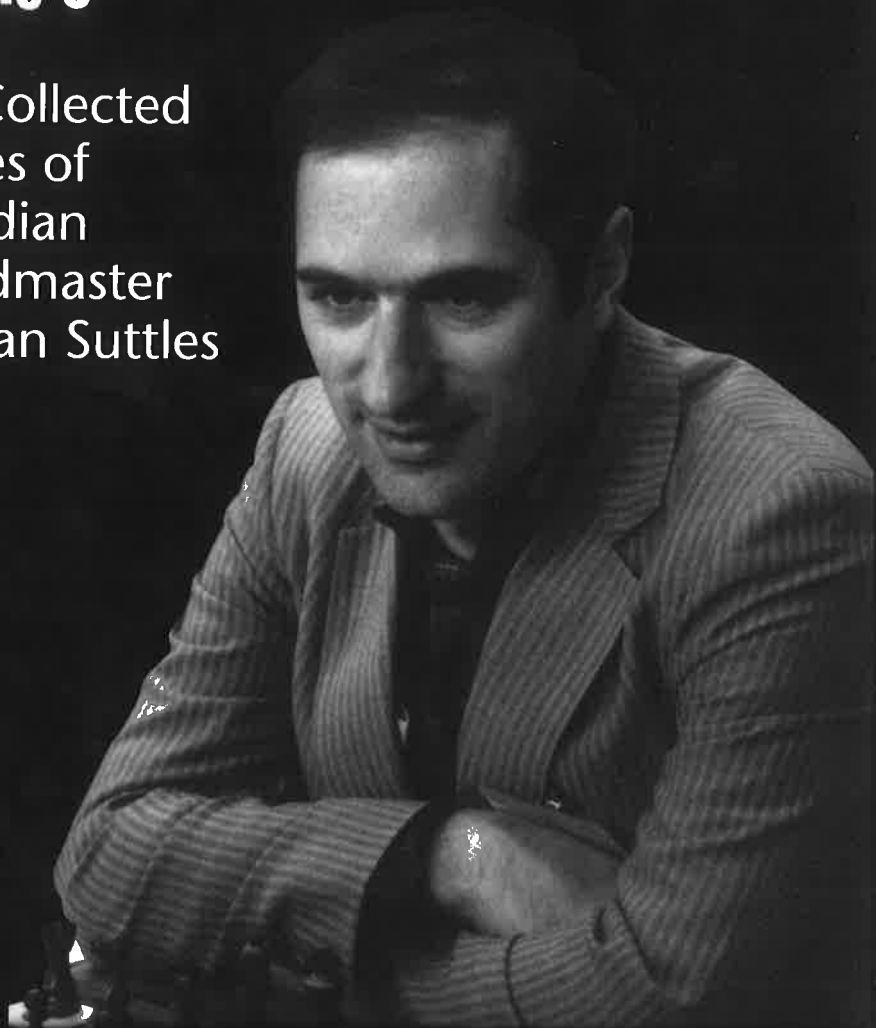


# Chess on the Edge

## Volume 3

The Collected  
Games of  
Canadian  
Grandmaster  
Duncan Suttles



Bruce Harper  
Yasser Seirawan

Contributions by  
Gerard Welling

*To Dr. Elod Macskasy,*

who taught us all a great deal.

and

*To Robin, Jamie and Laura Harper,*

who put up with crabby, cranky, crusty  
and sometimes even cantankerous  
behavior on the part of one of the  
authors while this book was being written.  
Their forbearance has been appreciated.

# *Chess on the Edge*

## *Volume 3*

**The Collected Games  
of Canadian Grandmaster  
Duncan Suttles**

**by Bruce Harper and  
Yasser Seirawan**



**Chess'n Math Association**

Copyright © 2008 by Bruce Harper.

Copyright © 2008 by Chess'n Math Association.

Photographs from the collections of Duncan Suttles, Nathan Divinsky, and Bruce Harper.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.

published by

Chess'n Math Association,

3423 St. Denis #400, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2X 3L1

[www.chess-math.org](http://www.chess-math.org)

Tel (514) 845-8352 Fax (514) 845-8810

website for these books:

<http://www.suttlesbook.com>

Webmaster: Len Molden

ISBN 978-1-895525-17-5

The volumes of this series have the following last three digits in their ISBN: Volume 1, 15-1. Volume 2, 16-8, Volume 3, 17-5

Copy Editors: Robin Harper, Ramona Roberts

Proofreaders: Dan Scoones, Erik Malmsten

Diagrams: Jonathan Berry's YesWeDoDiagrams (customized)

Typeset: Jonathan Berry with Xerox Ventura Publisher 2, PCLWorks

Cover design: Leslee Hyman

Harper, Bruce Seirawan, Yasser

Chess on the Edge, Volume 3

The Collected Games of Canadian Grandmaster Duncan Suttles

First printing: February 2008

346 + vi pages; 294+4 full games, 57 stubs; 472 chess diagrams

## Acknowledgements

It should come as no surprise that many people assisted with this project. They include the players who were kind enough to provide us with games, especially Colin Aykroyd and Brian Potter; International Masters Lawrence Day, John Donaldson and Gerard Welling; the editors of regional and national magazines who preserved games and notes which otherwise might have been lost, especially Nathan Divinsky, who edited *Chess Chat*; and copy editors and proofreaders Robin Harper, Ramona Roberts, Dan Scoones, and Erik Malmsten.

A more complete acknowledgment of these contributions is found in Volume 1.

We acknowledge the cooperation and contributions of Grandmaster Duncan Suttles himself, particularly in playing the games which made these books possible.

## Interview with Grandmaster Duncan Suttles

Q: What do you think of the book?

A: It's good.

Q: Were you involved in the book?

A: Yes. We analyzed some of the games especially for the book, and many others we'd analyzed anyway. I didn't do any writing.

Q: Do you think reading the book will have an effect on the reader's rating?

A: For sure, one way or the other.

Q: What game in the book is your favorite?

A: Cook - Suttles, Canadian Open, 1973.

Q: What would you do if someone asked you to sign their copy of the book?

*Enjoy The Book*  
*Duncan Suttles*

## Preface to Volume 3

The third and final volume of the series of Canadian Grandmaster Duncan Suttles' games contains the games which begin with the "B" to "E" categories of openings, using the opening classification system popularized by the *Encyclopedia of Chess Openings*.

This volume features Suttles' encounters with a variety of Black defenses, including the Nimzowitsch, Center Counter, Alekhine's, Caro-Kann and French. Rats appear in profusion, and Rat players will find much of interest, as well as inspiration, in this volume.

The evolution in Suttles' approach to the Sicilian defense can also be seen. The radical Wing Gambit is followed by a grudging admission that the Sicilian is sound, to an abandonment of the open variation in favor of the Closed Sicilian. Here, where ideas are more important than precise variations, lies buried treasure for those willing to dig for it.

The volume ends with weird openings such as the Vienna, Ruy López and even the Queen's Gambit.

As with Volume 2, some games are presented in their entirety only in Volume 1, but Volume 3 contains some memorable games as well:

Hübner-Suttles, Palma de Mallorca, 1970 (page 675)—a vicious, confusing street fight.

Underhill-Suttles, Cincinnati, 1964 (page 676)—Suttles at work in a weekend Swiss, making something out of nothing.

Rubin-Suttles, Montreal, 1973 (page 682)—Suttles exploits his advantage in the usual manner — by running his king into the middle of the board to escape a mating attack.

Gufeld-Suttles, Suhumi, 1972 (page 693)—an absolute classic, one of Suttles' best.

Gutiérrez-Suttles, Mayaguez, 1971 (page 709)—another superb game, culminating in a death-defying king walk to safety.

Benko-Suttles, Boston, 1964 (page 715)—the loss which made Suttles famous.

Matulović-Suttles, Palma de Mallorca, 1970 (page 721)—an eventful draw.

Harmon-Suttles, Seattle, 1963 (page 753)—arguably the funniest game in any of the three volumes.

Cook-Suttles, Ottawa, 1973 (page 770)—Suttles' personal favorite.

Suttles-Potter, Vancouver, 1961 (page 811)—despite this early catastrophe, Suttles went on to become a Grandmaster.

Suttles-Cleghorn, Seattle, 1964 (page 814)—a close runner-up for the funniest game.

Larsen-Suttles, Sousse, 1967 (page 824)—an impressive rout of the Danish Grandmaster during his best year.

Siaperas-Suttles, Skopje, 1972 (page 856)—Suttles unleashes a prepared line against the Closed Sicilian.

Enjoy the book!

*Nimzowitsch Defense B00/14*

**Suttles - Avram, H**

*Chicago, U.S. Open, 1963*

1.e4  $\text{c6}$  2.d4 e5 3.dxe5  $\text{cxe5}$   
4.f4  $\text{c6}$  5. $\text{c4}$  c6?!

Both 5...d5 6. $\text{cxd5}$   $\text{cxf6}$  7. $\text{cxf7}$   $\text{cxf7}$  8. $\text{cxd8}$   $\text{b4}$  9. $\text{cxd2}$   $\text{cxd2}$  10. $\text{cxd2}$   $\text{cxf4}$  and 5... $\text{b4}$  6.c3  $\text{c6}$  7.e5  $\text{c7}$  8. $\text{cxe2}$   $\text{c5}$  lead to equality, according to *Chess Chat*. We have our doubts.

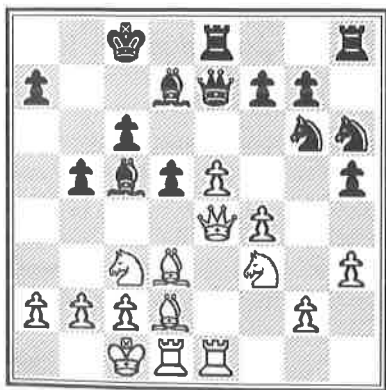
6. $\text{c3}$   $\text{c5}$  7. $\text{c3}$   $\text{c7}$  8. $\text{c7}$   $\text{b5}$  9. $\text{c3}$  d6 10.h3 h5?!  
11. $\text{c2}$   $\text{c7}$  12.O-O-O O-O-O

If Black feels compelled to castle, there's really nowhere else to go, but it might have been better for Black just to leave his king in the center.

13. $\text{c1}$   $\text{e8}$  14.e5!  $\text{h6}$   
15. $\text{c4}$ !?

Suttles is not satisfied with the positional 15. $\text{c6}$   $\text{fxg6}$  16. $\text{c4}$ , which leaves White with a dominating central position. 15. $\text{c4}$ ! threatens 16. $\text{cxb5}$  and provokes Black's response.

15...d5



16. $\text{cxd5}$ !  $\text{cxd5}$  17. $\text{cxd5}$   $\text{c7}$   
18. $\text{c4}$

White can also win with 18. $\text{c5}$   $\text{b6}$  19. $\text{c4}$   $\text{b8}$  (Black cannot allow 20. $\text{c7}$ !) 20. $\text{c4}$ !  $\text{c6}$  (20... $\text{cxb4}$  21. $\text{cxd7}$  mate) 21. $\text{c6}$   $\text{c8}$  22. $\text{cxb8}$   $\text{cxd5}$  23. $\text{cxd5}$   $\text{cxb8}$  24. $\text{cxf7}$ !  $\text{cxf7}$  25. $\text{cxd7}$ , but Suttles goes for mate instead. The subsequent course of the game vindicates his judgment, as Black quickly collapses.

18...a6 19. $\text{c4}$   $\text{b8}$  20. $\text{c6}$   $\text{c6}$  21. $\text{cxc5}$   $\text{cxc6}$  22. $\text{c5}$   $\text{b7}$  23. $\text{c6}$  1:0

*Nimzowitsch Defense B00/14*

**Suttles - McCormick, J**

*Eugene, 1963*

1.e4  $\text{c6}$  2.d4 e5 3.dxe5  $\text{cxe5}$   
4.f4  $\text{c6}$  5. $\text{c3}$  d6 6. $\text{c4}$   $\text{e7}$   
7.O-O  $\text{c6}$  8. $\text{c3}$  O-O

The players already appear to have departed from theory. Suttles certainly has played the first few moves with classic simplicity.

9.a3  $\text{d7}$ !

Presumably to continue with 10... $\text{c6}$ , but also inviting White to spend time going after Black's e7- $\text{c}$ . Suttles accepts the challenge.

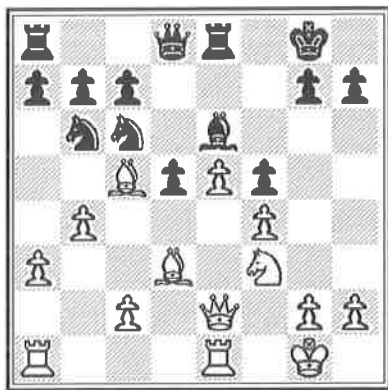
10. $\text{c5}$   $\text{b6}$  11. $\text{c7}$   $\text{c7}$   
12. $\text{c3}$

White has two bishops and a potentially mobile center, but lacks development. Black now takes action before White can mobilize the rest of his forces.

12...f5?! 13. $\text{c1}$   $\text{f6}$ ?

Inconsistent, although after 13... $\text{fxe4}$  14. $\text{cxe4}$ , White will still have an edge.

14.e5!  $\text{c7}$ ! 15. $\text{c3}$  d5 16.b4!  
 $\text{e8}$  17. $\text{c5}$   $\text{d8}$  18. $\text{c2}$   $\text{e6}$



White has made considerable progress in the last six or seven moves. He has obtained control of the center, has a firm grip on the dark squares, especially the c5-square, and his two bishops give him good attacking prospects if he can open the position. With this in mind, Suttles energetically tries to smash Black's f5-♗ barrier in order launch a direct attack on Black's king.

19.♟g5 ♖d7 20.g4! g6  
21.gxf5?

White wins with 21.♟xe6! ♜xe6  
22.gxf5 gxf5 23.♜h1! (not 23.♜h5  
♜g6†).

21...♜xf5

After 21...gxf5, both 22.♟xe6 and  
22.♜h1 are strong.

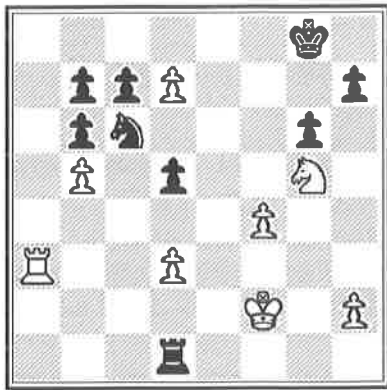
22.e6 ♜xd3

22...♜g7 23.♜xf5 gxf5 24.♜h1! is  
good for White. There now follows a  
blaze of tactics, all of which Suttles  
must have seen.

23.exd7! ♜xe2 24.♜xb6 axb6  
25.cxd3 ♜xa3 26.♜xa3 ♜xe1†  
27.♜f2 ♜d1?!

Black's last chance was 27...♜e7,  
although he still loses a piece.

28.b5



28.♜a8†! ♜g7 29.b5 was even bet-  
ter, after which White wins Black's  
c6-♟ and keeps his d7-♗. But 28.b5 is  
good enough to win, because Black  
resigned.

1:0

Center Counter B01/10

Suttles - Wade, D

Seattle, 1961

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♟f6 3.c4 c6  
4.dxc6?!

Greedy. It is safer to transpose  
into a Panov-Botvinnik attack with  
4.d4!

4...♟xc6 5.d3 e5 6.f4?

White is behind in development  
and has central weaknesses—what  
could be more natural than to open  
up the position?

In his "notes" to this game in the  
February 1983 issue of *Northwest  
Chess*, Larry Parr calls 6.f4 "a classic  
Suttles idea. The move can be found  
nowhere, but in any event, the posi-  
tion almost verges on an opening  
trap. It's difficult to suggest anything  
constructive for White."

Far from "a classic Suttles idea",  
6.f4? is just a bad move.

To introduce this game (in an ar-  
ticle about the victor, Dan Wade),



Parr calls this game "a perfect example of how GM Suttles lost in those days and how, in fact, he loses in these days [1983]." It's hard to tell if this is an attempt at humor or just inane. Perhaps Parr ought to have played Suttles in 1983 and found out.

One of the best things about *Northwest Chess*, which has rightly won awards for being a top regional chess publication, is that it would publish anything. The authors have written for it, so they know.

Enough discussion of the First Amendment. Back to the game.

6...♖b4† 7.♗c3 e4!?

A interesting way to handle the position.

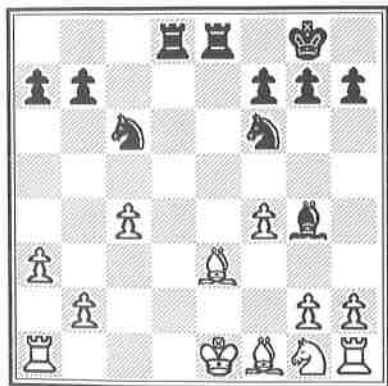
8.a3 ♖g4 9.♗d2 ♖xc3 10.♗xc3 O-O 11.♖e3 exd3

Of course Black isn't going to allow White to get away with 12.d4.

12.♗xd3?

Here is White's real mistake. After 12.♖xd3, he is still in the game.

12...♖e8 13.♗xd8 ♖axd8



Can you say "development"?

14.♗f2 ♖d1!

A nice finish, although 14...♖h5! was even stronger. After 14...♖d1!,

Black threatens 15...♗g4†, and if 15.h3 ♗e4† 16.♗e1 ♗g3.

Here Parr even gives variations, of all things! He elaborates on 15.h3 ♗e4† 16.♗e1 ♗g3, giving 17.♖xd1 ♖xe3† 18.♗f2 ♖xd1 19.♗e3 ♖xf1, offers 15.♖c1 (most players would resign rather than play a move like that) 15...♗e4† 16.♗e1 (setting everything up for the next game) 16...♗g3†, and convinces us that 15.♖xd1 ♗g4† 16.♗f3 ♖xd1 17.♗xg4 ♖xf1 18.♖c5 ♖ee1 19.♗g3 b6 20.♖f2 ♖d1 favors Black as well.

15.♖e2 ♖xe2 16.♗xe2 ♗g4† 17.♗f3 ♖xe3† 18.♗xg4 ♖xe2 19.g3 ♖xb2 20.♖he1 g6 21.h3 ♖d3 22.♗g5

White shows fighting spirit.

22...♗g7 23.♖g1 ♗d4 24.♖gb1 ♖xg3† 25.♗h4 ♗f5† mate

Center Counter B01/10

Suttles - Rodriguez, O

Indonesia, 1982

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♗f6 3.d4 ♗xd5 4.c4 ♗b6 5.♗c3 e5 6.♗e2!?

The *Encyclopedia of Chess Openings* gives this line, but without crediting (or blaming) Suttles.

6...♗xd4 7.♗f3 ♗c5 8.♖e3!?

♗a5 9.c5!?

9.♖d2 is calmer.

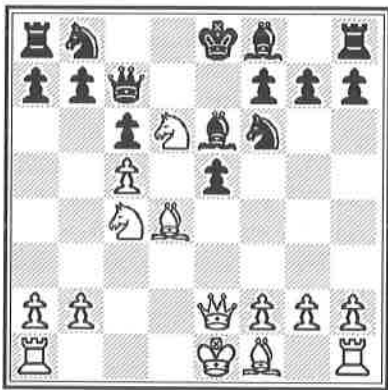
9...♗d7!

Not going along with White's idea of 9...♖xc5? 10.♗b5† ♗xb5 11.♖xb5 c6 12.♖xc5 cxb5 13.♗xb5 ♗a6 14.♗d6†.

10.♗d2!? c6?!

After 10...♗c6 11.♗c4 ♗b4 12.O-O-O, White has an edge.

11.  $\text{c4}$   $\text{c7?!}$  12.  $\text{e4}$   $\text{f6}$   
 13.  $\text{d4!?}$   $\text{e6}$  14.  $\text{ed6}\dagger$   
 Draw



After 14... $\text{dxd6}$  15. $\text{dxd6}\dagger$   $\text{c8f8}$   
 16. $\text{exd5}$ , White is better.

### Center Counter B01/11

Suttles - Fliegel, J

California, 1965

1.  $\text{e4}$   $\text{d5}$  2.  $\text{exd5}$   $\text{f6}$  3.  $\text{b5}\dagger$   
 $\text{d7}$  4.  $\text{dxe2}$

An unusual continuation pioneered by Bronstein. The alternative is 4.  $\text{c4}$ , to hang on to White's  $\text{d5-f}$  for a while.

4...  $\text{xd5}$  5.  $\text{d4}$   $\text{g6}$  6.  $\text{c4}$   $\text{f6}$   
 7.  $\text{d3}$   $\text{d7}$  8.  $\text{dxe3}$  O-O

White's experiment hasn't gone badly. He has a pretty good grip on the center and could now continue simply with 9.  $\text{f3}$ , when neither 9...  $\text{g4}$  10.  $\text{d4}$  nor 9...  $\text{g4}$  10.  $\text{h3}$  solves Black's problems. Instead, White plays as though everything has been resolved (in his favor) in the center.

9.  $\text{h4!?}$   $\text{c5!}$

In accordance with Nimzowitsch's dictum that an action on the flank should be met by an attack in the center. Black actually sacrifices a pawn with this move, but White's

"kingside attack" lasts only one move (if that).

10.  $\text{dxc5}$   $\text{a5}$

Threatening 11...  $\text{e4}$ .

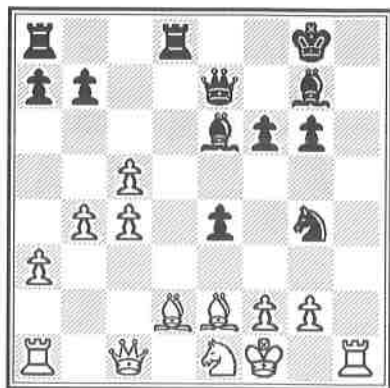
11.  $\text{f1!?}$   $\text{d8}$  12.  $\text{a3}$   $\text{f5}$   
 13.  $\text{c1}$   $\text{g4}$  14.  $\text{b4}$   $\text{c7}$  15.  $\text{d4}$   
 $\text{d7}$  16.  $\text{f3}$

White is a pawn up, and his opponent hasn't developed all his pieces, but Black's bishops have good diagonals, his  $\text{g4-f}$  is strongly posted, and White's forces are uncoordinated. Not a bad return for one pawn.

16...  $\text{e5}$  17.  $\text{d5}$   $\text{f6}$  18.  $\text{dxe3}$   $\text{c6}$   
 19.  $\text{d5}$   $\text{d6}$  20.  $\text{h5}$

Consistent. White's thought is that he's a pawn ahead, the center is a big mess, and so he'll just keep playing. Black might now consider 20...  $\text{g5}$ , keeping the kingside closed.

20...  $\text{e7}$  21.  $\text{h5}$   $\text{g6}$   $\text{h5}$   $\text{g6}$   
 22.  $\text{dxe7}\dagger$   $\text{cxe7}$  23.  $\text{d2}$   $\text{e4}$   
 24.  $\text{d1}$



24...  $\text{d8d7?!}$

The *California Chess Reporter* questions this move, recommending 24...  $\text{e5}$ , with the idea of ...  $\text{e5-d3}$ . Another idea is 24...  $\text{a5}$ , trying to break up White's queenside pawns. This would seem to be the crucial

position, with Black's compensation for his pawn being at its peak.

25.♠f4 ♖ad8 26.♖a2! ♜f7  
27.♖c2 g5 28.♗d6 ♜g6

Obviously things aren't going Black's way.

29.♖c3 ♜f5?! 30.♗xg4 ♜xg4  
31.♗c2 ♜f5? 32.♗e3?!

This and White's next move are positionally strong and thematic, securing the position of White's e3-♗. But 32.♗d4! won a piece on the spot.

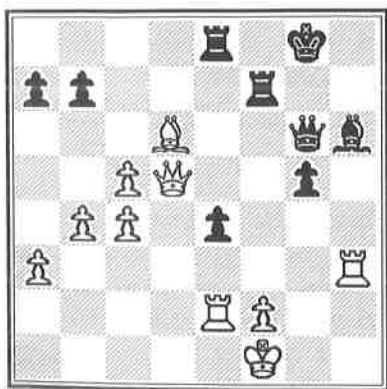
32...♜g6 33.g4

The maneuver ...♜f7-g6-fxg4-f5-g6 is aesthetically pleasing, but while Black was engaged in this operation, White has achieved a superior position. Despite his missed opportunity on the previous move, White dominates the center and Black has difficulty finding counterplay.

33...♖f7 34.♖c2 f5?! 35.gxf5  
♗x5 36.♗xf5

Simplifying, but White's e3-♗ was very nice.

36...♖xf5 37.♜d1 ♖f3 38.♜d5+  
♖f7 39.♖e2 ♖e8 40.♖h3 ♗h6



41.♖f3!

A bit unexpected.

41...♜e6 42.♖xe4! ♜xe4  
43.♜xf7+ ♜h8 44.♜h5 ♜xc4+  
45.♜g2 ♜e6 46.♗e5+ ♜g8  
47.♗f6 ♗g7 1:0

Black lost on time. A strange and somewhat unsatisfying game, except for White's skillful handling of his rooks in the last ten moves.

*Alekhine's B02/2*

**Suttles - Mecking, H**

*Sousse, Interzonal, 1967*

1.e4 ♗f6 2.♗c3 d5

It is hard to know what to call this opening, which has already gone from an Alekhine's Defense to an (almost) Vienna to an (almost) Center Counter.

3.e5 ♗fd7

And it could now become a French Defense, but...

4.e6?!

To thine own self be true—especially in an Interzonal! Spielmann (“Such a pawn sacrifice must pay dividends”) and Tartakower (“A pugnacious spirit would go for 4.e6”) both advocated this move, but 4.e6?! isn't really sound. In fact, this game has the honor of appearing in the *Encyclopedia of Chess Openings* as the negative example of 4.e6?!.  
4...fxe6 5.d4 ♗f6 6.♗f3 g6  
7.♗e5

Hort suggests 7.♗f4.

7...♗g7 8.h4

Direct, but insufficient.

8...c5 9.h5 cxd4 10.h6 dxc3

This is the best way.

11.hxg7 ♖g8 12.♜d4 ♗bd7  
13.♗b5 ♜b6

Ivkov commends this move, but 13...♜a5!? might be even better.