

Spain, and Spanish masters were often involved in copying and amending of chess manuscripts, even far away from their country. For the few specimens of mixed character, containing both, old and new endings, we can see it in the comprehensive Cesena manuscript and we can deduce the same for the Perugia manuscript.

If we would accept the plausible suggestion made by Averbakh that the hundred endings of Vicent's book would have been all composed according to the new rules, this would be the first item of that kind. The manuscript tradition appears however to be different, with old endings written together with new ones for some time in the beginning of the 16th century.

It is rather curious for us to see together on the same page an *old* and a *new* ending. Actually, only a few of the old endings continued to be valid, being based on pieces with unchanged moves, such as knights and rooks. Usually, however, the selection of old examples was not limited to specimens which kept their validity under the new rules.

Thus the manuscript tradition did not show a clear-cut discrimination between old and new chess. The same holds for the lack of original character in most endings and collections, even if the insertion of specific names in the printed copies has forwarded to future generations the names of several *authors*, such as Vicent, Lucena, Damiano, and so on.

Acknowledgements

It is for me a pleasure to have somehow answered the invitation by Egbert Meissenburg to indicate to chess historians a significant part of my recent research work. It seems to me, however, that this is some kind of an upside-down procedure. Usually, there are several progresses in research performed by chess historians of the various nations, which then one of them summarises in a national journal for the local audience. Here, the Italian chess journals listed below have already published the results of my studies and subsequently I have been invited to summarise them for chess historians abroad.

Thus, I have some reason to be grateful to the Italian chess journals, which provided me with a couple of pages, even though most of them are much more interested in technical than in historical matters. Here their addresses are given with, in square brackets, the abbreviations used in the following references.

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