The Rebel programme at the 9th WMCCC Portorož 1989 (EPROM Version 24.08.1989)

Chess programmer Ed Schröder was cleaning up his house in 2012, and had put some curiosities for sale under the title 'old Rebel stuff'. At that time, Ed offered the following item for sale on his website:

Ed Schröder tells his story...

The famous TurboKit from Schaetzle and Bsteh. Via the technique of bit-slice the Kit made it possible to increase the speed of the **MM IV** from 5 to 16-18 Mhz. The speed boast put the **MM IV** on top of the SSDF list until Hegener & Glaser interfered and the SSDF people removed the TurboKit from their list. It's an insider story about the motives behind of the parties involved but I feel no need to bite the hand that has feed me quite well 🙂

To my best knowledge this **MM V** machine played the world championship of 1989 and became second, of course after (king) Richard. It runs at 18 or 20 Mhz, I don't remember precisely any longer. I don't dare to open the hardware. I am already surprised the Kit still works after all those years.

The buyer is granted the exclusive right to multiply the **MM V** eprom and sell it.

(Copyright 2012 by Ed Schröder)

The Dutch collector Hans van Mierlo from Dussen had therefore made an appointment to visit Ed Schröder in Deventer (Netherlands), and bought the above special tournament machine from Ed. It turned out to be a Mephisto Modular with TK20 TurboKit 16 MHz. According to Ed, it would contain an MM V software program. As a historian, I am in discussion with Hans and Ed about his actual purchase. Hans is convinced that he has bought a special and unique MM V version, on which he now has the rights to duplicate and sell the Eprom. Then I have been trying for years to make it clear that Hans van Mierlo and Ed Schröder are wrong!

Throughout all these years, this issue remained unresolved, and recently, on 01.06.2020, I received an e-mail from Hans with the picture below.

Hello Hein Veldhuis,

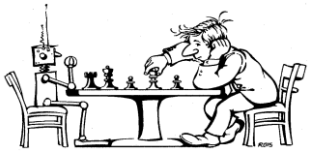
Today I opened the module, because your article has always occupied me. I think you can change your position on Ed Schröder's participation in the 1989 Portorose Micro World Championships, because what should proof look like?

Greetings,
Hans van Mierlo

EPROM Version 24.08.1989

After all these years, why this picture? To be honest, I had never thought about asking Hans for a photo of the Eprom version, but this one photo accelerated my research! How clear do you want it to be? There is an exact date on the Eprom! And that allowed me to start a targeted search in my database. I have read many publications from the past, and I can only come to one conclusion. Ed Schröder competed during the micro world championship in Portorose with Eprom version dd. 24.08.1989 (= Rebel), which was already in production in the same month (August 1989) at manufacturer Hegener + Glaser, and would be sold commercially as Mephisto Polgar. Rebel had already shown in previous tournaments that this program was very well put together, and therefore Hegener + Glaser was confident that this product would become a commercial success.

Why did Ed Schröder think of Hans van Mierlo would have sold an Eprom with MM V software?



Ed was clear and honest during his sale of this item, because he wrote ''to my best knowledge'', played this machine during the 1989 micro world championship in Portorose, and finished second behind Richard Lang. But Ed Schröder was wrong! That's not so strange, because after 23 years you come across chess equipment and old software that you want to clean up and sell. It is only logical that you then start mixing up certain chronological historical matters.

From Ed Schröder to Hans van Mierlo…

11 December 2012,

If you have a Polgar TK20 TurboKit you only need the MM V eprom. Changing eprom is not difficult. Personally I would stick with the Polgar in terms of playing style. The MM V has a stripped down evaluation to gain more speed and might be tactically better. That was then the only way to make progress in playing strength because of the hardware limits (RAM and ROM) imposed on me by Hegener & Glaser (H&G).

Here is another nice anecdote: H&G didn't want to listen (I wanted better hardware) and then I went my own way, bought the Archidemes RISC and TASC ran off with the loot 1 year later after H&G didn't want the RISC programme. One year later H&G had to go to TASC because they wanted the Madrid version in their assortment. And so the Mephisto RISC 1MB came into being.

Greetings,
Ed Schröder

Ed personally used this tournament equipment (special Modular board + Turbo-kit) in the years 1987 to 1990 in the development of the MM IV, Polgar and the MM V module. (See the picture + text of Ed when he sold his test equipment).

In those years one Eprom went in and the other Eprom went out. It didn't matter to Ed what the hardware environment looked like, it was all about the chess software that had to be operational. So only the chess moves (output) were essential. So an MM IV inscription on the module + an old LCD display was no problem at all in testing the latest Eproms (which would later become a Polgar version). So it is really not so strange to make a mistake after all these years.

In 1989 Ed was in the business of developing new software for Hegener + Glaser which would grow into the well-known Mephisto Polgar module. It wasn't until 1990 that Ed started developing software for the MM V. It's as simple as that, because history tells this story through countless magazines, and there's no spelling in between.

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Warten Sie nicht, sondern bestellen Sie noch heute und Ihr Schachcomputer gehört zur High-End-Leistungsklasse. Für Unentschlossene halten wir auch Unterlagen bereit.

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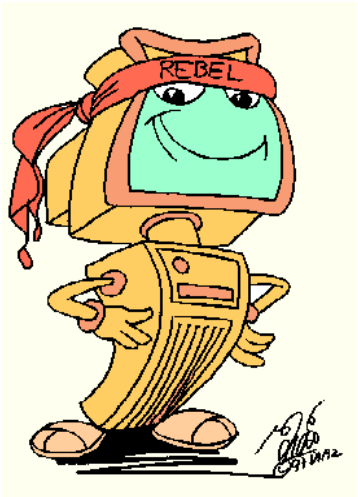
Werbung von Schaetzle+Bsteh: TK20 TurboKit und MTK20 Multi TurboKit

(Quelle: Computer-Schach und Spiele – Oktober-November 1987)

In January and February 2014 the following questions and answers came from Hans and myself. I would like to bring them again in the original and unchanged text.

1. Hans van Mierlo: Why does this MM V at my home play identical openings as those in Portorose, and why if I put the Portorose eprom in my TM I get an identical match?
Hein Veldhuis: I have no idea! Is there perhaps an EPROM with the same opening book as in the Polgar? Strange that you can play exactly the same game(s) with your TM (Tournament Machine), because your machine (36 MHz) is still a lot faster than the TK20 TurboKit, isn't it?



2. Hans: Why a special option, for example, if the power fails you can make the moves and give time for the remaining batch. For example, if 40 moves in 2 hours falls on move 28 the power is off. Then you can use this option to make 12 moves and enter 50 min. remaining time so that the time is still used optimally.
Hein: A nice option, but in my opinion not really relevant in this issue.

3. Hans: Why does his programme say 'Rebel' and not just 'Polgar X'?
Hein: Ed Schröder had simply registered under the name 'Rebel'. Jeroen Noomen also only mentions 'Rebel' in his article in the CSVN 'Computerschaak'. Ed could have entered a 'MM V X', but he did not.

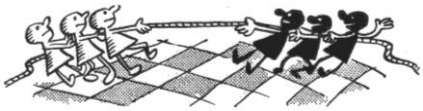
4. Hans: Why buy an expensive TurboKit of € 2000 at the time, because it's just a 'toy'?
Hein: As a professional programmer Ed had to use the latest technology. There was no other way to compete with the programmes of Richard Lang and others. Incidentally, the price for a TK20 Turbokit 16 MHz was DM 1398 at the time.

5. Hans: Why the option to set the selectivity?
Hein: Sorry Hans, but your question is irrelevant ... the Polgar can do it too!

6. Hans: Why would Ed himself say that this was the machine with which he participated in the World Cup in Portorose?
Hein: Hans likes to read carefully... Ed makes a 'suggestion' that he participated with an MM V + TK20 TurboKit in Portorose. Ed has made a mistake before. Recently Ed also thought he was at Jan Louwman's house - in front of Manfred Hegener - conquering a programme by Ulf Rathsman. My research turned out to be a Mephisto MM I - by Thomas Nitsche and Elmar Henne!

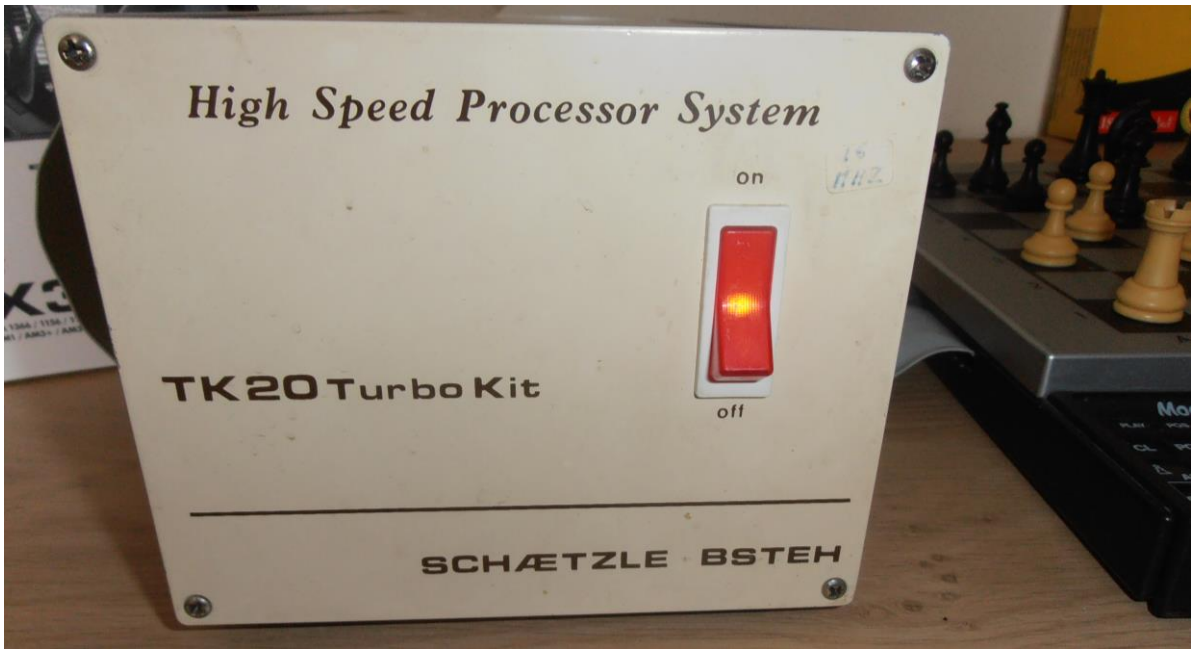
7. Hans: Why did Ed Schröder leave Mephisto exactly after the micro World Cup in Portorose? Because he didn't get the hardware, and because he himself says that it was the only gain for the MM V over the Polgar 'to strip the evaluation', in order to make some gain in playing strength?
Hein: Unfortunately, this question is also irrelevant to determine whether Ed Schröder participated in a Polgar or MM V programme version in Portorose.

8. Hans: Why is the Mephisto Polgar for sale before the World Cup (in October) in Portorose? That would only play into the hands of the competition, I think!
Hein: A mistake of mine! The standard Polgar modular set entered the (German) market in September 1989. Approximately at the same time as the micro WC. So the competition could not spy. By the way, a standard Polgar module set is of course something completely different from a Polgar or MM V programme with TK20 TurboKit.



9. Hans: Why if I use my Polgar version 1.5 + TurboKit on 18 MHz, when I play the same game against the TM Portorose?
Hein: You are probably talking about Ed Schröder's 'software version 1.50' from February 1990. In September 1989 (micro world championship in Portorose) this version didn't even exist!

10. Hans: Why are there small stickers with Portorose 1989 on the eproms when I opened the MM V?
Hein: Yes, you have a point here! Wouldn't it be possible that these Eproms might contain a Polgar program version after all?



The High Speed Processor System – TK20 TurboKit 16 MHz
was with the purchase of Ed Schröder's special tournament equipment
(photo by Hans van Mierlo – 21.01.2013) (photo copyright © by http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/)

EPROM Version 24.08.1989 = Mephisto Polgar!

With this configuration, an MM IV module housing with Eprom Version 24.08.1989, plus special opening book and TK20 TurboKit 16 MHz, Ed thus scored a 2nd place in Portorose. Of course, this machine remains unique and Hans has an extravagant model in his collection!

Hans van Mierlo about his special and original tournament machine

This machine contains functions that cannot be found on a standard module! When you start this special model there is no 'play' but 'ches' (4 characters) in the LCD-display. The selectivity can be set as desired. For example, it is set to 'selective 3' at 40 moves in 2 hours. But if you change this to 'sel 5', then the higher selectivity allows for a deeper calculation, which results in a completely different playing style.

The opening book is different from that of the standard Polgar module, but also as the extended HG 550 opening module. A special World Cup book made by opening expert Jeroen Noomen. Suppose the power fails during an important tournament. After entering the correct statement, it is possible to enter the remaining time. After that, the program can continue playing optimally as if nothing had happened.

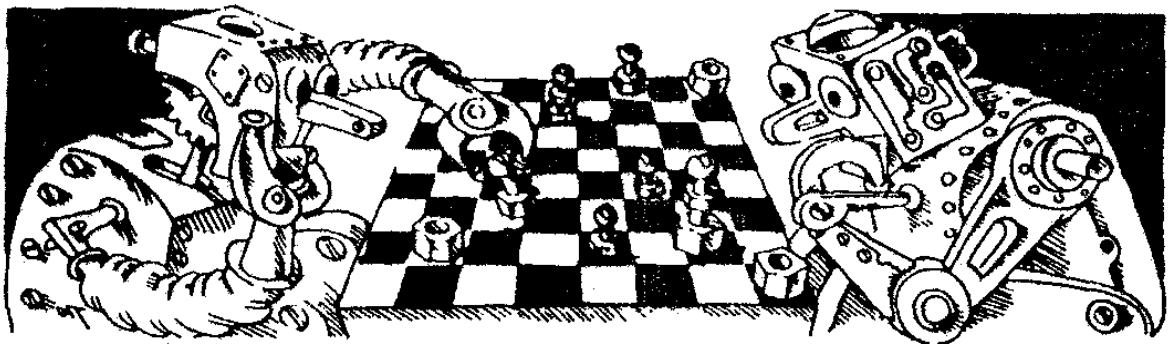
NB: I have taken the liberty of modifying Hans original text, now that it is clear that his tournament machine with Eprom Version 24.08.1989 is a Polgar version!

An anecdote. In 1987 during the Aegon tournament, Ed used an ESB 6000 tournament board from 1981 (!) to test his latest MM IV program. Those old boards were only a tool to test modern software.

Aegon 1987. Ed Schröder as operator of the Mephisto MM IV against Corry Vreeken...

(photo copyright © by www.schaakcomputers.nl)

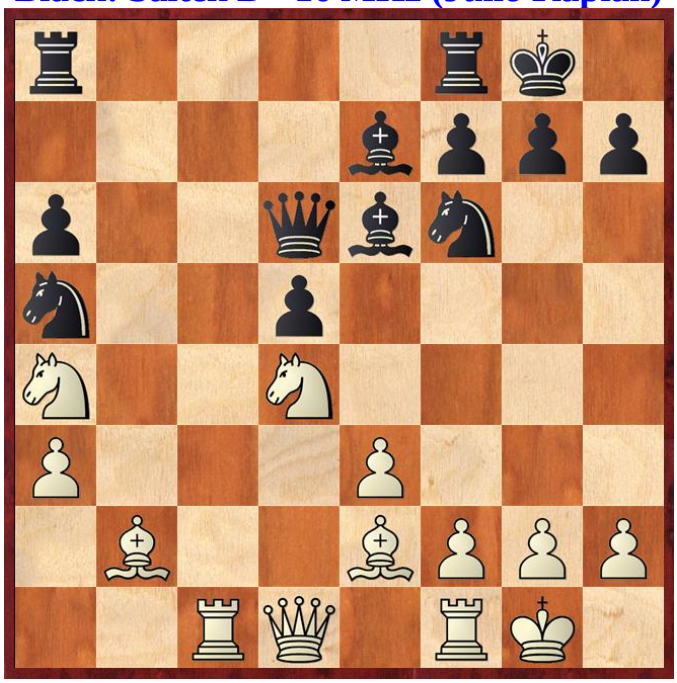
Hans played after his visit to Ed Schröder immediately a game with its Polgar TK20 Turbo



White: **EPROM Version 24.08.1989 (= Mephisto Polgar)** 16 MHz (Ed Schröder)
Black: **Saitek D+** 16 MHz (Julio Kaplan)
Opening: QGD Tarrasch

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 c5 5. e3 Nc6 6. a3 Be7 7. dxc5 Bxc5 8. b4 Bd6 9. cxd5 exd5 10. Bb2 0-0 11. Be2 Be6 12. 0-0 a5 13. bxa5 Bc5 14. a6 bxa6 15. Rc1 Be7 16. Na4 Na5 17. Nd4 Qd6?

Black: Saitek D+ 16 MHz (Julio Kaplan)



White: EPROM Version 24.8.89 = Mephisto Polgar 16 MHz (Ed Schröder)

18. Bc3! Qd8 19. Qe1 Nb7 20. Nc6 Qc7 21. Nxe7+ Qxe7 22. Nb6 Rae8 23. Bxa6 Ne4 24. Bb4 Nbd6 25. f3 Nf6 26. Rc6 Rd8 27. Qc3 Nfe8 28. Rd1 h6 29. Nxd5 Bxd5 30. Rxd5 f5 31. Re5 Qg5 32. Qb3+ Kh7 33. Rxe8 Rfxe8 34. Rxd6 Rxd6 35. Bxd6 Qxe3+ 36. Qxe3 Rxe3 37. Bb5 Rb3 38. a4

Result 1-0

SP = Spare Time. This restores time control in the event of a power failure or crash.

Ed Schröder's Mephisto Modular Tournament Machine

(photo by Hans van Mierlo – 21.01.2013) (photo copyright © by http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/)

Ed Schröder's Mephisto Modular Tournament Machine

(photo by Hans van Mierlo – 21.01.2013) (photo copyright © by http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/)

Modul (1989)

Thomas Mally...
1. Mephisto von Richard Lang (GB): mit verbessertem **Almeria**-Programm
   und stärkerer Hardware (68030 mit ca. 40 MHz).
2. Rebel von Ed Schröder (NL): das **Polgar**-Programm mit Turbo-Kit 18 MHz.

... Da Ed Schröder wegen eines Ohrenleidens nicht fliegen darf und überhaupt kein Freund von langen Reisen ist, wurde sein Program von Helmut Weigel bedient, der auch sonst eng mit Schröder zusammenarbeitet. Helmut hatte in Portorož alle Hände voll zu tun, denn aus irgendwelchen Grunden schien Rebel darauf versessen, stets die längsten und kompliziertesten Partien zu spielen, wobei der Spielstand wiederholt von "klar gewonnen" über "Gegenchancen" zu "verloren", dann zu "ewigen Schach" und – manchmal – wieder zu "gewonnen" pendelte, was den armen Helmut wahre emotionelle Berg- und Talfahrten bescherte. Denn wenn auch Jan Louwman gerne meckert, daß es ihm nicht geheuer sei, wenn ein Österreicher (und Waldheim-Landsmann!) neben der "Fahne seines Großvaters" (d.h. der holländischen) sitzt, kans es an Helmuts vollem Engagement für "sein" Programm keinen Zweifel geben.

Das Rebel-Progranun von Portorož ist eine Weiterentwicklung des **Academy** und entspricht weitgehend jener Version, die als "**Polgar**"-Modulset ausgeliefert wird. Das "**Polgar**"-Set ist für alle Modular-, Exclusive- und München-Bretter geeignet und enthält neben dem Programm-Modul auch ein Display-Modul mit hochauflösender Anzeige a la **Academy**. Der "**Polgar**" enthält alle Features und auch das ausführliche Begleitbuch des **Academy**, zusatzlich die Fernschach-Funktion, mit der man die Analyse auf bestimmte Zuge einschränken kann, sowie einen neuen Algorithmus zur besseren Erkennung von "guten" und "schlechten" Läufern. Die Eröffnungsbibliothek wurde von dem holländischen Computer-Experten Jeroen Noomen bearbeitet, der selbst ein starker Spieler und, was ihn besonders auszeichnet, außerdem Modul-Leser ist (Dag, Jeroen!). Er war ebenfalls in Portorož anwesend und leistete dort wertvolle Arbeit für das Turnierbulletin. Der Preis fur das "**Polgar**"-Set: in der Bundesrepublik 600 DM, in Österreich – unverständlicherweise! - 6.000 S. Vielleicht fragen Sie sich, was die Polgar-Mädels eigentlich mit dem gleichnamigen Programm zu tun haben? Nun ja, auf dem Umschlag des Begleitbuchs prangt ein Bild von Judit Polgar - immerhin etwas...

Computer Chess Reports Quartely (1990)
World Microcomputer Chess Championship 1989

Larry Kaufman: ... Once again Richard Lang has won the World Micro for Mephisto. It was held in Portoroz, Yugoslavia. The only contested section was the "software" section, since no one chose to challenge Mephisto in the manufacturer's section this year. Perhaps Fidelity chose not to challenge because of the takeover by the owners of Mephisto, while Novag and Saitek could not hope to compete with their 8 bit models against Mephisto's 32 bit, 36 MHz monster. The "software" section includes programs found in dedicated machines as well as true personal computer software. Lang won with 6½ out of 7 with the new Mephisto Portorose program on a 68030 at around 40 MHz, while Schröder's "Rebel", an 18 MHz bit-slice version of the new Mephisto "**Polgar**" module, was second with 5½. Tied for third at 4½ were Pandix and A.I. Chess, both IBM PC programs running on fast 386 machines..

The German magazine Computer-Schach & Spiele published a first. The announcement of Ed Schröder's latest program, the MM V with version 1.48 dated 2 April 1990. A beautiful photo with Ed Schröder with the programming devices Promicron 2000. The MM V module with Eprom version 5.0, entered the commercial market in August 1990.

http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/10-1990,%20CSS,%20Thorsten%20Czub,%20Der%20neue%20Mephisto%20MM%20V%20im%20Vergleichstest.pdf

COMPUTER SCHACH UND SPIELE

Neu von Ed Schröder: Mephisto MM V

Endspiel-Datenbank

Interview mit Konrad Zuse

Turnier-Verwaltung

Thorsten Czub: Der neue Mephisto MM V im Vergleichstest

(Quelle: Computer-Schach & Spiele 5/90 – Oktober/November 1990) (photo copyright © by http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/) (600 dpi)

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http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/12-1989,%20Computerschaak,%20Ed%20Schroder%20wint%20Nederlandse%20computertitel%20(Mephisto%20Polgar).pdf
12-1989, Computerschaak: Ed Schröder wint Nederlandse computertitel (Mephisto Polgar)

http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/12-1989,%20Impressies%20van%20de%20kampioenschappen%20in%20Leiden%20en%20Reno%20(Mephisto%20Polgar).pdf
12-1989, Impressies van de kampioenschappen in Leiden en Reno (Mephisto Polgar)

http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/04-1990,%20CSS,%20Was%20Ed%20Schroder%20aus%20der%20Hardware%20kitzelt%20(Mephisto%20Polgar).pdf
04-1990, CSS: Was Ed Schröder aus der Hardware kitzelt (Mephisto Polgar)

http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/08-1990,%20Computers%20op%20dreef%20in%20Dieren%20(Mephisto%20Polgar%20en%20MM%20V%20met%20turbokit%2018%20MHz).pdf
08-1990, Computers op dreef in Dieren (Mephisto Polgar en MM V met turbokit 18 MHz)

http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/10-1990,%20CSS,%20Thorsten%20Czub,%20Der%20neue%20Mephisto%20MM%20V%20im%20Vergleichstest.pdf
10-1990, CSS, Thorsten Czub: Der neue Mephisto MM V im Vergleichstest

http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/10-1990,%20Jan%20Louwman,%20Hoe%20de%20Mephisto%20MM%20V%20tot%20stand%20kwam.pdf
10-1990, Jan Louwman: Hoe de Mephisto MM V tot stand kwam

http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/12-1990,%20Modul,%20Mephisto%20MM%20V,%20Der%20kompromisslose.pdf
12-1990, Modul, Mephisto MM V: Der kompromisslose

The main players in this item…

On 1 December 2012, Ed Schröder (middle) came to visit the CSVN in Leiden. On that important day the members chose to restart the CSVN, and a new board came in with Jan Krabbenbos as its new chairman. On the left is collector Hans van Mierlo and on the right is historian Hein Veldhuis.

And now to conclude an open letter to Hans van Mierlo...

Hello Hans,

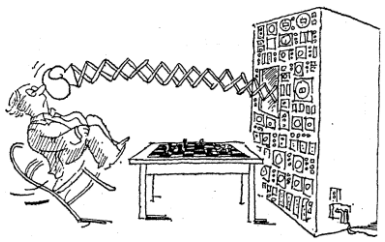
After again months of research, I am more than 100% convinced that the **EPROM version of 24.08.1989 is a Polgar program version**. So for me there is no doubt whatsoever. In fact, this version was simply used during the 1989 micro world championship in Portorose, and with that Ed Schröder achieved a great 2nd place. So you can be proud that you were able to buy the original Eprom plus Ed's unique tournament equipment!

Why am I so sure it has to be a Polgar program version? I have thoroughly studied all the magazines available to me, and there is always talk of Polgar software. Especially for this research, I have put the relevant articles from these magazines online. Please read page 3 of this item carefully, and try to move on to Ed Schröder in 1989. For Ed at that time it did not matter what kind of (old) testing machine he had at his disposal, because his chess program (software) in combination with the TK 20 Turbokit was all he needed.

It is also simply impossible that it would be an MM V software version, because Ed Schröder only started developing this software at the beginning of 1990 by order of Hegener+Glaser. As a historian, I also researched the history of the MM V in its entirety, and I was not able to discover anything suspicious.

Hans, I hope that I have been able to convince you and that this will enable us to put an end to these years of history. I would like to invite you to allow this new information to sink in peace and quiet, and to take action towards important historical websites in order to put things right.

Hein Veldhuis, 9 November 2020 in Tilburg.



I would like to see some corrections in due course on the following websites:
https://www.chessprogramming.org/WMCCC_1989
WMCCC 1989

https://www.schach-computer.info/wiki/index.php?title=Schr%C3%B6der_Rebel_Portoroz
Schröder Rebel Portoroz

http://chesseval.com/ChessEvalJournal/PrototypeMMV.htm
The MM-V Machine at the World Championschip, Portorose, 1989

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