

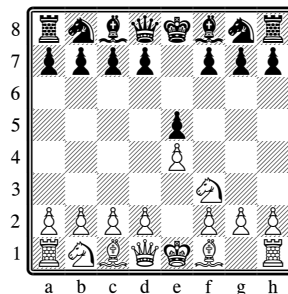
CHESS HISTORY

Pedro Damiano

Portugal, 1480 – 1544



In 1512, Pedro Damiano published a book in Rome, Italy (pictured above) with illustrative games for those who want to learn chess. Damiano tried to determine the best move after 1.e4 e5 2. Nf3:



Black to Play

Damiano showed 2 ... Nc6 as best by provided the analysis 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3 d6 6. Rf1 (castling not yet widespread) Bg4 (6 ... Be6 7. Bxe6 fxe6 8. Qb3) 7. Qb3 Na5 8. Bxf7+ Kf8 9. Qa4 Kxf7 (9 ... c6 10. b4 Kxf7 11. Qxa5) 10 Qxa5.

He provided analysis to show that 2 ... Nf6, 2 ... f5, and 2 ... f6 were bad choices. For example, after 2 ... f6, there would follow: 3. Nxe5 fxe5 4. Qh5+ g6 (4 ... Ke7 5. Qxe5+ Kf7 6. Bc4+ Kg6 [6 ... d5 7. Bxd5+ Kg6 8. h4 h6 9. Bxb7 Bd6 10. Qa5 and wins a piece] 7. Qf5+ Kh6 8. d3+ g5 9. h4 d5 10. hxg5+ Kg7 11. Qe5+ Nf6 12. Qxf6+ Qxf6 13. Qxf6+ Kxf6 14. Bxd5 winning) 5. Qxe5+ Qe7 6. Qxh8 Qxe4+ 7. Kd1.

Somewhat ironically, the bad 2 ... f6 is now known as **Damiano's Defense**.

Damiano also analyzed the Queen's Gambit Accepted, showing that Black cannot safely hold on to his extra pawn 1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e4 b5 4. a4 c6 (4 ... bxa4? 5. Bxc4 followed by Nc3) 5. axb5 cxb5 6. b3 cxb3 7. Bxb5+ Bd7 8. Qxb3 Bxb5 9. Qxb5+ Qd7 9. Qxd7 Nxd7.