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Preface

As I was wrapping up *The Moment of Zuke* in the spring of 2009, I came upon an interesting idea for the White side of the c3-Colle that was similar to the “Phoenix Attack” I had written about for the b3-Colle. In both cases, White looks to get an improved reverse Meran-type position by biffing Black’s Bishop.

As *TMoZ* was nearly finished, I figured the best thing to do was put some provisional discussion in a bonus tract of that work and plan on writing a more comprehensive treatment at some later date should further investigation suggest it had merit.

Turns out, there was something to 9.b4, so I wrote up a “Quick-Start Guide” and promised readers that a monograph on this line, which I dubbed the Koltanowski-Phoenix, was in the works. Unfortunately, the fiery bird would have to stay “in the works” for quite a while, and interested readers likely wondered why it was taking so long to escape its ashes.

Blame science.

Or, rather, blame shoddy science textbooks.

See, after getting married and taking a short break from writing, I decided it would be a grand idea to start working on a book—*Science Myths Unmasked*—devoted to exposing science myths and misconceptions, many of which are still taught in American science textbooks. As a science editor at ExploreLearning.com, I come across these frequently. Examples include “veins are blue because the deoxygenated blood they carry is blue,” “a candle goes out when put under a glass after it consumes all the oxygen inside,” “electric charge can only move in a circuit if there is a complete path connecting one pole of the battery to the other, “ “molecules in gases move

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faster than molecules in liquids," "clouds form when air rises because hot air holds more water than cold air," and "airplanes can fly because of Bernoulli's principle."

I planned on writing that book while doing analysis on the *Koltanowski-Phoenix*. Then I could hope to get the Phoenix book out sometime in mid-2010, about a year after publicly announcing it was in the forge. What I didn't expect was for the science project to grow into a 3-volume work as I found more and more commonly taught errors in standard textbooks. So much for releasing the Phoenix book in 2010.

I hope those who have waited over 2 years for this volume will not find themselves disappointed. As always, I look forward to your feedback (David@zukertort.com) and hope to see you at the Colle System Players Forum: www.zuke-dukes.com/forum.

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