made this unnecessary move for tactical reasons. It was preferable to play the more usual manoeuvre 11...♘a5, followed by ...c5.

**Question:** I don't understand; what are the tactical reasons that you are referring to?

**Answer:** Black is preventing 12.g4?! due to 12...♘xg4! 13.hxg4 ♙xg4+ and after 14.♙f1 (if 14.♙h2? then 14...♙g5, while 14.♙h1 invites a draw by repetition after 14...♙h3+) Black has good compensation for the piece and can prepare the ...f5 break with 14...♘a5 and, if necessary, ...♙h8.

12.♘f1

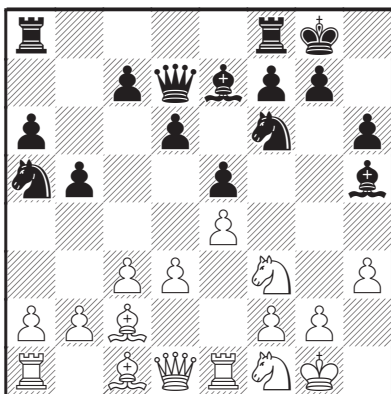
The snag with 14...♙d7 is that it doesn't prevent White from continuing with his original plan.

12...♘a5 13.♙c2 h6

**Question:** That's a strange move; what's its purpose?

**Answer:** The idea is to relieve the overcrowding on the kingside at an opportune moment by playing ...♘h7, followed by ...♘g5 or ...♙g5.

Nevertheless, it's not clear that this is better than 13...c5.



**Exercise:** How did the thirteen-year-old Bobby Fischer continue here?

**Answer:**

**14.g4!**

More ambitious than 14.♘g3 ♙g6 15.♘h4 c5, since capturing on g6 fails to achieve much; White would be a little better after 16.♘hf5, but with this advance Fischer is looking for more.

Logically the move needs to hold up tactically, but now 14...♘xg4? Is unsound, as after 15.hxg4 the initiative black evaporates; Black has nothing after 15...♙xg4 16.♘e3 (or 16.d4), while if 15...♙xg4+ White can now play 16.♘g3 ♙xf3 (or 16...f5 17.♘h2) 17.♘xh5.

**14...♙g6 15.♘g3 ♘h7 16.♘f5 ♘b7?**

Black retreats the knight in order to help bolster the defence via d8 and e6, if appropriate, but White will be able to exploit the fact there is now a tactical weakness (a loose piece).

16...♙g5 is also unconvincing, due to 17.♘xg5 ♘xg5 18.h4 ♘e6 19.g5, and the other idea, 16...♘g5, can be answered either by the quiet move 17.♙g2, clearing the back rank for the rook on e1, or by taking on g5, followed by h4.

Therefore, once again the best option appears to be to play the most natural move 16...c5.

**Exercise:** How did Fischer continue?

**Answer:**

**17.d4!**

He seized the opportunity to occupy the centre.

**17...exd4**

This concession is forced, since the e5-pawn cannot be supported; 17...f6? loses to 18.dxe5, threatening 19.♙d5+, while 17...♙e6? fails to 18.♙b3.

**18.cxd4 ♘d8**

