

CHESS HISTORY

Luis Ramírez de Lucena

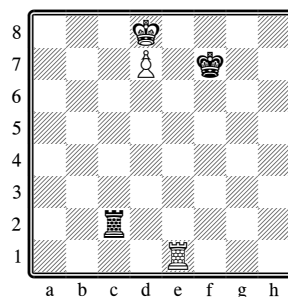
Spain, c.1465 – c.1530



Chess has been around for over 1500 years, but modern chess dates back just over 500 years, when the game was sped up with pawns advancing two squares, "king's leap" rules to quickly move a king to safety, and more powerful queens and bishops. Luis Ramírez de Lucena's book "Discourse on Love and Art of Chess with 150 Positions" is one of the oldest surviving works on chess, with 75 positions using the old rules and 75 with the new rules. It probably "borrows" from an earlier, now lost, book by the founder of modern chess, fellow Spaniard **Francisc Vicent** (1450 – c. 1512). Another surviving work, the *Göttingen manuscript*, has many of the same chess positions and may have also been by Lucena (as he is known).



There is an important winning endgame known as the "**Lucena Position**" that never actually appears in Lucena's book. Black can try to stop White's pawn from queening by checking and harassing White's king whenever he steps into the open. Can you find White's method to win?



White to Play