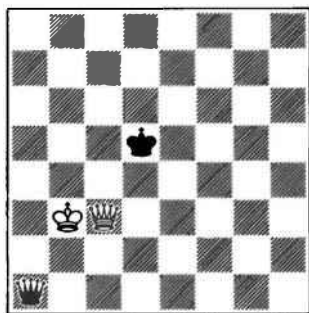


collection of books made him the butt of a satirical poem: 'Of all men, aṣ-Ṣūlī possesses the most learning—in his library. If we ask him for an explanation on a point of science he answers, "Boy! Bring here such and such a packet of science!"' He wrote many history books and two textbooks on chess. In 940 he made an indiscreet political comment and had to flee from Baghdad. He died at Basra in reduced circumstances, leaving behind one outstanding pupil, al-LAJLĀJ.

aṣ-Ṣūlī's principal contribution to the strategy of shatranj was his advocacy of flank openings (see TA'BI'A). Besides composing MANṢŪBĀT he was an excellent ENDGAME analyst and player. (See DILARAM'S MATE; MANṢŪBĀT; TA'BI'A.)



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The pieces shown as queens on the diagram are FIRZĀNS, which may be moved one square diagonally in any direction. Of this position, with White to play, aṣ-Ṣūlī writes 'This is very old, yet neither al-ADLĪ nor anyone else has said whether it is drawn or can be won. There is no one on earth who has solved it unless he was taught by me.' White wins by BARE KING, i.e. capturing the black firzān without permitting the black king to capture the white fers in reply. For example 1 Ka2? Kc4 2 Kxa1 Kxc3 is a draw.

The computer-generated solution that follows was obtained by BEASLEY. There are many duals (shown in brackets), but none wins in fewer than 20 moves. Black defends by maintaining the same relationship between the kings' positions as that between the firzāns' positions. White wins by driving the black king towards one of the far boundaries, when the edge of the board prevents Black from maintaining this balance.

1 Kb4 Kd6 2 Kc4 Ke6 3 Kd4 Kf6(a) 4 Kd5(Ke4) 4 ... Kf7 5 Ke5(Fd2) 5 ... Kg7 6 Ke6(Kf5, Fb4, Fd2) 6 ... Kf8(b) 7 Kd6(Kf5, Kf6, Fb4, Fd2) 7 ... Ke8 8 Kc6(Ke5, Fd2) 8 ... Kd8 9 Kb6(Kd5, Fd2) 9 ... Kc8(c) 10 Kc5(Fd2) 10 ... Kd7 11 Kb5(Fd2) 11 ... Kc7(d) 12 Kc4(Fd2) 12 ... Kd6 13 Kb4(Fd2) 13 ... Ke5(e) 14 Ka3 Kd5 15 Kb3(f) 15 ... Kc5 16 Kc2(Fd2) 16 ... K~ 17 Fd2 K~ 18 Fc1 K~ 19 Kb1 K~ 20 Kxa1.

(a) After 3 ... Kf5 4 Fb4 the relationship between the firzāns is changed. Black, whose king cannot mimic this relationship by 4 ... Ke7, loses after 4 ... Ke6 5 Kd3 Ke5 6 Kc4 Kd6 7 Kc3 Kd5 8 Kc2 Kc4 9 Fa3 (zugzwang) 9 ... Kb5 10 Kb1 Ka4 11 Ka2 (zugzwang) 11 ... K~ 12 Kxa1.

(b) Black disturbs the balance and is not permitted to regain it subsequently; but after 6 ... Kg8 7 Kf6 Kh8 a position given by ABŪ 'L-FATH is reached, and White wins by Kg6 or Kf7, e.g. 8 Kg6 Kg8 9 Fd2 Kf8 10 Fc1 Ke7 11-15 Kg6-b1 K~ 16 Kxa1.

(c) 9 ... Ke8/e7 10 Ka5 Kd7 11 Kb5 transposes.

(d) 11 ... Ke7/f6 12 Ka4 Kd6 13 Kb4 transposes.

(e) 13 ... Kc6 14 Fd2 Kd5 15 Kc3 Ke4 16 Kb3, and now 16 ... Kd3 17 Fc1 (zugzwang), or 16 ... Kd4 17 Kc2, or 16 ... Kf3 17 Ka2. 13 ... Ke6 14 Ka3 Kd5 15 Kb3 transposes.

(f) The starting position with Black to play: the result of a 15-move manoeuvre by the white king in order to LOSE THE MOVE.

The first known publication to show the correct winning method was by AVERBAKH in 1986. Noting the extraordinary king chase, to the far edge and back, he writes: 'It is a creation of genius.'

In aṣ-Ṣūlī's text the Black king is on e4, with Black to move, but any move other than the immediate 1 ... Kd5 loses quickly.

**Sultan Khan** (1905-66), perhaps the greatest natural player of modern times. Born in the Punjab, he learned Indian chess when he was nine. In the Indian game of his time the pieces were moved as in international chess, but the laws of promotion and stalemate were different, and a pawn could not be advanced two squares on its first move. The game opened slowly, with emphasis on positional play rather than tactics, and not surprisingly Sultan Khan became a positional player. He was taken into the household of Sir Umar Hayat Khan, and learned the international game in 1926. Two years later he won the All-India championship, and in the spring of 1929 his patron and master took him to London. Within a few months he won the British championship, going back to India shortly afterwards.

Returning to Europe in May 1930, Sultan Khan began a career that included defeats of many leading players. His best results are: Liège 1930, second to TARTAKOWER; Hastings 1930-1, third (+5=2-2), after EUWE and CAPABLANCA; Hastings 1931-2, fourth; Bern 1932, fourth (+10=2-3); London 1932, third (+6=3-2) equal with KASHDAN, after ALEKHINE and FLOHR. Sultan Khan won the British championship again in 1932 and 1933, and played first board for the British Chess Federation in the Olympiads of 1930, 1931, and 1933. In match play he defeated Tartakower (+4=5-3) in 1931, and lost to Flohr (+1=3-2) in 1932. At the end of 1933 he returned with his master to India, and his chess career was over. He had no regrets. Another servant in the household, Fatima (who had won the British Ladies Championship in 1933), said that Sultan felt

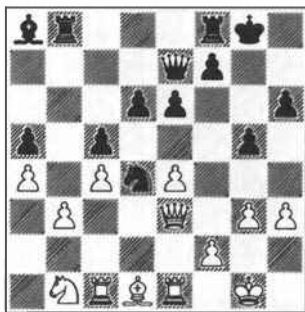
that he had been freed from prison. He suffered from bouts of malaria and, in the English climate, from continual colds and throat infections, often turning up to play with his neck swathed in bandages. When Sir Umar died in 1944 Sultan Khan was left a small farmstead near his birthplace, and there he lived out his days. He would not coach his children in chess, his eldest son, Ather Sultan, recalls, but told them that they should do something more useful with their lives.

A striking figure, of dark complexion, with a lean face and broad forehead, his black hair often hidden under a turban, he sat at the board impassively, showing no emotion in positions good or bad. He did not believe that he possessed any special skill, rather that the player applying the greater concentration should win. When Sultan Khan first travelled to Europe his English was so rudimentary that he needed an interpreter. Unable to read or write, he never studied any books on the game, and he was put into the hands of trainers who were also his rivals in play. He never mastered openings which, by nature empirical, cannot be learned by the application of common sense alone. Under these adverse circumstances, and having known international chess for a mere seven years, only half of which was spent in Europe, Sultan Khan nevertheless had few peers in the MIDDLEGAME, was among the world's best two or three ENDGAME players, and one of the world's best ten players. This achievement brought admiration from Capablanca who called him a genius, an accolade he rarely bestowed. (See MOBILITY.)

R. N. Coles, *Mir Sultan Khan* (rev. edn., 1977) contains 64 games.

Soultanbéïeff-Sultan Khan Liège 1930 Queen's Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 b6 3 c4 e6 4 g3 Bb7 5 Bg2 Bb4+ 6 Bd2 Bxd2+ 7 Nbx2 0 0 8 0 c5 9 Qc2 Nc6 10 dxc5 bxc5 11 e4 Qc7 12 Rf1 d6 13 Rac1 h6 14 a3 Nd7 15 Qc3 a5 16 Nh4 g5 17 Qe3 Qd8 18 Nf3 Qe7 19 h3 Rab8 20 b3 Ba8 21 Nbl Nde5 22 a4 Nxf3+ 23 Bxf3 Nd4 24 Bd1



24... f5 25 exf5 Rxf5 26 Rc3 Rbf8 27 Rf1 Rf3 28 Bxf3 Rxf3 White resigns.

**sum of progressive scores**, an AUXILIARY SCORING METHOD used for tie-breaking in SWISS SYSTEM tournaments. The aggregate scores made by a player after each round are added together. For example,

a player whose progressive scores read 1,2,3,3,3 (=12) would be placed above a player whose progressive scores read 0,0,1,2,3 (=6). This popular and simple way of resolving ties is based on the supposition that a player who scores more points in the early rounds will have been pitted against stronger opposition.

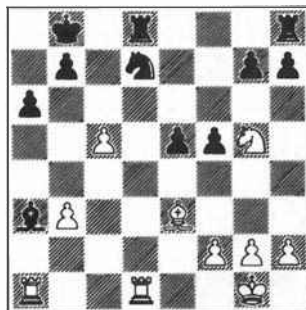
**Suttles Variation**, 1281 in the ROBATSCH DEFENCE, as Jimenez-Suttles, Palma de Majorca 1970.

**Svenonius Variation**, 837 in the FOUR KNIGHTS OPENING; 1076 in the KING'S GAMBIT Declined; 1198, sometimes called the Exchange Variation Deferred, in the FRENCH DEFENCE. The Swedish analyst Ludwig Oskar Svenonius (1853-1926) contributed many articles on the openings to *Deutsches Wochensach*.

**Sveshnikov**, Yevgeny Ellinovich (1950- ), Russian player, International Grandmaster (1977). He qualified for and played in his first USSR championship when he was 17, and in 1978, at his fifth of eight attempts, he tied for fifth place. His tournament firsts include: Sochi 1976 (+5=10), equal with POLUGAYEVSKY, ahead of GELLER; Le Havre 1977 (+8=7); Cienfuegos 1979 (+9=4); Sochi 1983 (+6=6-2), shared with Vaisier; Hastings 1984-5; Sochi 1985 (+6=7-1); Moscow 1989. He had a good score also at Novi Sad 1979 (+6=6-1), equal second with Geller, after GHEORGHIU.

Timman-Sveshnikov Wijk aan Zee 1981 Sicilian Defence Rossolimo Variation

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 e6 4 0-0 Nge7 5 c3 d5 6 exd5 Qxd5 7 d4 cxd4 8 c4 Qd6 9 Nxd4 Bd7 10 Nxc6 Nxc6 11 Nc3 a6 12 Ba4 Qxd1 13 Rxd1 Ne5 14 b3 Bb4 15 Bb2 f6 16 Bxd7+ Nxd7 17 Ne4 0-0-0 18 c5 Kb8 19 Bd4 e5 20 Be3 f5 21 a3 Bxa3 22 Ng5



22... Nxc5 23 Rf1 f4 24 Bxc5 Bxc5 25 Nf7 g5 26 Rac1 Bd4 27 Nxb8 Rxb8 28 Rfd1 g4 29 Kf1 Rf8 30 f3 gxf3 31 gxf3 Rf6 32 Rc2 Ka7 33 Rc7 Rh6 34 Rd2 a5 35 Kg2 Ka6 36 Re7 b6 37 Rc2 Kb5 38 Rc4 Rg6+ 39 Kh3 Rh6+ 40 Kg2 Rh5 41 Rd7 Rg5+ 42 Kh3 Rh5+ 43 Kg2 Bc5 44 Rg7 Rh6 45 Rg5 Rd6 46 Rxe5 Rd3 47 Rxf4 Rxb3 48 Rf7 a4 49 Rxb7 Rb2+ 50 Kg3 a3 51 Ra7 Kb4 52 f4 a2 53 Re4+ Kb3 54 h4 b5 55 Ra8 b4 56 Re5 Kc4 57 Kg4 Rg2+ 58 Kf3 Rf2+ 59 Kg4 b3 60 Re4+ Kd3 White resigns.