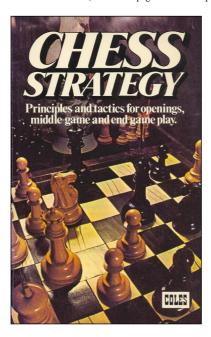
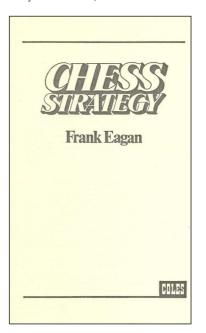
## **A Publishing Scandal**

## **Edward Winter**

(2002)

At the Chess Café Bulletin Board in May 2002 Rick Kennedy reported that in 1976 Coles Publishing Company Inc. brought out a book entitled *Chess Strategy* by Frank Eagan which was, in fact, a verbatim reproduction of Capablanca's *Chess Fundamentals*. We have procured a copy of the Coles volume and find that, apart from the title page, the entire contents are identical to the crown octavo edition of *Chess Fundamentals* (i.e. the 184-page version first produced by G. Bell in 1951).





The copyright page ('Copyright 1976 and published by Coles Publishing Company Limited Toronto – Canada') also has, in tiny letters, 'Originally published by G. Bell & Sons Ltd. London England', but neither Capablanca's name nor the title *Chess Fundamentals* is given anywhere.

## Contents PART I CHAPTER I FIRST PRINCIPLES: ENDINGS, MIDDLE-GAME AND OPENINGS PAGE 1. Some Simple Mates . 6 9 4. Some Winning Positions in the Middle-Game 14 19 7. Control of the Centre . . 21 8. Traps . . CHAPTER II FURTHER PRINCIPLES IN END-GAME PLAY 9. A CARDINAL PRINCIPLE . . . . 27 10. A CLASSICAL ENDING . 31 12. How to find out which Pawn will be the First to 33 14. THE RELATIVE VALUE OF KNIGHT AND BISHOP 38 15. How to Mate with Knight and Bishop . 16. QUEEN AGAINST ROOK CHAPTER III PLANNING A WIN IN MIDDLE-GAME PLAY 17. ATTACKING WITHOUT THE AID OF KNIGHTS 52 18. Attacking with Knights as a Prominent Force . COLES PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED 54 19. Winning by Indirect Attack . . .

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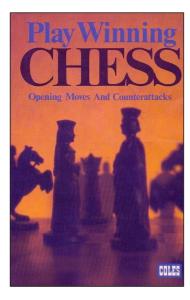
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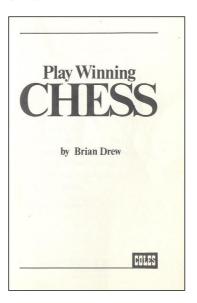
G Bell & Songlist, London England

The publishers of this outrage are/were an internationally-known company, the producers of the 'Coles Notes' series of booklets of literary criticism. How did such fraud occur and, apparently, remain unnoticed (bearing in mind, incidentally, that in 1976 the company G. Bell was still producing chess books)? And who is Frank Eagan?

In 1980 Coles reissued Chess Strategy and belatedly put Capablanca's name on the title page.

Another chess book published by Coles in 1976 came into our hands: Play Winning Chess by Brian Drew.

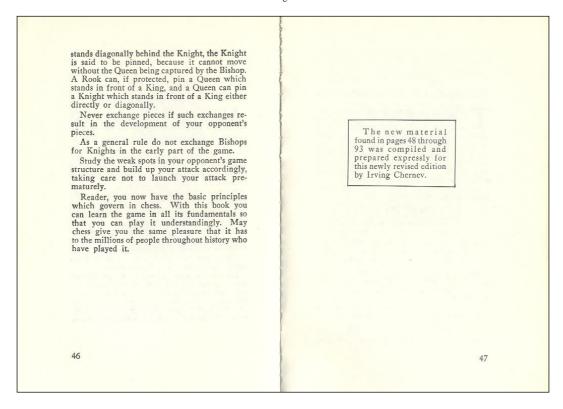




We at once recognized the contents as identical to *Chess in an Hour* by F.J. Marshall and I. Chernev (published by Arco, New York in 1968 and 1975). 'Identical', that is, with one significant exception. Page 47 of the earlier volume had the following note:

'The new material found in pages 48 through 93 was compiled and prepared expressly for this newly revised edition by Irving Chernev.'

That has been deleted from the Coles edition and, indeed, there is no mention of either Chernev or Marshall as the authors. It may be recalled here that Marshall's original book was published in 1937 and that at the time Coles introduced 'Brian Drew' to the chess world Irving Chernev was still alive.



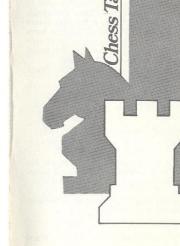
stands diagonally behind the Knight, the Knight is said to be pinned, because it cannot move without the Queen being captured by the Bishop. A Rook can, if protected, pin a Queen which stands in front of a King, and a Queen can pin a Knight which stands in front of a King either directly or diagonally.

Never exchange pieces if such exchanges result in the development of your opponent's pieces.

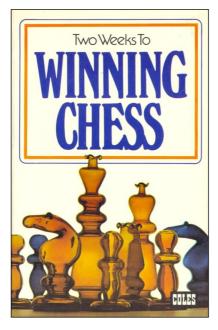
As a general rule do not exchange Bishops for Knights in the early part of the game.

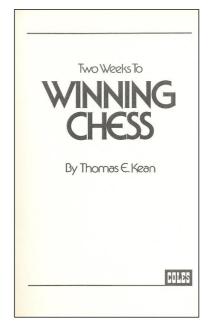
Study the weak spots in your opponent's game structure and build up your attack accordingly, taking care not to launch your attack prematurely.

Reader, you now have the basic principles which govern in chess. With this book you can learn the game in all its fundamentals so that you can play it understandingly. May chess give you the same pleasure that it has to the millions of people throughout history who have played it.



In 1976 Coles also brought out 'Two Weeks To Winning Chess by Thomas E. Kean'. The title repeats an old one of Reinfeld's, but the contents are, from start to finish, a direct reproduction of the well-known introductory book Chess by R.F. Green.





Below are the opening pages of the Green book (1938 edition) and the Kean one (1976). The concluding words ('Free use has, necessarily, been made of standard works on the game') take on a whole new meaning in the light of Coles' practices.

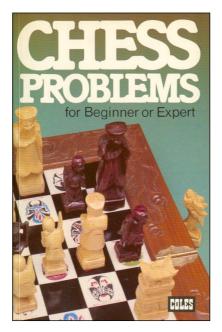
PREFACE

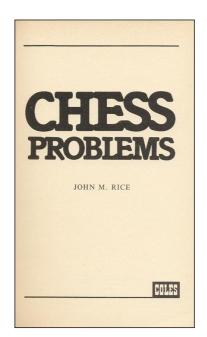
The Author's aim, in these pages, has been to provide a thoroughly complete and practical series of lessons in Chess. The reader is assumed at the outset to be without any knowledge of the game and the attempt is made to teach him how to play, and to leave him in a position to profit by more advanced treatises. The Rules, the Index to the Openings, and the section on Current Chess Literature, while of special service to young players, will, it is hoped, render the volume useful as a work of reference to more advanced students. Free use has, necessarily, been made of standard works on the game.

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY CHELTENHAM AND LONDON

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Not that Coles has always changed, or invented, authors' names. We also acquired its 1979 volume *Chess Problems for Beginner or Expert* by John M. Rice. In small letters on the copyright page (yes, Coles books always have one of those...) it is stated that the work was 'Originally published by Faber & Faber'. Indeed. The text, all 349 pages of it, is identical to John Rice's 1970 work *An ABC of Chess Problems*.

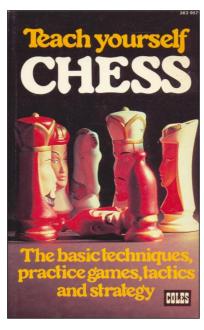


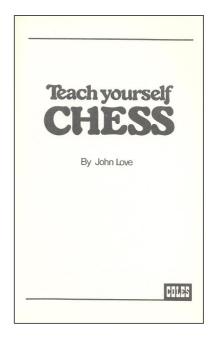


We asked Mr Rice whether he had authorized the Coles edition of his book, and he replied that he was not even aware of it. He also mentioned to us a similar experience:

'An American publisher, Citadel of New York, was found to have produced a pirated edition of the Faber book Chess Problems: Introduction to an Art, on which I worked in the 1960s with Michael Lipton and Robin Matthews. In this instance the piracy was discovered and Faber managed to extract a royalties payment from Citadel.'

Yet another example of Coles' misconduct is its publication in 1980 of 'Teach yourself Chess by John Love'. This turns out to be a reprint of Love's book Chess: A New Introduction (published by Bell in 1967).





We asked Mr Love whether he was aware of the later edition, and he replied:

'No, I knew nothing about this Coles publication. As you can imagine, I was more than a little surprised by the contents, not least by the thought that I'd ever written anything worth stealing.'

This article is an edited digest of C.N.s 2657, 2689, 2711, 2736 and 2754.

To the Chess Notes main page.

To the Archives for other feature articles.

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