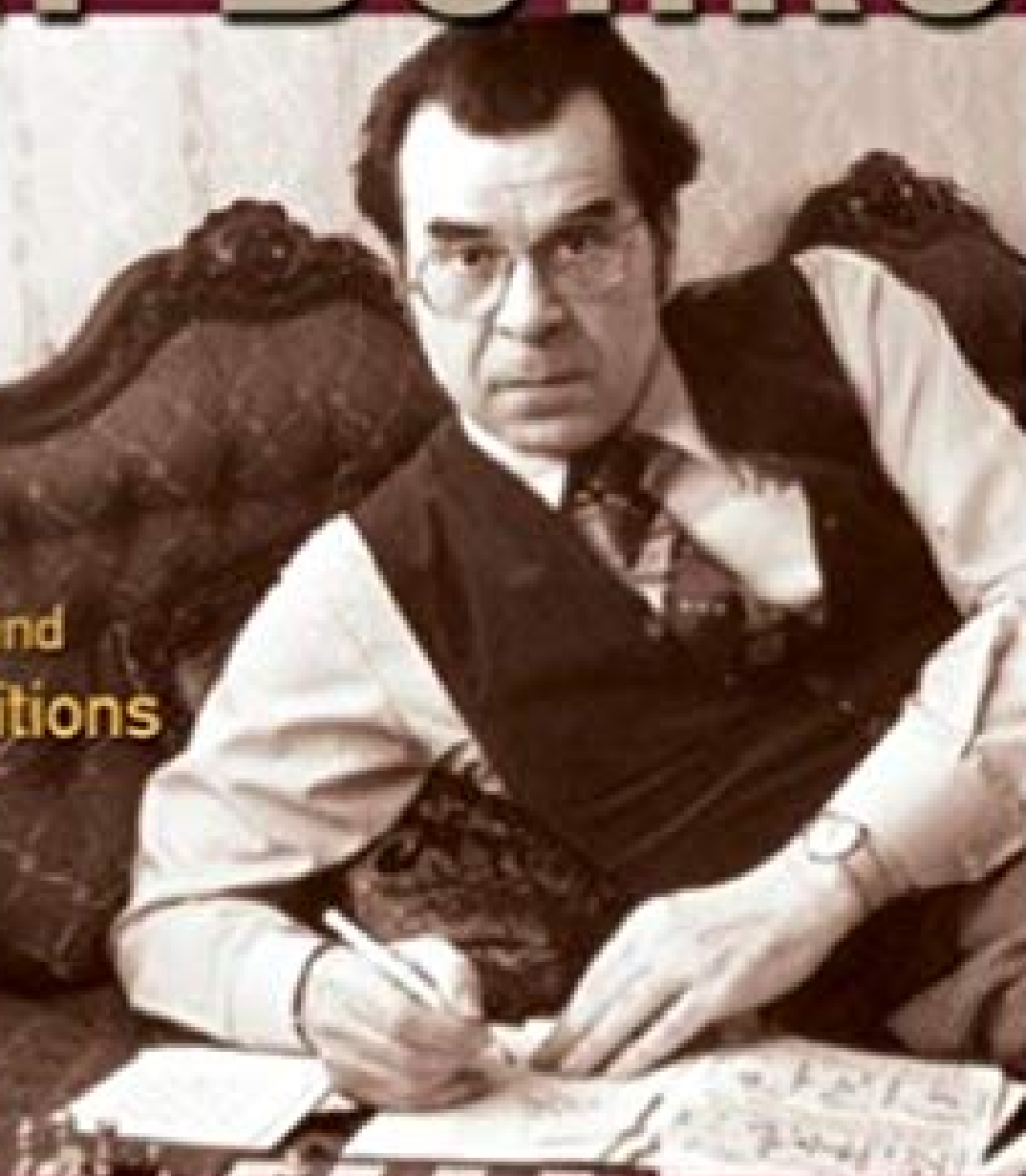


"Pal Benko's love of chess is an inspiration. A most impressive autobiography!"
—GM Lubomir Kavalek, three-time U.S. Chess Champion, chess columnist for *The Washington Post*

Pal Benko

My Life,
Games and
Compositions



BY GM Pal Benko and IM Jeremy Silman

OPENING SURVEY BY IM John Watson FOREWORD BY GM Susan Polgar

Pal Benko

Pal Benko: My Life, Games, and Compositions



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Photos & game diagrams. From his early years in war-torn Hungary to his legendary chess competitions, this autobiography and game collection features details on the Grandmaster's myriad openings, middlegame positions, and strength in the endgame.



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A truly amazing effort and a joy to read In all honesty, I've never been a huge fan of Benko... Benko was an applicant for the Globe Championship on two events, 1959 and 1962. I must have more than 100 chess books in my collection, yet this volume stands out, mind and shoulders above the rest. In the first area of the book, Benko tells about his life and annotates more than 130 of his best games. For starters, this is a tremendous effort by two of the best writers in the business: Jeremy Silman and John Watson. They took 5 years to place this jointly - 5 years! Most chess books nowadays are written in several months by using large databases and computer analysis. Not this one. Care was taken to discover some amazing aged photographs with lots of tales about legendary players. Lots of time and believed has been placed into this. Finally, the way it is presented is quite pleasing - hardcover with plenty of big diagrams and clear fonts. At \$30, that is really a bargain. Together with My Great Predecessors I and II, this book should be on every chessplayers' bookshelf. More Analysis than Biography My only problem with this splendid volume is that there surely is really very little biography included. The biography is definitely split up by 130 well-annotated video games, resulting in significantly less than 1/4 of the book being pure biography. We likewise have a completely superfluous interview section. The book itself is an excellent oversized hardcover edition that will endure to repeated readings and playing through of the chess games. This is a volume that may last generations. Also having three chess authors is similar to having too many cooks in your kitchen. This all adds up to a complete watch of Benko the chess participant. I'm completed, and haven't yet possessed the book a whole time! I stayed up last night from midnight till 4 AM, reading all of the history and interviews. Pal Benko Offers Inspiration and also Chess I like the reserve and found his video games interesting and his existence an inspiration. When I informed him I was playing never to lose in a game in which I was obviously at an advantage that ended in a pull, he encouraged me to go for the win and have confidence in your instincts and go for the win when you have the benefit or you will miss out on the benefits of winning, in words to that impact. I fulfilled Pal benko at a global Open chess Tournament in Philadelphia and he provided some words of advice throughout a review of one of my games. I have not forgotten our meeting though it was years back.. (Silman really pushed the standard of what quality chess books should look like.) play. Probably the most exciting chess reads I've ever endured, I really like this book! Many thanks to all who put it jointly. Bravo! (The writer of this review is rated around 2200 and owns above 100 chess books) This is the best biography and video game collection. Bravo! Not only is the non-chess material gripping, but the video games chosen are fascinating games and the annotations will improve any chessplayer's middle game (and endgame and opening! I can't wait to possess this reserve for the others of my life. The eleventh is definitely a game with White colored, against Berry. Benko - a superb book I bought this book mainly because an afterthought - it helped me reach a total purchase with free delivery.! Absolutely amazing This book is amazing, Silman apparently did most of the writing and I'm glad he did, Benko's compelling life stories and Silman's writing skills combine into an unbelievable book. it turned out to be probably the most rewarding chess book buy I can remember, and I have a 160 as well as library with all the most highly rated books, including best video games by Capa, Alekhine, Tal, Fischer, Bronstein and so forth... The games section of this terrific book will probably be worth the price, alone. Benko's annotations are instructional and easy to stick to, and rank similarly with Tal and Bronstein's. That is a new kind of chess publication, one which reflects, in practice, the richness of chess itself. this one is a joy to read and will not be found on my bookshelf until I have finished going right through it. It is a candy store of the mind, with tons of interesting, entertaining, well crafted prose, analysis, background, and pictures. Too long I haven't read this reserve but at just how many webpages it has it really is too much time for a biography. Perhaps some individuals might appreciate this much less, but to me it is wonderful. Starting to read it, I quickly saw this is not your normal chess book. It was also a very enjoyable read, with tales woven into instructive games. I bought it and have been functioning my way through the games. Benko is obviously a great player worth study and this volume contains 138 (!) of his most significant and instructive games. They come with great commentary. But what makes it even more interesting is definitely that the games are offered chronologically and interspersed with exciting biography. You really get yourself a sense of him as a human being, the history he lived through, the locations he inhabited, etc. That's even without opening it! I consider this among the best made chess books I own. Simply the finest biography and game collection. A fantastic chess book This is a fantastic book about chess in general and about Grandmaster Pal Benko in particular. until I go through this book!

Why? Included in these are video games against Botvinnik, Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, and Fischer. The book also has an excellent section by John Watson analyzing Benko's openings both with White and Black and concludes with a large selection of Benko's chess problems and compositions. In 1957, Benko escaped from Hungary via Iceland to the West. Seven years afterwards, Benko, now an American, was presented with amnesty by Hungary and could return there. Ultimately, he wound up spending fifty percent his time in Hungary and half in the US. The pictures themselves are a treasure trove; There are eleven games in this section, all Benko Gambits. Benko provides Black in ten of these. Beautiful! It contains a fascinating description of life in Hungary during Globe Battle Two and of life under Communist guideline in Hungary following the war. I recommend this book. A New Standard This book sets a new standard in chess publishing. Filled with biography, games and analysis This is a wonderful book. Still, it ranks with Tal's autobiography in the history of chess biography. I was longing for a little more of Benko the individual. Benko's autobiography is usually lighthearted but historically rich (his story of his preliminary failed try to defect in West Berlin, and his subsequent arrest, interrogation and focus camp experience are amazing, yet harrowing literature), while Silman's interviews are playful and insightful. Benko includes a section on his advancement of the Benko Gambit (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5). the best is the two page sequence of Fischer going to Tal (with IV and surgical gown) in his medical center room, and each of them playing chess on Tal's bed. Now I can start on the games, compositions, and Watson's essay. It has everything, the history of Pal Benko, his life's stories, compositions, feelings, games, openings planning, theoretical stand point therefore much more. I've many books on my shelves that languish, half-read; Congratulations, and thank you for this generous charm of a book. I had the chance to see it and peruse it at the St Louis Chess Club and was instantly impressed by its size, heft and quality. Following the biography we've both a third party study of Benko's openings from both sides, and an array of his complications, mate in x, helpmate, selfmate and endgame research. Finally I agree that the book is a bit expensive--probably since it weights so very much. Wait to get it used.



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