

Ruy Lopez and The Golden Rook

Ruy López de Segura was a chess-playing Spanish priest who was promoted to Bishop. His 150-page primer on Chess *Libro de la invención liberal y arte del juego del Axedrez* published in 1561 included opening studies and general advice to players.

Today, although he did not invent the line: 1. e4, e5 2. Nf3, Nc6 3. Bb5, it is known as **The Spanish Game** or **The Ruy López** to honor his contributions.

About the year 1560 López journeyed to Italy seeking a book about Chess as a Christmas gift for his friend, **Phillip II**, the King of Spain. While he was in Italy López defeated the world's best players.

López also decided the best chess books of that day were not good enough for his King. So he wrote his own *Libro*. A sample



The Spanish Game



of his advice to players: “Sit across from your opponent so that the sun shines in his eyes”.

After López returned to Madrid Phillip hosted a chess tournament in 1575 where López claimed the first **unofficial** world title.

Phillip presented his friend with a **golden rook**. And in the end, Ruy López the chess player earned a promotion to real-life Bishop in the Catholic church.

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