

From unpublished archives of IM Nikolay Minev

The Dream Match: Lasker vs. Pillsbury

7.0 : 7.0 (+5-5=4)

By IM Nikolay Minev

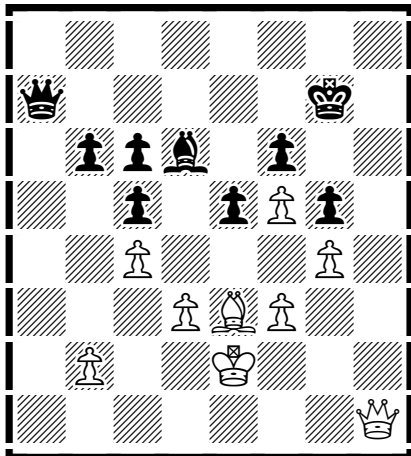
Emanuel Lasker and Harry Pillsbury never played a match in real life. However, if they had it no doubt would have been interesting. Lasker was of course World Champion for more than 2 decades. Pillsbury never played in a World Championship match, but was thought by many to be a strong contender. He most famously won the strong Hastings 1895 tournament ahead of Lasker, who finished third. The situation was reversed in London 1899, where Lasker finished first, and Pillsbury second.

The two did play 14 games with one another in the course of their tournament careers, with an even result overall. Pillsbury's early death in 1906, at the age of only 34 prevented further encounters. Here are all the games.

C60 Em. Lasker – H. Pillsbury

New York 1893

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bg7 6.Nc3 Be6 7.Be3 Qe7 8.Qe2 c5 9.h3 c6 10.a4 b6 11.Nd2 Nf6 12.f3 Nd7 13.O-O g5 14.Nd1 h6 15.c3 O-O 16.Nf2 Rfd8 17.Rfd1 Nf8 18.a5 Ng6 19.axb6 axb6 20.Qf1 Nf4 21.Rxa8 Rxa8 22.Ra1 Qb7 23.Qb1 Ra6 24.Kh2 Bf8 25.g3 Ng6 26.Kg2 Qa7 27.Rxa6 Qxa6 28.Nf1 Bd6 29.c4 f6 30.Bd2 h5 31.Ne3 h4 32.Nfg4 Bxg4 33.hxg4 hxg3 34.Nf5 Bf8 35.Kxg3 Qa7 36.Qh1 Qd7 37.Qb1 Ne7 38.Be3 Nxf5+ 39.exf5 Qh7 40.Kg2 Qd7 41.Kf2 Qa7 42.Ke2 Bd6 43.Bd2 Qa4 44.Qh1 Qa7 45.Be3 Kg7



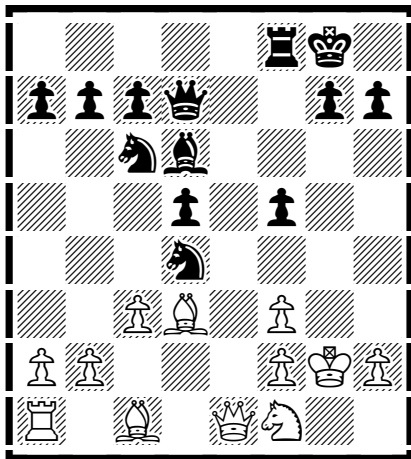
46.Bxg5 fxg5 47.f6+ Kg8 48.Qh6 Qf7 49.Qxg5+ Kh8 50.Qf5 Bf8 51.g5 Qh5 52.Qxe5 b5 53.Ke3 Qh4 54.f7+ Kh7 55.Qf5+ 1-0

C60 Em. Lasker – H. Pillsbury
Hastings 1895

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bc4 Ne7 8.Nc3 d6 9.O-O Be6 10.Bb3 O-O 11.Be3 c5 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Qd2 Rb8 14.Rab1 Nc6 15.b3 Qh4 16.f3 Nd4 17.Ne2 Be5 18.f4 Nxe2+ 19.Qxe2 Bxf4 20.Bxf4 Rxf4 21.Rxf4 Qxf4 22.Rf1 Qe5 23.Qa6 Qd4+ 24.Kh1 Qxe4 25.Qxa7 Qb7 26.Qa4 c6 27.Qe4 Qd7 28.a4 e5 29.h3 Rb4 30.Qe1 e4 31.a5 d5 32.a6 Qe7 33.Qg3 e3 34.Ra1 Qf6 35.Re1 d4 36.a7 Qd8 37.Ra1 Qa8 38.Qd6 Rb7 39.Qxc6 e2 40.Qxb7 1-0

C42 Em. Lasker – H. Pillsbury
St. Petersburg 1895/96

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Be7 7.O-O Nc6 8.Re1 Bg4 9.c3 f5 10.Qb3 O-O 11.Bf4 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Ng5 13.Kg2 Qd7 14.Qc2 Ne6 15.Bc1 Bd6 16.Nd2 Rae8 17.Nf1 Nexd4 18.Qd1 Rxe1 19.Qxe1



19...Nxf3 20.Kxf3 f4 21.Qd1 Ne5+ 22.Ke2 Qg4+ 23.Kd2 Qxd1+ 24.Kxd1 Nxd3
25.Ke2 Ne5 26.f3 Re8 27.b3 Ng4+ 28.Kd2 Ne3 29.Bb2 Ng2 30.h3 Bc5 31.Nh2 Bf2
32.c4 dxc4 33.bxc4 h5 0-1

C67 H. Pillsbury – Em. Lasker
St. Petersburg 1895/96

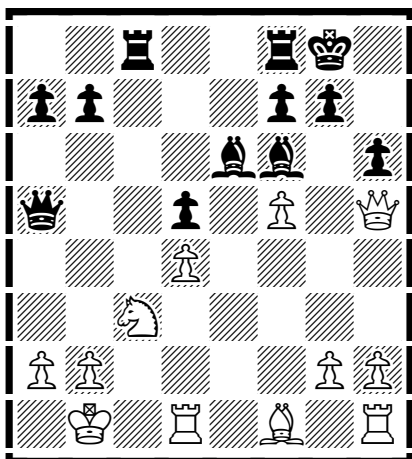
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Nxe4 5.d4 Be7 6.Qe2 Nd6 7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.dxe5
Nb7 9.b3 O-O 10.Bb2 d5 11.exd6 cxd6 12.Nbd2 Bf6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Rfe1 Nc5
15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Bd7 17.c4 Rfe8 18.Qd4 Rxe1+ 19.Rxe1 Qxd4 20.Nxd4 Kf8
21.Kf1 a5 22.a4 Re8 23.Rxe8+ Kxe8 24.Ke2 Kd8 25.Kd2 Kc7 26.Kc3 Kb6 27.f4 h5
28.h3 Kc5 29.f5 g6 30.f6 d5 31.cxd5 Kxd5 32.Nf3 Ke6 33.Nd2 Kxf6 34.Nc4 h4
35.Nxa5 Ke5 36.Nc4+ Kf4 37.Nb6 Bf5 38.Kd4 Be4 39.a5 c5+ 40.Kxc5 Bxg2 41.a6 g5
42.Nd5+ Ke5 43.Ne3 Bf3 44.b4 Ke6 45.b5 Be2 46.Nd5 1-0

C43 Em. Lasker – H. Pillsbury
St. Petersburg 1895/96

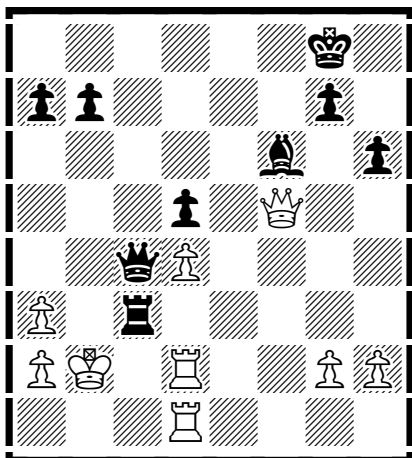
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Qe2 Qe7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Nc6 8.Nc3 Be6
9.O-O-O O-O-O 10.d4 d5 11.Ne5 Qe8 12.Qf3 Be7 13.Bb5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Nd7
15.Bxd7+ Qxd7 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Nxd5 Qc5 18.Nc3 Qxe5 19.Rde1 Qa5 20.a3 Rd4
21.Qe3 Rhd8 22.Rd1 Qb6 23.Rxd4 Qxd4 24.Qxd4 Rxd4 25.Rd1 Rxd1+ 26.Kxd1 Kd7
27.Kd2 a6 28.Ke3 Bf5 29.Ne4 Bxe4 30.Kxe4 Ke6 31.f4 f5+ 1/2-1/2

D50 H. Pillsbury – Em. Lasker
St. Petersburg 1895/96

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 c5 5.Bg5 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qh4 Be7 8.O-O-O Qa5
9.e3 Bd7 10.Kb1 h6 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nd4 O-O 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Qh5 Nxd4 15.exd4
Be6 16.f4 Rac8 17.f5



17...Rxc3 18.fxe6 Ra3 19.exf7+ Rxf7 20.bxa3 Qb6+ 21.Bb5 Qxb5+ 22.Ka1 Rc7
23.Rd2 Rc4 24.Rhd1 Rc3 25.Qf5 Qc4 26.Kb2



26...Rxa3 27.Qe6+ Kh7 28.Kxa3 Qc3+ 0-1

D37 Em. Lasker – H. Pillsbury
St. Petersburg 1895/96

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.e3 O-O 6.Be2 b6 7.O-O Bb7 8.b3 Nbd7 9.Bb2
Ne4 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Nd2 f5 12.f3 Bg5 13.f4 Bf6 14.Rf2 c5 15.Nf1 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rad8
17.g4 cxd4 18.exd4 Nb8 19.gxf5 Bxd4 20.Bxd4 Nc6 21.Bxb6 axb6 22.Qe3 Nd4

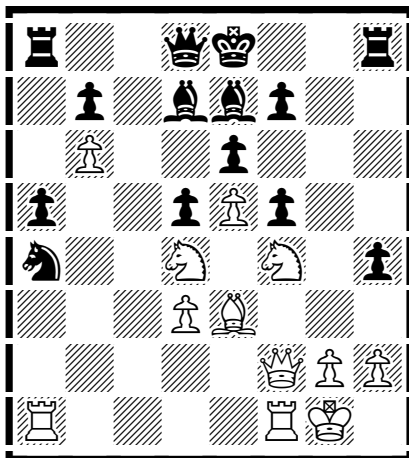
23.Rad1 Nxe2+ 24.Qxe2 exf5 25.Ne3 Rxd1+ 26.Qxd1 h6 27.b4 Kh7 28.h4 Qe7
 29.Rg2 Rf7 30.Qe1 Qf6 31.h5 Rd7 32.Qg3 Rd3 33.Qg6+ Qxg6 34.hxg6+ Kg8 35.Re2
 Rd6 36.Nxf5 Rf6 37.Ne3 Rxc6+ 38.Kf2 Rf6 39.Kg3 Rg6+ 40.Kf2 Rf6 41.Kg3 Rd6
 42.f5 Kf7 43.Kf4 g5+ 44.fxg6+ Rxc6 45.Nd5 Bxd5 46.cxd5 Ke7 47.Rc2 e3 48.Kxe3
 Rg4 49.Rc6 Rxh4 50.Rxh6 1/2-1/2

C67 H. Pillsbury – Em. Lasker
 St. Petersburg 1895/96

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Bxc6 Bxc5 8.dxe5
 dxc6 9.Nxc6 Qxc5 10.exd6 cxd6 11.Re1+ Be6 12.Qxd6 Rd8 13.Qa3 a6 14.Nc3 Qe7
 15.Qxe7+ Kxe7 16.Ne4 b6 17.Ng5 Rd5 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Re2 Rhd8 20.Rae1 R8d6
 21.f4 Rd2 22.Kf2 Kf6 23.Kf3 Rxe2 24.Rxe2 Rd5 25.g4 a5 26.Re3 Rd2 27.Rc3 c5
 28.Rb3 Rxh2 29.Rxb6 g6 30.c3 h5 31.Rb5 hxg4+ 32.Kg3 Rd2 33.a4 c4 34.Rxa5 Rxb2
 35.Rc5 Ra2 36.Rxc4 g5 37.fxg5+ Kxc4 38.Rxc4+ Kf5 39.Kf3 Ra3 40.Rc4 Ke5 41.Ke3
 Kd5 42.Kd3 e5 43.Rb4 Ra2 44.c4+ Kc6 45.Kc3 e4 46.Kb3 Ra1 47.Rb5 e3 48.Re5
 Rb1+ 49.Kc3 Ra1 50.Rxe3 Rxa4 1/2-1/2

C61 H. Pillsbury – Em. Lasker
 Nuremberg 1896

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.dxc5 Nc6 7.a3 Nxc5 8.b4 Nd7 9.Bd3 a5
 10.b5 Ncb8 11.Nf3 Nc5 12.Be3 Nbd7 13.O-O g6 14.Ne2 Be7 15.Qe1 Nb6 16.Nfd4 Bd7
 17.Qf2 Nba4 18.Rab1 h5 19.b6 Nxd3 20.cxd3 Bxa3 21.f5 gxf5 22.Nf4 h4 23.Ra1 Be7



24.Rxa4!! Bxa4 25.Nfxe6 fxe6 26.Nxe6 Bd7 27.Nxd8 Rxd8 28.Bc5 Rc8 29.Bxe7 Kxe7
30.Qe3 Rc6 31.Qg5+ Kf7 32.Rc1 Rxc1+ 33.Qxc1 Rc8 34.Qe1 h3 35.gxh3 Rg8+
36.Kf2 a4 37.Qb4 Rg6 38.Kf3 a3 39.Qxa3 Rxb6 40.Qc5Re6 41.Qc7 Ke7 42.Kf4 b6
43.h4 Rc6 44.Qb8 Be8 45.Kxf5 Rh6 46.Qc7+ Kf8 47.Qd8 b5 48.e6 Rh7 49.Ke5 b4
50.Qd6+ 1-0

C67 Pillsbury – Lasker

London 1899

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Nxe4 5.d4 Be7 6.Qe2 Nd6 7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.dxe5
Nb7 9.c3 O-O 10.Re1 Re8 11.Bf4 d5 12.exd6 cxd6 13.Rad1 Bg4 14.h3 Bh5 15.Ne4
Bf8 16.Qd2 Bxf3 17.gxf3 d5 18.Ng3 Qf6 19.Kg2 Nc5 20.b3 Ne6 21.Be5 Qh4 22.Nf5
Qd8 23.Kh1 f6 24.Rg1 Kh8 25.Bb2 Qd7 26.Rg3 Qf7 27.Rdg1 Qh5 28.Qh6 Qxf5
29.Bxf6 Re7 30.Bxe7 Bxe7 31.Rxg7 Qxf3+ 32.R1g2 Qd1+ 1/2-1/2

D02 Em. Lasker – H. Pillsbury

London 1899

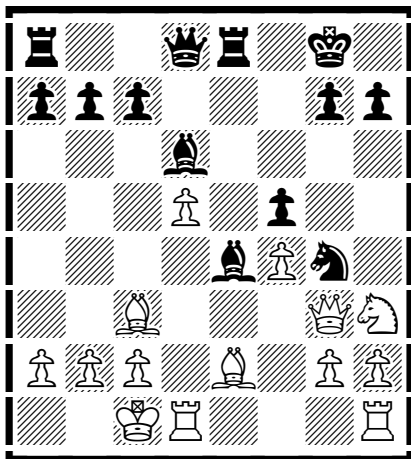
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.e3 Nc6 4.c4 cxd4 5.cxd5 Qxd5 6.Nc3 Qa5 7.Nxd4 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 e5
9.Qd5 Qxd5 10.Nxd5 Bd6 11.Bc4 Ne7 12.O-O Be6 13.Rd1 Bxd5 14.Bxd5 Nxd5
15.Rxd5 O-O-O 16.Bd2 Bc7 17.Rxd8+ Rxd8 18.Bc3 f6 19.Rc1 b6 20.Kf1 Kb7 21.Ke2
a5 22.a4 b5 23.axb5 Rd5 24.Ra1 Rxb5 25.Ra4 Kb6 26.Rh4 h6 27.Rg4 g5 28.Rc4 f5
29.g4 fxg4 30.Rxg4 Kc5 31.h4 gxh4 32.Rxh4 Rb6 33.Kd3 Rd6+ 34.Ke4 Rg6 35.b4+
axb4 36.Bxb4+ Kc6 37.Bc3 Rg2 38.Rxh6+ Kd7 39.Rh7+ Kd8 40.f3 Re2 41.Bb4 Bb6
42.Be7+ Kc8 43.Bg5 Bc7 44.Rh5 Kd7 45.Rh7+ Kc6 46.Rf7 Re1 47.Bh6 Re2 48.Kf5
Bd6 49.Ke6 Rg2 50.Bg7 Rg6+ 51.Kf5 Rg3 52.Ke4 Rg5 53.Bf6 Rh5 54.Rg7 Bc5
55.Rg6 Kd7 56.Bg5 Be7 57.Kf5 Bc5 58.Rg7+ Kc6 59.Ke6 Rh3 60.Rf7 Rg3 61.Rf5
Bd6 62.e4 Rh3 63.Be7 Bc7 64.Bb4 Rh6+ 65.Rf6 Rh4 66.Ke7+ Kb5 67.Bd6 Rh7+
68.Ke6 Bd8 69.Rf8 Bh4 70.Bxe5 Kc6 71.Rc8+ Kb7 72.Rh8 Re7+ 73.Kd6 Rxe5
74.Kxe5 Be1 75.Ke6 1-0

A83 Em. Lasker – H. Pillsbury
Paris 1900

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 c6 5.f3 exf3 6.Nxf3 e6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.Ne5 O-O 9.Bxf6 Rxf6 10.Qh5 g6 11.Nxg6 Qe8 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.O-O-O d5 14.Rde1 Nd7 15.Re3 Rf7 16.Rg3+ Kh8 17.Bg6 Rg7 18.Rf1 Nf6 19.Qh4 Ng8 20.Qxe7 Rxe7 21.Bd3 Bd7 22.Nb1 Rae8 23.Nd2 e5 24.dxe5 Rxe5 25.Nf3 Re3 26.Ng5 Rxc3 27.hxc3 h6 28.Nf7+ Kg7 29.Nd6 Re7 30.Nxb7 Nf6 31.Nc5 Bg4 32.Rf4 Bc8 33.Ra4 Ng4 34.Ba6 Bf5 35.Rd4 Ne3 36.c3 Kg6 37.Rf2 Be4 38.b3 Bxc2 39.Bd3+ Kg5 40.Rf8 Kg4 41.Rg8+ Kf3 42.Rg6 Ng4 43.Bf5 h5 44.Rg5 Re1+ 45.Kb2 Rh1 46.Bg6 Kxc3 47.Bxh5 Bh3 48.Bxc4 Bxc4 49.Rg6 Rh2+ 50.Ka3 Rc2 51.Nd3 Kh4 52.Ne5 Bf5 53.Rxc6 Kg3 54.Rc5 Rd3 55.Nc6 Kf4 56.Nb4 d4 57.cxd4 Rxd4 58.Ra5 Rd7 59.Nc6 Be4 60.Nxa7 1-0

C31 Em. Lasker – H. Pillsbury
Augsburg (Exhibition game) 1900

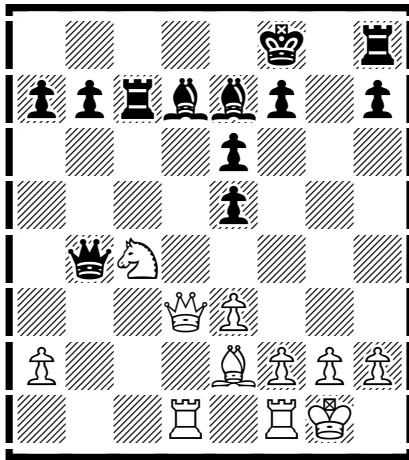
1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Qe2 Bd6 6.d3 O-O 7.dxe4 Re8 8.Bd2 Nxe4 9.Nxe4 Bf5 10.O-O-O Bxe4 11.Qg4 f5 12.Qg3 Nd7 13.Bc3 Nf6 14.Nh3 Ng4 15.Be2



15...Be7 16.Bxc4 Bh4 17.Bxf5 Bxc3 18.Be6+ Rxe6 19.dxe6 Qe8 20.hxc3 Bxc2 21.Rhe1 Bxh3 22.Rd7 Qg6 23.b3 Re8 24.Re5 Bxe6 25.Rxc7 Qxc7 26.Kb2 h6 27.Rxb7 Rc8 28.Bd4 Qg2 29.Rxa7 Rxc2+ 30.Kb1 Qd2 0-1

D50 Pillsbury – Lasker
Cambridge Springs 1904

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 c5 5.Bg5 exd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Bxf6 gxf6 8.Qh4 dxc4
9.Rd1 Bd7 10.e3 Ne5 11.Nxe5 fxe5 12.Qxc4 Qb6 13.Be2 Qxb2 14.O-O Rc8 15.Qd3
Rc7 16.Ne4 Be7 17.Nd6+ Kf8 18.Nc4 Qb4



19.f4 exf4 20.Qd4 f6 21.Qxf4 Qc5 22.Ne5 Be8 23.Ng4 f5 24.Qh6+ Kf7 25.Bc4!! Rc6
26.Rxf5+ Qxf5 27.Rf1 Qxf1+ 28.Kxf1 Bd7 29.Qh5+ Kg8 30.Ne5 1-0