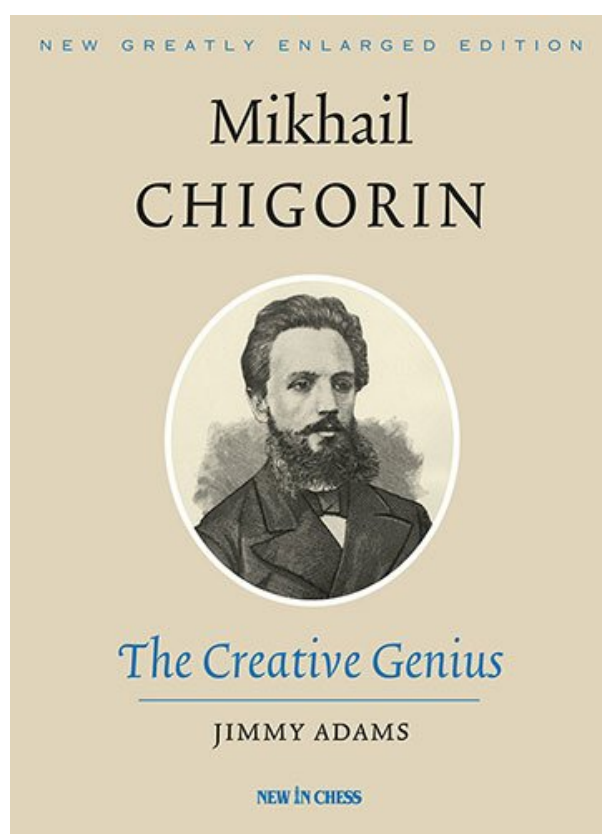


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## *The Creative Genius*

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## About the Author

FIDE Master Jimmy Adams is a prolific chess author, who has written, translated and compiled a wide range of books on openings, historical tournaments and legendary players. From 1991 to 2010 he was the editor of the English magazine Chess.

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Mikhail Chigorin (1850-1908), the first great Russian chess master, belongs to that select group of exceptionally strong players who did not quite succeed in winning the world championship.

The defining moment for Chigorin came when he blundered away a completely winning position in the decisive final game of his second title match against Steinitz.

Chigorin remains universally admired for his creative and courageous style of play. He was not guided by Dr. Tarrasch's 'general principles', prevalent at the time, but by the specific characteristics of each individual position. He would always play to win, not only by his famed dashing attacks but also by precise calculation of variations, purposeful manoeuvring and exploitation of positional weaknesses, artful defence and refined endgame play.

Today Chigorin is best remembered for his contributions to opening theory. He was the finest gambit player of his generation, but it is his pioneering work in defences to the Spanish Game and Queen's Gambit as well as various King's Indian formations that has been the most enduring.

The present book is a hugely expanded second edition of that published in 1987. Over two hundred extra games have been included, annotated by Chigorin and his contemporaries in addition to more modern grandmasters. The biographical part has been extended with hundreds of pages of material depicting Chigorin's turbulent life.

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- 750 pages

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10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

An outstanding portrait of a 19th century chess artist and his era!

By Dennis Bourgerie

This is a preliminary review as I have only gone through the first 220 pages. So far it has been an elegant journey through the later half of 19th century chess history.

This is a wonderful book about one of best chessplayers of the 19th century - Mikhail Chigorin twice played for the world championship, losing to Wilhelm Steinitz 10-6 and the second time by 10-8. Chigorin had one terrible weakness as a practical player at the World Championship level: he had no coherent system to deal

with d-pawn openings; in the first match, Chigorin lost 7 of 8 games when Steinitz opened 1. Nf3 and 2. d4 (or 1. d4 and 2. Nf3) and in the second match he lost 0-3 when Steinitz played the queen pawn opening. Jimmy Adams states "In the match came to light the weak side of Chigorin - the sportsman. He ought to have set himself the task, long before, of finding a correct system of play as Black against 1. d4. In 1889, as indeed also later, he placed too many hopes on improvisation at the board."

The next great Russian champion, Alekhine, with the benefit of almost 40 years of chess development, had a full understanding of how to defend against 1. d4. In 16 games, defending against Capablanca's Queen's Gambit Declined, Alekhine scored 2 wins, 3 losses and 11 draws, allowing himself to win the match when he had the White pieces.

The layout, formatting and fonts used, make this book enjoyable to read and add greatly to the appreciation of Chigorin's biography.

The layout of the games is especially comfortable, as the game moves are in bold font, columnar-fashion and the comments and variations are dropped down one line, separate from the game moves. This avoids the "crowding" that occurs in some chess books, where it is difficult to tell the difference between variations and the game move "tree trunk".

Also discussed in interesting detail are other chessplayers of that era, such as Winawer, Schiffers, Alapin (who was a backstabbing enemy of Chigorin), Tarrasch, Lasker, Pillsbury, Charousek, Teichmann and others. Alapin supplied Steinitz with opening analysis prior to the match against Chigorin, which played a role in Chigorin's defeat.

The author gives a good portrait of the oppressive Russian society of that era within which Chigorin strove to express his chess art.

There are approximately 220 annotated chess games, with the right touch of variations and verbal explanations and many stories and biographical portraits.

EXCELLENT!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

An interesting book on the history of chess

By Terence Mills

This is a big book; over 700 pages; it's heavy to carry; but it's great; it brings together a great deal of information about the man, his devotion to chess, his games and background information of the times and place; the book is a mixture of material from the earlier edition, translated work and edited material; many of Chigorin's games are in the book as you would expect; many are accompanied by comments from the man himself, but it is not all technical information about games; lots of photos enhance the book; I have not finished reading it yet - but I like what I have read so far; the book is well bound (hardback).

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

I own this mf

By Captain America

I own this mf ahahahahaha 220 complete annotated games and biography. Good games good annotations its just good actually its too good.

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