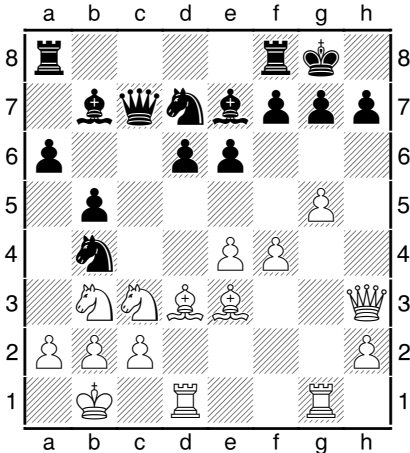


□ Minasian Artashes

■ Grivas Efstratios

B33 Ankara 1995

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♗b6 5.♘b3 ♘f6 6.♘c3 e6 7.♙d3 d6 8.♙e3 ♗c7 9.f4 a6 10.♗f3 ♙e7 11.0-0 b5 12.♖b1 ♘b4 13.g4 ♙b7 14.g5 ♘d7 15.♗h3 0-0 16.♞hg1 (D)

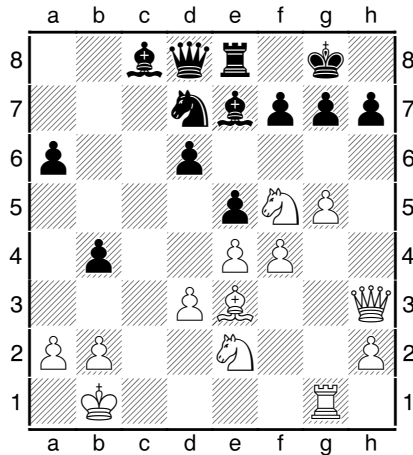


This is a well-known position (at least to me) in the ever dangerous 'Grivas Sicilian'. Other moves here are 16.♘d4 and 16.♞hf1. Here I played a prepared novelty...

16...♞fc8?

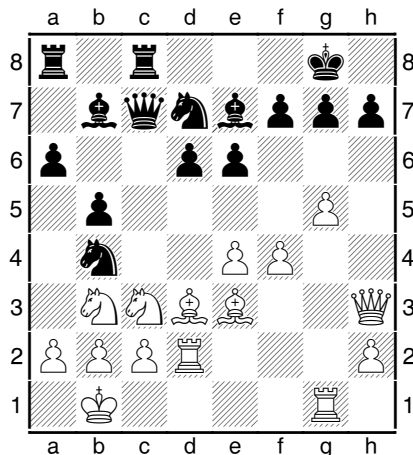
In 1995, without any computer help, I did believe that this was 'the only good move in this position, and a novelty at the time. Only this move can guarantee the viability of Black's position. All other tries in this position have led to disaster.'

Actually, nowadays I know that this is a quite bad move. Black is obliged to play 16...♘xd3! 17.cxd3 b4! 18.♘e2 ♞fe8! 19.♘bd4 (19.f5 exf5 20.exf5 ♘e5 21.f6 ♙f8 ∞ ; 19.♘ed4 e5 20.♘f5 exf4 21.♞c1 ♗d8 22.♙xf4 ♘e5 23.♗g3 ♖h8 ∞) 19...e5 20.♘f5 ♞ac8 21.♞c1 ♗d8 22.♞xc8 ♙xc8 (D)



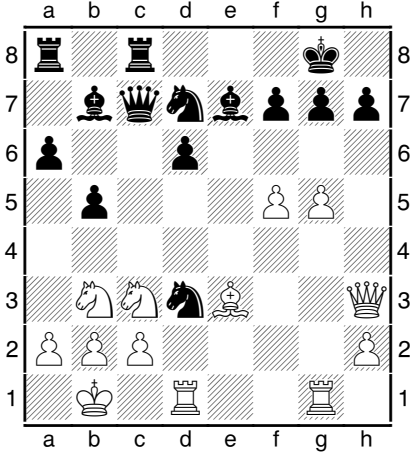
With a very unclear position, in which both sides have their chances. But how did I come up with such a weird move as 16...♞fc8? I based it on a quite sophisticated plan, which involves both black rooks rolling down the c-file - a powerful attack to be created. Unfortunately, today I know that my general idea was correct, but fails due to certain tactics! It makes me feel sorrow for my bad piece of analysis...

17.♞d2? (D)

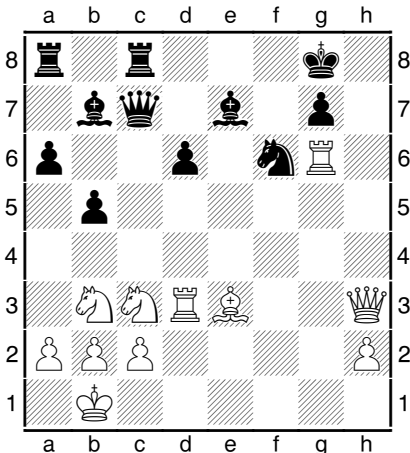


White defends against the threat of 17...♘xd3 18.cxd3 b4 while at the same time preparing to double his rooks on the g-file. This, along with the idea ♘d1-f2-g4-h6+, will be the main theme of White's attack. Another possibility is 17.♘d4 e5! 18.♘f5 ♙f8! with unclear consequences. But as my faithful engine alerted me (many years after by the way...) 17.f5! seems to

trouble Black a lot: 17...exf5 (17...♖xd3 18.g6! hxg6 19.fxg6 ♜f6 20.cxd3 b4 21.♗a4 [21.gxf7+! ♕xf7 22.♗d4 ±] 21...♖c2+ 22.♔a1 ♖c6 23.gxf7+ ♕f8 (23...♕xf7 24.♗d4! +-) 24.♜g5 ♜xg5 25.♞xg5 1-0 Simmelink,J-Bergqvist,M cor. 1999) 18.exf5 (18.g6 hxg6 19.exf5 ±) 18...♗xd3 (D)



19.g6! (again White has no time to recapture the knight: 19.cxd3? ♗e5 20.♗d4 ♖d7! [20...♜f8 21.♗ce2 ♞e8 22.♞g3 ♞ac8 23.♗f4 b4 24.g6 fxg6 25.fxg6 ♗xg6 26.♞xg6 hxg6 27.♗xg6 ♞xe3 28.♖xe3 ± Kotronias,V-Grivas,E Athens 1995] 21.♗e4 ♜xe4 22.dxe4 g6 ∞) 19...fxg6 (19...hxg6 20.fxg6 fxg6 21.♖e6+ ♕f8 22.♖xg6! [22.♞xd3 ♗f6 23.♞xg6 ±] 22...♜f6 23.♜h6! +-) 20.fxg6 ♗f6 21.♞xd3 hxg6 22.♞xg6 +- (D)



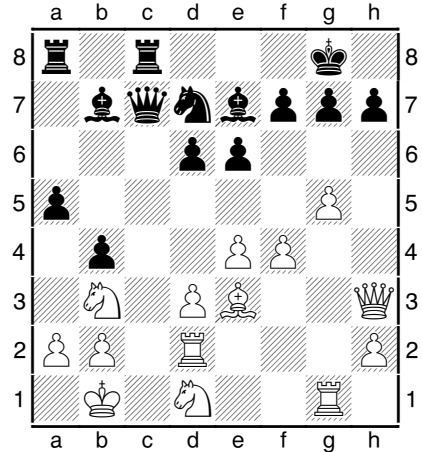
17...♗xd3

Back to business again!

**18.cxd3 b4! 19.♗d1**

Maybe White could choose 19.♗e2 although Black looks quite nice after 19...♗c5 20.♗bd4 (20.♞c1 a5) 20...b3 ♞.

**19...a5! (D)**

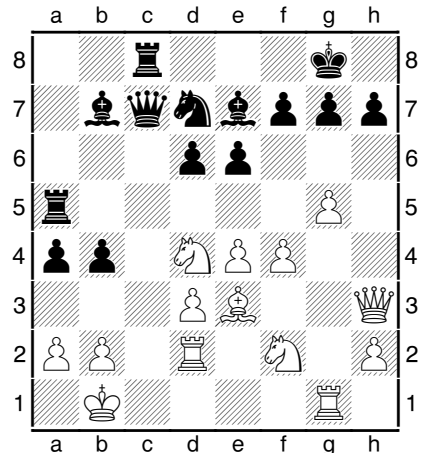


The point behind Black's 16<sup>th</sup> move. If the attack is going to succeed then all black pieces must participate. It now becomes clear why Black chose the f-rook: the a8-rook participates both in attack and in defence (it will soon appear on a5), creating dangerous threats, while the advance of the a-pawn will weaken White's king.

**20.♗f2 a4?!**

20...e5! is probably best: 21.f5 a4 22.♗a1 b3! with a black initiative. But I had my own idea and I was stuck with it...

**21.♗d4 ♞a5! (D)**



The main part of the plan. Not satisfactory is

21...e5?! 22.♖f5 ♔f8 23.♗g4 and White has more dangerous threats or 21...a3 22.b3 e5?! 23.♖f5 ♔f8 24.fxh6 ♗e5 (24...dxe5 25.♗h6+! gxh6 26.gxh6+ ♖h8 27.♖g3 ♗f6 28.d4! ♜a5 29.dxe5 ♜xe5 30.♙d4 ♜ce8 31.♙a1 ±) 25.d4 ♗g6 26.d5 ♙a6 27.♙d4 ♖h8 28.♖g3 ±. The black rook on c5 (to be placed soon from a5) is the main attacker (through the c-file) and the main defender (through the fifth rank) of Black's position. And the Oscar goes to this rook!

### 22.♗g4?

It seems that White was stuck with his own plan as well! Two optimists were just ignoring the facts! Again 22.f5! was best: 22...exf5 (22...♜c5? 23.♜e2 a3 24.fxh6 ♙xg5 25.exf7+ ♖h8 26.♗b3 [26.♗e6?? ♜c1+ 27.♜xc1 ♖xc1+ 28.♙xc1 ♜xc1 #] 26...♜c2 27.f8 ♖+ ♗xf8 28.♖xc8 ♜xb2+ 29.♜xb2 ♖xc8 30.♜c2 ♙e3 31.♜xc8 ♙xc8 32.♜g3 ♙f4 33.♜f3 g5 34.h4 ±) 23.♗xf5 (23.exf5 ♗e5 24.f6 ♜c5 25.♜e2 ♙f8 ∞) 23...♗c5 24.♜c1 ♖d8 25.d4 ♗d7 26.♜xc8 ♙xc8 27.♖g3 b3! ∞.

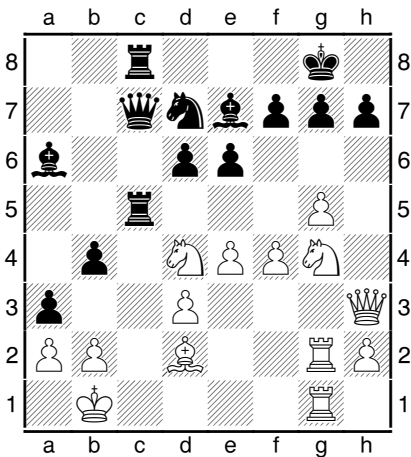
### 22...♜c5 23.♜dg2

Defending c1 and enforcing the g-file, preparing the sac ♗h6+.

### 23...♙a6!

All of Black's pieces are active and create multiple threats, denying White a respite to further his own aims.

### 24.♙d2 a3! (D)

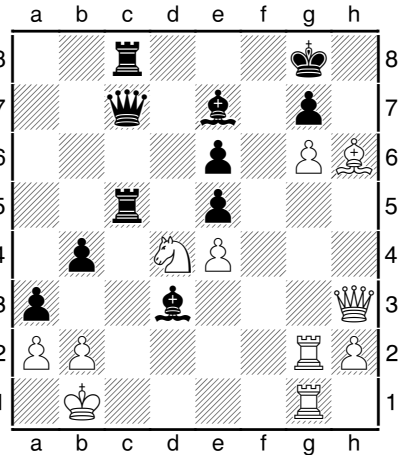


White's position becomes critical. He now decides to complicate matters, hoping for salvation in an attack against the black king. After all, this is what he had prepared with

his last moves...

### 25.♗h6+?!

Naturally, 25.bxa3? bxa3 leaves the king very exposed, while; 25.b3? ♜c3!! is also very troublesome: 26.♙xc3 ♖xc3 27.♜d1 ♖xd4 +. The position is extremely difficult to assess and this is the kind where we do not rely on evaluation, but simply only on tactical sequences. The last alternative was 25.f5, which leads to extreme complications, visible only by a chess engine: 25...♗e5 26.♗xe5 (26.fxh6? ♙xd3+) 26...dxe5 27.g6 fxg6 28.fxg6 h6 29.♙xh6! (29.♖xe6+? ♖h8 30.♖xa6 exd4 31.♙xh6 ♙d6!! 32.♙d2 ♙f4 ♢) 29...♙xd3+ (D)



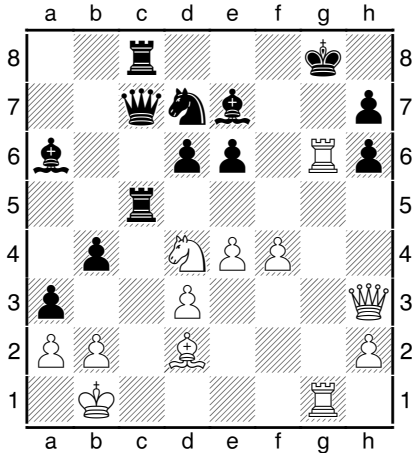
30.♗c2!! (30.♖xd3? exd4 +) 30...♙h4!! (30...♜xc2? 31.♖xe6+ ♖h8 32.♙xg7+ ♖xg7 33.♖f7+ ♖h6 34.♖h7 # ; 30...♙xc2+? 31.♜xc2 ♜xc2 32.♖xe6+ ♖h8 33.♙xg7+ ♖xg7 34.♖f7+ ♖h6 35.♖h7 #) 31.♖xd3 gxh6 and Black's chances seem to be better... The reader can be assured that both opponents have seen nothing of it during the game...

### 25...gxh6 26.g6

After 26.gxh6+ ♖h8 27.♖g3 ♙g5!! (the star rook again comes in handy!) 28.fxg5 ♜c2 (28...♗e5 +) 29.bxa3 bxa3 White is dead lost.

### 26...fxg6! 27.♜xg6+ (D)

If 27.♗xe6 then 27...♖c6 +. Also, 27.♖xe6+ ♖h8 28.♖xe7 ♙xd3+ 29.♙a1 ♜c1+! is decisive as well.

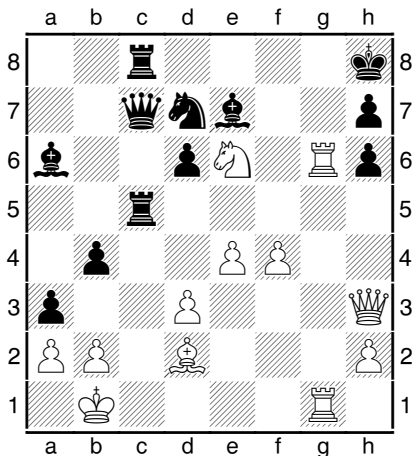


**27...♔h8!**

27...hxg6? 28.♖xg6+ ♔f7 29.♗xe6+ ♔e8 30.♖g8+ ♔f8 31.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 32.♗xh6+ ♔e8 33.♗g6+, would make White happy, as he could escape with a draw.

**28.♕xc6?! (D)**

28.♗xh6?? ♗xd3+ 29.♔a1 ♖c1+! leads to checkmate, but White might have tried; 28.♖xh6 ♕f6! 29.♕xe6, where Black had to find the extremely elegant (and only move) 29...♖g5! (the star rook again!) 30.♕xc7 (30.♖c1 ♗xc1+! 31.♗xc1 ♖g1! →) 30...♖xg1+ 31.♔c2 ♖xc7+ 32.♔b3 ♖d1 →.



**28...♖h5!!**

A brilliant tactical shot by the star rook, clearing the way for the queen to reach c2. White is lost in all variations.

**29.♖g8+**

The last - but inadequate - try. Otherwise:

29.♗xh5 ♗c2+ 30.♔a1 ♗xb2 # or 29.♕xc7 ♖xh3 30.♖e6 ♗xd3+ 31.♔a1 ♗f6 →.

**29...♖xg8 30.♖xg8+ ♔xg8 31.♗g3+ ♖g5!**

Another easy but nice tactical shot, once more by the star rook!

**32.fxg5 ♗b6**

And Black emerged from the complications a piece up...

**33.g6**

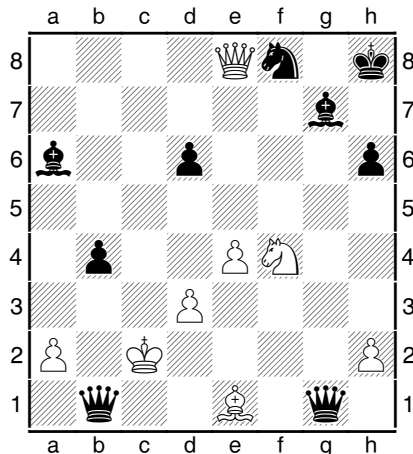
White prolongs the game only because of the mutual time-trouble, but the result never comes into doubt. 33.gxh6+ ♔f7 was also winning for Black.

**33...♗f6! 34.gxh7+ ♔xh7 35.♗h3 ♔g8**

**36.♗g4+ ♔f7 37.♕f4 ♕f8 38.♗h5+ ♔g8**

**39.♗d5+ ♔h8 40.♗f7 ♗g7 41.♗e8 ♗g1+**

**42.♔c2 axb2 43.♗e1 b1♗+ (D)**



Here White's flag fell (no extra 30 seconds per move in this era), we restored the last moves that were not recorded by either player and White simply resigned as 40 moves had been done...

**0-1**